

MINN PLANNING NEWS RELEASEContact: R. Thomas Gillaspy
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POVERTY INCREASED AMONG SINGLE MOMS IN THE 1980s

The number of female-headed families with children living below the poverty line in Minnesota increased by nearly 45,000 during the 1980s. This more than accounted for the increase in family poverty in Minnesota in the 1980s.

"Poverty is increasingly an experience of single mothers and their children," said Linda Kohl, Director of Minnesota Planning.

According to the census, all other types of families either experienced a decline in the number below poverty or remained essentially unchanged over the decade. The overall poverty rate for all families increased from 7.0 to 7.3 percent, or 10,000 families, due entirely to the increase in poor single female-headed families.

Two factors contributed to the increase in the number of poor single mothers with children. First, the number families with children headed by a single woman rose rapidly, expanding by 34.4 percent over the decade, much more than the growth for all families. Second, the poverty rate for single mothers with children increased sharply, from 31.8 percent to 40.0 percent. In 1990, single mothers with children were 8 percent of all families but 44.2 percent of all poor families. In 1980, they represented only 29.6 percent of all families below poverty.

The poverty rates for families other than those headed by a single female declined. For married-couple and single male-headed families with children, the poverty rate fell from 5.9 percent in 1980 to 5.4 percent in 1990 and for those without children, from 4.5 percent to 3.2 percent. For female-headed families without children, the poverty rate increased from 5.9 percent to 6.8 percent.

National poverty rates are higher than those of Minnesota in each type of family. In addition, a higher proportion of families nationally are single mothers, who tend to have a higher poverty rate. As a result, the national poverty rate for all families is 10.0 percent, higher than the Minnesota rate of 7.3 percent.

Within Minnesota, Dakota County has the lowest poverty rate for single mothers with children at 22.9 percent. Dakota County also has very low poverty rates for other types of families. The highest rate is found in Mahnommen County at 70.6 percent. Mahnommen County also has very high poverty rates for other types of families. In general, the highest poverty rates for single mothers with children are found in north central Minnesota and along the western border of the state. The lowest rates are found in the metropolitan areas of the Twin Cities, St. Cloud and Rochester and surrounding counties.

Though the metropolitan areas generally have the lowest poverty rates for single mothers with children, single mother families are a larger proportion of all poor families in metropolitan areas. In non-metropolitan areas where poverty rates have been historically high, poverty rates are generally higher for all family types. In metropolitan areas such as the Twin Cities, where poverty rates are lower for families and where a larger proportion of all families are single mothers with children, this type of family has become the predominant type for poor families.

Poverty Rate By Family Type In 1989

County	Female Head Families with Children	Female Head Families without Children	Other Families with Children	Other Families without Children	Poverty Rate for All Families
Aitkin	67.4%	19.5%	15.6%	8.0%	14.1%
Anoka	32.0%	0.9%	2.4%	0.7%	4.1%
Becker	60.8%	12.3%	12.7%	7.3%	14.2%
Beltrami	63.5%	22.4%	15.3%	7.5%	17.8%
Benton	43.4%	1.9%	5.2%	5.1%	8.0%
Big Stone	50.7%	21.1%	12.7%	7.7%	11.7%
Blue Earth	49.0%	12.2%	7.4%	4.7%	9.4%
Brown	31.3%	6.8%	5.0%	4.7%	6.1%
Carlton	38.5%	5.6%	8.7%	4.7%	9.4%
Carver	28.5%	2.3%	2.3%	2.4%	3.8%
Cass	58.5%	8.1%	18.9%	9.0%	16.1%
Chippewa	55.4%	0.0%	7.7%	8.0%	10.5%
Chisago	32.4%	5.7%	5.2%	2.5%	5.9%
Clay	54.7%	14.8%	6.4%	3.0%	9.2%
Clearwater	66.0%	24.1%	16.8%	9.6%	17.1%
Cook	36.7%	7.1%	6.7%	2.2%	7.2%
Cottonwood	50.0%	6.3%	11.3%	6.6%	10.5%
Crow Wing	51.4%	15.4%	9.5%	5.2%	11.1%
Dakota	22.9%	2.1%	2.1%	1.0%	3.3%
Dodge	41.9%	21.2%	3.7%	4.0%	6.1%
Douglas	43.0%	20.0%	8.4%	6.3%	9.7%
Faribault	55.4%	3.7%	8.2%	4.8%	9.1%
Fillmore	42.1%	7.0%	11.1%	8.1%	11.0%
Freeborn	55.3%	13.9%	5.5%	3.1%	7.4%
Goodhue	41.1%	3.7%	4.0%	4.0%	6.2%
Grant	56.8%	12.8%	11.1%	8.9%	11.9%
Hennepin	39.5%	5.2%	3.6%	1.5%	6.4%
Houston	42.8%	8.6%	4.2%	3.0%	6.0%
Hubbard	45.4%	12.4%	15.5%	7.3%	12.7%
Isanti	36.6%	1.3%	4.7%	4.8%	6.9%
Itasca	57.0%	15.3%	11.5%	5.3%	12.1%
Jackson	46.6%	6.8%	8.9%	4.9%	8.7%
Kanabec	54.5%	11.1%	11.4%	7.1%	12.5%
Kandiyohi	46.9%	11.2%	8.6%	4.8%	9.3%
Kittson	42.2%	10.0%	7.3%	5.6%	8.3%
Koochiching	45.2%	19.8%	7.0%	3.6%	8.7%
Lac Qui Parle	35.8%	8.6%	11.0%	7.8%	9.9%
Lake	53.3%	0.0%	5.6%	3.7%	7.0%
Lake of the Woods	60.7%	17.0%	4.2%	5.9%	8.5%
Le Sueur	38.3%	4.3%	4.7%	5.0%	6.6%
Lincoln	61.5%	17.4%	13.0%	8.7%	12.1%
Lyon	49.3%	4.3%	5.2%	5.8%	8.6%
McLeod	24.0%	4.9%	4.4%	3.4%	5.1%
Mahnomen	70.6%	19.1%	23.9%	9.0%	20.6%
Marshall	51.1%	9.6%	9.4%	7.1%	10.2%

