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

**Of the 100 poorest counties in the U.S., one is in Texas, 73 are in Puerto Rico**

37.21% of Starr County 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. Others states on the list have one, which leaves 73 counties – all of which are in Puerto Rico.

This radial bar chart shows the 50 poorest counties:

And this radial bar chart, the 51st to 100th poorest counties:

Here we really see how Puerto Rico counties dominate the list:

Mapped, the hundred poorest counties look like this:

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

Starr County is the only Texas county to consistently appear on the list since 2013. However, three others have made consistent appearances.

LINE CHART OF COUNTIES

Texas’ poverty problems, however, pale in comparison to Puerto Rico, which prior to Hurricane Maria was a nation over $70 billion in debt.