



CARSEY **INSTITUTE**

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UNIVERSITY *of* NEW HAMPSHIRE

# Rural Children – Rural Communities

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The Carsey Institute and  
the Annie E. Casey Foundation

# Why Should We Care About Rural Children?

- ❑ **11.4 million children growing up in rural America**
- ❑ **2.5 million poor children in rural America**
- ❑ **Child poverty rate in rural America is 22%**

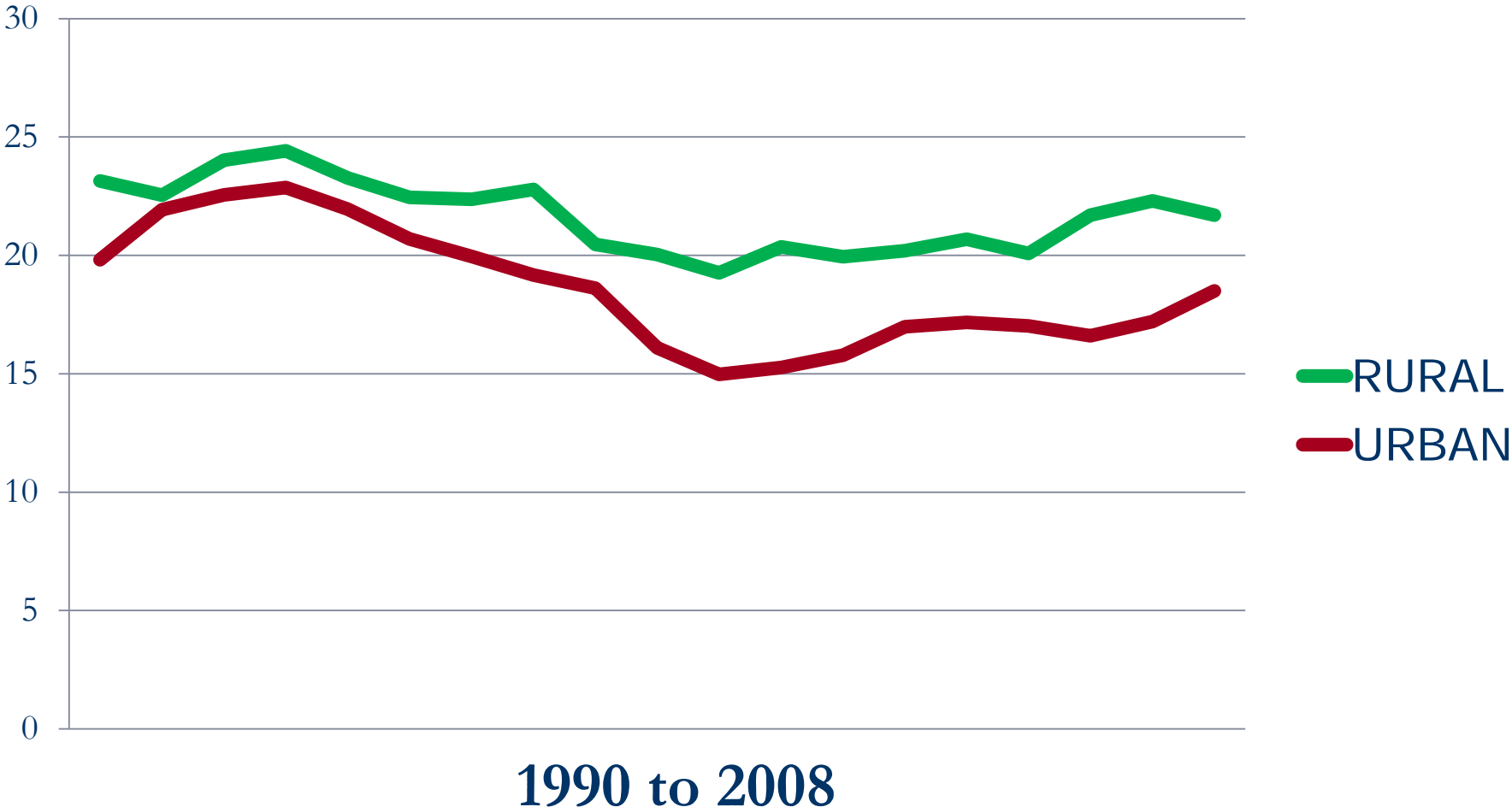
**NOTE - Data presented here are from 2008 so they do not reflect the worsening economic recession in 2009 and early 2010**

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**URBAN = CITIES AND SUBURBS**

