

# Poverty in America

A closer look at the United States' have-nots



## What qualifies as poverty?

The Census Bureau compares a family's total income against one of 48 poverty thresholds, which vary according to the size of the family and the ages of its members. If the family's income is less than the threshold, the family and each of its members are considered to be in poverty.

## Some 2010 poverty thresholds

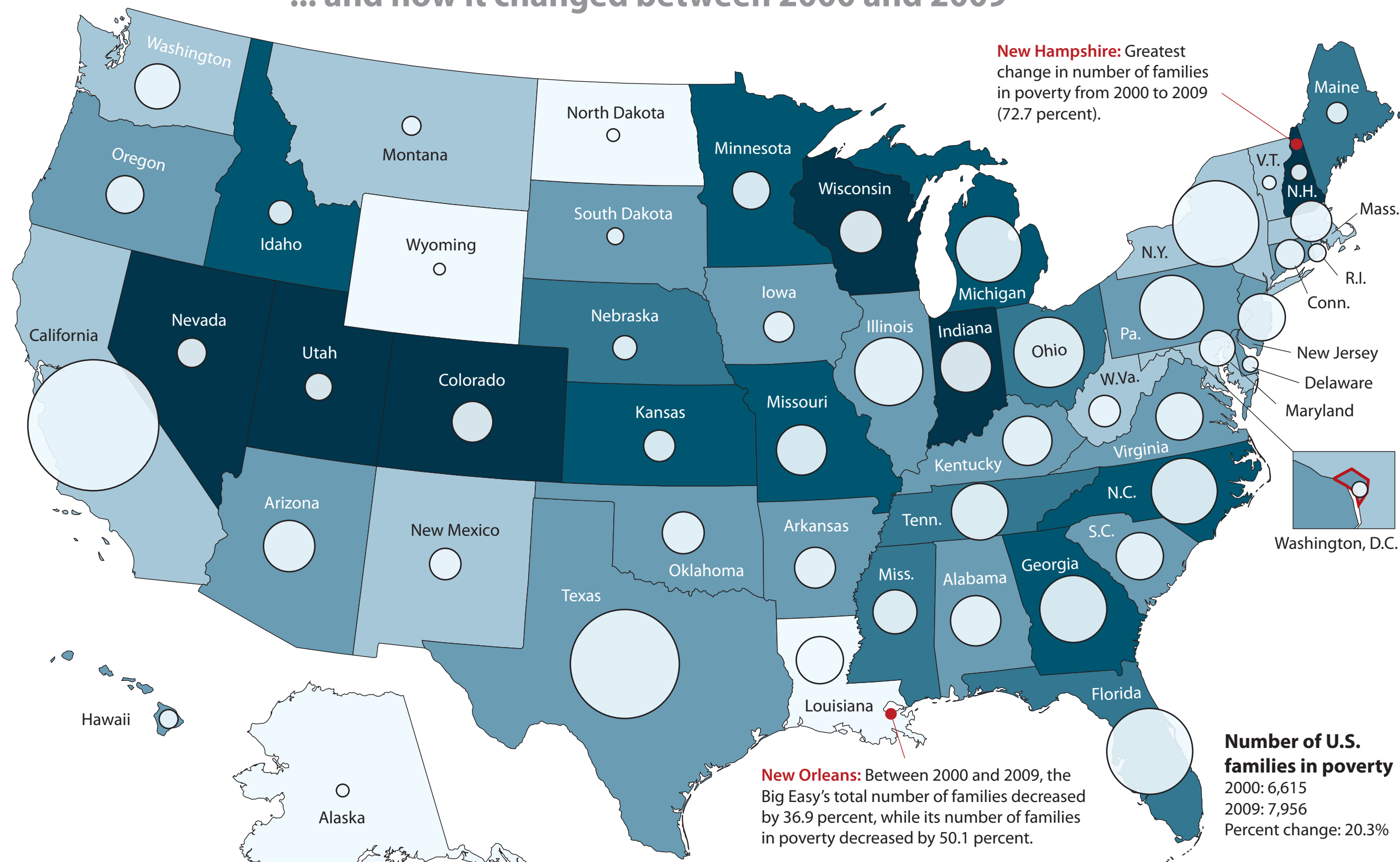
<b>\$11,344</b> One person under 65 years old no children under 18	<b>\$15,030</b> Two people under 65 years old 1 child under 18	<b>\$17,568</b> Three people under 65 years old 2 children under 18
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More at <http://bit.ly/2010thresholds>

