

**POVERTY CLIMBS FOR CENTRAL CITIES & NORTHERN COUNTIES;
CHILDREN SEE THE LARGEST INCREASES**

The Twin Cities metropolitan area, excluding the central cities, has by far the lowest poverty rates in Minnesota. The northern half of the state, especially north-central Minnesota, has the highest rates of poverty.

These conclusions are drawn from new data from the 1990 Census, just released by the U.S. Census Bureau. According to these data, the poverty rate for Minnesotans was 10.2 percent in 1989, .7 percentage points higher than the 1979 rate of 9.5 percent. The poverty rate for children, however, was higher. The poverty rate for children in 1979, already higher than that of the general population at 10.2 percent, rose 2.2 percentage points over the last ten years. The new poverty rate of 12.4 percent means that more than 12 of every 100 children in Minnesota was living in poverty in 1989.

The number of people in poverty increased 16 percent during the decade, to 435,331 persons. This was much faster than the rate of growth for the state's population during that time. The growth in the number of children in poverty was even larger at 20 percent. The number of Minnesota children in poverty reached 142,202.

Two metropolitan counties had the largest increases in numbers of poor persons. Hennepin and Ramsey counties, especially the central cities, accounted for 71 percent of the total growth in the number of persons in poverty. Poverty rates in these central cities were significantly higher than the county totals. Hennepin County's poverty rate in 1989 was 9.2 percent; the city of Minneapolis registered 18.5 percent. Ramsey County's poverty rate was 11.4 percent, while St. Paul registered 16.7 percent.

Yet, poverty in Minnesota is not confined to the inner city. Mahnomon County had the highest poverty rates in Minnesota, with an overall rate of 26 percent and a poverty rate for children of 34.3 percent. It also had the highest rates in 1979, with 24 percent overall and 29.9 percent for children. (The lowest poverty rates were recorded by Scott County, with an overall rate of 4.1 percent and a children's poverty rate of 4.3 percent.)

Places with lower poverty rates were generally centered in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Counties in the remainder of the state, especially outside the five metropolitan areas (Minneapolis-St. Paul, Rochester, Moorhead, Duluth and St. Cloud), fared much worse in poverty rates. In 1989, only 12 of Minnesota's 71 non-metropolitan counties had overall poverty rates below 10 percent. There were just 10 non-metropolitan counties with children's poverty rates below 10 percent. In 1989, six counties had overall poverty rates of 20 percent or more, all of them being non-metropolitan counties. Eleven non-metropolitan counties had children's rates above 20 percent, while no counties in metropolitan areas did so.

Several southern and southwest counties actually had a decrease in their poverty numbers and percentages, suggesting that many economically disadvantaged people moved from those areas to the Twin Cities during the last decade. Migration data, to be released later, is needed to verify this conjecture.

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Poverty Thresholds in 1989 by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years
 (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

Size of Family Unit	Weighted Average Thresholds	Related children under 18 years										
		None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight or More		
One person	\$6,310											
Under 65 years	6,451	\$6,451										
65 years and over	5,947	5,947										
Two persons	8,076											
Householder under 65	8,343	8,303										
Householder 65 and over	7,501	7,495	\$8,547									
Three persons	9,885	9,699	9,981	\$9,990								
Four persons	12,674	12,790	12,999	12,575	\$12,619							
Five persons	14,990	15,424	15,648	15,169	14,798	\$14,572						
Six persons	16,921	17,740	17,811	17,444	17,092	16,569	\$16,259					
Seven persons	19,162	20,412	20,540	20,101	19,794	19,224	18,558	\$17,828				
Eight persons	21,328	22,830	23,031	22,617	22,253	21,738	21,084	20,403	\$20,230			
Nine or more persons	25,480	27,483	27,596	27,229	26,921	26,415	25,719	25,089	24,933	\$23,973		

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POVERTY BY COUNTY, 1979-1989

(Sources: 1980 Census, 1990 Census)

