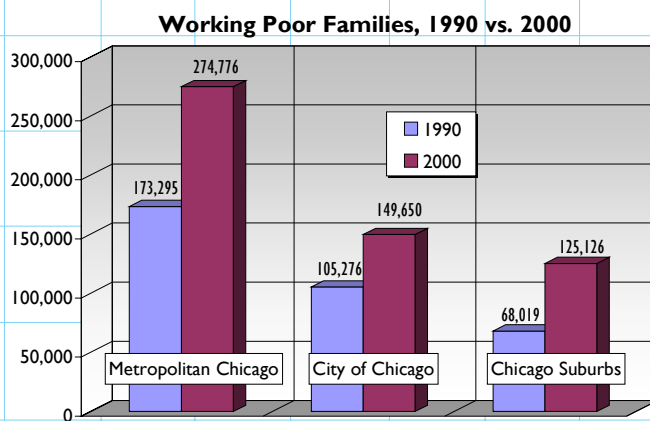


Working Poor Families in Chicago and the Chicago Metropolitan Area:

A Statistical Profile Based on the 1990 and 2000 Censuses

Chicago Urban League
Northern Illinois University
Roosevelt University

Financial support provided by
The Joyce Foundation





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Executive Summary

In 1999, a large number of families in metropolitan Chicago earned too little to be significantly above the poverty line, even though all of their members together worked at least 26 weeks during the year. This report describes those families.

The area we analyzed, metropolitan Chicago, includes Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties. We considered in our analysis all families with at least one person of working age (18 to 65 years) and with less than 80 percent of their income from Social Security. Within this group of working-age families, we define two subgroups (each subgroup can include families consisting of a single individual):

Working poor families: Families whose working members together worked 26 weeks or more in 1999 but whose total income was less than 150 percent of the poverty level.

Families working and not poor: Families whose working members together worked 26 weeks or more in 1999 and whose total income was 150 percent of the poverty level or greater.

How many families are working poor?

- In metropolitan Chicago, 10.7 percent of the working families had incomes less than 150 percent of poverty, up from 8.1 percent 10 years earlier.
- In the city of Chicago, 16.5 percent of the working families had incomes less than 150 percent of poverty, up from 13.6 percent ten years earlier.
- While the number of working poor families in Chicago increased, the rate of increase in the suburbs was so much sharper that the city's share of the region's working poor fell to 54.5 percent, down from 60.7 percent 10 years earlier.

Why are so many working families poor?

Because a large number of them have only one earner. In Metropolitan Chicago:

- In 81.6 percent of working poor families, only one adult worked (compared to 50.6 percent of families that worked and were not poor).
- In 43.1 percent of working poor families, only one worker supported at least one dependent (compared to 19.1 percent of families that worked and were not poor).
- 55.2 percent of all working poor families had dependent children, a drop from 61.7 percent in 1990. But 66.2 percent of Latino and 70.0 percent of African-American working poor families had dependent children.
- 24.2 percent were headed by women with dependent children, a decline from 27.5 percent in 1990. But women headed 50.6 percent of African-American working poor families with dependent children.
- 32.4 percent had at least one child younger than six.
- 36.3 percent had dependent children between the ages of six and 13.

Because workers in these families earn low wages and work part time or only part of the year.

- 74.8 percent of workers in working poor families earned less than \$13,001 (the income required to support a one-person family above 150 percent of the poverty level). This was true for only 15.6 percent of the workers in families that were not poor.
- Only 9.4 percent earned at least \$19,935 (the income required to support a three-person family above 150 percent of the poverty line). This was true for 74.4 percent of workers in families that were not poor.
- 32.6 percent worked less than 35 hours per week, compared to only 14.0 percent of workers that were not poor.
- 45.9 percent worked less than 50 weeks per year, compared to 21.6 percent of workers that were not poor.

Where do the working poor work?

The working poor are employed in every industry and hold a variety of occupations.

- 55.2 percent were employed in retail trade or various types of service industries.
- 19.7 percent worked in manufacturing or construction.
- 58.8 percent had sales, service, administrative support, or management occupations.
- 17.6 percent were employed in production or construction occupations.

Who are the working poor?

Racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately represented among working poor families.

In metropolitan Chicago:

- 37.0 percent were Latinos
- 26.2 percent were African Americans

In the city of Chicago:

- 39.4 percent were Latino
- 34.5 percent were African Americans

Working poor families had more adults without a high school diploma and fewer with college degrees than families that were working and not poor.

In metropolitan Chicago:

- 36.0 percent of adults in all working poor (and 64.5 percent in Latino working poor families) had not graduated from high school, compared to only 11.6 percent in working families that were not poor.
- Only 12.2 percent of adults in working poor families had graduated from college, compared to 38.9 percent of adults in working families that were not poor.

In the city of Chicago:

- 44.0 percent of adults in all working poor families (and 67.1 percent in Latino working poor families) had not graduated from high school, compared to only 20.1 percent in working families that were not poor.

-
- Only 10.0 percent of adults in working poor families had graduated from college, compared to 33.1 percent of adults in working families that were not poor.

Working poor families had more adults who did not speak English well or did not speak it at all than working families that were not poor.

- In **metropolitan Chicago**, 20.1 percent of working poor adults had little English, compared to 6.4 percent of adults in working families that were not poor.
- In the **city of Chicago**, 21.2 percent of working poor adults had little English, compared to 10.1 percent of adults in working families that were not poor.

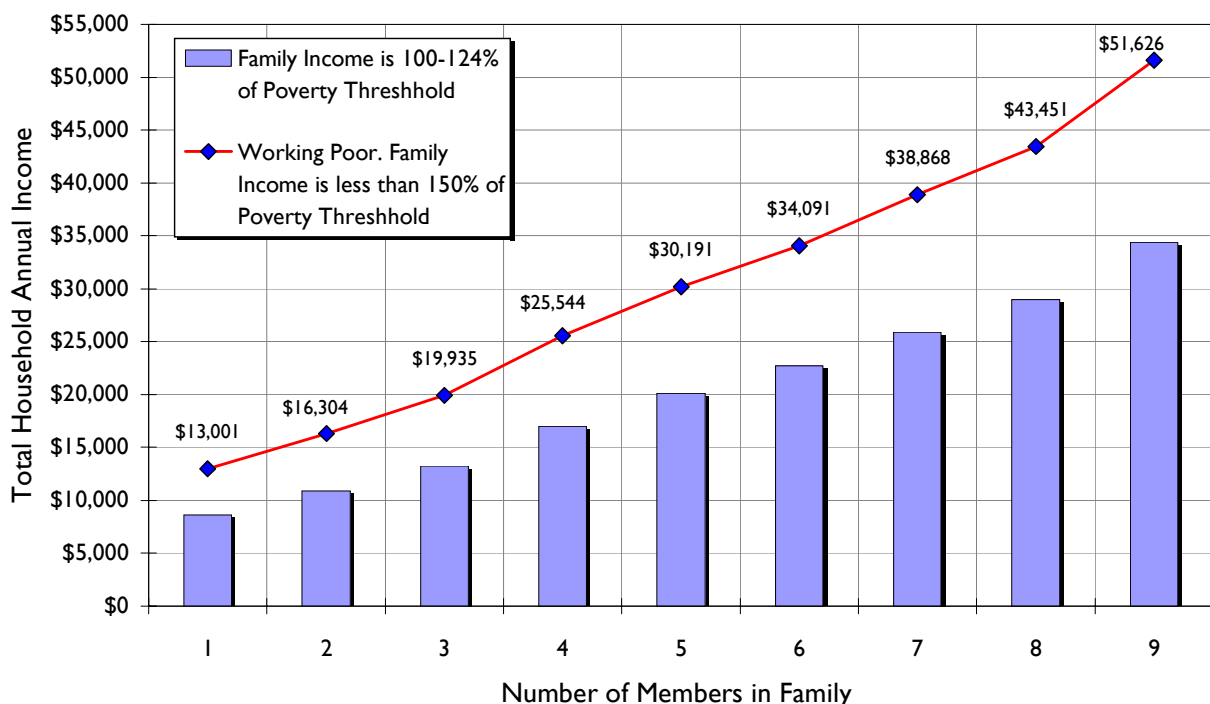
The cost of housing was a heavier burden for working poor families than for working families that were not poor.

- In **metropolitan Chicago**, 36.1 percent of the working poor families that rented paid at least half of their income on housing, compared to 2.5 percent of the working families that were not poor.
 - In the **city of Chicago**, 34.9 percent of the working poor families that rented paid at least half of their income on housing, compared to 2.5 percent of the working families that were not poor.
-

How Do We Define Working Poor Families?

- At least one member is between the ages of 18 and 65
- All members together worked at least 26 weeks during 1999
- Less than 80 percent of total income is from retirement or Social Security
- Family income from all sources is less than 150 percent of the official poverty line for 1999, according to family size. The 150 percent level would be:
 - ◆ \$13,001 for an individual
 - ◆ \$16,304 for a family of two
 - ◆ \$19,935 for a family of three
 - ◆ \$25,544 for a family of four
- To support a family at these levels, one member would have to earn the following hourly wages, working 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year:
 - ◆ To support a family of one, \$6.25 per hour
 - ◆ To support a family of two, \$7.84 per hour
 - ◆ To support a family of three, \$9.58 per hour
 - ◆ To support a family of four, \$12.28 per hour
- In 1999, the average income for all families (excluding single-person households) was \$78,944 in the Chicago Metropolitan area and \$59,147 in the city of Chicago.

Charting the Working Poor:
1999 Poverty Thresholds, U.S. Census



How Many Working Poor Families?

Nearly half a million working families in Illinois (489,098) in 1999 were working poor. This amounted to 12.5 percent of all of the state's working families.

Both the numbers of working families and of working poor families grew during the decade in both the city and the suburbs. The rate of change in working poverty far outstripped the rate of growth in the number of working families in the city and the suburbs.

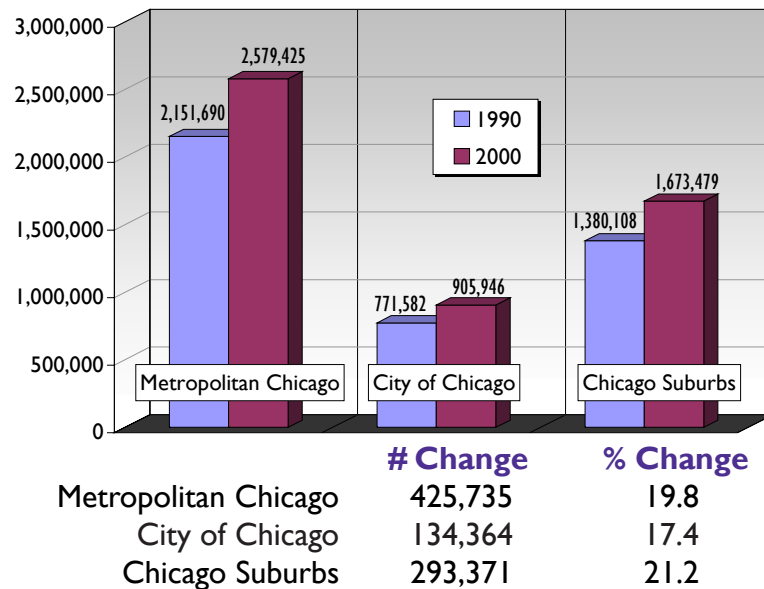
Although the number of working poor in Chicago increased by 42.2 percent, the suburban rate of increase was nearly double that of the city. As a result, Chicago's share of the total number of working poor families in the region fell from 60.7 percent in 1990 to 54.5 percent in 2000.

In the **Chicago metropolitan area** in 2000, more than 1 in 10 of the working families were working poor – 274,776 families or 10.7 percent – an increase from 8.1 percent in 1990.

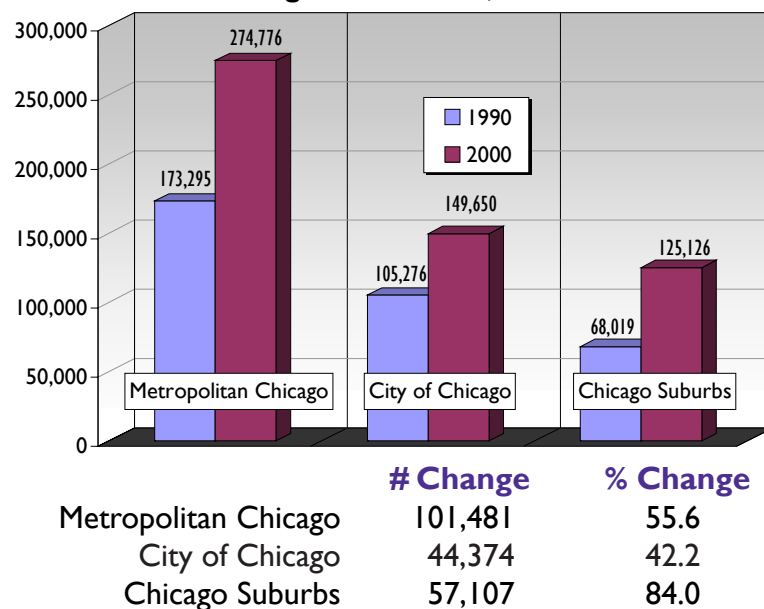
In the **city of Chicago**, 1 in 6 were poor – 149,650 families, 16.5 percent – up from 13.6 percent in 1990.

In the **suburbs**, 1 in 13 were poor – 125,126 families, or 7.4 percent – up from 4.9 percent in 1990.

Working Families, 1990 vs. 2000



Working Poor Families, 1990 vs. 2000



Working Families in Illinois, 1999

Income Level	Number of Families	Percent of all Working Families
< 50% of Poverty	68,583	1.7
50-100 % of Poverty	174,415	4.5
100-124% of Poverty	116,290	3.0
125-150% of Poverty	129,810	3.3
> 150% of Poverty	3,421,831	87.5
Total	3,910,959	100.0

Of all working families:

■ In **metropolitan Chicago**, 5 percent earned less than poverty-level incomes (as defined by the official poverty line for 1999), up from 3.7 percent in 1989.

■ In the **city of Chicago**, 8.2 percent earned less than poverty-level incomes, an increase over the 1989 level of 6.3 percent.

■ In **metropolitan Chicago**, 1.3 percent of working families were in deep poverty, earning less than 50 percent of the poverty level for a total of nearly 33,000 families. They made up 12.1% of working poor families.

■ In the **city of Chicago**, 2.1 percent of all working families earned less than 50 percent of the poverty level. These 19,100 families were 12.8 percent of working poor families.

■ In **Illinois**, 48.9 percent of adults in working poor families are white.

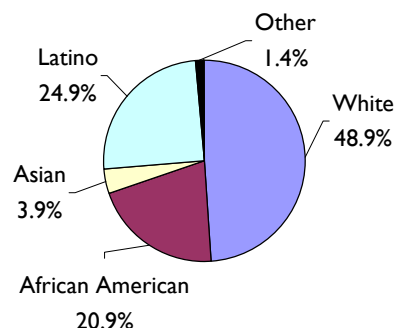
Working Families, Income Levels Metropolitan Chicago, 1989 vs. 1999

Income Level	1989	1999
< 100% of poverty	3.7%	5.0%
100-124%	2.2%	2.6%
125-149%	2.2%	3.0%
150% and above	91.9%	89.3%

Working Families, Income Levels City of Chicago, 1989 vs. 1999

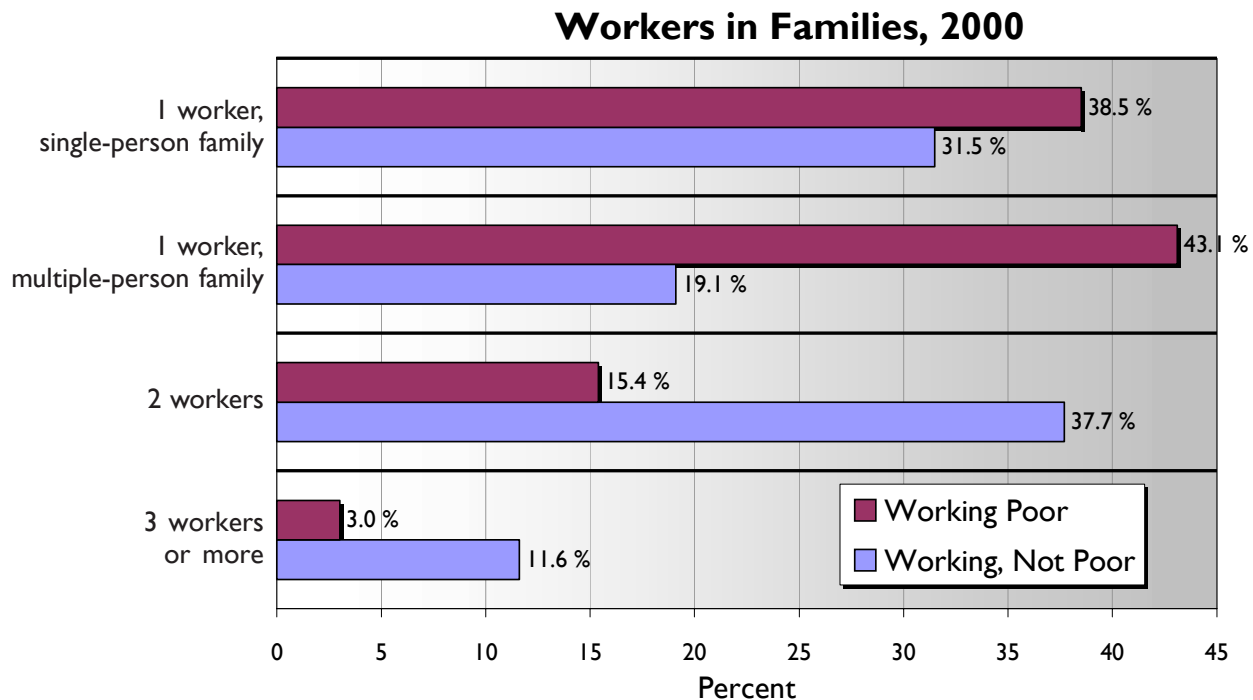
Income Level	1989	1999
< 100% of poverty	6.3%	8.2%
100-124%	3.7%	4.0%
125-149%	3.6%	4.3%
150% and above	86.4%	83.5%

Illinois Working Poor Adults by Ethnicity/Race



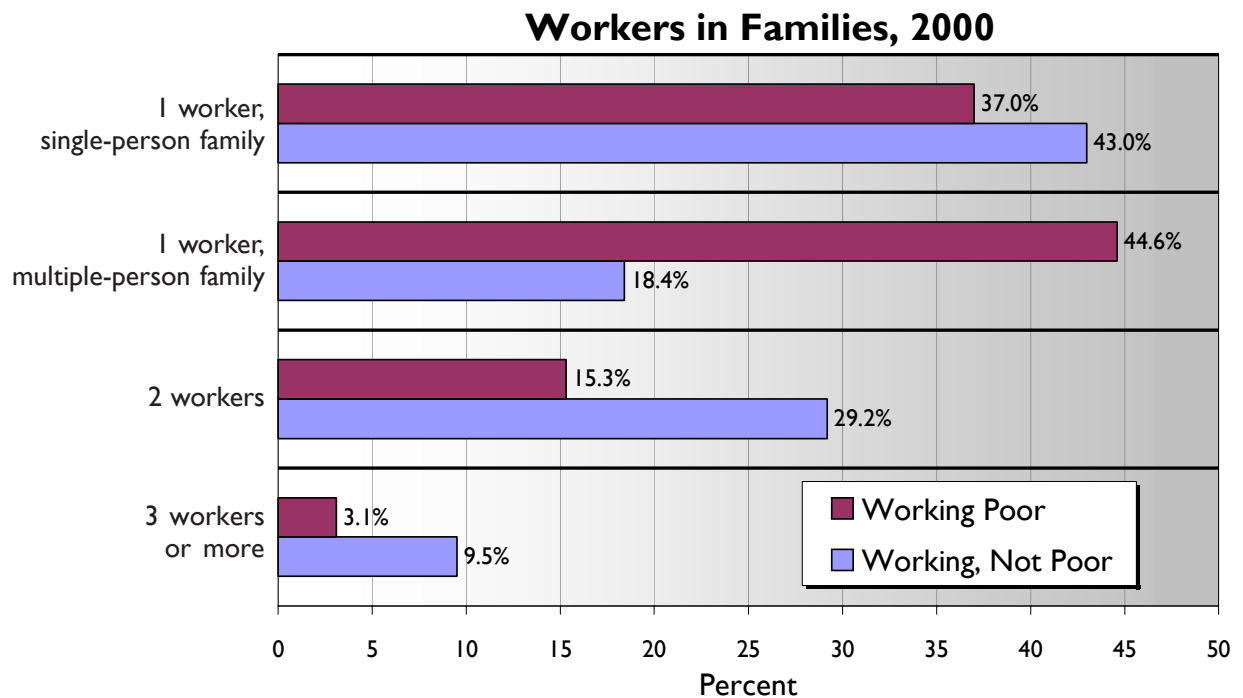
How Many People Work in Working Poor Families?

