

Areas With Concentrated Poverty: 2006–2010

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People living in poverty tend to be clustered in certain neighborhoods rather than being evenly distributed across geographic areas. Measuring this concentration of poverty is important because researchers have found that living in areas with many other poor people places burdens on low-income families beyond what the families' own individual circumstances would dictate. Many argue that this concentration of poverty results in higher crime rates, underperforming public schools, poor housing and health conditions, as well as limited access to private services and job opportunities.¹ In recognition of these burdens, some government programs target resources to communities with concentrated poverty. Many of these programs use the Census Bureau's definition of "poverty areas" (census tracts with poverty rates of 20 percent or more).²

Using the 5-year poverty rate estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS), this report analyzes demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of census tracts by categorizing the tracts into four categories based on their

poverty rate levels.³ Category I includes census tracts with poverty rates less than 13.8 percent.⁴ Category II includes those with poverty rates of 13.8 percent to 19.9 percent. Category III includes those with poverty rates of 20.0 percent to 39.9 percent, and Category IV includes those tracts with poverty rates of 40.0 percent or more. Like previous census publications, in this report census tracts with poverty rates of 20 percent or more (tracts in category III and category IV) are referred to as "poverty areas."

This report is an update of the special reports on areas with concentrated poverty, prepared to show the distributions and characteristics of the U.S. population by the levels of poverty of the census tracts in which they live. The previous two reports used data collected using the long forms of the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses.

Table 1 shows the distribution of people in census tracts by poverty levels for the nation, regions, and states and the District of Columbia. Figure 1 displays the proportion of people living in poverty areas (tracts with poverty rates of 20 percent or higher) by state.

¹ See for example, *The Enduring Challenge of Concentrated Poverty in America: Case Studies from Communities across the U.S.A.*, A joint Project of the Community Affairs Offices of the Federal Reserve System and the Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution. (Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, 2008).

² For example, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act in Section 103(a) allows Basic State Grant projects whose activities or products target poverty areas to receive as much as 90 percent in federal support and the New Market Tax Credit (NMTC) program, enacted in December 2000 as part of the Community Renewal Tax Relief Act, defines eligibility as projects in census tracts with a poverty rate of at least 20 percent.

³ The ACS collects and releases data by calendar year for geographic areas that meet specific population thresholds. One-year estimates are published for areas with populations of 65,000 or more, 3-year estimates for populations of 20,000 or more, and 5-year estimates for populations of almost any size. ACS 1-, 3-, and 5-year estimates are period estimates, which mean they represent the characteristics of the population and housing over a specific data collection period. Data are combined to produce 12 months, 36 months, or 60 months of data.

⁴ According to the 5-year ACS, the poverty rate for all people in the United States was 13.8 percent.

Table 1.

Distribution of People in Census Tracts by Poverty Levels and by State: 2006–2010

