



a child's voice



Fall 2002

This report, the third in a series analyzing data from the 2000 census, provides information on children in low-income families in Minnesota. It uses information from Summary File 3, released by the Census Bureau in September. More census information, including smaller areas such as blocks, tracts, places and cities, is available at <http://factfinder.census.gov>.

Minnesota KIDS COUNT, a joint project of the Children's Defense Fund Minnesota and Congregations Concerned for Children, is funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and provides county-by-county assessment of the condition of Minnesota's children. Minnesota KIDS COUNT releases periodic reports and an annual databook to provide a statistical profile of Minnesota's children and suggestions for action on their behalf. This report is available on the CDF-Minnesota web site at <http://www.cdfmn.org> or by calling 612/870-3670.

Minnesota Children in the 2000 Census: Low-Income Families

Many Minnesota children live in families below the poverty line or in families with low incomes. Data from the 2000 Census can tell us more about who these children are, where they live, the structure of their families and the employment of their parents.

Poor and Low-Income Children

In 2000, the federally-defined poverty level for a family of four was \$17,050. Close to one in ten, or 121,691 Minnesota children lived below the poverty line. A total of 17%, or 217,461, lived in households making up to 150% of the poverty line (\$27,150 for a family of four.) Finally, 26%, or 330,962, lived in households making less than 200% of the poverty line (\$34,100 for a family of four). Children under six are more likely to be poor or low-income than are older children, since parents of older children are more able to work, and income tends to increase

as workers gain experience. (See Table 1.)

Where Low-Income Children Live

The counties with the highest percentage of children below the poverty line include ten counties in north central Minnesota, Ramsey County, Cottonwood, Fillmore, Nobles and Martin counties in the southern part of the state, and Big Stone County in the far west. (See Map 1.) Counties with the highest percentage of low-income children (below 200% of the poverty line) include many of the same counties, along with Kittson in the far northwest, Grant and Traverse in west central Minnesota, and Murray and Jackson counties in the south. (See Map 2.)

In Minnesota as a whole, about 7% of children below the poverty line live in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty, that is, in census tracts

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Table 1: Number of Children Compared to the Poverty Line

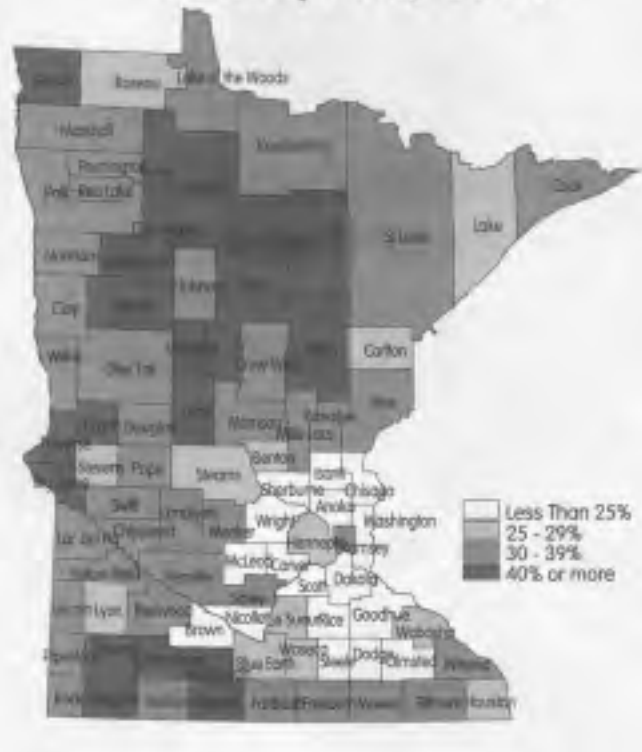
Percent of Poverty Line	Number of Children Under Age 18	Percent	Number of Children Under Age 6	Percent
Less Than 50%	49,586	3.9%	16,473	4.2%
Less Than 100%	121,691	9.6%	41,403	10.5%
Less Than 125%	131,792	10.4%	56,114	14.4%
Less Than 150%	217,451	17.2%	73,617	18.8%
Less Than 175%	271,136	21.4%	91,427	23.4%
Less Than 200%	330,962	26.1%	110,911	28.4%

Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Summary File 3. Additional calculations by CDF-Minnesota.