Metropolitan Chicago



- 81.6 percent of working poor families had only one working adult, an increase from 75.0 percent in 1990.
- Only 18.4 percent of working poor families had two or more workers, a significant decline from the 25.0 percent that had multiple workers in 1990.
- In both census years, families that were working and not poor were much more likely to have multiple workers: the ratio was 2.0 times greater in 1990 and increased to 2.7 times greater in 2000.

City of Chicago

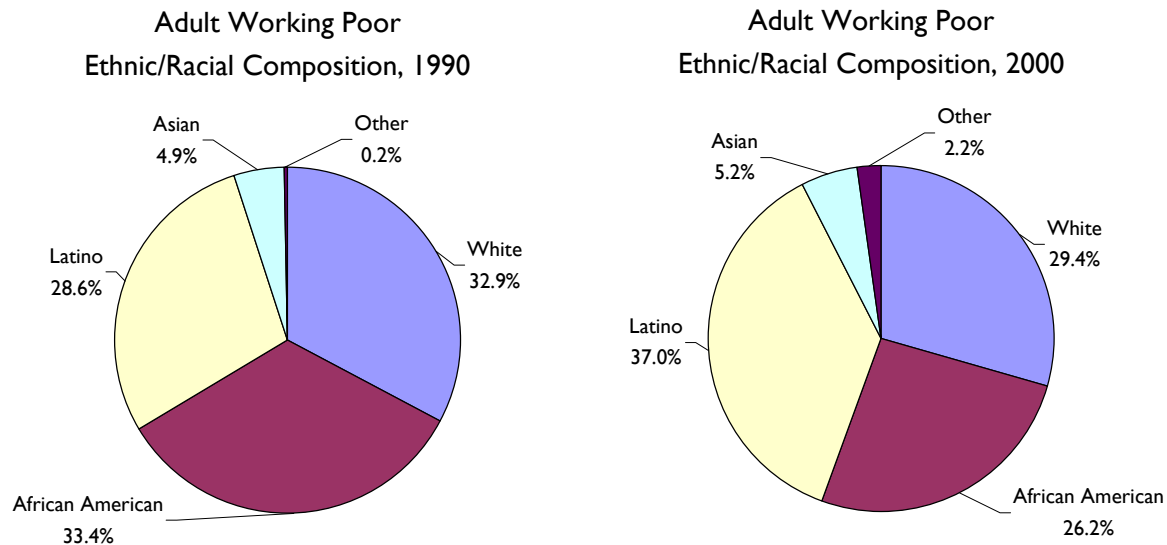


- 81.6 percent of working poor families had only one working adult, an increase from the 1990 level of 74.9 percent.
- Only 18.4 percent of working poor families had two or more workers, a significant decline from the 25.1 percent that had multiple workers in 1990.
- In both census years, families that were working and not poor were more likely to have multiple workers: the ratio was 1.7 times greater in 1990 and increased to 2.1 times greater in 2000.

How Has the Distribution of Working Poverty Changed by Ethnic/Racial Group?

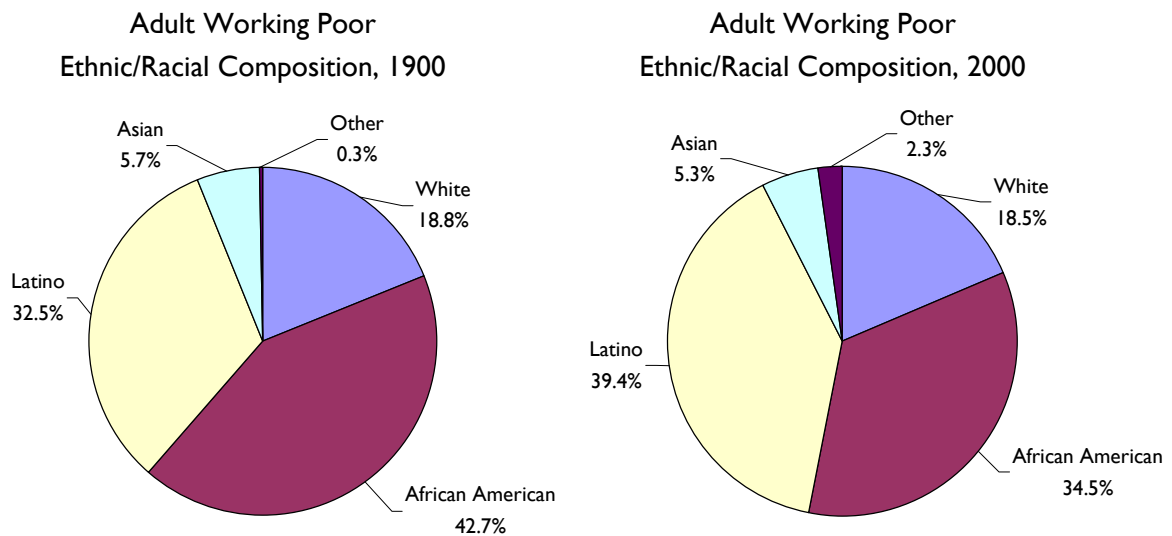
During the 1990s, the population of working poor adults became more Latino and less African-American than it had been at the beginning of the decade.

Metropolitan Chicago



- In 2000, Latino adults were 37.0 percent of the working poor, compared to 28.6 percent in 1990.
- In 2000, African-American adults were 26.2 percent of the working poor, compared to 33.4 percent in 1990.
- Together, African-American and Latino adults in 2000 were 63.2 percent of the working poor adults, up 1.2 percentage points from 1990, and well above the 31.7 percent that the two groups make up of the employed adult workforce.

City of Chicago



- In 2000, Latino adults were 39.4 percent of the working poor, compared to 32.5 percent in 1990.
- In 2000, African-American adults were 34.5 percent of the working poor, compared to 42.7 percent in 1990.
- African-American and Latino adults together in 2000 comprised 73.9 percent of the city's working poor adults, well above their combined share (55.3 percent) of the employed adult workforce.

How Has the Likelihood of Being Working Poor Changed by Ethnic/Racial Group?

During the 1990s, higher proportions of white, African American and Latino adults became part of the working poor.

Metropolitan Chicago

The Likelihood of Being Working Poor by Race and Ethnicity, 1990 vs. 2000

	1990	2000
Whites	3.6%	4.3%
African Americans	13.2%	15.5%
Latinos	18.9%	20.3%
Asians	9.9%	8.9%

- In 2000, 20.3 percent of all Latino working adults were working poor, in contrast to 18.9 percent in 1990.
- In 2000, 15.5 percent of African-American working adults were working poor, compared to 13.2 percent in 1990.
- In 2000, 4.3 percent of white working adults were working poor, a slight increase from 3.6 percent in 1990.

City of Chicago

The Likelihood of Being Working Poor by Race and Ethnicity, 1990 vs. 2000

	1990	2000
Whites	5.9%	7.5%
African Americans	14.3%	17.8%
Latinos	21.2%	23.2%
Asians	5.7%	5.3%

- In 2000, 23.2 percent of all Latino working adults were working poor, compared to 21.2 percent in 1990.
- In 2000, 17.8 percent of African-American working adults were working poor, compared to 14.3 percent in 1990.
- In 2000, 7.5 percent of white working adults were working poor, a small increase over 5.9 percent in 1990.

Are Working Minority Adults Over-represented Among the Working Poor?

Metropolitan Chicago

African American and Latino adult workers were over-represented among the ranks of the working poor in 2000.

	Percent of Employed Adults 2000	Percent of Working Poor Adults 2000
Whites	61.4	29.4
African Americans	15.3	26.2
Latinos	16.4	37.0
Asians	5.2	5.2

- African American adults were 15.3 percent of the employed but they were 26.2 percent of the working poor.
- Latino adults were 16.4 percent of the employed but they were 37.0 percent of the working poor.
- Asian adults were 5.2 percent of the employed and were also 5.2 percent of the working poor.
- White adults were 61.4 percent of the employed but they were 29.4 percent of the working poor.

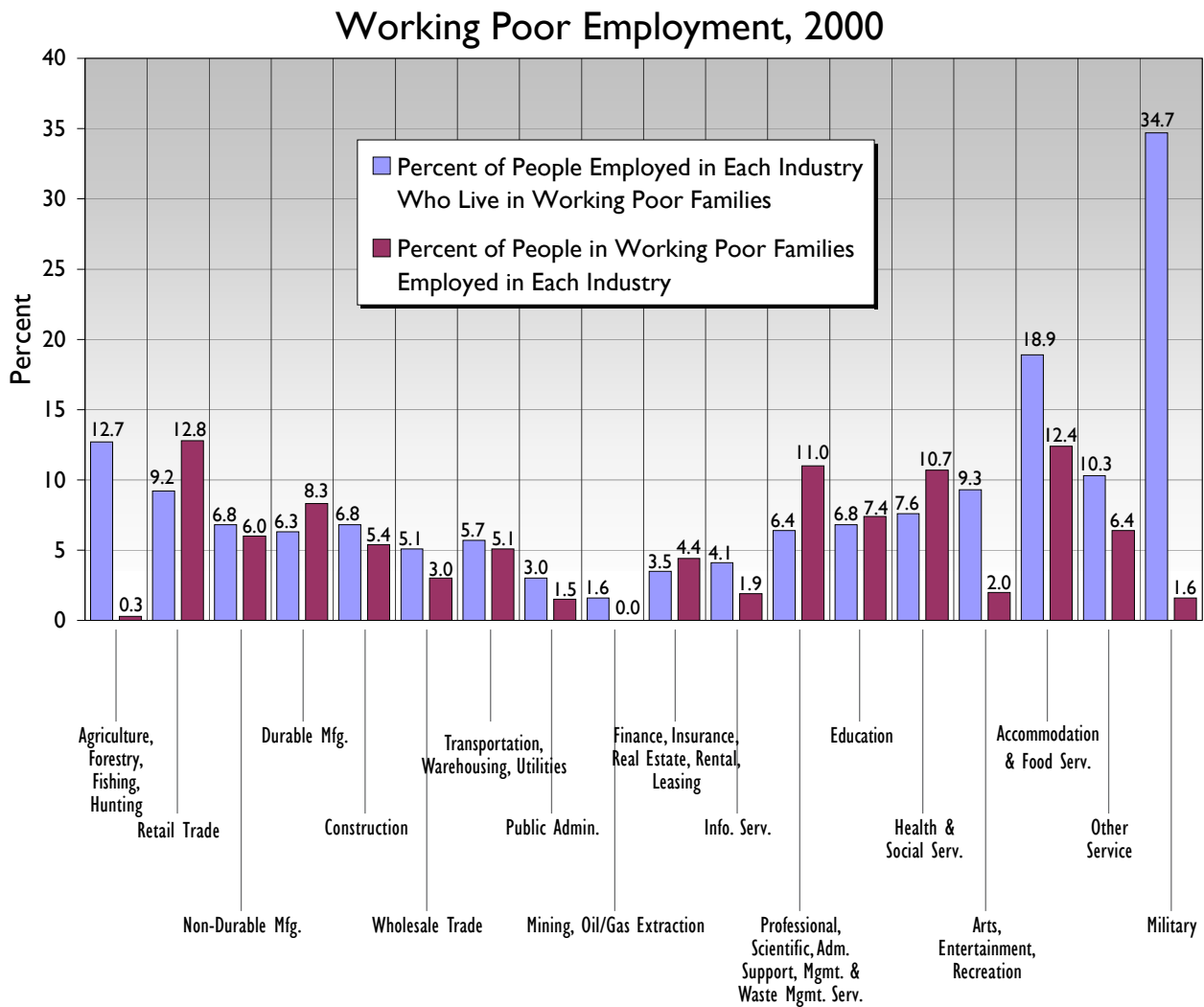
City of Chicago

	Percent of Employed Adults 2000	Percent of Working Poor Adults 2000
Whites	37.3	18.5
African Americans	29.5	34.5
Latinos	25.8	39.4
Asians	5.2	5.3

- African American adults were 29.5 percent of the employed but they were 34.5 percent of the working poor.
- Latino adults were 25.8 percent of the employed but they were 39.4 percent of the working poor.
- Asian adults were 5.2 percent of the employed and 5.3 percent of the working poor.
- Whites were 37.3 percent of the employed but they were 18.5 percent of the working poor.

Which Industries Employ the Most Working Poor? Which Have the Highest Concentrations?

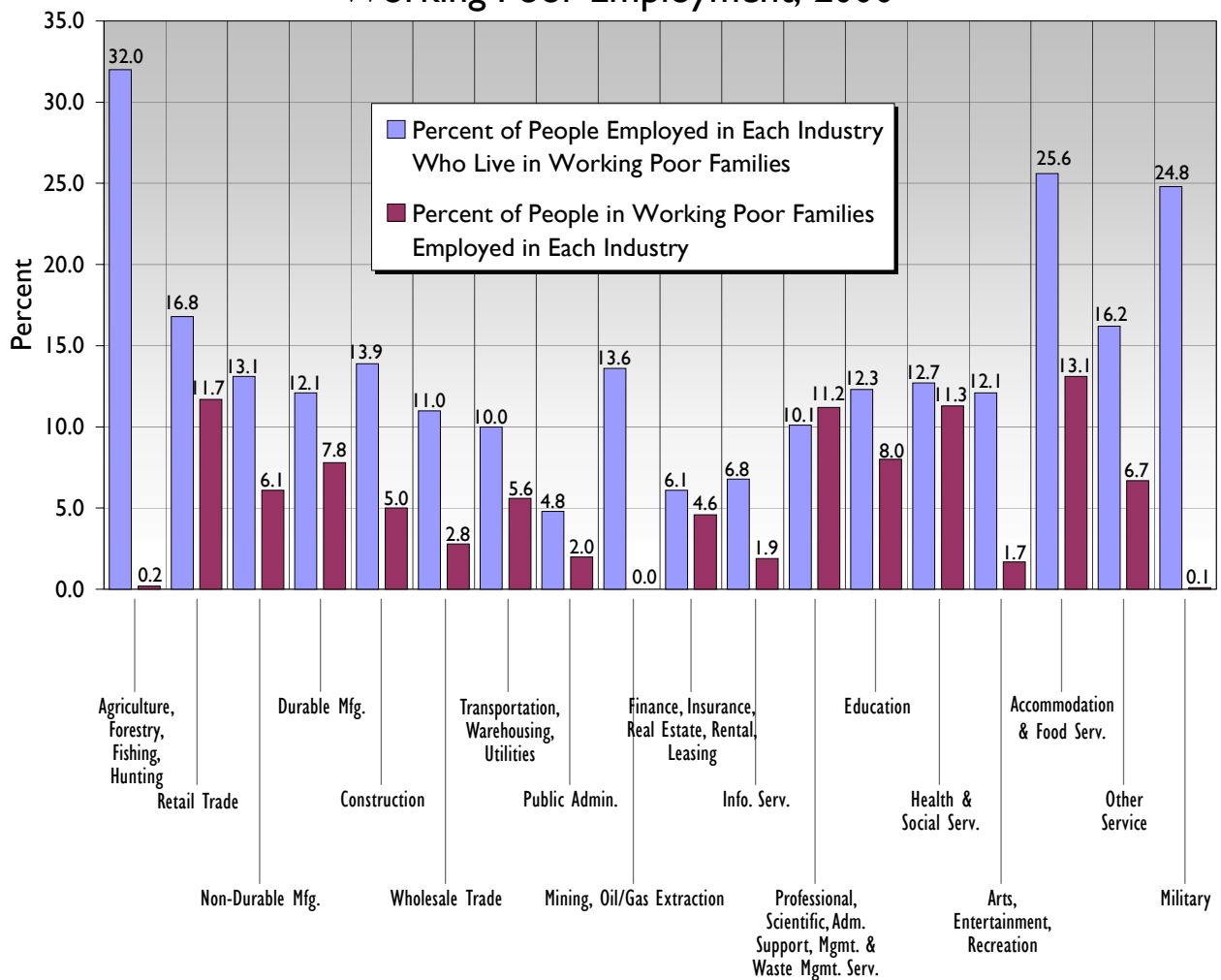
Metropolitan Chicago



- 14.3 percent of the workers living in working poor families were employed in manufacturing activities, and another 5.4 percent in construction.
- 55.2 percent were employed in retail trade and various types of service, professional and administrative activities.
- With 34.7 percent, the military was by far the industry with the largest concentration of working poor.