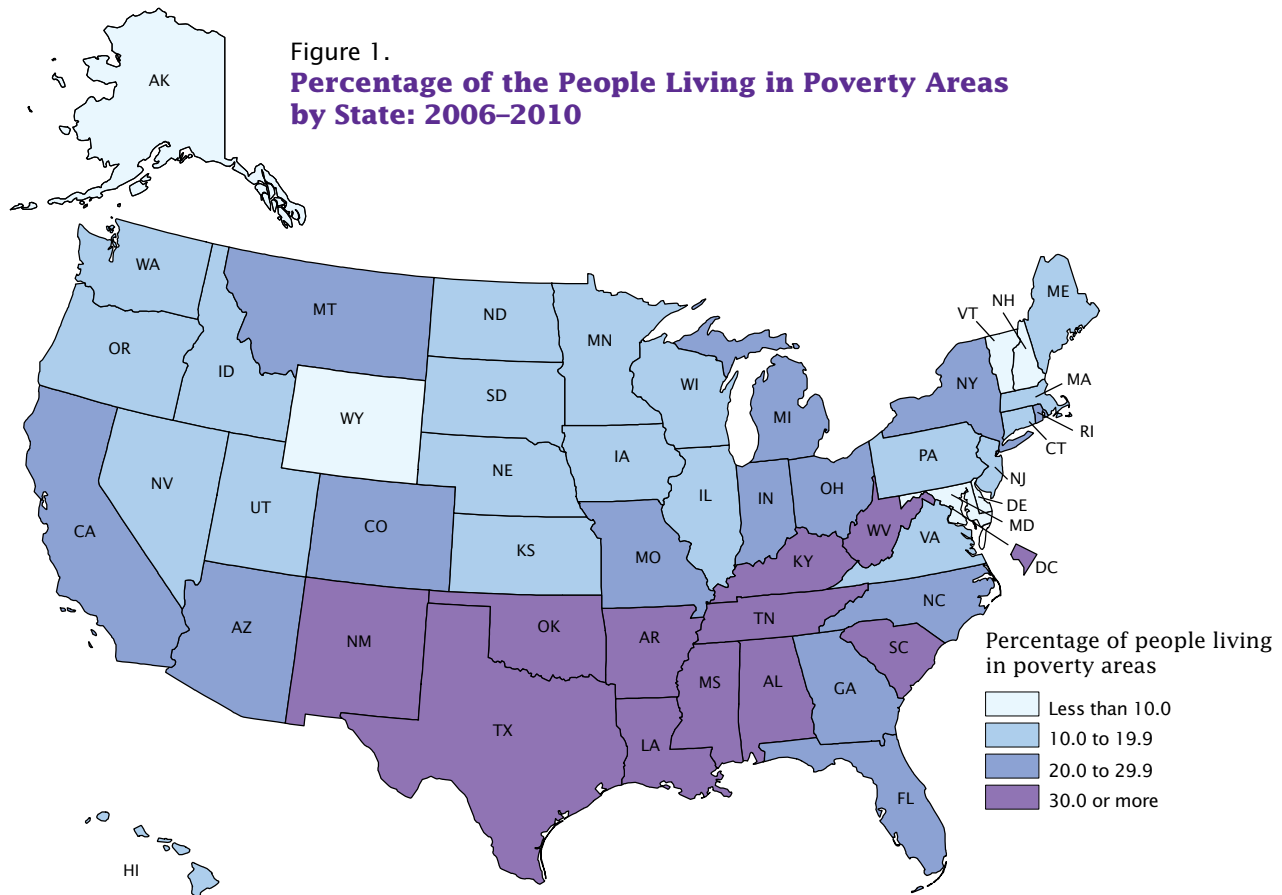
Area	All census tracts		Category I (Less than 13.8%)		Category II (13.8–19.9%)		Category III (20.0–39.9%)		Category IV (40.0% or more)	
	Number	Margin of error (±)	Percent	Margin of error (±)	Percent	Margin of error (±)	Percent	Margin of error (±)	Percent	Margin of error (±)
U.S. total	296,141,149	14,444	61.4	0.1	16.0	0.1	19.1	0.1	3.5	0.1
In poverty	40,917,513	273,616	30.6	0.1	19.2	0.1	37.8	0.1	12.4	0.1
Regions										
Northeast	53,322,411	4,205	70.5	0.1	11.1	0.1	14.9	0.1	3.4	0.1
Midwest	64,729,840	4,996	66.2	0.1	14.8	0.1	15.4	0.1	3.7	0.1
South	109,078,089	6,958	53.7	0.1	18.9	0.1	23.4	0.1	4.0	0.1
West	69,010,809	6,114	62.2	0.1	16.2	0.1	19.1	0.1	2.5	0.1
States										
Alabama	4,596,836	1,125	45.3	0.1	22.7	0.1	27.3	0.1	4.7	0.1
Alaska	674,801	600	76.9	0.4	14.9	0.4	8.2	0.2	—	—
Arizona	6,110,304	1,960	57.4	0.1	14.5	0.1	22.9	0.1	5.2	0.1
Arkansas	2,790,794	1,253	39.4	0.1	24.2	0.2	32.0	0.2	4.4	0.1
California	35,877,036	3,983	61.1	0.1	15.7	0.1	20.5	0.1	2.6	0.1
Colorado	4,773,303	1,113	65.3	0.1	14.5	0.1	18.5	0.1	1.7	0.1
Connecticut	3,434,901	939	78.9	0.1	9.6	0.1	8.8	0.1	2.7	0.1
Delaware	856,004	460	73.2	0.3	17.4	0.3	7.9	0.2	1.6	0.1
District of Columbia	551,331	292	47.8	0.4	17.5	0.4	26.5	0.4	8.2	0.3
Florida	18,107,049	2,209	61.2	0.1	18.4	0.1	17.8	0.1	2.6	0.1
Georgia	9,204,793	1,852	52.3	0.1	18.2	0.1	26.0	0.1	3.5	0.1
Hawaii	1,298,918	675	79.2	0.3	10.0	0.2	9.8	0.2	1.0	0.1
Idaho	1,496,581	701	59.0	0.2	26.9	0.2	12.6	0.2	1.6	0.1
Illinois	12,439,981	1,554	67.4	0.1	13.7	0.1	15.5	0.1	3.4	0.1
Indiana	6,219,801	1,705	63.5	0.1	16.3	0.1	17.3	0.1	2.9	0.1
Iowa	2,916,252	1,019	71.8	0.1	15.0	0.1	11.9	0.1	1.3	0.1
Kansas	2,725,175	949	68.0	0.1	15.3	0.1	14.6	0.1	2.1	0.1
Kentucky	4,157,077	1,299	42.9	0.1	20.4	0.1	32.2	0.2	4.4	0.1
Louisiana	4,302,475	1,008	45.4	0.2	19.0	0.1	28.9	0.1	6.6	0.1
Maine	1,291,988	555	65.0	0.2	20.1	0.1	13.9	0.2	1.0	0.1
Maryland	5,557,115	1,492	82.3	0.1	8.7	0.1	8.0	0.1	1.0	0.1
Massachusetts	6,253,462	1,278	75.1	0.1	9.2	0.1	13.6	0.1	2.1	0.1
Michigan	9,726,785	1,521	61.3	0.1	14.7	0.1	18.3	0.1	5.7	0.1
Minnesota	5,119,104	873	77.2	0.1	11.0	0.1	9.2	0.1	2.7	0.1
Mississippi	2,845,365	962	29.1	0.2	25.2	0.2	36.6	0.2	9.1	0.1
Missouri	5,744,590	1,391	58.6	0.1	19.8	0.1	18.7	0.1	2.9	0.1
Montana	949,414	594	54.7	0.2	24.6	0.3	19.6	0.2	1.1	0.1
Nebraska	1,744,704	764	70.1	0.2	16.0	0.1	12.4	0.1	1.6	0.1
Nevada	2,594,953	923	69.1	0.2	14.1	0.2	15.2	0.2	1.6	0.1
New Hampshire	1,273,957	577	86.4	0.2	8.6	0.1	4.5	0.1	0.5	0.1
New Jersey	8,544,303	1,395	80.0	0.1	7.9	0.1	10.4	0.1	1.7	0.1
New Mexico	1,970,838	842	39.8	0.2	22.3	0.2	33.6	0.2	4.3	0.1
New York	18,710,113	2,408	62.2	0.1	13.1	0.1	19.9	0.1	4.8	0.1
North Carolina	9,013,443	1,647	51.0	0.1	22.3	0.1	23.4	0.1	3.3	0.1
North Dakota	636,048	356	72.1	0.2	13.9	0.2	12.0	0.2	2.0	0.1
Ohio	11,199,642	1,889	63.1	0.1	14.5	0.1	17.4	0.1	5.0	0.1
Oklahoma	3,559,437	1,143	46.2	0.2	23.7	0.1	27.3	0.2	2.7	0.1
Oregon	3,688,745	1,131	56.0	0.2	24.2	0.1	18.4	0.1	1.4	0.1
Pennsylvania	12,199,544	1,948	70.6	0.1	11.3	0.1	14.0	0.1	4.1	0.1
Rhode Island	1,014,029	440	72.5	0.2	5.8	0.2	19.3	0.2	2.4	0.1
South Carolina	4,369,147	1,000	47.4	0.2	21.2	0.2	27.7	0.2	3.6	0.1
South Dakota	771,100	483	64.0	0.2	18.7	0.2	11.9	0.3	5.5	0.1
Tennessee	6,075,066	1,579	47.7	0.1	21.9	0.1	26.1	0.1	4.3	0.1
Texas	23,707,679	2,678	50.2	0.1	17.2	0.1	26.6	0.1	6.0	0.1
Utah	2,613,440	707	76.5	0.1	11.1	0.1	10.1	0.1	2.3	0.1
Vermont	600,114	338	74.6	0.2	15.9	0.2	8.5	0.2	1.1	0.1
Virginia	7,595,386	1,493	74.4	0.1	13.7	0.1	10.3	0.1	1.7	0.1
Washington	6,430,231	1,573	67.6	0.1	16.0	0.1	14.9	0.1	1.6	0.1
West Virginia	1,789,092	785	37.0	0.2	32.0	0.2	28.6	0.2	2.4	0.1
Wisconsin	5,486,658	1,381	73.7	0.1	13.3	0.1	9.7	0.1	3.3	0.1
Wyoming	532,245	409	79.2	0.4	13.5	0.3	7.2	0.2	0.1	0.1

