# 2021 SPECIAL EDITION OF THE MEMPHIS POVERTY FACT SHEET

The 2021 Update of the Memphis Poverty Fact Sheet, produced annually by Dr. Elena Delavega of the School of Social Work at the University of Memphis, and Dr. Gregory M. Blumenthal of GMBS Consulting. Data from the 2020 American Community Survey Released in March 2022 and previous datasets.

Memphis and Shelby County



### 2021 Memphis Poverty Fact Sheet (Data from 2020 ACS)

### **NOTE on the 2021 Memphis Poverty Fact Sheet**

The 2021 Memphis Poverty Fact Sheet is both late and not comparable to previous Memphis Poverty Fact Sheets. This is a direct result of the failure of the U.S. Census Bureau to release the standard 1-year estimates from the 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) on account of both the COVID-19 pandemic and deep budget cuts. On March 17, 2022, the U.S. Bureau of the Census finally released data at the local level, but the release was the 5-year estimates from the 2020 American Community Survey (ACS), which is a composite of the five previous years (2016-2020). As a result, the 2021 Memphis Poverty Fact Sheet stands alone. The data provided herein is simply not comparable to previous years in any meaningful way.

### **NOTE on Older Adult Poverty**

Depending on the table utilized, the Census Bureau reports data for people 65 and older or 60 to 75 (and older). The authors have chosen to include poverty for people 65 and older whenever possible, but when that is not possible, we have had to make the difficult choice as to whether to include people 60-65 in the older adult (senior) group, or to exclude people 65-75 from that group. Given the range and size of the potentially excluded group and given that it is possible to retire at age 62, we have decided to include people 60-65 in the senior group. As a result, some tables report adults as age 18-59 and seniors as age 60+.

### Who are the Memphis Poor?

The city of Memphis has a poverty rate of 24.6%. Child poverty is 39.6%, while the poverty rate for people over age 60 is the lowest of any age group at 15.3%. It is impossible to tell if and how much poverty rates changed in 2020 due to the failure of the U.S. Census Bureau to release 1-year estimates for 2020. Anecdotally, it appears that poverty in Memphis increased during 2020 for all groups, most likely due to the pandemic. Figures 9 and 10 detail the impact on employment of the COVID-19 pandemic and may contribute an explanation as to why poverty may have increased. The City of Memphis poverty rate for Blacks is 29.5%, for Hispanics/Latinos is 29.3%, and the poverty rate for non-Hispanic Whites in the city of Memphis is 11.3%. In the Memphis Statistical Metropolitan Area (MSA), which includes parts of Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi, the overall poverty is 17.3%, child poverty is 27.2%, poverty for

people over age 60 is 10.8%, Black poverty is 25.3%, non-Hispanic White poverty is 8.1%, Asian poverty is 9.3%, and Hispanic or Latino poverty is 24.5%. Black and Hispanic/Latino poverty rates continue to converge in Memphis.

### The Poverty Rate in Memphis and Shelby County Compared to National Rates

In general, poverty rates for the City of Memphis continue to be higher than poverty rates in Shelby County for every category. Both are higher than poverty rates in Tennessee, with the notable exception of non-Hispanic Whites, for which poverty rates are higher in Tennessee than in Memphis at every level. Clearly, the COVID-19 pandemic had a negative impact on poverty rates overall.

Table 1 – Diverse Poverty Rates in Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee, and the United States

2020 Poverty Rate	Overall	Under 18	Adult (18-59)	Senior (60+)	Non- Hispanic White	Black	Latino	Asian
United States	12.8%	17.5%	12.2%	9.7%	9.3%	22.1%	18.3%	10.6%
Tennessee	14.6%	20.8%	13.9%	10.1%	11.6%	24.3%	24.5%	10.1%
Shelby County	19.0%	29.9%	16.5%	11.9%	7.8%	26.2%	25.0%	10.0%
Memphis city, Tennessee	24.6%	39.6%	21.1%	15.3%	11.3%	29.5%	29.3%	17.1%
Memphis, TN-MS-AR Metro	17.3%	27.2%	15.2%	10.8%	8.1%	25.3%	24.5%	9.3%

### New in 2020

From outside observations, poverty appears to have increased, but due to the failure of the U.S. Census Bureau to release the standard 1-year estimates from the 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is very difficult to estimate trends accurately. Given present numbers and employment data provided on tables 9 and 10, however, the authors suggest that poverty is indeed getting worse.