City of Chicago

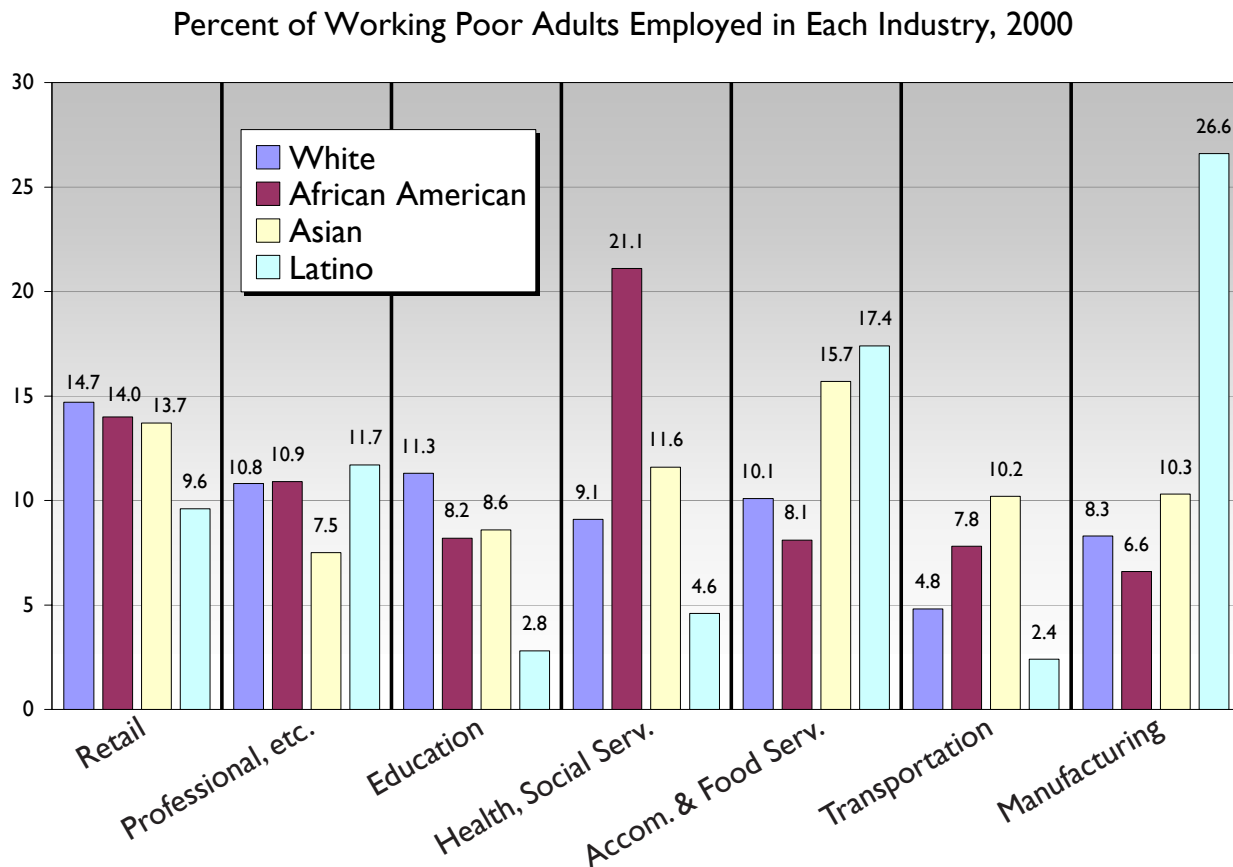
Working Poor Employment, 2000



- 13.9 percent of working poor adults were employed in manufacturing activities, and another 5.0 percent in construction.
- 55.9 percent were employed in retail trade and various types of service, professional and administrative activities.
- With over 20 percent each, the industries with the highest concentrations of working poor were agriculture, accommodation and food service, and the military.

Are there Ethnic/Racial Differences in the Employment of the Working Poor by Industry?

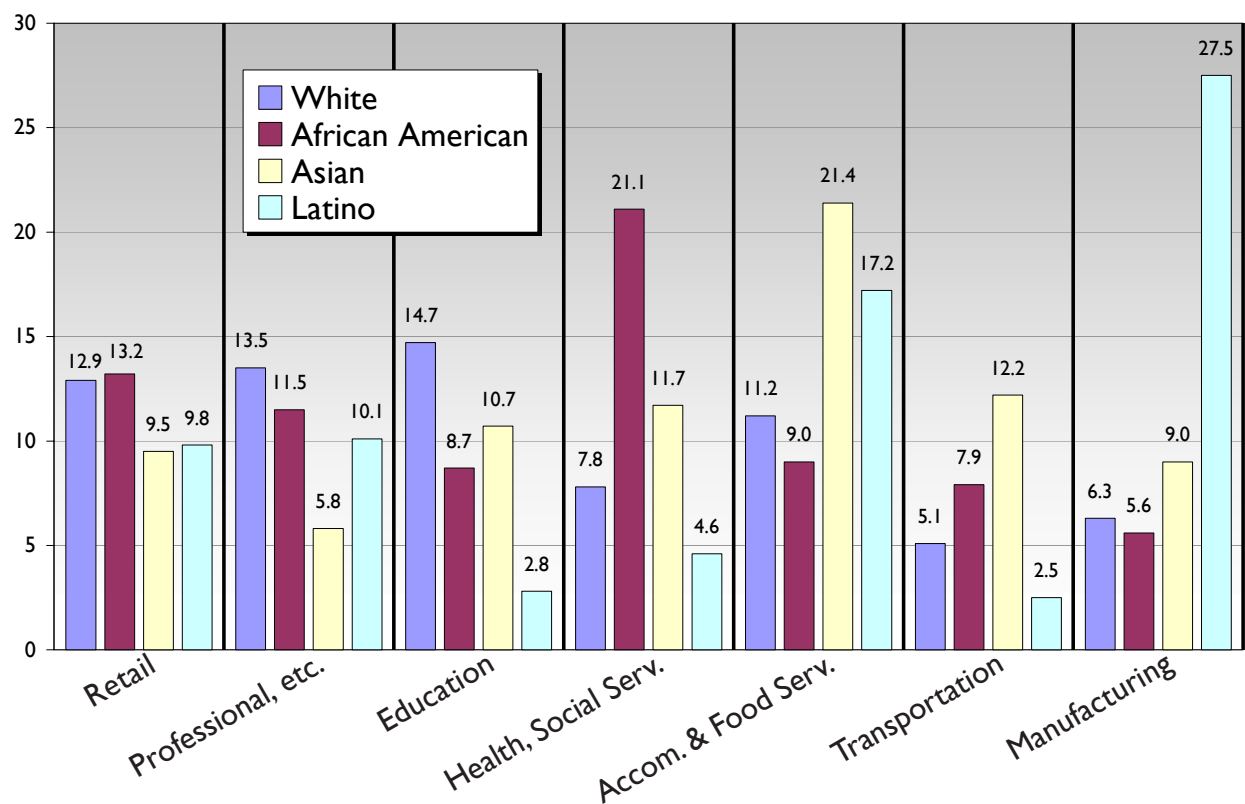
Metropolitan Chicago



- White working poor adults tend to be employed in retail trade and education activities.
- African American working poor adults were employed heavily in health and social service and retail trade industries.
- Asian working poor adults were employed heavily in accommodation and food service and retail trade activities.
- The highest percentages of Latino working poor adults were employed in manufacturing and accommodation and food service industries.

City of Chicago

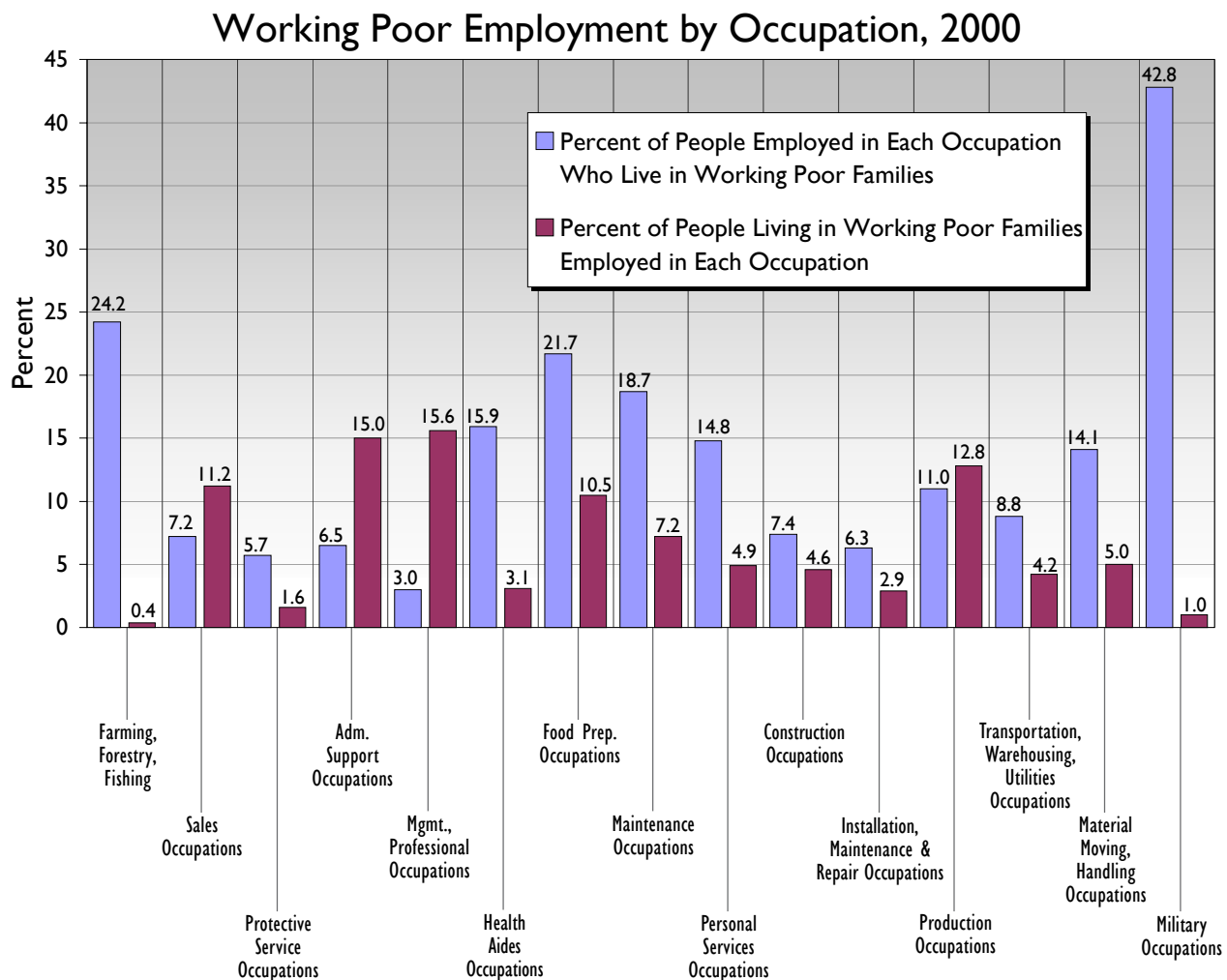
Percent of Working Poor Adults Employed in Each Industry, 2000



- The highest percentages of white working poor families were employed in education, professional, scientific, and administrative, and retail trade activities.
- The highest percentages of African American working poor adults were employed in health and social services and retail trade industries.
- The highest percentages of Asian working poor adults were employed in accommodation and food service and transportation, warehouse, and utilities.
- The highest percentages of Latino working poor adults were employed in manufacturing and accommodation and food service activities.

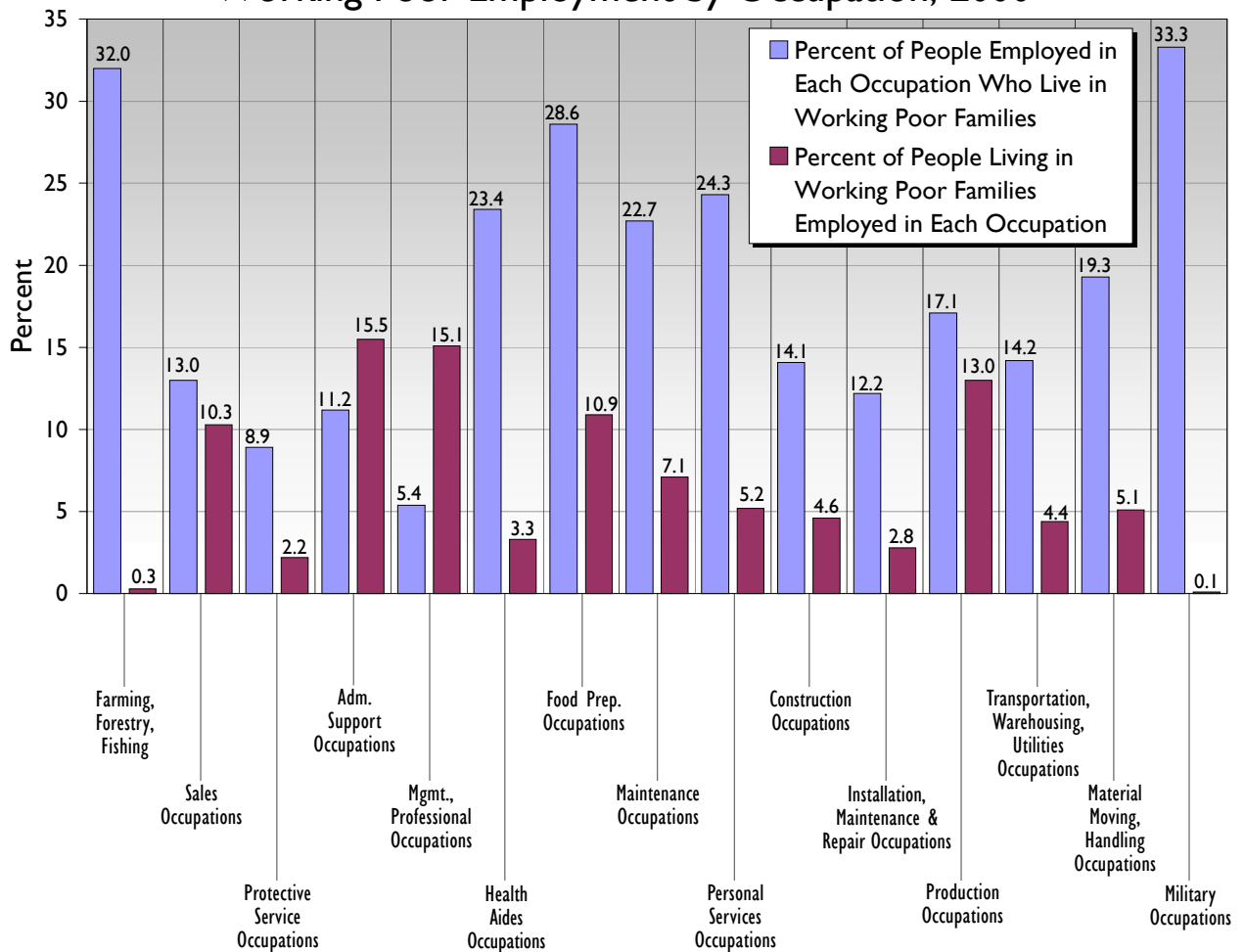
Which Occupations Employ the Most Working Poor? Which Have the Highest Concentrations?

Metropolitan Chicago



- 58.8 percent of working poor adults were employed in sales, service, administrative support, or management and professional occupations.
- 15.6 percent were employed in management and professional occupations alone.
- 17.4 percent were employed as production or construction workers.
- 11.2 percent were employed in sales occupations.
- 10.5 percent worked in food preparation positions.

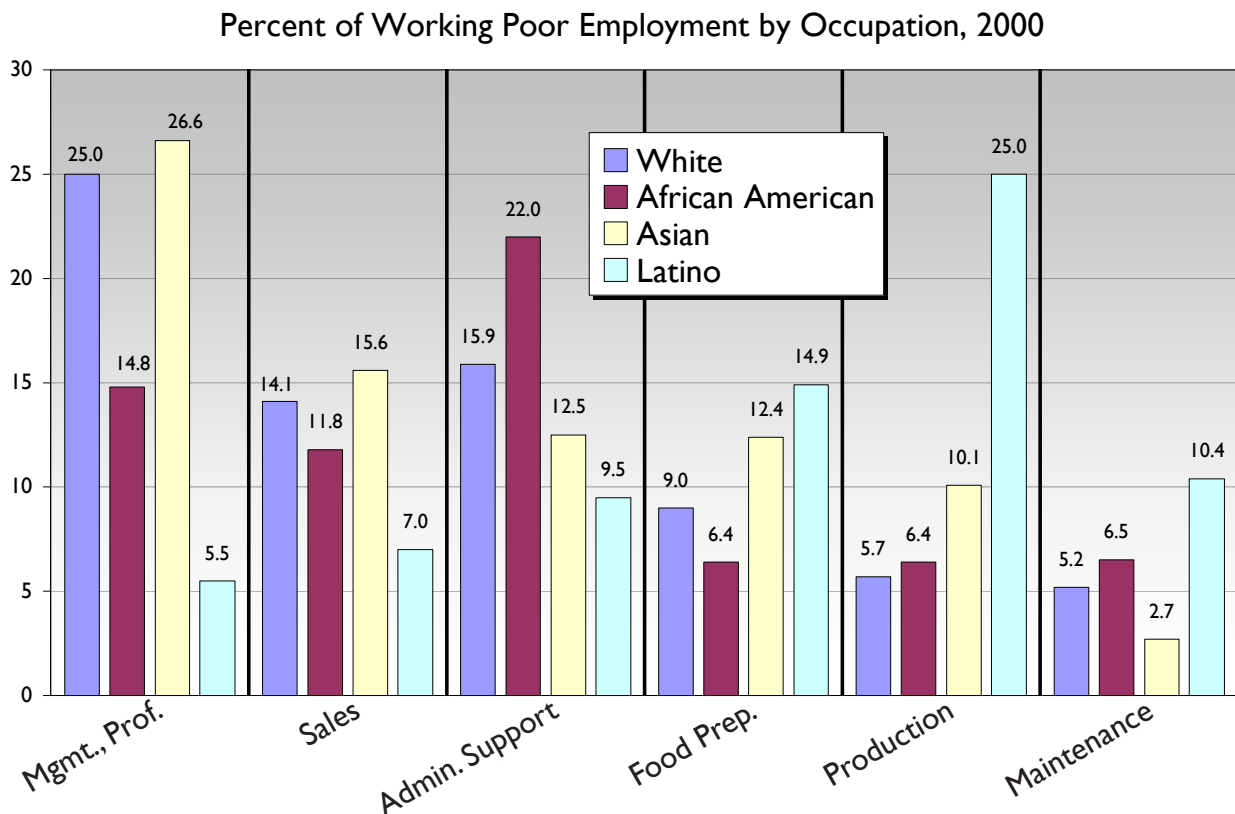
Working Poor Employment by Occupation, 2000



- 59.2 percent of working poor adults were employed in sales, service, administrative support, or management and professional occupations.
- 15.1 percent were employed in management and professional occupations alone.
- 10.3 percent were employed in sales positions.
- 17.6 percent were employed as production or construction workers.
- 10.9 percent were employed in food preparation positions.