— Represents or rounds to zero.

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2010 American Community Survey.

Figure 1.
Percentage of the People Living in Poverty Areas
by State: 2006–2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2010 American Community Survey.

Geographic Distribution

About 77.4 percent (229.2 million) of the 296.1 million people in the United States resided in census tracts with poverty rates less than 20.0 percent, while 22.6 percent (67 million) lived in poverty areas (tracts with poverty rates of 20.0 percent or more).^{5, 6} On the other

⁵ The estimates in this report (which may be shown in text, tables, and figures) are based on responses from a sample of the population and may differ from actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

⁶ According to the 2010 Census, the total U.S. population count was 308.7 million. The 2006–2010 American Community Survey 5-year data estimated the total U.S. population at 304.0 million people, of which 296.1 million were included in the poverty universe.

hand, approximately half of the people in poverty (50.2 percent) lived in poverty areas. Table 1 summarizes the percent of the total population living in each category by state.⁷

Regionally, the Northeast had the largest proportion (70.5 percent) of people residing in category I tracts, followed by the Midwest (66.2

percent).⁸ In the West and South, 62.2 percent and 53.7 percent of the population resided in such low poverty tracts, respectively.

On the other hand, the South had a larger proportion of people (27.4 percent) living in poverty areas than any other region, followed by the West (21.6 percent).

⁸ 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.

⁷ Of the 72,254 total number of census tracts, 42,383 are in category I, 11,574 are in category II, 14,823 in category III, and 3,474 in category IV.

The Midwest and Northeast had 19.0 percent and 18.4 percent of the population residing in poverty areas, respectively.

At the state level, the distribution of people residing in tracts by category varies widely. The proportion of people living in tracts with low poverty (category I) ranged from approximately 86.4 percent in New Hampshire to 29.1 percent in Mississippi. In 10 states (Alaska, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Utah, and Wyoming), more than three-fourths of the population resided in census tracts with poverty rates less than 13.8 percent. In ten other states, (Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia) and the District of Columbia, less than half the population resided in tracts with low poverty rates (category I).