### Not-So-New in 2020

It is not a surprise to anyone familiar with the Memphis Poverty Fact Sheet that the poverty rate in the City of Memphis is higher than in Shelby County, Tennessee, and the United States. It is also not a surprise that the poverty rate among minorities is higher than among non-Hispanic Whites. Structural disparities remain and will require deliberate efforts to

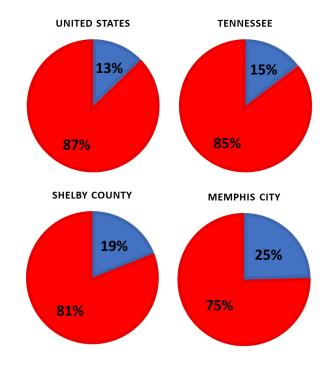


Figure 1 – Percent of the Population in Poverty

dismantle. Solving poverty will require regional solutions and regional investments, such as public transportation that serves the entire community. Finally, it is not new that the child poverty rate is always the highest everywhere.

### **Bad News Overall**

If poverty indeed increased due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, it would surprise no one. At the same time, it is disheartening to see that racial and ethnic disparities continue to exist unabated. In Shelby County the median income for Blacks (\$38,439) is lower than the national median income (\$43,674) for that population, but the median income for non-Hispanic Whites (\$78,702) is higher than the national median (\$70,843) for the same group.

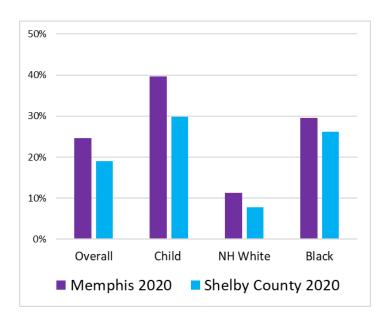


Figure 2 – Poverty Rates in 2020 in Memphis and Shelby County

### **DETAILED POVERTY TABLES: NATIONAL DATA**

Table 2 – The Poverty Intersection of Race and Age: United States 5-Year Estimates

United States							
Population Size (in	Overall	Non- Hispanic White	Black	Latino or Hispanic	Asian		
thousands)	318,564	191,779	39,545	58,180	18,074		
Median Household Income	\$64,994	\$70,843	\$43,674	\$54,632	\$91,775		
Overall Poverty Rate	12.8%	9.3%	22.1%	18.3%	10.6%		
Child (Under 18) Poverty Rate	17.5%	10.6%	31.8%	24.7%	10.6%		
Adult (18-59) Poverty Rate	12.2%	9.8%	19.1%	15.1%	10.4%		
Senior (60+) Poverty Rate	9.7%	7.6%	17.9%	16.7%	11.5%		

Table 3 – The Poverty Intersection of Race and Age: United States 1-Year Estimates

United States - 1-Year Estimates						
	Overall	Non- Hispanic White	Black	Latino or Hispanic	Asian	
Population Size (in thousands)	326,713	194,319	43,355	61,196	20,155	
Median Household Income	\$67,521	\$74,912	\$45,870	\$55,321	\$94,903	
Overall Poverty Rate	11.4%	8.2%	19.5%	17.0%	8.1%	
Child (Under 18) Poverty Rate	16.1%					
Adult (18-64) Poverty Rate	10.4%					
Senior (65+) Poverty Rate	9.0%					

### What We Don't Know

The failure of the US Census Bureau to be able to provide 1-year estimates on anything less than a national level makes comparison to previous years problematic, at best. We may never have a clear, quantitative picture of how the pandemic affected poverty on a state or local level. We may also never be able to provide a clear cost-benefit analysis of the stimulus payments. Additionally, the lack of reporting of child poverty rates by race or ethnicity, even on a national level, makes the work of all of the agencies and organizations dependent upon this data. Another adverse effect of the loss of this geographically detailed annual data is the loss of fine-grained market trend data for business development. Businesses need of this kind of data in order to make effective decisions as we exit the pandemic and grow the economy.

### What we DO Know

The U.S. Bureau of the Census released national data on September 14, 2021.