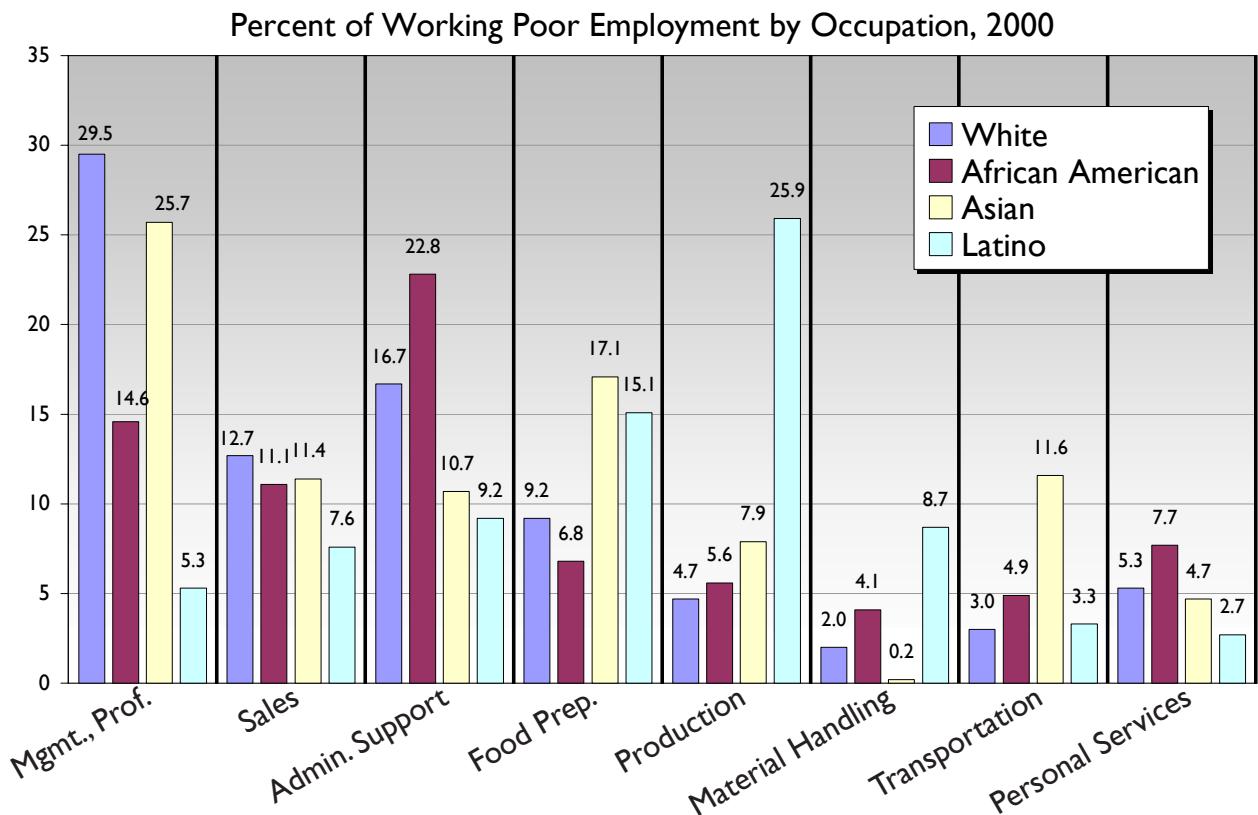
Are there Ethnic/Racial Differences in the Employment of the Working Poor by Occupation?

Metropolitan Chicago



- The highest percentages of white and Asian working poor adults were employed in management and professional occupations.
- The highest percentage of African-American working poor adults was employed in administrative support occupations.
- The highest percentage of Latino working poor adults was employed in production occupations.

City of Chicago

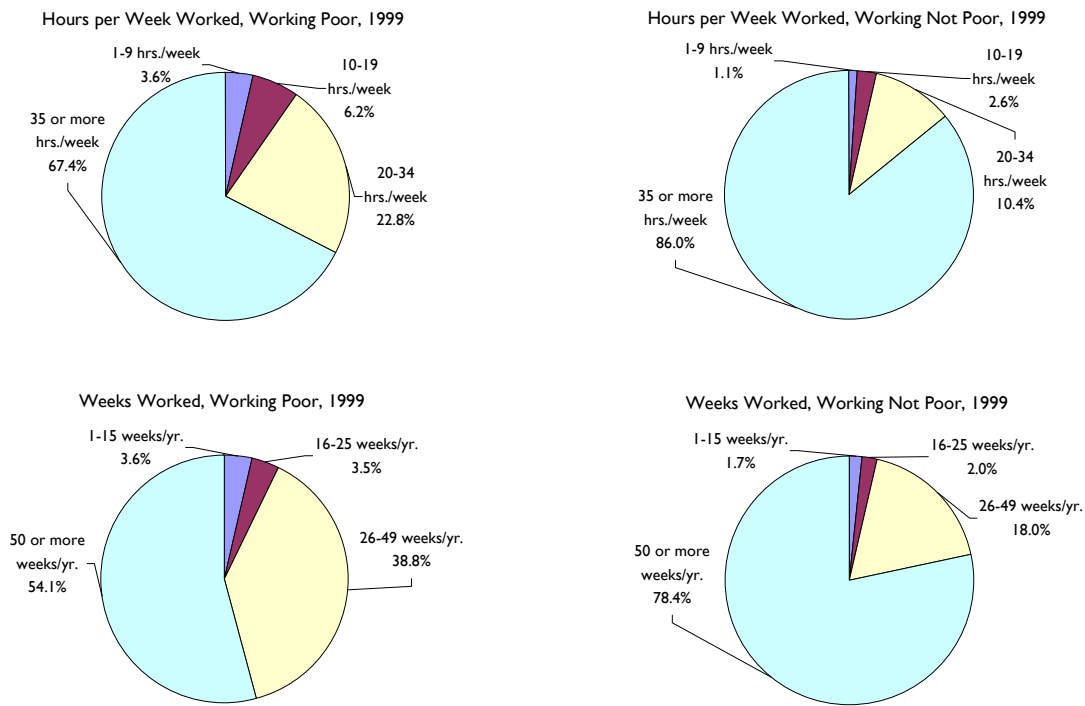


- The highest percentage of white and Asian working poor adults were employed in management and professional occupations.
- The highest percentage of African-American working poor adults was employed in administrative support occupations.
- The highest percentage of Latino working poor adults was employed in production occupations.

What Proportion of Workers in Working Poor Families Work Full-time, Full-year?

The working poor are much less likely to work full-time and full-year than those working and not poor.

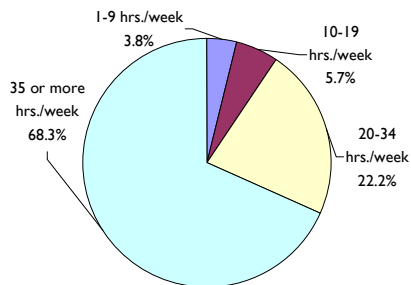
Metropolitan Chicago



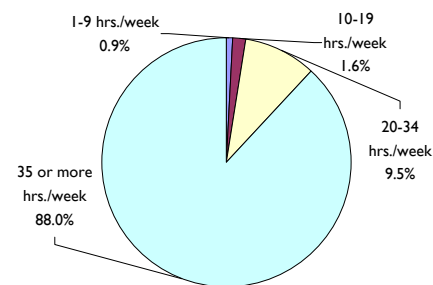
- 39.5 percent of workers in working poor families worked full-time, full-year in 1999.
- 67.4 percent of workers in working poor families in 1999 worked 35 hours or more per week.
- 54.1 percent of workers in working poor families in 1999 worked 50 weeks or more during the year, compared to only 45.7 percent in 1989.

City of Chicago

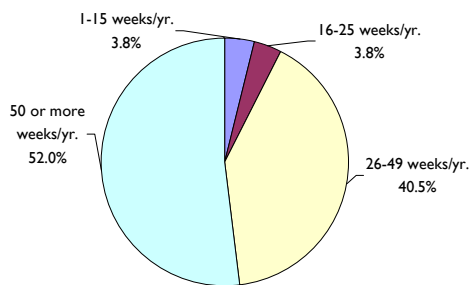
Hours per Week Worked, Working Poor, 1999



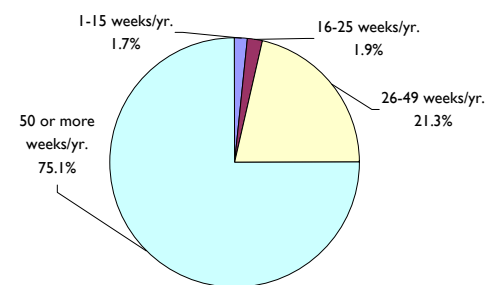
Hours per Week Worked, Working Not Poor, 1999



Weeks Worked, Working Poor, 1999



Weeks Worked, Working Not Poor, 1999



- 38.7 percent of workers in working poor families in 1999 were full-time, full-year workers, compared with 35.6 percent in 1989.
- 68.3 percent of workers in working poor families in 1999 worked 35 hours or more per week.
- 52.0 percent of workers in working poor families in 1999 worked 50 weeks or more during the year, compared to only 45 percent in 1989.

Are there Ethnic/Racial Differences in the Duration of Work?

Metropolitan Chicago

Duration of Work By Ethnic/Racial Group, 1999

Duration	White		African American		Latino		Asian	
	WP*	W, NP**	WP	W, NP	WP	W, NP	WP	W, NP
< 35 hrs./week	47.4%	15.3%	34.6%	12.1%	15.8%	10.1%	31.8%	12.0%
35 + hrs./week	52.5%	84.7%	65.4%	87.9%	84.2%	89.9%	68.1%	88.0%
< 50 weeks/yr.	45.4%	19.0%	47.2%	26.0%	45.0%	30.4%	50.7%	24.8%
50 + weeks/yr.	54.6%	81.1%	52.9%	74.1%	55.1%	69.6%	49.3%	75.2%

*Working Poor

**Working, Not Poor

- Among working poor Latino adults, nearly half, 48.6 percent, were full-time, full-year workers, while one third of whites fell into that category, and slightly more than one third of African Americans and Asians were full-time, full-year workers.
- 84.2 percent of the Latinos who were working poor worked 35 hours or more per week, well above the share of the other groups in that category.
- Only about half of each group of working poor worked 50 weeks or more during the year.

City of Chicago

Duration of Work By Ethnic/Racial Group, 1999

Duration	White		African American		Latino		Asian	
	WP*	W, NP**	WP	W, NP	WP	W, NP	WP	W, NP
< 35 hrs./week	51.2%	12.1%	33.9%	12.9%	16.9%	10.2%	31.1%	12.5%
35 + hrs./week	48.8%	87.9%	66.2%	87.0%	83.1%	89.8%	68.9%	87.5%
< 50 weeks/yr.	50.1%	19.4%	47.8%	28.2%	46.6%	32.3%	49.1%	26.8%
50 + weeks/yr.	49.9%	80.6%	52.2%	71.8%	53.4%	67.7%	50.9%	73.2%

*Working Poor

**Working, Not Poor

- Among working poor Latino adults, 46.6 percent were full-time, full-year workers, as were 38.5 percent of Asian adults, 28.5 percent of white adults, and 37.6 percent of African-American adults.
- 83.1 percent of the working poor Latino adults worked 35 hours or more per week, as did 68.9 percent of Asians, 66.2 percent of African Americans, and only 48.8 percent of whites.
- Within each group of working poor adults, only about half worked 50 weeks or more during the year.

What Are the Annual Earnings of Working Poor Families?

Metropolitan Chicago

Earnings Needed to Support Family of:	1989		1999	
	Working Poor	Working, Not Poor	Working Poor	Working, Not Poor
1 Person	72.2%	19.2%	72.6%	12.3%
2 Persons	13.3%	7.2%	12.0%	5.0%
3 Persons	5.1%	4.7%	5.4%	4.2%
4 Persons	6.7%	12.1%	6.7%	11.6%
5+ Persons	2.7%	56.8%	3.2%	67.0%
TOTALS	100.0%	100.0%	99.9%	100.1%

- 72.6 percent of the workers in working poor families earned \$13,001 or less, the income required to support a one-person family at or above 150 percent of the official poverty line in 1999. This was true for only 12.3 percent of workers in families that were not poor.
- 15.3 percent of the workers in working poor families earned at least \$19,935, the income required to support a three-person family at or above 150 percent of the official poverty line in 1999. This was true for 82.8 percent of workers in families that were not poor.
- Between 1989 and 1999, the share of the working poor earning at or below the income required to support a one-person family at 150 percent of the official poverty line did not change significantly. However, in nonworking poor families, the share of workers earning such a low amount fell significantly from 19.2 percent to 12.3 percent.
- Between 1989 and 1999, the share of workers in working poor families earning at least the income required to support a three-person family at or above 150 percent of the official poverty line did not change significantly. However, in nonworking poor families, the share of adults earning such an income rose from 73.6 percent to 82.8 percent.

City of Chicago

Earnings Needed to Support Family of:	1989		1999	
	Working Poor	Working, Not Poor	Working Poor	Working, Not Poor
1 Person	70.7%	17.7%	74.8%	15.6%
2 Persons	14.1%	8.9%	10.3%	5.1%
3 Persons	5.4%	5.9%	5.7%	4.9%
4 Persons	7.1%	15.5%	6.3%	12.1%
5+ Persons	2.7%	52.0%	2.9%	62.3%
TOTALS	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- 74.8 percent of the workers in working poor families earned \$13,001 or less, the income required to support a one-person family at or above 150 percent of the official poverty line in 1999. This was true for only 15.6 percent of workers in families that were not poor.
- 14.9 percent of the workers in working poor families earned at least \$19,935, the income required to support a three-person family at or above 150 percent of the official poverty line in 1999. This was true for 79.3 percent of workers in families that were not poor.
- Between 1989 and 1999, the share of the workers in working poor families earning at or below the income required to support a one-person family at 150 percent of the official poverty line, rose from 70.7 percent to 74.8 percent. However, in families working and not poor, the share of workers earning such a low amount fell from 17.7 percent to 15.6 percent.
- Between 1989 and 1999, the share of workers in working poor families earning at least the income required to support a three-person family at or above 150 percent of the official poverty line, remained stable. However, in families working and not poor, the share of workers earning such an income rose from 73.4 percent to 79.3 percent.

Are there Ethnic/Racial Differences in the Annual Earnings of Working Poor Families?

The average annual wage and salary earnings for all workers in the metropolitan area was \$40,288. The average earnings for working poor were \$9,840, and \$42,659 for non-working poor workers.

Metropolitan Chicago



	White	African American	Latino	Asian
Working Poor Earnings as Percent of Working, Not Poor	18.0%	30.4%	40.9%	21.6%

- The average earnings for workers in working poor families were lowest for whites (at \$8,544) and highest for Latinos (at \$10,933).
- The gap between the earnings of working poor and working, not poor was smallest in the Latino community, mainly because Latinos who were not working poor earned much less than their counterparts in other groups.

In the city of Chicago, average annual wage and salary earnings for all workers was \$34,522. The average earnings for city working poor workers was \$9,768, and for working, not poor, \$37,969.

City of Chicago



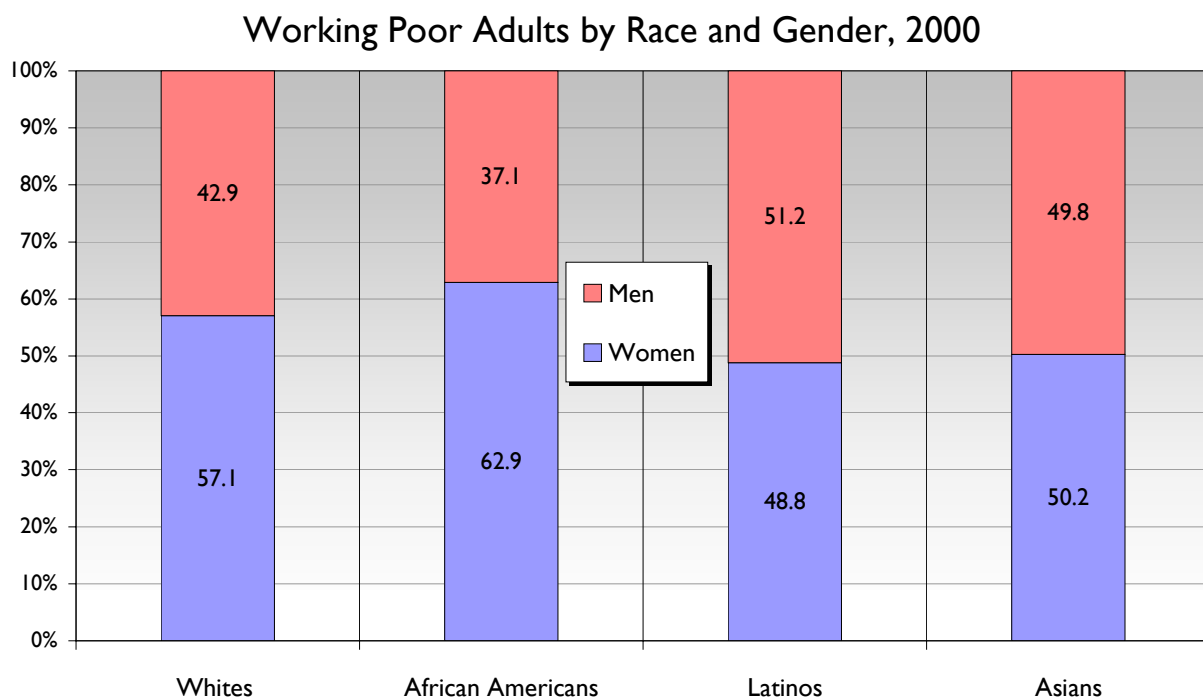
	White	African American	Latino	Asian
Working Poor Earnings as Percent of Working, Not Poor	16.9%	31.4%	40.9%	25.2%

- The average earnings for workers in working poor families were lowest for whites (at \$7,985) and highest for Latinos (at \$10,170).
- The ratio between the earnings of the working poor and the working, not poor was highest among Latinos, principally because Latinos who were not working poor earned much less on average than African Americans, Asians, or whites who were not working poor.

What Is the Relationship Among Ethnicity/Race, Gender and Working Poverty?

