



SPECIAL UPDATE

Poverty and Self-Sufficiency in the Nine-County Greater Rochester Area

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Executive Summary

Two previous reports of Rochester Area Community Foundation and ACT Rochester (in 2013 and 2015) have helped our community focus on the related issues of poverty and the concentration of poverty in our region. Since publication of these reports, little change has occurred in the numbers, but noteworthy changes have transpired in our community's readiness to act.

A. A Look at the Numbers

Updating the data, we find that:

- Poverty continues to grow in our 9-county region. The most current regional poverty rate is 14.3% (up from 13.2% noted in the first report). The region is now home to more than 167,600 people living below the federal poverty level.
- Poverty within the City of Rochester continues to be extraordinary, with a rate of 33.8% (up from 31.1% in the first report).
- Rochester continues to be the 5th poorest city in the United States, among the top 75 metropolitan areas.
- Compared with cities its size, Rochester now ranks:
 - 2nd in overall poverty (33.8%);
 - 1st in child poverty (52.5%);
 - 1st in the rate of extreme poverty (below half the federal poverty level – 16.4%);
 - 1st in poverty rate for female-headed families in general and for female-headed families with children; (49% and 59.9% respectively); and
 - 2nd in poverty among individuals with less than a high school education (44%).
- About 47% of the City of Rochester's people living in poverty are the women and children of female-headed households. The children of these families account for 81% of the City of Rochester's childhood poverty.
- African Americans and Latinos are more than three times likelier to be poor than those identifying as non-Latino white, a deeply disturbing and persistent disparity in our region.
- Updated analysis by the Brookings Institution found that Rochester has the nation's 3rd highest concentration of poor people living in extremely poor neighborhoods (census tracts). This ranking is the same as that cited in the first report, but

Brookings reports that the number of such Rochester neighborhoods has grown from 27 to 37.

- An estimate prepared for this report found that about 24% of our region's residents who are above the federal poverty level have incomes that are too low to be considered self-sufficient. For the City of Rochester, that estimate is about 31%, which added to those living below the federal poverty level, yields the reality that about one third of all City of Rochester residents can be considered self-sufficient.

B. The Community Organizes

These findings are daunting. Yet, the community response to our poverty reality has been bold and unprecedented.

The centerpiece of our community response is the Rochester Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative (RMAPI), which has established bold goals for reducing our poverty both in Rochester and Monroe County:

- 15% reduction in 5 years;
- 30% reduction in 10 years; and
- 50% reduction in 15 years.

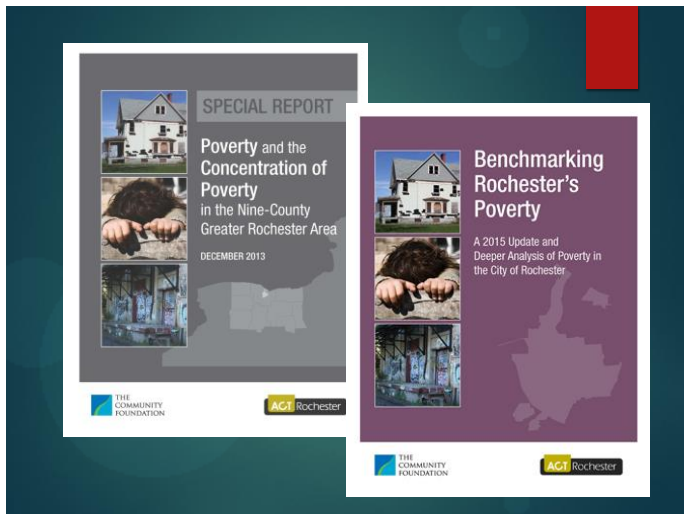
This report describes the efforts of six initiatives to align their work and coordinate their programs in combating poverty in greater Rochester (Section 6). These initiatives involve hundreds of residents collaborating together as professionals and volunteers. They also involve strong efforts to engage low-income residents in their work.

- New York State Initiatives
- Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative (RMAPI)
- City of Rochester, Mayor's Office of Innovation and Strategic Initiatives
- ROC the Future
- Pathways to Prosperity
- Connected Communities

Certainly the community has made a strong start.

Introduction

A. Background



Rochester Area Community Foundation and ACT Rochester have enhanced community awareness of the complex challenges of poverty and the concentration of poverty in this region (“Region” includes the following nine counties: Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates). Through their educational work, these allied organizations have helped inform the community of the depth of Rochester’s poverty and the exceptional character of our region’s concentration of those in poverty.

Among the organizations’ educational awareness activities was publication of two important studies.¹ The first, “*Poverty and the*

Concentration of Poverty in the Nine-County Greater Rochester Area,” was released in December of 2013. This report “served as a wake-up call”² by exploring the breadth and depth of regional poverty and the extraordinary concentration of poverty. It also explored the implications of poverty on individuals and our community, and offered observations on how our community developed such a strong concentration of its poor population.

The second report, “*Benchmarking Rochester’s Poverty,*” was issued in January of 2015. It updated key data from the 2013 report and added a deeper benchmarking analysis of cities in comparably sized U.S. metropolitan areas. Among other sobering findings, the 2015 report revealed Rochester as the first U.S. city its size with more than half its children living in poverty.

This current report has three principal goals:

- To update key elements from both previous studies, including poverty data for all the counties, towns and villages in the region, relying primarily on the latest U.S. Census data;
- To highlight the financial stress that exists in our community by differentiating between poverty and self-sufficiency; and
- To chronicle and summarize efforts of the greater Rochester community to understand and act upon our crisis.

It is important to state from the onset that this study is not an evaluation of community efforts, including the Rochester Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative (RMAPI). Most of the data used in this examination is from the U.S. Census, American Community Survey for 2010-14, reflecting data that is substantially from a time

A Conversation With 3,000 Friends

As part of the effort to promote awareness of our poverty, numerous forums, panels, and community discussions have taken place over the past three years. One such program was a series of more than 60 “road show” presentations made by Ed Doherty, retired vice president of the Community Foundation and principal researcher and author of the 2013 and 2015 reports. Here, Ed shares some of his observations from these sessions.

► Enormous interest exists among the general public, both in the City and the suburbs. More than 3,000 residents came out on snowy evenings and sunny Saturdays to learn the facts and realities of our poverty.

► The data is not a big surprise to those who are poor or who work with the poor. But many others expressed shock!

► Most residents view our teeming poverty as an affront to our civic pride. The most common question is: *How did this happen?*

before RMAPI began its work. Moreover, our poverty crisis emerged gradually over decades. It will require complex, long-term work to overcome. It is hoped that this report will continue to build community awareness, and will add to our collective understanding in ways that support action.

B. Understanding Poverty

For some, poverty is about statistics and sociological theory. For others it is about the real life experience of living in poverty, an experience characterized as much by a loss of hope as a want of material things. The 2013 report included the stories of Shynetta, Mercy, and Adam - not real names, but real people! Each person’s story was unique, but collectively they showed how health problems, abusive relationships, loss of employment, and life’s misfortunes can combine to drive whole families into poverty, and conspire to keep them from overcoming it.

While data is an incomplete way of understanding poverty, we are compelled to know the data, and to attempt to understand the meaning behind the data.

The most common and statistically reliable method of measuring poverty is to use the federal poverty level. The value of the federal poverty level data is that it is tracked uniformly and updated annually by the U.S. Census. It is good data for comparisons, among communities and over time.

Most of the data used in this report is from the U.S. Census, American Community Survey (ACS) for 2010-14. The ACS conducts ongoing surveys in the community and releases the data annually, reflecting the most recent year and a five-year average. The five year average is considered the most accurate because using the longer-term information reduces the statistical margin of error. The two previous Rochester Area Community Foundation/ACT Rochester reports utilized the five-year average ACS. This report does also.

C. Poverty and Financial Self-Sufficiency

One of the frequent questions asked about the federal poverty level is: *Does it measure the income needed for individuals and families to be financially self-sufficient?* The answer is a resounding no!

A Conversation With 3,000 Friends

- ▶ Many people ask if the current poverty reality is the result of local job losses, especially those at the Eastman Kodak Company. This suggests little previous awareness of our gradually developing concentration of poverty.
- ▶ Many people want to help. They are often looking for some straightforward way of helping.
- ▶ There is very little shared knowledge. Even among people who seem to care deeply, there is a sense that there must be some simple solution. This seems to be the case regardless of people's political ideology. These impressions often come out during the lively question and answer portions of the meetings.
- ▶ There is not a great deal of understanding of the issue of concentration of poverty. Many people express surprise about this reality.

Developed in 1963, the federal poverty level is based on a subjective assumption of the relationship between the cost of food and other basic needs.³ It is updated annually for general inflation, but it bears no relationship to the actual needs of individuals or families. Simply stated, the federal poverty level does not measure financial self-sufficiency.

Financial self-sufficiency is generally defined as the level of income needed by individuals or families to meet basic needs without external subsidy. This income level is not regularly measured, though useful periodic studies have been performed. One notable effort was *"The Self-Sufficiency Standard for New York, 2010."*⁴ This report developed a Self-Sufficiency Standard for each county, using the actual costs of food, housing, transportation, health care, child care, taxes, and several other items of basic need.

Table A below compares the Self-Sufficiency Standard for Monroe County (adjusted for inflation) with the most recent federal poverty level (see Appendix D). As shown, the income needed to be self-sufficient is dramatically higher than the federal poverty level. It is nearly twice as high (185%) for an individual, and approaches three times as high (267%) for a family of three.

Table A: Comparison of the Self-Sufficiency Standard and Federal Poverty Level

Family Size	Self-Sufficiency Standard ⁴ (Monroe County)* (2016 Dollars)	Federal Poverty Level (2016)**	Self-Sufficiency as a Percent of Federal Poverty Level
1	\$21,990	\$11,880	185 %
2	\$40,762	\$16,020	254 %
3	\$53,742	\$20,160	267 %
4	\$63,949	\$24,300	263 %

* See Appendix C for all regional counties.

**See Appendix D for additional detail.

A Conversation With 3,000 Friends

► People are often skeptical about local efforts to confront our poverty. Those who are most positive tend to be those who have the most information. People frequently express an interest in getting regular updates.

► People often express frustration over their perception of a lack of action and lack of leadership.

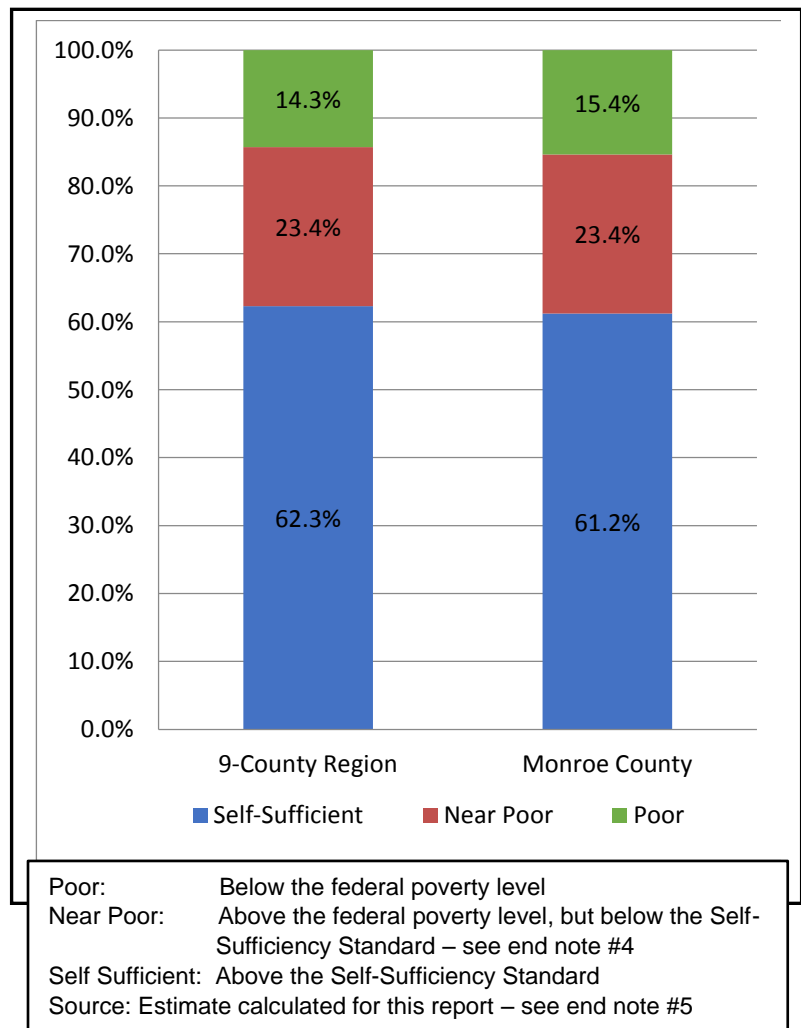
► The largest portion of participants were from faith groups (1,153) followed closely by academic groups (1,092). Business, government and non-profit organizations combined for the next largest portion (464) and civic and general public audiences account for the remaining portion (420).