State/County/City	1979				1989			
	Persons in Poverty	Percent of Persons in Poverty	Children in Poverty	Percent of Children in Poverty	Persons in Poverty	Percent of Persons in Poverty	Children in Poverty	Percent of Children in Poverty
Minnesota	374,956	9.5%	117,967	10.2%	435,331	10.2%	142,202	12.4%
Aitkin	2,407	18.2%	772	21.1%	2,289	18.7%	763	26.2%
Anoka	8,917	4.6%	3,574	5.2%	12,815	5.3%	5,324	7.3%
Becker	4,606	16.0%	1,712	18.7%	4,866	17.8%	1,827	23.0%
Beltrami	5,613	19.6%	1,764	20.0%	7,770	24.0%	2,791	28.2%
Benton	2,776	11.3%	950	11.5%	3,028	10.2%	940	10.5%
Big Stone	1,164	15.5%	340	16.4%	914	15.1%	293	18.6%
Blue Earth	6,263	13.0%	1,277	10.0%	9,281	18.5%	1,793	14.8%
Brown	2,870	10.5%	912	11.2%	2,177	8.3%	630	8.5%
Carlton	2,559	8.8%	859	9.4%	3,484	12.3%	1,225	15.2%
Carver	2,166	6.0%	747	6.4%	2,288	4.9%	699	4.9%
Cass	4,029	19.8%	1,384	23.4%	4,621	21.8%	1,723	29.5%
Chippewa	1,986	13.5%	685	16.3%	1,661	12.8%	536	15.1%
Chisago	1,826	7.3%	561	6.7%	2,336	7.8%	859	9.3%
Clay	4,941	11.0%	1,040	8.3%	7,355	15.9%	1,808	14.5%
Clearwater	1,884	22.1%	637	23.3%	1,841	22.7%	717	30.0%
Cook	459	11.4%	127	12.2%	414	10.9%	135	15.1%
Cottonwood	1,971	13.6%	633	15.0%	1,701	13.7%	581	17.9%
Crow Wing	6,308	15.5%	2,248	18.8%	6,518	15.0%	2,141	18.4%
Dakota	8,280	4.3%	2,869	4.4%	11,730	4.3%	4,364	5.4%
Dodge	1,516	10.4%	476	10.0%	1,178	7.6%	358	7.4%
Douglas	4,252	15.6%	1,213	15.3%	3,753	13.4%	1,018	13.2%
Faribault	2,306	11.9%	760	14.1%	1,993	12.0%	682	15.2%
Fillmore	3,527	16.5%	1,188	18.9%	3,004	14.8%	1,121	19.6%
Freeborn	3,243	9.1%	1,052	10.4%	3,320	10.3%	1,044	12.4%
Goodhue	3,038	8.1%	932	8.3%	3,216	8.1%	912	8.1%
Grant	1,019	14.6%	312	16.2%	915	15.1%	257	16.0%
Hennepin	68,573	7.5%	19,481	8.5%	93,388	9.2%	30,918	13.2%
Houston	2,026	11.2%	706	12.6%	1,604	8.8%	515	9.8%
Hubbard	2,639	19.0%	937	22.7%	2,539	17.2%	859	21.4%
Isanti	1,779	7.8%	604	7.7%	2,190	8.7%	795	10.1%
Itasca	4,500	10.6%	1,571	11.9%	6,362	15.8%	2,392	21.1%
Jackson	2,193	16.3%	695	18.4%	1,342	11.7%	465	15.0%
Kanabec	1,772	14.8%	685	17.9%	1,960	15.4%	727	19.0%
Kandiyohi	3,929	11.1%	1,059	10.3%	5,164	13.7%	1,638	15.1%
Kittson	843	12.9%	236	12.9%	677	12.1%	200	13.3%
Koochiching	2,114	12.2%	700	13.1%	2,067	12.9%	675	16.6%
Lac Qui Parle	1,652	16.0%	534	18.6%	1,129	13.0%	331	14.1%
Lake	562	4.4%	163	4.2%	970	9.5%	302	12.3%
Lake of the Woods	628	17.0%	222	20.5%	427	10.6%	124	11.0%
Le Sueur	2,123	9.2%	725	9.7%	2,027	8.8%	582	8.6%
Lincoln	1,771	22.1%	692	28.9%	1,052	15.8%	322	18.3%
Lyon	2,883	12.1%	932	12.9%	2,737	11.8%	750	11.2%
McLeod	2,568	8.8%	753	8.4%	2,375	7.5%	664	7.2%
Mahnomen	1,310	24.0%	577	29.9%	1,286	26.0%	527	34.3%
Marshall	2,087	16.2%	765	18.3%	1,494	13.8%	477	15.1%
Martin	2,328	9.6%	650	9.7%	2,660	11.9%	871	14.4%
Meeker	2,746	13.6%	916	14.6%	2,199	10.8%	744	12.3%
Mille Lacs	2,270	12.6%	649	11.5%	2,540	13.9%	876	16.5%
Morrison	5,924	20.5%	2,314	23.2%	4,667	16.0%	1,672	18.2%