2020 Poverty - National Only

- 2019 10.5%
- 2020 11.4%

2020 Median Income – National Only

- 2019 \$69,560
- 2020 \$67,521

In addition to the increase in poverty by almost one percentile point, there was a decrease in the median income for the nation. There was a general income loss of 1.7%, while at the same time people with high incomes had a 6% increase in income. The Census Bureau also reported that at the national level more than half (53%) of all jobs that were lost had wages under \$34,000 a year.

The data may or may not apply to Memphis, but they do point in a direction.

### DETAILED POVERTY TABLES: TENNESSEE, SHELBY, & MEMPHIS

Table 4 – The Poverty Intersection of Race and Age: Tennessee

Tennessee							
Population Size (in	Overall	Non- Hispanic White	Black	Latino or Hispanic	Asian		
thousands)	6,603	4,859	1,087	369	120		
Median Household Income	\$54,833	\$59,125	\$40,020	\$46,503	\$81,886		
Overall Poverty Rate	14.6%	11.6%	24.3%	24.5%	10.1%		
Child (Under 18) Poverty Rate	20.8%	14.4%	37.3%	32.8%	8.9%		
Adult (18-59) Poverty Rate	13.9%	12.0%	20.4%	19.6%	10.6%		
Senior (60+) Poverty Rate	10.1%	8.9%	17.7%	14.4%	10.2%		

Table 5 – The Poverty Intersection of Race and Age: Shelby County

Shelby County, Tennessee								
Population Size (in	Overall	Non- Hispanic White	Black	Latino or Hispanic	Asian			
thousands)	919	324	494	59	25			
Median Household Income	\$52,092	\$78,702	\$38,439	\$42,948	\$91,370			
Overall Poverty Rate	19.0%	7.8%	26.2%	25.0%	10.0%			
Child (Under 18) Poverty Rate	29.9%	7.1%	40.8%	34.2%	7.4%			
Adult (18-59) Poverty Rate	16.5%	9.1%	21.4%	18.6%	8.3%			
Senior (60+) Poverty Rate	11.9%	5.6%	18.6%	10.6%	21.6%			

The disparities observed in Shelby County are much larger than in the United States.

Table 6 – The Poverty Intersection of Race and Age: The City of Memphis

City of Memphis, Tennessee							
Population Size (in	Overall	Non- Hispanic White	Black	Latino or Hispanic	Asian		
thousands)	636	157	410	47	11		
Median Household Income	\$41,860	\$63,993	\$34,058	\$38,734	\$61,607		
Overall Poverty Rate	24.6%	11.3%	29.5%	29.3%	17.1%		
Child (Under 18) Poverty Rate	39.6%	11.9%	45.6%	39.7%	13.1%		
Adult (18-59) Poverty Rate	21.1%	13.1%	24.4%	21.8%	15.4%		
Senior (60+) Poverty Rate	15.3%	7.4%	20.4%	13.4%	26.4%		

Table 7 – The Poverty Intersection of Race and Age: Memphis Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

Memphis, TN-MS-AR Metro Area							
Population Size (in	Overall	Non- Hispanic White	Black	Latino or Hispanic	Asian		
thousands)	1,317	565	622	74	29		
Median Household Income	\$53,896	\$75,141	\$39,546	\$44,314	\$91,544		
Overall Poverty Rate	17.3%	8.1%	25.3%	24.5%	9.3%		
Child (Under 18) Poverty Rate	27.2%	9.2%	39.0%	33.7%	6.8%		
Adult (18-59) Poverty Rate	15.2%	8.9%	20.7%	18.7%	7.9%		
Senior (60+) Poverty Rate	10.8%	5.7%	18.4%	8.9%	19.0%		

### **COMPARING MEMPHIS**

### **Poverty Rankings**

In 2020, Memphis placed again in the top spot in both overall poverty and child poverty among large Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) with populations greater than 1,000,000. It is important to point out, however, that among MSAs with populations greater than 500,000 Memphis ranked in sixth place in overall poverty and in fifth place in child poverty. Among cities with populations greater than 500,000, Memphis ranked in second place both in overall poverty and in child poverty. Undeniably the COVID-19 pandemic had a national effect, but the fact that Memphis consistently ranks among the top MSAs suggests structural problems that predate the pandemic.

