

Atlas of Illinois Poverty



Spring 2003



Creating a State of Opportunity

Acknowledgments

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Research: Mid-America Institute on Poverty

Data Compilation: Rob Paral

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All Other Mapping: Arc Group, Ltd.

Writing/Editing: Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights
and Valerie Denney Communications

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

This Atlas makes available for the first time Illinois poverty data by legislative district. Elected officials now have the opportunity to understand how poverty impacts their own individual districts in three key ways: education rates, poverty rates, and median incomes. The data is also provided at the county level, for townships in Northeastern Illinois and by community area in Chicago.

This Atlas offers policy makers a more complete understanding of the circumstances in which their constituents live, particularly as it relates to the surrounding area and across the state. The Atlas is a tool for making better, more informed policy decisions, especially in the areas of workforce development, affordable housing, human services, and economic development.

The information in the Atlas is derived from the 2000 U.S. Census with comparisons to 1990 Census data to establish rates of change in poverty. Taken once every decade, the U.S. Census presents an important opportunity to more closely examine population characteristics. These maps offer a unique geographic display of poverty issues in Illinois.

Data sets for each map can be found in the appendix. The appendix also shows the number of people in poverty for each geographic region, as well as child and elderly poverty rates by legislative district.

Highlights

Illinois's economic future is at risk. Education levels are too low across the state. Despite the number of working families in Northeastern Illinois, the region has the highest concentration of people in poverty in the state. Yet at the same time, a review of median income shows that the region is the wealthiest area in Illinois, a dangerous gap in equality. Southern Illinois, although some progress has been made, continues to have the highest poverty rates in the state.

The Atlas is organized into four sections: legislative districts, counties, townships in the northeastern part of the state, and Chicago community areas. Each provides insight into patterns of poverty in Illinois.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

The view by legislative district shows that poverty affects both rural districts and urban areas, and that education attainment is an issue throughout the state.

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- In three quarters of the state's districts (78%) more than 1 in 10 adults¹ do not have a high school diploma.
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ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

(not including Northeastern Illinois)

NUMBER OF HOUSE DISTRICTS: 118

NUMBER OF SENATE DISTRICTS: 59

Each Illinois Senate district is comprised of two House districts. In order to portray the poverty characteristics with the greatest detail, the maps include boundaries for both. The key data points (below) refer to the House districts, as these together constitute the larger Senate districts.

Education

- All but two districts in the state have more than 1 in 10 adults without a high school diploma and the vast majority has 15% or more without a high school diploma. In seventeen districts at least every sixth adult does not have a high school education.
- In House Districts, the number of adults lacking a high school diploma ranges from 1,871 to 14,957. The district with the lowest percentage is at 2.8 %; the highest is 26.4%. There is considerable overlap of districts with high poverty rates and districts with high rates of adults without a high school diploma.
- Mid-state districts show a pattern of slightly higher education levels, particularly areas nearer to the state's governmental and education hubs.

Poverty

- Southern districts tend to have significantly higher poverty rates than much of the state.
- Poverty rate in the House Districts ranges from 2% to 40%. Fourteen districts (concentrated in the Southern part of the state) have poverty rates of 20% or greater, meaning at least 1 in 5 people in those districts are poor.

Income

- Four districts have annual median family income under \$25,000, 18 districts under \$30,000 and 46 have under \$35,000. Nearly all the southern half of the state exhibits comparatively low median income. Most districts have median incomes well below the state level.

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

Education

- The highest percentage of adults without a high school diploma in Northeastern Illinois is roughly double the highest rate in the balance of the state.
- Suburban cities as well as districts on the south side of Chicago and in Southern Cook County have high rates of adults without a high school diploma compared to the rest of the state.

Poverty

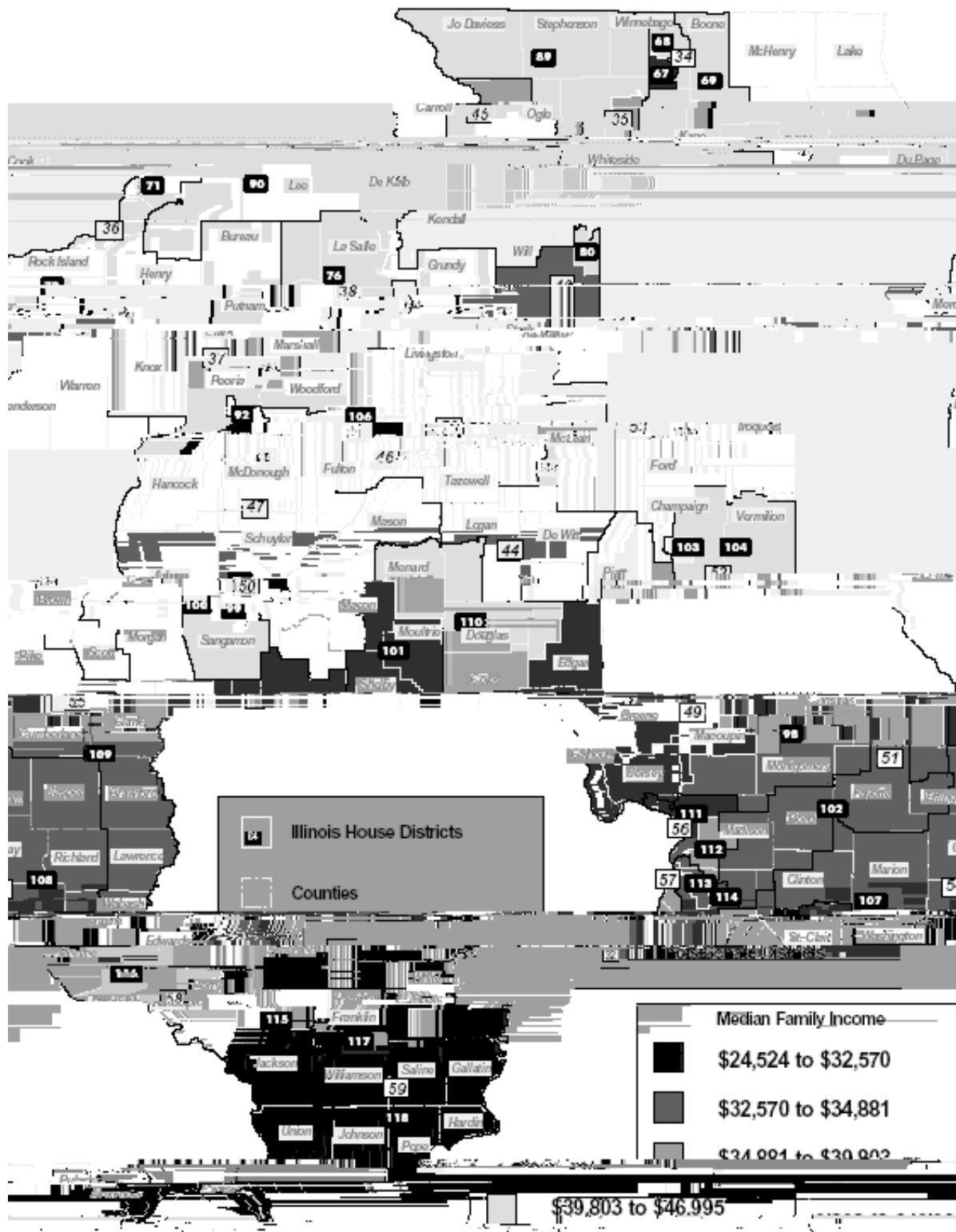
- Nine Northeastern districts have double-digit poverty rates even though the majority (60% or more) of adults are working.
- Eleven of the 14 Illinois districts with poverty rates 20% or higher are in Northeastern Illinois.

