

GIS and Epidemiology: Percentage of Families Below Poverty Level by Census Tract

The United States measures poverty level based on how a family's income compares to a set federal threshold. Across the lifespan, residents of impoverished communities are at *increased risk for chronic disease, mental health issues, and have a lower life expectancy*. In the U.S., the poverty rate increased to 11% in 2020 after five consecutive years of decline. The poverty rate in 2021 was similar to the 2020 rate (health.gov)

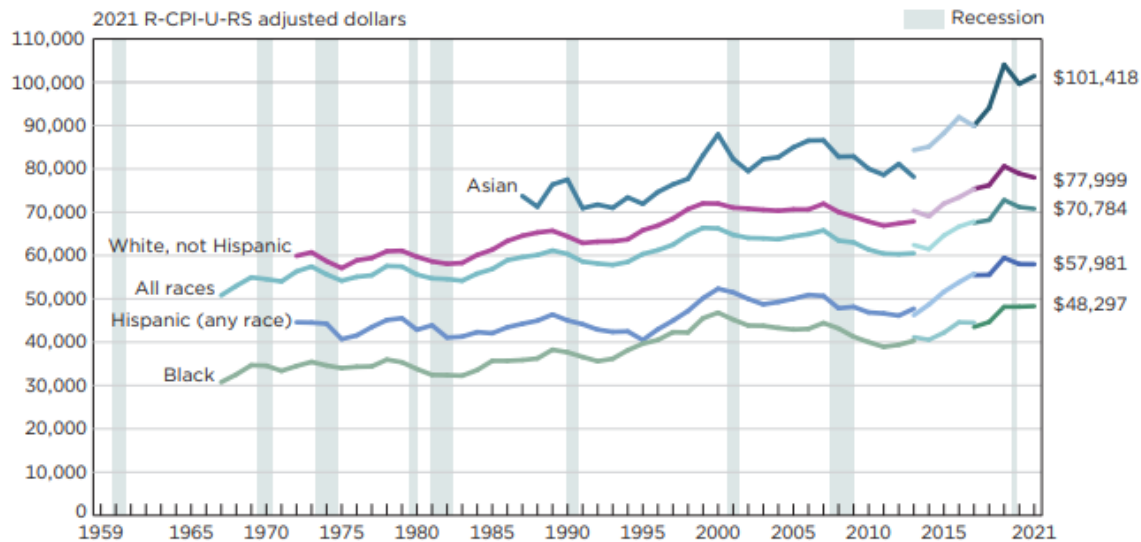
Some groups have a higher risk of living in poverty, such as:

- people living in rural areas
- people with disabilities
- some racial & ethnic groups

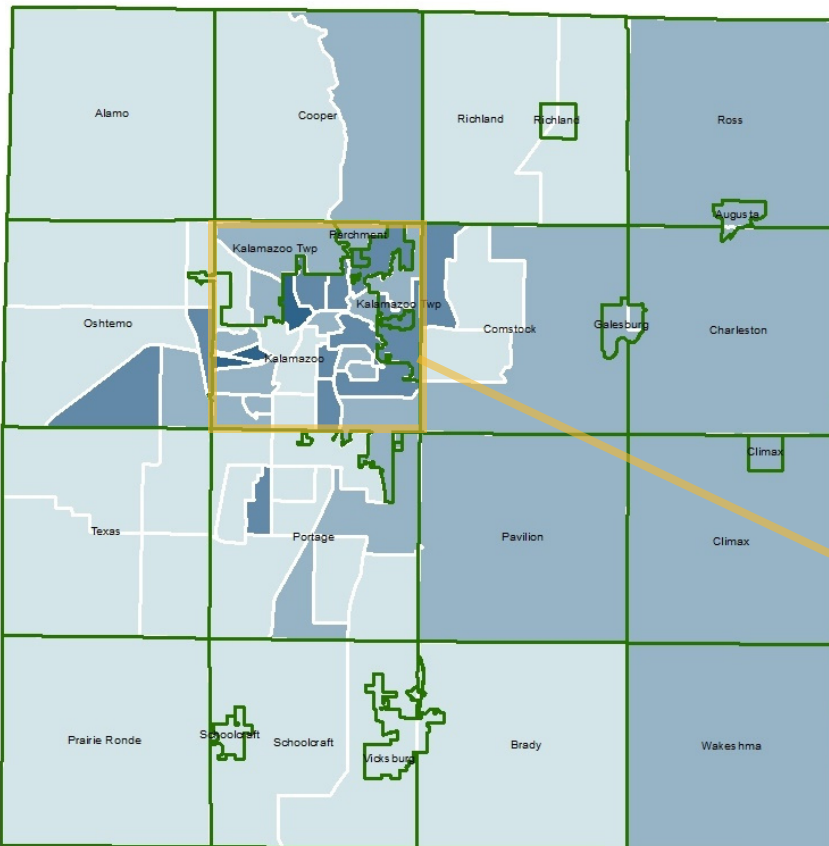
Children who experience poverty during childhood are more likely to experience poverty into adulthood (health.gov).

The figure to the right from census.gov shows the U.S median household income by race & ethnicity from 1967-2021.

Real Median Household Income by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1967 to 2021
(Households as of March of the following year)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1968 to 2021 Annual Social & Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

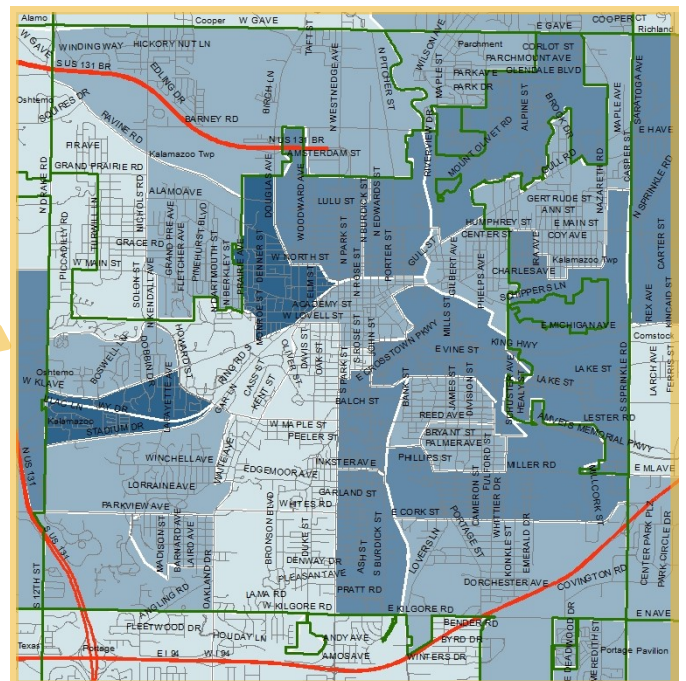


Estimated Percent of the Number of Families Below Poverty by Census Tract Kalamazoo County, Michigan

0% - 5.9% (31) 6% - 15.6% (22) 15.7% - 28.1% (12) 28.2% - 45.9% (3)

Data Source: United States Census Bureau (2021 Estimates) - Created By: Jeff Reicherts, MA (2023-01-23)

The map on the left shows the percentage of families in each Kalamazoo County census tract who are considered to have a total family income *below* the federal poverty level standard. The estimated percentage of families in poverty by census tracts ranges from less than six percent to 46%.



Look for additional GIS/Epidemiology reports describing county demographics in future issues!