### What the Rankings Mean

The rank number denotes the position of a city or MSA relative to others. The higher the rank number, the higher the poverty rate for that locality. In other words, a higher ranking is not desirable. Note that there are fewer cities with more than a half-million people than MSAs with more than a million people. This is because MSAs comprise a larger territory. As a result, Memphis is both a city with more than 500,000 people and an MSA with a population greater than one million, but not all MSAs with more than 1,000,000 people include cities with more than half a million people. It is important to note that geographies with smaller sizes tend to have greater poverty rates. Poverty can be as high as 100% of the population in certain small rural localities.

Rankings provide the necessary context to understand poverty rates. A low poverty rate that is still higher than other similar populations is not necessarily a good thing; and a high poverty rate when examined in the context of other populations may indicate that the city is performing better than others

Table 8 – Memphis' Rank in Poverty Rates

Memphis		2020		Notes
		Poverty Rate	Poverty Rank	
Among Cities with Populations Greater	Overall	24.6%	2*	Tied with Milwaukee, WI
than 500,000 (35 Cities)	Under 18	39.6%	2	
Among MSA with Populations Greater	Overall	17.3%	6	
than 500,000 (108 MSA)	Under 18	27.2%	5	
Among MSA with Populations Greater	Overall	17.3%	1	
than 1,000,000 (53 MSA)	Under 18	27.2%	1	

Table 9 – Highest Poverty Rates in Cities in the United States – Rank 1

Highest Poverty Rates		2020		
Rank 1		Rank 1	<b>Poverty Rate</b>	
Among Cities with Populations Greater than Overall		Detroit City, Michigan	33.2%	
500,000 (35 Cities)	Under 18	Detroit City, Michigan	47.2%	
Among MSA with Populations Greater than	Overall	McAllen-Edinburg- Mission, TX Metro Area	28.4%	
500,000 (108 MSA)	Under 18	McAllen-Edinburg- Mission, TX Metro Area	39.6%	
Among MSA with Populations Greater than	Overall	Memphis, TN-MS-AR Metro Area	17.3%	
1,000,000 53 MSA)	Under 18	Memphis, TN-MS-AR Metro Area	27.2%	

Table 10 - Top Ten Large MSAs in Overall Poverty

Among MSA with Populations Greater than 1,000,000 53 MSA)	Rank	Overall Poverty
Memphis, TN-MS-AR Metro Area	1	17.3%
New Orleans-Metairie, LA Metro Area	2	16.9%
Tucson, AZ Metro Area	3	15.9%
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	4	14.2%
Cleveland-Elyria, OH Metro Area	5	14.0%
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL Metro Area	6	13.9%
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metro Area	7	13.8%
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area	8	13.7%
Birmingham-Hoover, AL Metro Area	9	13.6%
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area	10	13.5%

Table 11 - Top Ten Large MSAs in Child Poverty

Among MSA with Populations Greater than 1,000,000 53 MSA)	Rank	Child Poverty (Under 18)
Memphis, TN-MS-AR Metro Area	1	27.2%
New Orleans-Metairie, LA Metro Area	2	24.7%
Tucson, AZ Metro Area	3	22.2%
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metro Area	4	20.3%
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	5	20.0%
Cleveland-Elyria, OH Metro Area	6	20.0%
Rochester, NY Metro Area	7	19.6%
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area	8	19.2%
Buffalo-Cheektowaga, NY Metro Area	9	19.1%
Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV Metro Area	10	18.7%

## Memphis has the highest poverty rate among very large MSA, but not among smaller communities.

Table 12 - Top Ten Large Cities in Overall Poverty

Among Cities with Populations Greater than 500,000 (35 Cities)	Rank	Overall Poverty
Detroit city, Michigan	1	33.2%
Memphis city, Tennessee	2	24.6%
Milwaukee city, Wisconsin	3	24.6%
Fresno city, California	4	23.5%
Philadelphia city, Pennsylvania	5	23.1%
Tucson city, Arizona	6	20.8%
Baltimore city, Maryland	7	20.0%
Houston city, Texas	8	19.6%
Columbus city, Ohio	9	19.1%
El Paso city, Texas	10	18.8%

Table 13 - Top Ten Large Cities in Child Poverty

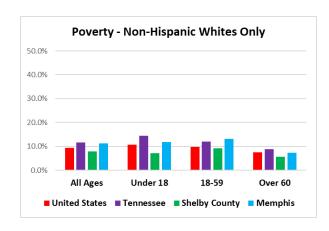
Among Cities with Populations Greater than 500,000 (35 Cities)	Rank	Child Poverty (Under 18)	
Detroit city, Michigan	1	47.2%	
Memphis city, Tennessee	2	39.6%	
Milwaukee city, Wisconsin	3	35.1%	
Fresno city, California	4	33.0%	
Philadelphia city, Pennsylvania	5	32.2%	
Houston city, Texas	6	30.1%	
Columbus city, Ohio	7	28.4%	
Baltimore city, Maryland	8	27.8%	
Dallas city, Texas	9	27.8%	
Tucson city, Arizona	10	27.4%	

