

## Poverty in New Hampshire

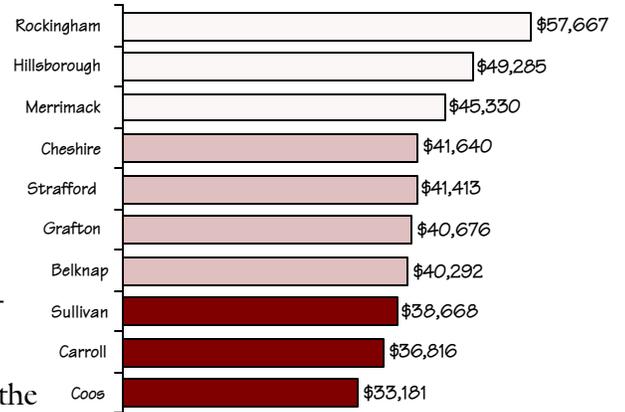
According to the U.S. Census Bureau, New Hampshire's poverty rate for 2000, based on a 1998-2000 three-year average, was 7.5 percent, representing 89,256 people. Within the state, counties ranged between Rockingham's 5.2 percent and Coos' 12.4 percent poverty rates.

Grouping counties by median household income revealed an inverse relationship between poverty and population. The three counties with the highest populations had poverty averages lower than the state in 2000. These three counties also had the highest median household incomes in the state in 1998, the most recent data available.

Two southern tier counties, Rockingham and Hillsborough, had the lowest poverty rates in the state. Rockingham County, with the second highest population, reported an estimated 14,468 people in poverty in that county. The county with the largest population, Hillsborough County, was next at 7.0 percent, representing 25,878 people. Merrimack County, the third most populous in the state, had 7.4 percent poverty, numbering 9,355 people.

The group with the highest poverty rates included the counties with the lowest populations and lowest median household incomes. Coos

1998 Median Household Income



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

County had the highest poverty rate of all the counties, 12.4 percent. It also had the smallest population in 2000 and the lowest median household income. Sullivan and Carroll Counties held eighth and ninth places for median household incomes and rates of poverty, although they traded places in the population rankings.

Among the middle counties, Cheshire County, another southern tier county, had the fourth lowest poverty rate among the counties and the fourth highest median household income. This measured 5,628 people in poverty in that county. Cheshire, however, ranked sixth highest in population.

Strafford and Grafton Counties, combining for over 17,000 people in poverty, were ranked fourth and fifth with population and fifth and sixth with median household incomes, but they were in seventh and sixth places for poverty rates among the counties. Belknap County, with the sixth highest median household income and seventh place population standing in the state, ranked fifth lowest in poverty rate.

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Percent of Population in Poverty

