

Poverty Rates, 2000 - 2005

An important measure of economic hardship in a city is the number of people living below the poverty line.

2000 Census poverty rates are compared to 2005 estimates for counties and for the eight cities for which estimates are available.

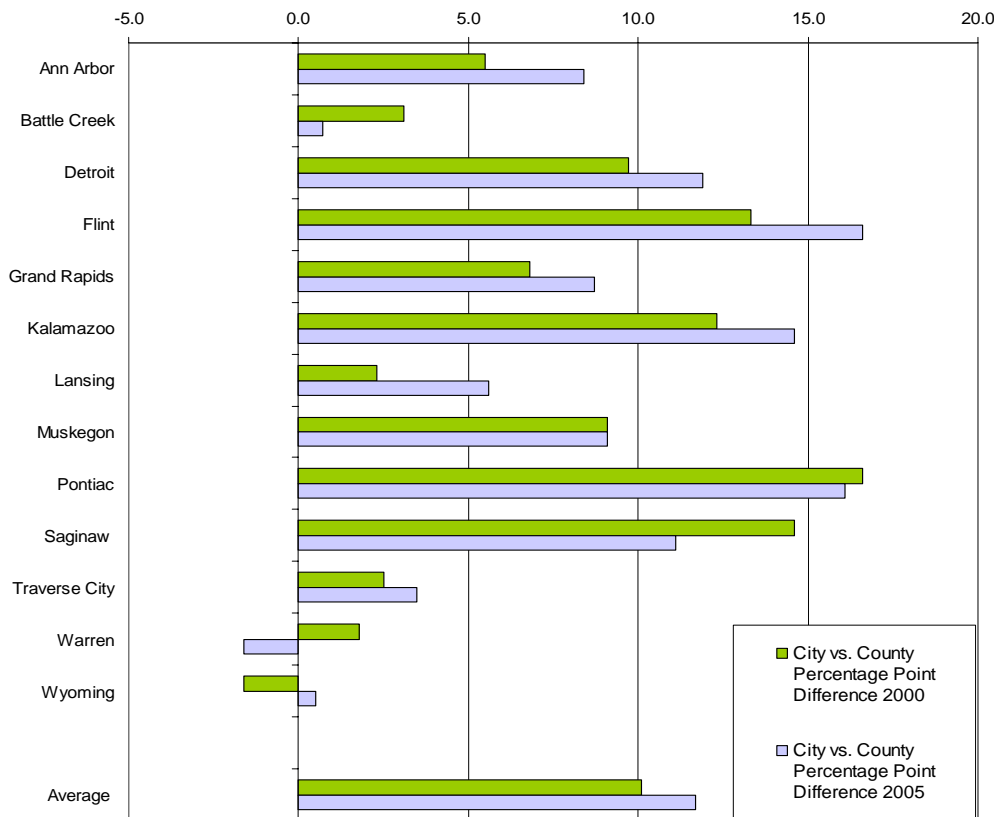
The poverty threshold in 2005 was \$15,735 for a family of three.

	City Percent of Population in Poverty 2000	County Percent of Population in Poverty 2000	City vs. County Percentage Point Difference 2000	City Percent of Population in Poverty 2005	County Percent of Population in Poverty 2005	City vs. County Percentage Point Difference 2005
Ann Arbor	16.6	11.1	5.5	22.3	13.9	8.4
Battle Creek	14.4	11.3	3.1	*14.9	14.2	0.7
Detroit	26.1	16.4	9.7	31.4	19.5	11.9
Flint	26.4	13.1	13.3	32.5	15.9	16.6
Grand Rapids	15.7	8.9	6.8	20.8	12.1	8.7
Kalamazoo	24.3	12	12.3	30.2	15.6	14.6
Lansing	16.9	14.6	2.3	24.4	18.8	5.6
Muskegon	20.5	11.4	9.1	*22.4	13.3	9.1
Pontiac	22.1	5.5	16.6	22.7	6.6	16.1
Saginaw	28.5	13.9	14.6	*28.6	17.5	11.1
Traverse City	8.4	5.9	2.5	*11.5	8	3.5
Warren	7.4	5.6	1.8	11.7	13.3	-1.6
Wyoming	7.3	8.9	-1.6	12.6	12.1	0.5
Average	21.4	11.3	10.1	26.2	14.5	11.7
State	10.5			13.2		

* In Battle Creek, Muskegon, Saginaw and Traverse City, 2003 estimates from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development were used.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey

The poverty rate in Detroit, Flint and Kalamazoo exceeded 30 percent in 2005.



The city versus county poverty gap widened in seven cities and narrowed in six.

In Ann Arbor, Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Muskegon and Saginaw, the city poverty rate was more than fifty percent higher than the county rate; in Pontiac the city rate was three times the county rate.

Warren is the only city with a lower poverty rate than its county.

Collectively, the 13 cities experienced an increase in the poverty rate of 22.4 percent, while counties increased by 28.3 percent.



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