



# What About The Children?

Government Assistance and Child Well-Being  
Measured by the Census Supplementary Survey  
for States and United States: 2001

By Jane Lawler Dye and  
Robin T. Levine

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*This poster is released to inform interested parties of ongoing research and to encourage discussion. The views expressed on (statistical, methodological, technical, or operational) issues are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau.*

# Supplementary Survey: 2001



The American Community Survey (ACS) has been designed to replace the long-form of the decennial census. As a component of the ACS program, the Supplementary Survey 2001 (SS01) was implemented to test the conceptual and operational feasibility of conducting the ACS nationally at the same time as the decennial Census.

Data for the SS01 were collected from a nation-wide sample of 700,000 households from November of 2000 to October of 2001. This poster is based on an analysis of national and state-level data; however, SS01 data is available for lower levels of geography such as counties and areas with populations of at least 250,000 persons.

## SS01 Highlights:

- ❑ Large sample size allows for a more detailed analysis.
- ❑ Information is useful in the assessment of welfare reform legislation efforts on the needs and well-being outcomes for children.
- ❑ Information can be used to address the policy and programmatic needs for children living in specific geographic areas.

# Using The SS01 Data



Data obtained from the SS01 survey contain valuable information about the household and family experiences of children. Such information can be used by stakeholders who are involved in the planning of developmentally appropriate services for children from diverse backgrounds living in the various geographic areas.

Specifically, SS01 data can be used in the:

- Planning and allocation of resources for schools and related educational services
- Assessment of population changes within defined geographic areas
- Determination of social and human service agency needs and resource allocations
- Identification of service gaps and resulting need for child care and after-school programming
- Evaluation of welfare reform and other legislation efforts

# Welfare Reform: Parental Marital And Employment Status



- ❑ **Marital Status and Welfare Reform** -- The link between child well-being and growing up with both biological parents in a married-couple family is well cited in the literature. The Temporary Assistance To Needy Families program (TANF) awarded bonuses to states with the largest proportions of children in married-couple families.

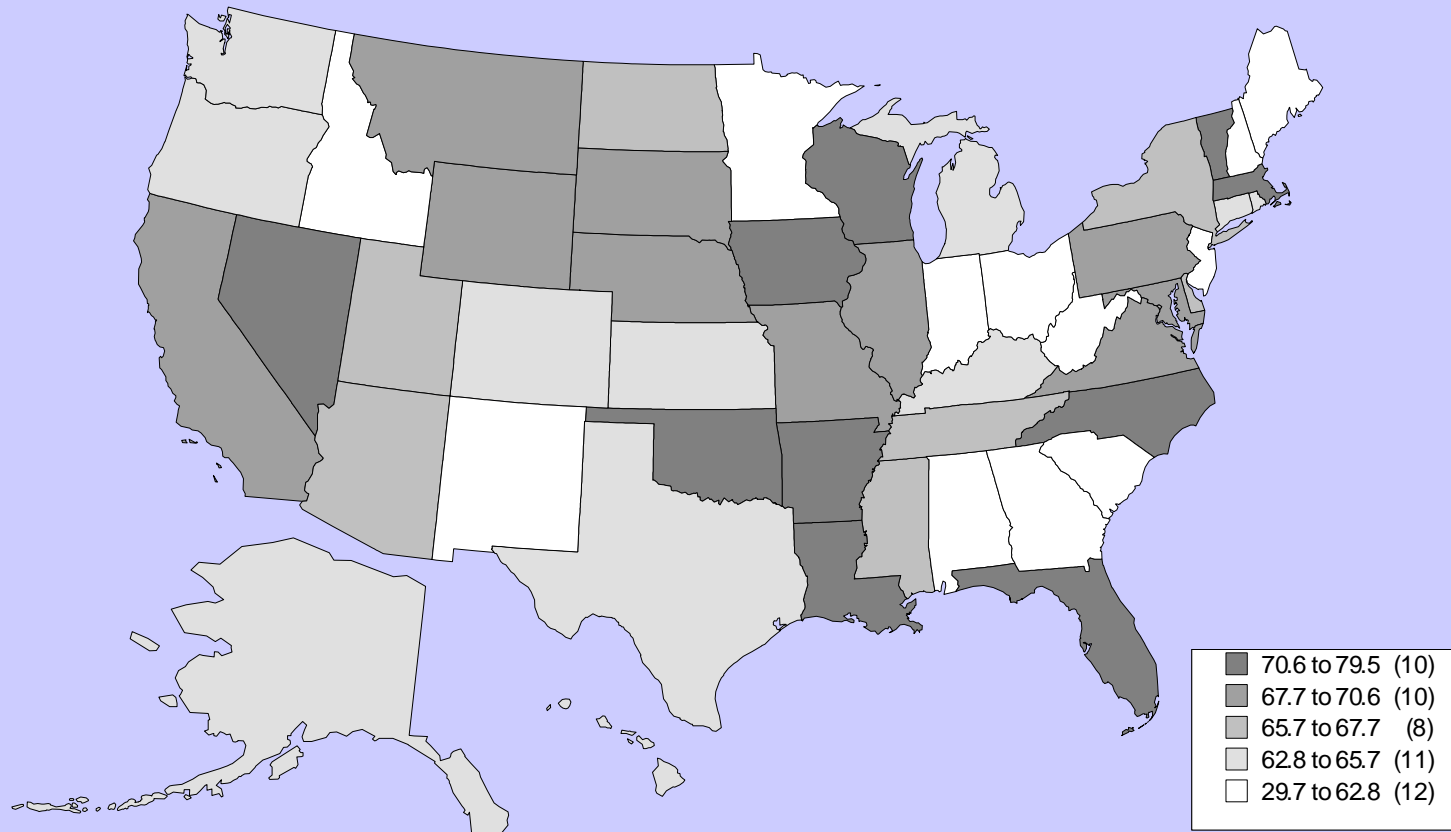
Nationally, 65 percent of all children under age 18 lived in married-couple families. Louisiana had the largest percentage of children living in married-couple family groups (79 percent) while New Mexico had the lowest percentage (30 percent).

- ❑ **Work and Welfare Reform** – Major emphasis has been placed on increasing the work patterns and behavior among individuals receiving welfare assistance in attempt reduce dependence on public benefits by increasing self sufficiency. States are required to meet strict work participation rates to stay in compliance with TANF legislation.

