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

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

Data: Census data supplied by USDA-ERS and SAIPE, 2007
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>URBAN</th>
<th>RURAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NORTHEAST</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDWEST</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Poverty Rate by Race for Rural Children Under Age 5

- White: 54%
- Black: 42%
- American Indian: 37%
- Latino: 21%
- Asian: 13%
Protective factors do not work as well for children in rural America…

- Family Structure (Marriage)
- Work
- Education
Poverty Rate for Children Under Age 5

- Married Couples: 9%
- Father Only: 13%
- Mother Only: 62%

Legend:
- URBAN
- RURAL
Percent of Children in Married-Couple Families

1990 to 2008

Percent of Children in Urban and Rural Married-Couple Families
Poverty Rate of Adults by Employment

- **URBAN**
- **RURAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worked Full Time</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked Part Time</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did Not Work</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire
Poverty Rate by Education for All Adults
Age 25-44

- Less than high school: 28 URBAN, 37 RURAL
- High school graduate: 13 URBAN, 16 RURAL
- Some College: 8 URBAN, 11 RURAL
- Four-year college degree or higher: 3 URBAN, 3 RURAL
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.