

2000 Census Reports

POVERTY IN FLORIDA

October 2002

The overall poverty rate for persons in Florida as measured in the 2000 Census was 12.5 percent. This rate is slightly lower than in 1990 when 12.7 percent of the state's residents lived in poverty.

Despite a decline in the poverty rate, the number of persons living in poverty increased by nearly 22 percent during the decade and totaled just under 2 million persons in 2000. The number living in poverty in 1990 was 1.6 million persons.

Poverty rates varied greatly by age and by family composition. While nearly one out of every five children in Florida lived in poverty in 1999 (17.6 percent), less than 1 in 10 of Florida's 65 and older population had income below the poverty threshold (9.1 percent). Older children, ages 5 through 17, had a poverty rate of 17.2 percent in 1999--lower than Florida's youngest children but substantially higher than the elderly population.

Close to 400,000 Florida families lived below the poverty threshold in 1999 (383,131 families; 9 percent of all families in the state.) This rate is unchanged since the 1990 Census when 319,978 families representing 9 percent of all families were living below poverty.

The poverty rate for families headed by females with no husband present was nearly three times as high as the rate for all families (25.3 percent compared to 9 percent) and five times as high as the rate for married couple families (4.9 percent).

Nearly half of all female headed families with children under five lived below the poverty level in 1999. The poverty rate for these families was 44.6 percent. While this is down from 53.9 percent in 1989, the number of female-headed families with children under five living in poverty totaled 75,752 in the 2000 Census.

	Poverty Rate		Numbers Liv	Numbers Livng in Poverty	
POVERTY IN FLORIDA	1990	2000	1990	2000	Change
All persons	12.7%	12.5%	1,604,186	1,952,629	21.7%
Persons under 5	20.3%	18.8%	167,953	173,427	3.3%
Persons 5-17	17.5%	17.2%	343,642	454,570	32.3%
Persons 65 and older	10.8%	9.1%	247,426	246,641	-0.3%
All families	9.0%	9.0%	319,978	383,131	19.7%
All Families with Children under 18	14.7%	14.2%	229,558	281,303	22.5%
Married Couple Families	5.1%	4.9%	146,151	160,336	9.7%
Female Headed Families, No Husband Present	28.4%	25.3%	151,639	187,257	23.5%
Female Headed Families with Children under 5	53.9%	44.6%	68,852	75,752	10.0%
Female Headed Families with Children under 18	38.6%	32.8%	133,078	164,596	23.7%

COUNTIES WITH HIGHEST AND LOWEST POVERTY RATES FOR SELECTED VARIABLES

RANK	ALL PERS	ONS
1	Hamilton	26.0%
2	Hardee	24.6%
3	Hendry	24.1%
4	DeSoto	23.6%
5	Madison	23.1%
63	Charlotte	8.2%
64	St. Johns	8.0%
65	Sarasota	7.8%
66	Seminole	7.4%
67	Clay	6.8%

PERSONS UNDER 5				
Hamilton	39.6%			
DeSoto	36.5%			
Hendry	35.0%			
Hardee	34.9%			
Putnam	34.5%			
Monroe	12.7%			
Nassau	10.9%			
St. Johns	10.6%			
Clay	10.5%			
Seminole	10.0%			

PERSONS 65 & OLDER				
Liberty	24.3%			
Madison	22.5%			
Jackson	21.0%			
Calhoun	20.4%			
Washington	19.4%			
Martin	5.2%			
Charlotte	5.0%			
Sarasota	4.5%			
Flagler	4.4%			
Collier	4.3%			

RANK	ALL FAMILIES	
1	Hamilton	21.7%
2	Madison	18.9%
3	Hardee	17.0%
4	Hendry	16.9%
5	Liberty	16.8%
63	Charlotte	5.3%
64	Seminole	5.1%
65	St. Johns	5.1%
66	Clay	5.1%
67	Sarasota	5.1%

FEMALE HEADE	ED FAMILIES
Hamilton	46.0%
Liberty	44.8%
Washington	43.0%
Glades	42.8%
Madison	42.7%
Sarasota	19.4%
Pinellas	19.4%
Charlotte	17.8%
Clay	17.7%
Seminole	16.1%

FEMALE HEADED FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER 5				
Holmes	72.2%			
Hamilton	71.3%			
Lafayette	66.7%			
Franklin	66.3%			
Putnam	65.0%			
Monroe	36.8%			
Seminole	34.2%			
St. Johns	34.0%			
Clay	32.6%			
Nassau	29.8%			

Poverty rates in 1999, as measured in the 2000 Census, varied substantially by county. Rates for all persons and selected age groups and family configurations are shown on the following page. Numbers shaded in yellow are the highest and those shaded in green are the lowest for each poverty variable shown.