The proportion of people residing in poverty areas (category III and category IV) ranged from 45.7 percent in Mississippi to 5.0 percent in New Hampshire. Although Mississippi had the largest proportion of people residing in poverty areas (45.7 percent), in 14 other states and the District of Columbia, more than one-fourth of the population resided in tracts with poverty rates of 20 percent or more.⁹ Among the states with the lowest percent of people residing in poverty areas, six states (Alaska, Delaware, Maryland, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Wyoming)

⁹ Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia had more than 25 percent of their population reside in tracts in categories III and IV.

had less than 10 percent of the population living in such areas.

Table 2 shows the distribution of people, families, and households in census tracts by poverty level and selected demographic and socioeconomic characteristics. Figure 2 shows the distribution of people by poverty level, race, and ethnic origin. Since it is not feasible to produce a readable tract level U.S. map in this report, like in previous reports, the District of Columbia is used as an example to demonstrate the distribution of economically diversified population within city boundaries (Figure 3).

Age Composition

According to the ACS 5-year estimate, children under age 18 made up 24.6 percent of the total population, while adults 18 to 64 years old made up 62.8 percent and people 65 years and older made up 12.6 percent. Table 2 shows that age group distributions among the different categories vary considerably.

The proportion of children in category IV tracts was higher (28.9 percent), compared with the proportions in categories III and II (26.4 percent and 24.1 percent), respectively. Children made up less than one-fourth (23.9 percent) of the total population in category I and category II.

Conversely, the proportion of people 65 years and older was larger in tracts with lower poverty rates as compared with tracts with higher poverty rates. The proportion of older people in category I (13.3 percent) was higher than the proportion in other categories.

People in Poverty

Nationally, 13.8 percent of the U.S. population was in poverty, according to the estimate from the 5-year ACS data. The proportion of people living in poverty varied across categories. Nearly half (49.0 percent) of the 10.3 million people residing in category IV tracts lived in poverty, while a little more than a quarter (27.3 percent) of the 56.6 million in category III were in poverty. The proportions of people in poverty in categories I and II were 6.9 percent and 16.7 percent, respectively.

Race and Ethnic Origin

As shown in Table 2, the racial composition of the U.S. population was 74.2 percent White, 12.3 percent Black, 0.8 percent American Indian and Alaska Native, 4.7 percent Asian, 0.2 percent of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, and 5.5 percent of Some Other Race. Approximately 2.4 percent of people reported Two or More Races. Hispanics, who can be of any race, comprised 15.8 percent of the total population.¹⁰

¹⁰ Federal surveys now give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group such as Asian may be defined as those who reported Asian and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported Asian regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept). The body of this report (text, figures, and tables) shows data using the first approach (race alone). Use of the single-race population does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches.

Table 2.

Distribution of People, Families, and Households by Poverty Level of Census Tracts and Other Selected Characteristics:¹ 2006–2010