Income

- The range of median family income levels is extraordinary in the metropolitan Chicago area, the lowest at \$21,285 and the highest at \$97,188, both notably outside the data range for the rest of the state. Very low-income districts appear almost entirely in Cook County with most in a contiguous group inside the City of Chicago.

Median Family Income Illinois State Legislative Districts

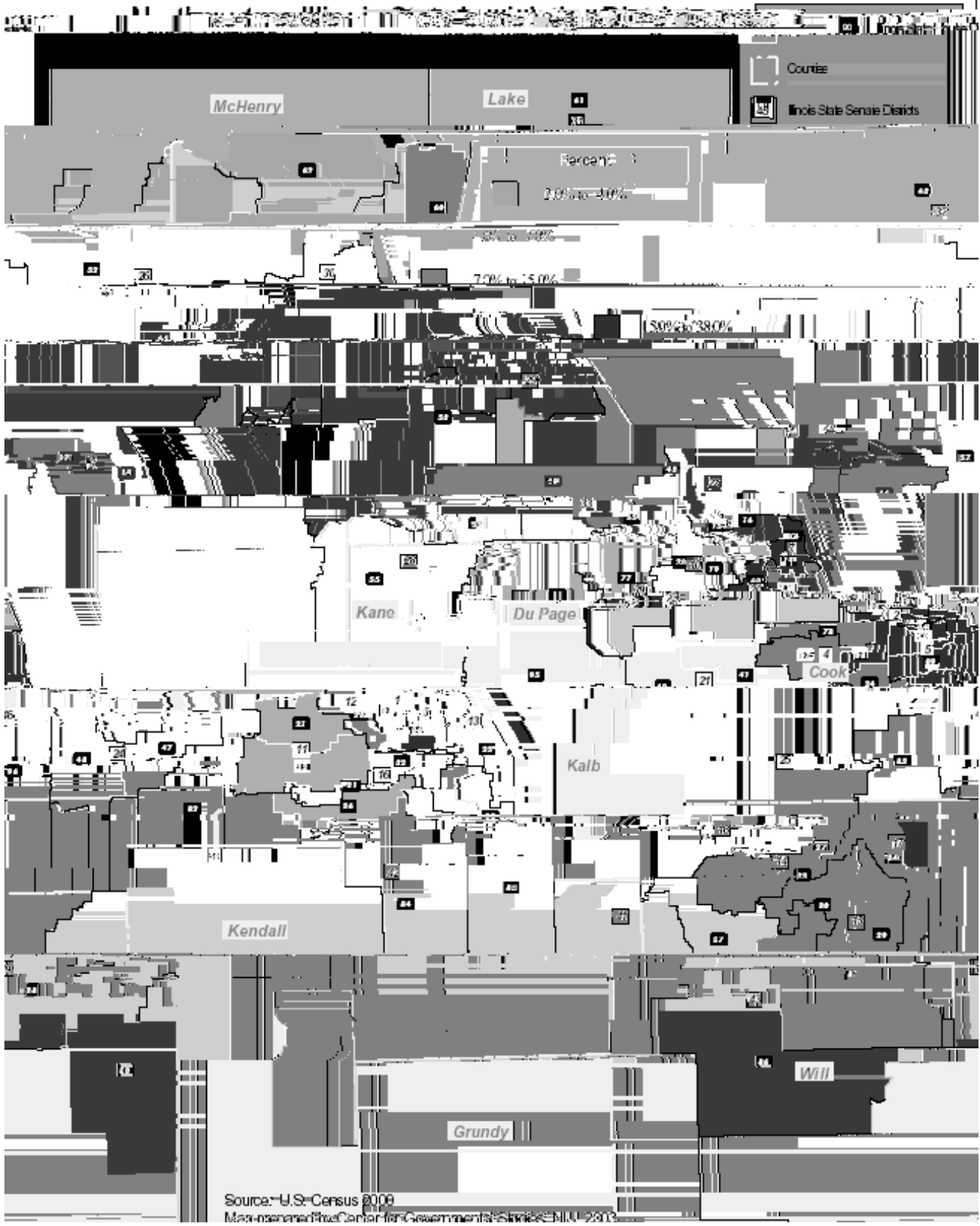
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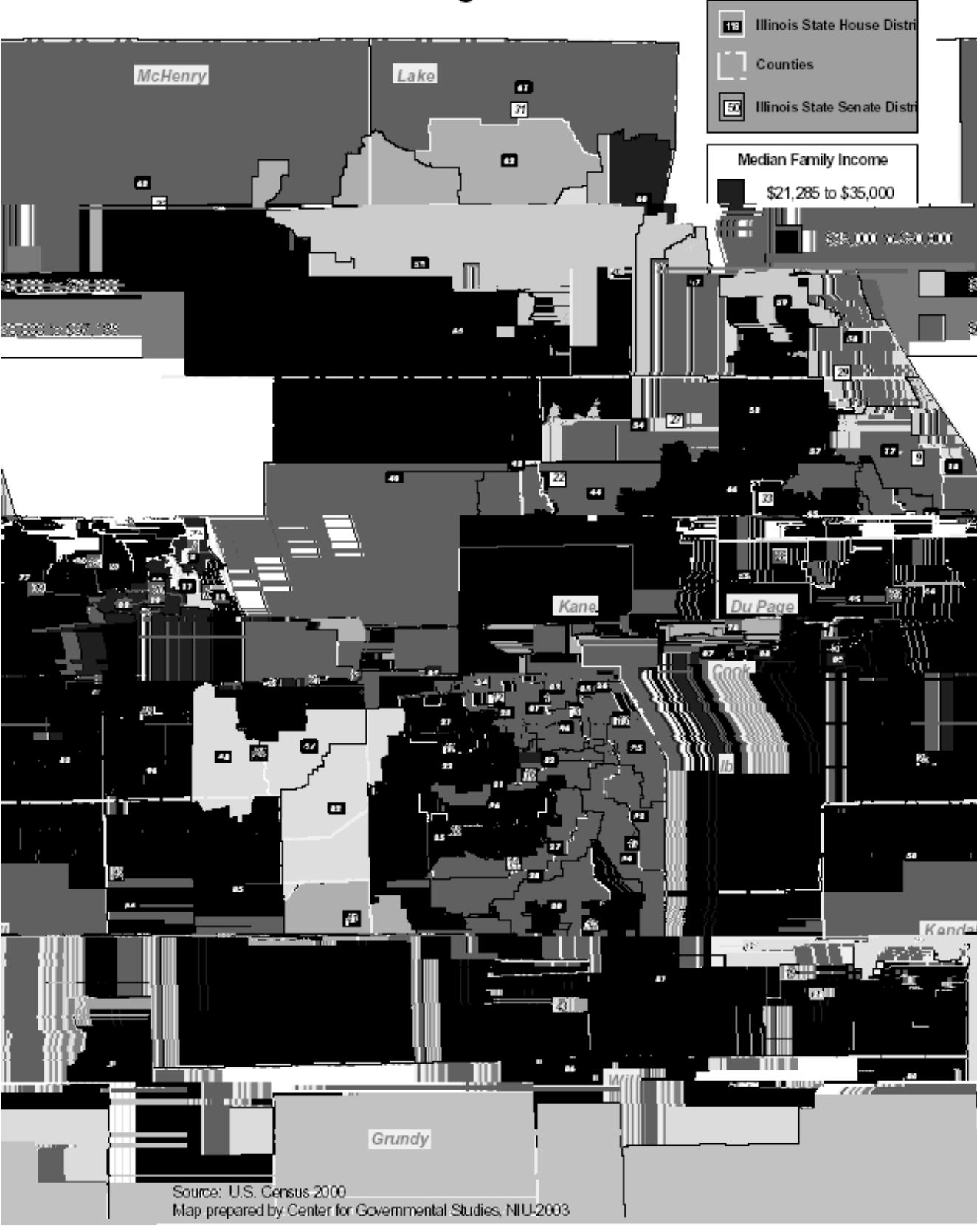
J.S. Census 2000
 prepared by Center for Governmental Studies, NIU-2003

