

2022 MEMPHIS POVERTY FACT SHEET

The 2022 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. Data from the 2021 American Community Survey Released in September 2022 and previous datasets.

*Memphis and
Shelby County*



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2022 Memphis Poverty Fact Sheet

(Data from 2021 and Earlier ACS)

NOTE on 2020 Data Released in March 2022

The authors issued the 2021 Memphis Poverty Fact Sheet as a special report because the U.S. Census Bureau never released the standard 1-year estimates from the 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) on account of both the COVID-19 pandemic and deep budget cuts. The data available from the U.S. Census Bureau were, as a result, not comparable to previous Memphis Poverty Fact Sheets. Furthermore, the 2020 data that were eventually released from the 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) were 5-year estimates, a composite of the five previous years (2016-2020) and are not comparable to the present 2022 Poverty Fact Sheet.

Due to the above, comparisons are made between pre-pandemic 2019 data (released in September 2020) and post-pandemic 2021 data (released in September 2022) in the 2022 Memphis Poverty Fact Sheet.

Who are the Memphis Poor?

The city of Memphis has a poverty rate of 22.6%. Child poverty is 32.7%, while the poverty rate for people over age 65 is the lowest of any age group at 16.8%. Overall Poverty in Memphis has increased as has poverty for people over 65, Blacks, Hispanic/Latinx in Shelby County, and non-Hispanic Whites in the city of Memphis. However, poverty decreased for children and for Hispanic/Latinx in the city of Memphis. It is not surprising that poverty decreased in Shelby County for non-Hispanic Whites, but the increase in poverty for this population in the city of Memphis is somewhat surprising. The poverty rate in the city of Memphis for Blacks is 26.5%, for Hispanics/Latinx it is 27.5%, and for non-Hispanic Whites it is 10.3%. In the Memphis Statistical Metropolitan Area (MSA), which includes parts of Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi, the overall poverty rate is 16.9%, child poverty is 22.9%, poverty for people over age 65 is 10.3%, Black poverty is 24.0%, non-Hispanic White poverty is 7.7%, and Hispanic/Latinx poverty is 17.5%. Hispanic/Latinx poverty rates continue to fall in what appears to be a steady trend.

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 and Asians, for which poverty rates are higher in Tennessee than in Memphis at every level. Poverty rates in Tennessee have increased for all groups. Poverty has also increased for non-Hispanic Whites in the United States as a whole. This suggests that poverty is becoming more rural and whiter, although it is impossible to tell at this time and more years of data will be needed.

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

2021 Poverty Rate	Overall	Under 18	18-64	Over 65	Non-Hispanic White	Black	Latino	Asian
United States	12.8%	16.9%	11.9%	10.3%	9.5%	21.8%	17.5%	10.2%
Tennessee	13.6%	18.1%	13.0%	10.2%	11.1%	22.2%	20.2%	11.1%
Shelby County	17.9%	24.1%	16.1%	14.6%	7.6%	23.8%	27.2%	7.4%
Memphis city, Tennessee	22.6%	32.7%	19.7%	16.8%	10.3%	26.5%	27.5%	7.7%
Memphis, TN-MS-AR Metro	16.9%	22.9%	15.2%	13.7%	7.7%	24.0%	28.2%	7.2%

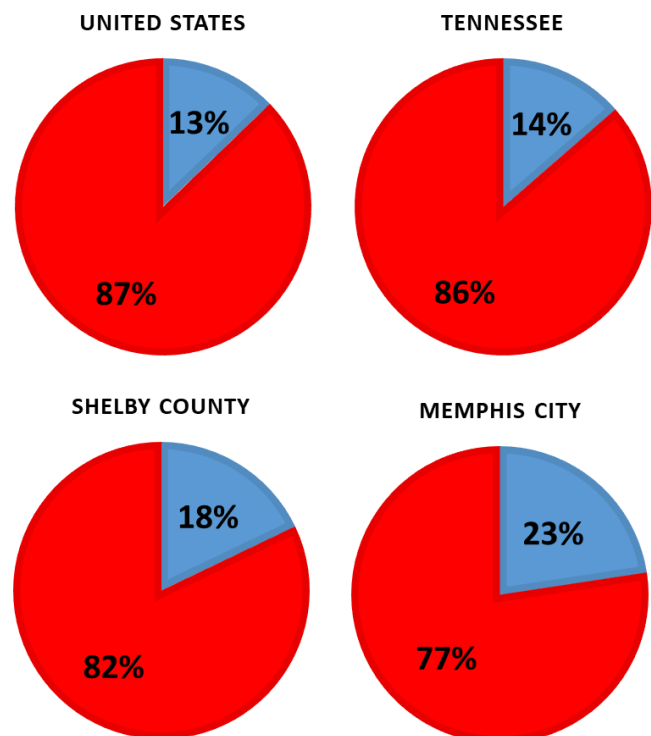
New in 2022

It is not surprising to see that overall poverty rates increased in Memphis and Shelby County in 2021. This reflects the national trend and given the enormous impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, was expected. It appears that the increase in poverty in this area is less severe than it could have been. The good news is that although poverty appears to be increasing for almost everyone else child poverty declined significantly. This suggests that programs that provide funds for children such as the targeted stimulus helped families with children.