Nationally, a combined total of 8 percent of all children under age 18 lived in either a 2 parent household where both of their parents were not in the labor force or in a single parent household where their parent was not in the labor force. California had the largest percentage of children living with parents who were not attached to the labor force (17 percent) compared with Connecticut which had the lowest (4 percent).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Supplemental Survey 2001

# State Patterns In Percent of Children Living With Married Parents: 2001

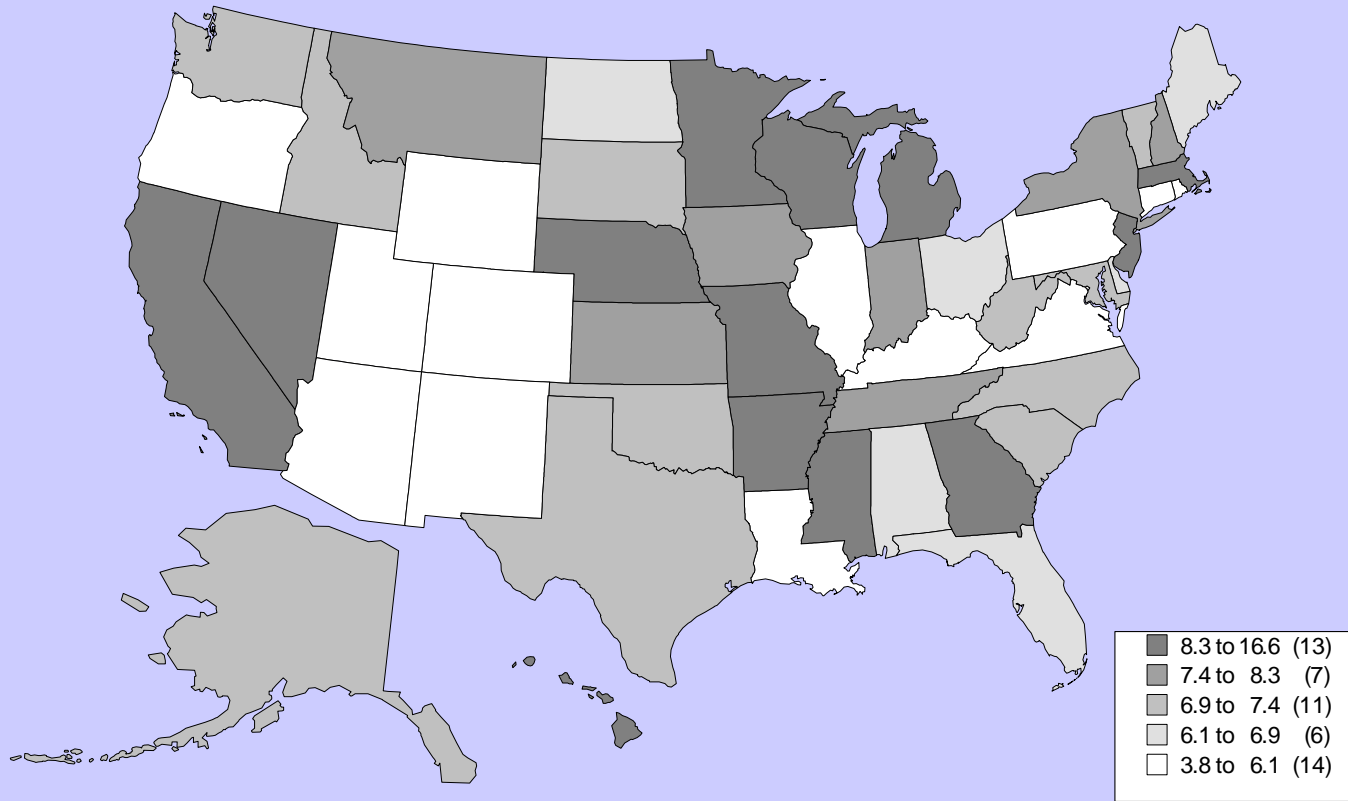


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census Supplementary Survey, 2001.

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# State Patterns In Percent of Children Living With At Least One Parent Not In The Labor Force: 2001



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census Supplementary Survey, 2001.

# Welfare Reform: Parental Education and Family Economic Status



- ❑ Educational attainment -- Educational attainment among parents represents a major factor that influences their ability to obtain living wage jobs that are sufficient to support an entire family unit.

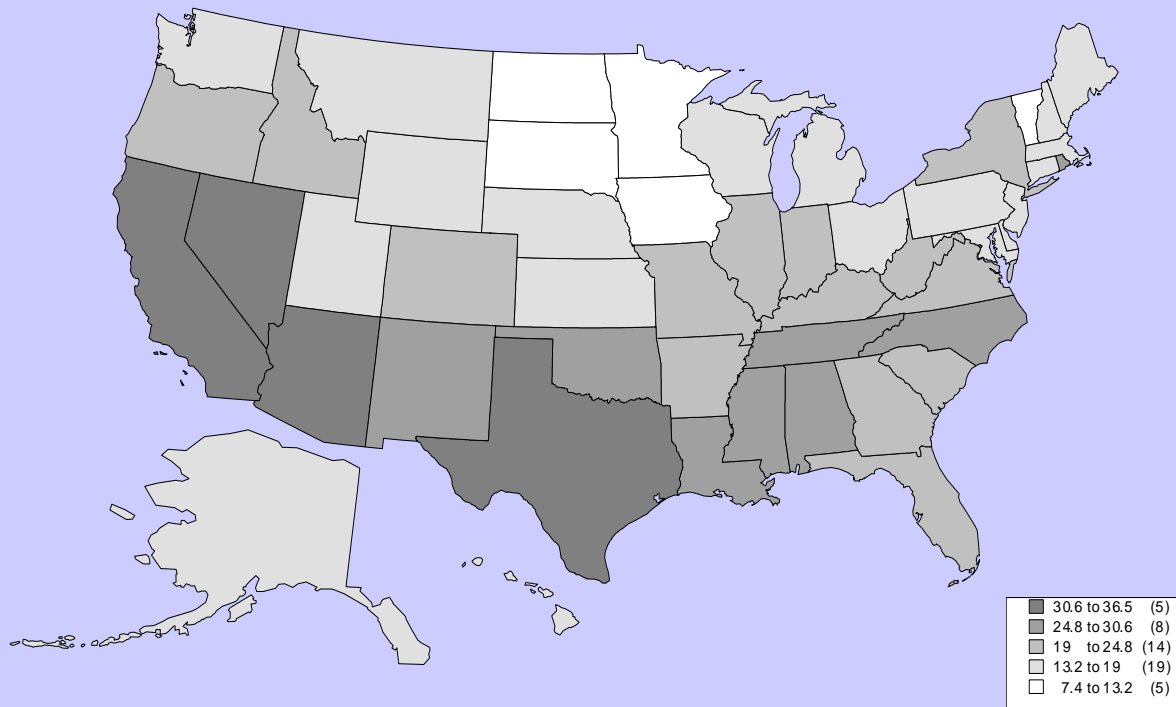
Nationally, 24 percent of all children under age 18 lived with at least one parent who did not graduate from high school. California had the largest percentage of children living with at least one parent who did not graduate from high school (approximately 37 percent) compared with North Dakota which had the smallest (7 percent).