Characteristics	Category I (Less than 13.8%)		Category II (13.8–19.9%)		Category III (20.0–39.9%)		Category IV (40.0% or more)		Total	
	Estimates	Margin of error (±)	Estimates	Margin of error (±)	Estimates	Margin of error (±)	Estimates	Margin of error (±)	Estimates	Margin of error (±)
PEOPLE										
United States	61.4	0.1	16.0	0.1	19.1	0.1	3.5	0.1	296,141,149	14,444
Region										
Total	181,881,914	56,537	47,305,181	43,430	56,644,210	54,200	10,309,844	24,495	296,141,149	14,444
Northeast	20.7	0.1	12.5	0.1	14.1	0.1	17.7	0.1	18.0	0.1
Midwest	23.6	0.1	20.2	0.1	17.6	0.1	23.1	0.1	21.9	0.1
South	32.2	0.1	43.6	0.1	45.1	0.1	42.5	0.1	36.8	0.1
West	23.6	0.1	23.6	0.1	23.3	0.1	16.7	0.1	23.3	0.1
Age										
Total	181,881,914	56,537	47,305,181	43,430	56,644,210	54,200	10,309,844	24,495	296,141,149	14,444
Under 18 years	23.9	0.1	24.1	0.1	26.4	0.1	28.9	0.1	24.6	0.1
18 to 64 years	62.8	0.1	63.0	0.1	62.5	0.1	62.6	0.1	62.8	0.1
65 years and over	13.3	0.1	12.9	0.1	11.1	0.1	8.5	0.1	12.6	0.1
Educational Attainment										
Population 25 years and older	124,298,726	36,788	31,313,635	28,442	35,092,898	36,690	5,472,401	15,141	196,177,660	18,393
Less than high school, no diploma	9.6	0.1	18.2	0.1	25.9	0.1	34.0	0.2	14.6	0.1
High school, diploma	26.8	0.1	32.6	0.1	32.4	0.1	31.1	0.2	28.8	0.1
Some college/associate's degree	21.1	0.1	21.1	0.1	19.4	0.1	17.3	0.1	20.7	0.1
Bachelor's degree	8.2	0.1	7.3	0.1	6.2	0.1	4.8	0.1	7.6	0.1
Master's degree or higher	34.2	0.1	20.8	0.1	16.2	0.1	12.8	0.1	28.3	0.1
Race and Hispanic Origin										
Total	181,881,914	56,537	47,305,181	43,430	56,644,210	54,200	10,309,844	24,495	296,141,149	14,444
White alone	81.0	0.1	73.2	0.1	58.8	0.1	43.0	0.2	74.2	0.1
White, not Hispanic	74.4	0.1	62.1	0.1	43.3	0.1	26.3	0.1	64.8	0.1
Black alone	7.2	0.1	13.0	0.1	23.3	0.1	38.1	0.1	12.3	0.1
American Indian and Alaska Native alone (AIAN)	0.5	0.1	0.9	0.1	1.5	0.1	2.1	0.1	0.8	0.1
Asian alone	5.5	0.1	3.6	0.1	3.4	0.1	3.2	0.1	4.7	0.1
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone (NHPI)	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Some Other Race alone	3.4	0.1	6.6	0.1	10.2	0.1	11.1	0.1	5.5	0.1
Two or More Races	2.3	0.1	2.5	0.1	2.6	0.1	2.4	0.1	2.4	0.1
Hispanic (any race)	10.7	0.1	18.7	0.1	27.2	0.1	29.5	0.1	15.8	0.1
Poverty										
Poverty universe¹	181,881,914	56,537	47,305,181	43,430	56,644,210	54,200	10,309,844	24,495	296,141,149	14,444
Not in poverty	93.1	0.1	83.4	0.1	72.7	0.1	51.0	0.1	86.2	0.1
In poverty	6.9	0.1	16.7	0.1	27.3	0.1	49.0	0.1	13.8	0.1
Work Experience										
Population 16 years and older	98,212,314	40,196	24,227,261	38,201	27,090,654	53,323	4,327,616	17,693	153,857,845	102,651
Worked full-time, year-round	65.0	0.1	61.8	0.1	58.0	0.1	46.7	0.2	62.8	0.1
Worked less than full-time, year-round	32.7	0.1	34.8	0.1	37.1	0.1	45.9	0.2	34.2	0.1
Did not work	2.3	0.1	3.4	0.1	4.8	0.1	7.4	0.1	3.1	0.1

See footnote at end of table.

Table 2.

Distribution of People, Families, and Households by Poverty Level of Census Tracts and Other Selected Characteristics:¹ 2006–2010—Con.

Characteristics	Category I (Less than 13.8%)		Category II (13.8–19.9%)		Category III (20.0–39.9%)		Category IV (40.0% or more)		Total	
	Estimates	Margin of error (±)	Estimates	Margin of error (±)	Estimates	Margin of error (±)	Estimates	Margin of error (±)	Estimates	Margin of error (±)
FAMILIES										
Family Type										
Total	48,931,859	124,722	11,969,590	44,835	13,271,205	58,416	2,081,664	11,447	76,254,318	230,785
Married-couple	80.4	0.2	70.7	0.2	59.9	0.2	43.2	0.3	74.3	0.2
Male householder, no spouse present	5.7	0.1	8.0	0.1	9.6	0.1	10.6	0.2	6.8	0.1
Female householder, no spouse present	13.9	0.1	21.4	0.1	30.5	0.1	46.2	0.2	18.9	0.1
Family Income										
Total	48,931,859	124,722	11,969,590	44,835	13,271,205	58,416	2,081,664	11,447	76,254,318	230,785
No income	0.4	0.1	0.9	0.1	1.6	0.1	3.1	0.1	0.8	0.1
Under \$10,000	1.8	0.1	4.6	0.1	8.1	0.1	16.9	0.2	3.7	0.1
\$10,000 to \$29,999	10.5	0.1	20.8	0.1	28.8	0.2	38.9	0.3	16.1	0.1
\$30,000 to \$49,999	16.1	0.1	22.5	0.1	23.0	0.1	19.1	0.2	18.4	0.1
\$50,000 to \$99,999	37.0	0.1	35.1	0.1	28.2	0.1	16.9	0.2	34.6	0.1
\$100,000 or higher	34.3	0.1	16.0	0.1	10.3	0.1	5.0	0.1	26.5	0.1
Number of Children in Family										
Total	48,931,859	124,722	11,969,590	44,835	13,271,205	58,416	2,081,664	11,447	76,254,318	230,785
No children	55.2	0.1	54.9	0.1	51.0	0.1	44.7	0.2	54.1	0.1
1 or 2 children	36.6	0.2	36.0	0.2	37.4	0.2	38.7	0.3	36.7	0.2
3 or 4 children	7.7	0.1	8.4	0.1	10.5	0.1	14.2	0.2	8.5	0.1
5 or more children	0.5	0.1	0.7	0.1	1.1	0.1	2.4	0.1	0.7	0.1
HOUSEHOLDS										
Tenure										
Total	70,481,047	120,635	18,591,314	50,080	21,397,812	68,835	3,765,823	15,920	114,235,996	248,114
Owned	74.8	0.2	62.1	0.2	49.7	0.2	31.1	0.2	66.6	0.2
Rented	25.2	0.2	37.9	0.2	50.3	0.2	68.9	0.2	33.4	0.2
Food Stamps										
Total	70,481,047	120,635	18,591,314	50,080	21,397,812	68,835	3,765,823	15,920	114,235,996	248,114
Receiving food stamp/SNAP	4.7	0.1	11.3	0.1	18.7	0.1	30.7	0.2	9.3	0.1
Not receiving food stamp/SNAP	95.3	0.1	88.7	0.1	81.3	0.1	69.3	0.2	90.7	0.1

¹ Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters. The poverty universe excludes children under age 15 who are not related to the householder, people living in institutional group quarters, and people living in college dormitories or military barracks.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2010 American Community Survey.