Not-So-New in 2022

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-

Figure 1 – Percent of the Population in Poverty



Hispanic Whites. As the authors have been saying for a few years now, structural disparities remain and will require deliberate efforts to dismantle. Solving poverty will require regional solutions and regional investments, such as public transportation that serves the entire community.

Good News for Children

From 2019 to 2021, child poverty fell dramatically, while increasing slightly for other groups. The dramatic drop in child poverty is very encouraging and likely the result of federal stimulus programs aimed at families with children in poverty. It is also important to mention that the fact that Memphis is a logistics hub may have slowed down the impact of the pandemic. However, once the economy returns to pre-pandemic levels, will Memphis suffer a decline? It is impossible to tell.

Figure 2 – Poverty Rates in 2019 and 2021 in Memphis and Shelby County

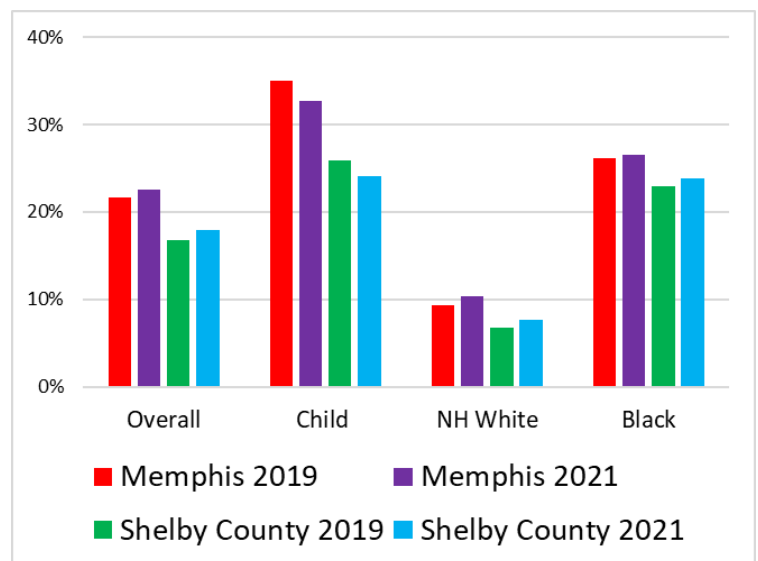


Table 2 – Percent Change in Poverty Rates in Memphis and Shelby County

	Overall			Non-Hispanic White			Black			Hispanic		
	2019	2021	% Change	2019	2021	% Change	2019	2021	% Change	2019	2021	% Change
Memphis	21.7%	22.6%	4.1%	9.3%	10.3%	10.8%	26.1%	26.5%	1.5%	29.2%	27.5%	-5.8%
Shelby County	16.8%	17.9%	6.5%	8.6%	7.6%	-11.6%	23.1%	23.8%	3.0%	24.5%	27.2%	11.0%

	Overall			Child (under 18)			Over 65		
	2019	2021	% Change	2019	2021	% Change	2019	2021	% Change
Memphis	21.7%	22.6%	4.1%	35.0%	32.7%	-6.6%	14.1%	16.8%	19.1%
Shelby County	16.8%	17.9%	6.5%	25.9%	24.1%	-6.9%	11.8%	14.6%	23.7%

Memphis is not “number 1” in poverty in 2021, and child poverty has declined dramatically.

DETAILED POVERTY TABLES

Table 3 – The Poverty Intersection of Race and Age: United States

United States						
Population Size (in thousands)	Overall	Non-Hispanic White	Black	Latinx or Hispanic	Asian	Native American
	331,894	192,754	40,194	62,529	19,157	3,159
Median Household Income	\$69,717	\$75,412	\$46,774	\$60,566	\$100,572	\$53,149
Overall Poverty Rate	12.8%	9.5%	21.8%	17.5%	10.2%	21.3%
Child (Under 18) Poverty rate	16.9%	10.6%	31.0%	23.2%	10.3%	27.6%
Adult (18-64) Poverty Rate	11.9%	9.6%	19.0%	14.7%	9.6%	19.2%
Senior (65+) Poverty Rate	10.3%	8.2%	17.6%	17.7%	12.9%	17.5%

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

Tennessee						
Population Size (in thousands)	Overall	Non-Hispanic White	Black	Latinx or Hispanic	Asian	Native American
	6,975	5,030	1,079	420	119	90
Median Household Income	\$59,695	\$63,701	\$42,413	\$53,917	\$79,923	\$56,077
Overall Poverty Rate	13.6%	11.1%	22.2%	20.2%	11.1%	15.7%
Child (Under 18) Poverty rate	18.1%	12.6%	31.9%	26.4%	11.7%	18.2%
Adult (18-64) Poverty Rate	13.0%	11.3%	19.3%	16.1%	10.4%	15.1%
Senior (65+) Poverty Rate	10.2%	8.9%	17.9%	18.5%	14.3%	12.3%

The dramatic drop in child poverty in Memphis and Shelby County is encouraging.