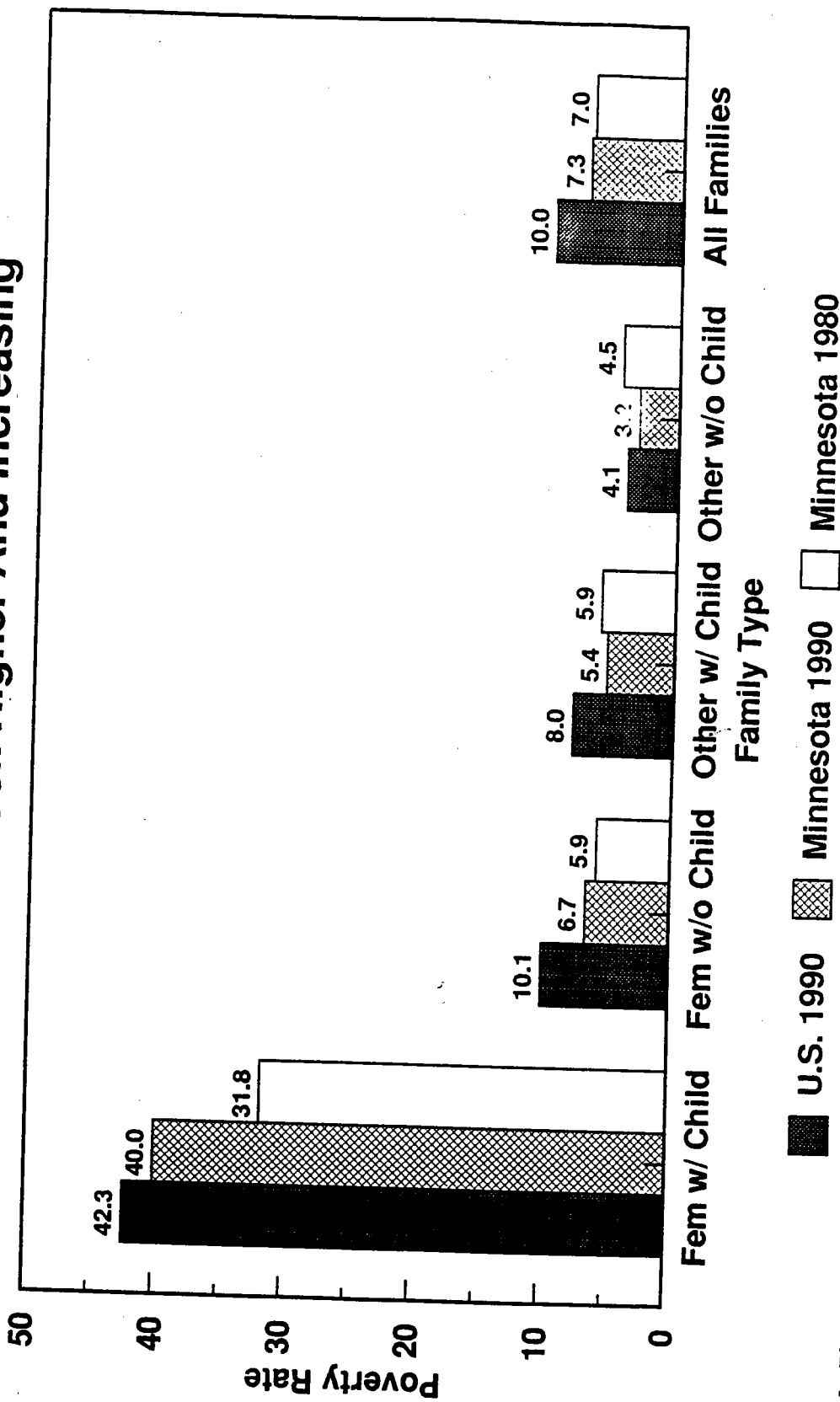
Poverty Rate By Family Type In 1989

County	Female Head Families with Children	Female Head Families without Children	Other Families with Children	Other Families without Children	Poverty Rate for All Families
Martin	47.6%	15.6%			
Meeker	46.0%	3.2%	8.7%	4.4%	9.1%
Mille Lacs	42.4%	12.9%	6.7%	5.9%	8.2%
Morrison	53.0%	13.6%	9.2%	6.5%	10.8%
Mower	44.6%	11.2%	11.7%	9.0%	13.1%
			5.8%	3.4%	7.3%
Murray	51.7%	11.4%			
Nicollet	43.1%	2.0%	11.9%	8.1%	11.1%
Nobles	41.9%	7.7%	3.9%	1.9%	5.1%
Norman	47.1%	7.0%	8.3%	6.2%	8.8%
Olmsted	26.6%	7.6%	10.9%	7.2%	10.7%
			3.4%	1.8%	4.5%
Otter Tail	54.3%	9.2%			
Pennington	69.4%	18.2%	9.6%	7.4%	10.9%
Pine	47.7%	29.2%	8.1%	8.1%	12.9%
Pipestone	61.5%	2.5%	9.8%	7.4%	11.5%
Polk	56.6%	12.9%	10.3%	7.2%	10.7%
			9.0%	5.0%	10.8%
Pope	53.6%	1.9%			
Ramsey	40.4%	5.3%	10.6%	6.1%	10.1%
Red Lake	58.6%	9.5%	6.1%	1.7%	8.1%
Redwood	42.9%	9.3%	9.1%	7.8%	10.9%
Renville	48.2%	9.4%	8.7%	6.0%	9.0%