More poverty data at <http://bit.ly/uspovertydata>  
Graphics by **Meg Crawford and John Zhu**  
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Wikipedia

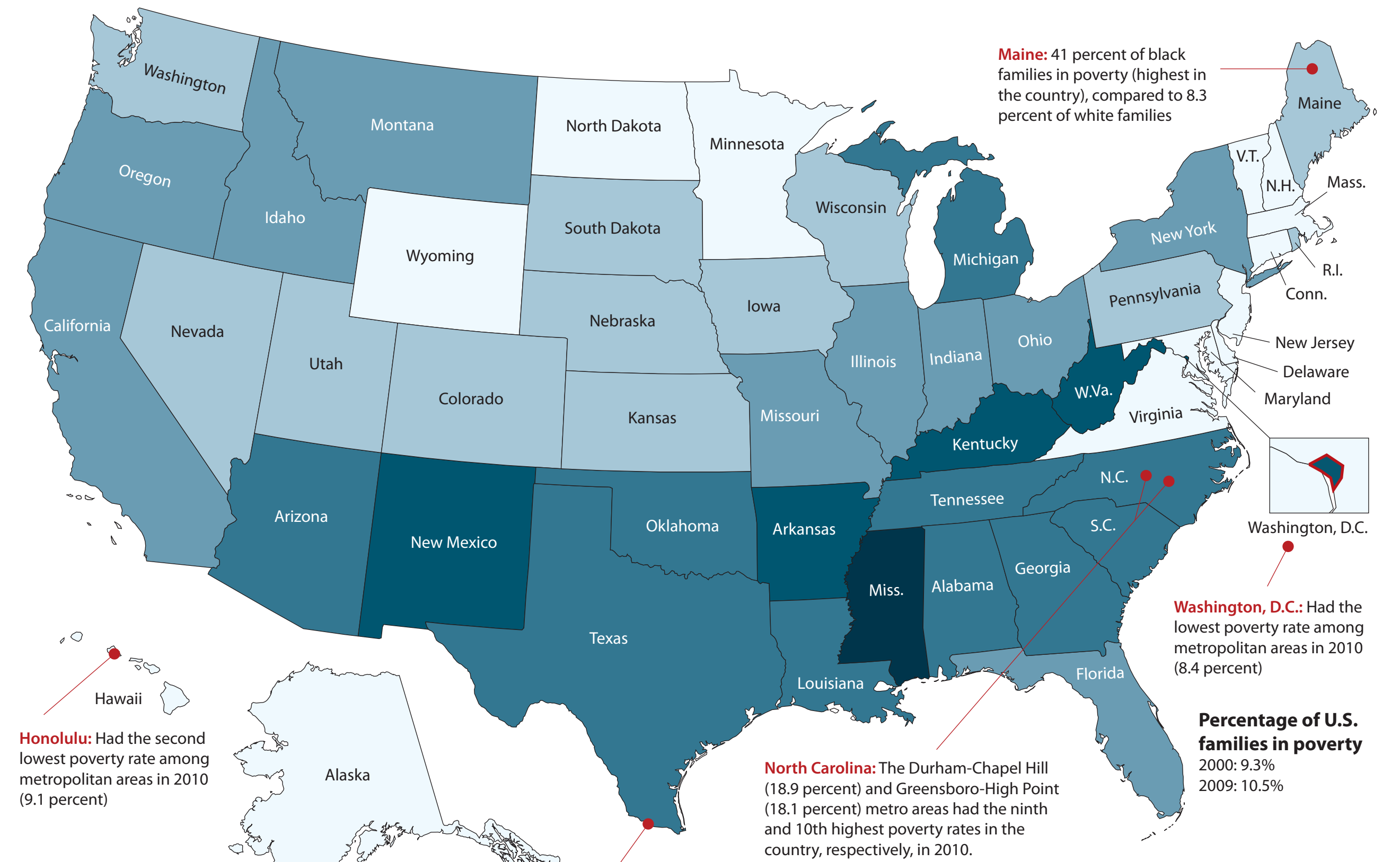
## Number of families in poverty ...