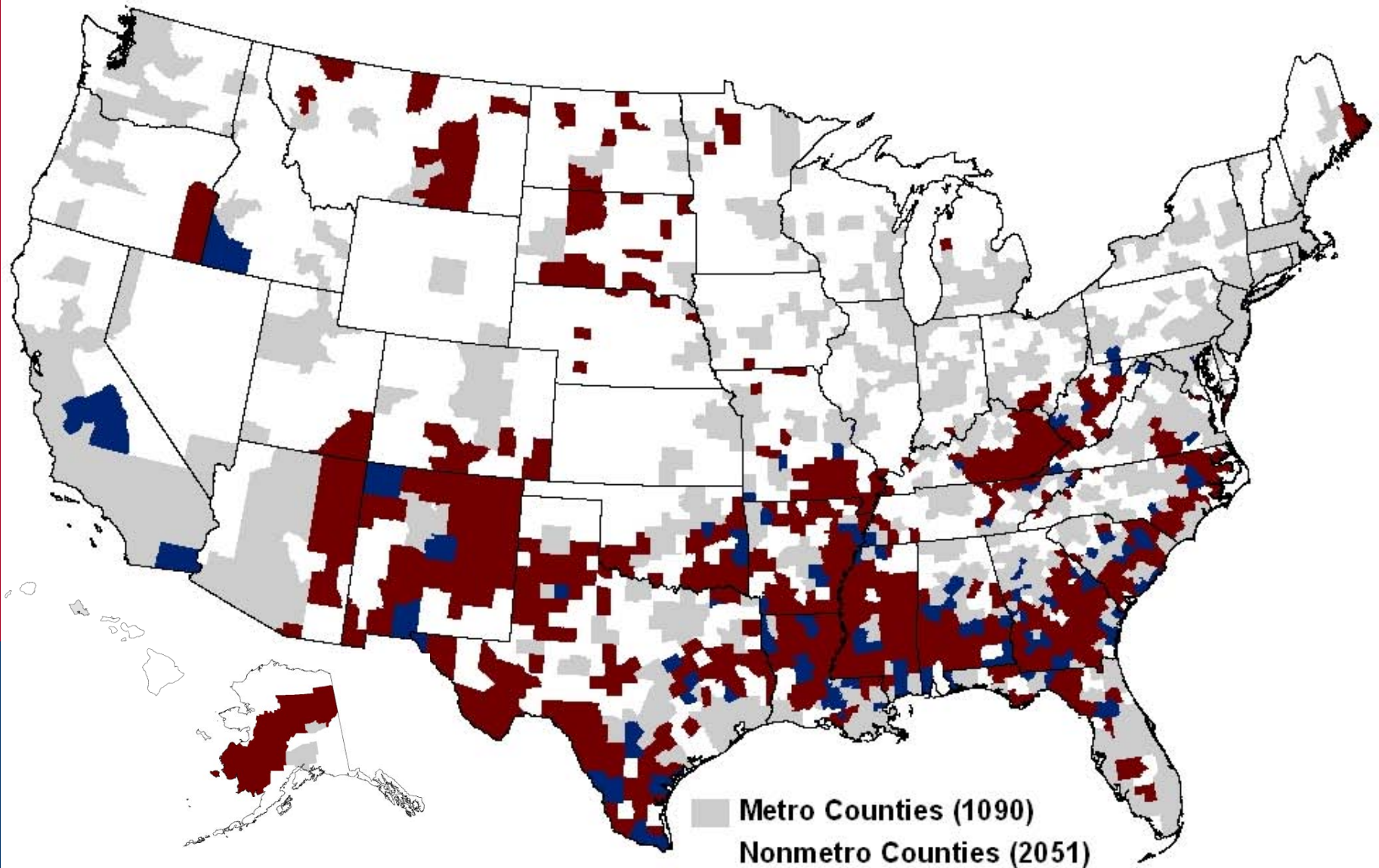
**RURAL = OUTSIDE METRO AREAS**

# Child Poverty Rate 1990 to 2008



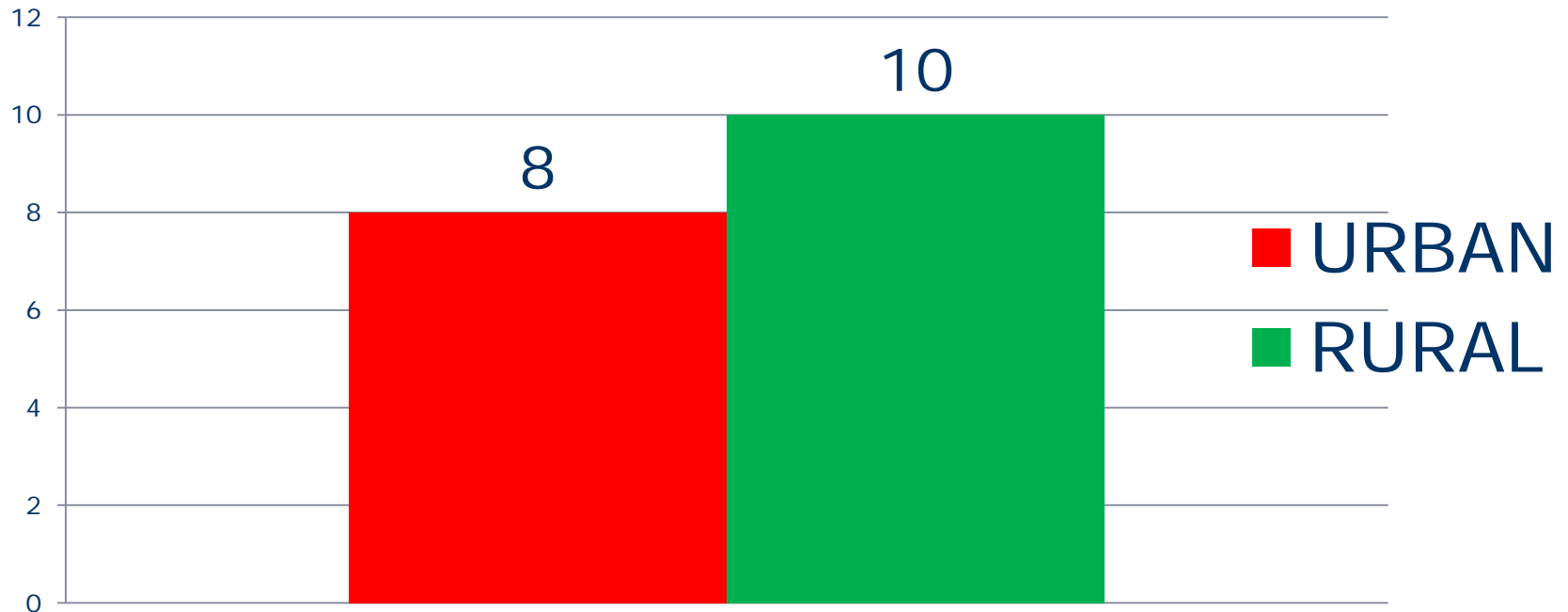
Poverty Threshold is \$22,025 a year for a family of four in 2008

