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SOCIOECONOMIC TRENDS IN POVERTY AREAS 1960 TO 1968

Characteristics of Families in Poverty Areas

Degree of Poverty Among Poor Families in Central Cities

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SOCIOECONOMIC TRENDS IN POVERTY AREAS: 1960 TO 1968

CHARACTERISTICS OF FAMILIES IN POVERTY AREAS--AN OVERVIEW

In this brief report some of the facets of poverty typical of the inner city ghettos are examined. The data presented bring into focus the characteristics of poor families residing in poverty areas within the 100 largest standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's)[1], where poverty rates in 1967 were about twice as high as the national average. Where data for both 1960 and 1968 are available, changes occurring during that period are described.

Distinct differences between racial groups in poverty areas are apparent. Data in this report are shown separately for two racial classifications, white and Negro and other races. The poverty rate among white families was about half that for families of Negro and other races in these areas in 1967. The proportion of whites among all families in poverty areas, as well as among the poor, has declined since 1960. In the poverty areas of metropolitan areas with a population of 1 million or more about half of all families and two-thirds of the poor families were classified as Negro and other races in 1968.

The number of poor families in poverty areas declined between 1959 and 1967. During the same time, there was also a substantial decrease in the number of poor in the United States. However, there is no necessary relationship between what happened regarding poverty in the United States and conditions in poverty areas. The number of poor in poverty areas could decline due to the displacement of poor families, as happens when their housing is condemned or cleared. The selective migration of poor families from poverty areas to other areas with a newly available supply of low cost housing is another factor to be considered in assessing the decline in poverty within poverty areas. The total number of poor families in the United States would of course not be influenced by such factors.

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[1]SMSA's and poverty areas defined on the basis of 1960 census data.

This report was prepared by Rockwell Livingston, staff member, under the general direction of Arno I. Winard, Chief, Poverty Statistics Program, Population Division.

There was not a uniform decline in poverty from 1959 to 1967 among all groups residing in poverty areas. For all white families and for those of Negro and other races headed by men, the decline in poverty was particularly sharp--about 50 percent. There was no decline, however, in the number of poor families headed by women except among whites. In 1967, 57 percent of the poor families of Negro and other races within the poverty areas were headed by women, up from 39 percent in 1959.

Among families with a female head residing in poverty areas, Negro and other races were more likely than the whites to have the responsibilities of child rearing. For white families headed by women, 45 percent included no child under 18 years of age. For Negro and other races, only 20 percent of such families were childless. Negro and other races constituted 71 percent of those families in poverty areas which included two or more children. Families headed by women of Negro and other races were not only more likely to include children than their white counterparts, they were also likely to include more children. The average number of children per white family headed by a woman (1.3), was half the average among comparable families (2.6) of Negro and other races. Families below the poverty level without a male head had even more children per family. There were 2.3 children per poor white female head and 3.5 children for each poor family headed by a woman of Negro and other races.

In poverty areas two groups had particularly high poverty rates; families with a female head (43 percent), and children in families headed by women (66 percent). About half of the poor residing in poverty areas in 1967 were children under 18 years of age. Two-thirds of these children were Negro and other races.

Two generalizations about residents of metropolitan poverty areas are suggested by the available data. The most obvious generalization holds that a wide economic gap exists between whites and Negro and other races. Among poverty area residents, whites were half as likely as Negro and other races to be poor in 1967. Secondly, in poverty areas the poor are among those least likely to be able to make substantial improvement in their economic status independently. A careful look at the profile of these poor shows that:

1. 15 percent are 65 years old or over.

2. 48 percent are children under 18 years of age (18 percent are children under 6).

3. 8 percent are women under 65 years old heading families.

4. Some proportion of the remaining poor are prevented from obtaining sufficient income in the labor market due to physical or mental disabilities, past work experience record or personal history, racial discrimination, individual ineptitude, and a "buyers market" for labor having only limited skills.

More than 70 percent of the poor in poverty areas either have already passed the age of their greatest productive capacity (the aged), are as yet too young to be expected to join the labor force on a full-time basis (children under 18), are occupied providing services for which no cash income is forthcoming (women heading families), or for some other reason are disqualified from successfully competing for a job paying wages above the poverty level.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

The measurement of poverty.--The poverty index developed by the Social Security Administration (SSA) was used to classify families as being above or below the poverty level. This poverty definition is based on the minimum food and other needs of families, taking account of family size, number of children, and farm-nonfarm residence. Since the data for this report were tabulated, the original SSA poverty definition has been modified in two respects: (1) annual adjustments in the poverty thresholds to account for changing prices were made to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rather than fluctuations in the per capita cost of food included in the economy food plan; and (2) the farm poverty thresholds were raised from 70 to 85 percent of the corresponding nonfarm levels.