... and how it changed between 2000 and 2009



State	Families in Poverty (1,000)	Change from '00 (Percent)
California	887	6.6
Texas	800	25.2
New York	498	1.4
Florida	488	26.1
Ohio	328	33.3
Illinois	309	17.9
Georgia	301	46.1
Michigan	292	49.0
N. Carolina	<b>289</b>	<b>42.4</b>
Pennsylvania	275	11.3
Tennessee	215	36.1
Indiana	178	57.5
Arizona	175	16.7
Missouri	168	42.4
Alabama	167	14.4
Kentucky	165	11.5
New Jersey	151	19.8
Louisiana	150	-17.6
S. Carolina	150	22.0
Virginia	148	19.4
Washington	133	4.7
Mississippi	131	26.0
Wisconsin	121	61.3
Oklahoma	115	15.0
Arkansas	113	17.7
Colorado	110	71.9
Massachusetts	109	-0.9
Minnesota	95	43.9
Oregon	94	11.9
Maryland	85	-4.5
W. Virginia	68	-5.6
New Mexico	66	3.1
Kansas	65	51.2
Iowa	61	15.1
Connecticut	59	15.7
Nevada	57	67.6
Utah	51	27.5
Idaho	39	50.0
Nebraska	39	39.3
Maine	29	31.8
Montana	23	0.0
Hawaii	23	21.1
Rhode Island	22	-4.3
New Hampshire	19	72.7
S. Dakota	18	12.5
Wash., D.C.	16	-5.9
Delaware	16	14.3
Vermont	12	0.0
N. Dakota	11	-21.4
Alaska	10	-9.1
Wyoming	9	-10.0

