



# Poverty in Clark County

January 2005

Updated December 2006



**Clark County Department of Community Services  
Community Action Program**

CLARK COUNTY  
Department of Community Services



Board of County Commissioners  
Marc Boldt, Chair  
Betty Sue Morris  
Steven J. Stuart

Department of Community Services Director  
Michael Piper

Clark County Community Action Program Staff  
Peter Munroe, Program Manager  
Karen Evans, Program Coordinator  
Samantha Givens, Office Assistant

Mailing Address  
P.O. Box 5000  
Vancouver, WA 98666-5000

Location Address  
1601 Fourth Plain Boulevard  
Vancouver, WA 98663

Voice: (360) 397-2130  
FAX: (360) 397-6128  
TDD: (306) 397-6065

Web Page: <http://www.clark.wa.gov/community-action/index.html>

Research and writing by Barbara Blumenstein, Eastern Washington State University with  
assistance from Clark County Community Action Program

Clark County Department of Community Services  
Profile of Poverty in Clark County

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

I. Executive Summary ..... 3

II. Introduction: Report Baselines..... 5

III. Defining Poverty ..... 5

IV. US Census Poverty Measure and Threshold Level ..... 7

V. Other Poverty Measures and Guidelines..... 10

VI. Profile of Poverty in Clark County ..... 12

- Clark County Families Living Below Poverty ..... 18
- MAP 1: Poverty Rates in Areas Defined by Census Tracts ..... 20

VII. 2005 Estimated Poverty Update for Clark County..... 28

VIII. Conclusions ..... 31

APPENDIX A..... 32

- Alternative Measures of Poverty ..... 32
- Self-Sufficiency Standard..... 32
- Clark County Reduced Price School Lunch Program ..... 34
- Summary of Change in Poverty Population ..... 34
- Poverty by Age by Household Type Families..... 35
- Comparison in Clark County 2000 and 2005 Type of Work and Experience of Householder and Spouse..... 36
- Poverty Status of Families by Family Type without Social Security Income, Supplemental Security Income and/or Public Assistance in Clark County, 2000 and 2005 ..... 37
- Poverty Status in 2000 by Place of Birth by Citizenship Status..... 37
- Clark County Poverty by Race/Ethnic Groups, 2000..... 38
- Poverty in Washington State County Ranking, 2000 ..... 40
- Poverty Status in 1999 of Unrelated Individuals by Householder Status (Including Living Alone) by Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Public Assistance ... 42
- Clark County Families Living in Poverty and Work Status, 2000 ..... 43

APPENDIX B ..... 44

- Map B-1 Highest Quartile of Female Headed Families with Children below the Age of 18 42
- Map B-2 Highest Quartile of Male Headed Families with Children below the Age of 18 . 43

## I. Executive Summary

Poverty continues to be a critical concern in Clark County as an increasing number of people struggle to live on incomes below the poverty threshold set by US Census economic standards. More than 31,000 Clark County residents face daily hardship and challenges in meeting basic needs such as adequate food, health, and shelter. Because the Clark County community, like other communities nationwide, values certain equity of care and well-being for all its residents, a clear understanding of the scope and impact of poverty is essential.

### Method

Although methods of measuring poverty vary, this profile of poverty relies principally on available poverty-related data from US Census 1990 and 2000 reports as well as limited Census Bureau American Community Survey 2005 updates. Such data are viewed from various demographic perspectives such as age, gender and race. Also considered are other population data and other information from the Office of Financial Management collected in the State of Washington.

### Numbers of People Living in Poverty

The proportion of the Clark County population living below the poverty level decreased from 9.3 percent in 1990 to 9.0 percent in 2000. At the same time, the County's total population in raw numbers grew rapidly, so that the actual number of County residents living below the standard Federal poverty line increased from 21,910 to 31,027 persons, a rise of close to 41.6 percent. Clark County ranks **33<sup>rd</sup> out of the 39** Washington state counties when evaluated by **percentage of total population of people living in poverty**. In dramatic contrast, it ranks **6<sup>th</sup> highest in number of actual persons** living in poverty.

### Characteristics of Poverty in Clark County in 2000

- Age
  - Fifty-two percent of the persons living in poverty are younger than 25 years of age;
  - Persons between the ages of 18 and 44 comprise the largest group in census data categories; and
  - The second largest census age category is 6-17 years in age.
- Race
  - Clark County's poverty challenged-population is comprised predominately of persons of color;
  - African Americans constitute more than twenty percent of this population; and
  - Persons identifying themselves as "white" constitute only about 8 percent.
- Gender
  - More females than males live in poverty.
  - Female-Headed Households
  - Clark County households (all persons who occupy a housing unit) and families (households with two or more related persons) living below the poverty line are most likely to be headed by a female;

- The *Female householder-no husband* category has the highest household population living below poverty; and
- The *Married couple household* has the second highest percentage living below standardized poverty levels.
- Family Groups
  - *Female headed families with children under 18 years of age* constitute the largest family group subsisting under the poverty line;
  - *Married couples with children under 18 years of age* ranked second highest; and
  - *Married couple families with children under 5 years of age* are the fastest growing family group living below poverty standards.
- Work and Public Assistance
  - Clark County households subsisting below the poverty line may be characterized as among the nation’s “working poor;”<sup>1</sup>
  - A majority of these households “working poor” are headed by a male householder with no spouse. Households headed by women are more likely to be receiving income from public assistance, possibly because of the need to care for children under age 18;
  - Working members of families and households below the poverty line generally work part-time;
  - A total of 3,789 families, or 60 percent, of the families below the poverty level did not receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or other public assistance; and
  - Female headed households with no spouse were most likely to be receiving SSI or other public assistance.

**Tables and Charts updated with 2005 with American Communities Survey data**

Table 1 – Census Bureau Poverty Threshold by Family Size

Table 2 – Clark County Population by Age Living Below Poverty Level

Table 3 – Clark County Families Living Below Poverty with Children Under 18

Table 10 – People Living Below Poverty Level in Clark County

Table 11 – Population Living Below Poverty Level County, State, National Poverty Rate

Table 12 – 2004 2005 Unemployment Rates

Table A-7 – Comparison in Clark county 2000 and 2005 Type of Work Experience...

Table A-8 – Poverty Status of Families by Type without SSI, or Public Assistance

Chart 2 – Population by Gender Living below Poverty Level in Clark County

Chart 4 – Families Living in Poverty with Children Under 18

Chart 6 – Population Living Below Poverty Level in Clark County

---

<sup>1</sup> The term “working poor” is applied to those persons and households who participate in the economic system of a community but do not achieve sufficient remuneration to pay for basic necessities such as housing, food, and health care.

## **II. Introduction: Report Baselines**

This report profiles the Clark County population living below the economic poverty level as established by the US Census. Certain comparisons based on Census reports for 1990, 2000 and 2005 updates are included, although, in some instances, 1990 comparative data are not available. Specific data related to (1) demographic and economic characteristics of people experiencing poverty and (2) estimated 2003 population updates are considered.

This report is based on limited economic data as defined by federal agencies; therefore, alternative methods are sometimes used to measure of the scope of poverty, such as Health and Human Services poverty guidelines, Self-Sufficiency Standard, and the Reduced Price School Lunch Program, have not been employed. Such alternative measures are not supported by sufficient historical and age-related data required to profile poverty trends in Clark County. A description of each of these newer methods is included, however, so that, should policy makers wish to consider the data from such measures when it is available in other contexts, correct inferences can be drawn.

No philosophical arguments or social inferences regarding causes, solutions, and/or the community impacts of poverty are presented in this profile. The singular focus is to provide a basic understanding of the parameters of poverty, thereby providing a support tool for decision making. This tool can help to ensure that resources are allocated appropriately to Clark County's most vulnerable populations.

## **III. Defining Poverty**

The concept of poverty essentially refers to living in a state of economic, or income, deprivation. Irrespective of race, culture, gender, religion, sexual orientation, beliefs and/or values, or other variables, all people who are poor, experience a chronic suppression of their living standards. Economic growth can help a community to drive down absolute levels of poverty, but:

On the other hand, the market economy often exerts a contrary effect on poverty levels. To maximize profits, businesses usually seek to pay low wages to workers, which increase inequality and poverty. People may be laid off from work and have trouble finding employment during times of recession or economic transition...<sup>2</sup>

Conceptualizing poverty is tricky. It is a multi-faced reality in the lives of over 11 percent of persons living in the United States and encompasses more than the lack of ability to meet an absolute economic standard. Harvard Professor of Economics John Kenneth Galbraith observed:

In part, [poverty] is a physical matter...But... it is wrong to rest everything on absolutes. People are poverty-stricken when their income, even if adequate for survival, falls markedly behind that of the community.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> Iceland, John; Poverty in America; 2003: University of California Press, page 143.

<sup>3</sup> Galbraith, J.K., The Affluent Society, Reprint, 1964: New American Library, page 251.

Both absolute and relative factors contribute to the experience of poverty. Hardships typically accompanying poverty often dramatically reduce an individual's physical and psychological well-being. Several studies have demonstrated that children raised in poor families are less healthy and are at risk for reduced cognitive development, school achievement, and emotional well-being. People who are poor are also more likely to experience family instability, achieve low levels of education, and experience more health problems and reduced life spans.

Studies indicate that poverty often perpetuates more poverty, as those who grow up in economically marginalized families are more likely to learn the habits of poverty and be poor themselves as adults. People who are poor often feel alienated and isolated from the mainstream society in which the economic base of the community is situated. Lives of those in living in poverty are often characterized by humiliation and anxiety, even rage,<sup>4</sup> all of which can provoke social disorder and crime while eroding the community confidence in human social services by creating a perception that needs created by poverty are not being addressed appropriately.<sup>5</sup>

Economic poverty refers to material deprivation, theoretically a measured relationship between personal income and society's existing level of economic development. Beyond simple economics, poverty is a multi-faceted experience with diverse social and cultural impacts on people who struggle with its effects. The focus of economic analyses of poverty is on the ability to meet a limited set of basic needs: for example, food, shelter, and healthcare. A broader conceptualization includes:

- The right to basic goods and services;
- The right to human dignity and self-respect;
- The right to participate in society in a meaningful way;
- The right to a living wage; and
- The right to a positive future.<sup>6</sup>

Monitoring poverty and its influence in Clark County helps to promote ongoing understanding and awareness among policy makers, programs, and citizens so that we can respond more effectively as a community to concerns raised by poverty and support a certain equity of care and well-being for all county residents, including the opportunity to participate in the community, including its economic base, in a meaningful way. Further, a profile of poverty as it occurs in Clark County can serve as a resource, helping to structure planning and establish projects that support **appropriate** programs geared to improving quality of life and community well-being for residents.