Map 1. Children Below Poverty Line, 2000



Map 2. Children below 200% of Poverty Line, 2000.



cont. from p. 1

where more than 20% of other children also live in poverty. This percentage has decreased somewhat since 1990, when it was 9.5%. Seventy out of eighty-seven counties have no neighborhoods of concentrated poverty. Mahanomen, Beltrami,

Becker and Cass counties in the north, Stevens county in the west, Martin and Blue Earth counties in the south, and Hennepin and Ramsey counties in the Twin Cities metro area all have between 14 and 50% of their poor children living in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty.

Race and Ethnicity of Low-Income Children and Families

Poverty among Minnesota children varies greatly by race and ethnicity.¹ Statewide, African-American and American Indian children are almost six times more likely to be poor than are white children. Asian and Hispanic children are four times more likely to be poor. (See Table 2.) Throughout Minnesota counties, children of color are more likely to be poor than are white children, although differences between counties are significant. Counties with less poor children in general also tend to have fewer poor children of color.

Table 2: Children Below the Poverty Line

	Number Below Poverty	Percent
All Children	121,691	9.6%
White*	66,437	6.2%
Children of Color and/or Hispanic	59,675	26.9%
African-American*	20,797	34.2%
American Indian*	6,631	35.0%
Asian*	12,695	24.4%
Multi-Racial	9,341	21.2%
Hispanic (of any race)	12,259	22.9%

* single race

Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Summary File 3. Additional calculations by CDF-Minnesota.

Household Composition

Poverty also varies by type of household. Only 4.5% of children living in

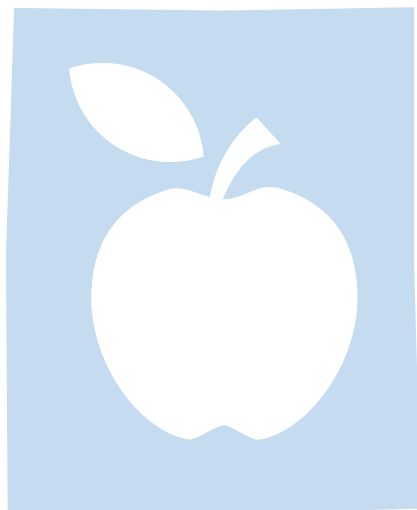
households headed by married parents are below the poverty line. This compares to 30% of children in households headed by single mothers, and 15% of children in households headed by single fathers.

Employment

Most adults in poor families² are employed. Seventeen percent of poor families have an adult working full-time. Sixty-five percent of poor families have at least one adult working full or part-time.

¹ In the 2000 census, respondents were allowed to check more than one race. For purposes of this analysis, multi-racial children are included in the "two or more races" category; children in other racial categories are single-race only. Hispanic children may be of any race.

² These statistics include married couple families without children.



* includes single race other than white children, multi-racial children and all Hispanic children regardless of race. Not given for counties with less than 10% children of color in their populations.