## Percentage of families in poverty

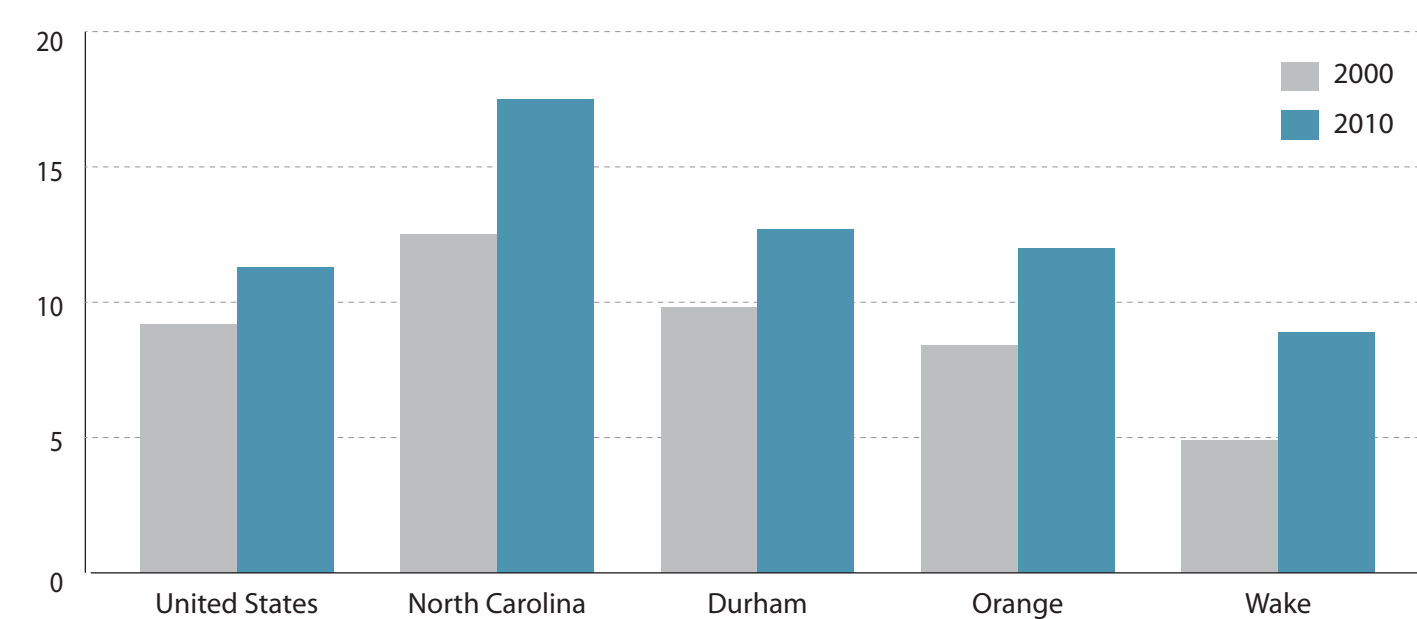


State	Percent of Families in Poverty
Mississippi	17.3
Arkansas	14.8
Washington, D.C.	14.6
Kentucky	14.4
West Virginia	13.9
New Mexico	13.6
Texas	13.4
Alabama	13.4
Louisiana	13.3
Tennessee	13.1
South Carolina	12.9
Georgia	12.7
Oklahoma	12.1
<b>North Carolina</b>	<b>11.9</b>
Michigan	11.6
Arizona	11.6
Ohio	11.1
Missouri	10.9
New York	10.8
Indiana	10.7
Iowa	10.7
California	10.6
Idaho	9.9
Illinois	9.9
Montana	9.9
Oregon	9.8
Nevada	9.0
Kansas	9.0
South Dakota	9.0
Colorado	8.9
Pennsylvania	8.6
Rhode Island	8.6
Nebraska	8.4
Maine	8.3
Wisconsin	8.2
Washington	8.1
Utah	7.8
Iowa	7.7
Hawaii	7.5
Virginia	7.5
Vermont	7.3
Delaware	7.1
Minnesota	7.0
New Jersey	7.0
Massachusetts	7.0
Connecticut	6.7
North Dakota	6.6
Wyoming	6.3
Alaska	6.2
Maryland	6.1
New Hampshire	5.5

## Poverty in North Carolina and the Triangle

### Percentage of families below the poverty line

While North Carolina has a higher poverty rate than the national average, the counties in the Research Triangle area — Durham, Orange and Wake — are faring better than the state as a whole.



### Poverty outpacing population growth

For the most part, the number of families in poverty in the Triangle climbed faster between 2000 and 2010 than did the total number of families in the area. Here's a look at the change in the number of families in poverty and the total number of families from 2000 to 2010.

Area	Families in poverty			% Change in total families from 2000
	2010 Number	2010 Percent	% Change from 2000	
Raleigh	8,719	10.1%	97.9% ▲	38.8% ▲
Durham	6,443	12.4%	28.6% ▲	17.6% ▲
Cary	1,271	3.7%	144.9% ▲	36.3% ▲
Chapel Hill	886	8.7%	66.2% ▲	22.6% ▲
Carrboro	340	8.7%	-3.4% ▼	22.3% ▲
Morrisville	80	2.0%	77.8% ▲	204.1% ▲
United States	8,598K	11.3%	29.9% ▲	5.3% ▲
North Carolina	289K	11.9%	42.4% ▲	12.4% ▲

## U.S. poverty and unemployment rates over the years

