## DEMOGRAPHICS OF POVERTY IN BROWARD COUNTY

Fifteen percent of County residents are poor, including one in five children; family poverty rates continue to increase even though 60 percent of poor families have at least one working adult.

## COUNTYWIDE POVERTY

According to 2014 population estimates, 15 \% of Broward County residents are under the poverty line. The statewide average is only slightly higher at $17 \%$. In comparison, the rate in Palm Beach County is relatively the same (15 \%) and higher in Miami-Dade (21\%).

Poverty levels are defined nationally by U.S. Bureau of the Census by family size and composition. In 2014, the poverty threshold for a family of four with two children was an annual income of $\$ 24,008$; for a single parent with two children it was $\$ 19,073$; and for a single person aged 65 and over it was $\$ 11,354$.

Individual, family and child poverty rates has been steadily increasing since 1980 in Broward County. Despite the fact that two thirds of poor families have one adult who has a job, families below poverty level continue to increase.

POVERTY RATES 1980 TO 2014


Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 201020145 Year American Community Survey

2014 PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL BY RACE AND ETHNICITY


Sources U.S. Census Bureau, 201020145 Year American Community Survey

Also, 2014 population estimates indicate that $21 \%$ of residents with disabilities live below the poverty level. Approximately, 17\% of residents living below the poverty level have a disability, including $1.3 \%$ under 18 years of age and 5.6 percent aged 65 and over.

## FAMILIES IN POVERTY

Families living in poverty have increased over the past 15 years. Since 2000, the poverty rate for families has increased from $9 \%$ to $11 \%$ in 2014 . In 2000, 35,964 families were below the poverty threshold, this number has increased to 48,081 families.

In 2014, the estimated poverty rate of families with children is $16 \%$. This is reflective of the relatively large number of children living in poverty. The highest poverty rate was among single-mothers with children at $31 \%$.

## THE WORKING POOR

The 2014 estimates indicate that approximately $8 \%$ of families with at least one working adult had a family income below the poverty level. Such families are sometimes subjectively described as the "working poor." Countywide in 2014, it is estimated that $61 \%$ of families below the poverty level had at least one working adult and $39 \%$ did not having any.

Mean and median family income increased $26 \%$ and $24 \%$ respectively between 2000 and 2009. The "Great Recession" resulted in the stagnation of mean family income and the decrease of median family income for the period between 2009 and 2014. Mean family income increased by just 1.1 percent and median family income decreased by 0.9 percent.

2014 PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL BY AGE


Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1980, 1990 and 2000 Census and U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2008 \& 2010-2014 5-Year American Community Survey

| Family Type | Poverty Rate |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2000 | 2014 |
| All Families | 8.7\% | 11.4\% |
| Families with children ${ }^{10}$ | 13.8\% | 15.8\% |
| ...Married Couples | 6.4\% | 7.8\% |
| ... Single Females | 32.3\% | 30.9\% |
| ... Single Males | 21.8\% | 195\% |
| Families witho ut children | 4.3\% | 6.9\% |
| Notes |  |  |

(1) Related children under 18 years.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census
U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 5-Year American Community Survey

## CHARACTERISTICS ASSOCIATED WITH POVERTY

Unemployment, poor housing conditions, and overcrowding are among the characteristics that are often associated with conditions of poverty. The table in the right column includes some of these statistics for all of Broward County, taken from recent 2014 estimates.

## COST OF HOUSING

Families who pay more than $30 \%$ of their income for housing are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care. This index has changed since it was first developed in the 1940's after the creation of the US National Housing Act (1937) when income limits began to be used to determine rent and mortgage rates. In 1940 the index was $20 \%$ of income, by 1969 it had increased to $25 \%$ of family income. Today the index typically used is $30 \%$. The rate of $35 \%$ shown in the table illustrate percentage of families that are well above the typical housing affordability measure.
(census.gov/hhes/www/housing/special-topics/files/who-can-afford.pdf )

## WHAT AREAS OF THE COUNTY HAVE HIGHER CONCENTRATIONS OF POVERTY?

The map below illustrates census block groups with different percentages of poverty levels. The average rate of poor households per block group for Broward County is $13.9 \%$. Block groups with rates below $14 \%$ are shown in the green areas. They represent areas with lower rates of poor households. Higher rates of poor households, between $14 \%$ and $29 \%$ appear in purple. The highest concentrations (above 29\%) of poor households are in orange. These block groups are primarily located east of the Interstate 95 corridor, west of Dixie Highway. Natural breaks were used to develop the thresholds used in the map. For more information see the Technical Appendix on pages 5 and 6.

FAMILY INCOME 2000 TO 2014


Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census; U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 5-Year American Community Survey

## Countywide Poverty Characteristics <br> 2014 Estimates

## Educational Attainment:

\% Persons that did not graduate high school $\quad 12.1 \%$
Linguistic Isolation:
\%Persons who do not speak English very well 15.1\%

## Labor Force Stutus:

$\%$ persons unemployed ${ }^{(1)} \quad 5.8 \%$

## Joblessness:

$\%$ Families with no workers $\quad 16.8 \%$

## Overcrowding:

$\%$ Housing units with $>1.5$ persons per room $\quad 0.8 \%$
Public Assistance:
\% Households receiving public assistance $\quad 1.8 \%$
Costs of Housing:
\% Households paying more than $35 \%$ of income for
mortgage
$\%$ Households paying more than $35 \%$ of income for rent
51.6\%

## Notes

(1) Based on 2014 annual average of unemployment for Broward County.