- ❑ Family Economic Status -- Persistent family economic hardship is a reality for many children living in the United States. Family economic hardship is often times associated with decreased well-being among children.

Nationally, 18 percent of all children under age 18 lived in families that had incomes below the federal poverty threshold. In Washington DC, 34 percent of all children lived in families that had incomes that were either at, or below, the federal poverty threshold. New Hampshire had the lowest percent age of children who lived in families that had incomes below the federal poverty threshold (9 percent).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census Supplementary Survey, 2001.

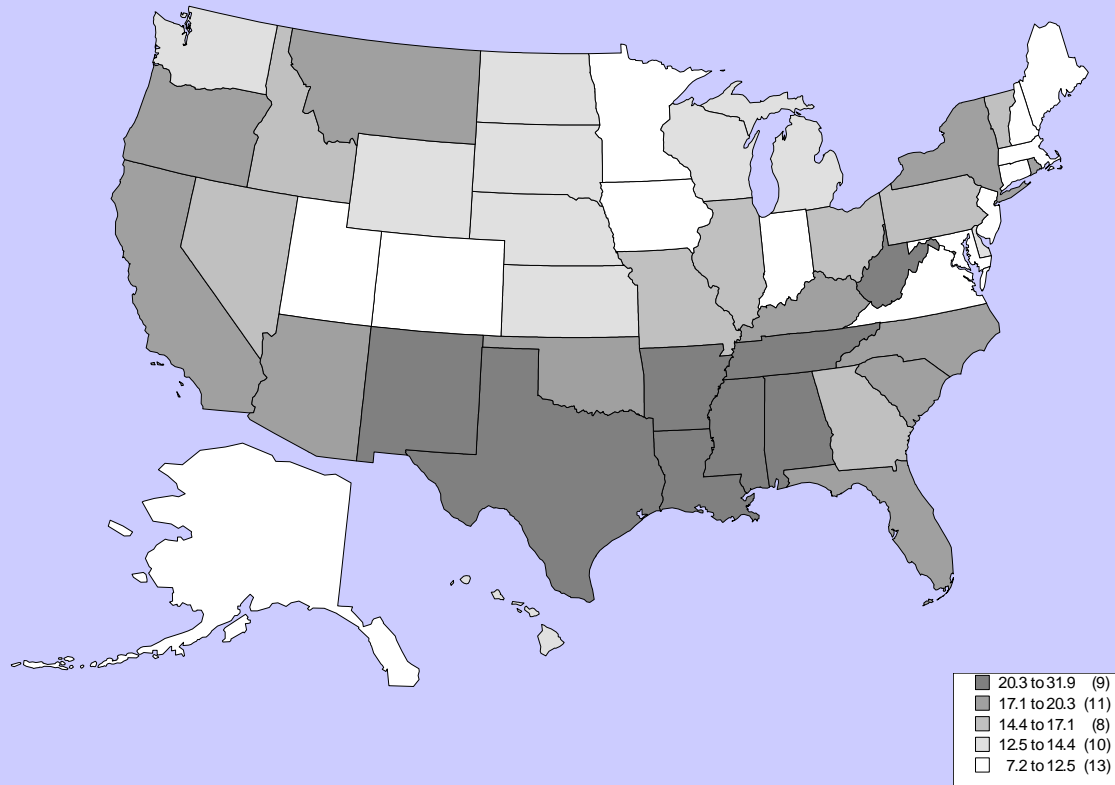
# State Patterns In Percent of Children Living With At Least One Non-High School Graduate Parent : 2001



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census Supplementary Survey, 2001.



# State Patterns In Percent Of Children Living In Families With Incomes Below The Federal Poverty Threshold: 2001



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census Supplementary Survey, 2001.

# Family Support and Living Arrangements



- ❑ **Grand Parent Living In the Household** -- Living in a household with a grandparent may benefit the circumstances of children due to the addition of another caregiver in the family.

Nationally, 10 percent of all children under age 18 lived in households with at least one grandparent. Twenty-one percent of children in Hawaii lived in households with at least one grandparent while only 3 percent of eh children in North Dakota lived in such households.

- ❑ **Unmarried Partner Households** -- An unmarried partner in the household may add another wage earner to the family, thereby increasing household income.

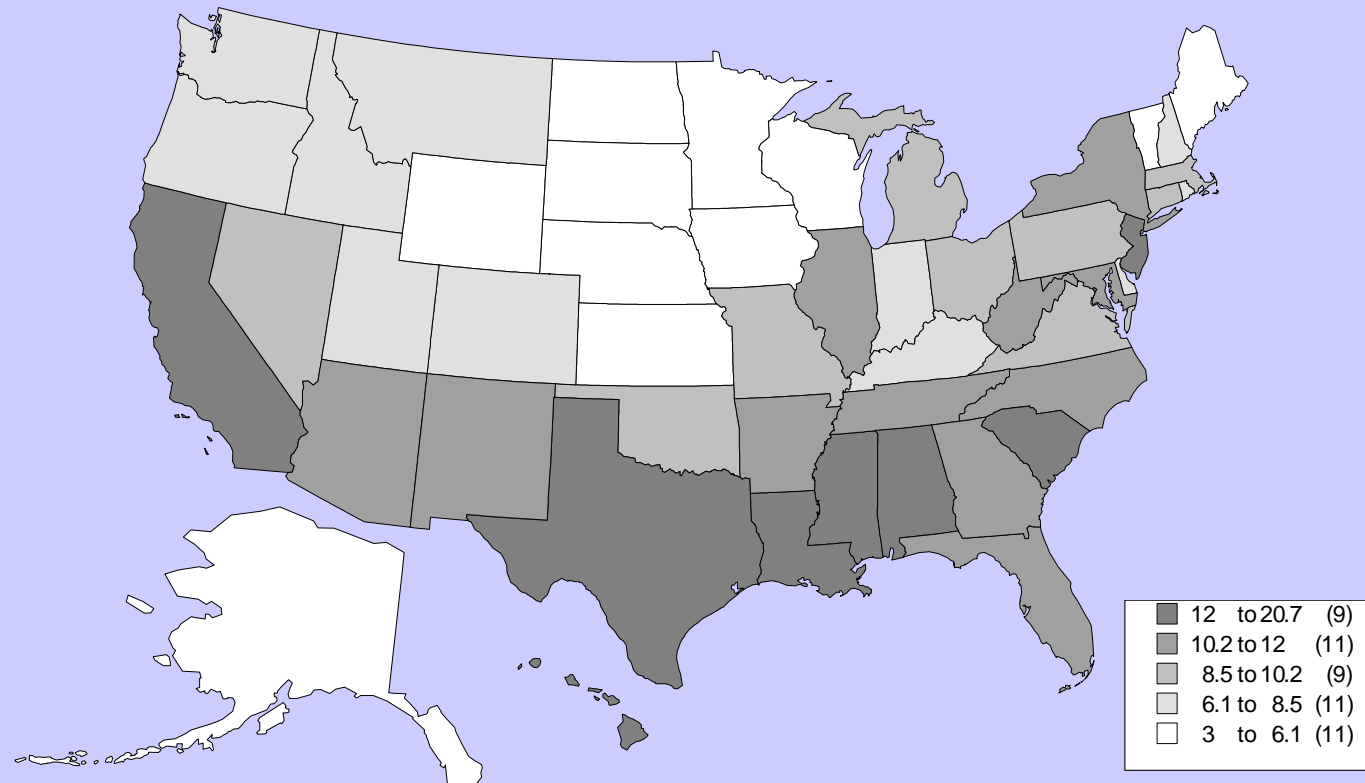
Nationally, 6 percent of all children under age 18 lived in unmarried partner households. Arizona had the largest proportion of children who lived in unmarried partner households ( 9 percent) compared with Utah which had the lowest (3 percent).

