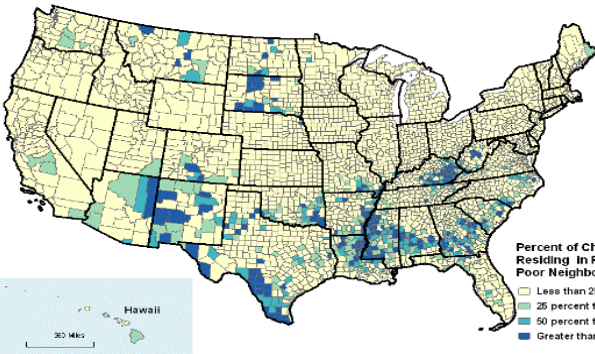
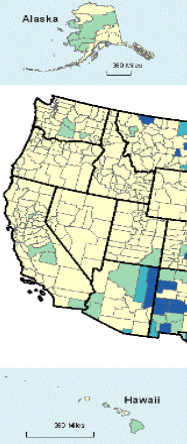


U.S. Children in Persistently Poor Neighborhoods

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PRB
INFORM
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Percent of Children Residing in Persistently Poor Neighborhoods

- Less than 25 percent
- 25 percent to 50 Percent
- 50 percent to 75 percent
- Greater than 75 percent



Background

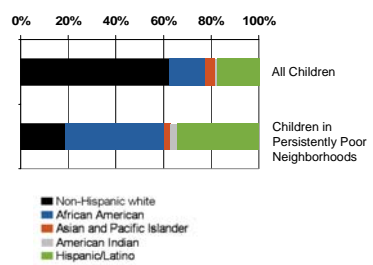
- Neighborhood poverty levels fluctuate over time.
- But there is a subset of "persistently poor" neighborhoods that have had high poverty rates in each decennial census from 1980 to 2000
- Important because they are home to some of the most vulnerable children and families.
- Children growing in poor neighborhoods are at higher risk of
 - Health problems
 - Teen pregnancy
 - Dropping out of school
 - Other socio-economic problems
- High poverty neighborhoods are also associated with
 - Single-parents families
 - Racial segregation
 - Absent role models

Findings

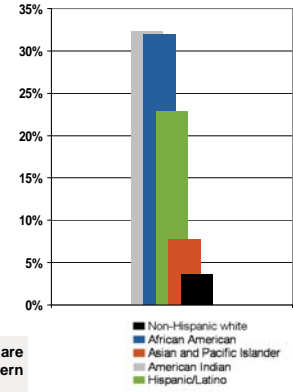
In 2000, over 8 million children lived in persistently poor neighborhoods

Characteristic	Total (000s)	In Persistently Poor Neighborhoods (000s)	Percent
Total population	281,422	29,036	10.3
Children under age 18	72,143	8,330	11.5
Adults 18 and older	209,279	20,705	9.9

Three-fourths of children in persistently poor neighborhoods were black or Latino



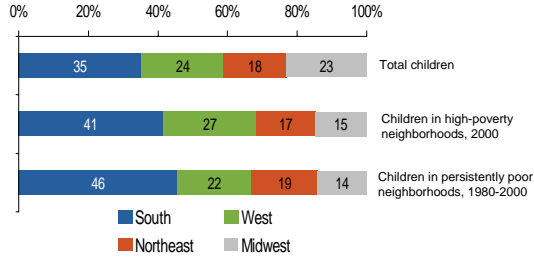
Nearly A third of American Indian and Black children live in persistently poor neighborhoods



Objectives

- The goal of this study is to Improve understanding the 8.3 million children living in persistently poor neighborhoods
- Describe the unique social, economic, and demographic characteristics of these communities
- Provide a first look at these how these neighborhoods may have changed since 2000

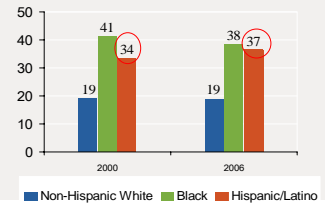
Children in persistently poor neighborhood are disproportionately concentrated in the southern United States.



Data and Methods

- Data for this study are from U.S. 1980, 1990 and 2000 Census Bureau's Decennial Censuses.
- Post 2000 data are from the 2006 American Community Survey.
- Census tracts are used to define neighborhood boundaries.
- They are relatively homogeneous in terms of their demographic, economic, and housing characteristics and contain about 4,000 residents.
- In this study, Census Tracts are "persistently poor" if they had poverty rates of at least 20 percent in 1980, 1990, and 2000.

- Since 2000, there has been an increase in the Hispanic population nationwide.
- This demographic shift has contributed to higher concentrations of Latinos in persistently poor neighborhoods.



- In 2006, The number of children in persistently poor neighborhoods dropped from 8.3 million to 7.6 million.
- Reflects out-migration of families combined with low levels of in-migration to distressed communities.
- Trends suggest concentrated poverty has decreased since 2000, continuing the pattern in 1990s.
- A drop in teen births during the 1990s has also contributed to fewer children born in these neighborhoods.

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Conclusions

- Persistently poor neighborhoods are geographically dispersed but we find the highest concentrations in the rural South and Southwestern United States.
- Historically, African American children were the most likely to live in high-poverty neighborhoods.
- However, recent immigration trends are changing the race/ethnic composition of poor neighborhoods, which are increasingly populated by Hispanic/Latino
- Our research suggests that poverty is becoming less concentrated as families continue to move out of distressed areas and into higher-income areas.
- This may represent a positive step for families who have found better places to live, but it has potentially negative effects on the families and children who are left behind.
- The migration of relatively poor families into higher-income neighborhoods—as occurred during Hurricane Katrina—could also contribute to a rise in poverty in suburban areas.

Next Steps

- Policymakers need to take these racial/ethnic and spatial variations into account when designing programs to reduce neighborhood poverty.
- Programs designed to help African American children may not be as effective for Latino children in immigrant families, who face unique economic, cultural, and language barriers.
- The current economic and housing crises have created new challenges for low-income families and for the organizations that provide support to them.
- Additional research is needed to see how recent economic events may have affected children in America's poorest communities.

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