[^0]
## CENSUS BLOCK GROUPS BY HOUSEHOLD POVERTY RATE



Disclaimer: The U.S. Census Bureau data from the American Community Survey are estimates used to provide population characteristics and are not official counts as provided by the decennial censuses.

## TECHNICAL APPENDIX

table 1: COMPARAtIVE POVERTY RATES

| Area | Individual Poverty Rate |  |  |  | Family Poverty Rate |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | 1990 | 2000 | 2009 | 2014 | 1990 | 2000 | 2009 | 2014 |
| U.S. | $13.1 \%$ | $12.4 \%$ | $13.5 \%$ | $15.6 \%$ | $10.0 \%$ | $9.2 \%$ | $9.9 \%$ | $11.5 \%$ |
| Florida | $12.7 \%$ | $12.5 \%$ | $13.2 \%$ | $16.7 \%$ | $9.0 \%$ | $9.0 \%$ | $9.5 \%$ | $12.2 \%$ |
| Broward | $10.2 \%$ | $11.5 \%$ | $11.7 \%$ | $14.6 \%$ | $7.1 \%$ | $8.7 \%$ | $8.5 \%$ | $11.4 \%$ |
| Miami-Dade | $17.9 \%$ | $18.0 \%$ | $16.9 \%$ | $20.5 \%$ | $14.2 \%$ | $14.5 \%$ | $13.5 \%$ | $16.9 \%$ |
| Palm Beach | $9.3 \%$ | $9.9 \%$ | $11.5 \%$ | $14.6 \%$ | $6.2 \%$ | $6.9 \%$ | $8.0 \%$ | $10.5 \%$ |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 5-Year American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 5-Year American Community Survey

TABLE 2: POVERTY LEVEL BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

| Race/Ethnicity | Persons Below Poverty Level, 2014 |
| :--- | :---: |
| White, Non-Hispanic | $27.4 \%$ |
| Black, Non-Hispanic | $39.2 \%$ |
| Other Races, Non-Hispanic | $8.8 \%$ |
| Hispanic | $24.6 \%$ |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 5-Year American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 5-Year

TABLE 3: FAMILY POVERTY, 2000-2014

| Family Type | 2000 | 2014 | Change | Growth |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| All Families | 411,403 | 422,787 | 11,384 | 2.8\% |
| ...with related children < 18 years | 191,804 | 210,972 | 19,168 | 10.0\% |
| Families with Female Householder, no husband | 81,818 | 104,226 | 22,408 | 27.4\% |
| ...with related children < 18 years | 47,190 | 65,212 | 18,022 | 38.2\% |
| Families Below Poverty Level | 35,964 | 48,081 | 12,117 | 33.7\% |
| ...with related children < 18 years | 26,534 | 33,436 | 6,902 | 26.0\% |
| Families with Female Householder, no husband | 17,158 | 24,761 | 7,603 | 44.3\% |
| ...with related children < 18 years | 15,243 | 20,149 | 4,906 | 32.2\% |

[^1]TABLE 4: POVERTY THRESHOLD(S) FOR 2014 BY FAMILY SIZE AND NUMBER OF RELATED CHILDREN

| Size of Family Unit | Average <br> Thresholds | None | One | Related children under 18 years |  |  |  |  | Seven | > Eight |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Two | Three | Four | Five | Six |  |  |
| One person (unrelated individual) | 12,071 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $<65$ years | 12,316 | 12,316 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $>65$ years | 11,354 | 11,354 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Two people | 15,379 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Householder < 65 years | 15,934 | 15,853 | 16,317 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Householder > 65 years | 14,326 | 14,309 | 16,256 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Three people | 18,850 | 18,518 | 19,055 | 19,073 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Four people | 24,230 | 24,418 | 24,817 | 24,008 | 24,091 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Five people | 28,695 | 29,447 | 29,875 | 28,960 | 28,252 | 27,820 |  |  |  |  |
| Six people | 32,473 | 33,869 | 34,004 | 33,303 | 32,631 | 31,633 | 31,041 |  |  |  |
| Seven people | 36,927 | 38,971 | 39,214 | 38,375 | 37,791 | 36,701 | 35,431 | 34,036 |  |  |
| Eight people | 40,968 | 43,586 | 43,970 | 43,179 | 42,485 | 41,501 | 40,252 | 38,953 | 38,622 |  |
| Nine people or more | 49,021 | 52,430 | 52,685 | 51,984 | 51,396 | 50,430 | 49,101 | 47,899 | 47,601 | 45,768 |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 5-Year American Community Survey

TABLE 5: FAMILY POVERTY, 2000-2014

| Block Group Count | Household <br> Poverty Rate <br> Ranges | Total Households | Total Households <br> Below Poverty <br> Level | Average Household Poverty Rate |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

Block groups with household poverty rates less than Broward County household poverty rate ( 13.9 \%)

| 514 | $0.0 \%-13.8 \%$ | 382,968 | 26,554 | $6.7 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

Block groups with household poverty rates greater than Broward County household poverty rate ( $13.9 \%$ )

| 325 | $14.0 \%-28.7 \%$ | 225,809 | 44,544 | $20.0 \%$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 101 | $28.8 \%-80.1 \%$ | 58,801 | 21,511 | $37.7 \%$ |

[^2]
[^0]:    Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census; U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 5-Year American Community Survey

[^1]:    Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 5-Year American Community Survey

[^2]:    Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 -2014 American Community Surrey 5-Year Estimates