---

<sup>4</sup> Hill, Ronald Paul, *Surviving in a Material World: The Lived Experience of People in Poverty*; 2001: University of Notre Dame Press, page 167

<sup>5</sup> Iceland, John; *Poverty in America*; 2003: University of California Press

<sup>6</sup> Hill, Ronald Paul, *Surviving in a Material World: The Lived Experience of People in Poverty*; 2001: University of Notre Dame Press, page 164

## IV. US Census Poverty Measure and Threshold Level

The Census Bureau employs an absolute measure, a money income threshold that varies by family size and composition, to define who is considered poor. When a family's total income is less than that family's designated poverty threshold, then that family, and every individual in it, is considered poor. US Census Bureau poverty thresholds are updated annually for inflation with the Consumer Price Index and do not vary geographically. In computing individual poverty levels, income before taxes is considered, while capital gains and non-cash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps) are excluded.

The original definition of poverty provided a range of income thresholds adjusted by such factors as family size, sex of the family head, number of children under 18 years old, and farm-non-farm residence. At the core of this definition of poverty was the economy food plan, the least costly of four nutritionally adequate food plans designed by the Department of Agriculture. Since 1964, the poverty threshold has been revised, first in 1969 and again in 1981.

Historically, the poverty-guideline-estimated thresholds have been calculated using annual income measured against family unit size. Table 1 below summarizes these data.

**Table 1**

Size of Family Unit	1990 \$/Yr.	2000 \$/Yr.	2005 \$/Yr.*
1 Person (unrelated individual)	6,562	8,794	9,973
Under 65	6,800	8,959	10,160
65 years and older	6,268	8,259	9,367
Two Persons	8,509	11,239	12,755
Householder under 65	8,794	11,590	13,078
Householder 65+	7,905	10,419	11,808
Three persons	10,419	13,738	15,277
Four persons	13,359	17,603	19,806
Five persons	15,792	20,819	23,307
Six persons	17,839	23,528	26,096

\*These US Census Data average poverty thresholds were derived by increasing the average thresholds by a factor that reflects the percent change in the average annual Consumer Price Index.

Per the US Census Bureau (accessed at: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/povdef.html>), income for use in Federal Poverty Level calculations is defined as pre-tax money that includes:

- ◆ Wage/Salary Earnings,
- ◆ Unemployment Compensation,
- ◆ Workers' Compensation,
- ◆ Social Security,
- ◆ Supplemental Security Income (SSI),

- ◆ Public Assistance,
- ◆ Veterans' Payments,
- ◆ Survivor Benefits,
- ◆ Pension or Retirement Income,
- ◆ Interest,
- ◆ Dividends,
- ◆ Rents,
- ◆ Royalties,
- ◆ Income from Estates,
- ◆ Trusts,
- ◆ Educational Assistance,
- ◆ Alimony,
- ◆ Child Support,
- ◆ Assistance from Outside the Household, and
- ◆ Other miscellaneous sources.

Non-cash benefits (such as food stamps and housing subsidies) are not considered. In addition, calculated income excludes capital gains or losses.

Calculation of family income is based on the aggregation of incomes from all family members, although non-relatives, such as housemates, are not considered.

### **Federal Poverty Measure Shortcomings**

The current federal poverty measure does not reflect changes in consumption patterns, household composition, and American parents' changing labor force participation patterns which have occurred since the 1960s. Further, this measure ignores the rising costs associated with health insurance coverage and health status on the well-being of individuals and families. Finally, it does not provide an accurate picture of the impact of in-kind government transfers or of tax benefits on poverty, because the official measure of poverty does not count these benefits in as part of the measurable pool of family resources.

The approach of using a multiplier approach does not, by itself, solve all difficulties related to the federal poverty standard. Since the official poverty measure was first developed and implemented in the early 1960s it has been updated only to reflect inflation; its basic structure has not and cannot be modified to incorporate emerging needs. This inability to account for new or different needs results from two methodological problems. First, the federal poverty measure is based on the cost of a single item, food. Second, it assumes a fixed ratio between food and all other needs (as, for example, housing, clothing, utilities, child care). This fixed ratio structure does not permit some costs to rise faster than the cost of food. Finally, there is no way to increase the amount allotted for food as a means of taking into account new nutritional standards.

In addition to outdated nutritional standards on which the poverty measure was based and the limited basic needs package, the demographic model (the two-parent family with a stay-at-home wife) has also changed significantly since the measure's inception. Particularly for households with two working parents—of whom there are many more today than in the 1960s—new needs associated with employment, such as transportation, taxes, and if they have young children, child care, have emerged.

Finally, the poverty measure does not distinguish between those families in which the adults are employed and those in which the adults do not work outside the home. At the time that the poverty measure was first implemented, taxes were minimal for low-income families and transportation was inexpensive. Most important, the majority of workers with children had a nonworking spouse who provided childcare. Today, taxes, even for low-income families, are substantial, transportation can be costly, and many families do not have “free” childcare available.

Public programs have recognized the failure of the one-size-fits-all poverty measure to capture differences in need. Different responses from various programs have led to some improvement. For example, instead of using the poverty measure, federal housing programs assess need using local area median income as a way to take into account significant differences in cost of living among locales. The Food Stamp program takes into account variations in costs associated with housing and childcare when considering benefits.

## V. Other Poverty Measures and Guidelines

### HHS Poverty Guidelines

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has developed alternative poverty guidelines based on the original version of the federal poverty measure. These guidelines are updated annually, but, unlike the US Census measure, draw no age distinction. HHS statistics vary from the US Census data poverty thresholds and are not used in connection with determining poverty population figures from the US Census 2000 data.

HHS guidelines are not calculated on census data, but are a simplification of poverty thresholds designed for administrative purposes—as, for example, in determining financial eligibility for certain federal programs such as Head Start, the Food Stamp Program, the National School Lunch Program, the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program, and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Cash, public assistance such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), do not use the HHS poverty guidelines in determining eligibility. The Earned Income Tax Credit program also does not use the poverty guidelines to determine eligibility. A table of HHS Poverty Guidelines is contained in Appendix A, page 29.

### The Self-Sufficiency Standard Measure

Self-sufficiency is defined as the ability to maintain a decent standard of living, including not having to choose between basic necessities<sup>7</sup>. The Self-Sufficiency Standard, unlike the federal poverty standard and HHS guidelines, charts the actual cost to live and work in each county of Washington State (and certain other states), including Clark County. This standard is based on certain the assumptions that all adults in a household work full time and takes into account taxes and tax credits in its calculations. The measure estimates how much a family must earn to pay for housing, food, transportation, childcare, taxes, health care and other basic necessities. The measure is based on the number and ages of children in each household. Earned income tax credits, childcare tax credits, and child tax credits are considered. Differences in cost of living across the state, particularly between counties, are part of the formula, including costs associated with living and working in a particular area. Location data enable policy makers and citizens to better gauge income adequacy. A table illustrating the Self-Sufficiency Standard is contained in Appendix A, page 30.

**The Self-Sufficiency standard for Clark County in 2001 for one adult, one school-age child and one teenager was \$26,927. This compares with the Federal Poverty Level of \$14,630** or the HUD median family income for three of \$44,700 (80 percent of median), and \$27,950 (50 percent of median income). The self-sufficiency standard for Clark County was about 48 percent of HUD median family income, and was higher than levels set for welfare and food stamps, the poverty level, or what one could make at full-time minimum wage in 2001.

**This standard can be used to assess the ability of various jobs, occupations, and sectors to provide self-sufficient wages for workers.** If the wages paid by new businesses seeking government subsidies are at or above self-sufficiency economic development, proposals can be

---

<sup>7</sup> Pearce, D, and Brooks, J., **The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Washington State**, 2001: University of Washington

appraised with sharper acumen regarding community impact and guidelines for wage-setting that will serve those in poverty as well as the community can be established and published. Proposed policy changes can also be evaluated using this tool, helping the public, including employers, recognize certain elements of the complexity that is entailed in making the personal transition to self-sufficiency.

The Self-Sufficiency Standard documents the cost of living that families of different sizes must meet to live independently, without public or private assistance. The Self-Sufficiency Standard demonstrates that, for most families, earnings above the official poverty level or high enough to disqualify recipients from welfare are, nevertheless, far below the actual dollars required to meet their families' basic needs.

### **National Reduced Price School Lunch Program**

The percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches is often used as an indicator of children's economic well-being. The National School Lunch Program provides low cost or free lunches to students, with eligibility based on a student's family size and income. Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty level are eligible for free meals. Those with incomes between 130 and 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals. The percentage is calculated by dividing the number of eligible students by the number of students fitting lunch program criteria and enrolled in schools that participate in the program. For current data, see Appendix A, page 31.

## VI. Profile of Poverty in Clark County

Poverty is a serious concern that continues to impact Clark County. In spite of a poverty **rate** decrease from 9.3 percent in 1990 to 9.0 percent in 2000, this apparent decrease is deceiving. Clark County's general population increased nearly 47.2 percent from 1990 to 2000. As the population expanded during, the actual number of people living in poverty climbed from 21,910 people to a total of 31,027 individuals, an all-time high, representing an increase of about 41.6 percent from 1990,. The table below summarizes Clark County population by age groups for people living in poverty in 1990 compared to 2000.