Whites and Asians were more likely to live in tracts with lower poverty rates than in tracts with higher poverty rates. In contrast, Blacks, American Indians and Alaska Natives, and those reporting “Other Races” were over-represented in tracts with higher poverty rates and under-represented in tracts with lower poverty rates.

Of the 181.9 million people living in category I tracts, 81.0 percent

were White, 7.2 percent were Black, 5.5 percent Asian, 3.4 percent were of Some Other Race, and 2.3 percent Two or More Races. Hispanics, who can be of any race, made up 10.7 percent of category I population. Of the 10.3 million people residing in category IV tracts, 43.0 percent were White, 38.1 percent Black, 3.2 percent Asian, 11.1 percent were Some Other Race, and 2.4 percent reported Two or More Races. Figure 2 shows the

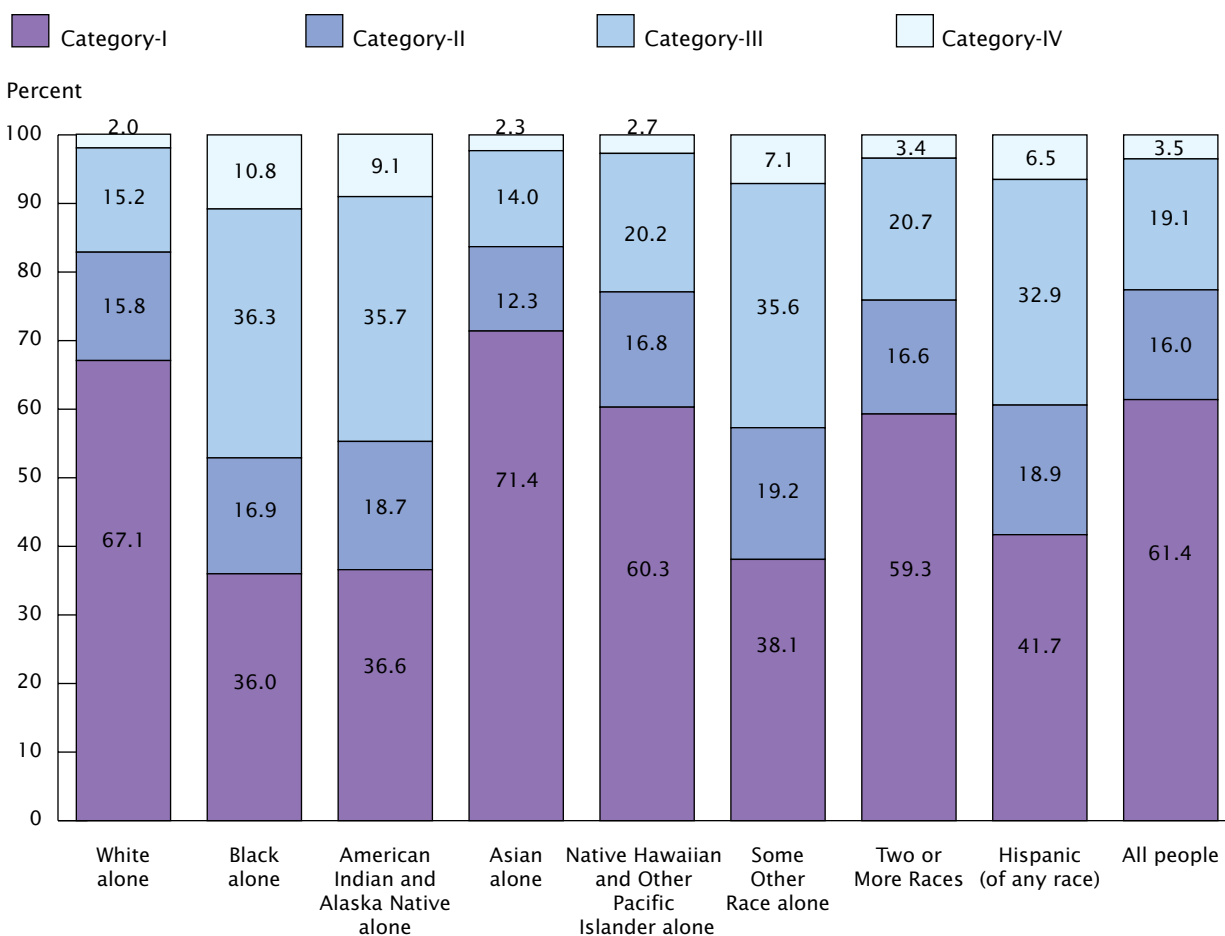
distribution of people by specific race, ethnic origin, and categories. Among the races, Asians have the largest proportion (71.4 percent) of people residing in category I tracts, followed by Whites (67.1 percent). Blacks have the smallest proportion of people (36.0 percent) living in this category.