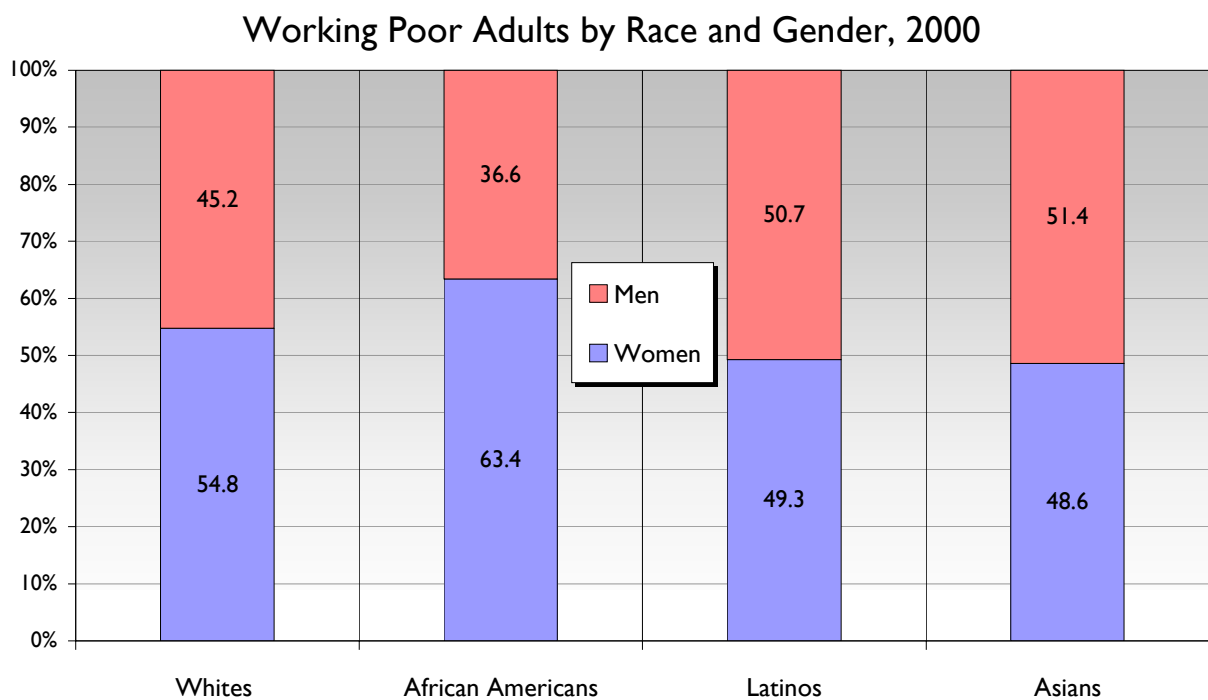
Among working poor African American and white adults, women greatly outnumbered men in 2000

Metropolitan Chicago



- Among African Americans, 62.9 percent of adults in working poor families were women, while only 37.1 percent were men.
- Among whites, 57.1 percent of adults in working poor families were women, while only 42.9 percent were men.

City of Chicago



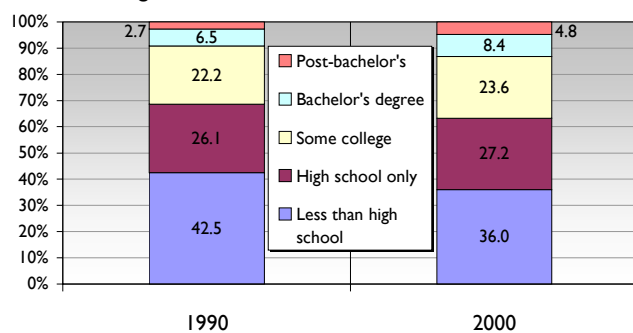
- Among African Americans, 63.4 percent of adults in working poor families were women, while only 36.6 percent were men.
- Among whites, 54.8 percent of adults in working poor families were women, while 45.2 percent were men.

What Is the Highest Level of Education of Adults in Working Poor Families?

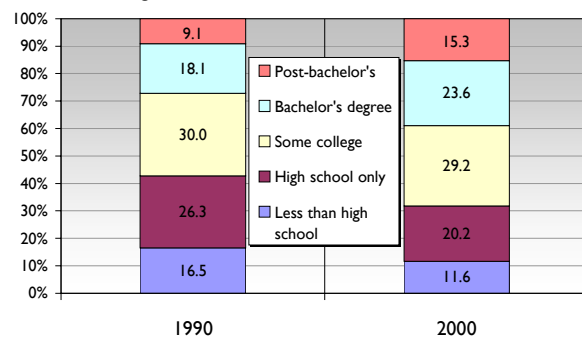
Adults in working poor families have completed fewer years of schooling than adults in nonworking poor families. Between 1990 and 2000, educational attainment increased among adults in both working poor and nonworking poor families, but the gains among the latter were far larger.

Metropolitan Chicago

Working Poor Educational Attainment, 1990 vs. 2000



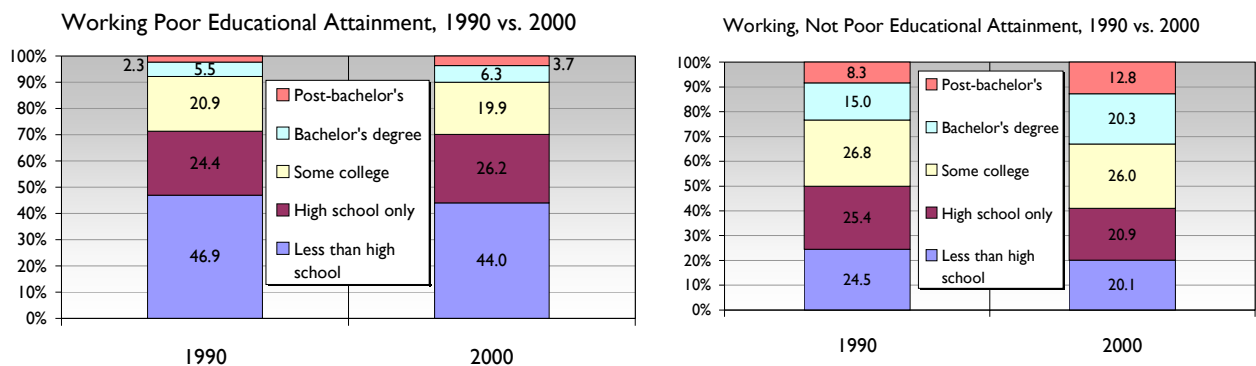
Working, Not Poor Educational Attainment, 1990 vs. 2000



	Working Poor		Working, Not Poor	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
All Postsecondary Education	31.4%	36.8%	57.2%	68.1%

- In both census years, nearly 4 out of every 10 adults in working poor families failed to complete high school, while fewer than 2 of 10 in families that were not working poor fell into that category.
- In both 1990 and 2000, only about a third of the adults in working poor families had any education beyond high school, but among families that were not working poor, more than two-thirds did by 2000.
- However, 13.2 percent of working poor adults did have a college degree or some post-bachelor's education in 2000, up from 9.2 percent in 1990.

City of Chicago

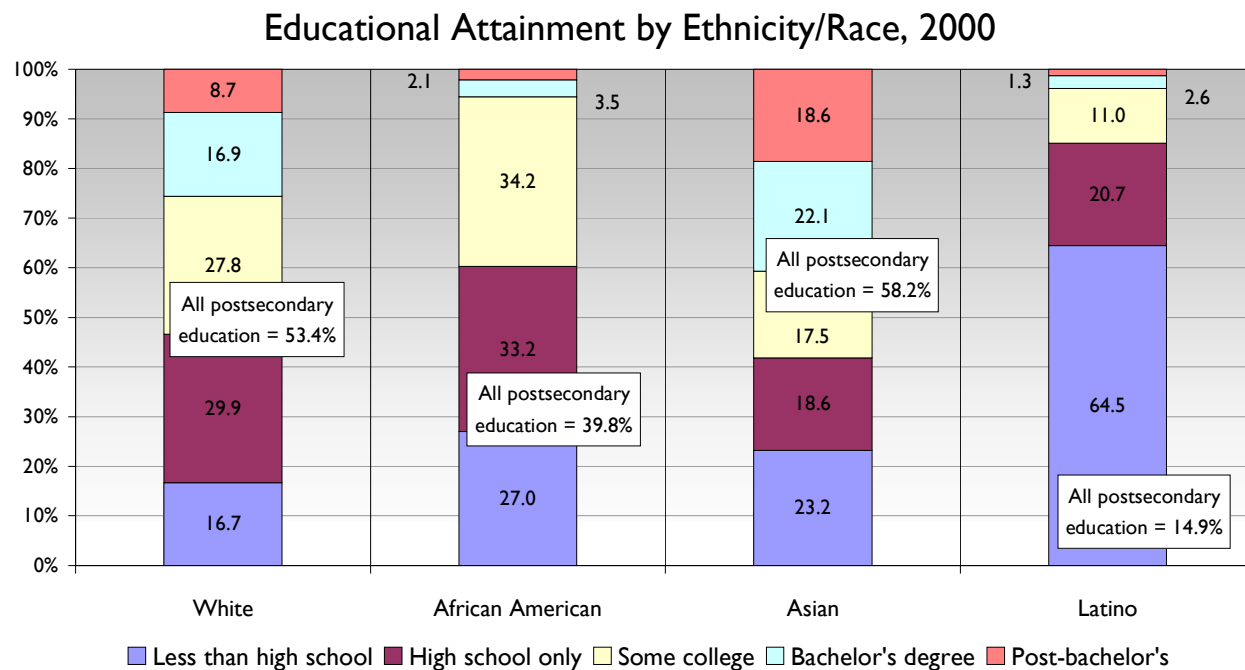


	Working Poor		Working, Not Poor	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
All Postsecondary Education	28.7%	29.1%	50.1%	59.1%

- In both census years, more than 4 out of every 10 adults in working poor families failed to complete high school, which was nearly twice the rate of high school non-completion among adults in families that were working and not poor.
- In both 1990 and 2000, fewer than a third of the adults in working poor families had any education beyond high school, but by 2000, nearly 60 percent of the adults in families that were working and not poor had some post-high school education.
- In 2000, 10 percent of working poor adults did have a college degree or some post-bachelors education.

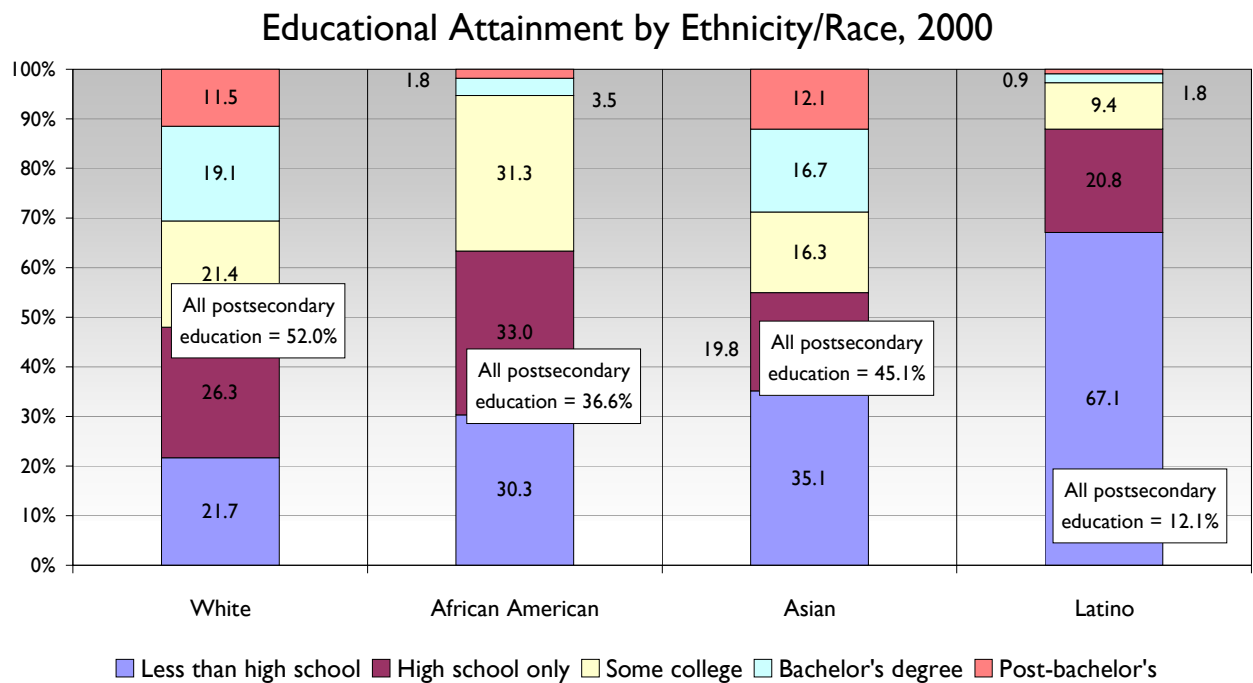
Are there Ethnic/Racial Differences in the Education Levels of Adults in Working Poor Families?

Metropolitan Chicago



- Nearly two-thirds of the adults in Latino working poor families have failed to complete high school, and another 20.7 percent have only a high school education. Only 14.9 percent have any post-high school education.
- Almost one-quarter of the adults in Asian working poor families have less than a high school education, but 58.2 percent of them have some post-high school training, and 18.6 percent have more than a bachelors degree.
- 53.4 percent of the adults in white working poor families have some post-high school education.

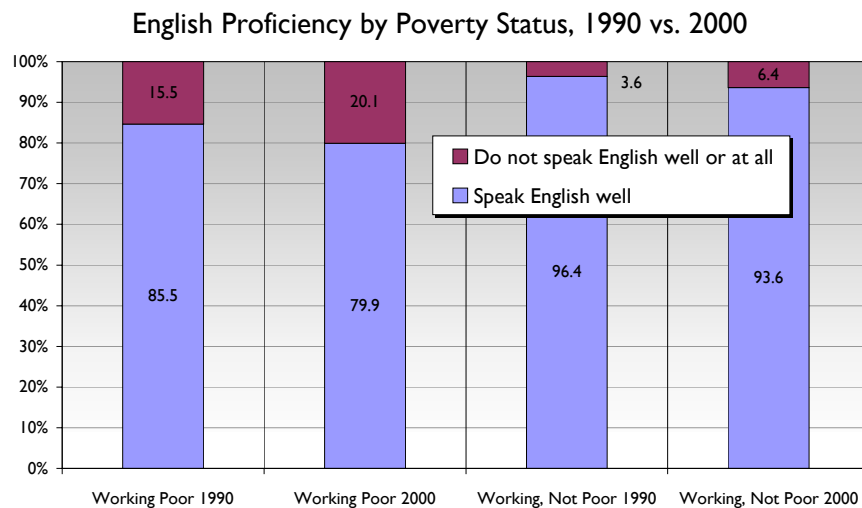
City of Chicago



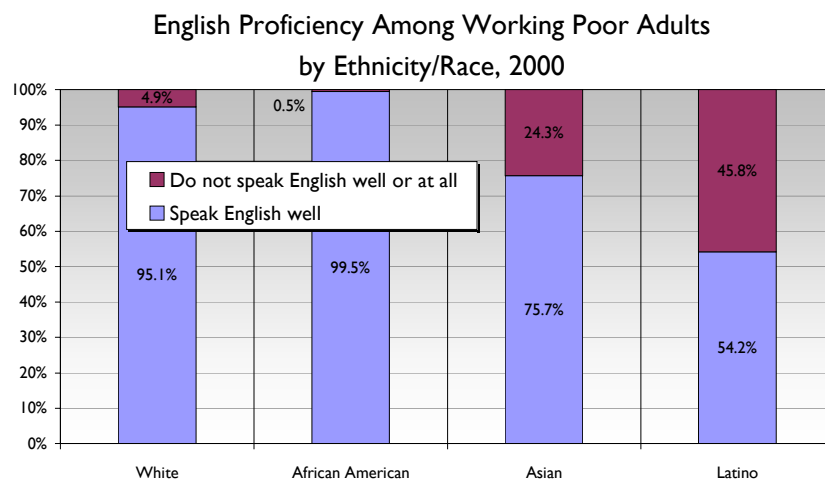
- 67.1 percent of the adults in Latino working poor families have less than a high school education, and another 20.8 percent have only a high school diploma. But only 12.1 percent have any post-high school education.
- 35.1 percent of the adults in Asian working poor families have failed to complete high school, but 45.1 percent have some post-high school education.
- 52.0 percent of the adults in white working poor families have some post-high school education.

How Well Do Adults in Working Poor Families Speak English?

Metropolitan Chicago

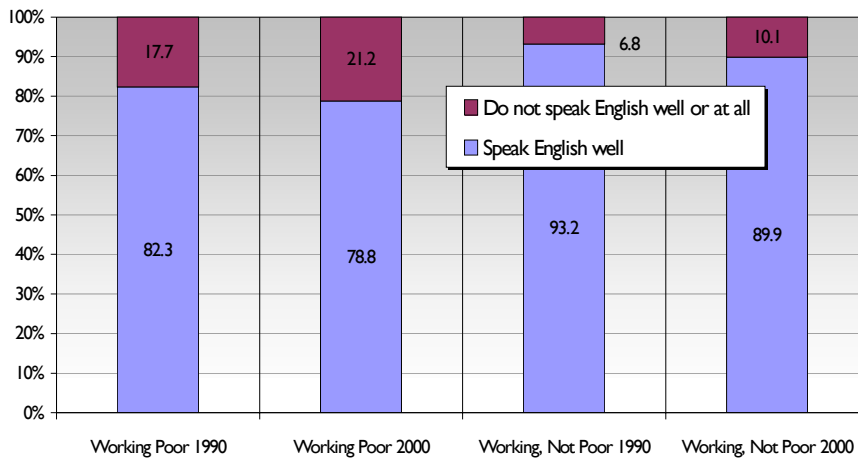


- In 2000, fully one-fifth of the working poor adults in the area did not speak English well or at all, a five-percentage point increase over 1990.
- As might be expected, Latino (45.8 percent) and Asian (24.3 percent) working poor adults have the highest percentages with poor English abilities in 2000.