# Persistent Child Poverty by Metropolitan Status, 1970 to 2007



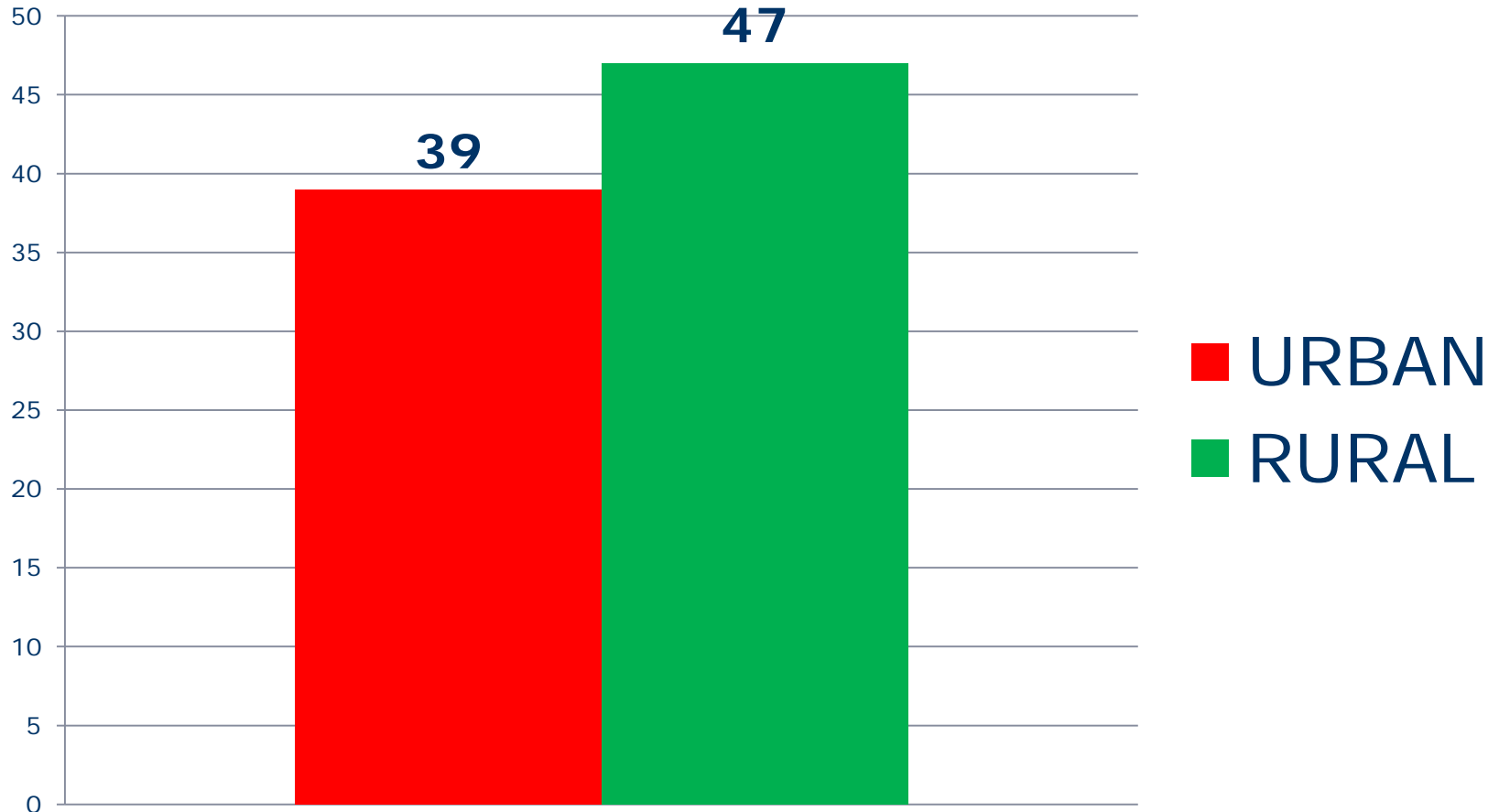
- Metro Counties (1090)
- Nonmetro Counties (2051)
- Metro Persistent Child Poverty (124)
- Nonmetro Persistent Child Poverty (593)