The impact of these revisions on poverty data for poverty areas is slight. Between 1959 and 1967 the decline in the number of poor families in poverty areas is slightly overstated when the original rather than the revised poverty definition is used. However, other relationships described by poverty data based on the revised definition for families in poverty areas would not be substantially different from data presented in this report. Using the revised definition, it is estimated that the number of poor white families in poverty areas in 1967 would be 368,000 rather than 352,000. The number of poor families of Negro and other races would be about 512,000 rather than 495,000 as published. Differences of about the same relative magnitude but in the opposite direction

result from a comparision of comparable data for poor families within poverty areas in 1959. The poverty cutoffs for a nonfarm family of four in 1959 were higher using the original ($3,060) than the revised definition ($2,970). Poverty cutoffs for a comparable family in 1967 were $3,335 and $3,410 using the original and revised definitions respectively.

Poverty area.--Poverty areas were determined by ranking census tracts in metropolitan areas with a 1960 population of 250,000 or more according to the relative presence of each of the following equally weighted poverty-linked characteristics: (1) family income below $3,000; (2) children in broken homes; (3) persons with low educational attainment; (4) males in unskilled jobs; and (5) substandard housing. Those tracts falling in the lowest quartile of the ranking were defined as poor tracts and further adjusted for contiguity and minimum size in order to approximate neighborhood concentrations of poverty. A total of 193 individual groupings of census tracts resulted, ranging in size from 6,000 to 992,000 with an average population of 106,000 in 1960.

Time reference.--Although the time periods covered by the poverty statistics refer to calendar years 1967 and 1959, characteristics such as residence in poverty area and family relationship refer to the time of enumeration, March 1968 and April 1960, respectively.

Race.--The population is divided into three groups on the basis of race: white, Negro, and "other races." The last category includes Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and any other race except white and Negro. "Other races" are shown in combination with the Negro population in this report. In 1968, Negroes constituted 97 percent of all persons in poverty areas not classified as whites.

Rounding.--In each table, the individual estimates and percentages have been rounded independently, so that the component parts do not always add to the total. Percentages are based on the unrounded numbers.

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Source of data.--This report is based on data from the 53,000 households in a 1-in-a-1,000 sample of 1960 Census data and from the approximately 50,000 households in the March 1968 Current Population Survey (CPS). Roughly 65 percent of these sample

households were in metropolitan areas. These tabulations were designed to eliminate conceptual differences between the original tabulation of the 1960 census data and the 1968 CPS data. Since the estimates are based on samples, they may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained from complete censuses using the same schedules, instructions, and enumerators. As in any survey work, the results are subject to errors of response and of reporting as well as being subject to sampling variability.

Reliability of the estimates.--The designs of the samples used for this report provide the greatest reliability for data concerning broad population groups at the national level. Data for small groups (for example, female family heads with two children in poverty areas) will have larger relative sampling errors. Differences shown in the tables for such small groups may be simply the result of sampling variability and should therefore be used with caution. All statements of comparison made in the text of this report, however, are statistically significant. This means that the chances are at least 19 in 20 that a difference identified in the text indicates a true difference in the population rather than the chance variations arising from the use of samples.

This report is limited to metropolitan areas, specifically the standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's) with a population of 250,000 or more as defined in 1960. Except in New England, an SMSA is a county or group of counties which contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more, or "twin cities" with a combined population of at least 50,000. In New England, SMSA's consist of towns and cities, rather than counties. The special focus of this report is on poverty areas within the metropolitan areas. Some data in this report are shown separately for the central cities of SMSA's.

In 1968, only 12 percent of all families residing in metropolitan areas of 250,000 or more, but 40 percent of the poverty area residents were of Negro and other races. White families left central city poverty areas at a faster rate than those of Negro and other races between 1960 and 1968, resulting in an increase in the percentage of poverty area families classified as Negro and other races.