			11.0%	5.0%	9.4%
Rice	25.4%	10.6%			
Rock	57.3%	6.5%	4.6%	3.5%	5.8%
Roseau	36.4%	12.4%	9.6%	4.7%	9.1%
St. Louis	49.0%	11.2%	7.3%	6.4%	8.8%
Scott	26.5%	6.1%	7.8%	3.6%	9.7%
			1.6%	2.1%	3.3%
Sherburne	37.6%	5.3%			
Sibley	44.2%	6.4%	3.1%	3.3%	5.1%
Stearns	39.2%	5.2%	8.4%	4.8%	7.9%
Steele	36.2%	4.3%	4.9%	4.8%	7.3%
Stevens	49.2%	12.5%	3.2%	2.9%	4.8%
			9.5%	7.3%	10.4%
Swift	44.7%	15.4%			
Todd	56.3%	18.3%	9.4%	6.3%	9.4%
Traverse	60.8%	0.0%	13.6%	11.9%	15.0%
Wabasha	36.7%	7.1%	13.0%	5.5%	10.7%
Wadena	61.6%	20.3%	5.1%	3.1%	5.8%
			14.2%	14.2%	17.9%
Waseca	45.3%	13.3%			
Washington	28.7%	5.6%	5.0%	3.4%	7.0%
Watonwan	44.8%	0.0%	2.1%	1.3%	3.6%
Wilkin	48.5%	0.0%	8.5%	4.7%	8.2%
Winona	39.6%	4.1%	8.6%	5.7%	9.0%
			5.3%	3.6%	6.7%
Wright	31.7%	5.8%			
Yellow Medicine	48.9%	19.0%	3.7%	3.1%	5.3%
Minneapolis City	52.5%	7.3%	12.2%	6.8%	10.6%
St. Paul City	46.8%	7.2%	9.5%	3.3%	14.1%
Minnesota	40.0%	6.7%	10.3%	2.4%	12.4%
			5.4%	3.2%	7.3%