**Table 2**

### Clark County Population by Age Living Below Poverty Level, 1990, 2000 and 2005

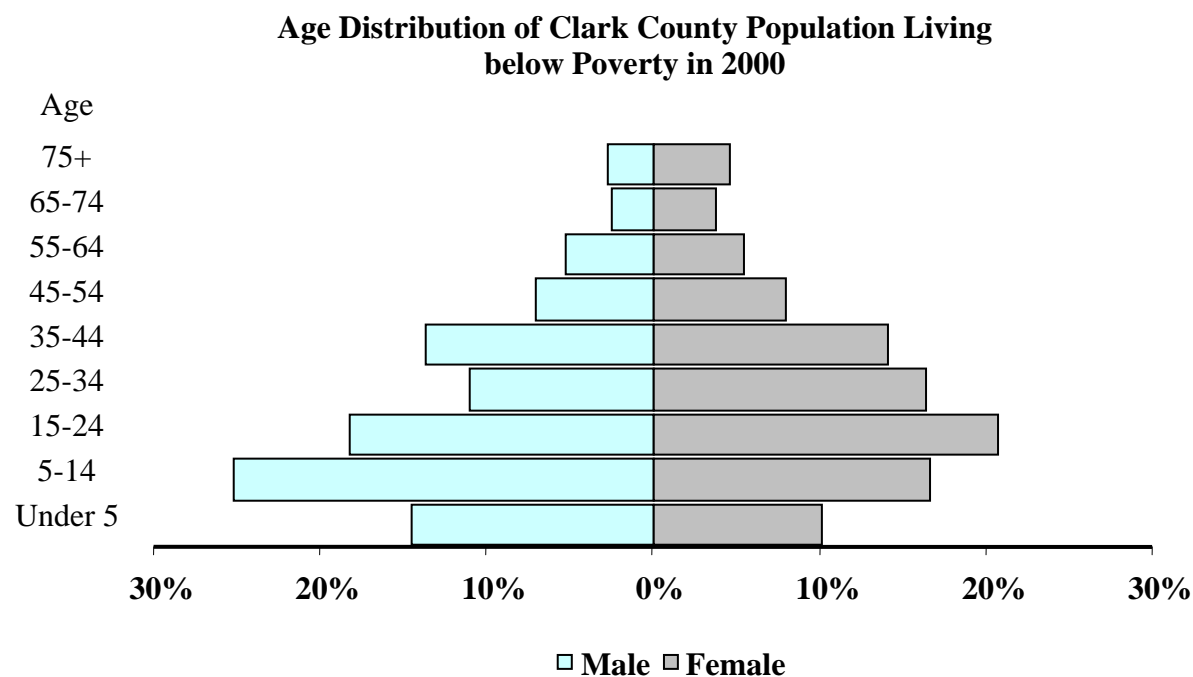
	1990	2000	1990-2000 %Change	2005	2000-2005 %Change
Total Population	234,570	345,240	47.2%	398,695	15.5%
Total below poverty level	21,910	31,027	41.6	46,473	49.8
5 years and under	3,220	4,441	37.9	5,046	13.6
6 to 17 years	5,193	7,365	41.8	10,688	45.1
18 to 44 years	8,916	13,022	46.1	17,670	35.7
45 to 74 years	3,822	5,015	47.1	9,888	97.2
75 years and over	1,171	1,187	1.4	2,100	76.9

Source: US Census Bureau data, 2005 American Communities Survey

- ◆ According to US Census data, Clark County's total population of 345,240 persons in 2000 was fifth highest Washington State's 39 counties. In both 1990 and 2000, Clark County ranked as the sixth highest among state counties in total population of individuals living in poverty;
- ◆ Children 17 years and under continue to represent the same proportion of the poor: 38.4 percent in 1990 and 38.0 percent in 2000;
- ◆ The poverty rate for people 18 to 44 years reflected a 46.1 percent increase by the year 2000;
- ◆ The poverty rate for people 45 to 59 years old reflected a 33.7 percent increase in 2000. The age group 60 to 74 increased at a rate of 61.4 percent by 2000, more than any other group; and
- ◆ The population aged 75 and over increased slightly, at 1.4 percent.
- ◆ In 2005, 46,473 people were living below the poverty level in Clark County, a 50 percent increase from 2000.

The chart below illustrates the age distribution of the county population living below poverty.

**Chart 1**



Source: U.S. Census, 2000

In summary:

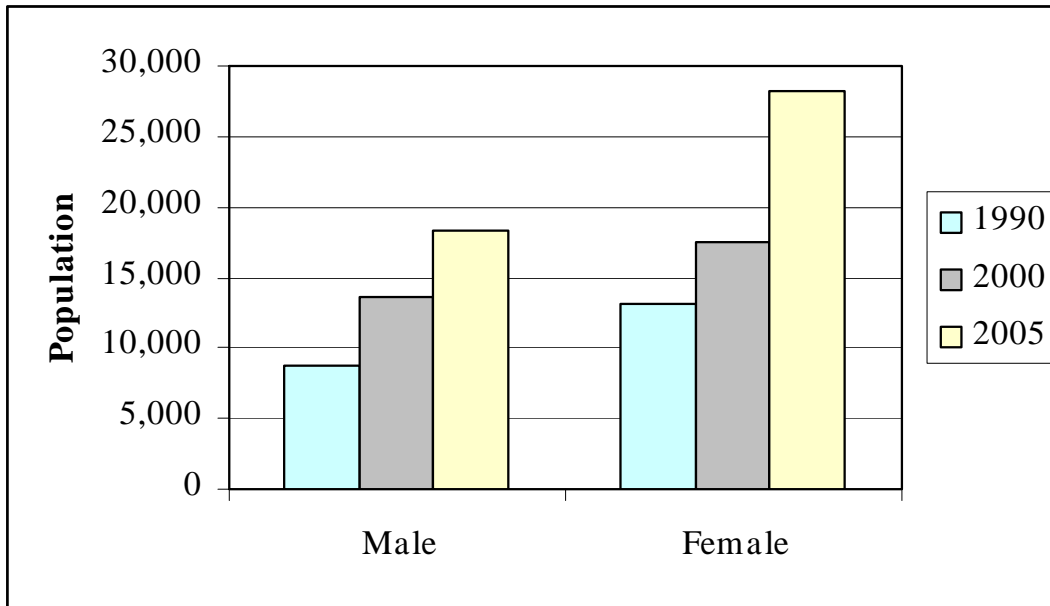
- ◆ Thirty-eight percent of the people living below poverty are under 18 years of age;
- ◆ Fifty-two percent of all people living in poverty are younger than 25 years;
- ◆ Twelve percent of those living below poverty are over 60 years of age; and
- ◆ Twenty-eight percent of the people living in poverty are between the family formation ages of 24 to 44 years.

## Poverty by Gender

US Census reports indicate that females continue to outnumber males among people living in poverty. The chart below compares 1990, 2000 and 2005 poverty populations by gender. Additional data tables are available in Appendix A.

Chart 2

### Population by Gender Living Below Poverty Level in Clark County 1990, 2000 and 2005



Source: US Census Bureau data and 2005 American Community Survey

In summary:

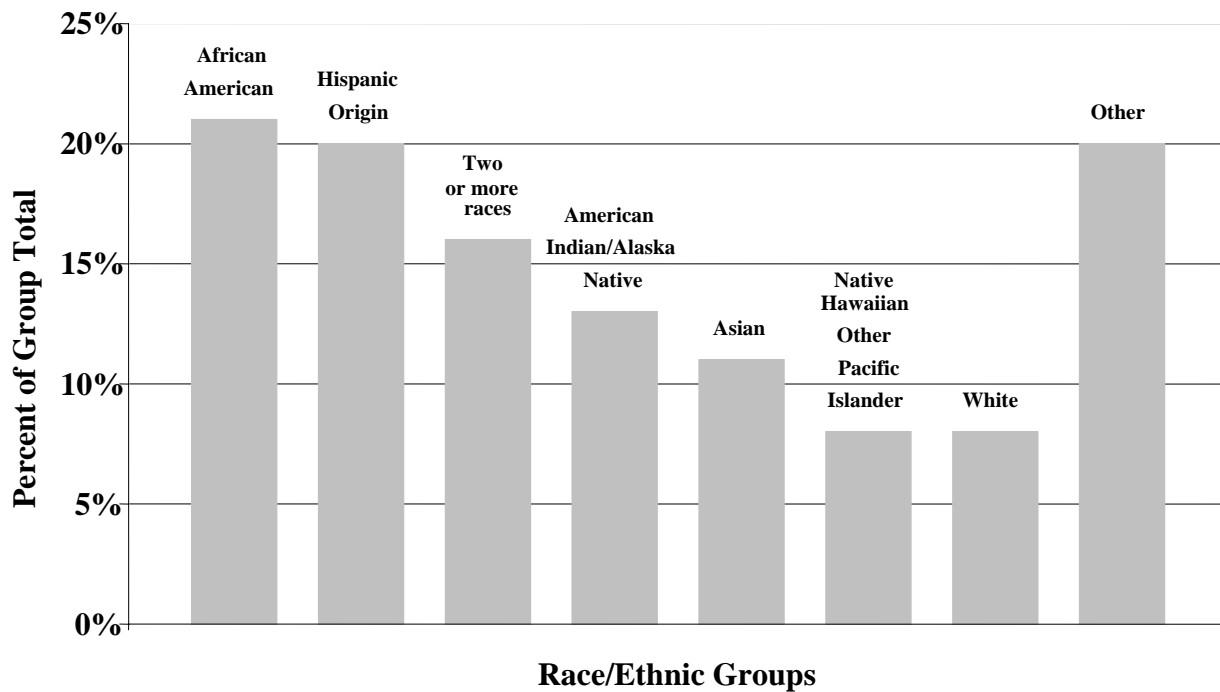
- ◆ Overall, the number of males living in poverty nearly doubled (an 83.1 percent increase) from 1990 to 2000, while the female population increased only 33.2 percent. Nevertheless, females still make up the majority in numbers of people living in poverty (N=17,479 in the year 2000);
- ◆ More males than females five years old and under lived in poverty in the year 2000 (N=2,381), reflecting a growth rate of 39.8 percent, or; and,
- ◆ The number of females ages 65 and over living in poverty declined from 1990 to 2000, while the male population in this category increased by 37 percent.

## Poverty and Race/Ethnicity

According to Census indicators, persons who identified themselves as a member of a race other than white constituted 11.2 percent of the total population of Clark County in 2000, compared to 18.2 percent of the total in Washington state and 24.9 percent in the nation. Minorities residing in Clark County include a diverse mix of people: African Americans, Latinos/Hispanics, Asians, American Indians, Pacific Islanders, Russians and Eastern Europeans. Although US Census Data research has been slow to count specific race and ethnic groups that reflect this breadth of variety, it is still possible to gain a sense of these populations living below the level poverty.

The chart below compares each race/ethnic group by percentage living at or below the poverty level. Whereas 8.3 percent of whites live at or below the poverty level, more than 20 percent of the African American population and 18 percent of Pacific Islanders live at challenging income levels.

**Chart 3**  
**Percent Race/Ethnic Groups Living in Poverty, 2000**



Source: US Census Bureau, 2000

## Poverty by Household Types

To more easily enable the interpretation of the meaning of household related the US Census Bureau has crafted definitions as follows:

- ◆ Household includes all persons who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence. Households are classified by type according to the sex of the householder (see below) and the presence of relatives;
- ◆ Householder is the person, or one of the people, in whose name the home is owned, being bought, or rented. If there is no such person present, any household member 15 years old and over can serve as the householder for the purposes of the census Two types of householders are distinguished: a family householder and a non-family householder;
  - ◆ A family householder is a householder living with one or more people related to him/her or by birth, marriage, or adoption. The householder and all people in the household related to him/her are family members, and
  - ◆ A non-family householder is a householder living alone or with non-relatives only;
- ◆ Family is a group of two or more people who reside together and who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption.

The majority of Clark County households experiencing poverty are "family households" as opposed to unrelated individuals, or single-person households which are listed as an "Other" category in US Census terms.