Although the overall poverty rate for persons in Florida was 12.5 percent, county rates ranged from a low of 6.8 percent in Clay County to a high of 26 percent in Hamilton County.

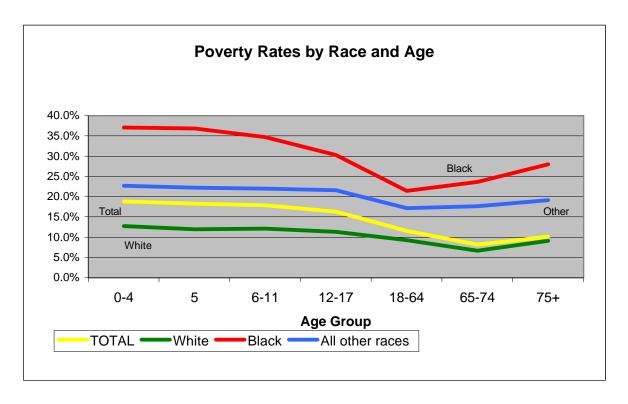
Similar trends can be observed in each of the poverty measures--county rates range, in most cases, from below ten percent to four or five times that level. There are some notable exceptions. The rates for married couple families range from a low of 2.2 percent in St. Johns County to a high of 13.2 percent in Hardee County which, while still low, is six times the lowest level. Female-headed households faced high levels of poverty even in affluent counties. For example, Seminole County, with the lowest rate statewide in four of the ten poverty variables still had a poverty rate of 16.1 percent for female-headed households, of 21.7 percent for female-headed households with children under 18, and of 34.2 percent for female-headed households with children under 5.

Different counties have the highest poverty rate for many of the variables shown but Hamilton County has the highest rate for seven of the ten different poverty variables. In those cases where Hamilton County's rate is not the highest, it is close to the highest. As noted above, Seminole County has the lowest rates in the state for four of the ten poverty variables.