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

Shelby County, Tennessee				
Population Size (in thousands)	Overall	Non-Hispanic White	Black	Latinx or Hispanic
	924	314	490	64
Median Household Income	\$54,841	\$82,594	\$41,543	\$45,102
Overall Poverty Rate	17.9%	7.6%	23.8%	27.2%
Child (Under 18) Poverty rate	24.1%	4.4%	33.0%	30.8%
Adult (18-64) Poverty Rate	16.1%	8.1%	20.5%	23.7%
Senior (65+) Poverty Rate	14.6%	9.0%	19.8%	35.0%

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

City of Memphis, Tennessee			
Population Size (in thousands)	Overall	Non-Hispanic White	Black
	628	147	399
Median Household Income	\$44,317	\$65,151	\$37,692
Overall Poverty Rate	22.6%	10.3%	26.5%
Child (Under 18) Poverty rate	32.7%	5.8%	37.6%
Adult (18-64) Poverty Rate	19.7%	10.8%	22.8%
Senior (65+) Poverty Rate	16.8%	5.2%	20.8%

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

Memphis, TN-MS-AR Metro Area				
Population Size (in thousands)	Overall	Non-Hispanic White	Black	Latinx or Hispanic
	1,336	552	624	81
Median Household Income	\$55,840	\$76,002	\$41,483	\$46,117
Overall Poverty Rate	16.9%	7.7%	23.9%	28.2%
Child (Under 18) Poverty rate	22.9%	5.9%	32.5%	32.6%
Adult (18-64) Poverty Rate	15.2%	8.0%	20.7%	24.2%
Senior (65+) Poverty Rate	13.7%	8.8%	20.3%	35.4%

The poverty rate for people over 65 in the Memphis MSA is 13.7% overall, but it is 20.3% for Blacks, 35.4% for Hispanic/Latinx, and 8.8% for non-Hispanic Whites. Given that Blacks and Hispanic/Latinx are 53% of the population while whites are 41% of the population, the overall rate of poverty for people over 65 seems low. Further examination reveals that while 12% of Blacks and only 3.6% of Hispanic/Latinx are over 65, 20.7% of non-Hispanic Whites are over 65. The median ages are, for Blacks, 33.1; for Hispanic/Latinx, 21.9; and for non-Hispanic Whites, 43.6. It appears from these data that non-Hispanic Whites make a much larger percent of the population over 65, suggesting that Blacks and Hispanic/Latinx die younger.

It appears from the data that non-Hispanic Whites are a higher percent of the population over 65, suggesting that Blacks and Hispanic/Latinx die younger.

COMPARING MEMPHIS

Poverty Rankings

In 2020, Memphis continued in second place in both overall poverty and child poverty among large Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) with populations greater than 1,000,000. In almost all categories except for overall poverty among cities with over 500,000 people, Memphis is doing as well or better as it was in 2019. In general, the rankings are improving. This is particularly true in child poverty. In fact, Memphis rankings in child poverty improved in comparison to every grouping against which it was ranked (MSAs over 1,000,000 population, MSAs over 500,000 population, and cities over 500,000 population). However, even though child poverty dropped in Memphis, this does not mean that child poverty is low. The child poverty rate continues as higher than poverty for any other age group.

Indeed, Memphis may be doing better, but children continue suffering the most egregious poverty levels. Why is it that poverty hurts minority children worst? This community needs to do more to address the needs of children and of families. Children are poor because their parents are poor. It is as simple as that. Poor families need supports such as low-cost mortgages, subsidized childcare, adequate public transportation, and city-wide access to the internet. The reality is that only when all Memphians have full access to the goods of the community that Memphis will thrive.

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		2019		2021		Change	
		Poverty Rate	Poverty Rank	Poverty Rate	Poverty Rank	Rate	Rank
Among Cities over 500,000	Overall	21.7%	5	22.6%	5	4.1%	0
	Under 18	35.0%	2	32.7%	4	-6.6%	2
Among MSA over 500,000	Overall	15.4%	13	16.9%	8	9.7%	-5
	Under 18	23.7%	9	22.9%	11	-3.4%	2
Among MSA over 1,000,000	Overall	15.4%	2	16.9%	2	9.7%	0
	Under 18	23.7%	2	22.9%	2	-3.4%	0

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

Highest Poverty Rates		2019		2021	
		Location	Poverty Rate	Location	Poverty Rate
Among Cities over 500,000	Overall	Detroit city, MI	30.6%	Detroit city, MI	30.2%
	Under 18	Detroit city, MI	43.2%	Detroit city, MI	43.1%
Among MSA over 500,000	Overall	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX MSA	27.3%	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX MSA	29.3%
	Under 18	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX MSA	38.3%	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX MSA	39.0%
Among MSA over 1,000,000	Overall	New Orleans-Metairie, LA MSA	16.4%	New Orleans-Metairie, LA MSA	18.4%
	Under 18	New Orleans-Metairie, LA MSA	23.8%	New Orleans-Metairie, LA MSA	25.6%

Memphis has a long road to the end of poverty, but there is hope from 2021.