In summary:

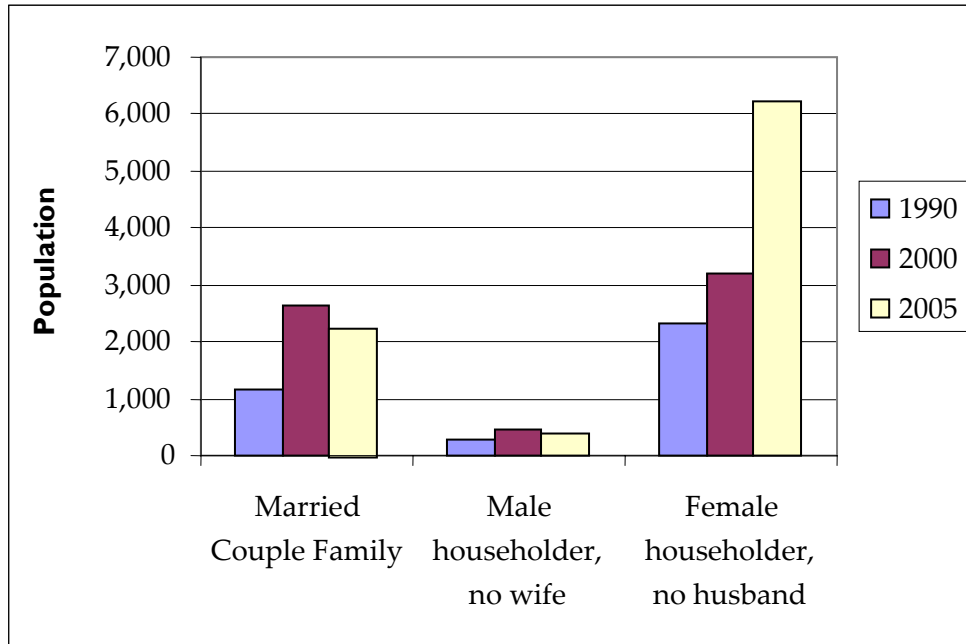
- ◆ In 2000, the number of people under the age of 65 living in households experiencing poverty increased 46.7 percent (24,139 households);
- ◆ The majority of households were headed by females under the age of 65 with no husband present—this specific population grew by 44.3 percent between 1990 and 2000 (10,620 households);
- ◆ In the 65 year and older age group, there was a significant increase (189.3 percent) in female householders with no husband present by 2000 (162 households); and,
- ◆ Married couple families over the age of 65 grew 44.7 percent between 1990 and 2000.

## Families with Children Living Below the Poverty Level

The US Census 2000 reports 6,291 families living below the poverty threshold in Clark County. Of these families, 2,777 (44.1%) included related children under the age of 18. By comparison, in 2000 there were 6,492 families in Clark County with a family income above \$125,000. The following chart illustrates the growth of families in poverty between 1990 and 2000.

**Chart 4**

### Families Living in Poverty with Children Under 18 Clark County 1990, 2000 and 2005



Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 and 2005 American Community Survey

Census data indicate that:

- ◆ The number of families living in poverty overall increased over 1990 levels by 39.2 percent in 2000;
- ◆ There are significantly more single female than single male headed families with children under 18 or married-couple families;
- ◆ Female householders with no husband present increased 31.2 percent, in the decade between 1990 and 2000, while the number of children aged 5 and under increased 27.1 percent, and children aged 6 to 17 years increased by 24 percent; and
- ◆ The number of householders with no wife present decreased 12.7 percent by the year 2000.
- ◆ Between 2000 and 2005, the number of female householders with children under 18 and no husband present increased 94 percent.

**Table 3**

**Clark County Families Living Below Poverty  
with Children Under 18 in 1990, 2000 and 2005**

	1990	2000	1990 – 2000 %Change	2005
Married-couple family:				
<b>With related children under 18 years:</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>1,787</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>2,120</b>
Under 5 years only	222	396	78	314
5 to 17 years only	492	709	44	1,158
Under 5 years and 5 to 17 years	453	682	51	648
<b>No related children under 18 years</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>775</b>
Other family:				
<b>Male householder, no wife present:</b>				
With related children under 18 years:	282	456	47	252
Under 5 years only	117	94	-20	0
5 to 17 years only	120	207	73	168
Under 5 years and 5 to 17 years	45	113	151	84
<b>No related children under 18 years</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>-16</b>	<b>144</b>
<b>Female householder, no husband present:</b>				
With related children under 18 years:	2,318	3,006	30	6,239
Under 5 years only	557	708	27	2,059
5 to 17 years only	1,204	1,492	24	3,186
Under 5 years and 5 to 17 years	557	806	45	994
<b>No related children under 18 years</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>199</b>
<b>Total Families Living in Poverty</b>	<b>4,519</b>	<b>6,291</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>9,727</b>

*Source: US Census 1990 Table P90, 2000 Table PCT 52, 2005 American Community Survey*

### Poverty and Work Status

Census 2000 data indicate that of the total 6,291 families living at or below poverty level, 2,627 were married couples (41.7 percent).

- ◆ Twenty-seven percent of married couple households reported at least one member working full time year round;
- ◆ Of married couple households, 32 percent did not report any family member working (13 percent of the total families living below poverty);
- ◆ Twenty-one percent of married couple households reported both householder and spouse working full time year-round;

- ◆ Of the single householders (either male or female householder with no spouse) 35 percent did not work either part time or full time; this group constitutes 20% of all families below the poverty level. In all, 29% of these households did not report any work income in the last year; and
- ◆ Roughly 17 percent of the total families below poverty reported at least one member working full time year round.

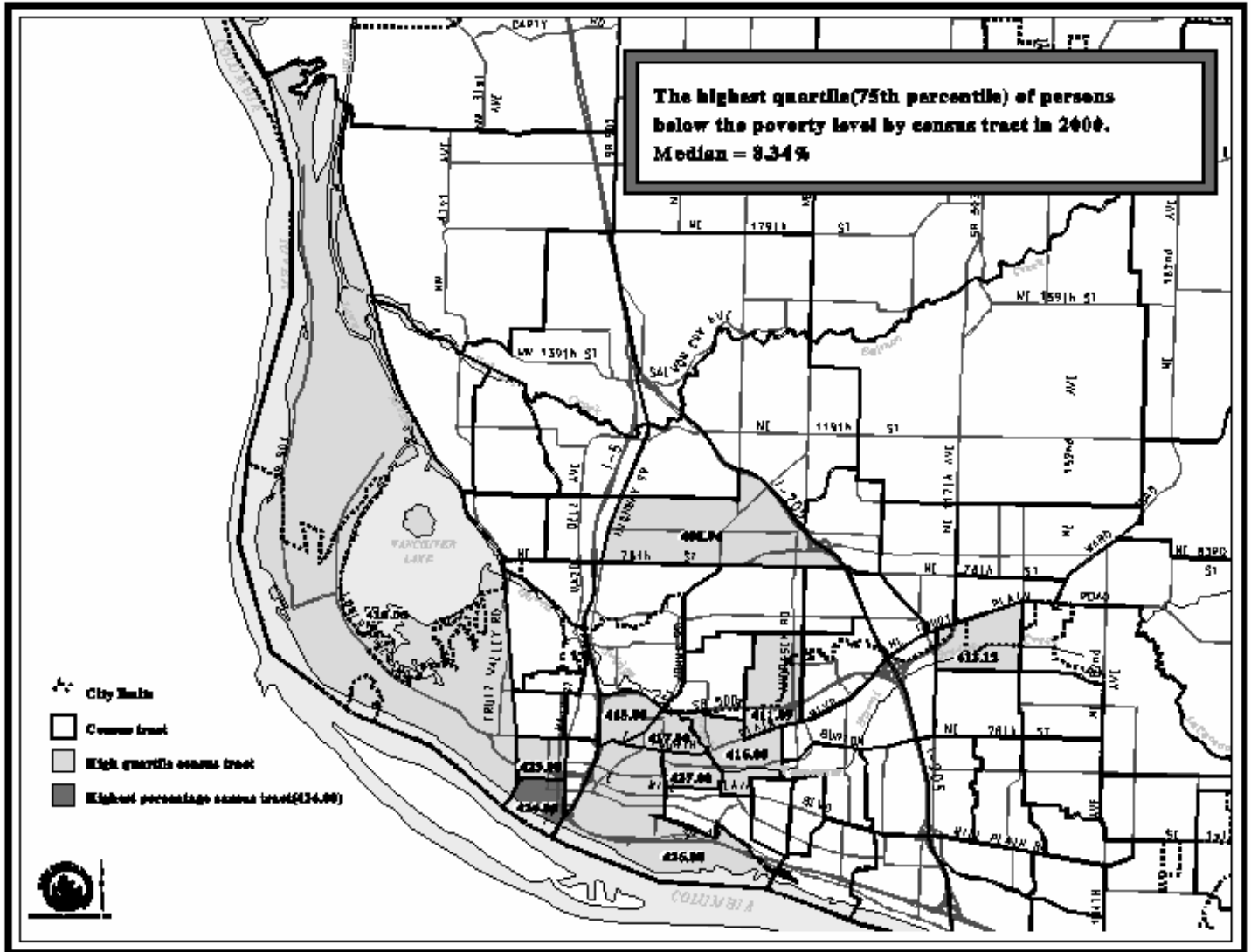
The majority of families consist of households other than married couples (3,664 families), or 58.3 percent of families living below poverty level.

- ◆ Of these, 12.4 percent, or 456 families, were defined as a male householder with no wife present; and 13.8 percent of persons in this category reported participation in the full time, year round work force while 57 percent reported working at least part time; and
- ◆ Female householders with no husband present totaled 3,208 families, or a majority of 87.6 percent of unmarried families; less than 10 percent of these women held a full time, year round job, while 55 percent were working at least part time and 31 percent were not employed.
- ◆ Since 2000, the number of married couple families with children under 18 years decreased 19 percent and the male householder, no wife present with children under 18 years decreased 45 percent.
- ◆ The female householder, no husband present with children under 18 years increased 94 percent.
- ◆ The female householder, no husband present with children under 5 years increased 190 percent and with children 5 to 17 years old increased 113 percent.

### **Location of Residents Living in Poverty**

The maps on the following two pages illustrate where people in poverty in Clark County live. The highest quartile census tracts with people below the poverty level (Map 1) are generally located in the downtown Vancouver area west of Main and east of I-5 from SR 500 to the river and east along Mill Plain Boulevard to Andresen Road. The highest quartile census tracts with families with children under 18 living below poverty (Map 2) are more dispersed, with small concentrations in (1) Camas and Washougal, (2) an area north of Vancouver downtown area, (3) east Vancouver, and (4) Hazel Dell.

# MAP 1: Poverty Rates in Areas Defined by Census Tracts





## Poverty and Public Assistance

A significant number of the more than 6,000 families living in poverty receive no Social Security income, no Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and no public assistance.

- ♦ Social Security income includes pensions and survivor's benefits, disability insurance, and railroad retirement insurance, but does not include Medicare;
- ♦ SSI is a nationwide assistance program administered by the Social Security Administration that guarantees a minimum level of income for needy, aged, blind, or disabled individuals; and
- ♦ Public assistance income includes **general assistance** and **Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)**.