# Percent Of Children in Deep Poverty (Income Less Than 50% of Poverty Line), 2008



Under \$11,013 a year for a family for four

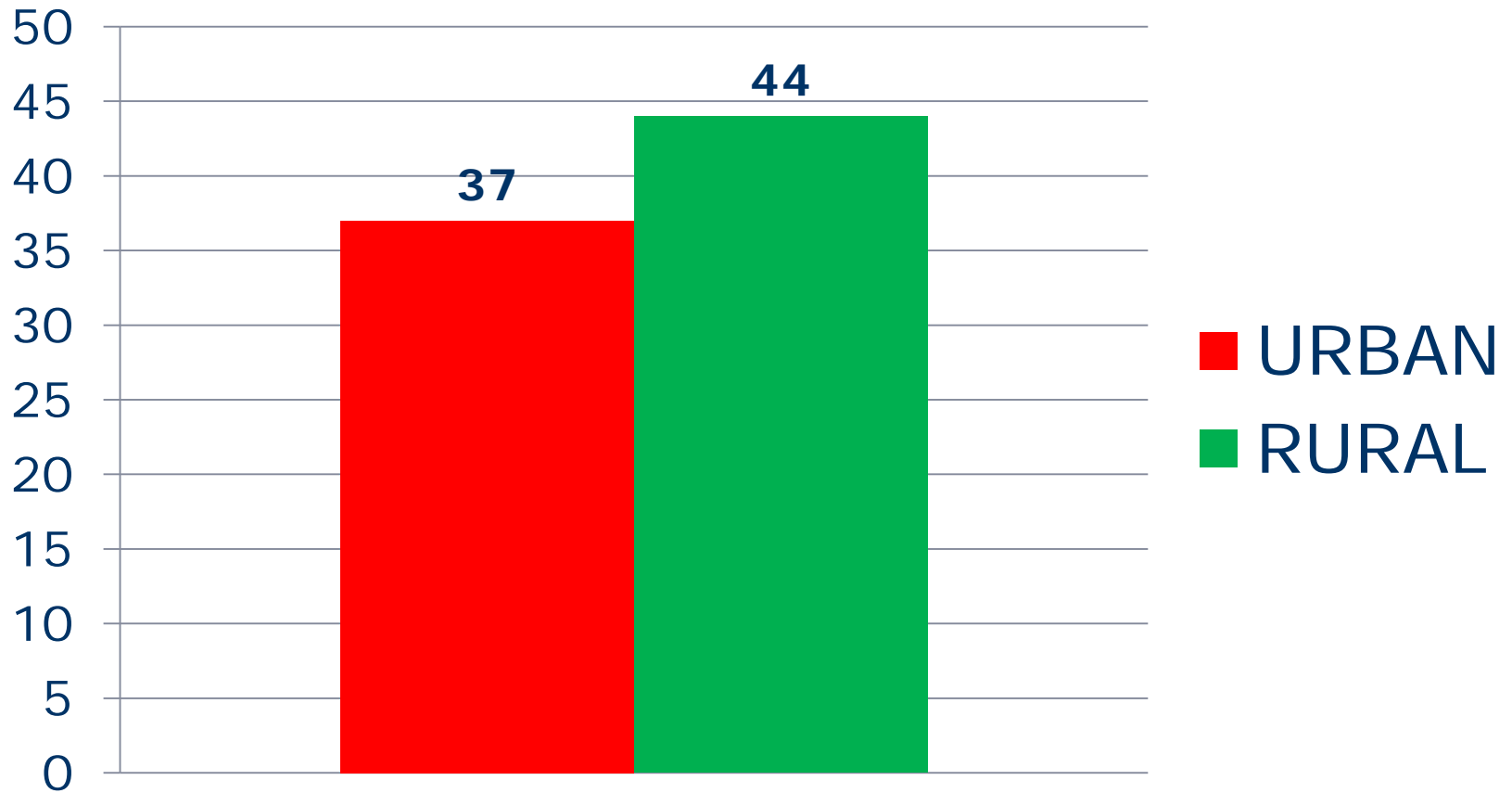
## Percent Of Children in Low-Income Families (Income Less Than 200% of Poverty Line), 2008