POVERTY BY COUNTY, 1979-1989

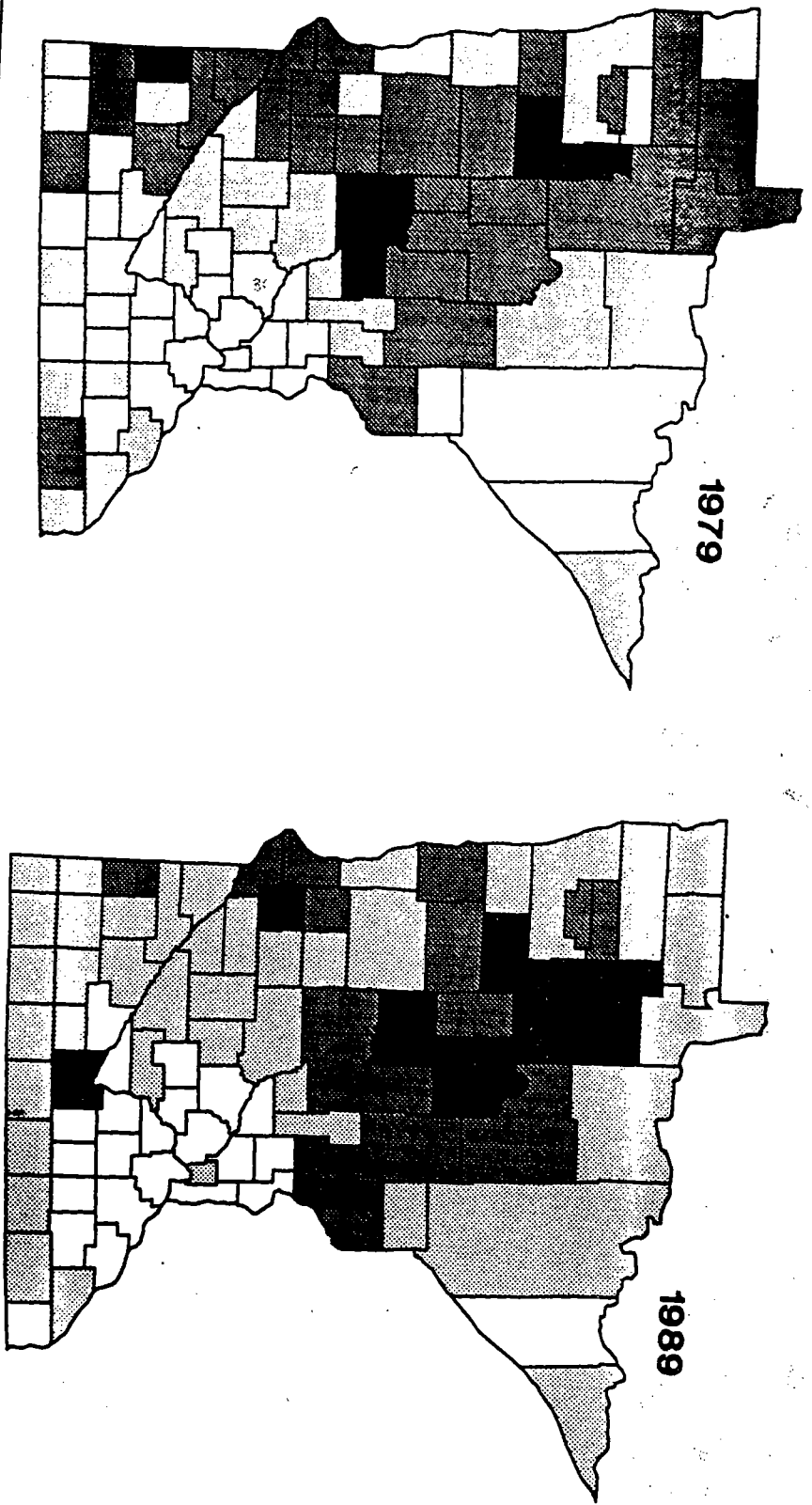
(Sources: 1980 Census, 1990 Census)