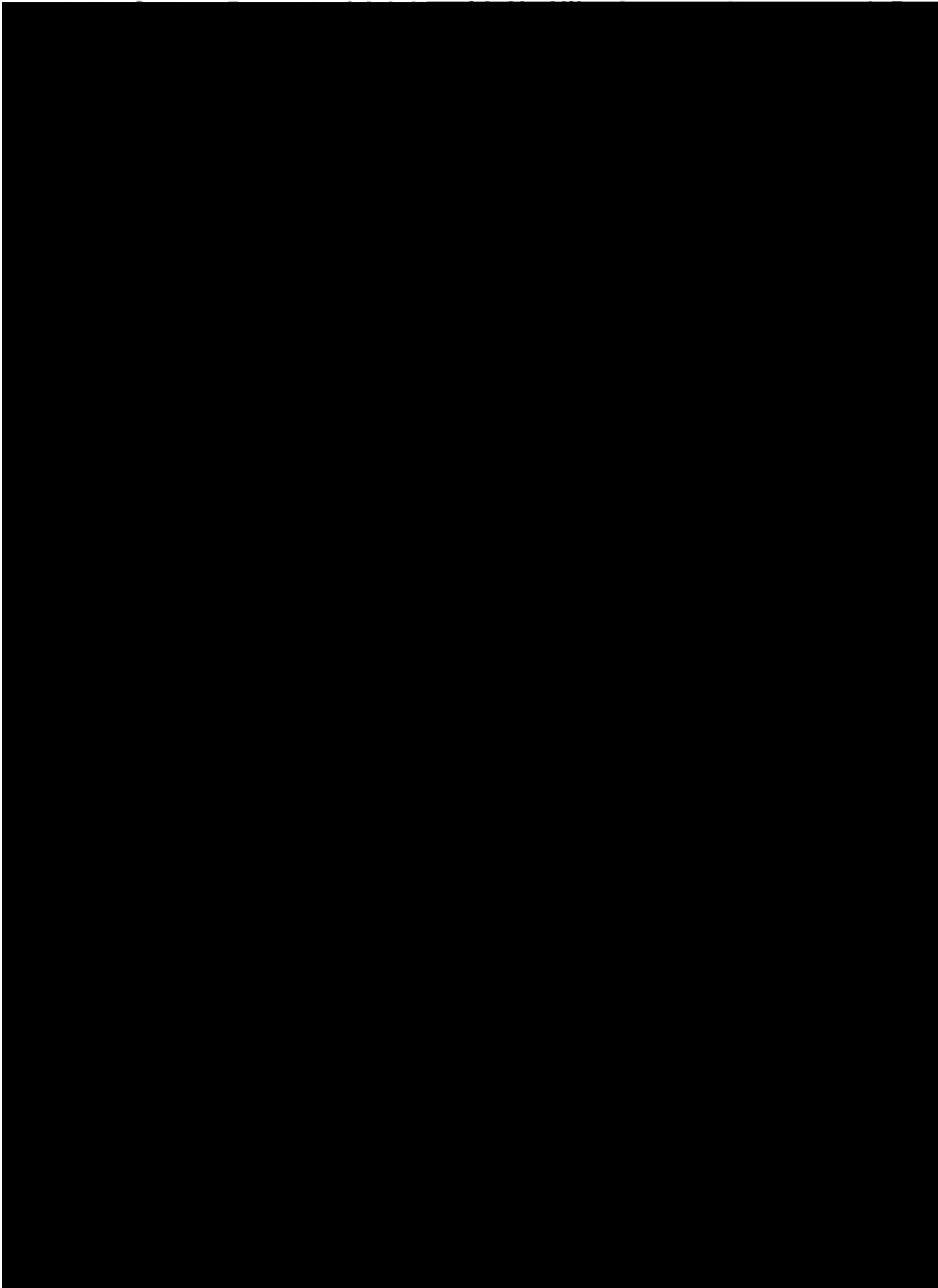
Source: U.S. Census
 Map prepared by Center for Governmental Studies, NIU