► Many of the faith and academic groups have continued their involvement with the issue of poverty, including some that have formed coalitions and other organizations to continue their involvement.

Although the U.S. Census doesn't track self-sufficiency data, fairly accurate estimates can be developed using income and family data. Using such an estimate⁵, Table B shows that nearly 38% of people in the nine-county region have incomes that are not self-sufficient - 14.3% who are below the federal poverty level and an additional 23.4% described here as "near poor" (above the poverty level but below the Self-Sufficiency Standard). Data for Monroe County is very similar to that of the region.

We will see later (Section 4) that self-sufficiency data for the City of Rochester provides additional evidence of the extent to which poverty (and near poverty) in our region is highly concentrated.

Table B: Poor, Near Poor and Self-Sufficient



The major point of this discussion of poverty and self-sufficiency is to caution the reader that data in this report tends to understate the degree of financial stress that exists in describing poverty and people living in poverty. There are a significant number of people in our region who are above the federal poverty level, but are not financially self-sufficient. The data based on the federal poverty level is the best available for comparisons, but does not reflect the degree to which individuals and families struggle to be self-sufficient.

Section 1: Overview

The latest Census data enumerates 167,603 individuals living below the federal poverty level in our 9-county region. This is an increase of nearly 7,000 people in just three years. While a few counties experienced small declines (Genesee, Wyoming, Yates), all others saw an increase in the total number of people living in poverty.

Using the federal poverty level, 14.3% of our region's population is classified as living in poverty, an increase from the 13.2% mark noted in the 2013 Report. During the same time period, the national poverty rate increased from 14.3% to 15.6%, and the New York State rate increased from 14.5% to 15.6%.

Section 2: Who Are Our Poor?

A. Poverty and Age

The highest poverty rate in the region is among children under age 18 (Charts 1 & 2). For the 9-county region as a whole, 21.1% of our children live below the federal poverty level (Chart 1, column F). The childhood poverty rate varies considerably across the region, ranging from 13.6% in Ontario County to 24.3% in Yates County. For Monroe County, the childhood poverty rate is 23.3%, significantly influenced by the 52.5% childhood poverty rate in the City of Rochester.

While the poverty rate is greatest among children, adults (age 18 to 64) account for the largest population group and the largest number of people living in poverty (Chart 3).

Chart 1: Our Region's Poor – Numbers and Rates					
<i>Column A</i>	<i>Column B</i>	<i>Column C</i>	<i>Column D</i>	<i>Column E</i>	<i>Column F</i>
Age	Total Population By Age	Percent of Total Population	Poor People by Age	Percent of Total Poor Population	Percent of Population that is Poor (poverty rate)
Under 18	264,352	21.7%	54,901	32.8%	21.1%
18 to 64	770,757	63.2%	100,237	59.8%	13.6%
65 or above	184,082	15.1%	12,465	7.4%	7.1%
Total	1,219,191	100.0%	167,603	100.0%	14.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – American Community Survey (2010-14). Percentages were calculated for this report.

Chart 2: Poverty Rates by Age

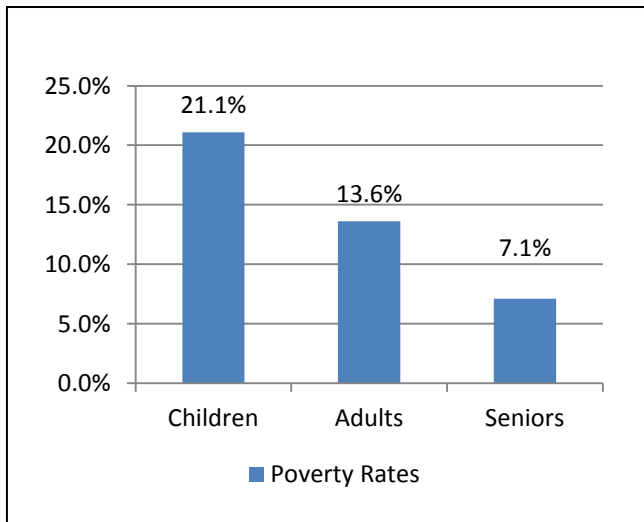
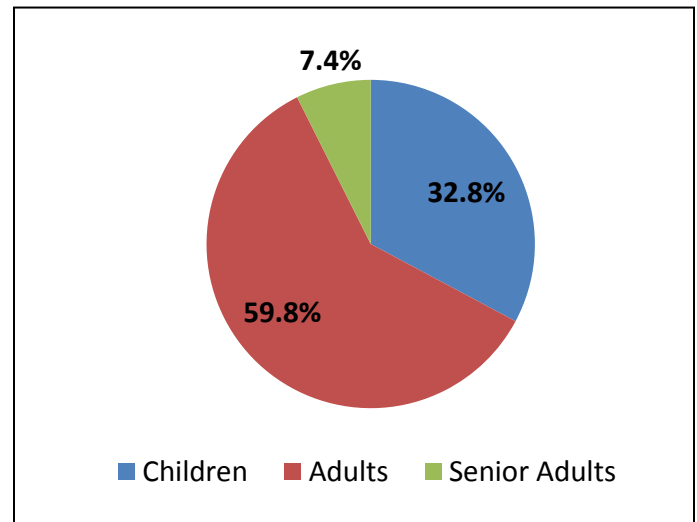


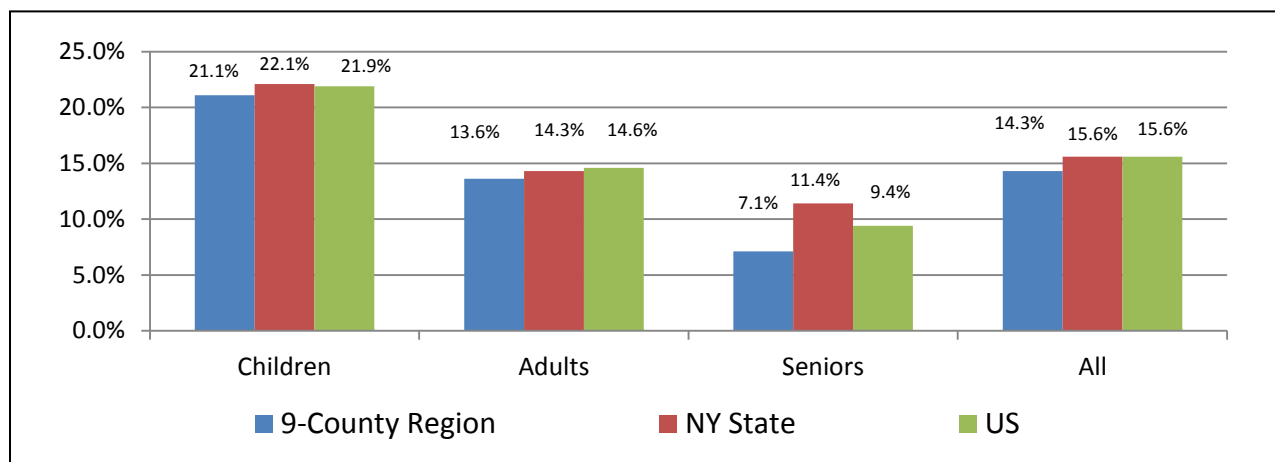
Chart 3: Poor People by Age



Source (Charts 2 & 3): U.S. Census Bureau – American Community Survey (2010-14).

Since the 2013 Report, the overall population of the region increased by a very small amount (2,035 people) and a miniscule percentage (only 0.17 of a percent). The poverty rate of children increased (from 18.7% to 21.1%), and children's share of the poor population increased correspondingly (from 31.9% to 32.8%). The poverty rate for seniors declined (from 7.8 % to 7.1%) and the seniors' share of the poor population went down a full percentage point (from 8.4% to 7.4%).

Chart 4: Poverty Rate Comparisons – 9-County Region, New York State, United States



Source: U.S. Census Bureau – American Community Survey (2010-14).

As shown in Chart 4, the poverty rates in our region are slightly lower than the national and NY State levels for most age groups. Seniors in our area have a notably lower poverty rate than their national and statewide counterparts.

B. Poverty and Race/Ethnicity

African Americans and Latinos are more than three times likelier to be poor than those identifying as non-Latino white, a deeply disturbing and persistent disparity in our region. Members of these groups are more than three times likely to be poor than those identified as white (Chart 5). And, African Americans and Latinos in our region are considerably more likely to be poor than people in the *same racial and ethnic groups* elsewhere in the U.S. or in New York State.

Chart 5: Poverty by Race and Ethnicity					
Location	All	Whites	African American	Latino	Asian
9-County Region	14.3%	10.6%	36.2%	34.3%	19.4%
United States	15.6%	12.8%	27.3%	24.8%	12.7%
NY State	15.6%	11.3%	23.5%	25.9%	18.4%
NY State without NYC	11.8%	9.6%	24.0%	19.4%	13.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – American Community Survey (2010-14).

The overall poverty rate of our region increased slightly over the past 3 years, and it increased slightly for every ethnic group. The disparity between whites and both African Americans and Latinos continues to be dramatic, and actually widened very slightly over the past three years.

The nexus of poverty and race is a profoundly important issue for our region. It is hard to see how serious amelioration of our poverty circumstance is possible without a mature understanding of this issue. ACT Rochester has tracked data that shows the breadth and depth of racial and ethnic disparities (in addition to poverty) in our area.⁶ This data shows that racial and ethnic disparities are prevalent throughout the life cycle of people of color, including infant mortality, academic outcomes, income, and homeownership. It also shows that disparities among racial and ethnic groups are larger in our region than in the nation as a whole or statewide in New York.

C. Poverty and Families

As described in Chart 6, family matters. Overall, the region's families have a poverty rate of 10.2%. Married couple families have a much lower poverty rate than the average (3.6%), while female-headed families have a dramatically higher poverty rate (31.9%), and female-headed families with children experience an even higher rate of poverty (42.5%). This pattern is evident in every county, as well as the City of Rochester.

For the City of Rochester, the poverty rate for female-headed families with children under 18 is nearly 60%. While the City is home to only 17% of the total region's population, it is the residence of 36% of the female-headed households with children under age 18. There are 15,333 female-headed families with children under the age of 18. Given a poverty rate of 59.9% and an average family size of 3.5 for these families, this group comprises approximately 32,100 individuals, which accounts for 47% of all people living in poverty within the City of Rochester. The children of these families represent 81% of all poor children in Rochester, or slightly over 21,000 children.

Obviously, these findings suggest that strategies to ameliorate poverty among this sub-group could be critical.

Chart 6: Poverty and Family Structure					
Poverty Rates for Families with Different Characteristics					
<i>Column A</i>	<i>Column B</i>	<i>Column C</i>	<i>Column D</i>	<i>Column E</i>	<i>Column F</i>
County, Region, or City	All Families	Families with Children under 18	Families of Married Couples	Female Headed Families - No Husband Present*	Female Headed Families - No Husband Present with Children under 18*
Monroe**	11.2%	19.8%	3.4%	33.2%	44.5%
Genesee	9.1%	16.4%	5.2%	28.8%	43.1%
Livingston	9.9%	17.8%	4.0%	33.8%	39.3%
Ontario	6.6%	12.4%	2.5%	23.2%	32.0%
Orleans	12.8%	21.9%	6.6%	33.9%	42.7%
Seneca	8.5%	14.5%	4.3%	30.0%	39.5%
Wayne	8.3%	14.8%	2.8%	30.9%	40.8%
Wyoming	6.9%	13.3%	3.0%	26.4%	36.0%
Yates	10.3%	19.5%	5.0%	29.9%	33.9%
Regional Total	10.2%	18.2%	3.6%	31.9%	42.5%
Rochester (city)	31.0%	46.6%	11.6%	49.0%	59.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – American Community Survey (2010-14).

* This grouping includes single, divorced, widowed, and married women with no husband present.

** Data for Monroe County includes the city of Rochester; city data is shown separately at the bottom for analysis purposes.

Section 3: Where Do Our Poor Live?