Minnesota Planning

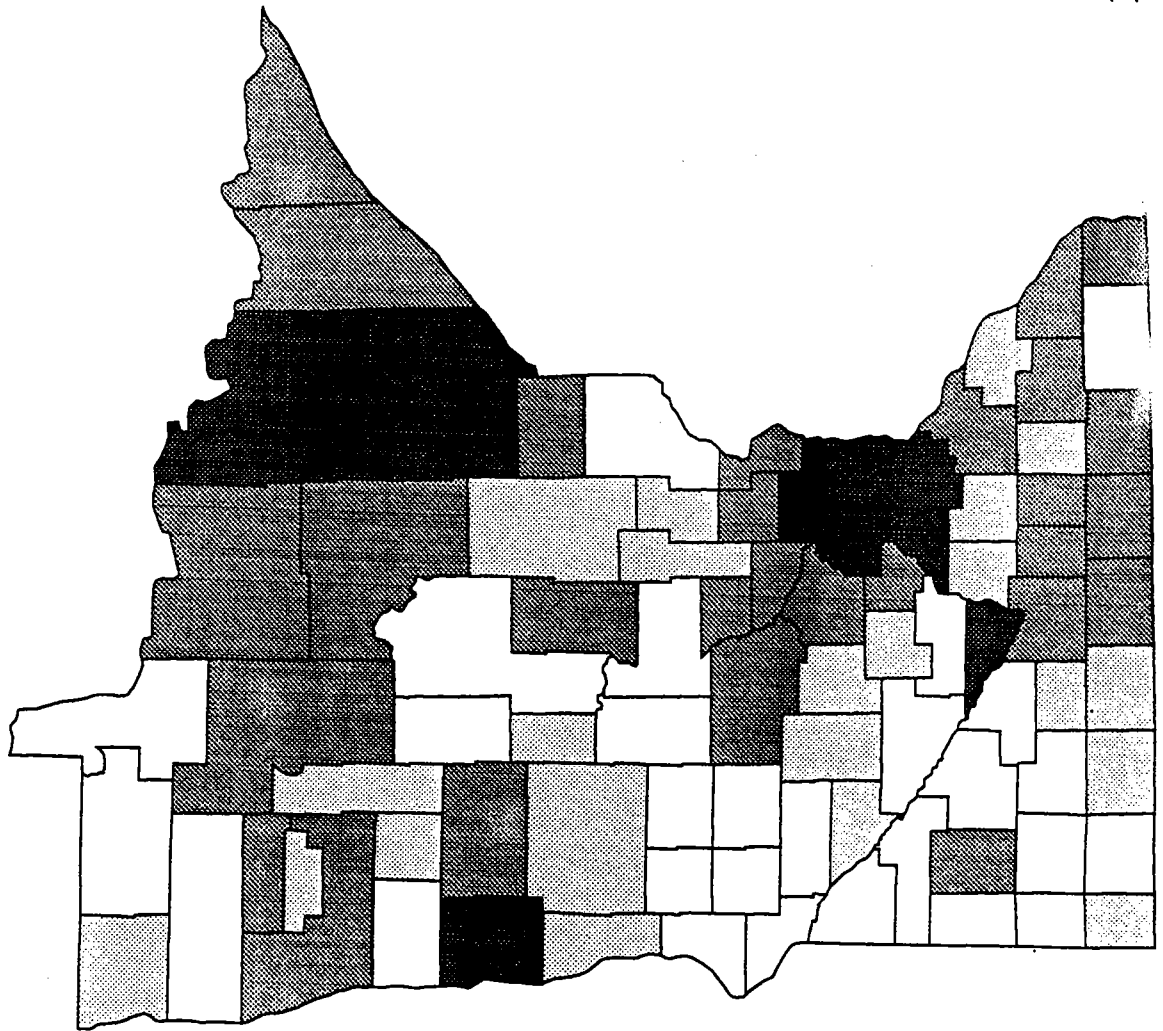
Data Source: 1990 Census

Poverty Rates For Female-headed Families With Children Are Much Higher And Increasing



Mn Planning Graphic
Source: 1990 Census

**PERCENT OF POOR FAMILIES WHICH ARE FEMALE-HEADED
WITH CHILDREN IN 1989**



PERCENT OF POOR FAMILIES

- UNDER 25 PERCENT
- 25 TO 35 PERCENT
- 35 TO 45 PERCENT
- MORE THAN 45 PERCENT

Mn Planning Office Graphic

Source: 1990 Census