Table 10 – Top Ten Large MSAs in Overall Poverty

MSAs with over 1,000,000 population	Rank in Overall Poverty	Overall Poverty rate
New Orleans-Metairie, LA Metro Area	1	18.4%
Memphis, TN-MS-AR Metro Area	2	16.9%
Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV Metro Area	3	15.1%
Tucson, AZ Metro Area	4	14.6%
Oklahoma City, OK Metro Area	5	14.5%
Birmingham-Hoover, AL Metro Area	6	14.3%
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area	7	14.1%
Tulsa, OK Metro Area	8	13.8%
Buffalo-Cheektowaga, NY Metro Area	9	13.5%
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	10	13.4%

Table 11 – Top Ten Large MSAs in Child Poverty

MSAs with over 1,000,000 population	Rank in Child Poverty	Child Poverty rate
New Orleans-Metairie, LA Metro Area	1	25.6%
Memphis, TN-MS-AR Metro Area	2	22.9%
Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV Metro Area	3	21.0%
Oklahoma City, OK Metro Area	4	20.8%
Tucson, AZ Metro Area	5	20.0%
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area	6	19.9%
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metro Area	7	19.5%
Birmingham-Hoover, AL Metro Area	8	19.4%
Buffalo-Cheektowaga, NY Metro Area	9	19.3%
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	10	19.2%

Table 12 – Top Ten Large Cities in Overall Poverty

Cities with over 500,000 population	Rank in Overall Poverty	Overall Poverty rate
Detroit city, Michigan	1	30.2%
Milwaukee city, Wisconsin	2	23.8%
Baltimore city, Maryland	3	23.0%
Philadelphia city, Pennsylvania	4	22.8%
Memphis city, Tennessee	5	22.6%
Fresno city, California	6	21.6%
Houston city, Texas	7	19.4%
El Paso city, Texas	8	19.1%
Tucson city, Arizona	9	19.0%
Boston city, Massachusetts	10	18.7%

Table 13 – Top Ten Large Cities in Child Poverty

Cities with over 500,000 population	Rank in Child Poverty	Child Poverty rate
Detroit city, Michigan	1	43.1%
Baltimore city, Maryland	2	34.7%
Philadelphia city, Pennsylvania	3	34.2%
Memphis city, Tennessee	4	32.7%
Milwaukee city, Wisconsin	5	31.6%
Fresno city, California	6	29.9%
Houston city, Texas	7	28.6%
El Paso city, Texas	8	27.4%
Columbus city, Ohio	9	27.2%
Tucson city, Arizona	10	26.5%