Table 1.--FAMILIES LIVING IN METROPOLITAN AREAS OF 250,000 OR MORE, BY POVERTY AREA STATUS

(Numbers in thousands)

	All areas		Poverty areas: Number		Poverty areas: Percent of all areas	
	1968	1960	1968	1960	1968	1960
Metropolitan areas of 250,000 or more:						
Total	27,640	24,506	4,081	4,795	15	20
White	24,411	22,025	2,460	3,016	10	14
Negro and other races	3,228	2,481	1,621	1,779	50	72
Percent of total	12	10	40	37	(X)	(X)
Metropolitan areas of 1,000,000 or more:						
Total	17,527	15,733	2,183	2,669	12	17
White	15,284	14,068	1,123	1,510	7	11
Negro and other races	2,242	1,665	1,060	1,159	47	70
Percent of total	13	11	49	43	(X)	(X)
Metropolitan areas of 250,000 to 1,000,000:						
Total	10,112	8,773	1,898	2,126	19	24
White	9,126	7,957	1,337	1,506	15	19
Negro and other races	986	816	561	620	57	76
Percent of total	11	9	30	29	(X)	(X)

X Not applicable.

In 1967, 21 percent of all families residing in poverty areas were poor. The poverty rate for Negro and other races was about twice that for whites. In 1967, 58 percent of all poor families in poverty areas were Negro and other races, up from 51 percent in 1959. Within metropolitan areas of 1,000,000 or more, the profile of the poor in poverty areas is increasingly taking on the characteristics of the poor who are Negro and other races, as the proportion of whites among the poor in these areas diminishes.

Table 2.--FAMILIES BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL LIVING IN POVERTY AREAS

	Number of families below poverty level (thousands)		Percent below poverty level	
	1967	1959	1967	1959
Metropolitan areas of 250,000 or more:				
Total	848	1,367	21	29
White	352	673	14	22
Negro and other races	496	694	31	39
Percent of total	58	51	(X)	(X)
Metropolitan areas of 1,000,000 or more:				
Total	472	709	22	27
White	162	307	14	20
Negro and other races	310	402	29	35
Percent of total	66	57	(X)	(X)
Metropolitan areas of 250,000 to 1,000,000:				
Total	376	658	20	31
White	190	366	14	24
Negro and other races	186	292	33	47
Percent of total	49	44	(X)	(X)

X Not applicable.

Between 1960 and 1968 there was a 15 percent decline in the number of families living in poverty areas. The movement of white families accounted for most of this decline. There was an 18 percent decline in the number of white families residing in poverty areas as compared with a drop of 9 percent in the number of families of Negro and other races.

The decline in the number of white families residing in poverty areas in metropolitan areas of 1,000,000 or more was substantially greater than that recorded in smaller metropolitan areas. In the poverty areas in the largest metropolitan areas the number of white families was reduced by about 26 percent from 1960 to 1968. During the same time, the number of families in other racial groups showed no measurable decline.

Table 3.--CHANGE IN NUMBER OF FAMILIES IN POVERTY AREAS: 1960 TO 1968
(Numbers in thousands)

	Families in poverty areas, 1960	Change, 1960 to 1968	
		Number	Percent
Metropolitan areas of 250,000 or more:			
Total	4,795	-714	-14.9
White	3,016	-556	-18.4
Negro and other races	1,779	-158	- 8.9
Metropolitan areas of 1,000,000 or more:			
Total	2,669	-486	-18.2
White	1,510	-387	-25.6
Negro and other races	1,159	- 99	- 8.5
Metropolitan areas of 250,000 to 1,000,000:			
Total	2,126	-228	-10.7
White	1,506	-169	-11.2
Negro and other races	620	- 59	- 9.5

The number of poor families residing in poverty areas was substantially reduced between 1959 and 1967. Among white families and families of Negro and other races headed by men, the decline was particularly sharp--about 50 percent. There was no decline, however, in the number of poor families headed by women of Negro and other races.

Table 4.--POOR FAMILIES IN POVERTY AREAS, BY SEX OF HEAD
(Numbers in thousands)

	1967	1959	Percent change, 1959 to 1967
WHITE			
Total	352	673	-47.7
Male	234	512	-54.3
Female	118	161	-26.7
NEGRO AND OTHER RACES			
Total	495	694	-28.7
Male	213	425	-49.9
Female	282	269	+ 4.8

There are clear differences in the family responsibilities faced by white women and women of Negro and other races who are family heads. Among white families with female heads, 45 percent included no children under 18 years, among Negro and other races, 20 percent of such families were childless. About 35 percent of the white, but 61 percent of all families of Negro and other races with a female head included two or more children under 18 years old.