### THE RACIALIZATION OF POVERTY

### The Relationship between Poverty and Race

It has now been observed for several years that the poverty rate among non-Hispanic Whites is lower in Shelby County than in Tennessee or the nation as a whole. Poverty among non-Hispanic Whites is much lower than for all other groups. The poor in Memphis tend to be minorities. The poverty rates for Blacks and Latinos (although decreasing for Latinos) are higher than the overall poverty rate, and poverty rates for minorities are higher in every age category than poverty rates for non-Hispanic Whites. At the same time, the median income for Blacks in Shelby County is lower than for Blacks nationally while the median income for non-Hispanic Whites in Shelby County is much higher than for non-Hispanic Whites nationally.

Figures 3-4 – Comparison of Poverty Rates for non-Hispanic Whites Only and Blacks Only



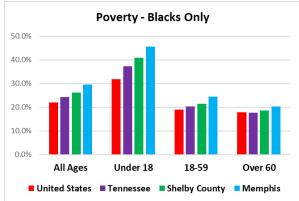
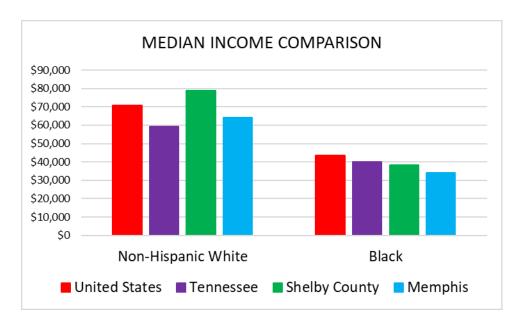


Figure 5 - Comparison of Median Income for Non-Hispanic Whites and Blacks for Various Demographics and Locations



Minorities consistently suffer greater rates of poverty than non-Hispanic Whites in Memphis and Shelby County.

### Memphis is "number 1" in poverty in 2020, in both overall and child poverty.

### **MAPS**

These maps illustrate the segregated nature of Shelby County, and the association between race and poverty. As these maps illustrate, ZIP codes with much greater percentiles of non-Whites have much higher poverty rates. This association between race and poverty is not new – it has been observed for years.

Figure 6- Mapping the Racialization of Poverty in Memphis - Percent Poverty in Memphis

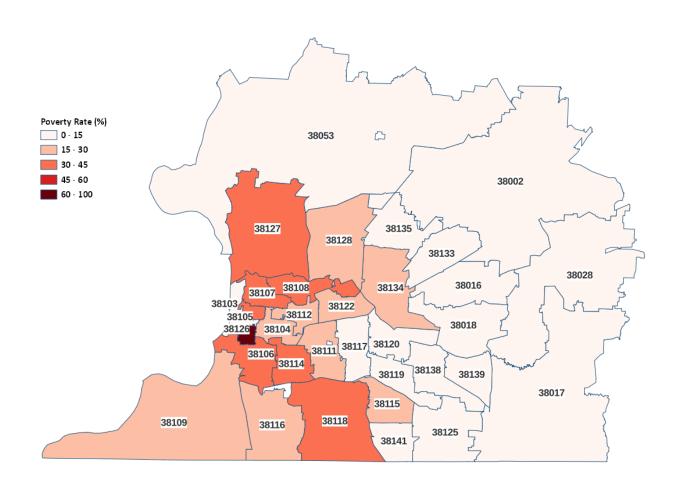
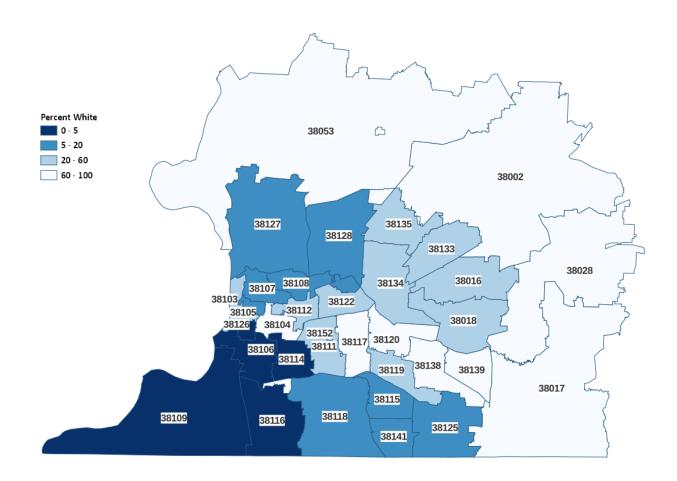