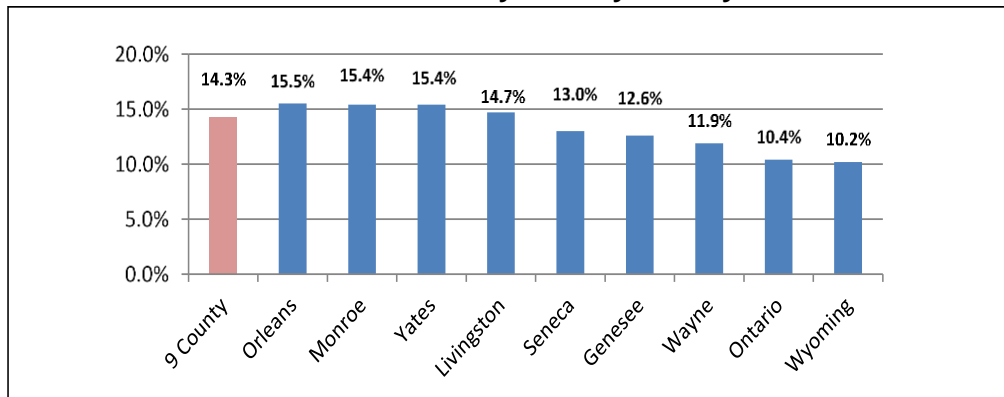
People live in poverty in every county, city, town, and village in our region. This section of the report will explore the geography of regional poverty by examining the incidence of poverty by physical area and types of governmental jurisdiction.

Our community is not unique in that poor populations tends to exist in relatively small areas, especially in cities. As further described in Section 4 of this report, that concentration is exceptional when compared to other communities. While the City of Rochester is home to the largest population of people in poverty (68,222), a majority of the region’s poor population (nearly 60%) live outside of Rochester.

A. Poverty by County

Significant numbers of poor people live in every county in our region. Charts 7 and 8 below illustrate rates and the number of people living in poverty for each county. Orleans County now has the area's highest poverty rate at 15.5%, with Monroe and Yates close at 15.4%. Monroe County, of course, is home to the largest portion of the region's poor population (67%) and the largest number of people living in poverty (111,713). Wyoming and Ontario Counties have the lowest rates of poverty at 10.2% and 10.4% respectively.

Chart 7: Poverty Rate by County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau – American Community Survey (2010-14).

Chart 8: Poverty Rate and Poor People by County

County	Poverty Rate	Number of Poor People	Percent of Region's Poor People
Orleans	15.5%	6,127	3.7%
Monroe	15.4%	111,713	66.7%
Yates	15.4%	3,706	2.2%
Livingston	14.7%	8,644	5.1%
Seneca	13.0%	4,175	2.5%
Genesee	12.6%	7,441	4.4%
Wayne	11.9%	10,926	6.5%
Ontario	10.4%	11,010	6.6%
Wyoming	10.2%	3,861	2.3%
Region Total	14.3%	167,603	100.0%
Rochester (city)*	33.8%	66,222	40.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – American Community Survey (2010-14).
 Percentages were calculated for this report.
 * Data for all counties include cities within the county; city of Rochester data is shown separately at the bottom of this chart for information purposes.

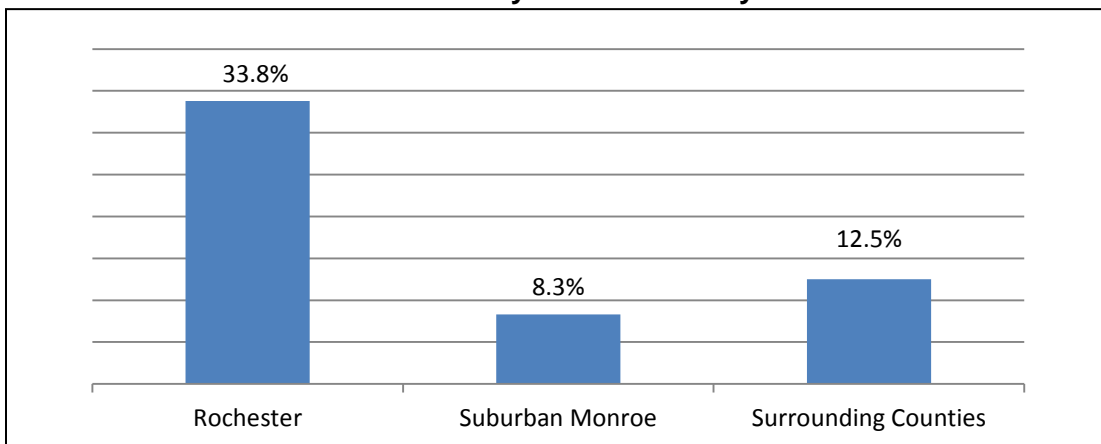
Since the 2013 Report, the regional poverty rate increased by 1.1 percentage points (13.2% to 14.3%). Every county experienced an increase in the rate of poverty, except Yates which was unchanged. Orleans recorded the largest increase (3.4 percentage points). Monroe, Livingston, and Seneca counties all realized increases of 1 or more percentage points.

B. Poverty and Geographic Location

Charts 9-11 examine poverty by geographic areas within our region. We see that the City of Rochester has a much higher poverty rate than suburban Monroe County or the surrounding eight counties (Chart 9), but still, the majority of the region's poor people live outside the City of Rochester (Chart 10). Chart 11 takes a sharper look at the areas outside of Rochester and shows that poverty in Monroe County's suburbs is lower than the more rural surrounding counties. This chart also looks at east-west locations and reveals only minor variations.

The lower poverty rates of adjacent counties (adjacent to Monroe County) compared with non-adjacent counties is driven by a more suburban character of some of the close-in towns among the adjacent counties. This is illustrated in Wayne County, where the three western towns that border Monroe County all have single-digit poverty rates, and a combined poverty rate of 5%. The combined poverty rate of the remaining Wayne County towns is 15%.

Chart 9: City-Suburb Poverty Rates



Source: U.S. Census Bureau - American Community Survey (2010-14).
Percentage for Suburban Monroe and Surrounding Counties were calculated for this report.

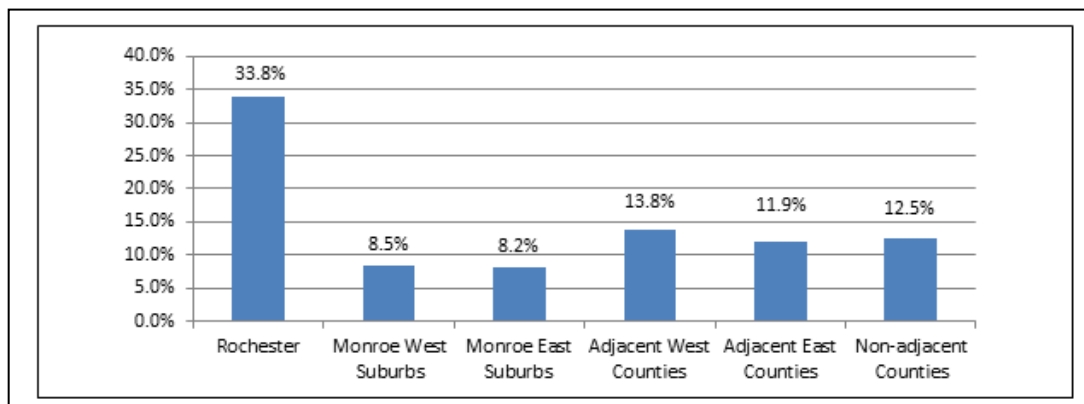
Chart 10: Poverty Rate and Poor People by City-Suburban Location			
<i>Column A</i>	<i>Column B</i>	<i>Column C</i>	<i>Column D</i>
Location	Poverty Rate	Number of Poor People	Percent of Region's Poor People
City of Rochester	33.8%	68,222	40.7%
Suburban Monroe County	8.3%	43,491	26.0%
Surrounding Counties	12.5%	55,890	33.3%
Total Region	14.3%	167,603	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – American Community Survey (2010-14). Percentages were calculated for this report.

Overall, our region's poor population grew by 4.3% from the data used in the 2013 Report. As shown in the table below, this growth in the number of people living in poverty was quite uniform among the geographic areas.

	<u>2013 Report</u> <u>(ACS 2007-11)</u>	<u>This Report</u> <u>(ACS 2010-14)</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Poor Populations:				
City of Rochester	65,486	68,222	2,736	4.2%
Suburban Monroe	41,700	43,491	1,791	4.3%
Surrounding Counties	<u>53,513</u>	<u>55,890</u>	<u>2,377</u>	4.4%
Total Region	160,699	167,603	6,904	4.3%

Chart 11: Poverty Rates by Geographic Area



Note Monroe West: 10 towns west of the Genesee River; Monroe East: 10 towns east of the Genesee River
 Adjacent West: Orleans, Genesee; Adjacent East: Livingston, Ontario, Wayne;
 Non-adjacent: Seneca, Wyoming, Yates.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau - American Community Survey (2010-14). Percentages were calculated for this report.

Comparing the geographic distribution of poverty with the 2013 report, it can be seen that the overall regional poverty rate has gone up, and so has the rate for each geographic area, but the relative shares for each sub-region have remained substantially the same.

C. Poverty and Cities

In addition to Rochester, the 9-county region has three other cities. Each city has a poverty rate that is higher than its respective county. All, except Canandaigua, have poverty rates higher than the regional total. Combined with Rochester, these cities account for 20% of the region's overall population, but 45% of the people living in poverty.

Chart 12: Poverty in Our Region's Cities

City*	County*	Poverty Rate	Population	Number of Poor People	Percent of Total County Population	Percent of County Poor Population
Batavia	Genesee	22.2%	15,274	3,274	25.6%	44.0%
Canandaigua	Ontario	13.3%	10,532	1,368	9.7%	12.4%
Geneva	Ontario	25.2%	13,202	2,738	12.1%	24.9%
Rochester	Monroe	33.8%	210,461	68,222	28.1%	61.1%

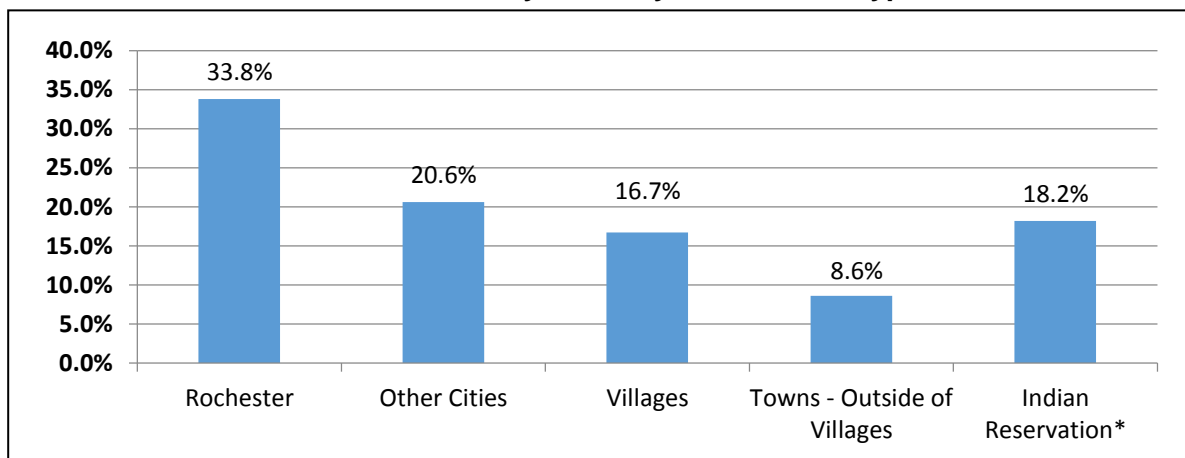
Source: U.S. Census Bureau – American Community Survey (2010-14). Percentages were calculated for this report.

* The data for these cities is part of the data for the respective counties as presented elsewhere in this report. This data is shown here separately for analysis.

D. Poverty and Towns

Nearly two-thirds of regional residents live in town areas outside of villages. These are the areas of lowest poverty. In aggregate, these areas (sometimes called unincorporated areas) have a poverty rate of 8.6%, dramatically lower than the region-wide rate of 14.3%.

Chart 13: Poverty Rates by Jurisdiction Type



Source: U.S. Census Bureau - American Community Survey (2010-14). Percentages were calculated for this report.

* Tonawanda Indian Reservation in Genesee County

Chart 14: Population and Poverty Rates by Jurisdiction Type

Type of Jurisdiction	Number of Jurisdictions	Population	Percent of Regional Population	Poverty Rate
City of Rochester	1	210,461	17.3%	33.8%
Other Cities	3	39,008	3.2%	20.6%
Villages	60	154,831	12.7%	16.7%
Towns (outside villages)	126	814,891	66.8%	8.6%
American Indian Reservation	1	543	Less than .1%	18.2%
Total Region		1,219,191	100%	14.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – American Community Survey (2010-14). Jurisdiction types, populations, and poverty rates were compiled by the author from Census data.

An increase in the poverty rate in the town areas (from 6.6% to 8.6% when compared with the 2013 Report) is primarily a reflection of the overall increase in poverty in our country and region, although the dissolution of two villages (Seneca Falls in Seneca County and Pike in Wyoming County) contributes slightly to this increase.