**Income Under \$44,100 a year for a family of four**

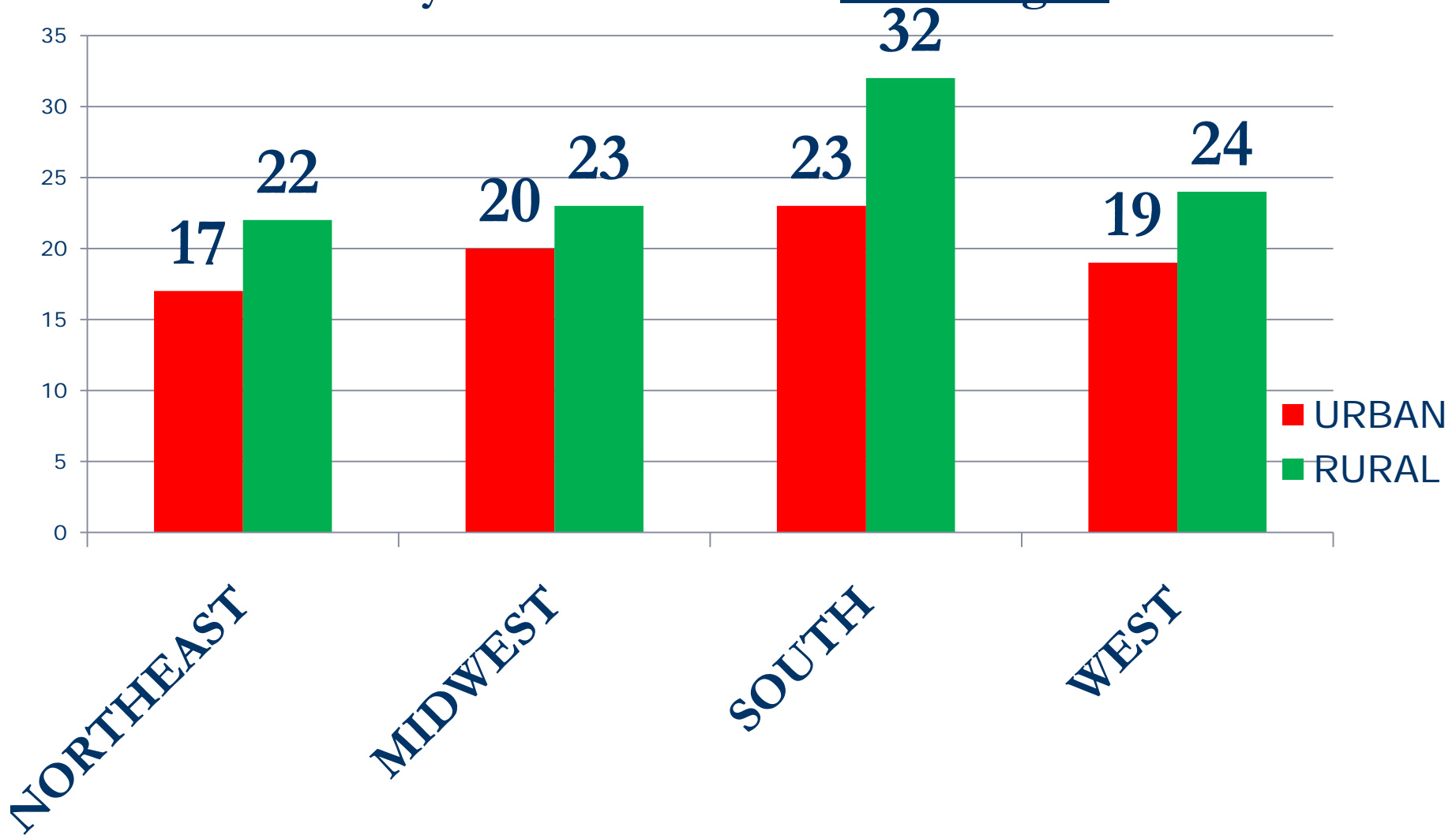


## Percent Of Children in Families Below 185% of Poverty Line, 2008

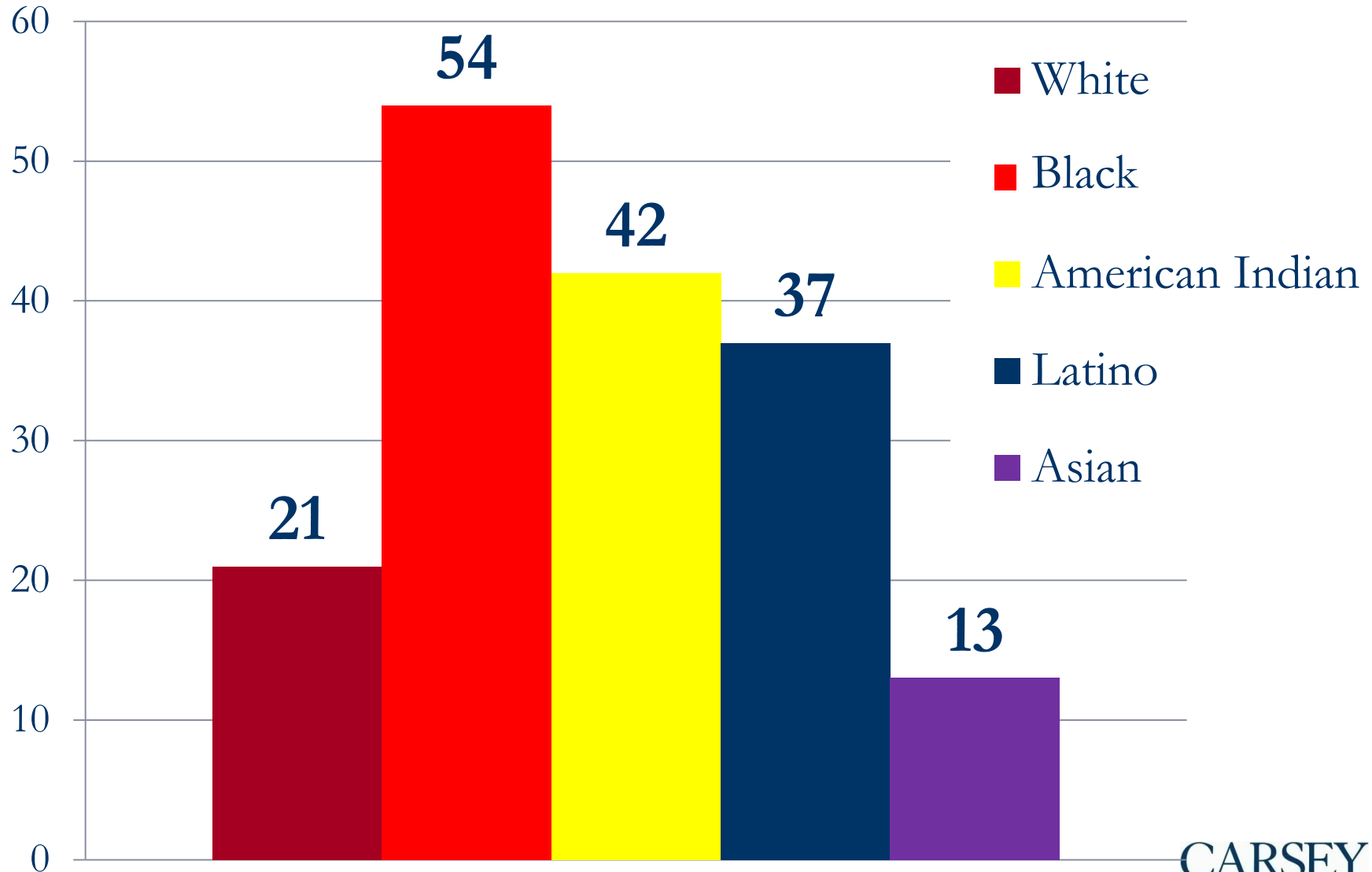


Income Under \$40,746 a year for a family of four