Percent of Persons in Poverty

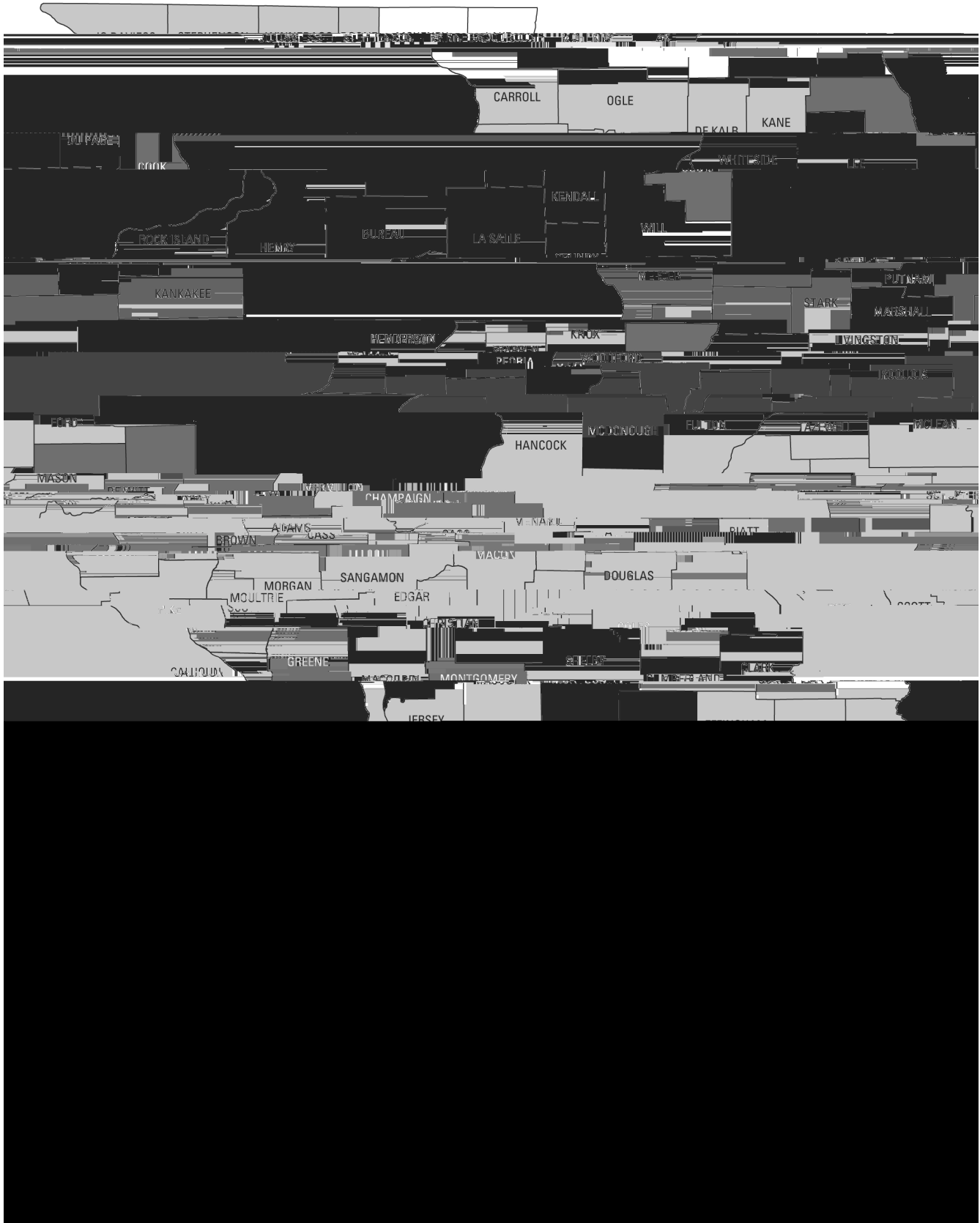


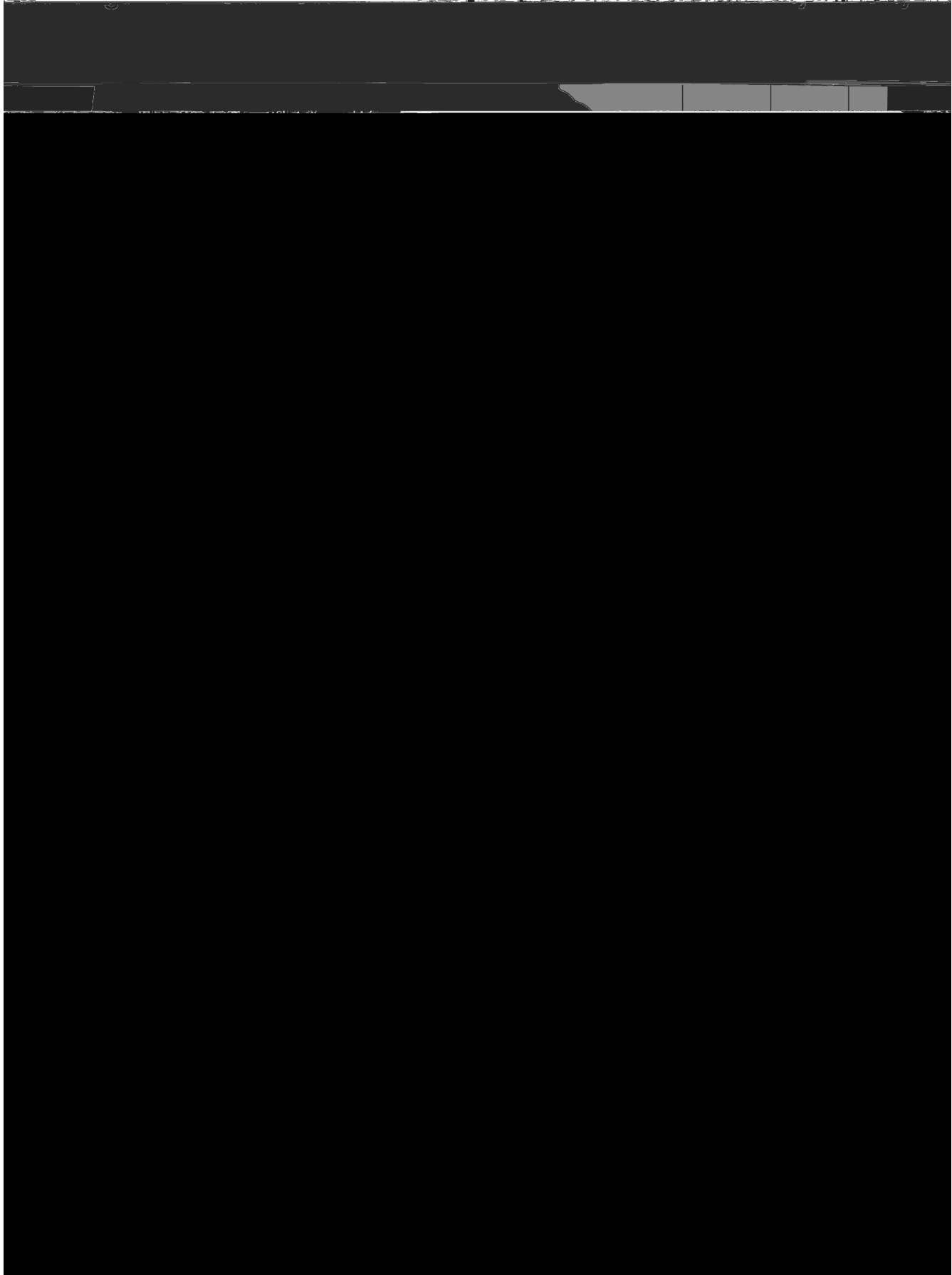
Median Family Income Northeastern Illinois State Legislative Districts



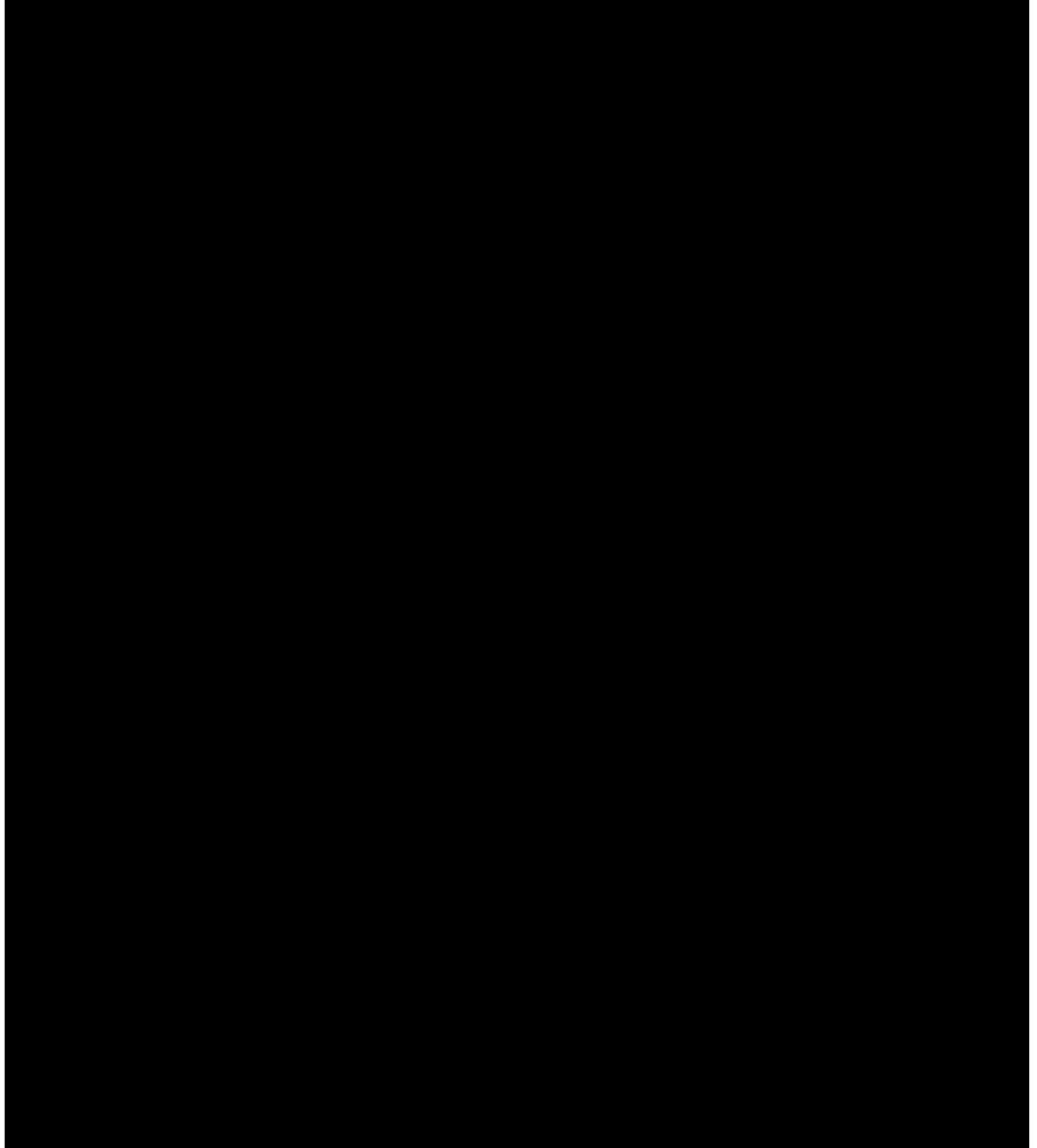
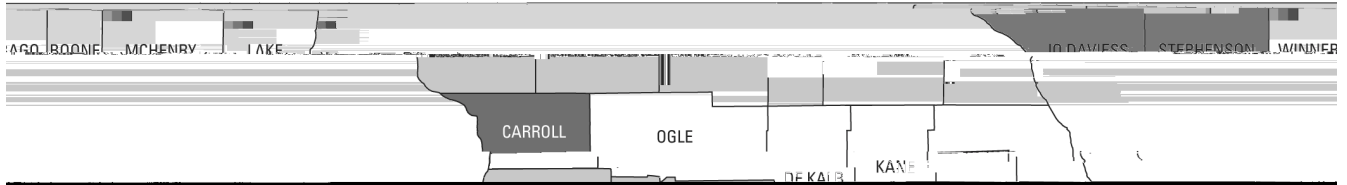