- ❑ **Foster care** – Children living in foster care households receive family support from individuals with whom they may, or may not, have biological relationships.

Nationally, an estimated 326,000 US children lived in households with at least one foster parent. West Virginia had the largest proportion of children (12 percent) who lived in such households.

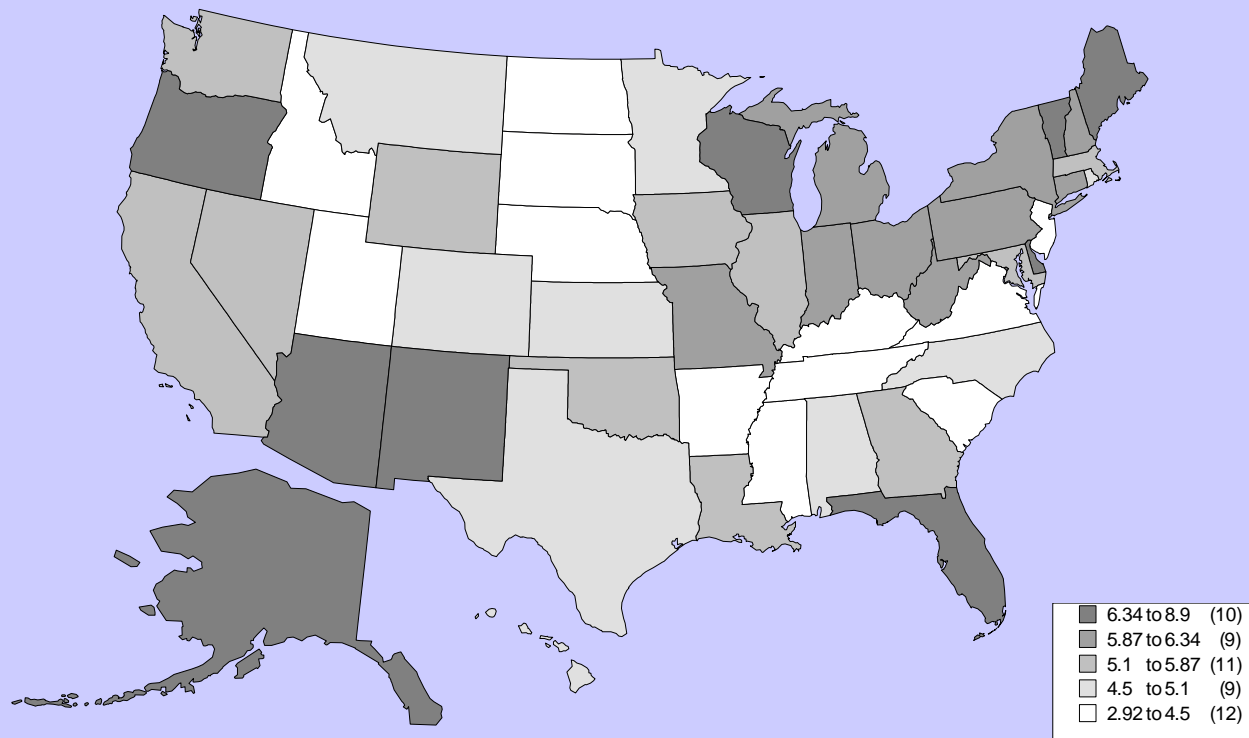
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census Supplementary Survey, 2001.

# State Patterns In Percent of Children Living With A Grandparent In The Household: 2001



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census Supplementary Survey, 2001.