Table 5.--FAMILIES WITH FEMALE HEAD IN POVERTY AREAS, BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 1968

(Numbers in thousands)

				Percent distribution		
	Total	White	Negro and other races	Total	White	Negro and other races
All families with female head:						
Total	924	378	546	100	100	100
With no children	279	171	108	30	45	20
With one child	180	75	105	20	20	19
With two or more children	465	132	333	50	35	61
Female head under 55 years:						
Total	665	223	442	100	100	100
With no children	86	45	41	13	20	9
With one child	140	59	81	21	26	18
With two or more children	439	119	320	66	53	73
Female head 55 years and over:						
Total	259	155	104	100	100	100
With no children	193	126	67	75	81	64
With one child	40	16	24	15	10	23
With two or more children	26	13	13	10	8	13

White children constituted half of all children residing in poverty areas and about one-third of those in poor families. The poverty rate among white children was about half the rate among children of Negro and other races.

In poverty areas, 41 percent of the children of Negro and other races and 65 percent of the poor children in these racial groups, lived in families without a man at the head of the household. For whites, only 16 percent of all children and 39 percent of the poor children lived in families with a female head.

Table 6.--NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE LIVING IN POVERTY AREAS, BY SEX OF FAMILY HEAD: 1968

(Numbers in thousands)

	Total		Male head		Female head	
	Families	Children under 18 years	Families	Children under 18 years	Families	Children under 18 years
TOTAL						
Total	4,097	6,633	3,173	4,727	924	1,907
White	2,465	3,257	2,087	2,748	378	510
Negro and other races	1,632	3,376	1,086	1,979	546	1,397
Percent of total	39.8	50.9	34.0	41.9	59.1	73.3
BELOW POVERTY LEVEL						
Total	848	2,208	447	949	400	1,258
White	352	693	234	423	118	271
Negro and other races	495	1,515	213	526	282	987
Percent of total	58.5	68.6	47.7	55.4	70.5	78.5
Percent Below Poverty Level						
Total	20.7	33.3	14.1	20.1	43.3	66.0
White	14.3	21.3	11.2	15.4	31.2	53.1
Negro and other races	30.4	44.9	19.6	26.6	51.6	70.7

In poverty areas, the average number of children was consistently higher for poor families than for families above the poverty level. This differential in the average number of children between poor and nonpoor families was apparent for white families, those of Negro and other races, families with a male head, and also for those headed by women.

For families with a female head, the number of children per family was higher than that for families headed by a man.

Table 7.--AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE IN POVERTY AREAS, BY SEX OF FAMILY HEAD: 1968

	All families	Male head	Female head
TOTAL			
Total	1.6	1.5	2.1
White	1.3	1.3	1.3
Negro and other races	2.1	1.8	2.6
BELOW POVERTY LEVEL			
Total	2.6	2.1	3.1
White	2.0	1.8	2.3
Negro and other races	3.1	2.5	3.5
ABOVE POVERTY LEVEL			
Total	1.4	1.4	1.2
White	1.2	1.3	1.0
Negro and other races	1.6	1.7	1.6

In 1968 families in poverty areas headed by men were about the same size as those headed by women. Although the estimate of average size of family for white families headed by females is smaller than that for white families headed by males, these estimates are not reliable enough to conclude that the same relationship would occur if a complete census were taken.

Poor families were larger than families above the poverty level. For poor families as well as those above the poverty level, white families were smaller than those of Negro and other races. The average number of persons per poor family was 3.9 among whites and 4.8 for Negro and other races.

The proportion of families headed by women was higher for poor families than for those above the poverty level--especially among those classified as Negro and other races. About 57 percent of all poor family members of Negro and other races were in households headed by women. Only about 32 percent of poor white family members were in similar circumstances.

Table 8.--AVERAGE SIZE OF FAMILY IN POVERTY AREAS: 1968

(Numbers in thousands)

	White			Negro and other races		
	All families	Male head	Female head	All families	Male head	Female head
TOTAL						
All families	2,465	2,087	378	1,632	1,086	546
All persons in families	8,794	7,561	1,234	6,958	4,592	2,366
Average size of family	3.6	3.6	3.3	4.3	4.2	4.3
BELOW POVERTY LEVEL						
All families	352	234	118	495	213	282
All persons in families	1,363	930	433	2,397	1,024	1,374
Average size of family	3.9	4.0	3.7	4.8	4.8	4.9
ABOVE POVERTY LEVEL						
All families	2,113	1,853	260	1,137	873	264
All persons in families	7,431	6,630	801	4,561	3,569	992
Average size of family	3.5	3.6	3.1	4.0	4.1	3.8

About half of the poor persons residing in poverty areas in 1968 were children under 18 years of age. About one-fifth of the poor were children not yet old enough to have started their first year of elementary school. Those children of school age (6 to 17 years), accounted for approximately one-third of all poor persons in poverty areas.