County Poverty Rates

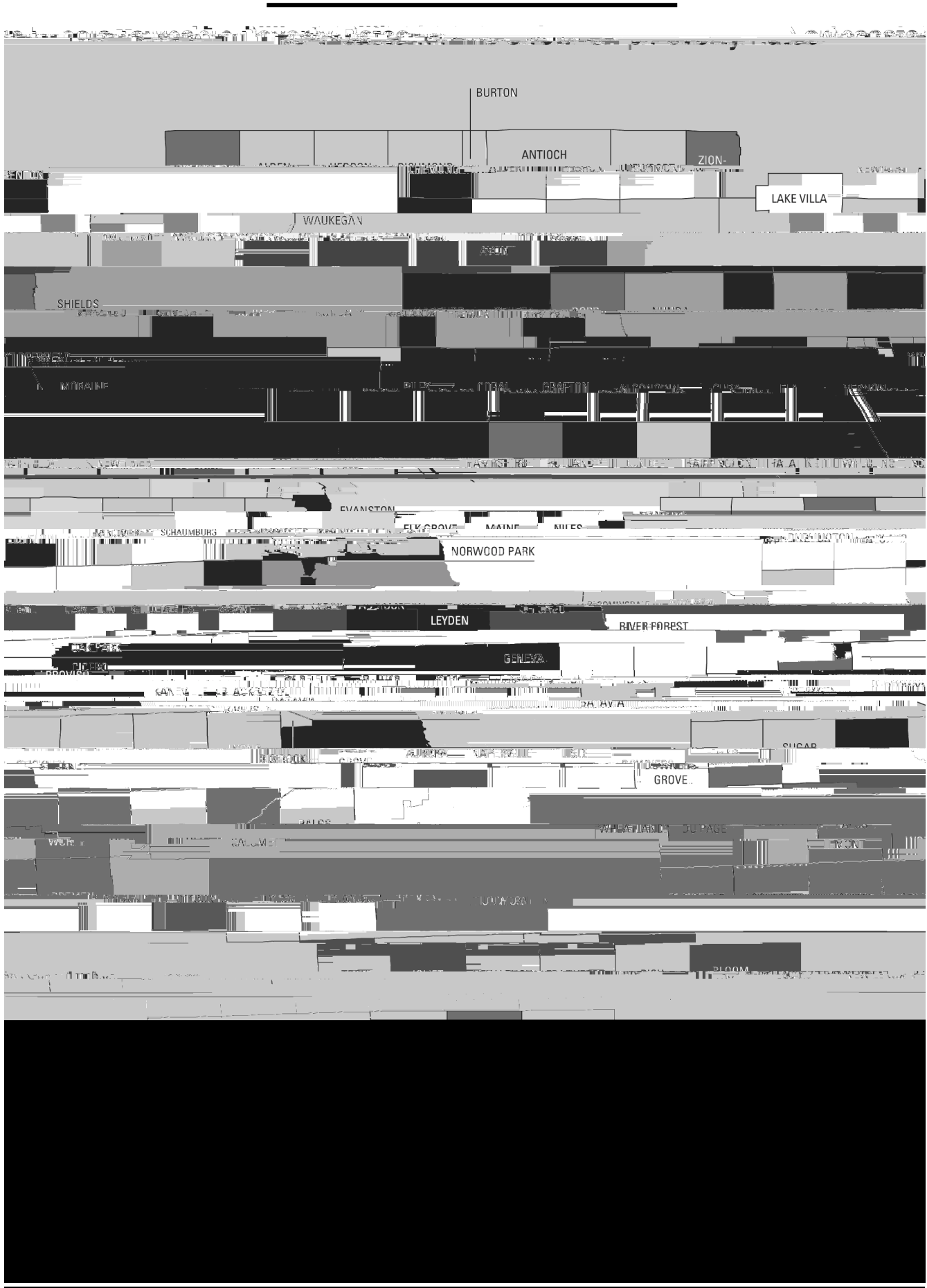




County Median Income

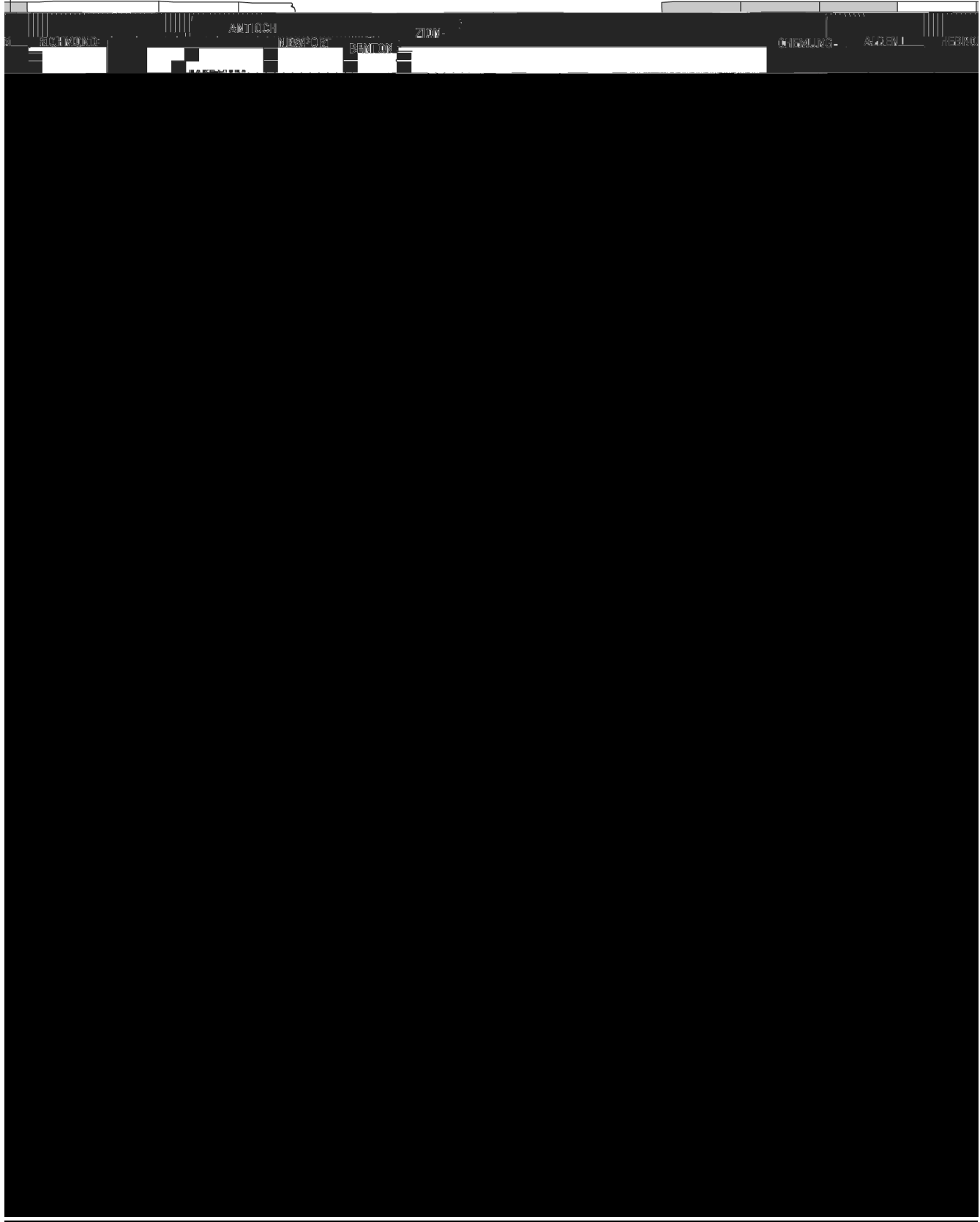


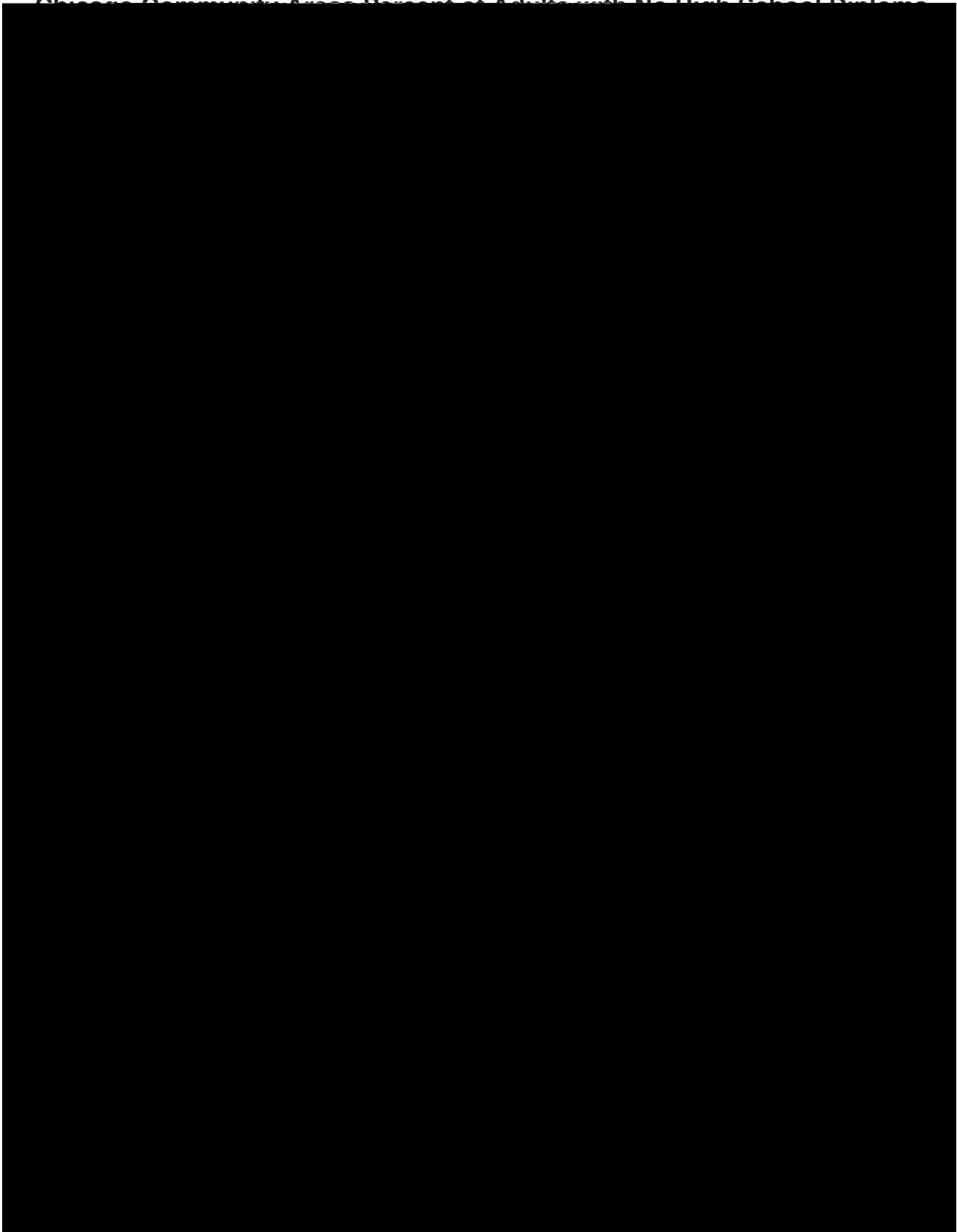


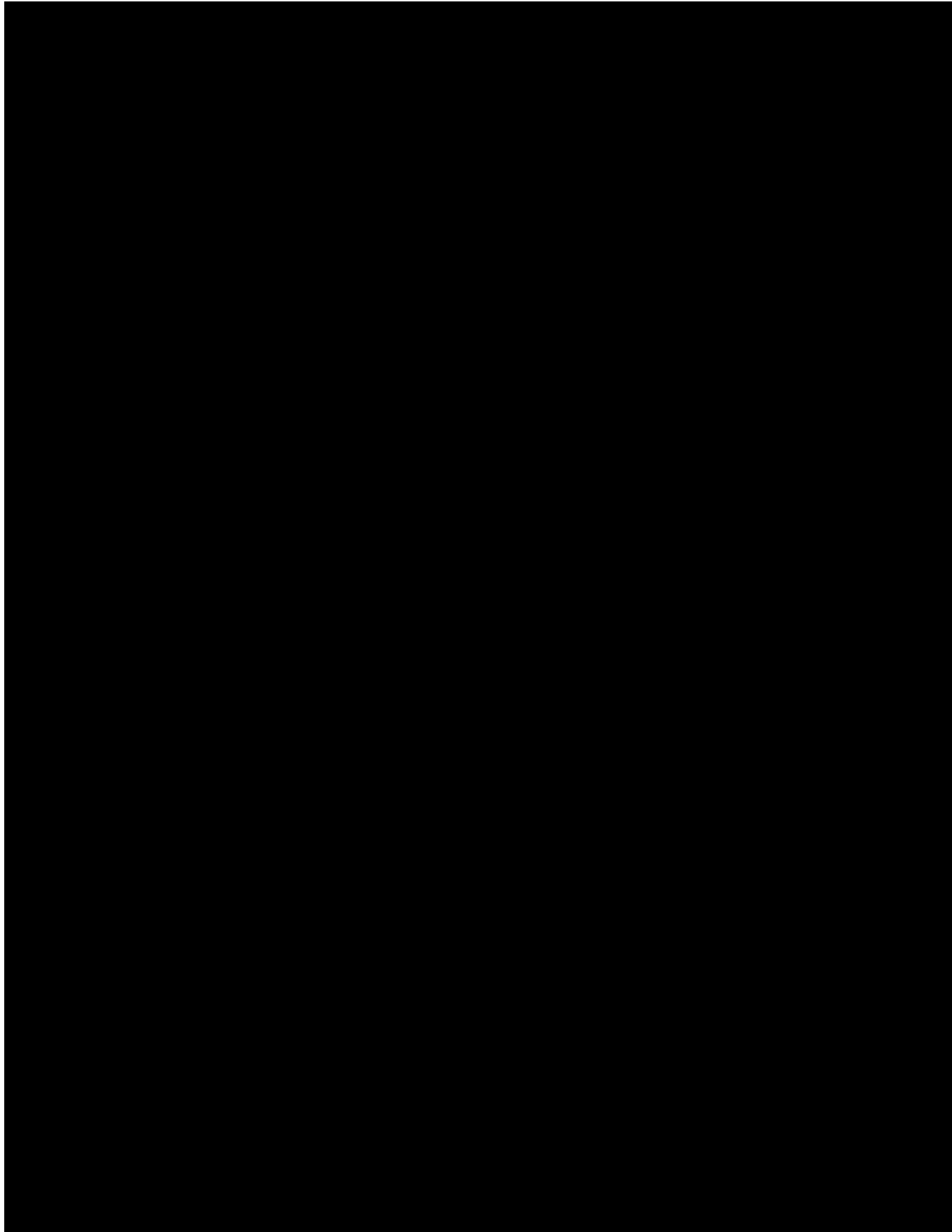


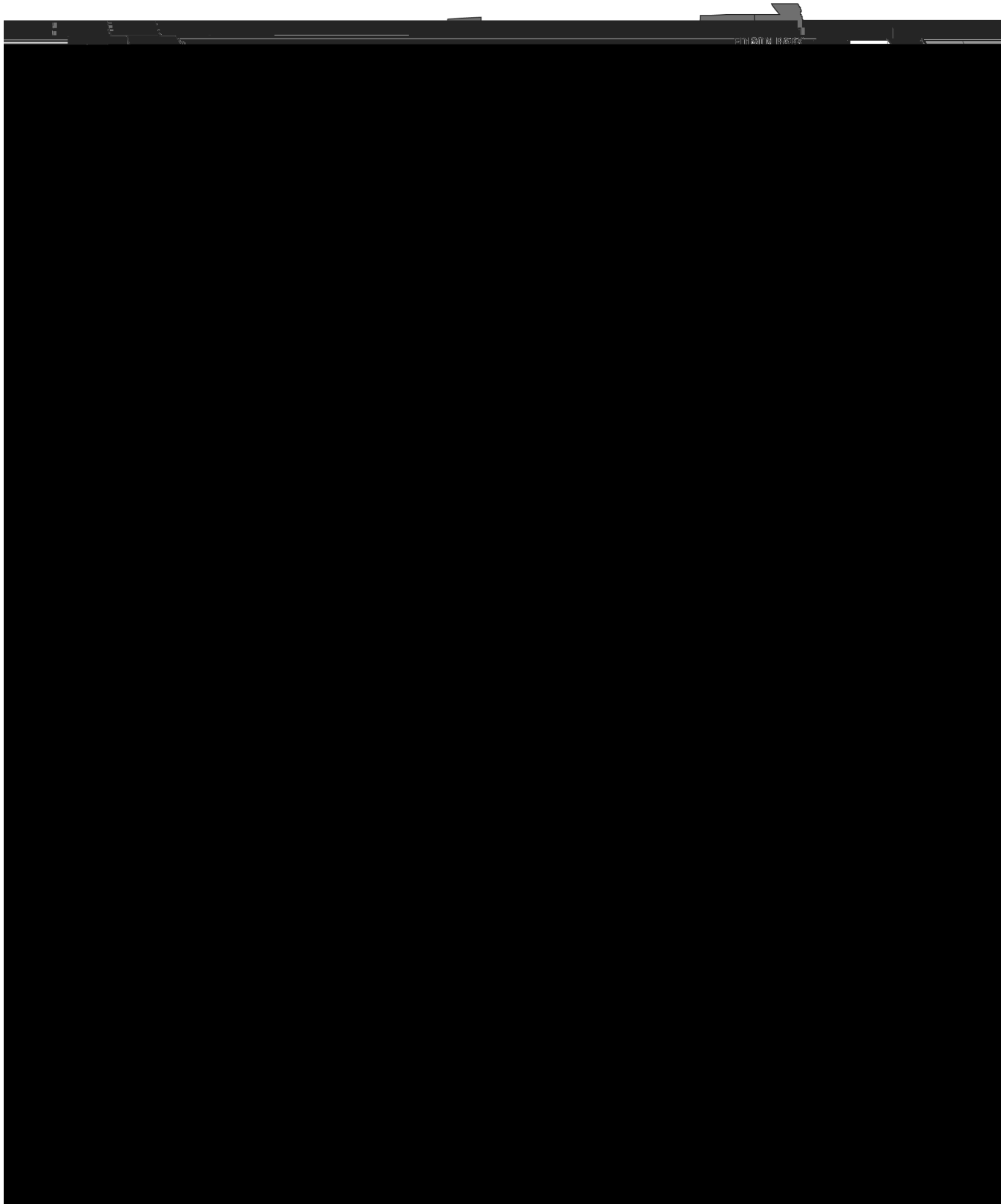


BURTON









District	# in Poverty	% Below Poverty	% Children in Poverty	% Elderly in Poverty	Median Family Income	% w/o High School Diploma
29	15,107	14.0	22.4	7.1	35,532	17.4
30	14,990	15.0	20.3	10.9	27,614	21.0
31	18,521	18.0	23.8	11.8	27,609	25.1
32	25,051	25.0	30.9	18.4	24,512	31.9
33	17,422	17.0	23.0	11.4	33,570	25.8
34	16,364	15.0	22.4	9.9	28,816	20.9
35	4,745	5.0	5.5	4.2	46,792	11.5
36	7,852	8.0	9.9	5.5	38,205	15.9
37	3,200	3.0	3.7	3.4	41,417	10.3
38	8,233	8.0	10.4	7.5	39,889	11.7
39	17,622	17.0	20.6	18.6	27,181	38.8
40	16,794	16.0	21.6	12.9	27,471	33.6
41	3,047	3.0	2.9	3.2	49,656	9.8
42	3,587	4.0	3.6	3.6	59,425	8.2
43	9,698	10.0	13.8	5.0	42,609	30.0
44	4,942	5.0	5.5	4.8	45,677	14.3
45	5,084	5.0	6.1	4.4	45,821	12.2
46	5,553	5.0	7.1	4.4	53,663	17.2
47	3,522	3.0	3.3	3.7	68,982	7.0
48	2,416	2.0	2.5	4.7	68,931	4.1
49	2,703	3.0	2.7	4.0	42,492	8.4
50	3,176	3.0	3.6	3.5	41,301	8.5
51	3,160	3.0	3.4	2.9	63,073	7.4
52	3,755	4.0	3.7	4.3	50,499	9.9
53	2,865	3.0	3.0	2.7	55,386	8.8
54	4,402	4.0	5.1	3.4	61,087	8.9
55	2,654	3.0	2.8	3.5	50,400	9.1
56	3,041	3.0	3.3	3.1	52,312	8.4
57	5,041	5.0	5.2	4.3	44,968	14.0
58	3,036	3.0	3.0	2.4	97,188	6.1
59	3,959	4.0	4.2	4.5	52,434	9.9
60	14,637	15.0	19.7	8.9	33,750	33.9
61	6,196	6.0	8.2	5.3	48,186	13.3
62	3,969	4.0	4.1	6.0	50,135	11.4