# Poverty Rate for Children Under Age 5



# Poverty Rate by Race for Rural Children Under Age 5



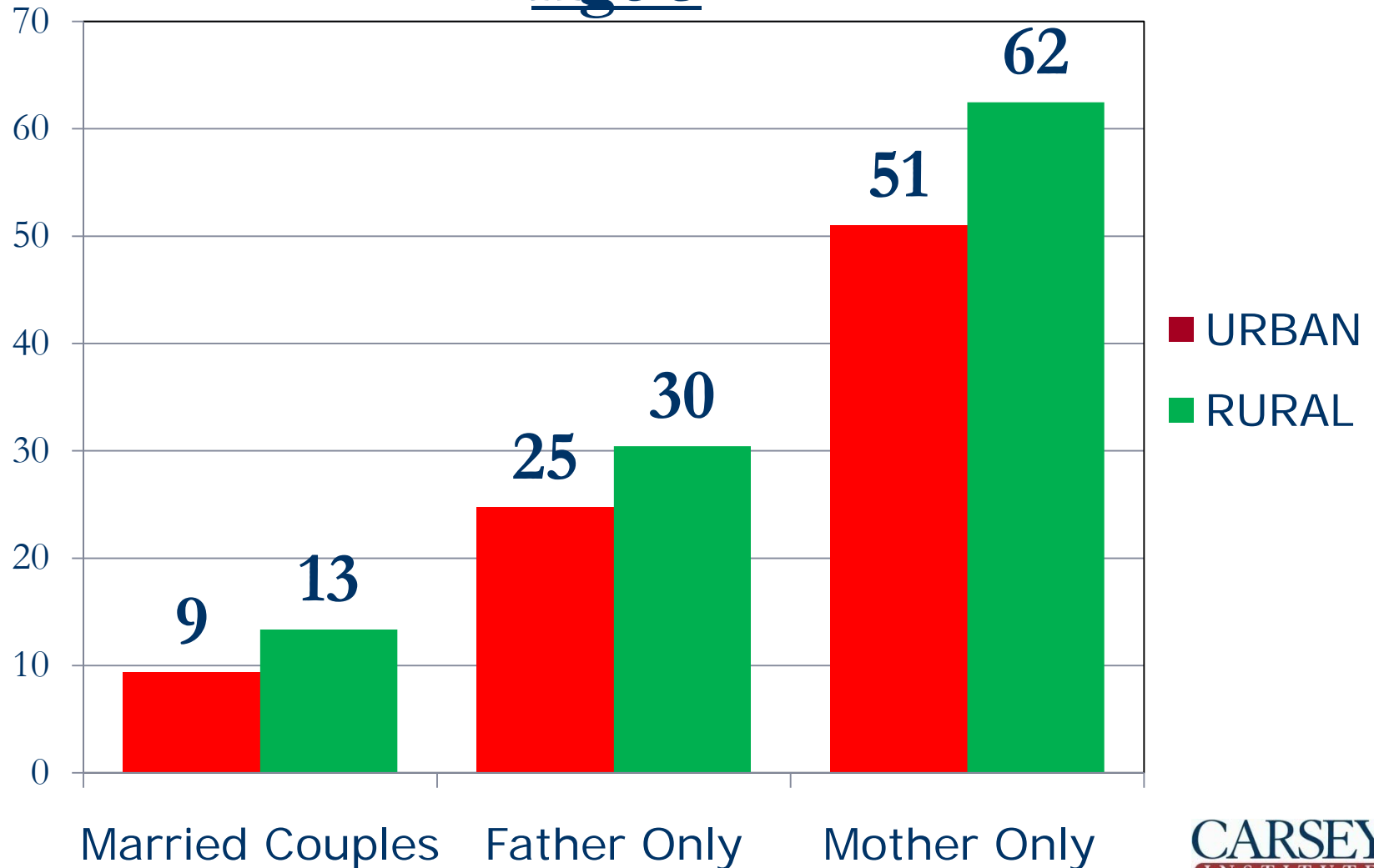
Protective factors do not work as well for children in rural America...

