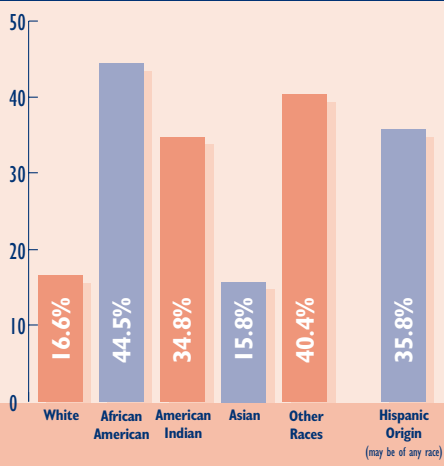


Child Poverty
Rates by Race and National Origin
Oklahoma • 1990



During the most recent year on record (1993), nearly two hundred thousand (195,915) Oklahoma children lived in poverty.

One out of every four Oklahoma children lives in poverty. Oklahoma's youngest are Oklahoma's poorest with more than sixty-one thousand

(61,060) infants, toddlers and preschoolers living in poverty.

During the most recent year on record (1993), Oklahoma children were poorer (23.7%) than the general population (18.4%).

During the past three years, the proportion of Oklahoma children living in poverty worsened from 21.7% (1990) to 23.7% (1993), with comparable rates also worsening in the majority (48 of 77) of Oklahoma's counties.

Talking Points:

Being poor means living on an income which renders a family unable to purchase enough food for an adequate diet.

Poor children are more likely than non-poor children to eat an inadequate diet, to stay cold in the winter, to receive little health care, to drop out of school and to die during their childhood.

One out of every three adolescents who live in poverty has no health insurance.

Among countries with data available, the United States is the only wealthy industrialized country to have double-digit child poverty rates.

Oklahoma child poverty has skyrocketed (from 15.7% to 23.7%) since 1980. Every day since 1980, another dozen (average 13.5) children joined those who were already poor.

The worst child poverty rate (52.8%) is found in Harmon County; the best (10.4%) is in Beaver County.

In Fiscal Year 1996, more than seventy-eight thousand (78,021) Oklahoma children, nine percent (9.0%) of the child population, had to depend on Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), now Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), for basic needs.

African American children, American Indian children and children of Hispanic origin are more than twice as likely to be poor than White children.



COUNTIES WITH THE TEN HIGHEST CHILD POVERTY RATES 1993

More than one third (67,675 or 34.5%) of the children living in poverty are from two counties: Oklahoma (39,215 or 20%) and Tulsa (28,460 or 14.5%).

1. Harmon 52.8%
2. Choctaw 42.8%
3. McCurtain 39.0%
4. Pushmataha 37.9%
5. Okfuskee 35.2%
6. Latimer 34.9%
7. Johnston 34.7%
8. McIntosh 34.5%
9. Seminole 34.5%
10. Hughes 34.3%