Among poor white persons in poverty areas, 15 percent were aged individuals living alone or with others to whom they were not related. Only 4 percent of the poor of Negro and other races were unrelated individuals.

Table 9.--PERSONS IN POVERTY AREAS BY FAMILY STATUS: 1968

	Total		White		Negro and other races	
	All persons	Poor persons	All persons	Poor persons	All persons	Poor persons
All persons (thousands)	17,676	4,559	9,978	1,832	7,698	2,727
Percent	100	100	100	100	100	100
Persons in families, total	89	82	88	74	90	88
65 years and over	6	6	8	9	4	4
Head	23	19	25	19	21	18
Female under 65 years	4	8	3	5	6	10
Wife of head	17	9	20	13	13	7
Family members under 18 years	38	48	33	38	44	6
Under 6 years	13	18	11	15	15	20
6 to 17 years	25	31	22	23	29	35
Other family members	11	6	11	5	12	7
Unrelated individuals, total	11	18	12	26	10	12
65 years and over	4	9	5	15	2	4

The average income deficit between the family incomes and poverty thresholds for all poor families was about $1,080 in 1967. However, one-tenth of all poor families had incomes averaging only $90 below the poverty level. Another 10 percent of the poor had family incomes $229 below the poverty level. Among the poorest 10 percent of poor families, incomes averaged $3,090 below the poverty standard.

The incomes of poor families headed by men were typically closer to the poverty line than those of families headed by women. The depth of poverty varied also between whites and Negro and other races. To bring the incomes of the least poor decile of families up to the poverty line would have required an average of $60 and $130 for whites and Negro and other races respectively.

Table 10.--AVERAGE INCOME DEFICIT FOR RANKED DECILES OF POOR FAMILIES IN CENTRAL CITIES: 1967

	All families			Male head			Female head		
	Total	White	Negro and other races	Total	White	Negro and other races	Total	White	Negro and other races
All families	$1,076	$951	$1,245	$922	$881	$1,009	$1,278	$1,094	$1,423
Least poor decile	86	62	133	64	62	127	115	85	157
Second	222	176	323	187	160	265	293	224	410
Third	368	289	511	301	260	390	512	371	633
Fourth	531	445	697	445	394	532	697	544	856
Fifth	723	603	910	604	539	704	942	734	1,111
Sixth	926	771	1,157	757	723	894	1,202	1,009	1,308
Seventh	1,214	1,044	1,389	992	894	1,170	1,447	1,335	1,617
Eighth	1,544	1,397	1,763	1,307	1,235	1,415	1,835	1,601	2,016
Ninth	2,036	1,895	2,260	1,815	1,788	1,857	2,323	2,092	2,515
Poorest decile	3,086	2,825	3,339	2,747	2,718	2,724	3,327	2,773	3,510

The distribution of the aggregate poverty deficit reveals the variations in the extent of poverty among poor families in 1967. If all poor families had been equally impoverished, each decile of poor families would have needed 10 percent of the aggregate poverty deficit to raise their incomes up to the poverty level. The incomes of 20 percent of all poor families in central cities could have been brought up to the poverty line with an expenditure of only about 3 percent of the aggregate poverty gap. About 18 percent of the total poverty deficit would have raised the income of half of all poor families to the poverty level.

Table 11.--PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF AGGREGATE INCOME DEFICIT FOR RANKED DECILES OF POOR FAMILIES IN CENTRAL CITIES: 1967

	All families			Male head			Female head		
	Total	White	Negro and other races	Total	White	Negro and other races	Total	White	Negro and other races
Aggregate deficit (mil.)	$1,717	$876	$842	$834	$534	$293	$883	$334	$549
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Least poor decile	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.7	1.3	0.9	0.8	1.1
Second	2.1	1.9	2.6	2.0	1.9	2.6	2.3	2.1	2.9
Third	3.4	3.0	4.1	3.3	3.0	3.9	4.0	3.4	4.5
Fourth	4.9	4.7	5.6	4.8	4.5	5.3	5.5	5.1	6.0
Fifth	6.8	6.4	7.3	6.6	6.1	7.0	7.5	6.8	7.9
Sixth	8.6	8.1	9.3	8.2	8.3	8.9	9.4	9.4	9.3
Seventh	11.3	11.0	11.1	10.8	10.2	11.6	11.4	12.3	11.4
Eighth	14.4	14.6	14.1	14.2	14.0	14.0	14.5	14.9	14.3
Ninth	19.6	20.0	18.1	19.7	20.4	18.4	18.3	19.4	17.8
Poorest decile	28.2	29.7	26.8	29.8	31.0	27.0	26.2	25.8	24.8

In 1967, for central cities, there was no statistically significant difference between the amounts required to raise the incomes of poor white families and those of Negro and other races to the poverty line. Although 58 percent of all poor families were white, they needed only 51 percent of the aggregate poverty deficit to reach the poverty level.