Poverty and assistance findings based on US Census 2000 data suggest that:

- ♦ Of the 2,627 married couple families in Clark County who are poor, more than 1,700 (about 66 percent) do not receive any of income assistance described above;
- ♦ Ten percent of male householders living with no wife present receive none of the aid described above; and
- ♦ Nearly 54 percent of female householders with no husband present do not receive any of the described assistance.

## Poverty and Educational Attainment

US Census data on educational attainment is limited to persons aged 25 years old and over. More than 9,556 Clark County residents living below the poverty level fit into this age category. Slightly more than 65 percent completed high school. About 1,045 householders (the person, or one of the people, in whose name the home is owned, being bought, or rented) who were not living alone fit into this group. Of these, less than 20 percent had graduated from high school.

**Table 4**

### **Adults Living Below Poverty Level and Education in Clark County 2000**

	<b>People</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Adults Living Below Poverty Level	9,556	
Adults who did not complete High School	3,319	34.7

*US Census Data 2000*

## Poverty and Disabilities

According to US Census 2000 data, more than 55,465 people experienced some form of disability (these data do not include those persons and non-civilians residing in institutionalized settings). The table below reports US Census 2000 data pertaining to the 7,730 people with disabilities living in poverty (24.6 percent of the overall population living below poverty level).

**Table 5**

### Poverty and Disabilities in Clark County, 2000

	People	Percent
Age Groups		
5 to 15	507	6.6
16 to 20	628	8.1
21 to 64	5,199	67.3
65 and Older	1,396	18.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,730</b>	<b>24.6*</b>

Source: US Census

\* Percentage of total Clark County population (31,027) living in poverty.

#### In Summary:

- ◆ Of the people in this group, more than 500 were children under the age of 15 (about 7 percent) and about 630 people were between 16 and 20 years old (about 8 percent); and
- ◆ The majority of the population with disabilities living below poverty in the 21 to 64 year age group level fell to 67 percent. The 65 years and older population comprised 18 percent.

## Poverty Status by Place of Birth and Citizenship Status

According to Census 2000, in Clark County, a majority (81.9 percent of all residents) are native US citizens, and 18.1 percent are considered foreign born, as the table below indicates, At least 4,715 of the people living in poverty were not US citizens (more complete data can be found in Appendix A, page 36).

**Table 6**

### Poverty Status in Clark County 2000 by Place of Birth and Citizenship Status

	People	Percent
Native	25,397	81.9
Foreign born	5,630	18.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,027</b>	

Source: US Census 2000

## Clark County Ranking by Poverty Status in Washington State: US Census 2000

Census 2000 reports indicate that Clark County ranked sixth highest of Washington State counties in the raw number of people living below poverty level. This population represented 9.1 percent of Clark County's total population. When the data are viewed as a proportion of total population, Clark County ranks 33<sup>rd</sup>, which is to say that the county is near the bottom of all Washington counties in the percent of people living in poverty calculated based on total population. Table 6 enumerates counties ranking higher than Clark County in actual number of people in poverty, and Table 7 shows the percent poverty rate ranking of the lowest 10 counties.

**Table 7**

### Ranking of Washington Counties with Population Living Below Poverty Level 2000

Rank	County	Population Below Poverty
1	King County	142,546
2	Pierce County	71,316
3	Spokane County	49,859
4	Yakima County	43,070
5	Snohomish County	41,024
<b>6</b>	<b>Clark County</b>	<b>31,027</b>
7	Whatcom County	23,003
8	Kitsap County	19,601
9	Thurston County	17,992
10	Benton County	14,517

*Source: US Census, 2000*

**Table 8**

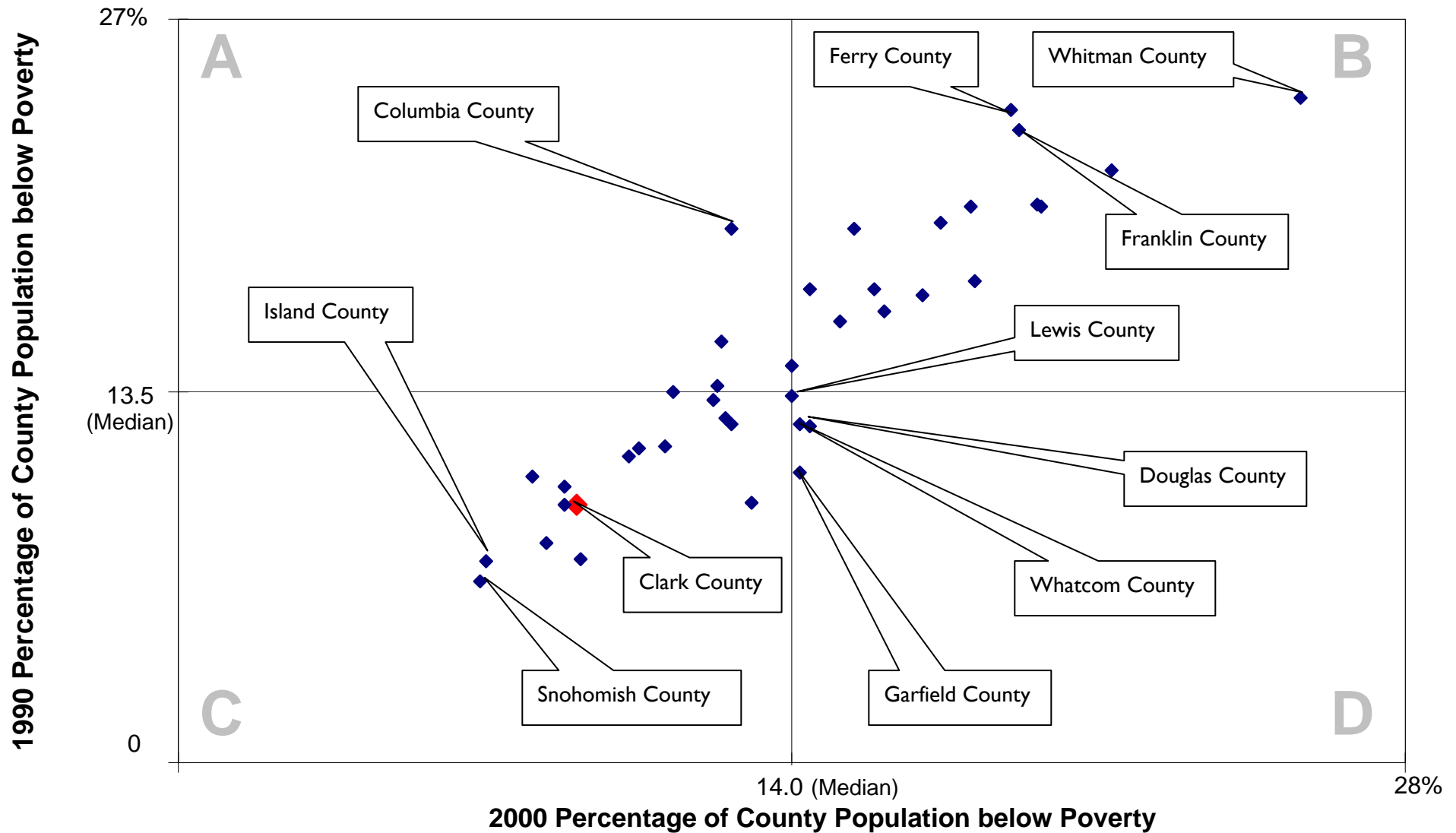
**Ranking of Counties by Percent Living Below Poverty Level  
In Washington State**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Population Below Poverty Level</b>	<b>Percent of Population Living in Poverty in 1999</b>
1	Whitman County	9,027	25.6%
30	Pierce County	71,316	10.5
31	Benton County	14,517	10.3
32	San Juan County	1,286	9.2
<b>33</b>	<b>Clark County</b>	<b>31,027</b>	<b>9.1</b>
34	Thurston County	17,992	8.8
35	Kitsap County	19,601	8.8
36	King County	142,546	8.4
37	Wahkiakum County	301	8.1
38	Island County	4,895	7.0
39	Snohomish County	41,024	6.9

*Source: US Census, 2000*

On the following page, Figure 6 compares the percentage of Washington counties' population below the poverty threshold in 1990 and 2000.

**Chart 5**  
**Percentage of County Population below Poverty Threshold in 1990 and 2000**



- A. Counties with a lower percentage of the population below the poverty level in 2000 than 1990 – decreasing poverty
- B. Counties with a population above the median poverty percentage in both 1990 and 2000 – chronic poverty
- C. Counties with a population below the median poverty percentage in both 1990 and 2000 – lower poverty
- D. Counties with a higher percentage of the population in poverty in 2000 than 1990 – emerging poverty

**Table 9**

**Ranking of Counties by Percent Living Below Poverty Level  
In Washington State**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Population Below Poverty Level</b>	<b>Percent of Population Living in Poverty in 1999</b>
1	Whitman County	9,027	25.6%
30	Pierce County	71,316	10.5
31	Benton County	14,517	10.3
32	San Juan County	1,286	9.2
<b>33</b>	<b>Clark County</b>	<b>31,027</b>	<b>9.1</b>
34	Thurston County	17,992	8.8
35	Kitsap County	19,601	8.8
36	King County	142,546	8.4
37	Wahkiakum County	301	8.1
38	Island County	4,895	7.0
39	Snohomish County	41,024	6.9

*Source: US Census, 2000*

## VII. 2005 Estimated Poverty Update for Clark County

US Census' 200 American Community Survey\* estimated that the national poverty rate was 13.3 percent in 2005. Estimates for 2005 are made from a sample database, and are limited to the household population, excluding the population living in institutions, college dormitories and other group quarters.

Total population of Clark County was estimated to be 398,695 in 2005. An estimated increase from 9.0 to 11.7 percent of persons living below the poverty level indicated a rise in general poverty in the county. The table below compares years 2000 and 2005 for people by age group living below the poverty threshold.