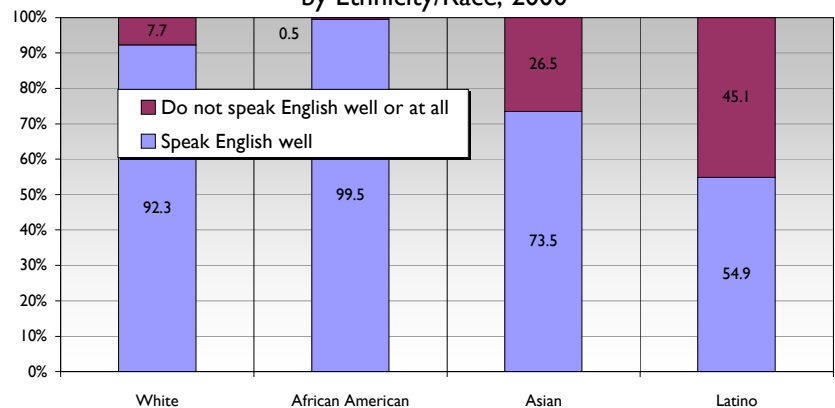
City of Chicago

English Proficiency by Poverty Status, 1990 vs. 2000



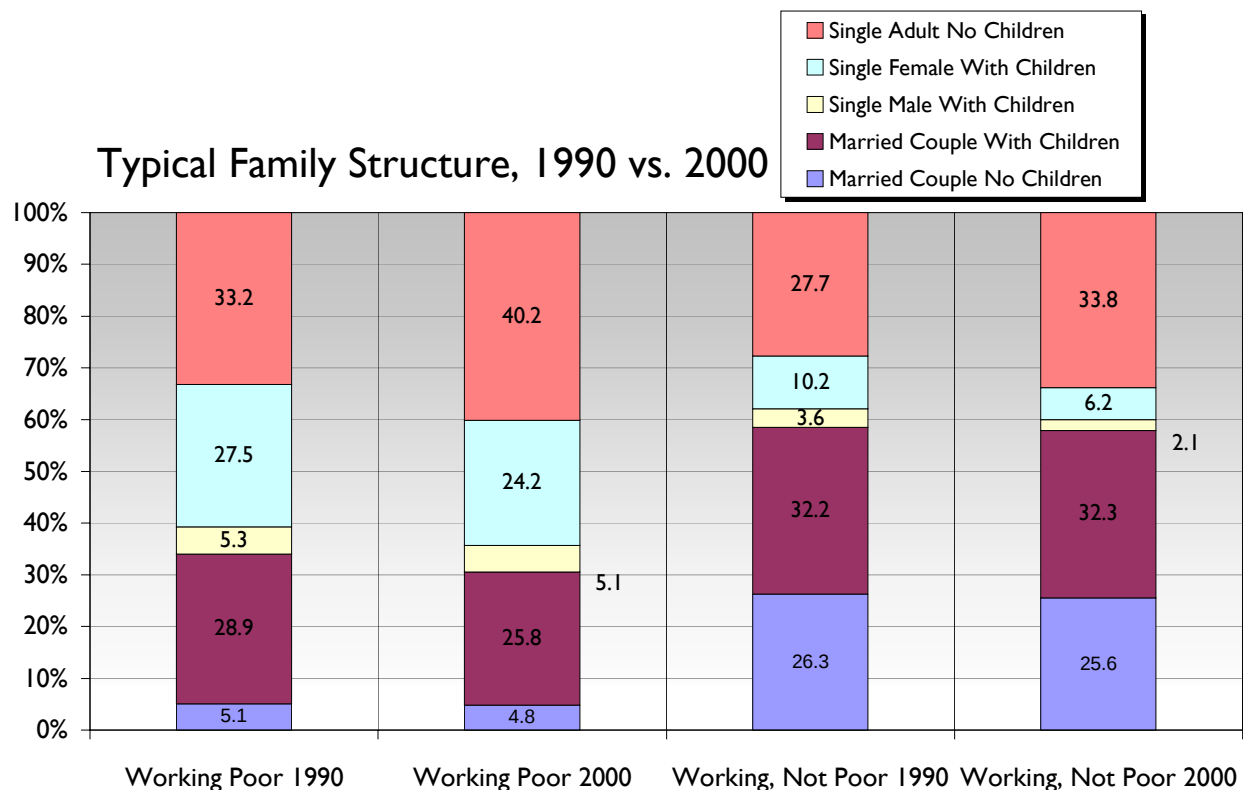
- Over a fifth of the working poor adults in Chicago reported not speaking English well or at all, and increase of 3.5 percentage points over 1990.
- Latino (45.1 percent) and Asian (26.5 percent) working poor adults have the highest percentages with poor English abilities.

English Proficiency Among Working Poor Adults
by Ethnicity/Race, 2000



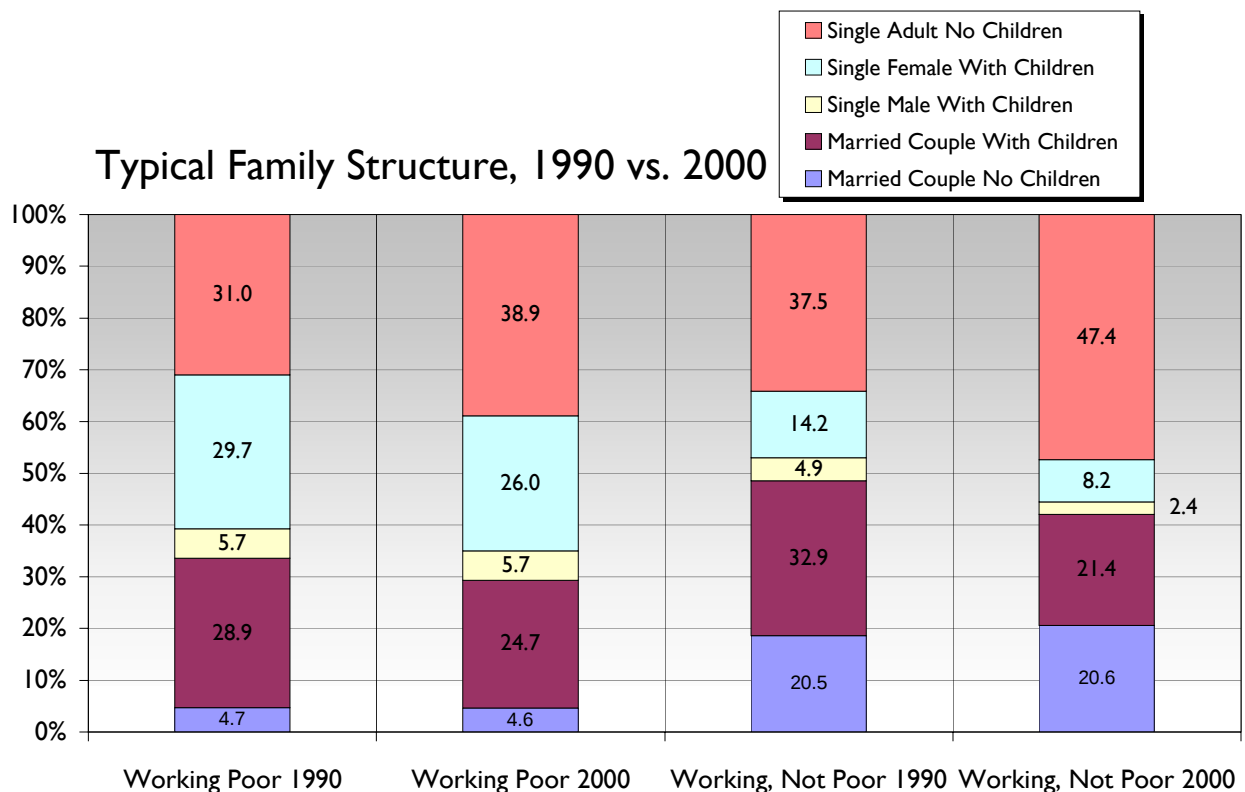
What is the Typical Family Structure of Working Poor Families?

Metropolitan Chicago



- 55.1 percent of working poor families had dependent children in 2000, a decline from 61.7 percent in 1990.
- 40.2 percent of working poor families consisted of single adults without dependent children in 2000, an increase from 33.2 percent in 1990.
- Women with dependent children headed 24.2 percent of working poor families in 2000, a drop from 27.5 percent in 1990.
- 45.0 percent of the working poor in 2000 had no dependent children, but 59.4 percent of families that were working but not poor were without dependents.

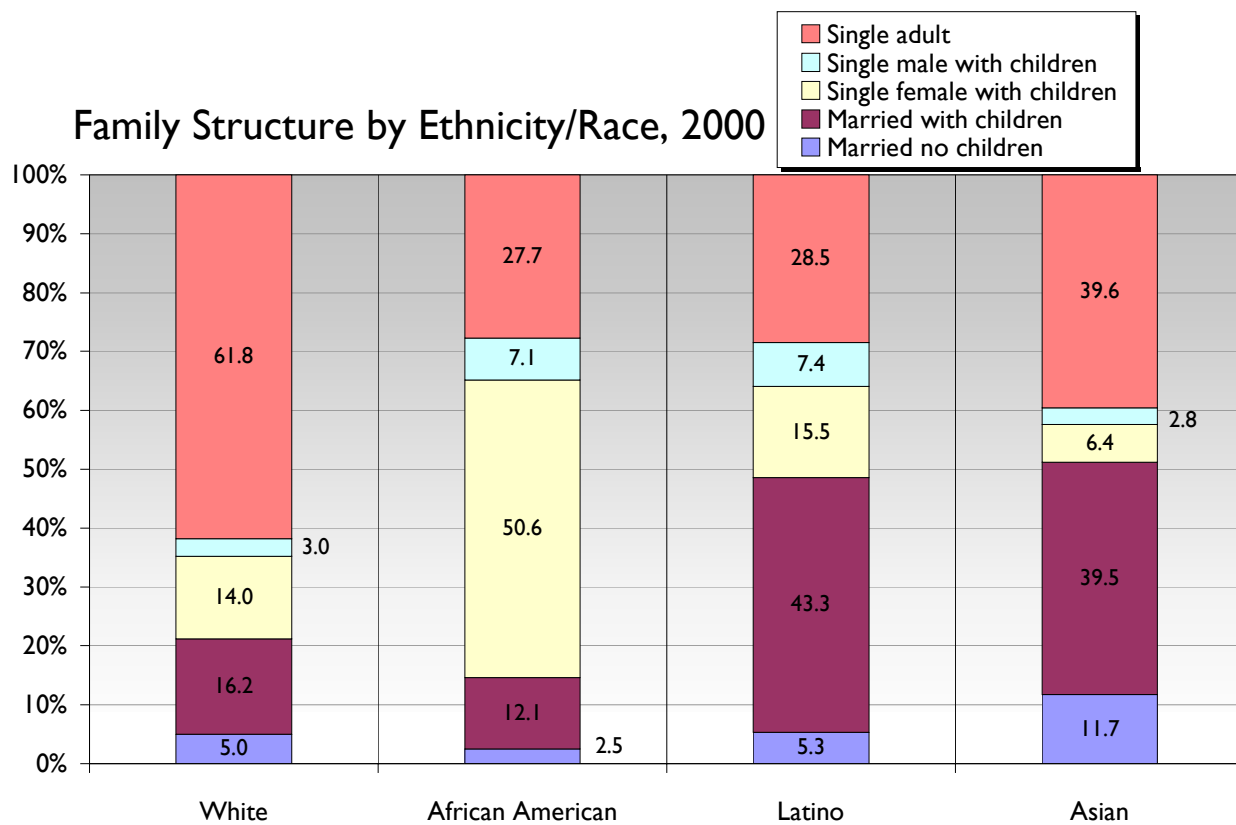
City of Chicago



- 56.4 percent of working poor families had dependent children in 2000, a drop from 64.3 percent in 1990.
- 38.9 percent of working poor families consisted of single adults without dependent children in 2000, an increase from 31.0 percent in 1990.
- Women with dependent children headed 26.0 percent of working poor families in 2000, a drop from 29.7 percent in 1990.
- 43.5 percent of working poor families in 2000 had no dependent children, but 68.0 percent of those who were working but not poor were without dependents.

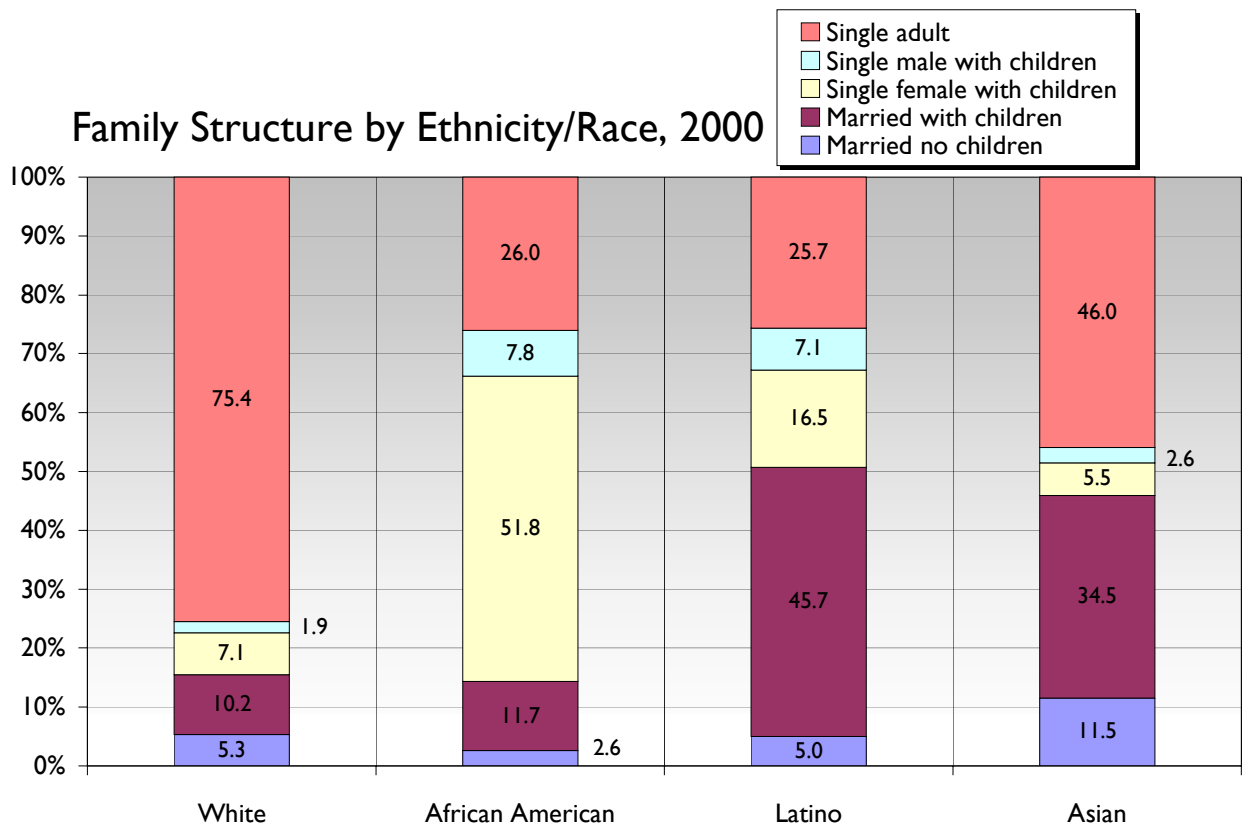
Are there Ethnic/Racial Differences in the Typical Family Structure of Working Poor Families?

Metropolitan Chicago



- Only 33.2 percent of the white working poor families have dependent children.
- 48.7 percent of the Asian working poor families have dependent children.
- 66.2 percent of Latino working poor families have dependent children.
- 69.8 percent of African-American working poor families have dependent children.
- The typical family structure among Latinos (43.3 percent) and Asians (39.5 percent) was a married couple with dependent children.
- Among African Americans, the most common family type (50.6 percent) was a single female with children.
- Single adults (61.8 percent) were most prevalent among whites.

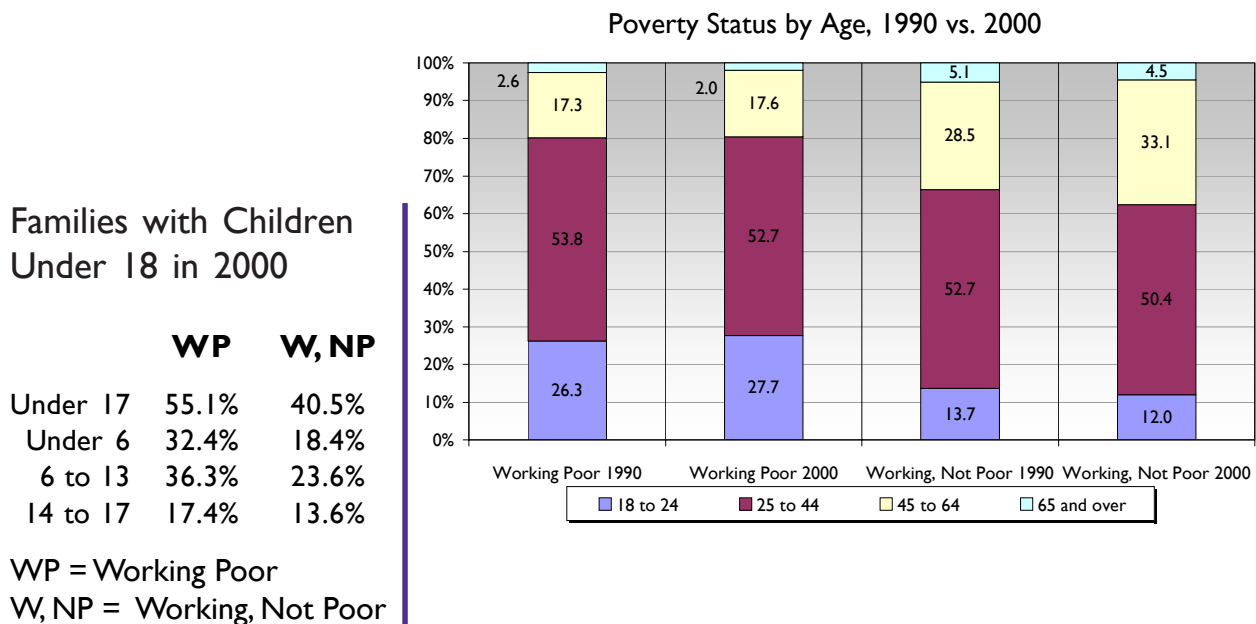
City of Chicago



- Only 19.2 percent of white working poor had dependent children.
- 42.6 percent of Asian working poor had dependent children.
- 69.3 percent of Latino working poor had dependent children.
- 71.3 percent of African-American working poor had dependent children.
- The most common family type among Latinos (45.7 percent) and Asians (34.5 percent) was a married couple with children.
- Among African Americans (51.8 percent), a single female with children was the most common family type.
- Single adults (75.4 percent) predominated among white working poor families.

How Old are Adults and Dependent Children in Working Poor Families?

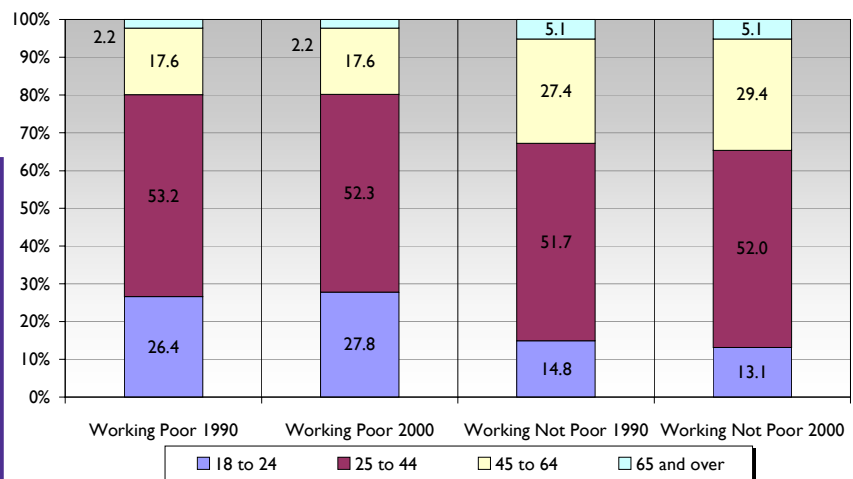
Metropolitan Chicago



- The adults in working poor families tended to be somewhat younger than those in families that were working but not poor.
- 27.7 percent of adults in working poor families were between the ages of 18 and 24 in 2000, compared to 12.0 percent in families that were not poor.
- Dependent children in working poor families also tended to be younger than their counterparts in families that were working and not poor.
- 55.1 percent of working poor families had children who were under 17 years of age in 2000, compared to only 40.5 percent of families that were working and not poor.
- 32.4 percent of working poor families had children who were less than 6 years old in 2000, compared to only 18.4 percent of non-poor families.