E. Poverty and Villages

Our region’s villages vary considerably in size, with populations ranging from as little as 228 (Gainesville in Wyoming County) to more than 9,000 (Newark in Wayne County). Similarly, villages vary in character, with some serving as urban centers and others as suburban communities. Generally, villages have higher-than-average poverty rates. 32 of 51 villages outside of Monroe County have poverty rates in excess of the 9-county mark of 14.3%. However, only two of Monroe County’s nine villages are in the same circumstance, reflecting the more suburban character of these close-in villages. In aggregate, our region’s villages are home to nearly 155,000 people and have a composite poverty rate of 16.7%. A few villages have extremely high poverty rates, such as Geneseo at 46.5%. There are 19 villages with relatively low single-digit poverty rates (seven of these are in Monroe County).

Geneseo’s extremely high rate of poverty calls for more study. In the 2013 Report, it was suggested that the Village’s high poverty rate might be an artifact of being a college town, citing a relatively low childhood poverty rate as possible evidence of this conclusion. However, the updated American Community Survey data for 2010-14 lists Geneseo’s childhood poverty at 31%, ten percentage points higher than the regional average. This could reflect a more pervasive poverty problem than previously indicated. This is further complicated by a number of data anomalies observed relative to Geneseo.⁷ Further study should be undertaken.

Chart 15: Poverty in Selected Villages						
Village	County	Poverty Rate	Population	Number of Poor People	Percent of Total County Population	Percent of County Poor Population
Medina	Orleans	20.5%	5,962	1,171	14.0%	19.1%
Albion	Orleans	26.8%	5,799	1,513	13.6%	24.7%
Warsaw	Wyoming	16.9%	3,591	572	8.6%	14.8%
Le Roy	Genesee	7.6%	4,348	319	7.3%	4.3%
Geneseo	Livingston	46.5%	8,043	2,207	12.4%	25.5%
Dansville	Livingston	21.5%	4,618	991	7.1%	11.5%
Clifton Springs	Ontario	13.8%	2,293	293	2.1%	2.7%
Victor	Ontario	5.6%	2,798	156	2.6%	1.4%
Newark	Wayne	20.2%	9,019	1,803	9.7%	16.5%
Palmyra	Wayne	20.8%	3,473	721	3.7%	6.6%
Waterloo	Seneca	13.8%	5,178	661	14.7%	15.8%
Penn Yan	Yates	24.1%	5,011	1,129	19.8%	30.5%
Fairport	Monroe	3.4%	5,364	184	0.7%	0.2%
Webster	Monroe	27.5%	5,528	1,501	0.7%	1.3%
Hilton	Monroe	1.9%	5,954	116	0.8%	0.1%
Brockport	Monroe	25.1%	8,398	1,440	1.1%	1.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – American Community Survey (2010-14). Percentages were calculated for this report.

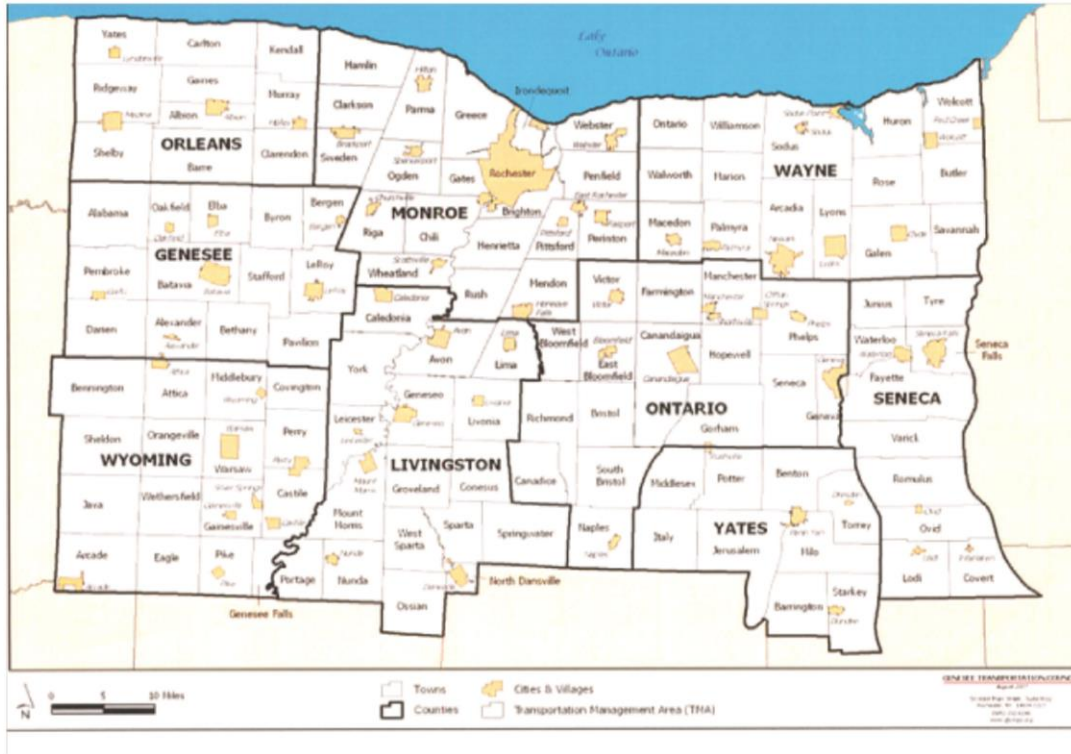
Chart 15 (above) lists poverty data for 16 villages from throughout the 9-county region. These 16 villages account for 55% of the total population of all villages and 60% of the poor population of all villages.

The 16 villages in Chart 15 above are the same jurisdictions highlighted in the 2013 Report, except that Seneca Falls (which is no longer a village) has been deleted. Because of the small population base for most villages, they can (and do) show some significant poverty rate changes. Twelve of the villages had poverty rate increases since the 2013 Report, while four had decreases.

Noteworthy among those with increases are: Webster in Monroe County (15.7% to 27.5%); Waterloo in Seneca County (7.9% to 13.8%), Warsaw in Wyoming County (8.7% to 16.9%); and the Wayne County Villages of Palmyra and Newark (from 15.2% to 20.8% and 15.0% to 20.2% respectively). The villages of LeRoy (Genesee County) and Hilton and Fairport (Monroe County) showed noteworthy declines in their poverty rates. The nine villages shown with yellow highlighting have poverty rates in excess of 20%. In the 2013 Report, only five of the selected villages were at that threshold.

See **Appendix A** for the poverty rates of all 60 villages in our region.

Map: 9-County Region (Courtesy of Genesee Transportation Council)



Section 4: The Concentration of Poverty

Data Note: For many of the analyses and charts in this section, it was necessary to use the Census Bureau's **Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)** in order to get valid comparisons with other metro areas. For the Rochester metro, the MSA includes only six of the nine counties included in the earlier sections of this report. The counties of Genesee, Wyoming, and Seneca are not included in the analysis in this section.

For many decades, America's cities have been home to disproportionate shares of people living in poverty. An array of public policies, social preferences, and market-driven choices have resulted in metropolitan development patterns that are characterized by class and race separation.⁸ While most cities, especially older Northeast and Midwest ones, have long struggled with these forces, it appears that the degree of residential segregation is stronger in Rochester.⁹ The resulting concentration

of poverty, while typical in pattern to many other cities, is extraordinary in degree.

Rochester is home to nearly 41% of the 9-county poor population, and 61% of Monroe County's poor. These levels of concentration have not changed from those described in the 2013 Report.

A. Rochester's Poverty among the Nation's Cities

More than 1/3 of all City of Rochester residents live below the federal poverty level - 68,222 residents in total. This poverty rate places Rochester as the 5th poorest city among the nation's top 75 metropolitan areas (Chart 16). This ranking is unchanged from that cited in the 2013 Report.

Rochester's poverty rate is nearly 10 percentage points above the mid-point of the top 75 metro areas (24.1%), but only 6 percentage points lower than America's poorest city (Detroit).

Chart 16: Top 10 Highest City Poverty Rates (Among the Top 75 U.S. Metropolitan Areas)		
Rank	City	Poverty Rate
1	Detroit	39.8%
2	Cleveland	35.9%
3	Dayton	35.3%
4	Hartford	34.4%
5	Rochester	33.8%
6	Birmingham	31.0%
7	Buffalo	30.9%
8	Cincinnati	30.9%
9	Miami	29.9%
10	Providence	29.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – American Community Survey (2010-14)

See **Appendix B** for a full listing of the top 75 U.S. metro areas with their populations and poverty rates.

B. Rochester's Poverty among Comparably Sized Cities

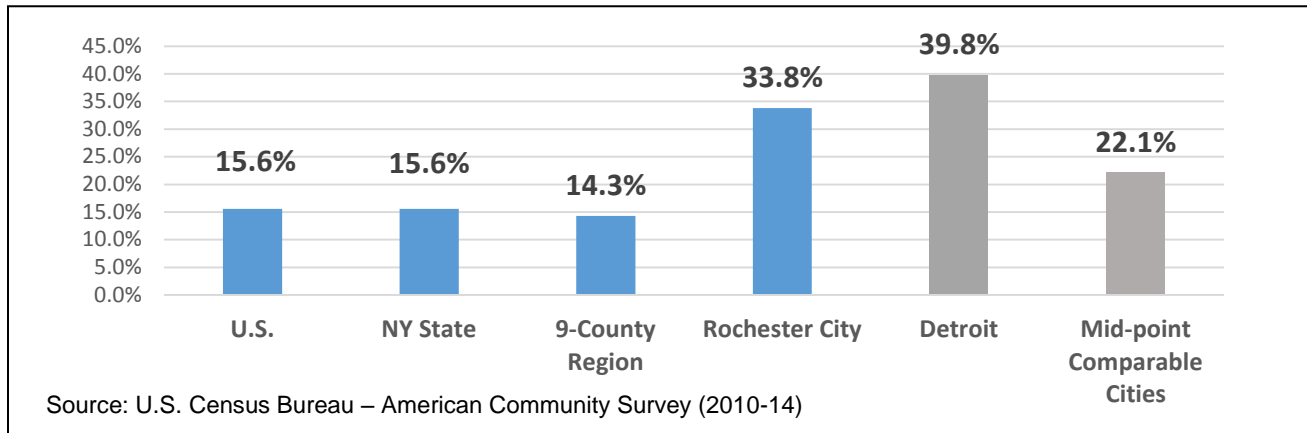
To get a more focused view of Rochester's poverty, it is useful to compare with cities of comparable size. This report looks at the principal cities in all metropolitan areas whose populations are within 200,000 of Rochester's (plus or minus). Among this group, Rochester ranks as the 2nd poorest city (Chart 17), the same ranking noted in the 2013 Report.

Chart 17: Poverty Rates for Cities of Rochester's Size*		
Rank	City	Poverty Rate
1	Hartford	34.4%
2	Rochester	33.8%
3	Birmingham	31.0%
4	Buffalo	30.9%
5	Fresno	30.6%
6	New Orleans	27.7%
7	Grand Rapids	26.7%
8	Richmond	25.5%
9	Tucson	25.1%
10	Bridgeport	23.6%
Mid-point of range →		22.1%
11	Worcester	22.0%
12	Salt Lake City	20.9%
13	Bakersfield	20.2%
14	Tulsa	20.0%
15	Albuquerque	18.5%
16	Louisville	18.4%
17	Oklahoma City	18.2%
18	Raleigh	16.3%
19	Honolulu	9.8%

* Principal cities in all metro areas within 200,000 population (+/-) of Rochester.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau – American Community Survey (2010-14)

The City of Rochester's high poverty level is especially remarkable considering that the region as a whole has a lower-than-average poverty rate. Chart 18 illustrates this point.