63	5,117	5.0	6.0	3.3	46,883	15.0
64	2,882	3.0	3.1	3.3	58,270	6.9
65	4,519	5.0	5.9	3.8	50,577	15.2
66	4,058	4.0	4.7	4.4	50,879	11.8
67	17,520	17.0	23.3	10.7	31,877	27.3
68	6,216	6.0	7.8	4.3	42,819	15.5
69	5,402	5.0	6.3	4.8	44,356	13.5
70	10,675	11.0	7.8	4.1	42,003	13.7
71	8,980	9.0	12.5	5.1	36,068	16.7

Table 2

Illinois Counties

County	# in Poverty	% Below Poverty	% Change in Poverty Rate	Median Family Income	% w/o High School Diploma
<i>Illinois</i>	1,291,958	10.7	-1.2	\$55,545	18.6
Adams County	6,558	10.0	-3.2	44,133	16.3
Alexander County	2,352	26.1	-6.1	31,824	33.0
Bond County	1,413	9.3	-2.8	45,413	27.2
Boone County	2,892	7.0	-0.2	59,305	19.2
Brown County	421	8.5	-5.0	43,207	36.7
Bureau County	2,537	7.3	-3.1	48,488	15.9
Calhoun County	450	9.0	-6.1	43,107	20.1
Carroll County	1,579	9.6	-2.1	43,685	16.7
Cass County	1,606	12.0	-1.9	41,653	20.0
Champaign County	26,460	16.1	0.5	52,591	9.0
Christian County	3,197	9.5	-2.2	43,342	19.0
Clark County	1,534	9.2	-2.8	43,213	20.0
Clay County	1,671	11.8	-5.0	36,675	24.1
Clinton County	2,138	6.4	-3.8	52,580	22.6
Coles County	8,514	17.5	0.8	45,708	17.1
Cook County	713,040	13.5	-0.7	53,784	22.3
Crawford County	2,114	11.2	0.7	40,418	20.7
Cumberland County	1,056	9.5	-2.5	42,704	19.8
DeKalb County	9,203	11.4	-2.1	58,194	22.5
De Witt County	1,346	8.2	-2.1	50,429	16.5
Douglas County	1,247	6.4	-3.2	46,117	20.7
DuPage County	32,163	3.6	0.9	79,314	10.0
Edgar County	1,989	10.5	-5.5	41,245	18.6
Edwards County	675	9.8	-2.4	38,750	17.7
Effingham County	2,724	8.1	-0.9	46,895	16.6
Fayette County	2,438	12.2	-1.4	39,044	17.8
