

Poverty- Part 1: Introduction ^[1]

Poverty

by David A. Norris, 2006

Additional research provided by K. Todd Johnson, Jay Mazzocchi, and Wiley J. Williams.


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Part 1: Introduction

Programs and initiatives to alleviate poverty and aid the needy have been undertaken in North Carolina since colonial^[4] times. In addition to private organizations and churches, government at various levels has attempted to address poverty issues, with mixed results. There is a direct correlation between poverty and poor health, reduced access to cultural and recreational opportunities, increased crime victimization, and below-average academic achievement. Even with the state's overall economic prosperity, poverty remains a persistent and disturbing feature of North Carolina's landscape, particularly in the rural [Coastal Plain](#)^[5]. According to the [U.S. Census Bureau](#)^[6], in 2005, 23 North Carolina counties-19 of which were located in the east-experienced poverty rates of over 18 percent. Twenty of these poorer counties had held similarly high rates since data collection began in 1960. More than half a million rural North Carolinians were living in poverty, with children and minority groups suffering disproportionately higher rates.

Keep reading >> [Part 2: Public Charity in the Colonial Era through the Nineteenth Century](#)^[2] 

References:

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Guion G. Johnson, *Ante-Bellum North Carolina: A Social History* (1937).

Robert S. Rankin, *The Government and Administration of North Carolina* (1955).

Additional Resources:

Center on Poverty, Work, and Opportunity, UNC School of Law: <http://www.law.unc.edu/centers/poverty/default.aspx>^[7]

North Carolina Fact, U.S. Census Bureau: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/37000.html>^[8]

Poverty Grows, North Carolina Justice Center: <http://www.ncjustice.org/?q=node/969>^[9]

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From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#)^[16]

1 January 2006 | Johnson, K. Todd; Mazzocchi, Jay; Norris, David A.; Williams, Wiley J.

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