Chart 18: Comparative Poverty Rates

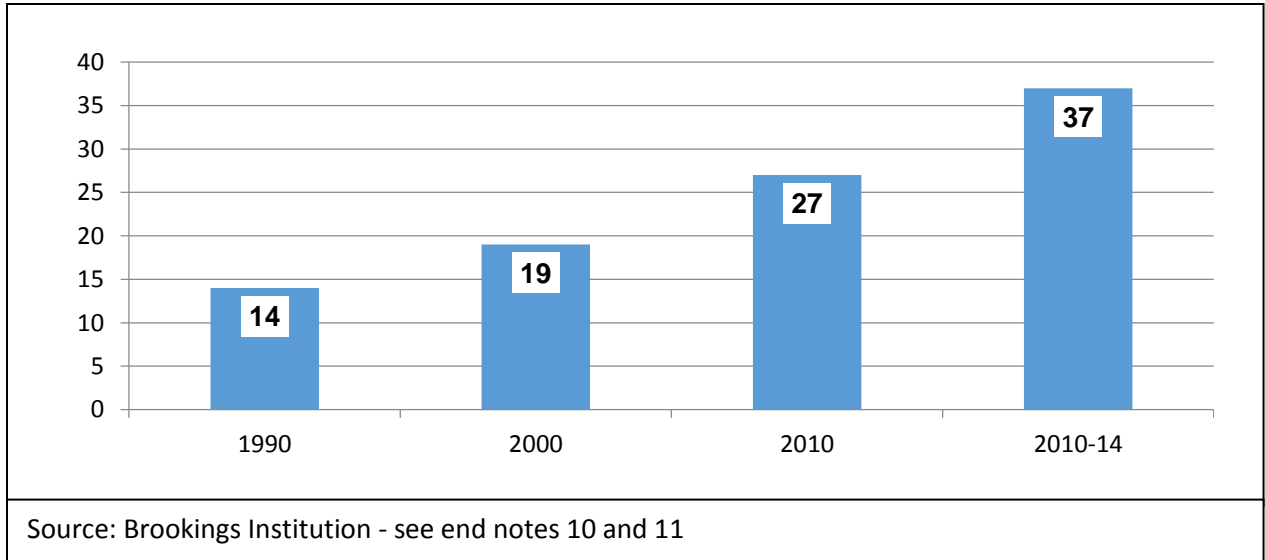


C. Neighborhoods of Extreme Poverty

The 2013 Report cited a Brookings Institution study¹⁰ that examined the degree to which metro areas and their principal cities concentrated populations of poor people into extremely poor neighborhoods. These neighborhoods were defined as areas (census tracts) with poverty rates of 40% or higher. This study found the Rochester Metro area to have the 13th highest degree of poverty concentration among the nation's top 100 metropolitan areas. That same study found that the City of Rochester had the 3rd highest rate of poverty concentration among the principal cities in the nation's top 100 metropolitan areas.

A new Brookings study¹¹ with updated data has found that Rochester has retained these rankings – both as a metro area and as a city. This might seem to indicate stability, but in fact, the latest Brookings study showed a large increase in residents living in areas of extreme poverty. Both Brookings studies examined neighborhoods where 40% or more of the population is living in poverty. Such neighborhoods in Rochester (census tracts) have grown from 27 to 37 since the previous study. This continues the steady climb in neighborhoods of extreme poverty (see Chart 19). City census tracts with poor populations of 40% or more have nearly doubled in number over the past 14 years (2000 to 2014). During the same 14-year period, the percentage of the City's poor population living in these extremely poor neighborhoods has grown from 34% to 59%.

Chart 19: Number of City of Rochester Census Tracts with Poverty of 40% or More

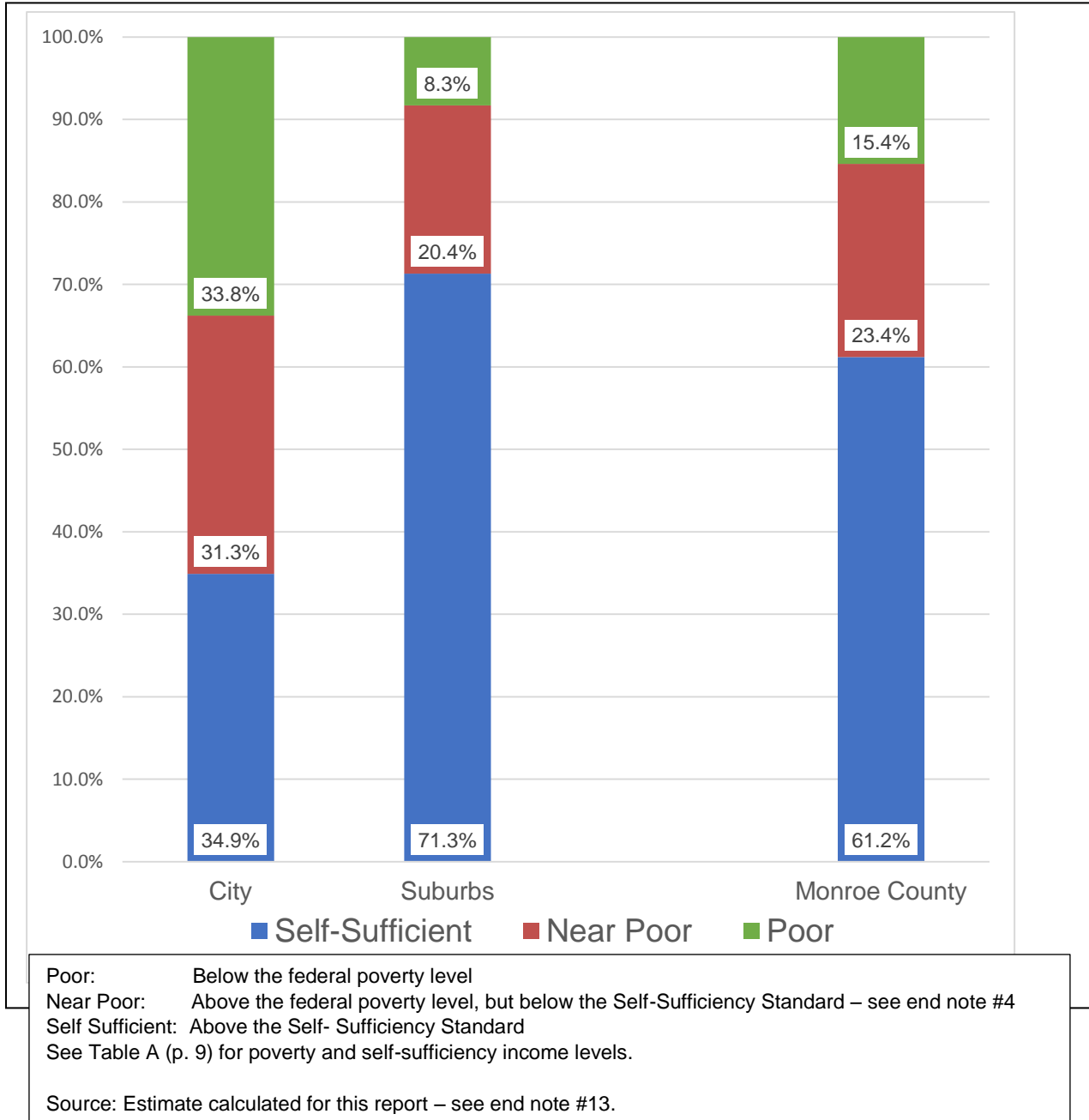


D. Poverty and Self-Sufficiency

As described in the Introduction to this report, poverty and self-sufficiency are not the same. The recent IBM *Smarter Cities Challenge Report for Rochester* noted, “The gap between the federal poverty level and the actual level of self-sufficiency required for an individual to no longer need public assistance is significant.”¹²

Because of the importance of the issue, this report has developed an estimate of self-sufficiency for the City of Rochester using the same method used to calculate regional and county data on self-sufficiency.¹³ This analysis (Chart 20) reveals the rather alarming reality that only slightly more than 1/3 of City of Rochester residents meet the economic definition of being self-sufficient.

Chart 20: Self-Sufficiency for Monroe County - City and Suburbs



These findings relating to poverty and near poverty describe an enormously challenging reality for the City of Rochester and for the larger region as it faces the task of reducing poverty and its impacts in our community.

Section 5: Benchmarking Update

In 2015, the Community Foundation and ACT Rochester issued a second report titled, “*Benchmarking Rochester’s Poverty: A 2015 Update and Deeper Analysis of Poverty in the City of Rochester.*” This report compared Rochester with all cities of comparable size (all principal cities in metro areas with populations within 200,000 [+/-] of Rochester). Utilizing data from the U.S. Census American Community Survey for 2009-13, this report is still reasonably up-to-date and the report is of value to readers.

Chart 21 below utilizes data updated to 2010-14 for selected characteristics, and it shows Rochester’s position relative to comparably sized cities. The key findings of this update include:

- Rochester continues to rank #2 in overall poverty rate.
- Rochester still **rank #1** in childhood poverty at 52.5%.
- Rochester still **rank #1** in extreme poverty (below half the federal poverty level) at 16.4%.
- Rochester still **rank #1** in poverty level for female-headed families (49.0%) and female-headed families with children (59.9%).
- The poverty rate for those with less than a high school education has remained the same (44.0%), but Rochester now **rank #2** instead of #1.
- The poverty rate for those with a Bachelor’s degree (or higher) decreased slightly from 9.7% to 9.3%; and Rochester’s rank fell from #2 to #5.
- Rochester’s lowest (best) ranking is for seniors (65 and older) who have a poverty rate of 14.8%. This ranks Rochester 7th highest among comparably sized cities.

Chart 21: Rochester’s Rank Among Comparably Sized Cities for Selected Characteristics																			
Poverty Rate for:	Rochester’s Rank in the U.S. Among Cities of Comparable Size:																		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Overall Poverty		•																	
Extreme Poverty*	•																		
Child Poverty (under 18)	•																		
Adult Poverty (18 to 64)		•																	
Seniors Poverty 65+							•												
Less than HS Education		•																	
Bachelor degree or higher					•														
Female headed family	•																		
Female head. with child.***	•																		
With a Disability		•																	
Foreign Born			•																

* Percent of individuals living below half of the poverty level.
 ** The actual Census terminology is “Female householder, no husband present.”
 *** The actual Census terminology is “Female householder, no husband present, with related children under 18.”
 Comparably sized cities are all principal cities in metropolitan areas within 200,000 (+/-) population of Rochester. There are now 19 cities of comparable size; there were 18 at the time of the 2015 Report.
 Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey (2010-14).

Section 6: Understanding and Action

A. Understanding and Action

The information in this report, and the previous reports, is not surprising to many, especially to those who have worked with people in poverty or who have studied the issues of poverty. Yet, to many in the community, the extent of our poverty comes as a shock. Even when a degree of *awareness* is achieved, there seems to be very little shared *understanding* of poverty, including its causes and impacts. Far too many possess a single view of poverty as something with simple solutions. With little shared *understanding*, people will form their own beliefs, ideas, and biases.

The greater Rochester community has undertaken a great effort to focus directly on our poverty and related issues. Some see this focus as unprecedented. Below is a brief summary of the many efforts currently underway. First, we will frame a few of the overarching challenges facing the community's effort to address the complex challenges of poverty.

- The sheer magnitude and complexity of the issue is daunting. It is tempting to see poverty as a single thing. But, even a cursory review of the data requires us to think otherwise. Some people in our community are poor because they cannot find a job; others are poor because physical, mental, and other realities prevent them from doing so. Some will escape from poverty and others will face a life-long struggle. Many will find their way out of poverty, only to slide back when they cannot sustain their progress. There is abundant data to back up these observations, but there is precious little common understanding of what lies beyond the data.
- Perspective matters. The position from which we view the issues will affect our sense of urgency. For academics and community professionals, it may seem important to gain greater understanding through study and dialogue. But, if you are close to poverty – personally, professionally, or through loved ones – fast action is imperative. Will those who know the value of study and analysis be supportive of immediate action where it makes sense to do so? Will those who want action be patient enough to acknowledge the need for long-term solutions that will require research and trial and error? Taking action on what we already know, while at the same time learning what we must learn is very challenging, but certainly the right course.
- How do you approach such a broad societal problem on a local or regional level? In the mid-1960's, President Lyndon

Johnson launched a national “war” on poverty. The success or failure of this effort has been debated widely, but most agree that so much more needs to be done. Is it realistic to ameliorate poverty without the resources and policy might of the federal government? The partnership with New York State will be critical as the Rochester community serves as a laboratory for regional strategies to combat poverty.

- There is no roadmap. Poverty has vexed political, social, academic, and religious leaders the world over for centuries. In 2014, a scan of international anti-poverty efforts was conducted for the United Way of Greater Rochester by the Center for Governmental Research.¹⁴ This study yielded valuable information about national and provincial efforts in Great Britain and Canada. It also documented many specific program-level strategies. But the study did not find comprehensive, regional-level initiatives that can serve as a model for greater Rochester. We are truly pioneers.
- Strategies that combat the concentration of poverty are different than those that target poverty generally. Certainly, greatly reducing poverty will alleviate concentration. But, our great concentration of poverty presents a terrible handicap to our anti-poverty efforts, especially by neutralizing one of the best tools for fighting poverty – education. Will we find and pursue regional strategies that combat the concentration of poverty?

In the face of these great challenges, the greater Rochester community has entered into a bold and unprecedented effort to gain greater understanding of poverty and to develop strong actions. The following group of initiatives have aligned programs to support coordinated learning and action to overcome Rochester’s poverty.

B. New York State Initiatives

Governor Andrew Cuomo recognized Rochester’s poverty challenges when he formed the Rochester Anti-Poverty Task Force in early 2015.¹⁵ Consisting mostly of New York State department and agency heads, the Task Force is intended to help facilitate State support for local anti-poverty efforts. The Task Force has visited Rochester to receive direct testimony from those impacted by poverty as well as those who work closely with people living in poverty. The Task Force works directly with the Rochester Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative.