Ford County	956	7.0	-2.3	44,947	14.0
Franklin County	6,204	16.2	-4.6	36,294	23.3
Fulton County	3,506	9.9	-5.6	41,193	21.7
Gallatin County	1,322	20.7	-0.7	34,539	26.4
Greene County	1,782	12.4	-3.1	37,057	21.1
Grundy County	1,786	4.8	-1.8	60,862	13.1
Hamilton County	1,086	12.9	-6.9	37,651	25.7
Hancock County	1,644	8.3	-3.5	44,457	14.3
Hardin County	850	18.6	-8.1	31,625	31.9
Henderson County	770	9.5	-3.4	42,400	17.6
Henry County	4,038	8.0	-2.5	48,413	15.5
Iroquois County	2,669	8.7	-0.5	45,417	19.7
Jackson County	13,463	25.2	-3.2	40,950	14.8
Jasper County	989	9.9	-3.2	43,547	17.4
Jefferson County	4,617	12.3	-3.8	41,141	23.0



County	# in Poverty	% Below Poverty
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County	# in Poverty	% Below Poverty	% Change in Poverty Rate	Median Family Income	% w/o High School Diploma
Shelby County	2,053	9.1	-0.9	44,372	17.1
Stark County	534	8.6	-3.9	43,410	16.6
Stephenson County	4,310	9.0	-0.9	48,510	15.9
Tazewell County	7,806	6.3	-2.8	53,412	15.0
Union County	2,975	16.5	-1.7	37,710	25.2
Vermilion County	10,704	13.3	-1.9	41,553	21.3
Wabash County	1,795	14.1	1.2	42,142	17.8
Warren County	1,604	9.2	-5.0	42,437	17.7
Washington County	893	6.0	-3.3	48,433	20.9
Wayne County	2,099	12.4	-2.0	37,729	24.8
White County	1,874	12.5	-6.6	36,580	25.4
Whiteside County	5,024	8.5	-2.5	46,653	20.2
Will County	24,225	4.9	-1.1	69,608	13.1



Township, by County

in
Poverty

Township, by County	# in Poverty	% Below Poverty	% Change in Poverty Rate	Median Family Income	% w/o High School Diploma
Troy twp., Will	735	2.7	0.0	72,858	8.3