The proportion of Blacks, American Indians and Alaska Natives, and people reporting Some Other Race

Figure 2.

Distribution of People by Race and Ethnicity and by Poverty Level of Tracts: 2010

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006–2010.

living in poverty areas were 47.1 percent, 44.8 percent, and 42.7 percent, respectively. These racial groups had higher proportions of individuals living in poverty areas than other groups. Asians (16.3 percent) and Whites (17.2 percent) had smaller proportions of people residing in these areas.

Educational Attainment

Nationally, of the 196.2 million people aged 25 years or older, approximately 35.9 percent had at least completed a college education,

while 20.7 percent had some college education or an associate's degree, 28.8 percent completed high school, and 14.6 percent had less than a high school education.

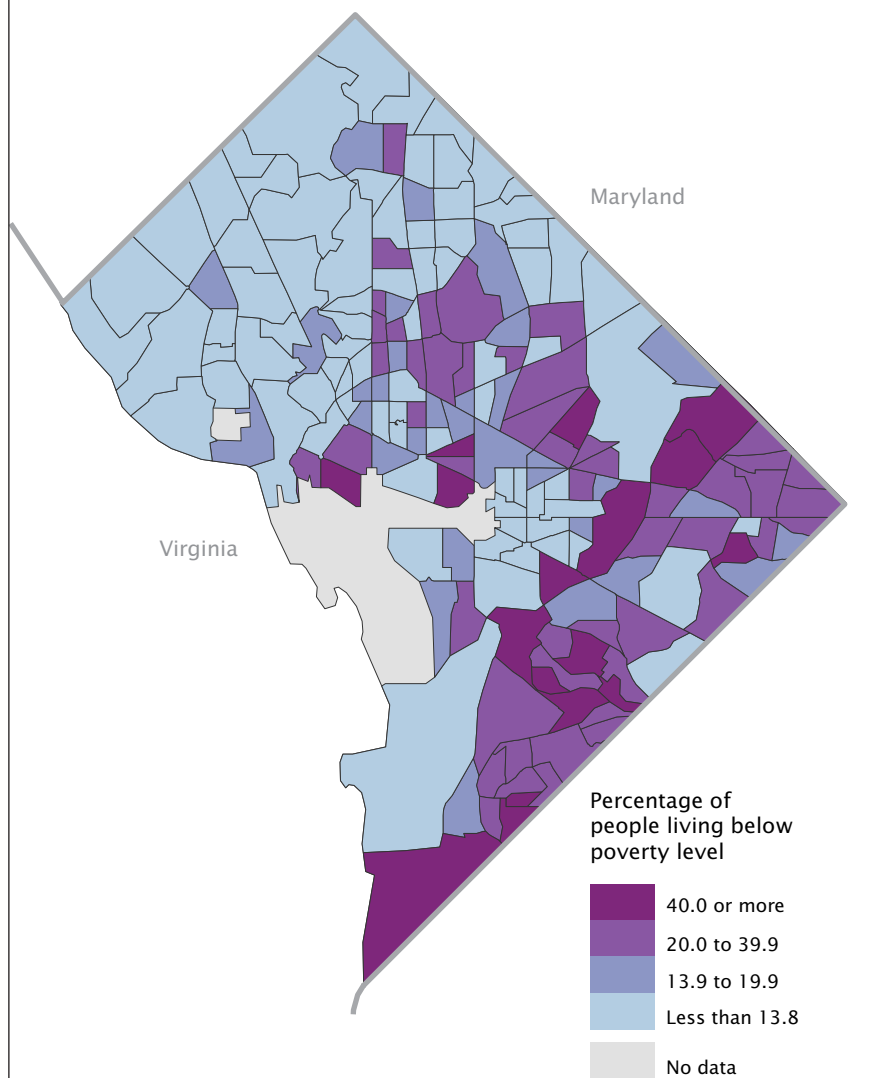
The composition of educational attainment varies across categories. As Table 2 shows, the proportion of people with at least a college degree ranged from 42.4 percent in category I tracts to 17.6 percent in category IV tracts. The proportion with less than a high school diploma varied from 9.6 percent

in category I tracts to more than one-third (34.0 percent) of people in category IV tracts. Of the 35 million people residing in category III tracts, one in four (25.9 percent) did not complete high school, compared with one in three (34.0 percent) among the 5.5 million individuals living in category IV tracts.

Work Experience

Nationally, of the civilian population aged 16 years and older, 62.8 percent worked full-time, year-round in the past year, 34.2

Figure 3.
Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months for the District of Columbia by Census Tract: 2006–2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2010 American Community Survey. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <www.census.gov/acs/www>.

percent worked part-time, and 3.1 percent did not work at all. Table 2 shows that larger proportion of people in category I (65.0 percent) had worked full-time, year-round as compared with the proportions in other categories. The proportions in category II, category III,

and category IV were 61.8 percent, 58.0 percent, and 46.7 percent, respectively. Category IV had a higher proportion of people who did not work at all (7.4 percent) compared with other categories.