State/County/City	1979				1989			
	Persons in Poverty	Percent of Persons in Poverty	Children in Poverty	Percent of Children in Poverty	Persons in Poverty	Percent of Persons in Poverty	Children in Poverty	Percent of Children in Poverty
Mower	3,968	10.0%	1,328	12.1%	3,671	10.0%	1,197	12.8%
Murray	2,007	17.7%	766	21.8%	1,353	14.2%	415	15.9%
Nicollet	2,384	9.8%	785	10.3%	2,257	8.9%	645	8.9%
Nobles	2,724	12.7%	945	15.1%	2,291	11.7%	683	13.0%
Norman	1,458	16.0%	502	18.8%	1,120	14.5%	351	16.3%
Olmsted	5,932	6.6%	1,360	5.0%	7,155	6.9%	2,136	7.3%
Otter Tail	7,786	15.5%	2,514	17.7%	6,997	14.2%	2,169	16.4%
Pennington	1,665	11.2%	515	11.7%	2,114	16.3%	678	18.9%
Pine	2,925	15.3%	993	16.6%	2,983	15.0%	910	15.8%
Pipestone	2,254	19.7%	790	23.8%	1,506	14.8%	480	16.8%
Polk	4,516	13.3%	1,341	13.1%	4,498	14.4%	1,467	16.3%
Pope	2,033	17.8%	664	20.3%	1,451	13.8%	516	17.5%
Ramsey	35,876	8.1%	11,816	10.0%	53,897	11.4%	20,329	17.2%
Red Lake	1,058	19.6%	388	21.4%	675	15.1%	213	15.8%
Redwood	2,903	15.4%	1,029	18.1%	2,167	12.8%	704	14.6%
Renville	2,518	12.6%	875	14.6%	2,233	12.9%	857	17.5%
Rice	4,089	9.9%	1,075	8.3%	3,791	8.7%	981	7.8%
Rock	1,509	14.3%	609	18.8%	1,172	12.1%	427	15.3%
Roseau	1,891	15.3%	672	17.3%	1,667	11.3%	544	11.8%
St. Louis	19,988	9.2%	5,227	8.8%	27,201	14.2%	7,417	15.7%
Scott	2,345	5.4%	768	5.0%	2,350	4.1%	770	4.3%
Sherburne	2,518	8.8%	822	8.0%	3,213	7.9%	906	7.0%
Sibley	1,905	12.5%	653	14.2%	1,476	10.4%	520	12.8%
Stearns	12,435	12.4%	3,803	11.5%	13,824	12.3%	3,250	9.9
Steele	2,334	7.9%	696	7.7%	2,023	6.7%	669	7.7%
Stevens	2,024	19.2%	551	18.4%	2,016	20.6%	377	15.2%
Swift	2,206	17.3%	717	18.5%	1,477	14.1%	430	15.5%
Todd	5,180	20.9%	1,893	23.4%	4,379	19.0%	1,449	20.5%
Traverse	923	17.0%	336	21.4%	654	15.1%	237	20.2%
Wabasha	2,115	11.1%	664	11.3%	1,635	8.4%	525	9.3%
Wadena	2,535	18.4%	864	19.3%	2,783	21.5%	840	23.0%
Waseca	1,660	9.2%	449	8.3%	1,648	9.4%	582	11.3%
Washington	4,749	4.3%	1,886	4.8%	6,212	4.4%	2,394	5.5%
Watsonwan	1,400	11.5%	424	12.6%	1,387	12.1%	516	16.0%
Wilkin	888	10.7%	310	12.2%	805	11.0%	255	12.4%
Winona	4,790	11.2%	1,142	9.5%	5,621	12.8%	1,218	10.5%
Wright	4,018	6.9%	1,463	7.1%	4,615	6.8%	1,690	7.7%
Yellow Medicine	2,301	17.2%	742	20.0%	1,692	14.8%	488	15.6%
Minneapolis	48,029	13.5%	12,883	18.0%	65,556	18.5%	22,190	30.2%
St. Paul	28,294	10.9%	9,263	14.4%	44,115	16.7%	17,289	26.5%

- Notes: 1. Poverty status is determined for all persons except inmates of institutions, members of the Armed Forces living in barracks, college students living in dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old.
2. Children = "related children," i.e., children and all other persons under 18 years of age in the household who are related to the householder, except the spouse of the householder.
3. The average poverty threshold for a family of four in 1979 was \$7,412. In 1989, the average poverty threshold for a family of four was \$12,674.