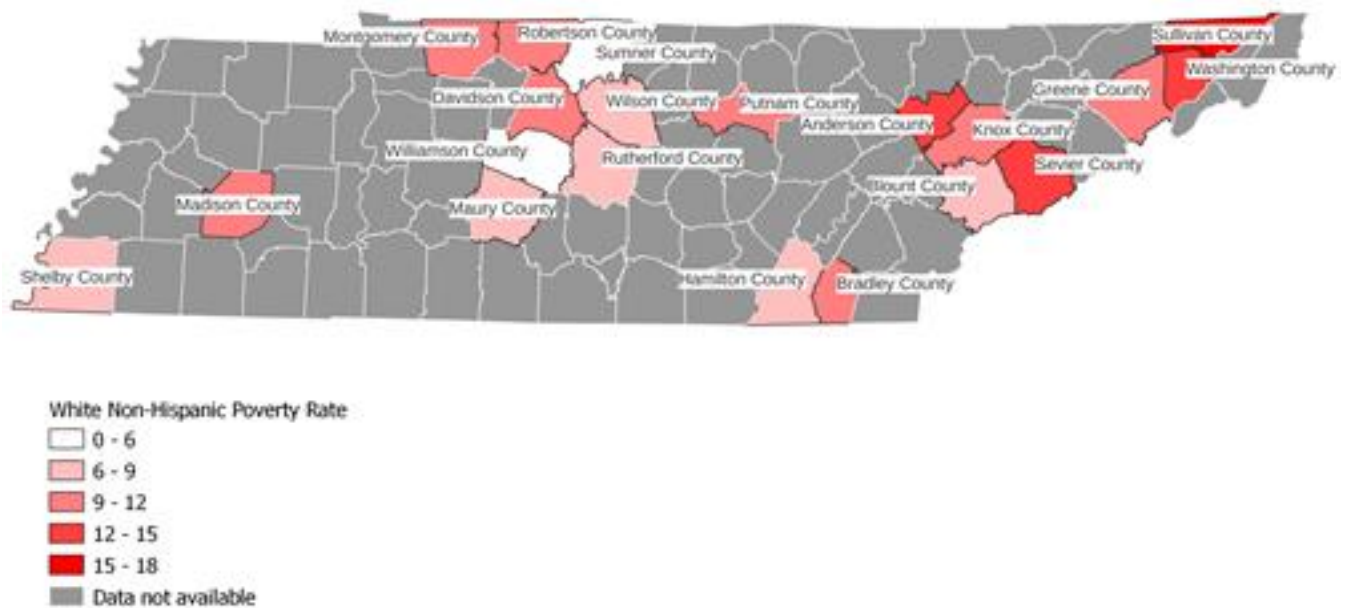
Rural and Urban Poverty

When confronted with the racial disparities that exist in Memphis and Shelby County in regards to poverty, it is easy to overlook the harsh reality of rural poverty among non-Hispanic Whites in Tennessee, who are 72.1% of the population in the state. The U.S. Bureau of the Census released information on poverty for only 20 counties in Tennessee. However, these data allows us to explore the extent to which rural poverty exists in Tennessee. Rural poverty is less visible but no less egregious than urban poverty, and the lack of opportunities in rural areas may result in poverty that is even more entrenched than urban poverty.

Table 14 - Poverty Rates in Selected Counties in Tennessee

County	Population	Non-Hispanic White Poverty Rate	Rank Among 20 Available TN Counties
Sullivan	157,230	17.6%	1
Sevier	97,691	14.0%	2
Anderson	75,965	13.7%	3
Washington	129,239	13.4%	4
Putnam	77,649	11.5%	5
Knox	474,327	11.2%	6
Montgomery	223,997	10.4%	7
Robertson	73,449	10.2%	8
Bradley	106,861	10.1%	9
Davidson	682,243	10.1%	10
Madison	94,847	9.7%	11
Greene	68,465	9.2%	12
Blount	135,715	8.4%	13
Hamilton	358,746	8.2%	14
Rutherford	346,049	8.2%	15
Shelby	908,687	7.6%	16
Wilson	149,101	7.6%	17
Maury	103,377	6.8%	18
Sumner	198,956	5.6%	19
Williamson	254,338	3.2%	20

Figure 3 – Poverty Rates in Selected Counties in Tennessee



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 continuing to decrease among Hispanic/Latinx) 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.

The Poverty Rate and Rank for Non-Hispanic Whites

It is very interesting to note that while Memphis ranks second in poverty among large MSAs (population greater than 1,000,000) and fifth when including cities with over 500,000 population, when the rate for non-Hispanic Whites is considered by itself, Memphis is positioned much lower in the list, ranking 28th among large MSA (population greater than 1,000,000) and 70th among cities with populations greater than 500,000. The differences between the poverty rates of minority groups and non-Hispanic Whites are striking. While Memphis ranks second in overall poverty, it ranks significantly better when only non-Hispanic Whites are included. The disparities between non-Hispanic Whites and Blacks are much more severe than nationally, and this is cause for great concern. It should concern non-Hispanic Whites as well, since in 2019 Memphis ranked 31st among large MSA (population greater than 1,000,000) and 75th among cities with populations greater than 500,000, suggesting that the high poverty rates in Memphis among minority groups result in increased poverty for all.

Figures 4-5 – Comparison of Poverty Rates for non-Hispanic Whites Only and Blacks Only