Figure 7 – Mapping the Racialization of Poverty in Memphis – Percent White in Memphis



## ZIP codes with much greater percentiles of non-Whites have much higher poverty rates.

Table 14- Poverty Rates and Racial Composition of Memphis Zip Codes

ZIP CODE	Population	Percent White	Percent Black	Percent Hispanic/ Latino	Overal Poverty	Poverty Rank	Child Poverty	Child Poverty Rank
38002	40,070	71.7%	18.8%	5.9%	5.2%	30	7.7%	29
38004	11,094	83.4%	10.3%	4.0%	5.0%	31	11.0%	26
38011	9,429	84.7%	9.4%	1.4%	9.1%	22	16.8%	19
38016	45,424	35.6%	50.7%	5.4%	9.5%	21	13.3%	22
38017	55,884	72.5%	12.7%	3.0%	2.9%	34	3.5%	32
38018	37,269	42.2%	42.2%	5.6%	6.6%	27	9.2%	28
38028	7,478	73.3%	23.2%	2.2%	3.2%	33	1.5%	34
38053	25,816	64.3%	24.8%	6.5%	13.4%	18	19.4%	18
38054	289	54.3%	18.3%	21.1%	0.0%	36	0.0%	36
38103	14,713	57.1%	31.6%	4.2%	12.4%	20	3.7%	31
38104	23,812	63.4%	25.9%	4.3%	18.2%	16	11.2%	25
38105	5,638	14.8%	78.2%	2.4%	39.3%	4	48.7%	7
38106	24,256	2.1%	96.1%	1.4%	40.2%	3	59.3%	3
38107	15,477	19.2%	76.1%	2.2%	31.0%	8	48.3%	8
38108	17,258	18.2%	62.9%	18.1%	37.4%	5	54.5%	4
38109	44,846	2.1%	95.6%	1.8%	28.4%	11	48.1%	9
38111	42,146	38.7%	50.4%	6.7%	25.2%	14	33.8%	15
38112	16,046	35.5%	53.8%	8.0%	28.8%	10	46.1%	11
38114	23,940	4.0%	93.4%	1.8%	34.7%	6	47.9%	10
38115	38,817	6.4%	82.2%	10.5%	24.8%	15	41.5%	13
38116	42,057	4.0%	92.5%	1.8%	27.2%	12	45.7%	12
38117	27,162	80.3%	11.6%	4.3%	8.2%	25	12.4%	24
38118	40,156	5.8%	77.0%	14.9%	33.0%	7	51.3%	5
38119	24,818	46.3%	40.2%	3.7%	8.7%	23	14.3%	21
38120	15,485	78.7%	6.3%	4.8%	7.4%	26	12.8%	23
38122	23,955	43.7%	17.5%	33.5%	29.2%	9	49.3%	6
38125	39,315	11.8%	75.7%	5.8%	8.5%	24	15.7%	20
38126	5,844	3.9%	94.0%	1.1%	63.6%	1	84.3%	1
38127	43,240	9.1%	85.0%	3.4%	42.3%	2	64.4%	2
38128	46,158	8.8%	82.5%	5.8%	27.0%	13	39.3%	14
38133	22,155	54.7%	25.4%	14.2%	5.9%	28	9.4%	27
38134	45,184	40.4%	44.6%	10.3%	15.5%	17	21.2%	17
38135	29,719	59.4%	33.5%	2.4%	5.5%	29	5.5%	30
38138	24,143	86.7%	3.1%	3.2%	3.9%	32	1.7%	33
38139	15,986	88.4%	1.1%	1.2%	0.5%	35	0.4%	35
38141	23,443	6.7%	85.3%	7.7%	12.7%	19	21.8%	16

### The Impact of COVID-19 on Employment\*

Two years after the initial COVID-19 closures, we have ample evidence that these had tremendous impacts on employment, business, and income, but that these have been quite different for low-income workers and for high-income workers in what has been termed the "K-Shaped Recovery" – this "K-Shape is very apparent in the graphs below. In them, it is possible to see that while all workers experienced a sharp decline in employment at the beginning of the pandemic, by late 2020 high-income workers had recovered while low-income workers continued to suffer job losses. As of August 10, 2021, the last date for which data exist, low-income workers had not only not recovered, but in Shelby County were experiencing job loses that were almost as severe as at the beginning of the pandemic.

