

Table 2.

Poverty Thresholds (Annual Dollar Amounts) by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years Old: 1999

Size of family unit	Related children under 18 years								
	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight or more
One person (unrelated individual)									
Under 65 years	8,667								
65 years and over	7,990								
Two people									
Householder under 65 years ..	11,156	11,483							
Householder 65 years and over	10,070	11,440							
Three people	13,032	13,410	13,423						
Four people	17,184	17,465	16,895	16,954					
Five people	20,723	21,024	20,380	19,882	19,578				
Six people	23,835	23,930	23,436	22,964	22,261	21,845			
Seven people	27,425	27,596	27,006	26,595	25,828	24,934	23,953		
Eight people	30,673	30,944	30,387	29,899	29,206	28,327	27,412	27,180	
Nine people or more	36,897	37,076	36,583	36,169	35,489	34,554	33,708	33,499	32,208

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, <www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/threshld/thresh99.html>.

population in the Northeast lived in tracts with poverty rates of 40 percent or more, followed by 3.1 percent in the South, 2.6 percent in the West, and 2.1 percent in the Midwest.⁵

Of the total 51.9 million people who lived in poverty areas (with rates of 20 percent or more), 42.9 percent resided in the South, a region with 35.6 percent of the total population (see Figure 1).

In 13 states (Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Utah, Vermont, and Wisconsin), three-

fourths or more of the population lived in census tracts with poverty rates lower than 12.4 percent (the national poverty rate) (see Table 1).

In 16 states and the District of Columbia, 20 percent or more of the population lived in poverty areas (see Figure 2). Louisiana, Mississippi, and the District of Columbia had the largest proportions of people living in these areas of any states (approximately 40 percent).

Given the geographic size and number of census tracts in the United States, it is not feasible to include a national tract-based map in this report. The District of Columbia is used as an example, since it has an economically diversified population residing in different sections of the city and is small enough in land area for the census tract boundaries to be distinguishable. Figure 3 presents a map of the District of Columbia that demonstrates how poverty rates vary by tract within a city. The map shows that poverty areas are concentrated around the central part of the city and the areas

in the southeastern section of the city near the Anacostia River.

The same poverty thresholds used to determine poverty status in the 50 states and the District of Columbia were used to determine poverty status in Puerto Rico. Of the 3.8 million people who resided in Puerto Rico in 1999, 72.6 percent lived in tracts with poverty rates of 40 percent or more (see Table 1).

Age Composition

According to Census 2000, 25.6 percent of the population of the United States were children under 18 years of age, while 61.9 percent were adults between 18 and 64 and 12.4 percent were 65 or older (see Table 3). The proportion of children under 18 was larger (29.4 percent) in tracts with poverty rates of 40 percent or more (Category IV) than in tracts with poverty rates of less than 12.4 percent (Category I), where it was 24.9 percent.

The proportion of people 65 or older was higher in tracts with lower poverty rates. In tracts in

⁵ The Northeast region includes the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Midwest region includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The South region includes the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia, a state equivalent. The West region includes the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.