Washington twp., Will	105	2.7	-0.3	64,097	15.1
Wesley twp., Will	127	5.3	-2.4	56,810	20.4
Wheatland twp., Will	631	1.4	0.2	105,371	2.8
Will twp., Will	64	3.8	2.1	62,938	18.3
Wilmington twp., Will	332	5.6	-0.7	52,589	14.5

The Illinois Poverty Summit was established in 2000 to develop strategies to eliminate poverty in Illinois. Poverty in Illinois has a wide reach – touching women, children, elderly, disabled, and working families.

The Summit:

- develops bipartisan support for strategic priorities to eliminate poverty in Illinois;
- analyzes current poverty data and serves as an information source on trends impacting the state's economic health; and
- convenes legislators and other key civic leaders to determine the most effective use of state and federal anti-poverty resources and to develop new anti-poverty strategies.

Four precepts guide the Illinois Poverty Summit:

- People who work full time should not live in poverty.
- All people who can work should be given the tools to work toward their fullest potential.
- A safety net should be provided for those who cannot work.
- Eliminating poverty is an investment in Illinois's future.

This Atlas was produced independently of the Illinois Poverty Summit Steering Committee.

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Illinois Poverty Summit

Facilitated by Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights

208 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1818

Chicago, Illinois 60604

tel: (312) 660-1302

moreinfo@heartlandalliance.org

www.heartlandalliance.org