City of Chicago

Poverty Status by Age, 1990 vs. 2000



Families with Children Under 18 in 2000

	WP	W, NP
Under 17	56.5%	32.0%
Under 6	33.0%	14.8%
6 to 13	38.1%	18.2%
14 to 17	18.3%	10.6%

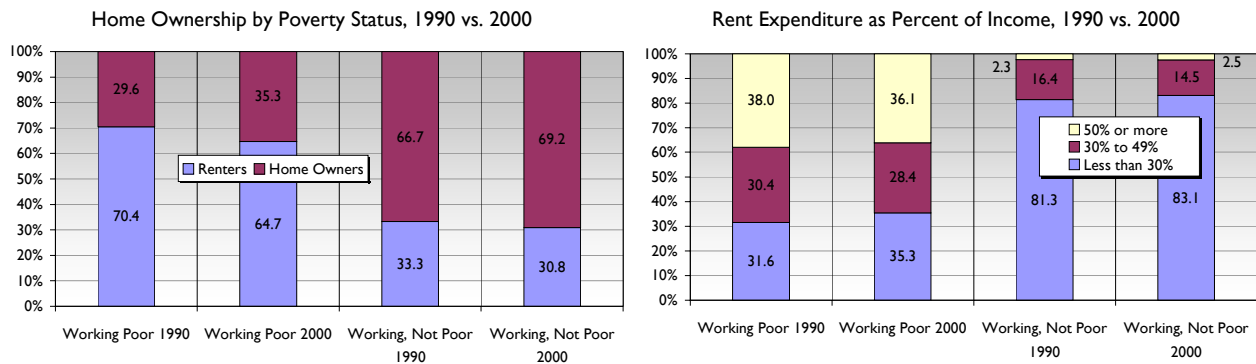
WP = Working Poor

W, NP = Working, Not Poor

- Working poor families tended to be younger than their counterparts who were working but not poor.
- 27.8 percent of adults in working poor families were between the ages of 18 and 24 in 2000, compared to 13.1 percent in families that were not poor.
- The children in working poor families also tended to be younger.
- 56.5 percent of working poor families had children under 17 years of age, compared with 32.0 percent of families that were not poor.
- 33.0 percent of working poor families, but only 14.8 percent of non-poor families, had children who were under 6 years of age.

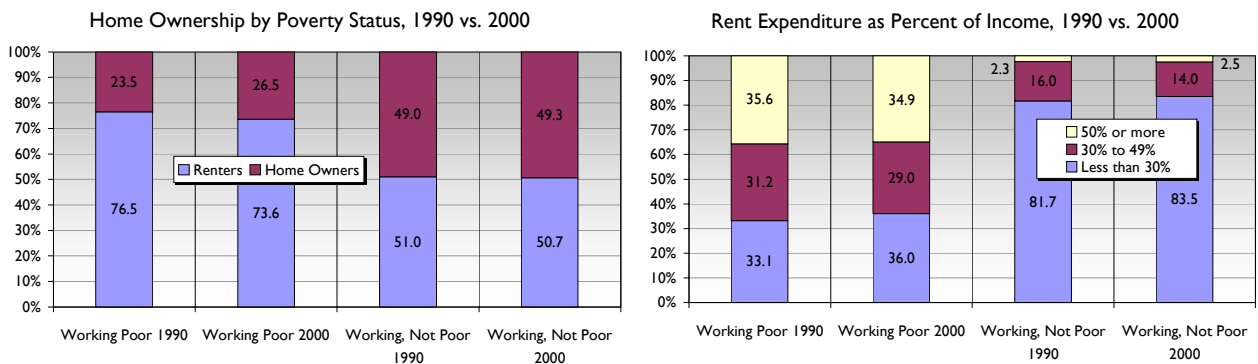
What Percentage of Working Poor Families Own Their Own Homes? How Much Do Those Who Rent Spend on Housing?

Metropolitan Chicago



- 35.3 percent of working poor families owned their own homes in 2000, an increase of 5.7 percent since 1990.
- For these working poor home owners, mortgage costs consumed a high share of their income:
 - 69.5 percent reported mortgages costs equal to 30 percent or more of income.
 - 48.8 percent reported mortgage costs equal to 50 percent or more of income, while only 5.4 percent of those who were working and not poor reported mortgages costs consuming such a high share of income.
- Among the 64.7 percent of working poor families that rented, 28.4 percent spent between 30 and 49 percent of their income on rent in 2000.
- 36.1 percent spent over half their income on rent in 2000, while only 2.5 percent of those working and not poor did so.

City of Chicago



- 26.5 percent of working poor families owned their own homes in 2000, an increase of 3.0 percent since 1990.
- For these working poor home owners, mortgage costs were a large burden:
 - 70.0 percent reported mortgage costs equal to 30.0 percent or more of their incomes.
 - 47.5 percent reported mortgage costs equal to 50.0 percent or more of their income, but only 7.4 percent of those who were working and not poor needed such a large share of their income to cover mortgage costs.
- Among the 73.6 percent of working poor families that rented in 2000:
 - 29.0 percent spent between 30 and 49 percent of their income on rent.
 - 34.9 percent spent over half their income on rent, while only 2.5 percent of the non-poor did so.

Are there Ethnic/Racial Differences in the Patterns of Home Ownership and Housing Expenditures Among Working Poor Families?

Metropolitan Chicago

Owners, 2000	White	African American	Latino	Asian
% Owner	43.5%	28.7%	33.4%	34.9%
Mort > 30%	72.5%	64.6%	68.1%	76.3%
Mort > 50%				
Working Poor	57.4%	42.9%	41.1%	58.5%
Working, Not Poor	4.9%	5.8%	8.0%	5.9%
Renters, 2000	White	African American	Latino	Asian
% Rent	56.5%	71.3%	66.5%	65.2%
Rent < 30%*	27.8%	36.5%	42.2%	25.5%
Rent 30-49%*	25.0%	27.3%	32.8%	23.8%
Rent > 50%*				
Working Poor	46.6%	35.9%	25.0%	50.4%
Working, Not Poor	2.9%	2.1%	1.8%	2.4%

*Those who pay no cash rent are less than 1% and are not shown here.

- Among working poor families, whites (at 43.5 percent) were more likely than other groups to own their own homes.
- For all of the home owners in these groups, mortgage costs consumed a high share of their income:
 - At least 6 of 10 in each group reported mortgage costs equal to 30 percent or more of their incomes.
 - Over half the white (57.4 percent) and Asian (58.5 percent) home owners reported mortgage costs equal to 50 percent or more of their income.
- Among working poor renters, over half the Asians (50.4 percent), and nearly half the whites (46.9 percent), reported rental costs equal to 50 percent or more of their income.

City of Chicago

Owners, 2000	White	African American	Latino	Asian
% Owner	24.0%	26.7%	28.5%	26.2%
Mort > 30%	77.7%	62.5%	72.4%	79.6%
Mort > 50%				
Working Poor	60.4%	40.4%	45.9%	62.8%
Working, Not Poor	6.4%	6.3%	10.6%	8.4%
Renters, 2000	White	African American	Latino	Asian
% Rent	76.0%	73.4%	71.4%	73.8%
Rent < 30%*	26.6%	38.2%	42.3%	25.5%
Rent 30-49%*	27.2%	28.3%	31.6%	22.1%
Rent > 50%*				
Working Poor	45.7%	33.3%	26.2%	51.8%
Working, Not Poor	3.1%	2.0%	1.9%	2.3%

*Those who pay no cash rent are less than 1% and are not shown here.

- Within each group, only about a quarter of the working poor families owned their own homes.
- For all of the home owners, mortgage costs were burdensome:
 - Over 7 in 10 of all groups except African Americans reported mortgage costs of 30 percent or more of their incomes.
 - Over 60 percent of the Asians and whites, and over 40 percent of each of the other groups reported mortgage costs equal to or greater than 50 percent of their incomes.
 - Among working poor renters, over half the Asians (51.8 percent) reported paying 50 percent or more of their income in rental costs.

What Proportion of Working Poor Adults Has a Work Disability?

Metropolitan Chicago, 2000

	Working Poor	Working, Not Poor
All adults	16.7%	10.6%
Whites	11.8%	7.6%
African Americans	17.6%	15.8%
Asians	17.6%	12.9%
Latinos	20.1%	17.8%

- One in six (16.7 percent) of all working poor adults in the metropolitan area have a work disability, 6.1 percentage points higher than those adults who are working but not poor.
- The proportion of working poor adults with a work disability is lowest among white adults (11.8 percent) and highest among Latino adults (20.1 percent).

City of Chicago, 2000

	Working Poor	Working, Not Poor
All adults	18.7%	14.5%
Whites	13.4%	9.3%
African Americans	18.2%	17.6%
Asians	18.5%	14.2%
Latinos	21.8%	19.5%

- 18.7 percent of Chicago's working poor adults have a work disability, compared with 14.5 percent of those adults who are working and not poor.
- Whites (at 13.4 percent) have the lowest percentage of working poor adults with a work disability, while Latinos have the highest (at 21.8 percent).

Policy Implications & Recommendations

In the Chicago metropolitan area, as throughout the nation, economic growth and labor market attachment alone will not lift families out of poverty.

During the 1990s, a decade marked by impressive growth and significant reduction in public assistance rolls, the number of working poor families rose dramatically in Chicago and the Chicago metropolitan area. That rise far outpaced the overall growth in working families in the city and region.

The percentage of poor families that are working in the Chicago metropolitan area also rose considerably, partly reflecting the march of a “work-first” welfare “reform” that has pushed tens of thousands of mostly single mothers from public assistance into the low-wage job market. By the end of the 1990s, 59.4% percent of poor families in the Chicago area were working, as were 52.8% percent of the poor families in the city of Chicago.

Along with their many millions of fellow working poor across the nation, and well before the recession of 2001, the existence of these Chicago area residents challenged the relevance of the American social contract. The core promise at the heart of that contract is that work will be rewarded with the workers’ ability to enjoy a decent standard of living for themselves and their families.

In the Chicago metropolitan area, the gap between the promise and reality of work’s rewards is especially great for:

- families headed by predominantly female single parents (24 percent of working poor families in both the metropolitan area and the city)
- minority workers (70.6 percent of the working poor in the metropolitan area and 81.5 percent in the city); and,
- workers with less than a high school diploma (36 percent of the metropolitan area’s working poor families and 44 percent of the city’s).

Latinos are particularly over-represented among the working poor. The third largest ethnic/racial group in the metropolitan area, Latinos jumped from third to first in the ranks of the working poor during the 1990s. While comprising only 16.4 percent of the area’s employed adults, Latinos make up 36.9 percent of its working poor. Latinos are almost five times more likely to experience working poverty than Chicago-area whites.

Blacks also continue to be disproportionately represented among the working poor. While they are only 15.3 percent of the area’s employed adults, they comprise 26.3 percent of families who are poor but working. They are more than three times as likely as whites in the Chicago area to experience working poverty.

The disproportionate presence of people of color among the working poor challenges another core American assumption – the idea of the United States as a land of color-blind equal opportunity.

If the American Dream is going to become a reality for all Chicago-area residents, government will have

to play a central role in helping to make work pay for all who labor, regardless of race, ethnicity, or gender.

Below are some specific recommendations formulated to accomplish that dream.

I. Policies to Boost Income and Encourage Higher-Wage Development

Raise the minimum wage.

Illinois recently became the 13th state to raise its minimum wage above the federal level of \$5.15 an hour. The Illinois minimum was raised to \$5.50 on Jan. 1, 2004 and will go up to \$6.50 in 2005, putting it 26.2 percent above the nominal value of the federal standard. While this is a welcome step forward, it is worth noting that it would have taken an hourly income of \$16.97 to meet the costs of the Economic Policy Institute’s “basic family budget” for a single-parent family with two children, or \$18.97 an hour for a family of two married adults and two children.¹ Moreover, the inflation-adjusted value of the federal minimum wage in 2004 is 26 percent lower than it was in 1979 and is the equivalent of only \$4.23 in 1995 – lower than the \$4.25 federal minimum prior to the latest increase in 1996-97.²

Pass and expand the scope of living wage laws. These are laws requiring contractors and recipients of economic development funds to pay wages higher than the federal or state mandated minimums. Chicago currently has in place a living wage requirement for certain city contractors. County and other local

jurisdictions in the metropolitan area should enact living-wage ordinances, which improve workers lives at minimal cost to local budgets.

Increase the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

The EITC provides low-income working families with a refundable tax credit against federal income taxes. However, the credit phases out quickly as earned income increases. The federal EITC should be improved by slowing the phase-out rate, thereby enabling workers to earn more income before losing the credit entirely. Last summer, Illinois made the state EITC permanent and improved it so that an additional 150,000 families (including those without taxable income) could receive the credit. While this is a step in the right direction, the state EITC should be raised from its current level of 5 percent of the federal EITC to 20 percent.

Improve fiscal equity at the state and federal levels.

Even with the recent expansion of the EITC, Illinois still has a very regressive tax system. According to the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, “after federal offsets, our bottom 20 percent of income earners pay 13.1 percent of their total income to the state in taxes while the wealthiest 1 percent pay only 4.6 percent.”²³ Furthermore, the 2003 tax reforms of the Bush administration provided a disproportionate benefit to the already wealthy.

Make it easier to form and sustain unions. Strong unions have successfully improved wages for workers, in general, and unionized workers, in particular. According to the Economic Policy

Institute, unions increase the wages of unionized workers by roughly 20 percent and raise total compensation – including benefits as well as wages – by about 28 percent. Unionized workers are 18 to 28 percent more likely to receive employer-provided health insurance and they are 23 to 54 percent more likely to be enrolled in employer-provided pension plans than their nonunion counterparts.⁴ Yet, illegal reprisals against workers attempting to form unions are rising and newly certified unions often find it difficult to reach agreements with employers on first contracts. Existing labor laws should be effectively enforced and legislation should be passed allowing for “card-check” union certification and mandating good faith employer bargaining towards first contracts with newly certified unions. The penalties for violating existing labor laws should be increased.

II. Expand the Safety Net for the Working Poor

Government should also act to support working families on the path from poverty to “self-sufficiency” by expanding the social safety net to more effectively and comprehensively meet workers’ needs. Specifically, policymakers should:

Increase the access of working poor families to high-quality, low-cost child care, the shortage of which provides a major barrier to remunerative, long-term, and two-parent attachment to the labor market.

Increase availability of public transportation and transportation subsidies for poor communities and families, who often live at a great distance from the most dynamic employment growth areas but lack reliable and cheap transportation.

Introduce universal health insurance, extending medical coverage to the many working poor families who make too much to qualify for Medicaid but too little to afford private health insurance and who do not receive employer-provided health insurance on the job. The United States is unique among modern industrialized states in running health care primarily through the employer, a practice that leaves 44 million people uncovered and carries a number of negative consequences related to the problem of working poverty. As David Shipler, a leading analyst of working poverty, has observed, “employer-based policies may be the worst conceivable way to organize coverage.” Providing health insurance through the workplace drives up employer labor costs and forces workers into poorly managed health maintenance organizations. It often creates pools of insured “so small,” Shipler notes, “that a single employee’s cancer diagnosis can send premiums shooting through the roof for everyone.”²⁵

Expand funding and eligibility for housing assistance and create more affordable housing options for the large number of working poor who pay disproportionate amounts of their limited income on mortgage payments and (more commonly) rents.

Create a more responsive and holistic set of social services

to poor people (working and non-working), one that might simultaneously offer legal, educational, medical, counseling, transportation, housing, and parenting support. The working poor face multiple and interlocking problems, and it is best to attack all or as many of their difficulties as possible at the same time.

III. Enhance Human Capital

Increase and equalize public school funding. Illinois currently has the most unequal school funding system in the United States.⁶

It heavily relies on local property taxes. As a result, primary and secondary schools in lower income communities are less well funded than schools in wealthier communities. Furthermore, Illinois provides far less money per student for public primary and secondary schooling than most other states. The Illinois state government should increase its funding for public education and more reliance should be placed on income tax revenues and less on property tax revenues for funding public education.

Increase the affordability of higher education. College graduates are much less likely to be in the working poor than are those with less education. However, college-qualified high school graduates who are poor are being “priced out” of a college education. While tuition costs are sharply increasing at public and private universities, federal and state need-based financial aid has not risen commensurately. In fact, many

Illinois residents are being denied access to need-based financial aid due to cuts in program funding. They are often the state’s poorest residents. Given the importance of a college education to future economic success, federal and state need-based aid programs should be better and more reliably funded to meet the need for such assistance.

IV. Encourage High-Wage Job Development and Improve Paths to Good Jobs

Use tax, zoning, housing and other policies to encourage “smart growth”

development that creates more job development in and around the often job-poor and highly segregated urban communities where many minority working poor families live.

Require publicly subsidized developers of large urban projects — entertainment arenas, sports stadiums, hotels, office parks, “big box” retail outlets, upscale residential developments, and other such projects — to sign and honor Community Benefit Agreements that include living wage mandates and require efforts to avoid displacing pre-existing local jobs.

Encourage employers to invest in “high road” job development practices and worker education and training. While lowering unemployment requires job creation, reducing the number of working poor requires the creation of high paying jobs with good career prospects. Government can take the lead in developing regional labor market institutions for workers without college degrees. Economic development strategies can

encourage employers to create well paying, skilled positions. Community colleges and other training providers can help to lower the hiring and training costs of employers through effective education and training programs. Those completing such programs can be credentialed for entry level positions which can serve as stepping stones to better paying jobs either within the firm or in other firms in the same industry within the regional labor market.

Footnotes

¹ Both hourly wages are based on working 40 hours a week and 52 weeks a year. Economic Policy Institute, “Basic Budget Calculator,” available online at <http://www.epinet.org>.

² Economic Policy Institute, “Minimum Wage Facts At a Glance,” July 2004, available online at <http://www.epinet.org>.

³ Ralph Martire, “Illinois Fiscal System Basics,” Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, 2002, p. 8; available online at www.ctbaonline.org.

⁴ Lawrence Mishel and Matthew Walters, “How Unions Help All Workers,” Washington, D.C.: Economic Policy Institute, 2003.

⁵ David K. Shipler, *The Working Poor: Invisible in America* (New York: Alfred Knopf, 2004), p. 295.

⁶ Kevin Carey, *The Funding Gap: Low Income and Minority Students Still Receive Fewer Dollars in Many States* (Washington, D.C.: The Education Trust, 2003).