# State Patterns In Percent Of Children Living In Unmarried Partner Households: 2001

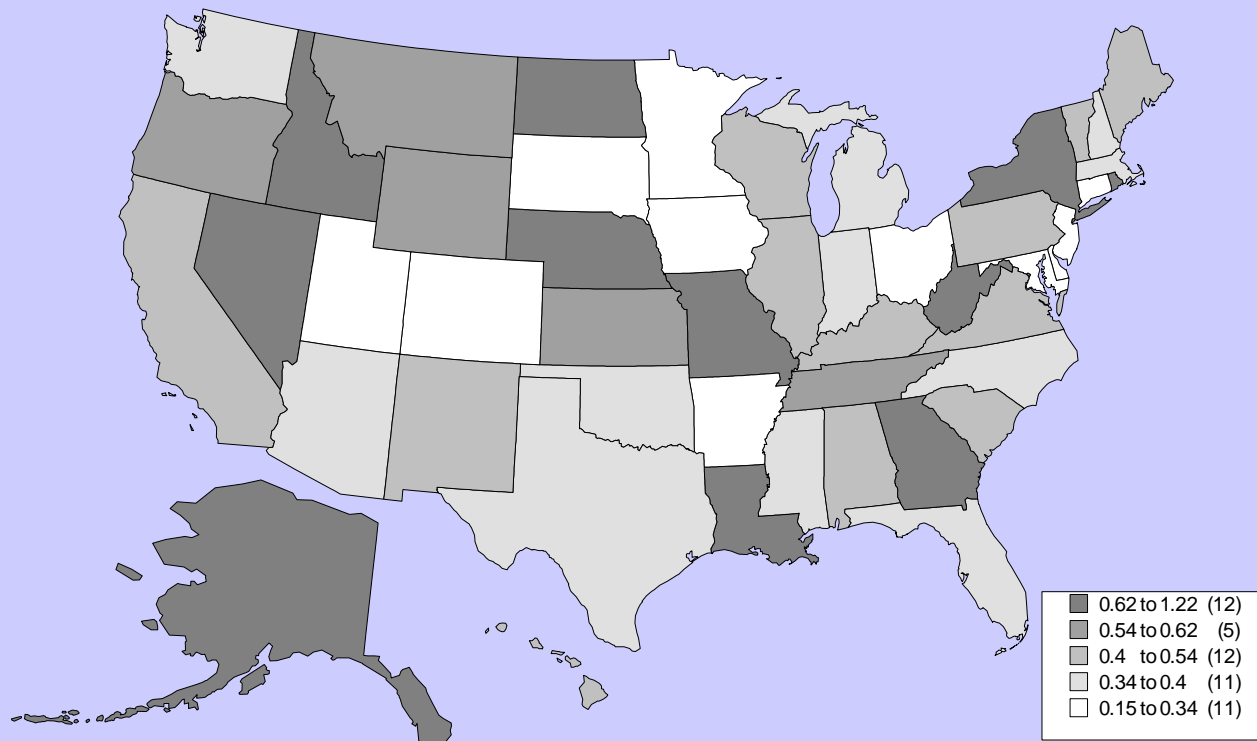


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census Supplementary Survey, 2001.

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# State Patterns In Percent of Children Living With A Foster Parent: 2001



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census Supplementary Survey, 2001.

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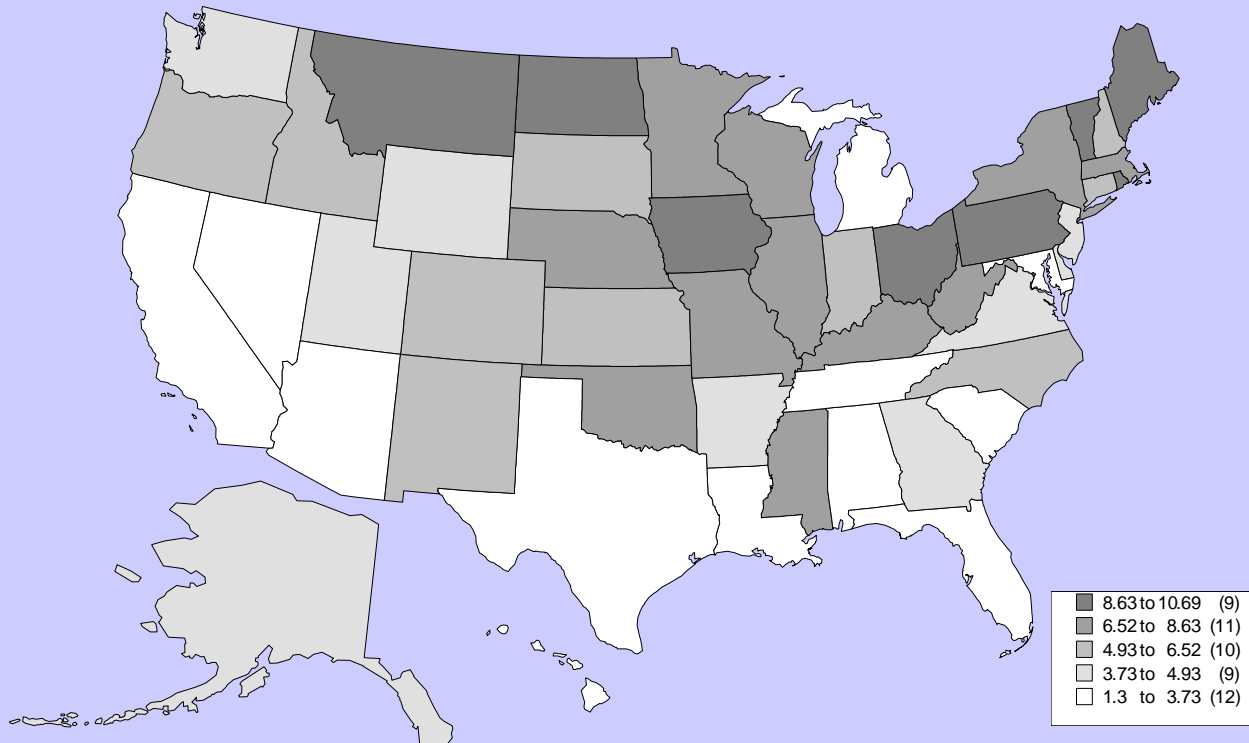
# Summary of Household Receipt of Government Assistance By Families With Children: 2001



- ❑ Children's lives may benefit from several kinds of government assistance.
  - Federal Heating and Cooling Assistance: There is a pattern greater need for this type of assistance in some of the colder, northern states.
  - Food Stamps: The south and southwestern states had higher percentages of children benefiting from food stamps.
  - Public Assistance (TANF, welfare payments): Six percent of children in U.S. benefited from public assistance. Border states in the northeast and west had larger percentages of children in households receiving public assistance.
  - Public Housing and Reduced Rent: Three percent of children in U.S. lived in public housing. An average of 5 percent of children in the U.S. benefited from reduced rent. Similar patterns of usage existed among several states in the northeast, south and northwest.
  - School Lunch and Breakfast: This was the most widely used program among children in the nation (28 percent). Among states the percent of children benefiting from it ranged from 9 percent in New Hampshire to 45 percent in Mississippi. In Washington DC, 46 percent of children had free or reduced price school lunches and breakfasts.
  - Supplemental Security Income (SSI): Only 3 percent of children in the U.S. lived in households receiving SSI. In Mississippi, the proportion was 6 percent.