**Table 10**

### People Living Below Poverty Level in Clark County: 2000 and 2005

	2000	2005	2000-2005 %Change
Under 18 years	11,807	18,620	57%
18 to 64 years	17,040	25,851	52%
65 and over	2,180	3,802	74%
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,027</b>	<b>46,473</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>345,240</b>	<b>398,695</b>	<b>15.5%</b>

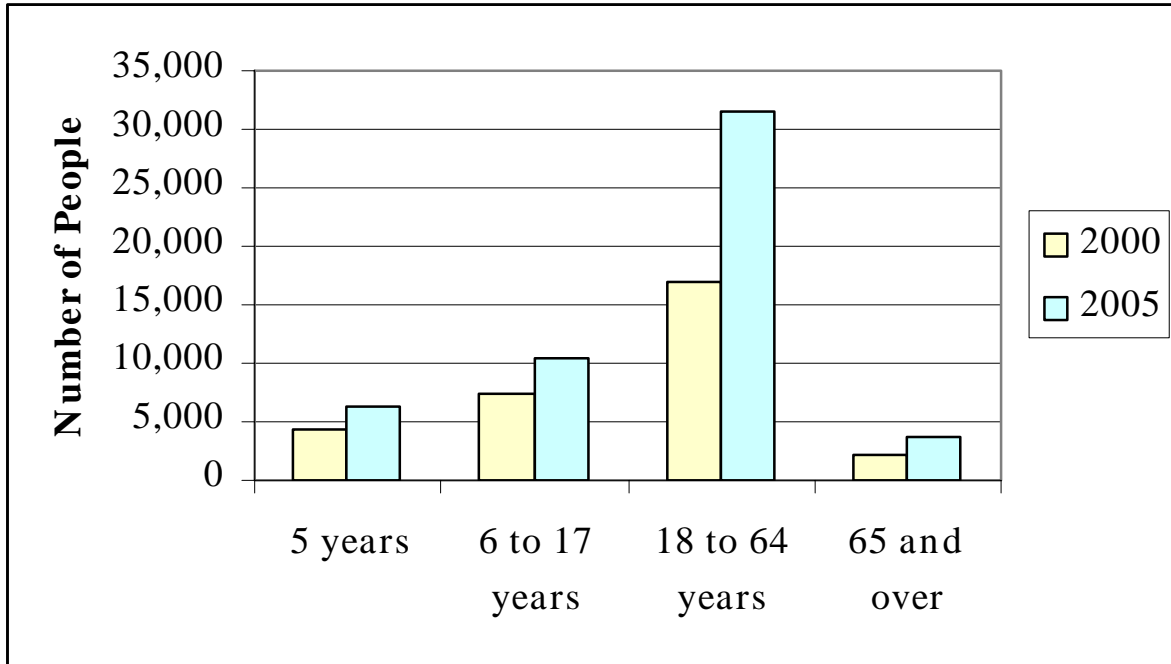
Source: US Census Data 2000, 2005

*\*The 2005 American Community Survey universe is limited to the household population and excludes the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. Data based on a sample and is subject to sampling variability.*

The chart below illustrates the increase in poverty by age group for the population living below poverty level in Clark County in the years 2000 and 2005.

**Chart 6**

**Population Living Below Poverty Level in Clark County  
2000 Compared to 2005**



**Table 11**

**Population Living Below Poverty Level  
County, State, National Poverty Rate 1990 to 2005**

	1990		2000		2005	
	Number	Poverty Rate %	Number	Poverty Rate %	Number	Poverty Rate %
<b>Clark County</b>	<b>21,910</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>31,027</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>46,473</b>	<b>11.6</b>
<b>Washington State</b>	<b>517,933</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>612,370</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>729,470</b>	<b>11.9</b>
<b>United States</b>	<b>31,742,864</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>33,899,812</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>38,231,474</b>	<b>13.3</b>

Source: US Census Community Report 2005

In summary, according to reports from the 2005 American Communities Survey for Clark County:

- ◆ 46,473 people, or 11.6 percent of Clark County population, lived below the poverty level compared to 11 percent in 2000;
- ◆ Sixteen percent of all children under 18 were living below the poverty level, compared with ten percent of people 65 years and older;
- ◆ According to the survey, 9,727 families in Clark County (9.7 percent) live below poverty level; and
- ◆ Sixty-four percent, or 6,239, families living in poverty were led by a female householder with no husband present.

### Current 2005 Unemployment Rates

The unemployment rate is a ratio of number of unemployed persons as a percent of the entire labor force. People are considered unemployed if they are at least 16 years old, without a job, available for work, and have recently made specific efforts to find employment. Local unemployment rates contribute to changes in county poverty levels, **As of October 2006, Clark County ranked as ninth highest in unemployment rate among Washington’s 39 counties.**

The table below compares Clark County unemployment rate to Washington State overall, and includes information on the Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan area, Oregon State, and the US national average.

**Table 12**

#### 2004 2005 Unemployment Rates

	2004 Percent	2005 Percent
Clark County	6.3%	6.2%
Washington State	5.6	5.5
Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan area	6.5	5.8
Oregon State	7.3	6.1
United States	5.4	5.1

*Source: US Dept. of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics Data*

## VIII. Conclusions

It is well documented that poverty contributes to poor health, increased stress, and lack of social support. If we are interested in creating and maintaining a healthy, sustainable community for all county residents, we must address the problem of poverty and its impacts. To craft policies and processes that will make a difference, it is important to understand the pervasiveness and impact of poverty in Clark County. When poverty and its influences are monitored, more feasible responses emerge that support the county as a caring community that seeks to ensure equitable distribution of resources that promote well-being and safety for all of its citizens.

Census and economic indicators underscore that poverty not only remains a critical concern to the Clark County community, but that the number of people living in poverty is increasing. Poverty has climbed to an all time high, an increase of 41.6 percent after 1990 (from 21,910 people to 31,027 individuals in 2000), or a 9.0% poverty rate overall. Census 2003 has estimated that the poverty rate continues to rise, climbing to 10.2 percent or more than 38,000 people living below poverty level.

In summary:

- ◆ Children under the age of 18 continue to represent a disproportionate share of the poor, constituting more than one-third (38 percent) of the population living in poverty;
- ◆ Females continue to be over-represented in this population by a ratio of one male to every 1.29 females;
- ◆ Of race/ethnic groups, African Americans experience the highest numbers of people who are poor with more than 20 percent living below poverty level;
- ◆ In the year 2000, more than 24,000 people were living in some type of household. Among married couple family households, an estimated 38.5 percent included a person working less than full time; in at least 42.1 percent of married couples, neither spouse worked;
- ◆ By 2000, of all households and families other than married couples, the majority of households experiencing poverty were headed by females under the age of 65 with no husband present;
- ◆ Of the more than 6,000 families living in poverty, 66 percent of **married couple families** and 54 percent of **female householders with no husband present** receive no Social Security income, no Supplemental Security Income, and no Public Assistance income;
- ◆ Education can play a role in determining who is likely to be poor. In Clark County, of the 9,556 adults (25 years and over) living below poverty level, 34.7 percent have not completed high school; and
- ◆ More than 7,700 people who are disabled are living in poverty; most of these people fall into the 21- 64 age group.

## APPENDIX A

### Alternative Measures of Poverty

Current and historical Health and Human Services poverty guidelines to 2005 are shown in the table below:

**Table A-1**

<b>Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>First Person</b>	<b>Each Additional Person</b>	<b>4-Person Family</b>
<b>2005</b>	\$9,570	3,260	19,350
<b>2000</b>	8,350	2,900	17,050
<b>1990</b>	6,280	2,140	12,700

Health and Human Services poverty guidelines are sometimes loosely referred to as the "federal poverty level" (FPL), but this phrase is ambiguous and should be avoided, especially in situations (e.g., legislative or administrative) where precision is important. A website can be accessed for more information at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty>.

### Self-Sufficiency Standard

The Self-Sufficiency Standard guidelines were developed by Diana Pearce, PhD who currently teaches at the School of Social Work at the University of Washington, Seattle with Jennifer Brooks, the director of Self-Sufficiency Programs and Policy for Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW). The Standard has been used for example in Michigan and Pennsylvania, to evaluate economic development proposals, evaluate the impact of proposed policy changes, and as a benchmark for evaluation; and in some cases, e.g., New York State, it has been used as a tool for assisting individuals and families in working toward their economic goals.

The table below is the Self-Sufficiency Standard developed specifically for Clark County, 2001.

**Table A-2**

**Self-Sufficiency Standard for Clark County**

Monthly Costs	Adult	Adult+ Infant	Adult+ Pre schooler	Adult+ Infant Pre schooler	Adult+ School age Teenager	Adult + Infant+ Pre schooler +School age	2 Adults+ Infant+ Pre schooler	2 Adults+ Pre schooler +School age
Housing	533	657	657	657	657	914	657	657
Child Care	0	542	585	1,127	333	1,460	1,127	918
Food	168	246	255	330	437	444	475	521
Transportation	239	245	245	245	245	245	425	425
Health Care	71	237	215	258	263	279	313	291
Miscellaneous	101	193	196	262	194	334	300	281
Taxes	216	415	425	574	332	756	638	576
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	0	0	0	-91	0	0	0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	-40	-40	-80	-42	-80	-80	-80
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-42	-42	-83	-83	-125	-83	-83
<b>Self-Sufficiency Wage in dollars \$:</b>								
Hourly \$	7.54	13.93	14.18	18.69	12.75	24.02	10.71	9.96
							per adult	per adult
Monthly \$	1,328	2,452	2,496	3,289	2,244	4,227	3,770	3,506
Annual \$	15,930	29,425	29,947	39,473	26,927	50,729	45,241	42,077

Reference: Pearce, D., & Brooks, J. (2001). **The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Washington State.**

## Clark County Reduced Price School Lunch Program

The percentage of children getting free or reduced lunches in Clark County varies between school districts from 13.8 to 41.3 percent. Table A-3 lists percentages for participating school districts in Clark County during the 2005-2006 school year.

**Table A-3**

### Percentage of Children on Reduced Price School Lunch Program

School District in Clark County	Percent
Vancouver School District 037	38.6%
Evergreen School District 114	34.9
Green Mt. School District 103	24.1
Washougal School District 112	34.5
La Center School District 101	19.8
Ridgefield School District 122	26.6
Battle Ground School District 119	28.2
Camas School District 117	16.1
Hockinson School District 098	13.7
ESD 112	NA

**Table A-4**

### Summary of Change in Poverty Population by Age and Gender in Clark County

Age Group:	1990		2000		Percent Change	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
5 Years and Under	1,703	1,517	2,381	2,061	39.8%	35.9%
6 to 17 Years	2,486	2,707	3,000	3,502	20.7	29.4
18 to 64 years	4,081	7,173	6,603	10,437	82.9	45.5
65 to 74 Years	257	815	331	662	28.8	-18.8
75 Years and Over	256	915	370	817	44.5	-10.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,783</b>	<b>13,127</b>	<b>13,548</b>	<b>17,479</b>	<b>54.3</b>	<b>33.2</b>

Source: US Census 1990, 2000

The table below summarizes the total number of households in poverty in 1990 and in 2000, divided by people under 65 and those over 65 years.