In 2016, New York State expanded its anti-poverty initiative through creation of the Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative.¹⁶ Based on the Rochester model, this program will expand the

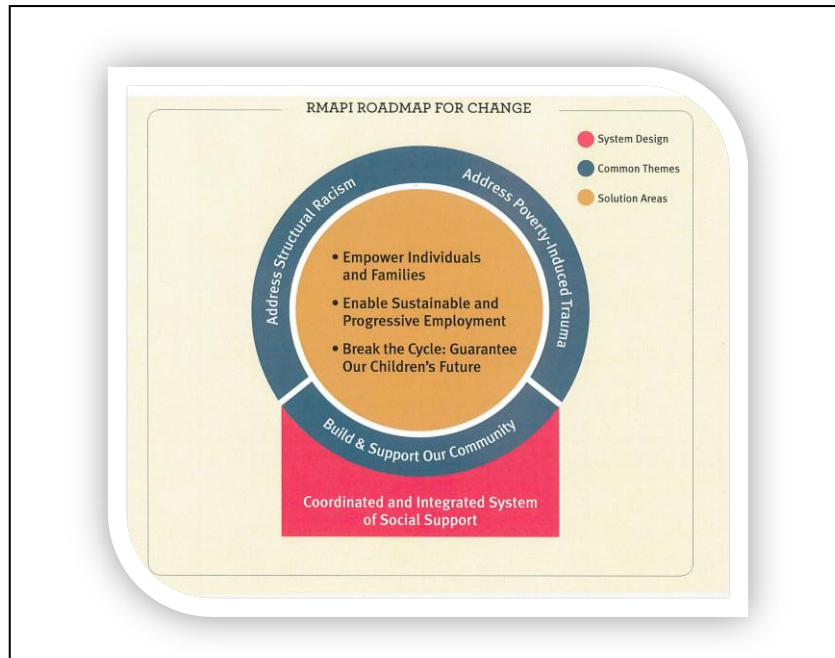
State's initiative to additional cities and will provide additional supports.

C. Rochester Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative (RMAPI)

The centerpiece of Rochester's anti-poverty strategy, RMAPI is a broad collaboration comprising community leaders, local and state government, service providers and practitioners, faith institutions, volunteers, youth advocates, and importantly, the active participation of people impacted by poverty.

RMAPI is led by New York State Assembly Majority Leader Joseph D. Morelle, Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren, and Monroe County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo. It is convened and supported by United Way of Greater Rochester.¹⁷ The collaborative work of RMAPI is carried out through a Steering Committee and several resource and work teams, all staffed by community leaders and volunteers. RMAPI is currently assisted by a professional staff at the United Way.

In September of 2015, RMAPI issued a progress report to the community.¹⁸ The report laid out the goal of reducing poverty by 50% in 15 years (30% in ten years and 15% in five years). As its initial work, the progress report offered 33 recommendations for action. These recommendations followed a structured "Roadmap" that identified three major themes, three solution areas, and the overarching goal of creating a coordinated and integrated system of social support (see illustration below).



An important value of RMAPI is the active engagement of people living in poverty. This has been fostered through several efforts:

- Involvement of people living in poverty as full members of the work teams that formed the 33 recommendations;
- Focus groups and surveys to understand the barriers facing people in poverty;
- Town hall meetings to gain further input from people in poverty and the general public; and
- Current steps are being taken by RMAPI, the City of Rochester and several other community initiatives to set up a Community Advisory Council to provide ongoing engagement of neighborhood residents.¹⁹

RMAPI has also partnered with the City of Rochester Mayor's Office of Innovation to plan and organize a number of pilot communities as recommendations move into program actions. After considerable data analysis and community engagement, the eastside areas encompassing the neighborhoods of Beechwood, EMMA, and Marketview Heights were selected.

D. City of Rochester, Mayor's Office of Innovation and Strategic Initiatives

Initiated by Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren, this creative endeavor seeks to empower city departments, agencies, businesses, and residents to continually improve.²⁰ The current focus is on issues of poverty in Rochester. More specifically, the Office of Innovation is working on understanding the drivers of poverty – concentrating on joblessness in distressed neighborhoods. The Office of Innovation's poverty work is partnered with RMAPI and other important community efforts. Among the specific activities undertaken by the Office has been coordination of an IBM Smarter Cities Rochester study that took a systems look at the challenges faced by the community in providing supports to help individuals and families overcome poverty. Among its 13 recommendations, the IBM Report advocates a "person-centered" approach to measuring social program outcomes and the implementation of new data systems to track these outcomes. Other activities of the Office of Innovation include supporting RMAPI in establishing and organizing pilot neighborhoods, conducting a door-to-door survey of residents to more fully understand barriers and issues faced by those in poverty, and supporting the development of market-driven business cooperatives in challenged neighborhoods.

E. ROC the Future

Established several years before RMAPI, this education reform initiative has chosen to associate with the community's anti-poverty efforts. Its mission is "to promote alignment and focus community resources to improve the academic achievement of children in the City of Rochester." ²¹ ROC the Future is part of the national Strive Together network that focuses on collective impact to support the success of every child from cradle to career.

F. Pathways to Prosperity

This initiative serves as the link between regional economic development efforts and the community's anti-poverty work in general, and RMAPI in particular. A program of the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council, *Pathways to Prosperity* was established as a key element of our region's successful application for support from New York State's Upstate Revitalization Initiative (URI). "Guided by the efforts of the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative (RMAPI), the Finger Lakes region is committed to reducing poverty and providing opportunities for success through targeted education and training efforts that directly link to employment. At the core of this approach is the relationship between education, employment, and poverty."²²

G. Connected Communities

This new nonprofit organization has been established to work on the holistic revitalization of the EMMA and Beechwood neighborhoods, part of the pilot area established by RMAPI and the City of Rochester. Connected Communities will follow the Purpose Built Communities model of development²³ that has as its interrelated components four important pillars: neighborhood-based cradle to college and career education, mixed income housing, integrated wellness services and economic development.²⁴

This is a truly impressive list of initiatives and activities, covering human services, education, economic development, housing and other disciplines. More impressive than the scope is the commitment to align and collaborate. Already, these efforts have yielded cooperation, such as: sharing data and resources; collaborating to engage residents; and developing coordinated strategies. This effort at coordination and alignment is essential to success.

H. Other Efforts

Of course, these are not the only community efforts underway. Several organizations are focusing on the issues of race, including the nexus of race and poverty. *Facing Race, Embracing Equity* (FR=EE) was set up specifically to promote an agenda of racial equity.²⁵ *Unite Rochester* is an initiative of the Democrat and Chronicle to “raise awareness about race and racism, and inspire a more inclusive and creative approach to solving community problems.”²⁶ The YWCA of Rochester & Monroe County sponsors the annual *Stand Against Racism* and it operates the *Person2Person* program that promotes understanding through direct 1-on-1 interactions.²⁷ *Great Schools for All* is a community collaborative whose mission is to guarantee “access to excellent public schools that offer opportunities and programs that are only feasible through collaborative cross-district approaches.”²⁸

ACT Rochester, an initiative of the Community Foundation, continues to provide general up-to-date indicators of community wellbeing. It is also the repository of data that supports a number of the initiatives described here, including poverty work, education (ROC the Future) and work related to race and ethnicity.²⁹

Finally, it is important to realize that many organizations, groups and individuals have worked diligently for years to combat poverty and to serve those who are in poverty. These groups are on the front lines and many of them continue to evolve new strategies and approaches. For example, Action for a Better Community (ABC) has recently announced an ambitious program (Health Professions Opportunity Grants, or HPOG) to help low-income individuals gain the necessary basic skills to enter employment in the healthcare field.³⁰

Conclusion

The challenge is so great, almost too great to comprehend. The greater Rochester community has responded with bold plans and strong early efforts to collaborate and coordinate. Clearly, this will require an unprecedented long-term commitment. To sustain this effort will require continuous improvement along the way and the continued goodwill of all sectors of the community. It will also require ongoing communication among all involved, including the general public.

Rochester has achieved great things in the past. Being a national leader in combating poverty would certainly be our community’s greatest accomplishment.

End Notes

1. Rochester Area Community Foundation, *"Poverty and the Concentration of Poverty in the Nine-County Greater Rochester Area,"* December 2013 and Rochester Area Community Foundation, *"Benchmarking Rochester's Poverty: A 2015 Update and Deeper Analysis of Poverty in the City of Rochester,"* January 2015
<http://www.actrochester.org/poverty>
2. Rochester Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative at United Way of Greater Rochester, *"Progress Report: A Roadmap for Change,"* September 2015, p. 7.
3. The federal poverty level, as used in the U.S. Census, was originally established in 1963 by determining the income requirements for food subsistence, and multiplying that amount by three to account for other needs. The number is updated annually based on the general rate of inflation. There is a single rate for the entire United States (except Alaska and Hawaii). The data is released annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. See Appendix D for the 2016 information. <https://aspe.hhs.gov/basic-report/computations-2016-poverty-guidelines>
4. Diana M. Pearce, PhD, Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington, *"The Self-Sufficiency Standard for New York State 2010,"* prepared for the New York State Self-Sufficiency Standard Steering Committee.
<http://www.fiscalpolicy.org/SelfSufficiencyStandardForNewYorkState2010.pdf>
5. The Self-Sufficiency Standard (see End Note #4) establishes income requirements for various sizes and types of families. It does not track the number of people who meet or fail to meet the standard. To estimate these numbers, this report analyzed U.S. Census data for individuals at various percentage gradients of the federal poverty level and U.S. Census family size data.
6. ACT Rochester, *"Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Greater Rochester Region."*
<http://www.actrochester.org/race-ethnicity-indicators>
7. Perhaps owing to relatively high residential turnover, the U.S. Census American Community Survey (2010-14) data for the Village of Geneseo shows a number of unusual characteristics. First, the statistical margin of error indicated in the Census data for the childhood poverty indicator is 13.5 percent, considerably higher than the typical 1-5 percent for most Census data points used in this analysis. Also, the portion of Geneseo's population for whom the Census could determine a poverty status was only 59%, as compared to the 95% to 97% typical for most communities. These data anomalies do not mean that the poverty data for Geneseo is not accurate; only that more research would be appropriate.
8. For a discussion of how these patterns ensued in Rochester, see Rochester Area Community Foundation, *"Poverty and the Concentration of Poverty in the Nine-County Greater Rochester Area,"* December 2013, Section 5 (pp. 23-33).
9. Edward Glaeser and Jacob Vigdor, *"The End of the Segregated Century,"* Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, January 2012. See also *"Poverty and the Concentration of Poverty in the Nine-County Greater Rochester Area,"* pp. 23-26 for a discussion of the Manhattan Institute findings relating to Rochester and its benchmark cities.
10. Elizabeth Kneebone, Carey Nadeau, and Alan Berube, *"The Re-Emergence of Concentrated Poverty,"* Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution, November, 2011.

