**These are the hundred poorest counties in the U.S.**

37.21% of Starr County, Texas residents were living below the federal poverty line in 2016, making it the 86th poorest county in the United States and the only Texas county to make the list of the country’s hundred poorest.

Nine states have counties in the list. Eight are in South Dakota., seven in Mississippi, four in Kentucky and two in Alabama. The rest have one county each on the list, which leaves 73 – all of which are in Puerto Rico.

This radial bar chart shows the country’s 50 poorest counties:

1-50 RADIAL

And the numbers from 51 to 100 are displayed here:

51-100 RADIAL

Keep in mind that these numbers are from before Hurricane Maria’s havoc in September. Still, Puerto Rican counties dominate the list:

100 TREEMAP

It might be tempting to assume high poverty rates are more manageable in Puerto Rico due to an expected lower cost of living. However, 2015 figures released by the country’s Institute of Statistics dispute that.

COST OF LIVING GRAPHIC

When we remove Puerto Rico from the equation, we can better see where poverty lies in the mainland U.S.:

TREEMAP MAINLAND

RADIAL MAINLAND

TOP 10 MAINLAND

As for Texas, since 2013 six counties have consistently had poverty rates above 30%: Starr, Zavala, Zapata, Willacy, Brooks, Cameron, Hudspeth, Hidalgo and Webb.

A border county, 41.52% of Starr County’s 63,000 residents have an education level of High school, G.E.D. or lower. Amid the 119 Texas counties with a population of 20,000 or higher, this makes it the 4th highest:

EDUCATION LEVEL GRAPHIC

You can explore and compare all Texas county poverty rates in the map below.