Types of Family

Approximately 74.3 percent of 76.3 million U.S. families were married-couple families. The proportions of families with male householder, no spouse present and female householder, no spouse present were 6.8 percent and 18.9 percent, respectively. More than one-half of the families in categories I, II, and III were married-couple families while only 43.2 percent of families in category IV tracts were married couples. Female householder families represented about 14 percent of families in category I tracts, but 46.2 percent of families in category IV tracts.

Number of Children in Family

Among family households in the United States, more than one-half (54.1 percent) did not have children living with them. More than one-third (36.7 percent) of families had 1 or 2 children, and 9.2 percent had 3 or more children living in the family. In categories with low levels of poverty, the proportion of families with no children was higher than in the categories with high levels of poverty. The proportion of families with no children was 55.2 percent in category I, 54.9 percent in category II, 51.0 percent in category III, and 44.7 percent in category IV.

In categories with high levels of poverty the proportion of families with 3 or more children was greater than in categories with lower poverty levels. The proportion of families with 3 or more children was higher in category IV (16.6 percent) than in category III (11.6 percent), category II (9.1 percent), and category I (8.2 percent).

How Poverty Is Measured

Poverty status is determined by comparing annual income to a set of dollar values called poverty thresholds that vary by family size, number of children, and age of householder. If a family's before tax money income is less than the dollar value of their threshold, then that family and every individual in it are considered to be in poverty. For people not living in families, poverty status is determined by comparing the individual's income to his or her poverty threshold.

The poverty thresholds are updated annually to allow for changes in the cost of living using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). They do not vary geographically.

The ACS is a continuous survey and people respond throughout the year. Since income is reported for the previous 12 months, the appropriate poverty threshold for each family is determined by multiplying the base-year poverty threshold (1982) by the average of monthly CPI values for the 12 months preceding the survey month.

For more information, see "How Poverty Is Calculated in the ACS" at www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/methods/definitions.html.

Family Income

Approximately 4.5 percent of all U.S. families had an annual family income of less than \$10,000, 34.5 percent had between \$10,000 to less than \$50,000, and 61.1 percent had \$50,000 or more annually. The data in Table 2 reveals considerable differences among the categories in the distribution of people by family income. In category I, about 70 percent of the people had annual family income of \$50,000 or more. The proportion of people with income above \$50,000 was 51.1 percent, 38.5 percent, and 21.9 percent in categories II, III, and IV, respectively.

Compared with other categories, significantly higher proportion of families in category IV (20.0 percent) had annual family income below \$10,000. The proportion of families with income less than \$10,000 for families in categories I, II, and III were 2.2 percent, 5.5 percent, and 9.7 percent, respectively.

Tenure

According to the 5-year ACS data, 66.6 percent of the estimated 114.2 million occupied housing units in the United States were owned by residents, while 33.4 percent were rented. Among the different tract categories, the proportion of homeowners ranged from 74.8 percent in category I to 31.1 percent in category IV. Owners comprised about 62.1 percent and 49.7 percent of the total occupied housing units in category II and category III, respectively.

Food Stamp/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits (SNAP)

Of the total 114.2 million occupied U.S. households, 9.3 percent received food stamp/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. This proportion varies considerably by categories. Tracts in category IV had the largest proportion (30.7 percent) of people who received food

stamp/SNAP benefits compared with category I (4.7 percent), category II (11.3 percent), and category III (18.7 percent).

Source and Accuracy

Data presented in this report are based on people and households that responded to the ACS between 2006 and 2010. The resulting estimates are representative of the entire population. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless otherwise noted. Due to rounding, some details may not sum to totals. For information on sampling and estimation methods, confidentiality protection, and sampling and nonsampling errors, please see the 2010 ACS Accuracy of the Data document located at www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/AccuracyofMultiyearACSAccuracyofData2010.pdf.

What Is the American Community Survey?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely demographic, social, economic, and housing data for the nation, states, congressional districts, counties, places, and other localities every year. It has an annual sample size of about 3 million addresses across the United States and Puerto Rico and includes both housing units and group quarters (e.g., nursing facilities and prisons). The ACS is conducted in every county throughout the nation, and every municipio in Puerto Rico, where it is called the Puerto Rico Community Survey. Beginning in 2006, ACS data for 2005 were released for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 and greater. For information on the ACS sample design and other topics, visit www.census.gov/acs/www/.

Notes

The Census Bureau also publishes poverty estimates based on the Current Population Survey's Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC). Following the standard specified by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in Statistical Policy Directive 14, data from the CPS ASEC are used to

estimate the official national poverty rate, which can be found in the report *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2010*, available at www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/p60-239.pdf.

For information on poverty estimates from the ACS and how they differ from those based on the CPS

ASEC, see "Differences Between the Income and Poverty Estimates From the American Community Survey and the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey" at www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/datasources/index.html.