Children Living Below Poverty

	# living below poverty, 2000	% in poverty, 2000	% in poverty, 1990	% below 150% of poverty, 2000	% below 200% of poverty, 2000	% children of color below poverty, 2000*	% poor families working at least part-time, 2000
Aitkin	517	16%	26%	33%	47%	-	53%
Anoka	4,457	5%	8%	10%	16%	16%	71%
Becker	1,325	17%	23%	29%	44%	40%	72%
Beltrami	2,476	22%	29%	38%	52%	37%	60%
Benton	614	7%	11%	15%	27%	-	63%
Big Stone	218	15%	19%	32%	44%	-	57%
Blue Earth	1,283	11%	15%	19%	29%	-	69%
Brown	496	7%	9%	15%	24%	-	74%
Carlton	716	9%	16%	18%	29%	25%	61%
Carver	869	4%	5%	7%	12%	-	71%
Cass	1,252	19%	30%	33%	48%	37%	60%
Chippewa	353	11%	15%	22%	34%	-	70%
Chisago	720	6%	10%	12%	20%	-	66%
Clay	1,713	14%	15%	23%	31%	45%	72%
Clearwater	428	20%	30%	34%	45%	33%	73%
Cook	131	13%	15%	23%	31%	30%	88%
Cottonwood	591	20%	18%	31%	45%	34%	75%
Crow Wing	1,657	12%	19%	23%	37%	-	74%
Dakota	4,259	4%	6%	8%	13%	12%	63%
Dodge	330	6%	8%	12%	22%	-	69%
Douglas	753	10%	14%	19%	31%	-	68%
Faribault	388	10%	16%	23%	38%	20%	79%
Fillmore	797	15%	20%	25%	38%	-	66%
Freeborn	734	10%	13%	21%	34%	27%	63%
Goodhue	767	7%	9%	13%	20%	-	71%
Grant	149	10%	16%	25%	41%	-	70%
Hennepin	28,577	11%	13%	18%	25%	27%	59%
Houston	371	7%	10%	16%	27%	-	64%
Hubbard	575	13%	22%	25%	39%	-	67%
Isanti	561	6%	10%	13%	24%	-	72%
Itasca	1,534	15%	22%	28%	41%	28%	63%
Jackson	311	11%	15%	21%	36%	-	79%
Kanabec	493	12%	19%	25%	36%	-	71%
Kandiyohi	1,245	12%	16%	22%	33%	36%	70%
Kittson	151	12%	13%	28%	41%	-	64%
Koochiching	546	16%	18%	27%	39%	-	66%
Lac Qui Parle	156	8%	14%	24%	39%	-	69%
Lake	243	10%	13%	16%	30%	-	71%
Lake of the Woods	100	9%	12%	25%	37%	-	64%
Le Sueur	546	8%	9%	16%	25%	-	63%
Lincoln	154	10%	19%	21%	39%	-	61%
Lyon	673	10%	11%	19%	29%	38%	69%
McLeod	515	5%	7%	13%	22%	-	72%
Mahnomen	330	22%	34%	43%	59%	32%	69%
Marshall	309	12%	15%	21%	39%	-	60%
Martin	832	16%	15%	26%	41%	-	75%
Meeker	417	7%	12%	17%	33%	-	58%
Mille Lacs	684	12%	17%	23%	37%	27%	65%
Morrison	1,030	12%	18%	24%	39%	-	64%
Mower	1,103	12%	13%	22%	33%	33%	69%
Murray	194	9%	16%	24%	42%	-	72%
Nicollet	503	7%	9%	13%	22%	-	66%
Nobles	853	16%	13%	28%	43%	32%	65%
Norman	203	11%	17%	22%	37%	25%	76%
Olmsted	2,366	7%	8%	13%	20%	28%	62%
Otter Tail	1,778	13%	17%	25%	38%	-	67%
Pennington	365	11%	19%	21%	37%	-	65%
Pine	985	15%	16%	27%	39%	-	69%
Pipestone	292	12%	17%	24%	39%	-	70%
Polk	1,101	14%	16%	25%	37%	50%	76%

County Table, cont. on page 4

	# living below poverty, 2000	% in poverty, 2000	% in poverty, 1990	% below 150% of poverty, 2000	% below 200% of poverty, 2000	% children of color below poverty, 2000*	% poor families working at least part-time, 2000
Pope	271	10%	18%	23%	37%	-	66%
Ramsey	20,670	16%	18%	25%	35%	32%	58%
Red Lake	125	12%	16%	25%	39%	-	62%
Redwood	377	9%	15%	21%	35%	12%	68%
Renville	522	11%	18%	21%	36%	35%	74%
Rice	883	6%	8%	14%	24%	18%	65%
Rock	225	9%	15%	17%	31%	-	71%
Roseau	325	7%	12%	15%	30%	-	69%
St. Louis	6,044	14%	16%	24%	35%	34%	69%
Scott	1,025	4%	4%	8%	13%	14%	67%
Sherburne	770	4%	7%	9%	17%	-	69%
Sibley	432	10%	13%	19%	33%	30%	73%
Stearns	2,444	7%	10%	15%	25%	-	67%
Steele	673	7%	8%	14%	24%	34%	67%
Stevens	160	7%	15%	14%	30%	-	67%
Swift	219	8%	16%	21%	37%	-	61%
Todd	993	15%	21%	30%	46%	-	66%
Traverse	140	13%	20%	29%	48%	-	66%
Wabasha	368	6%	10%	15%	25%	-	70%
Wadena	554	16%	23%	32%	46%	-	70%
Waseca	439	9%	12%	17%	26%	-	66%
Washington	2,220	4%	6%	7%	12%	11%	64%
Watsonwan	451	14%	16%	28%	44%	31%	79%
Wilkin	177	9%	13%	21%	31%	-	82%
Winona	1,142	10%	11%	18%	32%	-	71%
Wright	1,644	6%	8%	11%	20%	-	73%
Yellow Medicine	309	11%	16%	24%	39%	-	70%
Minnesota	121,691	10%	13%	17%	26%	27%	65%
Minneapolis	20,477	25%	31%	39%	50%	36%	
St. Paul	18,008	24%	27%	36%	48%	35%	

Acknowledgements

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