End Notes (continued)

11. Elizabeth Kneebone and Natalie Holmes “U.S. Concentrated Poverty in the Wake of the Great Recession,” Brookings Institution, March 31, 2016.
<https://www.brookings.edu/research/u-s-concentrated-poverty-in-the-wake-of-the-great-recession/>
12. *Rochester, USA Smarter Cities Challenge report*, IBM Corporate Citizenship & Corporate Affairs, Armonk, NY, January 2016, p.7.
13. An estimate prepared for this report using U.S. Census ACS (2010-14) data on income and family size and composition. See End Note #5.
14. “*Reducing Poverty in Rochester: An International Scan of Options to Consider*,” Center for Governmental Research, Rochester, December 2014. Available through United Way of Greater Rochester.
<https://www.uwrochester.org/UnitedWayOfRochester/media/Our-Work-Results/Documents/United-Way-Reducing-Poverty-in-Rochester.pdf>
15. NY State Task Force on Poverty in Rochester.
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<http://www.uwrochester.org/UnitedWayOfRochester/media/Our-Work-Results/Documents/Community-Advisory-Council-letter.pdf>
20. City of Rochester, Mayor’s Office of Innovation and Strategic Initiatives
<http://www.cityofrochester.gov/innovation/>
21. ROC the Future <http://rocthefuture.org/>
22. Pathways to Prosperity.
https://www.ny.gov/sites/ny.gov/files/atoms/files/FLREDC_URI_FinalPlan.pdf
23. Purpose Built Communities <http://purposebuiltcommunities.org/>

End Notes (continued)

24. Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, January 5, 2016.
<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2016/01/05/neighborhoods-look-national-nonprofit-aid-renewal-beechwood-emma-rochester-purpose-built-communities/77972004/>
25. Facing Race=Embracing Equity
<https://www.facebook.com/FacingRaceEmbracingEquity/>
26. Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, Unite Rochester
<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/blog/uniterochester/>
27. YWCA of Rochester and Monroe County www.ywcarochester.org
28. Great Schools for All <http://gs4a.org/>
29. ACT Rochester www.actrochester.org
30. Action for a Better Community (ABC), Health Professions Opportunity Grants
<http://www.abcinfo.org/hpog/about-us>

Poverty Data for all Regional Municipalities
Listed by County, then in order of poverty within jurisdiction type

Genesee County		Poverty Rate: 12.6%	
Population: 59,702		Poor People: 7,441	
Type	Municipality	Total Population	Poverty Rate
City	Batavia	15,274	22.2%
Towns	Pavilion	2,605	13.5%
	Bergen	3,096	11.7%
	Alabama	1,713	11.7%
	Pembroke	4,314	10.9%
	Oakfield	3,221	10.3%
	Byron	2,292	9.8%
	Darien	3,134	9.3%
	Batavia	6,870	8.4%
	Le Roy	7,579	7.9%
	Stafford	2,342	7.9%
	Bethany	1,625	7.7%
	Elba	2,463	7.5%
	Alexander	2,631	7.1%
Reservation	Tonawanda	543	18.2%
Total*		59,702	12.6%
Villages*	Corfu	792	12.6%
	Oakfield	1,797	11.2%
	Bergen	1,305	9.4%
	Le Roy	4,348	7.6%
	Alexander	528	7.5%
	Elba	644	2.3%
<p>* Villages are within towns and are included in the town data and "Total" row above. They are shown here separately for information.</p> <p>Note: The Village of Attica is located partially in Genesee County, but mostly in Wyoming County. It is listed in Wyoming.</p> <p>Source: U.S. Census – American Community Survey (2010-14)</p>			

Livingston County		Poverty Rate: 14.7%	
Population: 64,867		Poor People: 8,644	
Type	Municipality	Total Population	Poverty Rate
Towns	Geneseo	10,535	32.9%
	West Sparta	1,332	27.1%
	Mt. Morris	4,411	21.3%
	North Dansville	5,461	21.3%
	Leicester	2,183	15.1%
	Nunda	3,026	14.1%
	Springwater	2,265	11.9%
	Portage	855	11.8%
	Conesus	2,413	11.6%
	Livonia	7,737	11.1%
	Groveland	3,299	10.7%
	Ossian	773	9.5%
	Lima	4,224	9.5%
	Sparta	1,678	8.5%
	Caledonia	4,219	7.7%
	Avon	7,103	5.5%
	York	3,353	5.2%
Total*		64,867	14.7%
Villages*	Geneseo	8,043	46.5%
	Nunda	1,479	26.2%
	Mt. Morris	2,610	24.0%
	Dansville	4,618	21.5%
	Lima	2,487	15.6%
	Livonia	1,322	15.3%
	Caledonia	2,219	11.8%
	Avon	3,357	7.8%
	Leicester	498	0.8%
<p>* Villages are within towns and are included in the town data and "Total" row above. They are shown here separately for information.</p> <p>Source: U.S. Census – American Community Survey (2010-14)</p>			

Poverty Data for all Regional Municipalities
Listed by County, then in order of poverty within jurisdiction type

Monroe County		Poverty Rate: 15.4%	
Population: 748,076		Poor People: 111,713	
Type	Municipality	Total Population	Poverty Rate
City	Rochester	210,461	33.8%
Towns	East Rochester**	6,687	18.7%
	Sweden	14,210	16.8%
	Henrietta	43,291	13.2%
	Brighton	36,870	10.8%
	Gates	28,506	9.4%
	Irondequoit	51,594	9.3%
	Greece	96,606	8.9%
	Hamlin	9,090	8.8%
	Riga	5,612	8.7%
	Clarkson	6,796	8.5%
	Webster	43,402	6.9%
	Wheatland	4,768	6.5%
	Perinton	46,569	6.5%
	Ogden	20,059	6.4%
	Chili	28,726	6.2%
	Parma	15,783	6.0%
	Rush	3,473	5.8%
	Penfield	36,751	4.6%
	Pittsford	29,577	4.5%
	Mendon	9,245	4.3%
Total*		748,076	15.4%
Villages*	Webster	5,528	27.5%
	Brockport	8,398	25.1%
	Churchville	1,997	9.4%
	Honeoye Falls	2,707	8.6%
	Scottsville	2,446	6.6%
	Spencerport	3,606	6.2%
	Pittsford	1,507	5.1%
	Fairport	5,364	3.4%
	Hilton	5,954	1.9%

*Villages are within towns and are included in the town data and "Total" row above. They are shown here separately for information.
 ** East Rochester has the dual status of a town and village. It is treated here as a town because it is not within any town.
 Source:
 U.S. Census – American Community Survey (2010-14)

Ontario County		Poverty Rate: 10.4%	
Population: 108,975		Poor People: 11,010	
Type	Municipality	Total Population	Poverty Rate
Cities	Geneva	13,202	25.2%
	Canandaigua	10,532	13.3%
Towns	Naples	2,505	15.1%
	Gorham	4,258	13.0%
	South Bristol	1,643	12.6%
	Canadice	1,680	11.3%
	West Bloomfield	2,533	10.6%
	Manchester	9,439	10.4%
	Phelps	7,039	10.0%
	Canandaigua	10,285	9.6%
	Farmington	12,501	9.0%
	East Bloomfield	3,618	8.1%
	Hopewell	3,732	6.9%
	Richmond	3,333	6.1%
	Geneva	3,252	5.8%
	Bristol	2,294	5.7%
	Seneca	2,742	5.4%
	Victor	14,387	2.6%
Total*		108,975	10.4%
Villages*	Rushville**	692	25.4%
	Naples	1,187	16.2%
	Bloomfield	1,581	15.9%
	Manchester	1,691	14.9%
	Clifton Springs	2,293	13.8%
	Shortsville	1,387	13.3%
	Phelps	2,008	11.5%
	Victor	2,798	5.6%

* Villages are within towns and are included in the town data "Total" row above. They are shown here separately for information.
 ** Rushville is shown in Ontario County, but is located about equally in Ontario and Yates counties.
 Source:
 U.S. Census – American Community Survey (2010-14)

Poverty Data for all Regional Municipalities
Listed by County, then in order of poverty within jurisdiction type

Orleans County		Poverty Rate: 15.5%	
Population: 42,492		Poor People: 6,127	
Type	Municipality	Total Population	Poverty Rate
Towns	Albion	8,442	23.8%
	Shelby	5,260	21.5%
	Murray	4,917	16.3%
	Ridgeway	6,687	13.5%
	Kendall	2,695	13.5%
	Barre	2,052	13.0%
	Clarendon	3,645	12.5%
	Gaines	3,345	12.2%
	Carlton	2,981	10.7%
	Yates	2,468	5.7%
	Total*		42,492
Villages*	Albion	5,799	26.8%
	Holley	2,011	24.0%
	Medina	5,962	20.5%
	Lyndonville	797	7.9%

* Villages are within towns and are included in the town data and "Total" row above. They are shown here separately for information.

Source:
U.S. Census – American Community Survey (2010-14)

Seneca County		Poverty Rate: 13.0%	
Population: 35,232		Poor People: 4,175	
Type	Municipality	Total Population	Poverty Rate
Towns	Junius	1,408	21.8%
	Seneca Falls	8,986	14.9%
	Lodi	1,686	14.3%
	Ovid	2,226	14.3%
	Tyre	923	13.2%
	Waterloo	7,595	12.8%
	Fayette	3,928	10.8%
	Covert	2,213	9.9%
	Varick	1,914	9.8%
	Romulus	4,353	7.6%
	Total*		35,232
Villages*	Interlaken	638	19.8%
	Lodi	418	14.8%
	Waterloo	5,178	13.8%
	Ovid	620	10.9%

* Villages are within towns and are included in the town data and "Total" row above. They are shown here separately for information.

Note: Seneca Falls Village was dissolved on December 31, 2011 and did not have 2010-14 data available

Source:
U.S. Census – American Community Survey (2010-14)

Poverty Data for all Regional Municipalities
Listed by County, then in order of poverty within jurisdiction type

Wayne County		Poverty Rate: 11.9%	
Population: 92,887		Poor People: 10,926	
Type	Municipality	Total Population	Poverty Rate
Towns	Lyons	5,596	20.5%
	Palmyra	7,845	17.9%
	Arcadia	14,078	17.8%
	Savannah	1,340	16.9%
	Sodus	8,306	15.2%
	Wolcott	4,427	15.0%
	Huron	2,280	13.9%
	Butler	2,003	13.2%
	Williamson	6,918	11.7%
	Galen	4,223	11.4%
	Rose	2,540	10.0%
	Marion	4,702	7.8%
	Macedon	9,085	6.6%
	Ontario	10,129	6.3%
	Walworth	9,415	2.1%
	Total*		92,887
Villages*	Wolcott	1,698	27.5%
	Sodus	2,226	22.8%
	Lyons	3,343	22.1%
	Palmyra	3,473	20.8%
	Newark	9,019	20.2%
	Red Creek	629	17.8%
	Clyde	1,987	17.6%
	Sodus Point	1,093	14.7%
Macedon	1,648	6.5%	
* Villages are within towns and are included in the town data and "Total" row above. They are shown here separately for information.			
Source: U.S. Census – American Community Survey (2010-14)			

Wyoming County		Poverty Rate: 10.2%	
Population: 41,679		Poor People: 3,861	
	Municipality	Total Population	Poverty Rate
Towns	Pike	1,088	19.9%
	Warsaw	4,987	16.3%
	Perry	4,534	14.9%
	Wethersfield	846	14.3%
	Arcade	4,177	14.3%
	Genesee Falls	395	11.5%
	Castile	2,873	10.8%
	Middlebury	1,437	10.6%
	Sheldon	2,328	9.2%
	Gainesville	2,267	8.3%
	Covington	1,120	7.3%
	Eagle	1,194	7.0%
	Orangeville	1,573	6.0%
	Java	1,958	4.0%
	Attica	7,564	3.8%
	Bennington	3,338	2.7%
Total*		41,679	10.2%
Villages*	Perry	3,383	17.6%
	Arcade	2,187	15.9%
	Warsaw	3,591	16.9%
	Silver Springs	787	15.6%
	Castile	969	13.6%
	Wyoming	386	9.8%
	Attica **	2,609	5.3%
	Gainesville	228	4.8%
* Villages are within towns and are included in the town data "Total" row above. They are shown here separately for information.			
**Attica is shown in Wyoming County, but a small part of the village is within Genesee County.			
Note: Pike Village, shown in 2013 Report, is now a hamlet and no longer has census data			
Source: U.S. Census – American Community Survey (2010-14)			

Poverty Data for all Regional Municipalities
Listed by County, then in order of poverty within jurisdiction type

Yates County Population: 25,281		Poverty Rate: 15.4% Poor People: 3,707	
Type	Municipality	Total Population	Poverty Rate
Towns	Milo	6,924	21.0%
	Italy	1,160	17.4%
	Potter	2,018	17.0%
	Torrey	1,523	15.5%
	Starkey	3,548	14.7%
	Jerusalem	4,487	13.5%
	Middlesex	1,334	10.9%
	Barrington	1,445	10.5%
	Benton	2,842	7.6%
	Total*		25,281
Villages*	Dresden	442	37.6%
	Penn Yan	5,011	24.1%
	Dundee	1,508	13.9%
<p>* Villages are within towns and are included in the town data and "Total" row above. They are shown here separately for information.</p> <p>Note: The Village of Rushville is shown in Ontario County, but is located about equally in Yates and Ontario counties.</p> <p>Source: U.S. Census – American Community Survey (2010-14)</p>			