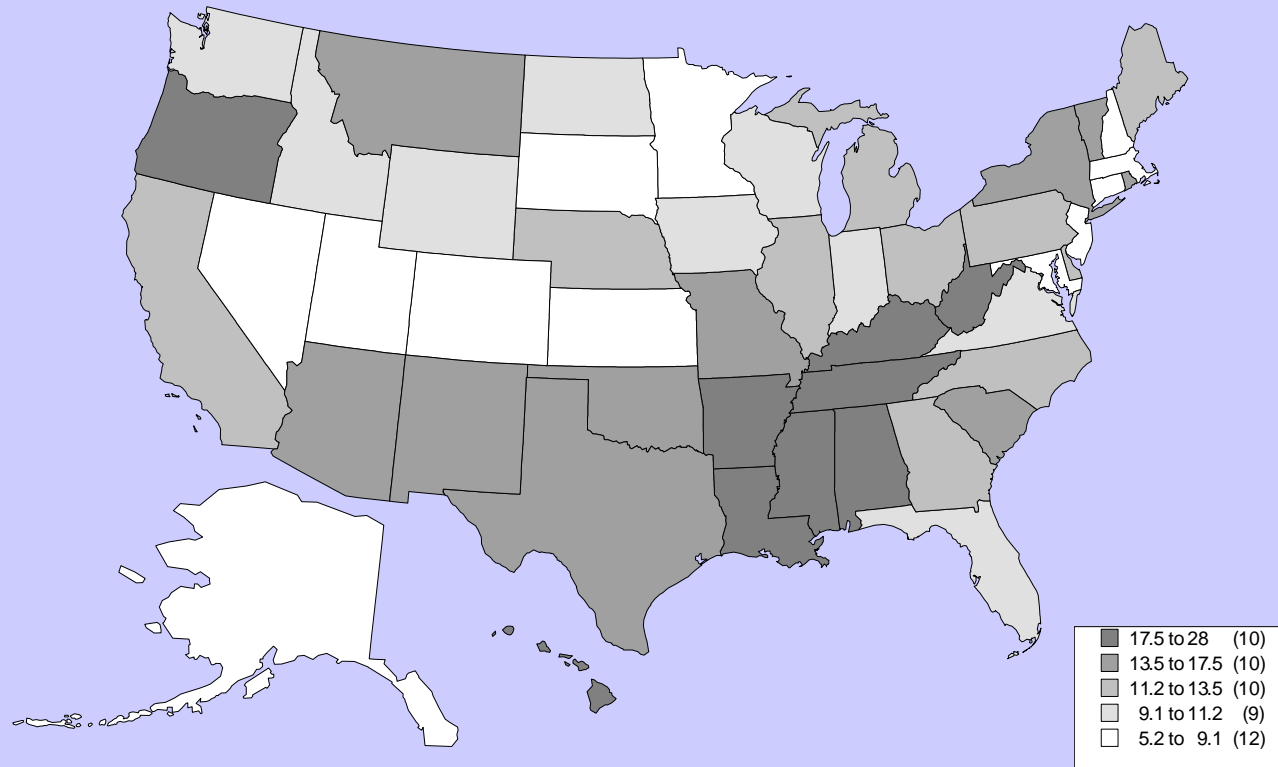
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census Supplementary Survey, 2001.

# State Patterns In Percent Of Children Living In Households Receiving Federal Heating And Cooling Assistance: 2001



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census Supplementary Survey, 2001.

# State Patterns In Percent Of Children Living In Households Receiving Food Stamps: 2001



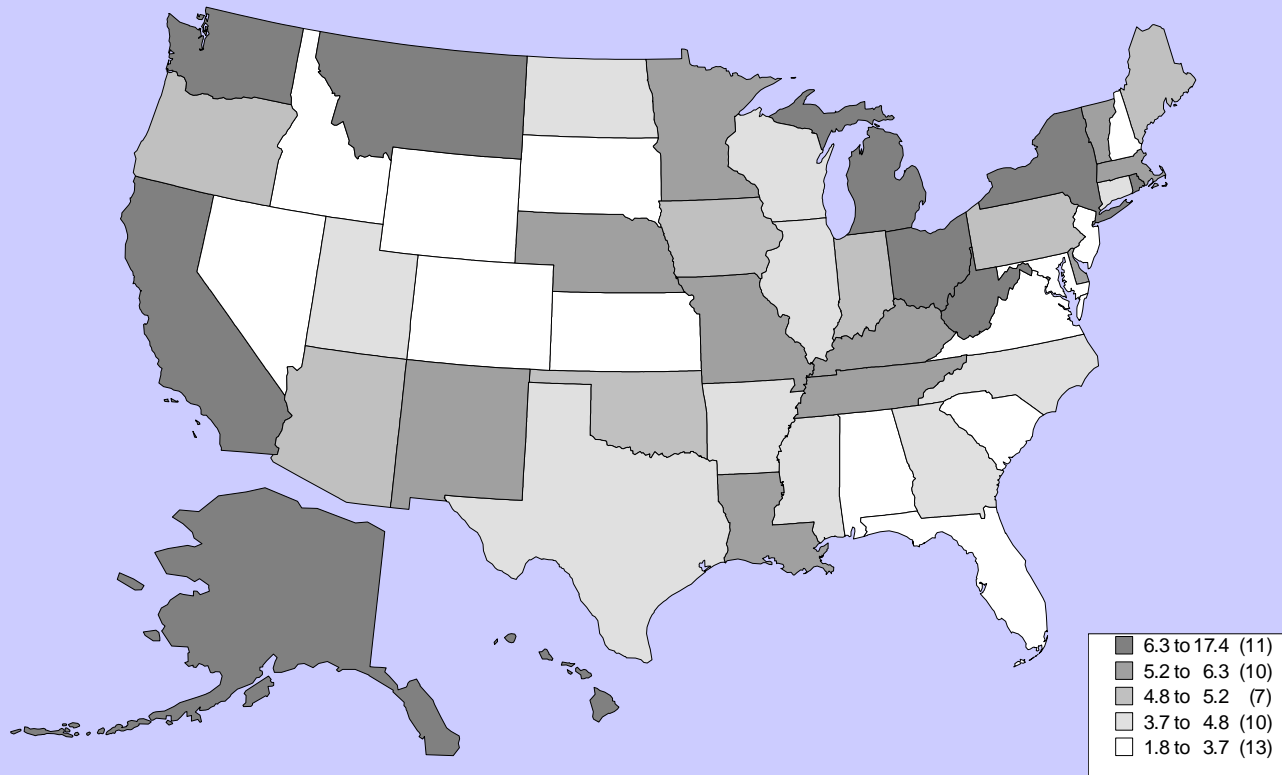
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census Supplementary Survey, 2001.