The State of Working Families in Illinois, 2000

Total Number of Families: 3,910,959

Working Poor 489,098
Percent 12.5%

Working, Not Poor 3,421,831
Percent 87.5%

Families:

Less than 50% of Poverty Level 68,583
50-100% of Poverty Level 174,415
100-125% of Poverty Level 116,290
125-150% of Poverty Level 129,810
Greater than 150% of Poverty Level 3,421,831

	Working Poor	Working Not Poor
Adults:	709,080	6,346,552
Percent	10.0%	90.0%
White, non-Latino	48.9%	73.0%
African American, non-Latino	20.9%	11.3%
Asian, non-Latino	3.8%	3.9%
Latino	24.9%	10.5%
Other	1.4%	1.3%
One Worker, Single Person Family	42.7%	29.0%
One Worker, Multiple Person Family	42.3%	25.1%
Two Workers	12.7%	37.0%
Three or More Workers	2.2%	8.9%

Female Adults by Ethnicity/Race:

Whites 58.1% 49.4%
African Americans 61.9% 53.2%
Asians 51.2% 51.5%
Latinos 48.8% 45.1%

Educational Attainment (Persons 25 & Over):

Less than High School 34.0% 12.0%
High School Degree Only 31.1% 25.5%
Some College 24.2% 30.8%
Bachelor's Degree 7.1% 20.2%
Post-Bachelor's 3.6% 11.6%

Post High School 34.9% 62.6%
High School Graduates 66.0% 88.1%
College Graduates 10.7% 31.8%

	Working Poor	Working Not Poor
White Educational Attainment:		
Less than High School	19.8%	7.1%
High School Degree Only	36.4%	26.7%
Some College	29.0%	31.7%
Bachelor's degree	10.2%	21.9%
Post-Bachelors	4.6%	12.5%
Post High School	43.8%	66.1%
High School Graduates	80.2%	92.8%
College Graduates	14.8%	34.4%
African American Educational Attainment:		
Less than High School	29.0%	16.2%
High School Degree Only	34.3%	24.4%
Some College	31.8%	38.4%
Bachelor's Degree	3.4%	13.9%
Post-Bachelors	1.6%	7.1%
Post High School	36.8%	59.4%
High School Graduates	71.1%	83.8%
College Graduates	5.0%	21.0%
Asian Educational Attainment:		
Less than High School	25.9%	10.3%
High School Degree Only	18.7%	10.8%
Some College	16.6%	17.2%
Bachelors Degree	21.7%	36.6%
Post-Bachelors	17.1%	25.0%
Post High School	55.4%	78.8%
High School Graduates	74.1%	89.6%
College Graduates	38.8%	61.6%
Latino Educational Attainment:		
Less than High School	66.0%	45.7%
High School Degree Only	20.8%	23.8%
Some College	9.9%	19.6%
Bachelors Degree	2.2%	7.0%
Post-Bachelors	1.1%	3.9%
Post High School	13.2%	30.5%
High School Graduates	34.0%	54.3%
College Graduates	3.3%	10.9%
English Language Ability Among Adults:		
Speak English Well	87.0%	95.4%
Don't Speak English Well	13.0%	4.6%
Latino English Language Ability		
Speak English Well	55.5%	71.0%
Don't Speak English Well	44.5%	29.0%
Asian English Language Ability		
Speak English Well	77.7%	87.5%
Don't Speak English Well	22.3%	12.5%

	Working Poor	Working Not Poor
Percent of Working Poor Adults Employed by Industry:		
Accommodation and Food Services	13.1%	4.1%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation	2.0%	1.4%
Construction	5.0%	6.0%
Education	9.1%	8.5%
Farming, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting	1.5%	0.8%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Rental/Leasing	3.9%	8.4%
Health and Social Services	12.3%	10.8%
Information Services	2.0%	3.1%
Manufacturing	12.8%	16.9%
Military	1.0%	0.2%
Mining and Extraction	0.1%	0.2%
Other Services	6.2%	4.4%
Professional, Scientific, Administrative Support, Management and Waste Management Services	9.1%	10.3%
Public Administration	1.6%	4.3%
Retail Trade	13.4%	10.1%
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	4.2%	6.4%
Percent of Working Poor Adults Employed by Occupation:		
Administrative Support	14.9%	16.4%
Cleaning and Maintenance	6.5%	2.5%
Construction Trades	4.3%	4.8%
Farming, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting	0.6%	0.2%
Food Preparation	11.6%	3.2%
Health Aides	3.8%	1.5%
Installation, Maintenance and Repair	3.8%	2.9%
Material Moving and Handling	4.7%	2.6%
Mining and Extractive	0.0%	0.1%
Military	0.6%	0.1%
Management and Professional	16.6%	37.1%
Personal Services	5.4%	2.3%
Production	11.5%	9.1%
Protective Services	1.3%	2.1%
Sales	11.5%	10.6%
Transportation	3.9%	3.8%
Duration of Work:		
Full Time/Full Year	33.7%	67.0%
1-9 Hours per Week	3.7%	1.3%
10-19 Hours per Week	7.7%	3.0%
20-34 Hours per Week	26.4%	11.2%
35 or More Hours per Week	62.2%	84.4%
1-15 Weeks per Year	4.8%	3.3%
16-25 Weeks per Year	3.9%	2.8%
26-49 Weeks per Year	42.4%	19.5%
50 or More Weeks per Year	48.9%	74.4%
White Full Time/Full Year	31.5%	68.6%
African American Full Time/Full Year	31.0%	63.9%
Asian Full Time/Full Year	29.4%	64.2%
Latino Full time/Full Year	42.3%	60.1%

	Working Poor	Working Not Poor
Annual Earnings:		
	\$9,784	\$39,889
Whites	\$8,950	\$42,483
African Americans	\$9,892	\$33,065
Asians	\$9,533	\$44,288
Latinos	\$11,736	\$27,528
Family Structure:		
Married Couple, No Children	4.6%	27.4%
Married Couple with Children	22.1%	32.4%
Single Male with Children	4.5%	2.2%
Single Female with Children	22.4%	5.7%
Single Adult, No Children	46.3%	32.3%
White Married Couple, No Children	5.1%	29.7%
White Married Couple with Children	17.0%	31.6%
White Single Male with Children	3.5%	2.1%
White Single Female with Children	15.9%	3.8%
White Single Adult, No Children	58.5%	32.9%
Black Married Couple, No Children	2.2%	17.5%
Black Married Couple with Children	11.6%	19.9%
Black Single Male with Children	6.4%	4.3%
Black Single Female with Children	47.1%	18.7%
Black Single Adult, No Children	32.8%	39.7%
Asian Married Couple, No Children	10.6%	28.9%
Asian Married Couple with Children	33.3%	38.3%
Asian Single Male with Children	2.1%	1.5%
Asian Single Female with Children	5.9%	2.4%
Asian Single Adult, No Children	48.1%	28.9%
Latino Married Couple, No Children	5.1%	15.9%
Latino Married Couple with Children	41.8%	40.1%
Latino Single Male with Children	7.5%	9.3%
Latino Single Female with Children	15.2%	7.0%
Latino Single Adult, No Children	30.4%	27.7%
Ages of Adults:		
18-24 Years	31.2%	12.0%
24-44 Years	50.4%	49.3%
45 to 64 Years	16.8%	34.4%
65 and Over	1.7%	4.3%
White 18-24	34.8%	10.5%
African American 18-24	27.4%	13.0%
Asian 18-24	25.0%	11.1%
Latino 18-24	28.3%	21.3%
Percent of Families with Children Under 18:		
Children Less Than 18	49.0%	40.3%
Children Less than 6	27.5%	16.5%
Children 6 to 13	30.7%	21.2%
Children 14 to 17	14.4%	13.2%

	Working Poor	Working Not Poor
Percent of White Families with Children Under 18	36.4%	37.5%
Percent of African American Families with Children Under 18	65.1%	42.9%
Percent of Asian Families with Children Under 18	41.3%	42.2%
Percent of Latino Families with Children Under 18	64.5%	56.4%
Percentage of Families Owning or Renting:		
Renting	63.0%	28.5%
Home Owners	37.0%	71.5%
Home Ownership by Ethnicity/Race:		
White	50.0%	76.6%
African American	27.1%	53.4%
Asian	31.2%	60.4%
Latino	33.2%	57.9%
Rent as a Percentage of Income:		
Less than 30%	36.8%	84.9%
30% to 49%	29.0%	13.1%
50% or More	34.1%	2.1%
Rent as a Percentage of Income by Ethnicity/Race:		
White - 30% or More	64.4%	15.0%
African American - 30% or More	63.3%	16.5%
Asian - 30% or More	76.3%	15.4%
Latino - 30% or More	57.5%	13.3%
Adults with Work Disability:		
White Adults with Work Disability	15.0%	10.1%
African-American Adults with Work Disability	11.7%	8.0%
Asian Adults with Work Disability	17.4%	15.8%
Latino Adults with Work Disability	15.1%	12.5%
	19.8%	17.5%

Definition of Terms

Chicago Metropolitan Area: The seven county region including Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will Counties. Grundy County was added to the standard six-county region because the Public Use Microdata Sample (5 percent) of the 2000 United States Census does not allow breakouts between Will and Grundy counties.

Ethnicity and Race:

African American. Non-Hispanic people who indicated their race as Black or Negro or reported themselves as African-American, Black Puerto Rican, Jamaican, Nigerian, West Indian, or Haitian.

Asian. Non-Hispanic people who indicated their race as one of the Asian groups (Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Asian Indian, Korean, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Other Asian), or one of the Pacific Islander groups (Hawaiian, Samoan, Guamanian, Other Pacific Islander).

Latino. People who classified themselves in a specific Hispanic Origin group, including Mexican, Puerto Rican or Cuban, as well as those who indicated Other Spanish/Hispanic Origin including Spain, Central or South American Spanish-speaking countries, or the Dominican Republic, and those persons identifying themselves generally as Spanish, Spanish-American, Hispanic, Hispano, or Latino.

White. Non-Hispanic people who indicated their race as White or reported entries such as Canadian, German, Italian, Lebanese, Near Easterner, Arab, or Polish, etc.

Families, Working Age: Families with at least one member between the ages of 18 and 65 and families in which retirement income is less than 80 percent of total income. Unrelated individuals are defined as a family of one.

Working Poor Families: Families whose members together worked 26 weeks or more in 1999 but whose total income was less than 150 percent of the official poverty line.

Families Working and Not Poor: Families whose members together worked 26 weeks or more in 1999 and whose total income was greater than 150 percent of the official poverty line.

Family Income: Includes the income of all family members. Income is the total sum of the amounts reported separately for wage or salary income; net non-farm self-employment income; net farm self-employment income; interest, dividend, or net rental or royalty income, social security income; public assistance or welfare income; retirement or disability income; and all other income. Income does not include the value of in-kind income such as food stamps, public housing subsidies, or employer benefits.

Industry: Information on industry relates to the kind of business conducted by a person's employing organization. For employed people, the data refer to the person's job during the reference week. For those who worked at two or more jobs, the data refer to the job at which the person worked the greatest number of hours.

Accommodation & Food Services: The Accommodation and Food Services sector comprises establishments providing customers with lodging and/or preparing meals, snacks, and beverages for immediate consumption. The sector includes both accommodation and food services establishments because the two activities are often combined at the same establishment.

Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting: The Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting sector comprises establishments primarily engaged in growing crops, raising animals, harvesting timber, and harvesting fish and other animals from a farm, ranch, or their natural habitats.

Arts, Entertainment and Recreation: The Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation sector includes a wide range of establishments that operate facilities or provide services to meet varied cultural, entertainment, and recreational interests of their patrons.

Construction: The Construction sector comprises establishments primarily engaged in the construction of buildings and other structures, heavy construction (except buildings), additions, alterations, reconstruction, installation, and maintenance and repairs. Establishments engaged in demolition or wrecking of buildings and other structures, clearing of building sites, and sale of materials from demolished structures are also included.

Educational Services: The Educational Services sector comprises establishments that provide instruction and training in a wide variety of subjects. This instruction and training is provided by specialized establishments, such as schools, colleges, universities, and training centers.

Finance & Insurance, Real Estate and Rental and Leasing: The Finance and Insurance sector comprises establishments primarily engaged in financial transactions (transactions involving the creation, liquidation, or change in ownership of financial assets) and/or in facilitating financial transactions. The Real Estate and Rental and Leasing sector comprises establishments primarily engaged in renting, leasing,

or otherwise allowing the use of tangible or intangible assets, and establishments providing related services. The major portion of this sector comprises establishments that rent, lease, or otherwise allow the use of their own assets by others.

Health Care & Social Assistance:

The Health Care and Social Assistance sector comprises establishments providing health care and social assistance for individuals. The sector includes both health care and social assistance because it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between the boundaries of these two activities. The industries in this sector are arranged on a continuum starting with those establishments providing medical care exclusively, continuing with those providing health care and social assistance, and finally finishing with those providing only social assistance.

Information: The Information sector comprises establishments engaged in the following processes: (a) producing and distributing information and cultural products; (b) providing the means to transmit or distribute these products as well as data or communications; and (c) processing data. The main components of this sector are the publishing industries, including software publishing, traditional publishing and publishing exclusively on the Internet; the motion picture and sound recording industries; the broadcasting industries, including traditional broadcasting and those broadcasting exclusively over the Internet; the telecommunications industries; the industries known as Internet service providers and web search portals, data processing industries, and the information service industries.

Manufacturing: The Manufacturing sector comprises establishments engaged in the mechanical, physical,

or chemical transformation of materials, substances, or components into new products. Durable manufacturing deals with products designed to last three or more years. Non-durable manufacturing deals with 'soft' goods designed to be used more quickly; e.g. food and clothing.

Military: Includes those in the armed services performing military duties.

Mining and Extractive: Mining includes establishments primarily engaged in the extraction, exploration, and development of coal, oil, natural gas, metallic and non-metallic minerals. Mining does not include the preparation of these products.

Other Services (except Public Administration):

The Other Services (Except Public Administration) sector covers establishments with payroll engaged in providing services not specifically provided for elsewhere in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Establishments in this sector are primarily engaged in activities such as repair and maintenance of equipment and machinery, personal and laundry services, and religious, grant making, civic, professional, and similar organizations. Establishments providing death care services, pet care services, photo finishing services, temporary parking services, and dating services are also included.

Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative & Waste Management Services:

Industries in the Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services subsector group are establishments engaged in processes where human capital is the major input. These establishments make available the knowledge and skills of their employees, often on an assignment basis, where an individual or team is responsible for the delivery of services to the client. The

Management of Companies and Enterprises sector comprises (1) establishments that hold the securities of (or other equity interests in) companies and enterprises for the purpose of owning a controlling interest or influencing management decisions or (2) establishments (except government establishments) that administer, oversee, and manage establishments of the company or enterprise and that normally undertake the strategic or organizational planning and decision making role of the company or enterprise. The Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services sector comprises establishments performing routine support activities for the day-to-day operations of other organizations.

Public Administration: This sector includes persons working in federal, state, or local government offices and activities.

Retail Trade: The retail trade sector comprises establishments engaged in retailing merchandise, generally without transformation, and rendering services incidental to the sale of merchandise. The retailing process is the final step in the distribution of merchandise; retailers are, therefore, organized to sell merchandise in small quantities to the public.

Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities:

The Transportation and Warehousing sector includes industries providing transportation of passengers and cargo, warehousing and storage for goods, scenic and sightseeing transportation, and support activities related to modes of transportation. The Utilities sector comprises establishments engaged in the provision of the following utility services: electric power, natural gas, steam supply, water supply, and sewage removal.

Wholesale Trade: The Wholesale Trade sector comprises establishments engaged in wholesaling merchandise, generally without transformation, and rendering services incidental to the sale of merchandise. The wholesaling process is an intermediate step in the distribution of merchandise. Wholesalers are organized to sell or arrange the purchase or sale of (a) goods for resale (i.e., goods sold to other wholesalers or retailers), (b) capital or durable nonconsumer goods, and (c) raw and intermediate materials and supplies used in production.

Limited English-Speaking Ability. Individuals who classify themselves as speaking English “not at all” or “not well”.

Occupation. Occupation describes the kind of work a person does on the job. The data refer to the employed person’s job during the reference week of the Census, and can be in any industry.

Administrative Support Occupations. Including office supervisors, secretaries, information and office clerks, computer operators, mail clerks.

Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations. Including supervisors of janitorial and landscaping services, janitors and building cleaners, maids and cleaning staff, groundskeepers, elevator operators and pest control workers.

Construction Occupations. Including supervisors and construction trades workers, including carpenters, electricians, plasters, stone masons, carpet installers.

Farming, Forestry and Fishing Occupations. Including supervisors, animal breeders and caretakers, hunters, trappers, and fishermen,

graders and sorters, nursery workers, gardeners, foresters and loggers.

Food Preparation and Service Occupations. Including chefs, cooks, food preparation workers, wait staff and dining room attendants, bartenders, and dishwashers.

Health Care Support Occupations. Including therapy aides, home health aides, opticians, massage therapists, and dental assistants.

Installation, Maintenance and Repair Occupations. Including supervisors, electrical, electronic, vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics, installers, and repairers.

Management, Professional and Related Occupations. Including management of business and financial operations, farms; chief executives, administrators and general and specialized managers; computer and mathematical professionals, architecture and engineering, and life, physical and social science occupations, including legal, education, arts and entertainment, sports and healthcare and health diagnosing practitioners.

Material Moving and Handling Occupations. Including crane, hoist and winch operators, freight, stock, and material handlers.

Military Occupations. Work performed by those in the military.

Mining and Extractive Occupations. Including oil and gas roustabouts, earth drillers, miners.

Private Household Occupations. Including private household cooks, housekeepers, cleaners, childcare workers, and servants.

Protective Service Occupations. Including firefighters, police and detectives, private security guards and correctional officers.

Personal Care and Service Occupations. Including barbers and hairstylists, cosmetologists, attendants,

guides and ushers, welfare aides, early childhood teacher aides, and other childcare workers not elsewhere counted.

Production Occupations. Including machine operators, fabricators, assemblers, hand working occupations, and production inspectors.

Sales Occupations. Including sales representatives, sales workers, and sales clerks in both retail and personal service industries.

Transportation Occupations. Including supervisors of transportation and material moving occupations, aircraft and traffic control, motor vehicle operators, rail, water, and other transportation workers.

Poverty Line. The federally defined threshold of family income for individuals to be considered living in poverty. The average federal poverty threshold for one unrelated individual in 1999 was \$8,667, and for an average family of four it was \$17,029.

Rent as a Percentage of Income. Gross rent as a percentage of household income in 1999. Gross rent is the contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities and fuels. Under standards defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, housing is considered affordable if the gross rent consumes no more than 30 percent of income.

Work Disability. Includes persons 18 and over who have a disability which affects their level of employment or whether they can be employed. The disability can be sensory, physical, mental, self-care, or an inability to go outside the home.