APPENDIX B

Metro and Principal City Poverty Rates: 75 Top US Metropolitan Areas

Top 75 U.S. Metropolitan Areas Ranked by Metro Population					Top 75 U.S. Metropolitan Areas Ranked by Principal City Poverty Rate				
Rank	Metro Area	Metro Population	Principal City Population	City Poverty Rate	Rank	Metro Area	Metro Population	Principal City Population	City Poverty Rate
1	New York	20,182,305	8,354,889	20.6%	1	Detroit	4,302,043	695,437	39.8%
2	Los Angeles	13,340,068	3,862,210	22.4%	2	Cleveland	2,060,810	392,114	35.9%
3	Chicago	9,551,031	2,712,608	22.7%	3	Dayton	800,909	141,776	35.3%
4	Dallas-Fort Worth	7,102,796	1,240,985	24.1%	4	Hartford	1,211,324	125,211	34.4%
5	Houston	6,656,947	2,167,988	22.9%	5	Rochester	1,081,954	210,461	33.8%
6	Washington	6,097,684	633,736	18.2%	6	Birmingham	1,145,647	211,705	31.0%
7	Philadelphia	6,069,875	1,546,920	26.7%	7	Cincinnati	2,157,719	297,117	30.9%
8	Miami	6,012,331	416,432	29.9%	8	Buffalo	1,135,230	259,959	30.9%
9	Atlanta	5,710,795	440,641	25.2%	9	Greenville	874,869	87,546	30.7%
10	Boston	4,774,321	639,594	21.9%	10	Fresno	974,861	506,132	30.6%
11	San Francisco	4,656,132	829,072	13.3%	11	Miami	6,012,331	416,432	29.9%
12	Phoenix	4,574,531	1,490,758	23.2%	12	Providence	1,613,070	178,562	29.7%
13	Riverside-San Bernardino	4,489,159	313,041	19.7%	13	Milwaukee	1,575,747	598,078	29.4%
14	Detroit	4,302,043	695,437	39.8%	14	St. Louis	2,811,588	318,727	27.8%
15	Seattle	3,733,580	637,850	14.0%	15	New Orleans	1,262,888	368,471	27.7%
16	Minneapolis-St. Paul	3,524,583	382,578	22.6%	16	Memphis	1,344,127	656,715	27.4%
17	San Diego	3,299,521	1,341,510	15.8%	17	Philadelphia	6,069,875	1,546,920	26.7%
18	Tampa	2,975,225	348,934	22.0%	18	Grand Rapids	1,038,583	190,739	26.7%
19	Denver	2,814,330	633,777	18.3%	19	Albany	881,830	98,287	26.7%
20	St. Louis	2,811,588	318,727	27.8%	20	New Haven	859,470	130,553	26.4%
21	Baltimore	2,797,407	622,271	24.2%	21	McAllen	842,304	135,048	26.4%
22	Charlotte	2,426,363	774,807	17.3%	22	Allentown	832,327	118,793	26.3%
23	Portland	2,389,228	602,568	18.3%	23	Richmond	1,271,334	211,063	25.5%
24	Orlando	2,387,138	250,224	19.8%	24	Baton Rouge	830,480	229,353	25.5%
25	San Antonio	2,384,075	1,385,438	20.1%	25	Atlanta	5,710,795	440,641	25.2%
26	Pittsburgh	2,353,045	306,045	22.8%	26	Tucson	1,010,025	525,031	25.1%
27	Sacramento	2,274,194	476,075	22.3%	27	Knoxville	861,424	181,759	24.6%
28	Cincinnati	2,157,719	297,117	30.9%	28	Baltimore	2,797,407	622,271	24.2%
29	Las Vegas	2,114,801	597,353	17.7%	29	Columbia	810,068	131,331	24.2%
					Mid- point of range				24.1%
30	Kansas City	2,087,471	465,005	19.4%	30	Dallas-Fort Worth	7,102,796	1,240,985	24.1%
31	Cleveland	2,060,810	392,114	35.9%	31	Bridgeport	948,053	146,680	23.6%
32	Columbus	2,021,632	811,943	22.3%	32	Phoenix	4,574,531	1,490,758	23.2%
33	Austin	2,000,860	864,218	19.0%	33	Houston	6,656,947	2,167,988	22.9%
34	Indianapolis	1,988,817	835,097	21.4%	34	Pittsburgh	2,353,045	306,045	22.8%
35	San Jose	1,976,836	986,320	11.8%	35	Chicago	9,551,031	2,712,608	22.7%
36	Nashville	1,830,345	624,261	19.2%	36	Minneapolis-St. Paul	3,524,583	382,578	22.6%
37	Virginia Beach	1,724,876	445,623	8.3%	37	Los Angeles	13,340,068	3,862,210	22.4%
38	Providence	1,613,070	178,562	29.7%	38	Sacramento	2,274,194	476,075	22.3%

APPENDIX B

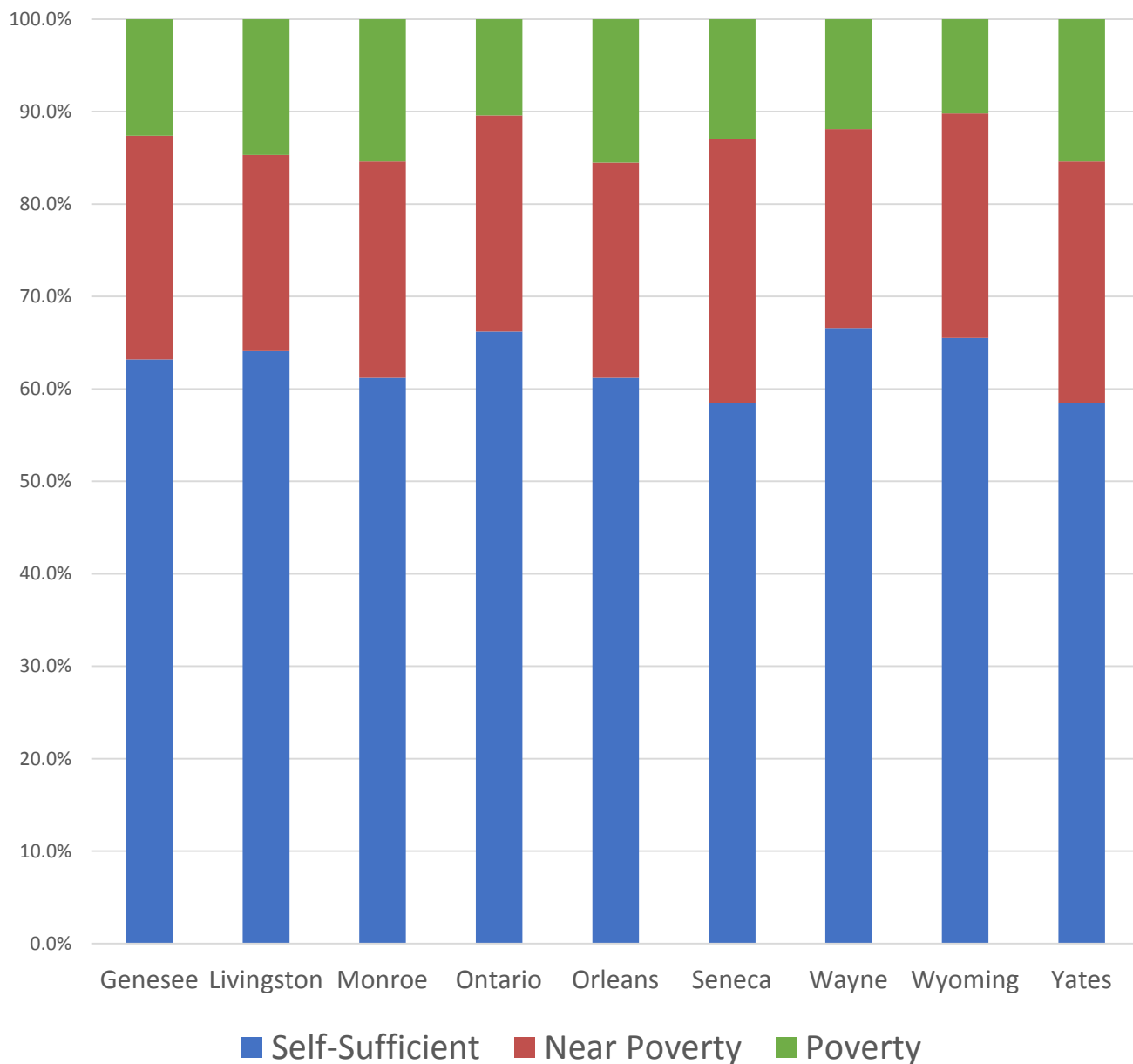
Metro and Principal City Poverty Rates: 75 Top US Metropolitan Areas

Top 75 U.S. Metropolitan Areas Ranked by Metro Population					Top 75 U.S. Metropolitan Areas Ranked by Principal City Poverty Rate				
Rank	Metro Area	Metro Population	Principal City Population	City Poverty Rate	Rank	Metro Area	Metro Population	Principal City Population	City Poverty Rate
39	Milwaukee	1,575,747	598,078	29.4%	39	Columbus	2,021,632	811,943	22.3%
40	Jacksonville	1,449,481	837,533	17.8%	40	Tampa	2,975,225	348,934	22.0%
41	Oklahoma City	1,358,452	600,729	18.2%	41	Worcester	935,536	182,511	22.0%
42	Memphis	1,344,127	656,715	27.4%	42	Boston	4,774,321	639,594	21.9%
43	Louisville	1,278,413	605,762	18.4%	43	El Paso	838,972	669,771	21.5%
44	Raleigh	1,273,568	423,287	16.3%	44	Sarasota	768,918	52,986	21.5%
45	Richmond	1,271,334	211,063	25.5%	45	Indianapolis	1,988,817	835,097	21.4%
46	New Orleans	1,262,888	368,471	27.7%	46	Salt Lake City	1,170,266	189,267	20.9%
47	Hartford	1,211,324	125,211	34.4%	47	New York	20,182,305	8,354,889	20.6%
48	Salt Lake City	1,170,266	189,267	20.9%	48	Bakersfield	882,176	358,700	20.2%
49	Birmingham	1,145,647	211,705	31.0%	49	San Antonio	2,384,075	1,385,438	20.1%
50	Buffalo	1,135,230	259,959	30.9%	50	Tulsa	981,005	395,599	20.0%
51	Rochester	1,081,954	210,461	33.8%	51	Orlando	2,387,138	250,224	19.8%
52	Grand Rapids	1,038,583	190,739	26.7%	52	Greensboro	752,157	276,225	19.8%
53	Tucson	1,010,025	525,031	25.1%	53	Riverside-San Bernardino	4,489,159	313,041	19.7%
54	Urban Honolulu	998,714	345,130	12.0%	54	Kansas City	2,087,471	465,005	19.4%
55	Tulsa	981,005	395,599	20.0%	55	Nashville	1,830,345	624,261	19.2%
56	Fresno	974,861	506,132	30.6%	56	Austin	2,000,860	864,218	19.0%
57	Bridgeport	948,053	146,680	23.6%	57	Charleston	744,526	125,458	19.0%
58	Worcester	935,536	182,511	22.0%	58	Albuquerque	907,301	553,576	18.5%
59	Omaha	915,312	435,454	16.8%	59	Louisville	1,278,413	605,762	18.4%
60	Albuquerque	907,301	553,576	18.5%	60	Denver	2,814,330	633,777	18.3%
61	Bakersfield	882,176	358,700	20.2%	61	Portland	2,389,228	602,568	18.3%
62	Albany	881,830	98,287	26.7%	62	Washington	6,097,684	633,736	18.2%
63	Greenville	874,869	87,546	30.7%	63	Oklahoma City	1,358,452	600,729	18.2%
64	Knoxville	861,424	181,759	24.6%	64	Jacksonville	1,449,481	837,533	17.8%
65	New Haven	859,470	130,553	26.4%	65	Las Vegas	2,114,801	597,353	17.7%
66	Oxnard	850,536	201,744	16.0%	66	Charlotte	2,426,363	774,807	17.3%
67	McAllen	842,304	135,048	26.4%	67	Omaha	915,312	435,454	16.8%
68	El Paso	838,972	669,771	21.5%	68	Raleigh	1,273,568	423,287	16.3%
69	Allentown	832,327	118,793	26.3%	69	Oxnard	850,536	201,744	16.0%
70	Baton Rouge	830,480	229,353	25.5%	70	San Diego	3,299,521	1,341,510	15.8%
71	Columbia	810,068	131,331	24.2%	71	Seattle	3,733,580	637,850	14.0%
72	Dayton	800,909	141,776	35.3%	72	San Francisco	4,656,132	829,072	13.3%
73	Sarasota	768,918	52,986	21.5%	73	Urban Honolulu	998,714	345,130	12.0%
74	Greensboro	752,157	276,225	19.8%	74	San Jose	1,976,836	986,320	11.8%
75	Charleston	744,526	125,458	19.0%	75	Virginia Beach	1,724,876	445,623	8.3%

Source: U.S. Census, 2015 Population Estimate (as of July 1, 2015) for metro area population. American Community Survey (2010-14) for all other data.

Note: The shaded area displays the metro areas of the benchmark cities of comparable size (population within 200,000 [+/-] of Rochester).

POVERTY, NEAR POVERTY, AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY RATES BY COUNTY



Poverty: Below the federal poverty level.
 Near Poverty: Above the federal poverty level, but below the self-sufficiency standard.
 Self-Sufficient: Above the self-sufficiency standard.

Source: Estimate prepared for this report (see end note #4), all data derived from U.S. Census – American Community Survey (2010-14)

Federal Poverty Level for 2016	
Family Size*	Annual Income
1	\$11,880
2	\$16,020
3	\$20,160
4	\$24,300
5	\$28,440
6	\$32,580
7	\$36,720
8	\$40,860
* Add \$4,140 for each additional family members	
Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services https://aspe.hhs.gov/basic-report/computations-2016-poverty-guidelines	