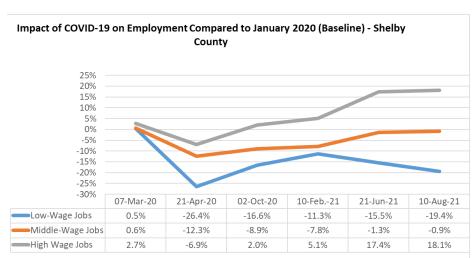
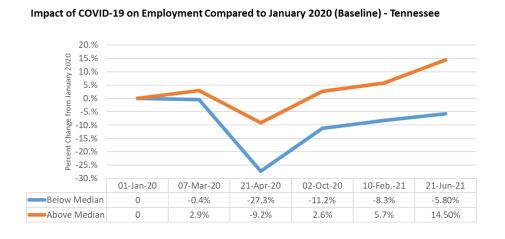


Figure 9 – The Impact of COVID-19 on Employment in Shelby County

Figure 10 – The Impact of COVID-19 on Employment Tennessee



<sup>\*</sup>Data on Economic Indicators from https://tracktherecovery.org/

A community cannot have such high percent of people in poverty without affecting everyone. The data point to this fact very clearly: Shelby County and suburban areas are not immune to increasing poverty and the accompanying social and economic malaise. We must understand that to eliminate poverty, we need to work together for the benefit of all.

#SharedRiskforSharedProsperity

The School of Social Work at the University of Memphis is dedicated to understanding poverty and its causes through research and engaged scholarship. Our purpose is to identify the most effective ways to eliminate poverty and promote social and economic development for our region.

Elena Delavega, PhD, MSW is Professor of Social Work at the University of Memphis, where she teaches and researches poverty and social welfare policy. Dr. Delavega has created a body of work consisting of 30 peer-reviewed publications; over 80 reports, newspaper/magazine articles, book chapters, fact sheets, and translations; and numerous presentations, including international presentations, keynote addresses, and a TEDx Talk focused on the Blame Index, which she developed in 2017 and is the focus of her future interests. She has produced the Memphis Poverty Factsheet, updated yearly, since 2012. She has also given close to 200 media interviews locally, nationally, and worldwide. Additionally, she serves on the board of JustCity, Inc., the Memphis Coalition for the Homeless, as an advisor for Slingshot Memphis, Inc., she served as Associate Director of the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change at the University of Memphis from 2015 to 2019, and continues as research collaborator. She has edited Volumes II, III, IV, V, VI, and VII of the Hooks Policy Papers. In 2018, she collaborated with the National Civil Rights Museum to produce the report on the state of Black Shelby County, *Memphis Poverty Report: Memphis Since MLK*, in conjunction with the commemorative activities surrounding the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination.

Gregory Miles Blumenthal, PhD, obtained his B.A. in Chemistry from Vanderbilt University and his doctorate in Pharmacology from Duke University. He has produced a body of work of enormous depth and breadth, encompassing research in toxicology, risk analysis, secure financial web applications, and other data science projects for such agencies as NIH, EPA, the VA, and NASA (from whom his team received an award in 2004). He is a co-author of the 2005 and 2010 EPA Draft Toxicological Reviews of Inorganic Arsenic. Dr. Blumenthal's strongest area of expertise is data science and data analysis, with a current focus on market research for nonprofit organizations, small businesses, political campaigns, and local government redistricting. Dr. Blumenthal serves as a technical advisor to Preserve Our Aquifer, a Memphis organization focused on avoiding preventable contamination of drinking water sources, and to UPTheVote901, a Memphis organization to increase voter involvement in local government.

If you would like more information on Memphis poverty, please contact Dr. Elena Delavega at mdlavega@memphis.edu

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