

RURAL POVERTY PERSISTS

Images of poverty are typically portrayed with an urban backdrop of run-down public housing units, neglected inner-city schools and dilapidated concrete playgrounds.

Poverty rates for rural Americans, however, are consistently higher than those in urban areas: 16 percent compared to 13 percent in 2008. Of the 48 million people who lived in rural areas in 2008, 7.7 million lived in poverty.

Rural communities struggle not only with isolation and remoteness, but a significantly older and declining population, with less-educated and poorer citizens than

in urban areas.

Poverty rates for children in rural areas continue to be higher than rates for urban children, and the gap has been growing over the past 20 years, according to a new report from the Carsey Institute. One in five poor children lives in a rural area. These children are also more likely to be exposed to substance abuse and lack of health care.

In addition, rural workers are twice as likely to make only minimum wage and more likely to be working, yet still poor. Rural poverty also tends to be more persistent and longer term than that found in cities.

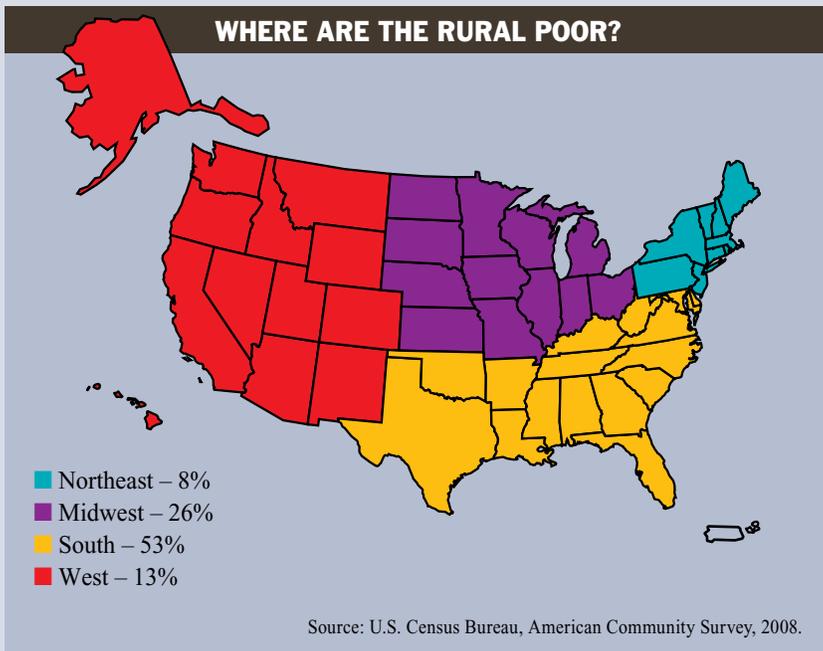


DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ In 2008, 21 percent of children under 18 in rural areas were poor compared to only 17 percent in urban areas.
- ◆ More than half of these poor children are white.
- ◆ Young adults who live in rural areas are twice as likely not to be in school or working as their suburban counterparts.
- ◆ Less than half the homes in rural areas have high-speed Internet.
- ◆ Adults in rural America are more likely to be under-employed.

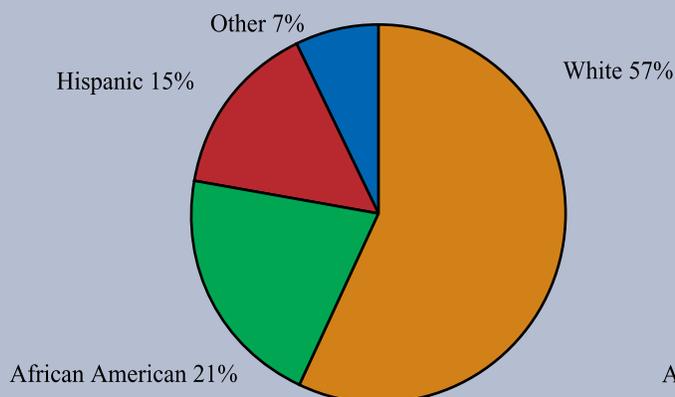
Sources: Pew Internet and American Life Project, 2009; Carsey Institute 2009; Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture 2009, U.S. Census Estimates, 2009.

WHERE ARE THE RURAL POOR?



CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY

RURAL CHILDREN



URBAN CHILDREN