Families with a female head of Negro and other races accounted for about one-quarter of all poor families but would have required additional income amounting to about one-third of the total poverty income gap to reach the poverty income standard.

Table 12.--POOR FAMILIES AND AGGREGATE POVERTY GAP IN CENTRAL CITIES: 1967

	Families below the poverty level		Dollar deficit	
	Number (thousands)	Percent distribution	Amount (millions)	Percent distribution
All families	1,596	100	1,717	100
Male head	906	57	834	49
Female head	690	43	883	51
White	921	58	876	51
Male head	616	39	543	31
Female head	305	19	334	19
Negro and other races	676	42	842	49
Male head	290	18	293	17
Female head	386	24	549	32

Among the poor residing in central cities, families of Negro and other races were generally further below the poverty level than were white families. Half of the white poor families had incomes less than $685 below the poverty level compared with a median poverty gap of $1,040 among Negro and other races. Among poor white families 39 percent were less than $500 below the poverty level, while only 24 percent of the poor families of Negro and other races were that close to the poverty line.

Families with a male head were not as deeply impoverished in 1967 as families headed by a woman. Among both whites and Negro and other races the median poverty gap for families headed by women was greater than that for families headed by men.

Table 13.--PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF POOR FAMILIES BY GAP BELOW POVERTY LEVEL, RACE, AND SEX OF HEAD FOR CENTRAL CITIES: 1967

	All families		Male head		Female head	
	White	Negro and other races	White	Negro and other races	White	Negro and other races
Number (thousands)	921	676	616	290	305	386
Percent	100	100	100	100	100	100
Under $500	39	24	42	32	32	18
$500 to $999	25	24	26	28	24	22
$1,000 to $1,999	24	32	21	28	29	35
$2,000 to $2,999	8	14	8	9	9	18
$3,000 and over	3	6	2	3	6	7
Median poverty gap	$685	$1,042	$632	$785	$853	$1,210

About 43 percent of all poor families in central cities in 1967 were headed by women. In general, as poverty increased in severity, the proportion of families headed by women increased. Among the very poorest families, those headed by women outnumbered those with a male head.

Families with a female head occurred less frequently among the white poor than among the poor of Negro and other races. About one-third of the poor white families were headed by women while such families constituted a majority among poor families of Negro and other races.

Table 14.--FAMILIES WITH FEMALE HEAD AS A PERCENT OF ALL POOR FAMILIES IN CENTRAL CITIES, BY POVERTY INCOME DEFICIT: 1967

	Total	White	Negro and other races
All families (thousands)	1,596	921	676
Total	43	33	57
Under $500	32	27	42
$500 to $999	39	31	51
$1,000 to $1,999	52	41	63
$2,000 to $2,999	56	36	72
$3,000 and over	63	53	72

Had $250 been added to the family income of the poor, the number of poor children would have been reduced by about 13 percent; that increment to family income would have moved about 17 percent of the white poor children and 9 percent of the poor children of Negro and other races up to the poverty level. About 30 percent of the white poor children and 18 percent of the poor children of Negro and other races would have been moved up to the poverty level by an increase in family income of $450. With about $1,160 added to the incomes of poor city families, half of the poor children would be moved up to the poverty level.

Table 15.--PERCENT OF POOR CHILDREN MOVED UP TO THE POVERTY LEVEL AS FAMILY INCOME INCREASES, FOR CENTRAL CITIES OF ALL METROPOLITAN AREAS: 1967

	Total	White	Negro and other races
Number (thousands)	3,213	1,374	1,839
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
$1 to $249	12.6	17.3	8.9
$250 to $449	10.4	12.2	9.0
$450 to $999	21.9	22.5	21.2
$1,000 to $1,999	30.3	27.3	32.6
$2,000 to $2,999	14.5	10.9	17.2
$3,000 to $5,499	10.4	9.7	10.9
Median poverty gap	$1,161	$935	$1,269

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