POVERTY RATES IN FLORIDA--From Census 2000

									Female Headed	Female Headed
		_	_	_		All Families	Married	Female	Family with	Family with
•	All	Persons	Persons	Persons	All	with Children	Couple	Headed	Children	Children
County	Persons	under 5	5 to 17	65 and older	Families 12.22%	under 18	Families	Families	under 5	under 18
Alachua Baker	22.8% 14.7%	22.7% 15.8%	18.9% 25.8%	9.7% 8.6%	11.36%	16.90% 16.17%	4.92% 5.64%	33.38% 35.78%	54.27% 53.62%	40.17% 45.30%
Bay	13.0%	22.6%	17.6%	11.0%	9.80%	15.92%	4.77%	31.80%	51.32%	39.55%
Bradford	14.6%	14.7%	20.8%	17.6%	11.12%	14.68%	6.62%	32.03%	49.41%	38.65%
Brevard	9.5%	15.7%	12.8%	6.5%	6.79%	11.23%	3.46%	23.52%	47.82%	31.24%
Broward Calhoun	11.5% 20.0%	15.8% 30.2%	15.6% 21.5%	10.0% 20.4%	8.69% 14.85%	12.58% 20.02%	4.96% 8.89%	21.54% 37.91%	38.16% 58.33%	28.39% 49.74%
Charlotte	8.2%	17.4%	12.1%	5.0%	5.27%	10.91%	3.46%	17.79%	51.32%	25.47%
Citrus	11.7%	19.8%	18.5%	7.0%	8.5%	16.4%	5.5%	26.3%	50.7%	36.2%
Clay	6.8%	10.5%	8.9%	7.4%	5.1%	7.2%	2.7%	17.7%	32.6%	22.6%
Columbia	10.3% 15.0%	18.4%	16.6% 17.0%	4.3%	6.6%	13.1% 16.2%	4.5% 7.3%	20.2% 27.2%	40.1% 45.0%	26.3% 33.7%
Columbia DeSoto	23.6%	19.4% 36.5%	31.2%	13.6% 7.3%	11.4% 14.2%	26.2%	9.0%	40.0%	54.5%	49.0%
Dixie	19.1%	18.7%	25.8%	16.1%	14.5%	21.9%	10.6%	35.6%	43.6%	46.6%
Duval	11.9%	18.1%	16.3%	11.6%	9.2%	13.5%	3.7%	25.8%	43.6%	31.7%
Escambia	15.4%	27.1%	23.0%	9.6%	12.1%	19.4%	4.7%	34.2%	57.1%	43.2%
Flagler Franklin	8.7% 17.7%	19.6% 29.2%	15.1% 21.0%	4.4% 13.9%	6.7% 11.8%	13.3% 16.8%	4.2% 7.8%	25.2% 33.0%	53.0% 66.3%	33.6% 38.0%
Gadsden	19.9%	33.3%	26.8%	16.9%	16.4%	23.3%	8.2%	34.5%	53.4%	43.3%
Gilchrist	14.1%	14.5%	19.1%	12.9%	10.9%	15.5%	6.5%	33.1%	56.8%	42.1%
Glades	15.2%	19.7%	19.6%	11.2%	10.7%	17.3%	6.0%	42.8%	60.6%	50.4%
Gulf Hamilton	16.7%	21.2%	21.3%	14.1% 16.1%	13.7% 21.7%	19.4%	8.0% 11.7%	37.6%	61.4% 71.3%	50.0%
Hardee	26.0% 24.6%	39.6% 34.9%	34.8% 29.7%	16.1%	17.0%	33.1% 25.5%	13.2%	46.0% 34.0%	47.5%	56.5% 42.7%
Hendry	24.1%	35.0%	29.5%	15.0%	16.9%	24.3%	12.7%	37.1%	48.2%	44.3%
Hernando	10.3%	18.8%	15.6%	6.2%	7.1%	13.4%	4.4%	24.9%	48.3%	32.4%
Highlands	15.2%	29.2%	25.2%	7.4%	10.2%	21.5%	6.6%	34.3%	61.5%	45.8%
Hillsborough Holmes	12.5% 19.1%	19.2% 26.2%	17.1% 25.8%	10.0% 17.9%	9.1% 15.4%	13.7% 22.6%	4.5% 10.0%	24.8% 38.0%	43.5% 72.2%	31.9% 48.2%
Indian River	9.3%	17.3%	13.3%	5.7%	6.3%	11.8%	3.7%	21.6%	39.5%	28.1%
Jackson	17.2%	29.1%	22.0%	21.0%	12.8%	18.9%	7.2%	32.8%	55.6%	39.3%
