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Census Poverty and Income Indicators

I. Definitions

Poverty status is determined by income and family size.

Poverty rate (percent poor) is calculated as:

$$\frac{\text{Total persons below poverty} \times 100}{\text{Population for whom poverty status is determined}}$$

Child poverty rate is calculated as:

$$\frac{\text{Children aged 0-17} \times 100}{\text{Child population (0-17) for whom poverty status is determined}}$$

NOTE: The total population is NOT the valid denominator. The denominator includes only those for whom poverty status could be determined. The poverty status is NOT determined for institutionalized persons, persons in military group quarters, persons in college dormitories and unrelated individuals under 15 years old.

POVERTY STATUS BY AGE

Number and percent of persons living below poverty is provided for the following age groups:

Population aged 0-4

Population aged 5-17

Population aged 18-64

Population aged 65+

FAMILY TYPE BY POVERTY STATUS

Number of families with children < 18 is provided. A **family** includes a householder and one or more other persons living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. One person in a household is designated as a householder. In most cases, the **householder** is the person or one of the persons, in whose name the house is owned or rented.

Number and percent of families with children < 18 living below poverty by family type is provided. Family types include married, male-headed (no spouse present) and female-headed (no spouse present).

Percent families with children < 18 living below poverty is calculated as:

$$\frac{\text{families with children < 18 living below poverty} \times 100}{\text{families with children < 18}}$$

Percent married families with children < 18 living below poverty is calculated as:

$$\frac{\text{married families with children < 18 living below poverty} \times 100}{\text{married families with children < 18}}$$

Percent male-headed* families with children < 18 living below poverty is calculated as:

$$\frac{\text{male-headed families with children < 18 living below poverty} \times 100}{\text{male-headed families with children < 18}}$$

Percent female-headed* families with children < 18 living below poverty is calculated as:

$$\frac{\text{female-headed families with children < 18 living below poverty} \times 100}{\text{female-headed families with children < 18}}$$

*** These are families with no spouse present**

RATIO OF INCOME TO POVERTY

The number of persons within an income to poverty ratio category is provided. There are 6 categories, which range from under 0.50 to 2.00 and over. In general, a ratio less than 1 means that the income is less than the poverty level. When the ratio

equals 1, the income and poverty level are the same, and when the ratio is greater than 1, the income is higher than the poverty level.

For example, person's with income below 50% of poverty indicates their income is half the poverty level. These are the poorest of the poor.

We provide **numbers and percents** for the following income to poverty levels:

Persons with income of less than 50% of poverty

Persons with income of less than 100% of poverty

Persons with income of less than 125% of poverty

Persons with income of less than 150% of poverty

Persons with income of less than 185% of poverty

Persons with income of less than 200% of poverty

Persons with income at or above 200% of poverty

Certain governmental agencies use income and poverty levels to determine eligibility for programs. For example, in Ohio children up to age 19 are eligible to receive Medicaid if their incomes are less than 200% of poverty. Certain types of publicly subsidized child care are available for families making up to 150% of poverty and there are other child care subsidies where families are eligible if their incomes are less than 185% of poverty.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Median Household Income is the number where one half of the households have income above it and one half of the households have income below it. For example, in 1999 the median household income in Cuyahoga County was \$39,168. Half of the households had income above this figure and half of the households had income below this figure in the County.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY SELECTED CATEGORIES

The number of households in selected income categories is provided. There are 15 different household income categories for Census 2000 and 16 different household income categories for Census 2010 and the American Community Survey. The lowest is less than \$10,000, and the highest is \$150,000 or more for Census 2000 and \$200,000 or more for Census 2010 and the American Community Survey.

TYPE OF INCOME

The type of income for households is provided for the following income types. Households may have income from more than one source. Therefore, adding up the number of households in each category will not equal the total number of households. The types of income are listed and defined below.

Wage or Salary Income is all money earned as an employee in the particular calendar year. Wage and salary income include armed forces pay, commissions, tips and cash bonuses.

Self-Employment Income is income from both farm and nonfarm self-employment. The self-employment income is the net income after expenses are subtracted from gross receipts.

Social Security Income includes income from social security pensions and permanent disability insurance payments made by the Social Security Administration.