MINNESOTANS IN POVERTY

(Sources: 1980 Census, 1990 Census)



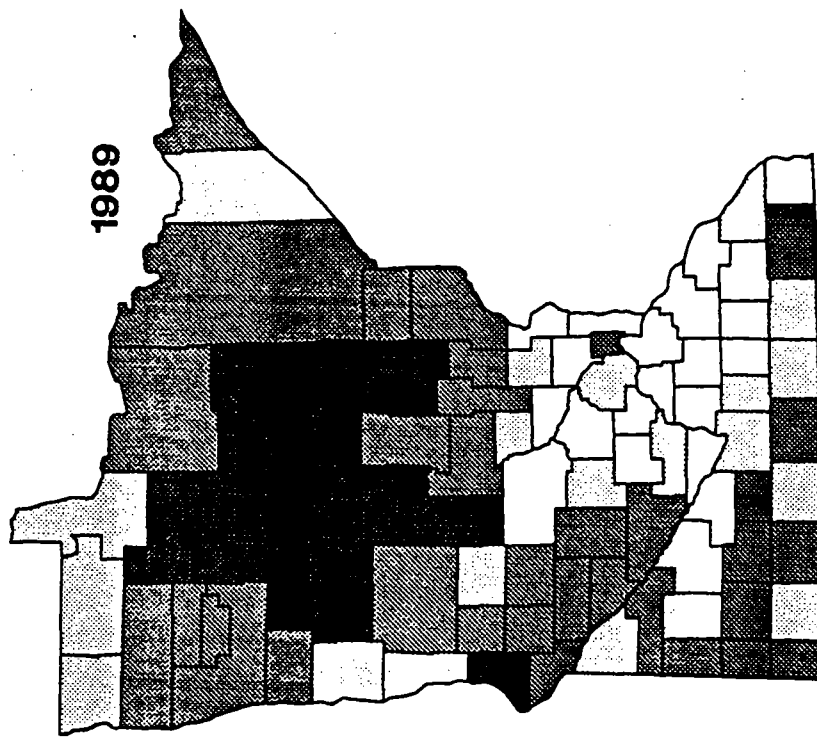
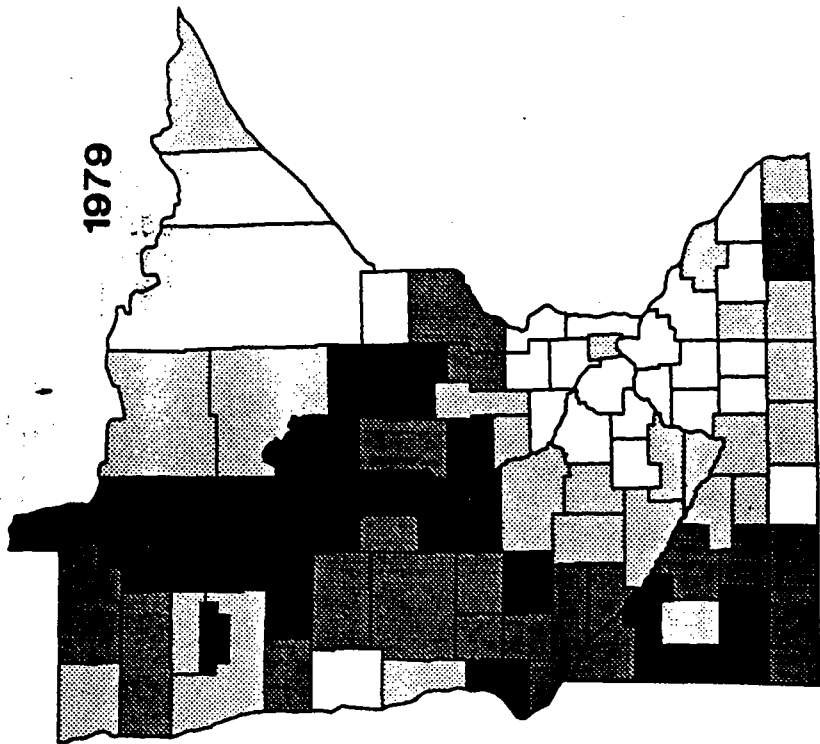
Percent in Poverty

- Less than 10%
- 10% to 14.9%
- 15% to 19.9%
- 20% and Over

Minnesota Planning Graphic

MINNESOTA CHILDREN IN POVERTY

(Sources: 1980 Census, 1990 Census)



Percent in Poverty



Less than 10%



10% to 14.9%



15% to 19.9%



20% and Over

Minnesota Planning Graphic