Jefferson	17.1%	25.0%	21.3%	17.0%	13.3%	18.6%	7.3%	32.1%	49.0%	39.7%
Lafayette Lake	17.5% 9.6%	30.6% 16.8%	23.4% 16.1%	17.3% 6.3%	12.9% 6.9%	21.5% 13.0%	9.6% 3.6%	41.2% 28.2%	66.7% 49.9%	48.3% 36.9%
Lee	9.7%	17.6%	15.1%	5.6%	6.7%	12.3%	4.0%	22.4%	41.0%	29.9%
Leon	18.2%	19.3%	15.9%	8.2%	9.4%	13.1%	3.2%	27.2%	45.6%	33.0%
Levy	18.6%	28.1%	26.6%	12.9%	15.0%	24.9%	8.8%	40.5%	51.5%	46.1%
Liberty	19.9%	21.6%	27.4% 29.0%	24.3%	16.8%	21.0%	8.9%	44.8%	57.7% 64.6%	50.4%
Madison Manatee	23.1% 10.1%	34.0% 17.9%	15.2%	22.5% 6.2%	18.9% 7.1%	25.2% 12.8%	8.9% 3.9%	42.7% 21.9%	40.2%	54.0% 29.9%
Marion	13.1%	22.2%	20.2%	7.4%	9.2%	16.6%	5.4%	27.4%	51.0%	36.4%
Martin	8.8%	17.0%	13.4%	5.2%	5.6%	10.5%	3.3%	20.7%	43.3%	25.8%
Miami-Dade	18.0%	23.2%	23.2%	18.9%	14.5%	19.3%	9.3%	28.9%	46.7%	37.3%
Monroe Nassau	10.2% 9.1%	12.7% 10.9%	12.1% 11.7%	8.8% 8.9%	6.8%	9.9% 9.4%	4.6% 3.5%	19.8% 22.6%	36.8% 29.8%	25.4% 27.6%
Okaloosa	8.8%	15.1%	12.3%	6.5%	6.6%	10.8%	2.9%	26.4%	46.4%	33.1%
Okeechobee	16.0%	23.9%	20.4%	10.3%	11.8%	17.2%	8.5%	28.2%	46.3%	35.8%
Orange	12.1%	17.9%	16.4%	9.3%	8.8%	13.0%	4.5%	23.8%	42.4%	30.3%
Osceola Palm Beach	11.5% 9.9%	16.5% 15.8%	14.8% 14.2%	8.6% 6.6%	9.1% 6.9%	13.2% 11.5%	5.5% 3.7%	24.0% 22.1%	37.6% 39.7%	30.4% 28.7%
Pasco	10.7%	16.5%	15.6%	7.7%	7.6%	12.8%	4.8%	23.0%	48.0%	32.0%
Pinellas	10.0%	15.7%	13.9%	8.2%	6.7%	11.2%	3.6%	19.4%	39.3%	26.6%
Polk	12.9%	21.3%	19.0%	8.1%	9.4%	15.5%	5.0%	28.6%	49.3%	37.0%
Putnam St. Johns	20.9% 8.0%	34.5% 10.6%	29.5% 9.6%	13.1% 6.2%	15.8% 5.1%	26.6% 8.4%	9.2% 2.2%	41.4% 21.1%	65.0% 34.0%	52.6% 26.7%
St. Lucie	13.4%	21.0%	21.2%	7.7%	9.6%	16.4%	5.1%	31.7%	54.0% 54.2%	40.0%
Santa Rosa	9.8%	13.6%	13.3%	7.5%	7.9%	11.6%	4.2%	30.4%	55.3%	37.8%
Sarasota	7.8%	15.8%	12.3%	4.5%	5.1%	10.3%	2.9%	19.4%	43.5%	27.5%
Seminole	7.4%	10.0%	8.7%	6.6% 7.7%	5.1%	7.4%	2.7%	16.1% 33.7%	34.2% 50.9%	21.7%
Sumter Suwannee	13.7% 18.5%	27.6% 23.5%	25.9% 22.1%	12.4%	9.6% 14.8%	21.3% 20.4%	5.9% 9.7%	35.7%	50.9% 47.6%	43.0% 41.1%
Taylor	18.0%	24.0%	22.1%	17.9%	14.5%	18.5%	7.4%	39.8%	50.0%	48.3%
Union	14.0%	16.6%	14.7%	16.2%	10.5%	13.0%	6.2%	29.5%	40.2%	35.8%
Volusia	11.6%	17.7%	16.6%	7.1%	7.9%	14.0%	4.2%	24.3%	46.3%	33.0%
Wakulla Walton	11.3% 14.4%	21.9% 28.8%	13.5% 18.5%	15.1% 10.9%	9.3% 11.6%	13.8% 18.9%	4.9% 6.9%	24.5% 33.8%	53.8% 59.6%	31.1% 47.4%
Washington	19.2%	32.8%	25.3%	19.4%	15.4%	22.5%	8.8%	43.0%	59.1%	51.4%
J	12.5%									
Florida	12.5%	18.8%	17.2%	9.1%	9.0%	14.2%	4.9%	25.3%	44.6%	32.8%