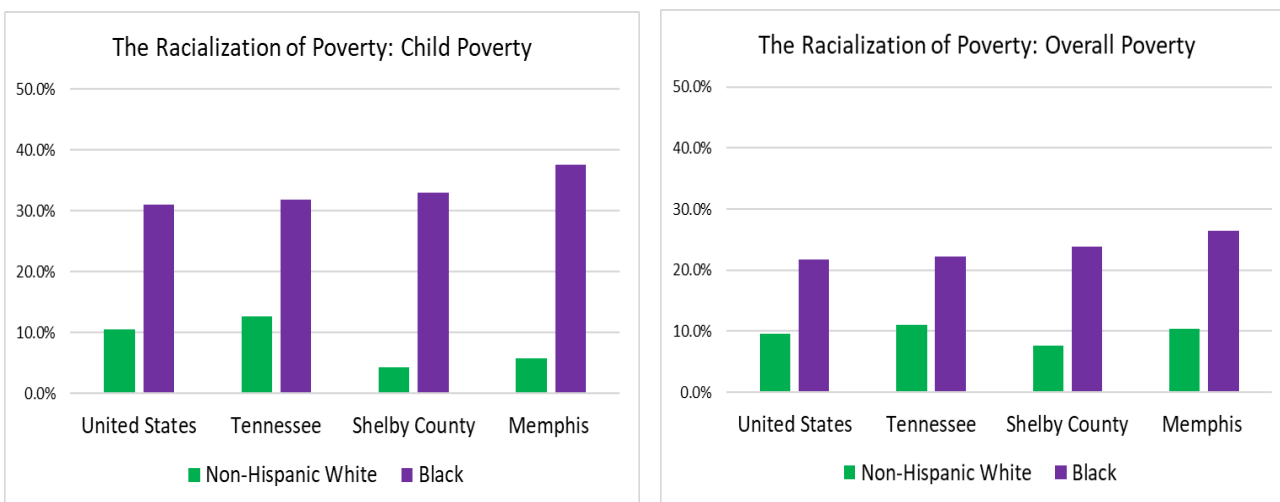


Table 15 – Comparison of Poverty Rates and Rankings for non-Hispanic Whites Only

Memphis	2021			
	Overall Poverty Rate	Overall Poverty Rank	non-Hispanic White Poverty Rate	non-Hispanic White Poverty Rank
Among Cities more than 500,000 Population	22.6%	5	10.3%	17
Among MSA more than 500,000 Population	16.9%	8	7.7%	70
Among MSA more than 1,000,000 Population	16.9%	2	7.7%	28

Table 15 – Comparison of Poverty Rates for Non-Hispanic Whites and Blacks for Various Demographics and Locations

	All Ages		Under 18		18-64		Over 65	
	Non-Hispanic White	Black	Non-Hispanic White	Black	Non-Hispanic White	Black	Non-Hispanic White	Black
United States	9.5%	21.8%	10.6%	31.0%	9.6%	19.0%	8.2%	17.6%
Tennessee	11.1%	22.2%	12.6%	31.9%	11.3%	19.3%	8.9%	17.9%
Shelby County	7.6%	23.8%	4.4%	33.0%	8.1%	20.5%	9.0%	19.8%
Memphis	10.3%	26.5%	9.8%	37.6%	10.8%	22.8%	9.2%	20.8%

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

The authors have usually included maps to illustrate the segregated nature of Shelby County and the association between race and poverty, but the U.S. Census Bureau has provided less fine-grained data than as was customary. The authors hope that census tract or ZIP code data will be released at a later date, at which point an update to the Poverty Fact Sheet, including maps, will be released.

Trends in Poverty Rates

The poverty rates for non-Hispanic Whites are better in Shelby County than for the same group in Tennessee or the United States, while the rates for Blacks are generally worse in Memphis and Shelby County than Tennessee or the nation. It is also interesting to note that for non-Hispanic Whites, the worst poverty rates are at the state and the city level. Given that the majority of the population in Tennessee (in contrast to the City of Memphis) is non-Hispanic White (72.1%), it is clear that the driver for poverty in the State is White poverty.

Poverty Trends – Has Poverty Gotten Better?

Poverty rates for children have fallen in the past couple of years, significantly. However, for other groups, poverty rates appear to be on the rise. How much attention should we pay to year-to-year changes? We are not sure. Over the course of our study of poverty in Memphis the rates of poverty have remained relatively resistant to change, with minor increases and decreases from one year to the next. It is clear that the economic crash of 2008 had an impact on the poverty rates in Memphis. However, the controlling trends seem to be structural in nature and not cyclical. It is also possible that the way we measure poverty misses the mark severely. The Orshansky method that has been used (three times the cost of a basic but healthy diet for a family of four) has not changed in decades even though the needs of people in the modern world are very different. The cost of food is based on the “Thrifty Diet” published by the Department of Agriculture. Even though this thrifty diet is now \$854.60 per month, the 2022 poverty threshold for a family of four is \$27,750. According to the Orshansky method, it should be \$30,765.60. The only reason poverty rates are not skyrocketing is because we are severely undercounting the poor.

Why Is Poverty High in Memphis?

One possible explanation is that the labor market in Memphis tends to consist of unskilled workers in the warehouse industry, and because the minimum wage has not increased since 2009, wages remain low. Even for those workers that make more than the minimum wage, the minimum wage depressed wages because it acts as an anchor against which all wages are pegged. More specifically to Memphis, the lack of comprehensive, effective, and efficient public transportation also makes progress against poverty very difficult. Finally, the divide between the city and the county, as evidenced by the racial and geographical differences in poverty, tends to deprive the city of Memphis of the funds it needs to support the region.

Minority children living permanently in poverty experience and are traumatized by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Figure 6 – Trends in Poverty Rates by Age, Memphis