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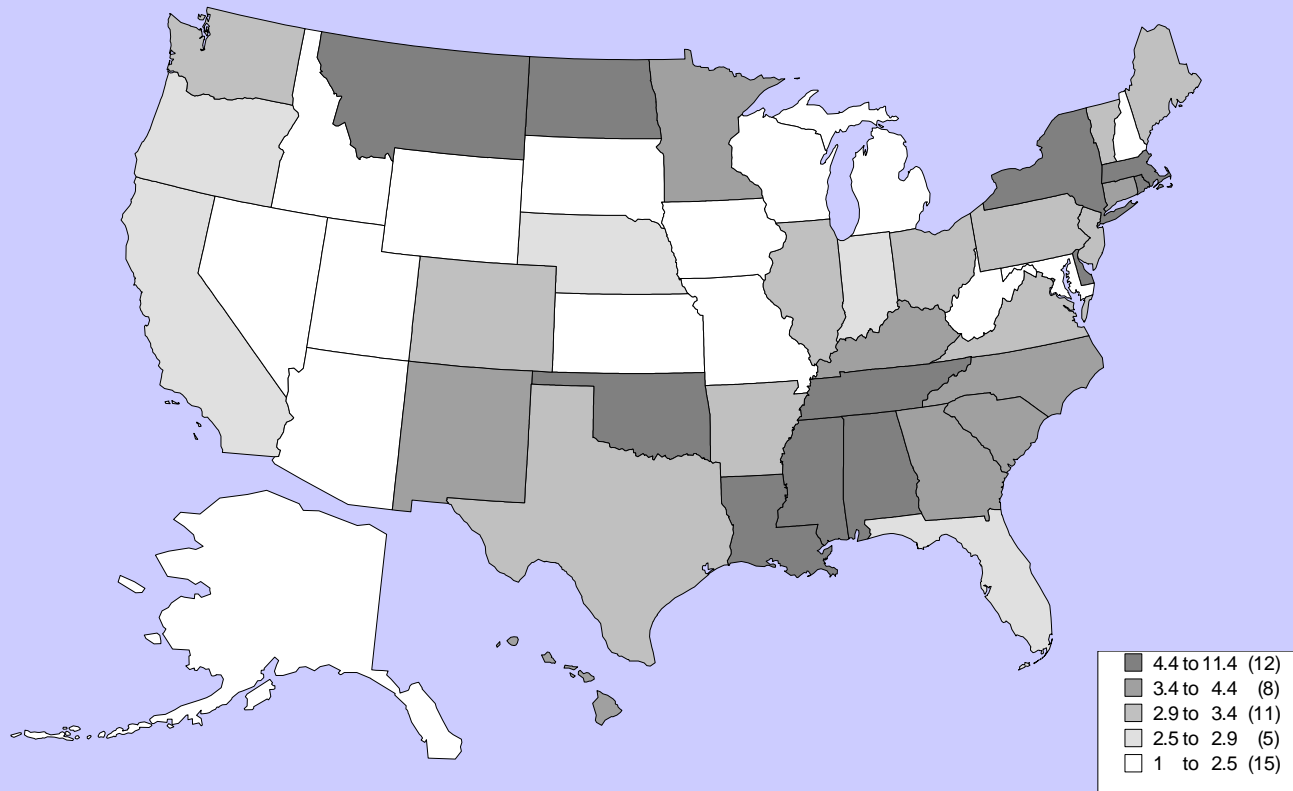


# State Patterns In Percent Of Children Living In Households Receiving Public Assistance: 2001



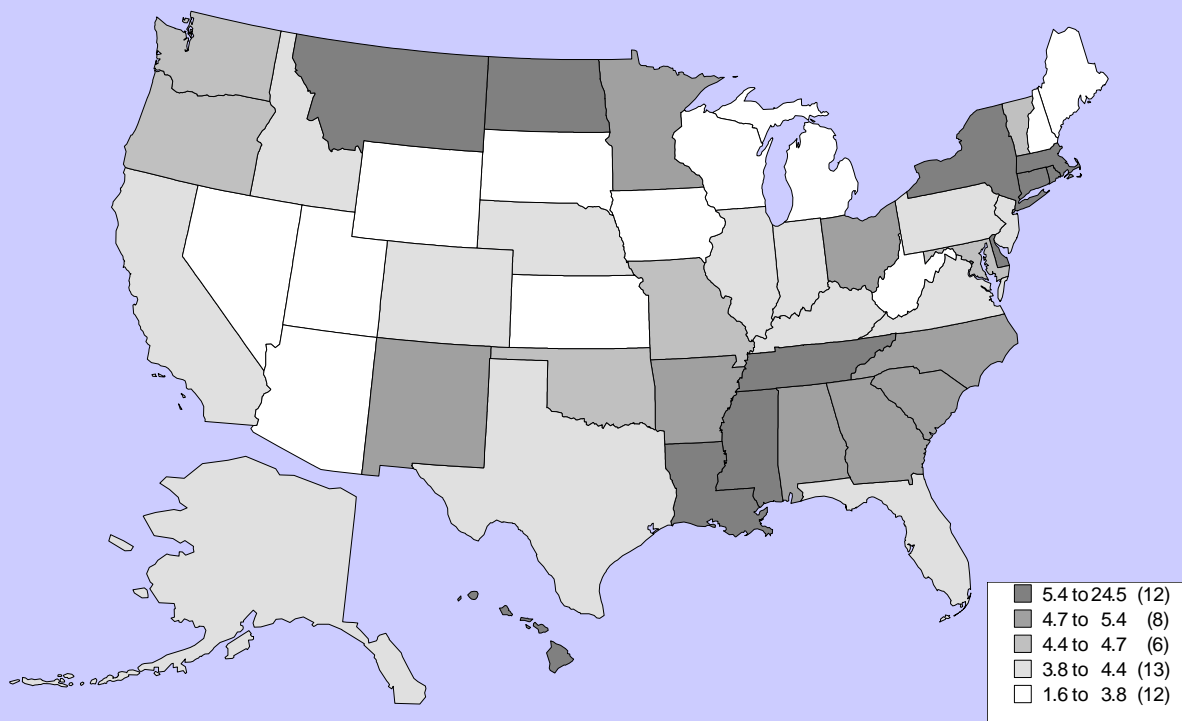
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census Supplementary Survey, 2001.

# State Patterns In Percent of Children Living In Public Housing: 2001



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census Supplementary Survey, 2001.