Public Assistance Income includes general assistance and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Supplemental Security Income is administered by the Social Security Administration to provide income assistance to needy aged, blind, or disabled persons.

Other Types of Income include retirement income (excluding Social Security income), income from interest or dividends, and all other income. Examples of all other income include alimony and child support, Veterans' Administration (VA) payments and other periodic income (other than earnings).

For American Community Survey, we also provided **household that received food stamp** and **household that did not received food stamp** in the past year.

II. Precautions and Information regarding use of data

The Census occurs every ten years on the decade. However, the actual data are not available for 2-3 years following the Census. NEO CANDO 2010+ contains selected tables from the 2000 and 2010 Census. The Community Survey data are updated annually. All 2000 and 2010 Census and the American Community Survey tables are available at the Census Bureau website (<http://data.census.gov>).

Information from the Census is derived either from questions asked of the entire population or from questions asked of only a sample of the population. Questions asked of every person are called the 100-percent or short-form questions. The short-form questions include basic demographic and housing information. The questions asked of a sample of the population are called sample or long-form questions. Approximately 1 in 6 households received the long-form questionnaire. The long-form questions, in addition to the demographic and housing information, include data about income, employment status and educational attainment. In 2010, the American Community Survey has replaced the long-form.

The Census questionnaire is either mailed to households or delivered by census enumerators (mainly in rural areas). The Census Bureau follows up, either by phone or in person, with those who have not responded to the questionnaire.

The Census Bureau releases a number of files containing different geographic levels and/or different variables. The data in NEO CANDO 2010+ from the 2000 Census are extracted from Summary File 3 (SF3) and Summary File 1 (SF1). The SF3 is a sample file (derived from the long-form questionnaire), which is weighted to represent the entire population, and the SF1 contains the 100-percent count data (short-form questionnaire). The 100% counts may differ from the sample counts for the same variable particularly at the census tract level. The 2010 Census data in NEO CANDO 2010+ are extracted from Summary File 1 (SF1) (100-percent count data). The American Community Survey data in NEO CANDO 2010+ are extracted from the ACS 5-year estimates.

The 2000 data in NEO CANDO 2010+ have been put into the 2010 census tract boundaries to allow for comparisons between the 2000 and 2010 Censuses. Some census tract boundaries and numbers change from Census year to Census year. In order to accurately compare the data over time, the data must be in the same geographic boundaries. For those census tracts that have changed between the 2 Census years, we used GIS techniques to determine the proportion of the 2000 tract population that lived in the corresponding 2010 tract.

All income related questions in the Census are based on a person's income in the year prior to the Census/Survey year. For a description of the Census Bureau's method for determining poverty status, click this link (<https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance.html>).

The income levels at which a person or family is considered poor (poverty thresholds) change annually. For more recent poverty thresholds, click this link (<https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty.html>).

The Census Bureau does not release poverty estimates at the census tract or municipality (city/place) level between census years. Click this link for more information (<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html>).

III. Data source and suggested citation

Source of Census Data: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Update Schedule: Decennial Census - Every 10 years (data are generally available within 2 years of the actual Census); American Community Survey – Annually

Years Available: Decennial Census - 2000; American Community Survey – 5-year estimates, 2010 and onward

Geographic Coverage: 8 County Cleveland-Akron Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA), which includes Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage and Summit Counties, and the following counties: Ashland, Columbiana, Erie, Huron, Mahoning, Richland, Stark, Trumbull and Wayne Counties

Suggested Citation: The data in the Neighborhood Data Warehouse come from a variety of data sources. All indicators are processed by the Center on Poverty and Community Development. We suggest the following citation format:

[Name of indicator], [geography of indicator],[time period of indicator]. [Data source of indicator]. Summary statistics processed by the Center on Poverty and Community Development, Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University. Accessed through the NEOCANDO Neighborhood Data Warehouse, [date accessed]. <http://neocando.case.edu>

An example would be:

Children under age 6 tested for lead with elevated blood lead level, 2015, City of Cleveland. Ohio Department of Health. Summary statistics processed by the Center on Poverty and Community Development, Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University. Accessed through the NEOCANDO Neighborhood Data Warehouse, May 24, 2018.
<http://neocando.case.edu>