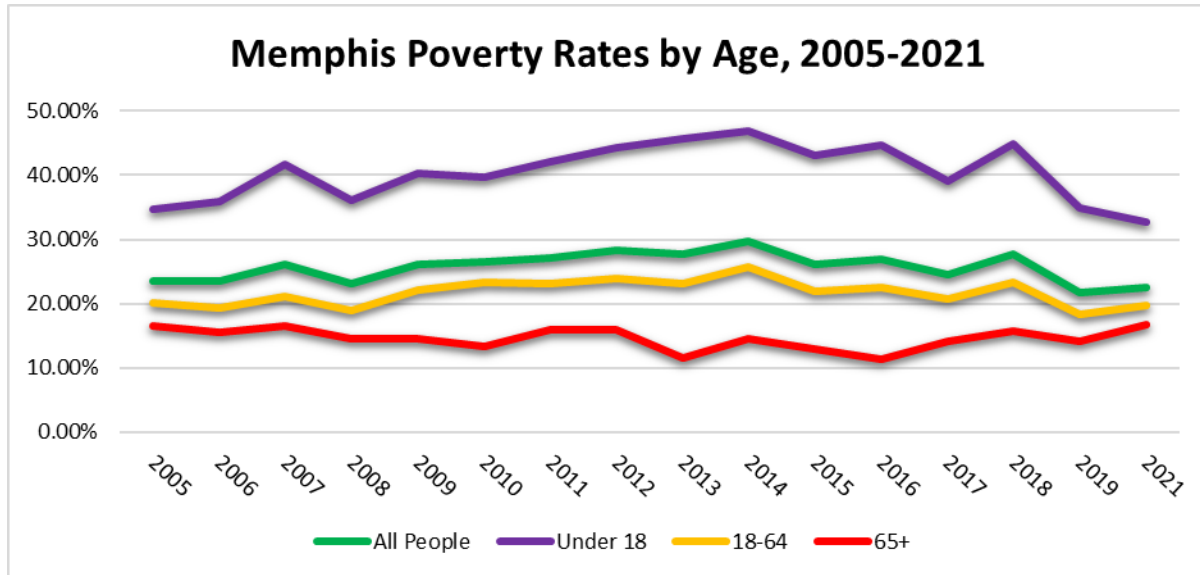


Figure 7 – Trends in Poverty Rates by Age, Shelby County

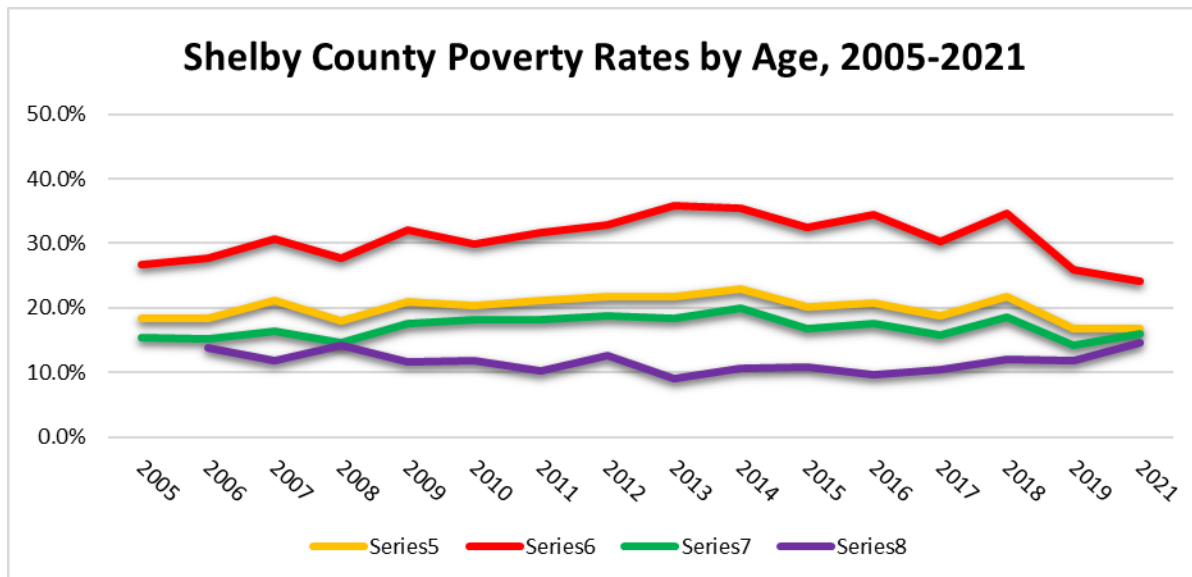


Figure 8 – Trends in Poverty Rates by Race, Memphis

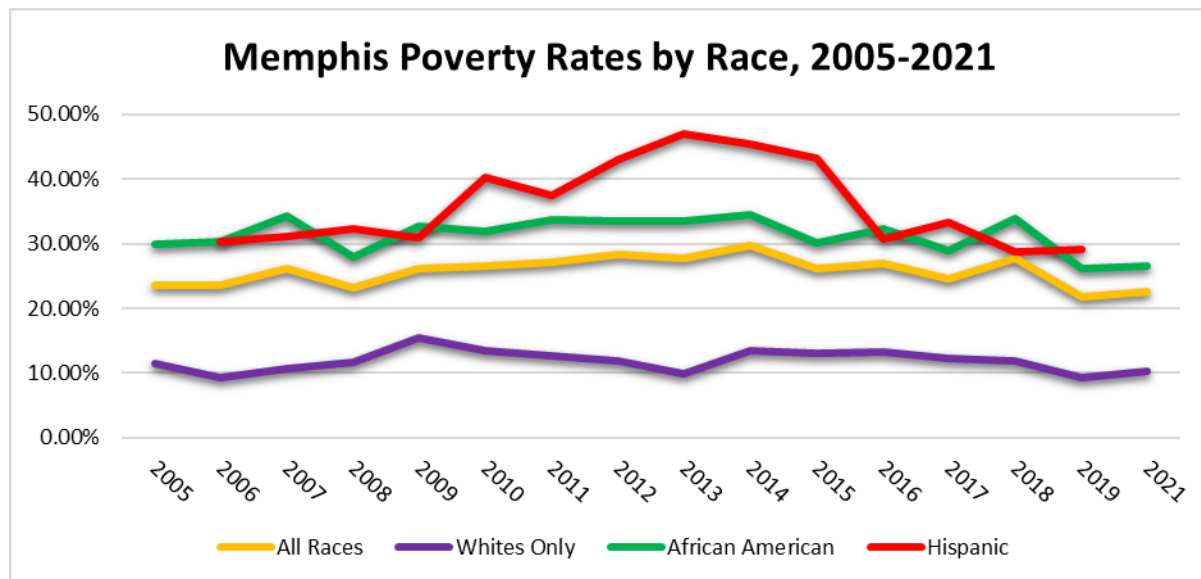
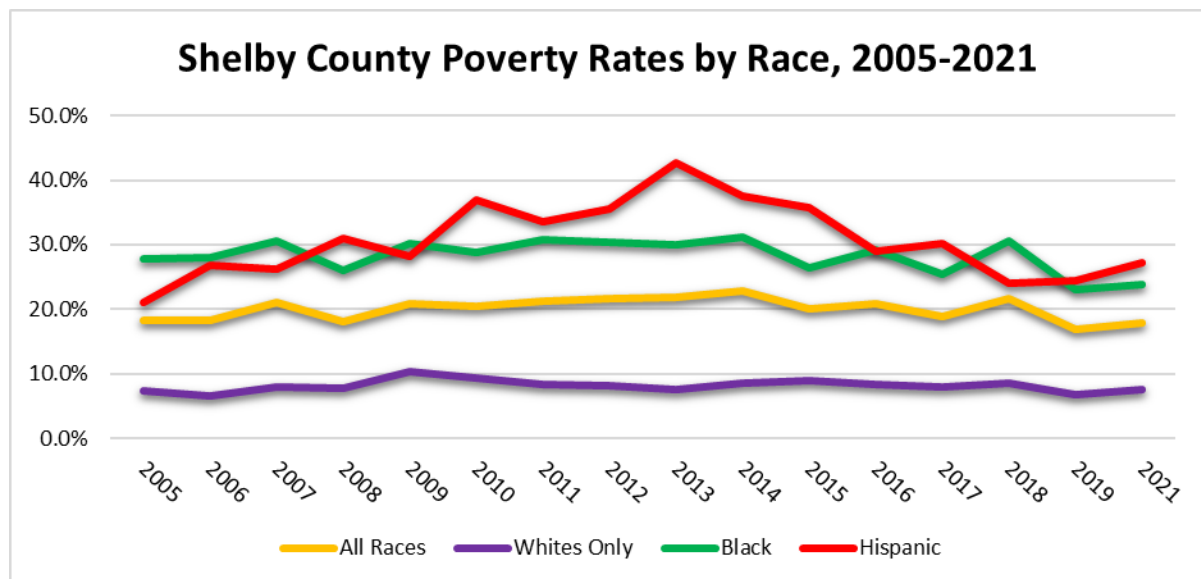


Figure 9 – Trends in Poverty Rates by Race, Shelby County



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 over 30 peer-reviewed publications; over 100 reports, newspaper/magazine articles, book chapters, fact sheets, and translations; close to 200 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 50th 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 he received an award in 2014). His presentation developing objective criteria for PBPK models was expanded into the 2006 US EPA criteria for application of PBPK models to risk assessment. His specific contributions to the realm of statistical analysis continue to influence scientific analysis to this day. The August 2018 US FDA Guidance for acceptance of PBPK models in support of drug evaluations was based upon this US EPA document. Dr. Blumenthal's strongest area of expertise is data science and data analysis, to which he has dedicated his life, providing quantitative evaluation and GIS consulting services to Memphis-area nonprofits and government agencies. He is also strongly committed to the Memphis community, having served as a member of the Temple Israel delegation to Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope (MICAHA), as a technical lead for the MICAHA Economic Equity Workgroup, and as Campaign CIO for Steve Mulroy for District Attorney.

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

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Sources:

All Data except Latino (Hispanic): 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 ACS 1-Y Estimates (Table S1701: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months. Other Tables: DP03, C01001); 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2009, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (US Bureau of the Census); DP05, 2019 1-Year Estimates (US Bureau of the Census); B17001, 2018 1-Year Estimates (US Bureau of the Census); B01003, 2019 1-Year Estimates (US Bureau of the Census); US24PR, 2019 1-Year Estimates (US Bureau of the Census); Tables S1903 and S0601 2019 1-Year Estimates for Tennessee.

Latino (Hispanic) Data: 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, & 2011 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates and 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 5-Year Estimates (US Bureau of the Census).