**Table A-5**

**Poverty by Age by Household Type Families  
Comparison for Clark County 1999, 2000**

	1990	2000	%Change
<b>Number of Family Households*</b>	<b>14,876</b>	<b>24,139</b>	<b>62.3%</b>
<b>Under 65 Years:</b>			
<b>In Married Couple families</b>	<b>6,065</b>	<b>10,405</b>	<b>71.6</b>
<b>In other families</b>	<b>8,230</b>	<b>12,830</b>	<b>55.9</b>
<i>Male householder, no wife present</i>	870	2,215	154.6
<i>Female householder, no husband present</i>	7,360	10,620	44.3
<b>65 Years and Over:</b>			
<b>In Married Couple families</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>44.7</b>
<b>In other families</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>125.6</b>
<i>Male householder, no wife present</i>	22	14	-36.4
<i>Female householder, no husband present</i>	56	162	189.3

Source: US Census 1999, 2000

\*Does not include unrelated individuals

**Table A-6**

**Comparison in Clark County 2000 and 2005 Type of Work and Experience of Householder and Spouse**

	2000	2005
<b>Total number of families living below poverty level:</b>	<b>6,291</b>	<b>9,727</b>
<b>Married Couple Family</b>	<b>2,627</b>	<b>2,895</b>
<i>Householder worked FT, YR</i>	516	500
Spouse worked FT, YR	37	47
Spouse worked less than FT, YR	147	115
Spouse did not work in 1999	332	338
<i>Householder worked less than FT, YR</i>	1,008	956
Spouse worked FT, YR	76	0
Spouse worked less than FT, YR	394	635
Spouse did not work in 1999	538	321
<i>Householder did not work in 1999</i>	1,103	1,439
Spouse worked FT, YR	75	337
Spouse worked less than FT, YR	194	322
Spouse did not work in 1999	834	780
<b>Other Family</b>	<b>3,664</b>	<b>6,832</b>
<i>Male householder (HH), no wife present:</i>	456	394
HH worked FT, YR	63	0
HH worked less than FT, YR	260	179
HH did not work in 1999	133	215
<i>Female householder (HH), no husband present:</i>	3,208	6,438
HH worked FT, YR	307	473
HH worked less than FT, YR	1,755	4,328
HH did not work in 1999	1,146	1,637
(FT = Full Time, YR = Year Round, HH = Household)		

Source: US Census from 2000, Table PCT60, 2005 American Communities Survey

**Table A-7**

**Poverty Status of Families by Family Type without Social Security Income, Supplemental Security Income and/or Public Assistance in Clark County, 2000 and 2005**

	Families 2000	Percent	Families 2005
<b>Income below poverty level</b>	<b>6,291</b>		<b>9,727</b>
<b>Married-couple family</b>	<b>2,627</b>		<b>2,895</b>
Without Social Security Income	2,302		2,391
Without SSI or Public Assistance Income	1,722	66%	1,360
<b>Other family</b>	<b>3,664</b>		
<i>Male householder, no wife present:</i>	456		394
Without Social Security Income	438		334
Without SSI or Public Assistance Income	369	81%	155
<i>Female householder, no husband present</i>	3,208		6,438
Without Social Security Income	2,948		6,007
Without SSI or Public Assistance Income	1,698	53%	3,803

Source: US Census Bureau 2000, Table PCT 59

Note: 12% of married couple families had Social Security income  
4% of male householders had Social Security income  
8% of female householders had Social Security income

**Table A-8**

**Poverty Status in 2000 by Place of Birth by Citizenship Status**

		Percent of Total
<b>Native</b>	<b>25,397</b>	<b>81.9%</b>
Born in the US	25,300	81.5
Born outside the US	97	0.4
<b>Foreign Born</b>	<b>5,630</b>	<b>18.1</b>
Naturalized Citizen	915	2.9
Not a Citizen	4,715	15.2
<b>Total Living Below Poverty Threshold</b>	<b>31,027</b>	

US Census 2000 Report PCT51: Data Set: Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3)

**Table A-9**

**Clark County Poverty by Race/Ethnic Groups, 2000**

US Census 2000 P159A: Poverty Status in 1999 By Age (White Alone)	Clark County	US Census 2000 P159D: Poverty Status in 1999 By Age (Asian Alone)	Clark County	US Census 2000 P159C: Poverty Status in 1999 by Age (American Indian and Alaska Native Alone)	Clark County
Total White Population:	302,626	Total Asian Population:	10,622	Total AI/AN Population	<b>3,138</b>
% Total Population:	87.7%	% Total Population:	3.1%	% Total Population:	<b>0.9%</b>
Income below poverty:	25,070	Income below poverty level:	1,138	Income below poverty level:	<b>412</b>
Under 5 years	2,797	Under 5 years	103	Under 5 years	<b>56</b>
5 years	541	5 years	15	5 years	-
6 to 11 years	3,221	6 to 11 years	111	6 to 11 years	<b>49</b>
12 to 17 years	2,515	12 to 17 years	131	12 to 17 years	<b>19</b>
18 to 64 years	14,020	18 to 64 years	630	18 to 64 years	<b>268</b>
65 to 74 years	889	65 to 74 years	75	65 to 74 years	<b>14</b>
75 years and over	1,087	75 years and over	73	75 years and over	<b>6</b>
US Census 2000 P159B - Poverty status in 1999 by Age (Black or African American Alone)	Clark County	US Census 2000 P159E: Poverty Status in 1999 by Age (Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone)	Clark County	US Census 2000 P159F: Poverty Status in 1999 by Age (Some Other Race Alone)	Clark County
Total B/A Population:	4,937	Total NH/PI Population:	1,324	Other Alone Population:	<b>7,141</b>
% Total Population:	1.4%	% Total Population:	0.4%	% Total Population:	<b>2.1%</b>
Income below poverty level:	1,036	Income below poverty level:	107	Income below poverty level:	<b>1,394</b>
Under 5 years	181	Under 5 years	26	Under 5 years	<b>147</b>
5 years	37	5 years	-	5 years	<b>53</b>
6 to 11 years	184	6 to 11 years	28	6 to 11 years	<b>241</b>
12 to 17 years	86	12 to 17 years	6	12 to 17 years	<b>188</b>
18 to 64 years	539	18 to 64 years	47	18 to 64 years	<b>752</b>
65 to 74 years	9	65 to 74 years	-	65 to 74 years	<b>6</b>
75 years and over	-	75 years and over	-	75 years and over	<b>7</b>

**Table A-9 (continued)**

**Poverty by Race/Ethnic Groups**

US Census 2000 P159G: Poverty Status in 1999 by Age (Two or More Races)	<b>Clark County</b>	US Census 2000 P159I: Poverty Status in 1999 by Age (White Alone, not Hispanic or Latino)	Clark County	US Census 2000 P159H: Poverty Status in 1999 by Age (Hispanic or Latino)	<b>Clark County</b>
Total 2+ Population:	<b>11,676</b>	Total Population White Alone:	295,508	Total H/L Population:	<b>15,814</b>
% Total Population:	<b>3.4%</b>	% Total Population:	85.6%	% Total Population:	<b>4.6%</b>
Income below poverty level:	<b>1,870</b>	Income below poverty level:	23,575	Income below poverty level:	<b>3,160</b>
Under 5 years	<b>427</b>	Under 5 years	2,469	Under 5 years	<b>581</b>
5 years	<b>59</b>	5 years	478	5 years	<b>122</b>
6 to 11 years	<b>378</b>	6 to 11 years	2,990	6 to 11 years	<b>528</b>
12 to 17 years	<b>208</b>	12 to 17 years	2,444	12 to 17 years	<b>274</b>
18 to 64 years	<b>784</b>	18 to 64 years	13,274	18 to 64 years	<b>1,586</b>
65 to 74 years	<b>-</b>	65 to 74 years	856	65 to 74 years	<b>39</b>
75 years and over	<b>14</b>	75 years and over	1,064	75 years and over	<b>30</b>

**Table A-10**

**Poverty in Washington State County Ranking, 2000**

RANK	COUNTY	Total Population Living in County in 1999	Population in County Living Below Poverty Threshold in 1999	% Population of County Living in Poverty (Poverty Rate)
1	Whitman County	35,280	9,027	25.6%
2	Okanogan County	38,943	8,311	21.3%
3	Yakima County	218,966	43,070	19.7%
4	Kittitas County	31,177	6,122	19.6%
5	Franklin County	48,307	9,280	19.2%
6	Ferry County	7,185	1,368	19.0%
7	Adams County	16,217	2,951	18.2%
8	Pend Oreille County	11,559	2,095	18.1%
9	Grant County	73,591	12,809	17.4%
10	Klickitat County	18,983	3,236	17.0%
11	Grays Harbor County	66,251	10,668	16.1%
12	Stevens County	39,610	6,316	15.9%
13	Asotin County	20,293	3,132	15.4%
14	Walla Walla County	50,245	7,567	15.1%
15	Douglas County	32,179	4,640	14.4%
16	Pacific County	20,666	2,973	14.4%
17	Garfield County	2,348	334	14.2%
18	Whatcom County	161,817	23,003	14.2%
19	Lewis County	67,520	9,460	14.0%
20	Cowlitz County	91,364	12,765	14.0%
21	Skamania County	9,763	1,281	13.1%
22	Columbia County	4,008	507	12.6%
23	Lincoln County	10,026	1,260	12.6%
24	Clallam County	62,602	7,825	12.5%
25	Chelan County	65,564	8,147	12.4%
26	Spokane County	404,764	49,859	12.3%
27	Mason County	46,978	5,716	12.2%
28	Jefferson County	25,751	2,899	11.3%
29	Skagit County	101,170	11,244	11.1%
30	Pierce County	680,056	71,316	10.5%
31	Benton County	141,232	14,517	10.3%
32	San Juan County	13,920	1,286	9.2%
<b>33</b>	<b>Clark County</b>	<b>341,464</b>	<b>31,027</b>	<b>9.1%</b>
34	Thurston County	203,619	17,992	8.8%
35	Kitsap County	224,006	19,601	8.8%
36	King County	1,706,305	142,546	8.4%
37	Wahkiakum County	3,735	301	8.1%
38	Island County	69,924	4,895	7.0%
39	Snohomish County	597,813	41,024	6.9%

**Table A-11**

**Poverty Status in 1999 of Families by Family Type by Social Security Income by Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Public Assistance**

	Clark County	
	Families	% Total
Number of Families Living Below Poverty Level:	6,291	100%
<i>Total Married-couple families</i>	2,627	41.8
With SSI income	325	12.4
With SSI and/or Public Assistance income	80	3.0
Without SSI or Public Assistance Income	245	9.3
Without Social Security income	2,302	87.6
With SSI and/or Public Assistance income	580	22.1
Without SSI or Public Assistance Income	1,722	65.6
<i>Total Population of "Other Families"</i>	3,664	58.2
<i>Male householder, no wife present:</i>	456	12.4
With SSI income	18	3.9
With SSI and/or Public Assistance income	14	3.1
Without SSI or Public Assistance Income	4	0.9
Without Social Security income	438	96.1
With SSI and/or Public Assistance income	69	15.1
Without SSI or Public Assistance Income	369	80.9
<i>Female householder, no husband present</i>	3,208	87.6
With SSI income	260	8.1
With SSI and/or Public Assistance income	116	3.6
Without SSI or Public Assistance Income	144	4.5
Without Social Security income	2,948	91.9
With SSI and/or Public Assistance income	1,250	39.0
Without SSI or Public Assistance Income	1,698	52.9