□ **Family Structure (Marriage)**

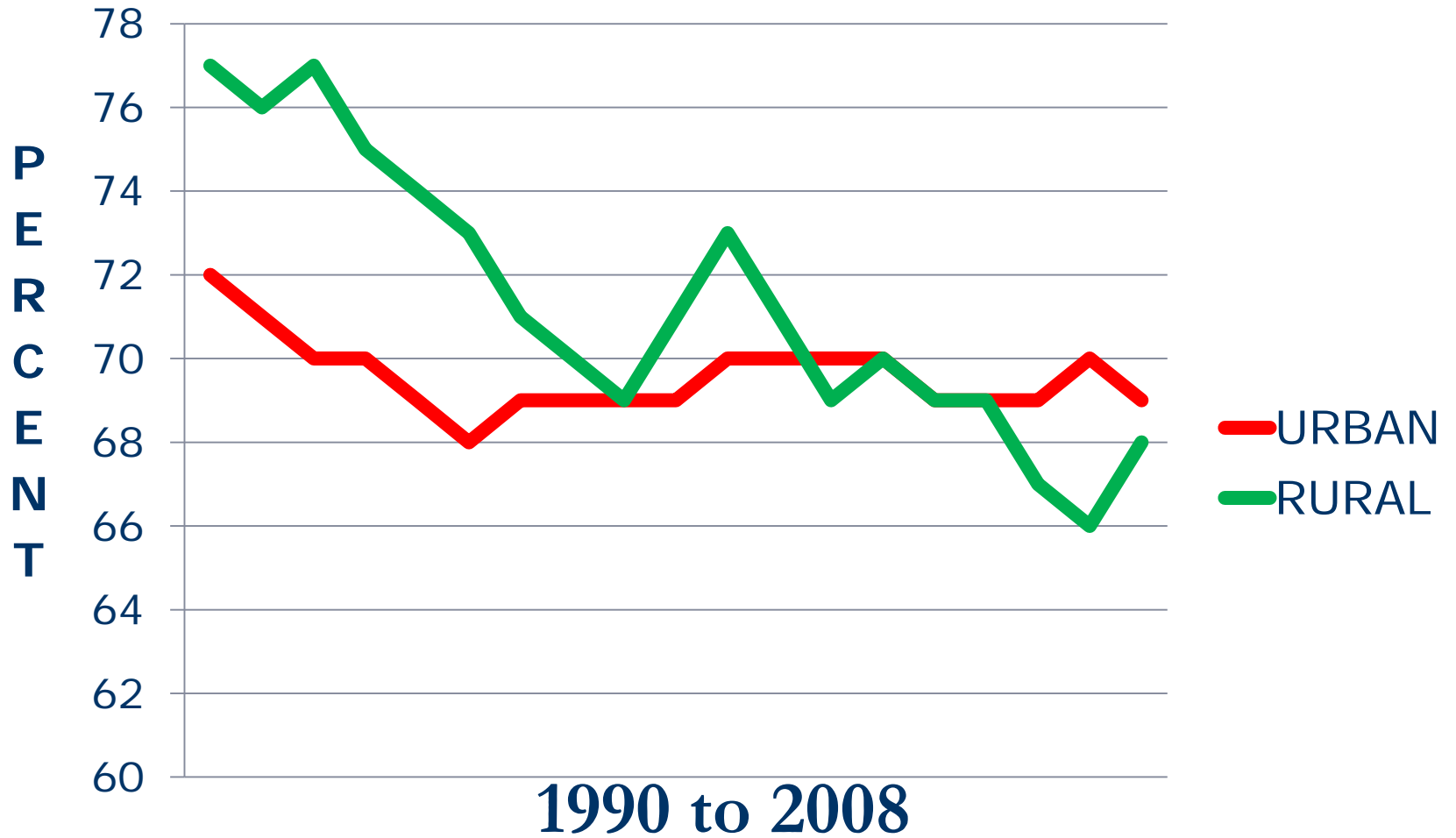
□ **Work**

□ **Education**

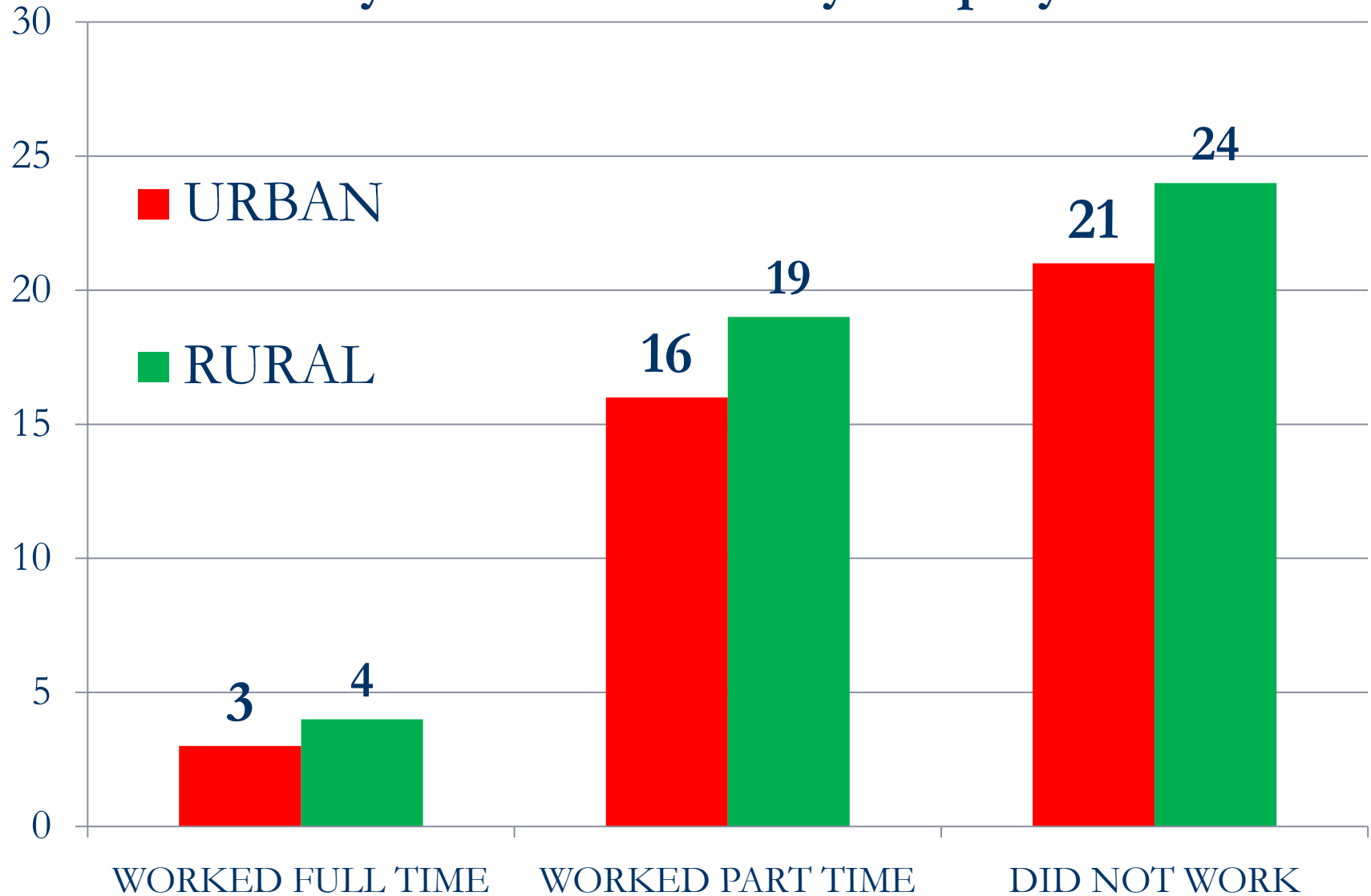
# Poverty Rate for Children Under Age 5



# Percent of Children in Married-Couple Families

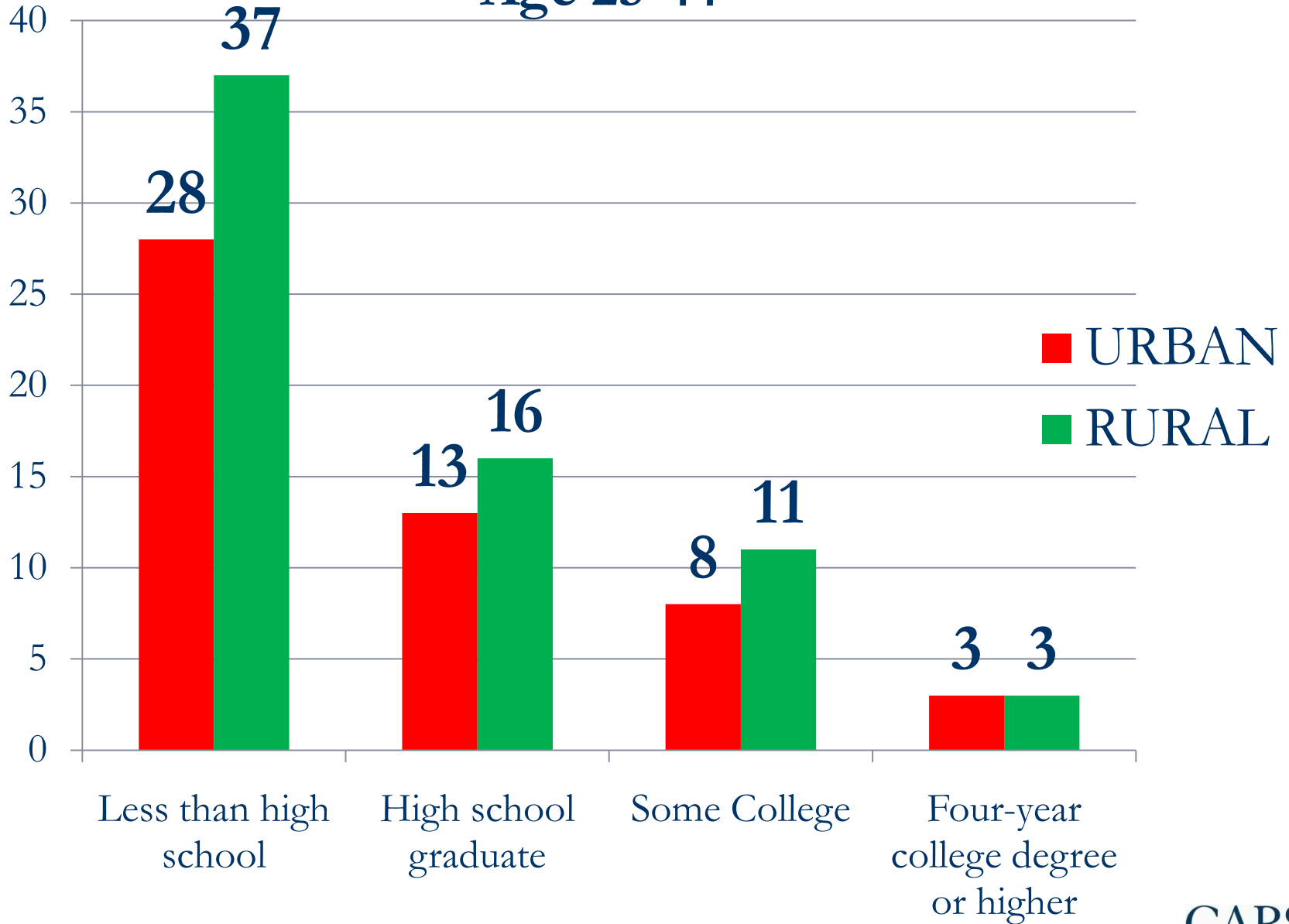


# Poverty Rate of Adults by Employment



# Poverty Rate by Education for All Adults

## Age 25-44





## Summary

- ❑ Rural children have higher poverty rates than urban children.
- ❑ The poverty rate gap between rural and urban children is growing.
- ❑ More rural than urban counties are persistently poor.
- ❑ Child poverty rates for racial minorities in rural America are especially high.
- ❑ While marriage, education, and employment are generally protective against poverty, rural children who benefit from each are still more likely to be poor than urban children.



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