# State Patterns In Percent Of Children Living In Households Receiving Reduced Rent: 2001

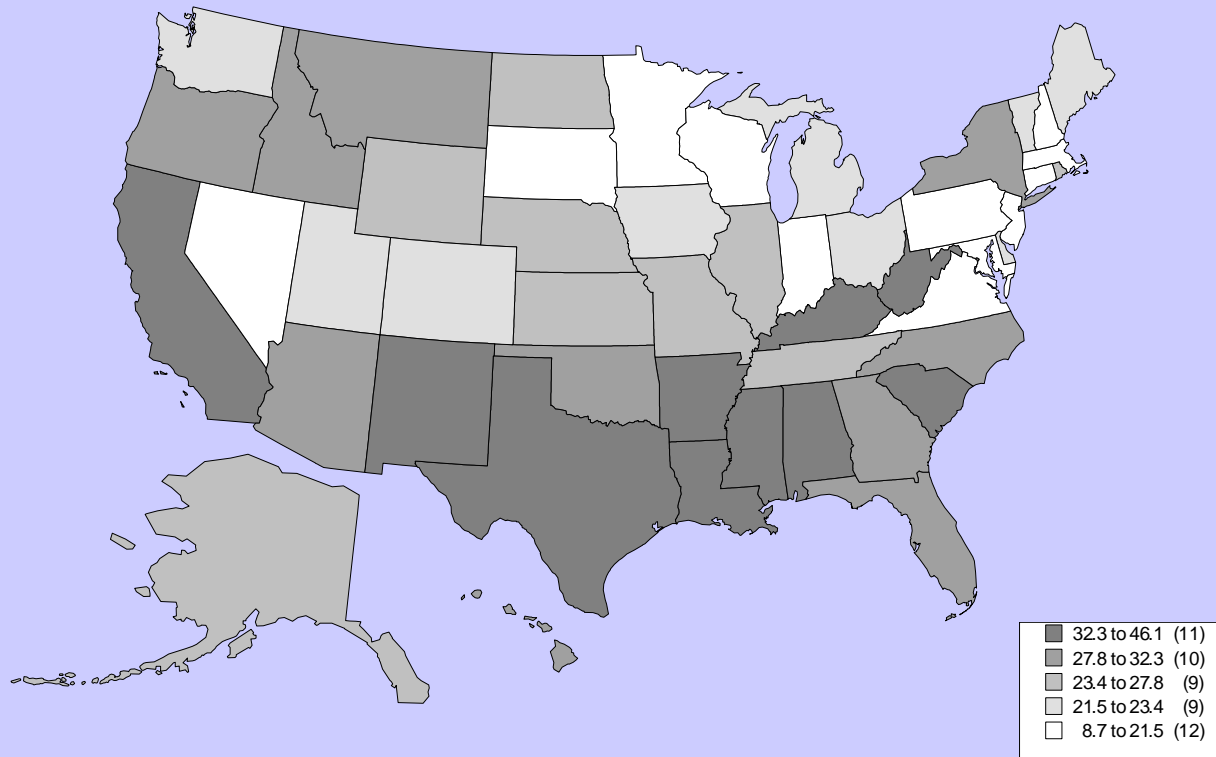


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census Supplementary Survey, 2001.

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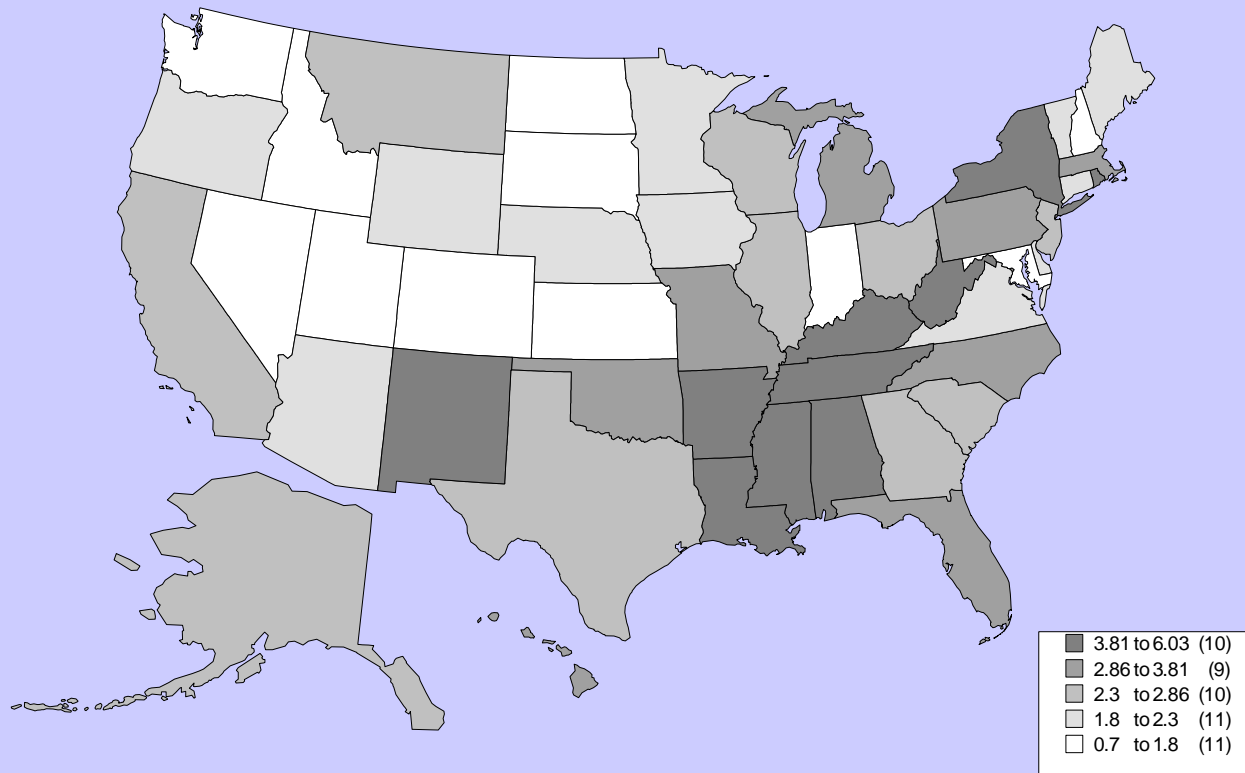
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# State Patterns In Percent of Children Receiving Free or Reduced Priced School Lunch and Breakfast: 2001



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census Supplementary Survey, 2001.

# State Patterns In Percent of Children Living in Households Receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI): 2001



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census Supplementary Survey, 2001.

# Conclusion:

## So What About The Children?



- ❑ Majority of children lived in married-couple families. Children living in such homes were clustered along the western bank of the Mississippi and on the Atlantic coast.
- ❑ Eight percent of children lived in families whereby at least one parent was not in the labor force. The lowest percentages of children living in such homes were located in a large block of states in the southwestern region of the country.
- ❑ Twenty-four percent of all children lived in families with at least one parent who did not graduate from high school. Four of the five states with the largest percentage of children living in such homes were located in the western region of the country.
- ❑ Eighteen percent of children lived in families that had incomes below the federal poverty threshold. Seven of the nine states with the largest percentage of children living in such homes were located in the southern region of the country.
- ❑ Ten percent of children lived in households whereby at least one grandparent was present. Five of the nine states with the largest percentage of children living in such homes were located in the southern region of the country.