US Census 2000 PCT59:

**Table A-12**

**Poverty Status in 1999 of Unrelated Individuals by  
Householder Status (Including Living Alone) by  
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Public  
Assistance**

	Clark County	
	Households	% Total
Total Households Living Below Poverty Level	9,556	100%
Non-family Householder	4,168	7.7
<i>Living alone:</i>	3,123	74.9
With Social Security income in 1999:	1,117	26.8
With public assist income	83	2.0
Without public assist income	1,034	24.8
Without Social Security Income in 1999:	2,006	48.1
With public assist income	147	3.5
Without public assist income	1,859	44.6
<i>Not living alone:</i>	1,045	1.9
With Social Security income in 1999:	108	10.3
With public assist income	7	0.7
Without public assist income	101	9.7
Without Social Security Income in 1999:	937	89.7
With public assist income	59	5.6
Without public assist income	878	84.0
<i>Other unrelated individuals:</i>	5,388	9.9
With Social Security income in 1999:	382	7.1
With public assist income	19	0.4
Without public assist income	363	6.7
Without Social Security Income in 1999:	5,006	92.9
With public assist income	736	13.7
Without public assist income	4,270	79.3

US Census 2000 PCT67

**Table A-13**

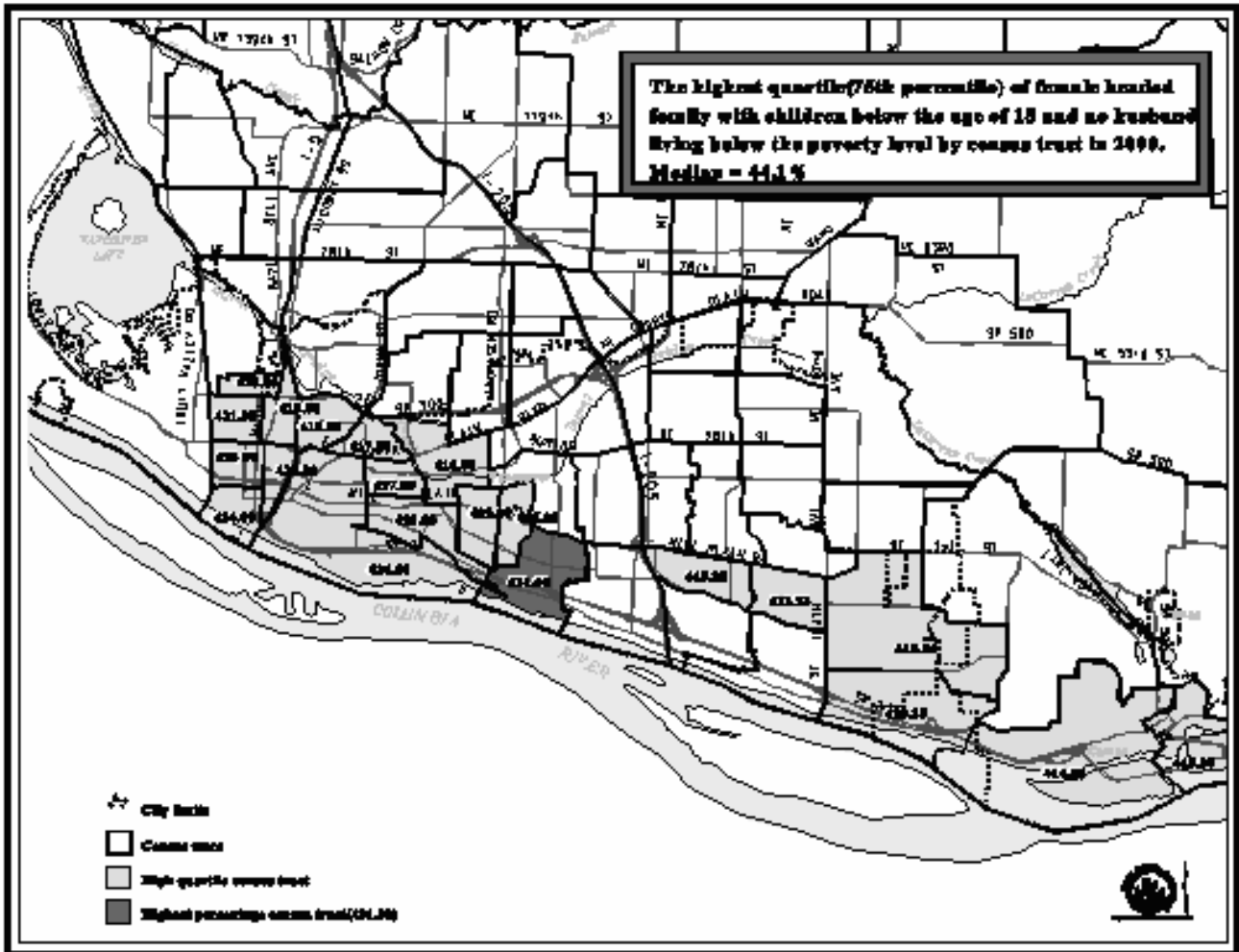
**Clark County Families Living in Poverty and Work Status, 2000**

	Families	% Total	% Category
Families with a total income in 1999 below poverty level	6,290		
FT = Full Time, YR = Year Round			
Married Couple Family:	2,625	41.7%	
<i>Householder worked FT, YR</i>	515	19.6	
Spouse worked FT, YR	35		6.8%
Spouse worked less than FT, YR	145		28.2
Spouse did not work in 1999	330		64.1
<i>Householder worked less than FT, YR</i>	1010	38.5	
Spouse worked FT, YR	75		7.4
Spouse worked FT, YR	395		39.1
Spouse worked less than FT, YR	540		53.5
<i>Householder did not work in 1999</i>	1,105	42.1	
Spouse worked FT, YR	75		6.8
Spouse worked less than full time, YR	195		17.6
Spouse did not work in 1999	835		75.6
Other Family:	3,665	58.3	
<i>Male householder (HH), no wife present:</i>	455	12.4	
HH worked less than FT, YR	65		14.3
HH worked less than FT, YR	260		57.1
HH did not work in 1999	135		29.7
<i>Female householder (HH), no husband present:</i>	3,210	87.6	
HH worked less than FT, YR	305		9.5
HH worked less than FT, YR	1,755		54.7
HH did not work in 1999	1,145		35.7

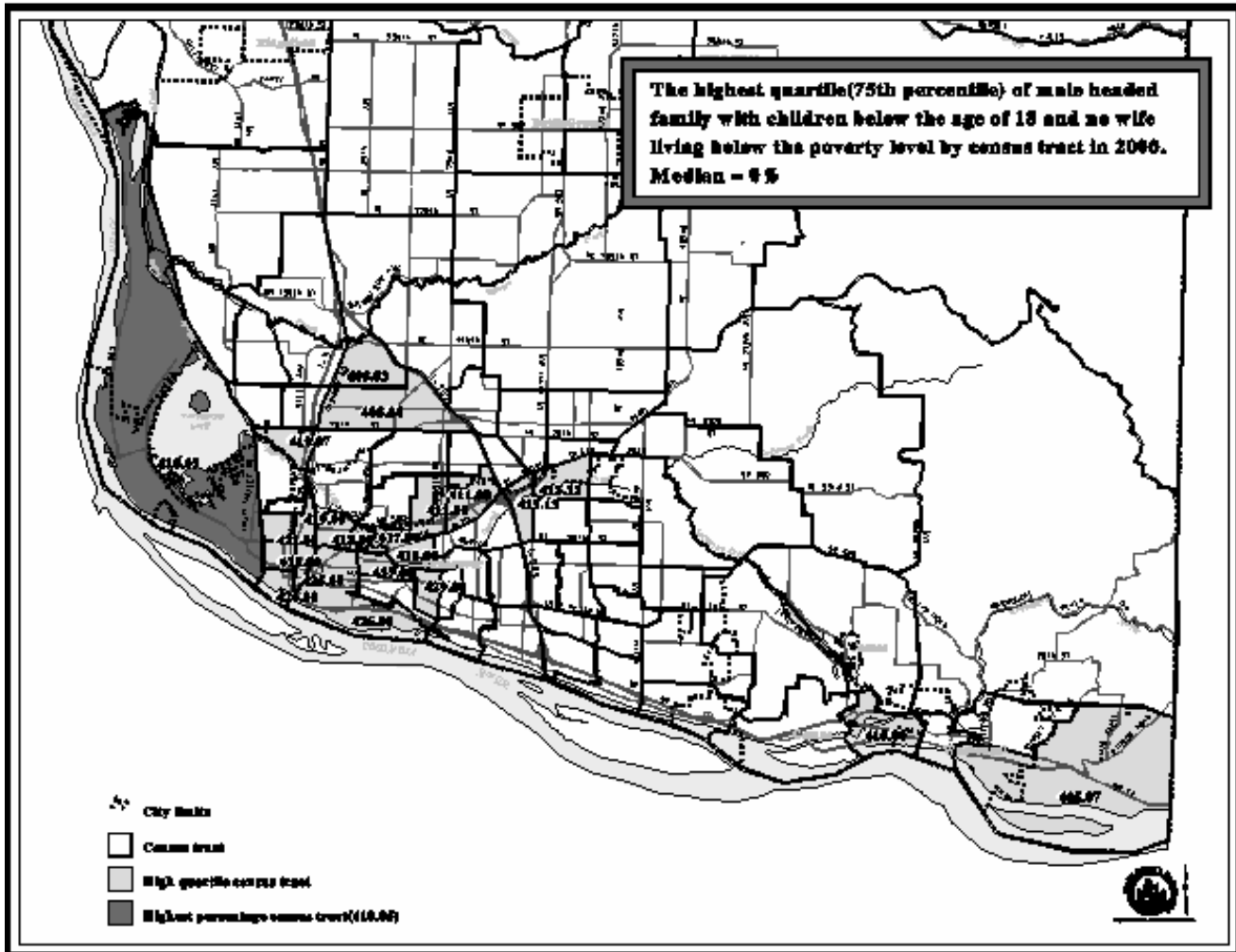
# APPENDIX B

## Map B-1

### Highest Quartile of Female Headed Families with Children below the Age of 18 Living in Poverty



**Map B-2**  
**Highest Quartile of Male Headed Families with Children below the Age of 18 Living in Poverty**



FOR ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:



Clark County ADA Office  
V (360) 397-2025;  
TTY (360) 397-2445;  
ADA @clark.wa.gov