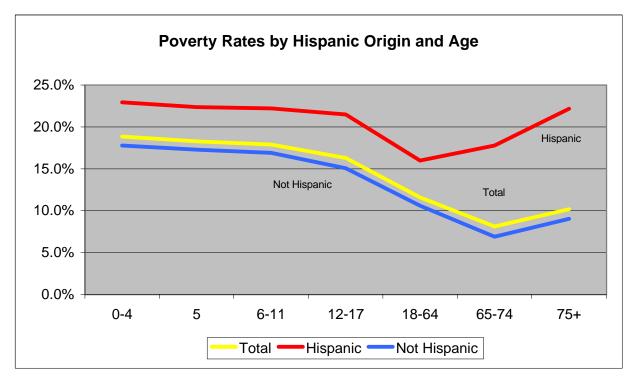
Source: 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 3.



As shown above, poverty rates vary greatly by race. Individuals who reported that their race was black alone were more likely to be living below the poverty level at all ages. Black rates ranged from 2.3 times the white rate at ages 18-64 up to 3.6 times the white rate at ages 65-74. Poverty rates for persons of all other races (including individuals who reported more than one race) fell between the rates for whites and blacks.

POVERTY STATUS FOR PERSONS IN 1999 BY RACE AND AGE					
Income below poverty level	TOTAL	White Alone	Black Alone	All other races	
Under 5 years	173,427	80,197	69,548	23,682	
5 years	35,320	15,866	14,971	4,483	
6 to 11 years	222,734	104,025	92,748	25,961	
12 to 17 years	196,516	95,011	76,466	25,039	
18 to 64 years	1,077,991	670,254	276,298	131,439	
65 to 74 years	117,108	86,595	23,527	6,986	
75 years and over	129,533	107,955	17,554	4,024	
ALL AGES	1,952,629	1,159,903	571,112	221,614	
	1				
Poverty Rates	TOTAL	White Alone	Black Alone	All other races	
Under 5 years	18.8%	12.7%	37.1%	22.7%	
5 years	18.3%			22.2%	
6 to 11 years	17.9%	12.1%	34.7%	22.0%	
12 to 17 years	16.3%	11.3%	30.3%	21.5%	
18 to 64 years	11.6%	9.2%	21.4%	17.2%	
65 to 74 years	8.1%	6.6%	23.6%	17.6%	
75 years and over	10.2%			19.1%	
ALL AGES	12.5%	9.5%	25.9%	18.7%	

Source: 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 3, Tables P-159A-G



Poverty rates also vary by ethnic origin. Floridians who are of Hispanic origin were more likely to be living in poverty than persons who were not of Hispanic origin. Poverty rates for Hispanics fall between the rates for whites and blacks and range from 16 percent for persons in the working ages (18-64) up to nearly 23 percent for those under five years of age. The poverty rate for all Hispanics is 1.6 times the rate for non-Hispanics.

POVERTY STATUS BY AGE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN					
Income below poverty level	TOTAL	Hispanic Origin	Not Hispanic Origin		
Under 5 years	173,427	42,774	130,653		
5 years	35,320	8,317	27,003		
6 to 11 years	222,734	51,691	171,043		
12 to 17 years	196,516	48,225	148,291		
18 to 64 years	1,077,991	268,931	809,060		
65 to 74 years	117,108	28,743	88,365		
75 years and over	129,533	24,294	105,239		
ALL AGES	1,952,629	472,975	1,479,654		
Poverty Rates		Hispanic	Not Hispanic		
. Overty Maios	TOTAL	Origin	Origin		
Under 5 years	TOTAL 18.8%	Origin 22.9%			
			17.8%		
Under 5 years	18.8%	22.9% 22.4%	17.8% 17.3%		
Under 5 years 5 years	18.8% 18.3%	22.9% 22.4% 22.2%	17.8% 17.3% 16.9%		
Under 5 years 5 years 6 to 11 years	18.8% 18.3% 17.9%	22.9% 22.4% 22.2% 21.5%	17.8% 17.3% 16.9% 15.1%		
Under 5 years 5 years 6 to 11 years 12 to 17 years 18 to 64 years 65 to 74 years	18.8% 18.3% 17.9% 16.3% 11.6% 8.1%	22.9% 22.4% 22.2% 21.5% 16.0% 17.8%	17.8% 17.3% 16.9% 15.1% 10.6% 6.9%		
Under 5 years 5 years 6 to 11 years 12 to 17 years 18 to 64 years	18.8% 18.3% 17.9% 16.3% 11.6%	22.9% 22.4% 22.2% 21.5% 16.0% 17.8% 22.2%	17.8% 17.3% 16.9% 15.1% 10.6% 6.9% 9.0%		

