Measuring Poverty after Katrina

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American Enterprise Institute
August 28, 2006
Figure 3.
Number in Poverty and Poverty Rate: 1959 to 2004

Numbers in millions, rates in percent

Recession

Number in poverty
37.0 million

Poverty rate
12.7 percent

Note: The data points are placed at the midpoints of the respective years.
Figure 4.

Poverty Rates by Age: 1959 to 2004

Note: The data points are placed at the midpoints of the respective years. Data for people 18 to 64 and 65 and older are not available from 1960 to 1965.

Family Structure and Income
Households with children under age 18 (2003)

Female-headed families
- Black: $20,670
- Hispanic: $22,556
- White: $31,076
- All: $31,076

All households
- Black: $32,428
- Hispanic: $34,324
- White: $63,162
- All: $63,162

Married-couple families
- Black: $25,953
- Hispanic: $52,896
- White: $55,533
- All: $73,622

D. Besharov, AEI (August 28, 2006)
Poverty Rates by Type of Family
(1959–2004)

Percent below poverty

Female-headed families

Married-couple families

D. Besharov, AEI (August 28, 2006)
Poverty Rates by Race/Ethnicity
(1959–2004)

Percent below poverty

- Black*
- Hispanic
- White**

*Figures for blacks between 1960 and 1965 are interpolated. **Including white Hispanics between 1959 and 1972.

D. Besharov, AEI (August 28, 2006)
Poverty vs. Unemployment
(1959–2004)

Percent below poverty

Percent unemployed

Poverty rate

Unemployment rate

D. Besharov, AEI (August 28, 2006)
Series Id: LNS14000000
Seasonal Adjusted
Series title: (Seas) Unemployment Rate
Labor force status: Unemployment rate
Type of data: Percent
Age: 16 years and over

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## Concentrated Poverty

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<th>Percent of U.S. population</th>
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<td>Census tracts with a poverty rate 20 percent or higher</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
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<td><strong>Extreme poverty areas</strong></td>
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<td>Census tracts with a poverty rate 40 percent or higher</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
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**Note:** A Census tract is a small statistical subdivision of a county that does not cross county boundaries. The population size of tracts varies between about 2,500 and 8,000 residents.

D. Besharov, AEI (August 28, 2006)