Source: 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 3, Tables P-159A-G

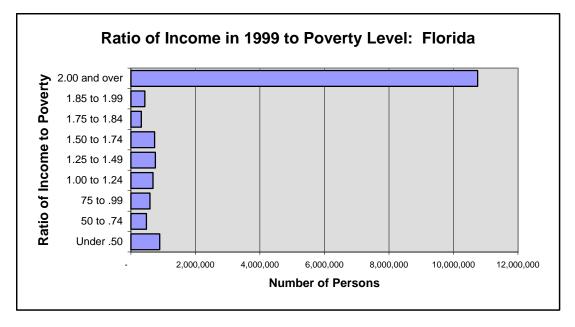
RATIO OF INCOME TO POVERTY

The following table shows the ratio of income in 1999 to the poverty level. Persons with ratios under 1.00 were living below the poverty line and those with ratios of 1.00 or higher were living above the poverty line. The percentage distribution shown in the table from the 2000 Census is very similar to the one obtained in the 1990 Census. Less than six percent of Floridians had an income that was less than half of the poverty threshold (5.7 percent in 2000 and 5.6 percent in 1990). In 2000, 16.9 percent of persons had income that was less than 125 percent of poverty and 21.7 percent had income that was less than 150 percent of poverty. Corresponding numbers for 1990 were 17.4 percent (less than 125 percent of poverty) and 21.0 percent (less than 150 percent of poverty). In 1990, 68 percent of Floridians had income that was at least twice as high as the poverty level. By 2000, this had increased to 68.9 percent.

RATIO OF INCOME IN 1999 TO POVERTY LEVEL FOR PERSONS

Ratio	Number	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Ratio	Nullibei	reiceilt	1 Clocit
Under .50	888,104	5.7%	5.7%
50 to .74	478,536	3.1%	8.8%
75 to .99	585,989	3.8%	12.5%
1.00 to 1.24	677,631	4.3%	16.9%
1.25 to 1.49	754,568	4.8%	21.7%
1.50 to 1.74	730,574	4.7%	26.4%
1.75 to 1.84	317,198	2.0%	28.4%
1.85 to 1.99	427,810	2.7%	31.1%
2.00 and over	10,744,957	68.9%	100.0%
Total	15,605,367	100.0%	

Source: 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 3, Tables P-88.



SOURCE OF POVERTY DATA

The data presented in this report were obtained from the 2000 Decennial Census, summary file 3.

One out of every six households surveyed for the 2000 Census was asked detailed questions concerning money income during 1999. Total income figures for families and unrelated individuals were obtained by adding responses given for wage or salary income; net self-employment income; interest, dividend, or net rental or royalty income or income from estates and trusts; social security or railroad retirement income; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); public assistance or welfare payments; retirement, survivor, or disability pensions; and all other income.

The value of in-kind income such as food stamps, public housing subsidies, and medical care was not counted as income.

Poverty status was determined by comparing the person's total family income with a poverty threshold appropriate for that person's family size and composition. For example, the poverty threshold for an unrelated individual under 65 was \$8,667 and for 65 and older was \$7,990. The poverty threshold for a four person household with two children under age 18 was \$16,895. If the total income was less than the threshold appropriate for that family, then the person and every other person in that family was considered poor. For unrelated individuals, poverty status was determined by comparing the person's income to his or her poverty threshold.

Poverty status was not determined for institutionalized persons, persons in military group quarters and in college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years of age.

For additional information on the definitions of income and poverty used by the Census Bureau, please see Census 2000 technical documentation available at http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf. For other questions related to this report, please email Kathy McCharen at mccharen.kathy@leg.state.fl.us .