

Columbus and Franklin County Poverty Profile

December 19, 2007

Overview and Trends

- **Franklin County poverty population growth:** Between 1970 and 2006, the number of persons in poverty in Franklin County grew at twice the rate of overall population growth. From 2000 to 2006, 53,000 people were added to the county's poverty population, and the county's 2006 poverty rate was 3 percentage points higher than the U.S. rate.
- **Profile of the Franklin County poverty population:** There were 175,184 people living in poverty in Franklin County in 2006. Over half of female-headed families with young children live in poverty, while only about 4% of married couple families are poor. The poverty rate for children is about twice that of persons age 65 and over.
- **Racial disparities in Franklin County poverty rates:** In 2006, Franklin County's black or African American population had a poverty rate nearly three times that for the white population. The Hispanic population had poverty over twice the rate of the white population.
- **Profile of the Columbus poverty population:** There were 144,832 people living in poverty in Columbus in 2006, representing 83% of all persons in poverty in Franklin County. Over 40% of female-headed families with young children live in poverty, while about 6% of married couple families are poor. Poverty among children is nearly three times the rate of poverty for persons age 65 and over.
- **Racial disparities in Columbus poverty rates:** In 2006, Columbus's black or African American population had a poverty rate more than double that for the white population. The Hispanic population had a poverty rate of 25.9%, compared to a 15% rate for the white population.
- **Geography of poverty in central Ohio:** The poverty rate of Older Columbus is nearly three times that of Newer Columbus and almost five times suburban Franklin County; however, poverty is becoming much more dispersed. In 2000, the majority of Franklin County's poverty population (51%) lived outside of Older Columbus, compared to only 30% in 1970.

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Persons Living in Poverty in Franklin County



Franklin County poverty population growth

Between 1970 and 2006, the number of persons in poverty in Franklin County grew at more than triple the rate of overall population growth. From 2000 to 2006, 53,341 people were added to the county's poverty population, and the county's 2006 poverty rate was 3 percentage points above the U.S. rate. In 2006, one in three county residents had incomes below the self-sufficiency level of 200% of poverty.

Between 1970 and 2006, while the total population of Franklin County increased by 31.5%, the number of persons in poverty in Franklin County more than doubled (104.7% increase). After dropping during the 1990's, the county poverty rate has increased since 2000 (Table 1). The 2006 county poverty rate of 16.3% was well above the U.S. rate of 13.3%.

In 2006, 176,592 Franklin County residents had incomes above the poverty level, but below the economic self-sufficiency measure of 200% of the poverty level. In 2006, one in three Franklin County residents had incomes below 200% of poverty, an increase of 28.4% since 2000.

Table 1
Persons Below 100% and 200% of Poverty, Franklin County, 1970-2006

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2006
Franklin County total population	833,248	868,748	961,439	1,068,978	1,095,662
Population for whom poverty status is determined	833,248	841,123	935,144	1,045,966	1,072,112
Number below 100% of poverty level	85,593	103,710	121,475	121,843	175,184
• % below 100% of poverty	10.3%	12.3%	13.0%	11.6%	16.3%
Number below 125% of poverty level	NA	134,358	153,379	158,186	218,628
• % below 125% of poverty	NA	16.0%	16.4%	15.1%	20.4%
Number below 150% of poverty level	NA	167,425	184,182	197,898	262,246
• % below 150% of poverty	NA	19.9%	19.7%	18.9%	24.5%
Number below 200% of poverty level	NA	242,856	261,288	273,900	351,776
• % below 200% of poverty	NA	28.0%	27.2%	25.6%	32.8%

Source: CensusCD Neighborhood Change Database 1970-2000 Tract Data (GeoLytics©, in association with the Urban Institute); 2006 American Community Survey

Note: Poverty rates are calculated using a subset of the total population that does not include certain persons in group quarters.



Profile of the Franklin County poverty population

There were 175,184 people living in poverty in Franklin County in 2006. Over 40% of female-headed families with young children live in poverty, while only about 4% of married couple families are poor. The poverty rate for children is over twice that of persons age 65 and over.

In 2006, of the 175,184 persons living in poverty in Franklin County, one-third were under age 18. As with the overall poverty rate, the child poverty rate has increased significantly since 2000 after a decline during the 1990s. The rate of poverty among the elderly has remained steady since 2000. The percentage of persons aged 65 and over living in poverty in Franklin County decreased from 21.7% in 1970 to 8.5% in 2006. In 2006, unrelated individuals age 15 and over made up 40% of the population in poverty (Tables 2 and 3).

In 2006, of the 30,607 families living in poverty in Franklin County, nearly two-thirds were female-headed families. The percentage of married-couple families in poverty has stayed around 3% to 4% since 1990. Female-headed families with children under 5 had the highest poverty rate among all population groups at 55.2% in 2006 (Tables 2 and 3).

Table 2
Poverty Rates for Selected Population Groups, Franklin County, 1970-2006

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2006
Total Franklin County population	833,248	868,748	961,439	1,068,978	1,095,662
Population for whom poverty status was determined	833,248	841,123	935,144	1,045,966	1,072,112
Percent in poverty	10.3%	12.3%	13.0%	11.6%	16.3%
Age group					
• Under age 18	-	15.3%	17.3%	14.6%	21.6%
• Age 65 and over	21.7%	13.0%	10.3%	8.6%	8.5%
Race/ethnicity					
• White	8.2%	9.7%	9.6%	8.3%	11.4%
• African American	24.5%	26.8%	29.3%	22.9%	32.3%
• Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	-	28.6%	22.4%	15.8%	18.4%*
• Hispanic (of any race)	6.4%	22.2%	15.8%	18.9%	25.2%
Household type					
Total families in poverty	-	-	9.1%	8.2%	11.3%
• Married-couple families	-	-	3.5%	2.9%	4.2%
• Female-headed families	-	-	30.4%	24.3%	33.0%
with children 0-18 years	-	-	40.4%	30.3%	40.2%
with children 0-5 years	-	-	57.5%	42.9%	55.2%
Unrelated individuals over 15 years	-	-	24.1%	21.0%	27.7%

* 2006 data available only for Asian population

Source: Neighborhood Change Database 1970-2000 Tract Data (GeoLytics®, in association with the Urban Institute); U.S. Census Bureau: 1990 Census, Census 2000, USA Counties; 2006 American Community Survey

Note: Poverty rates are calculated using a subset of the total population that does not include certain persons in group quarters.

Table 3
Number of Persons in Poverty for Selected Population Groups
Franklin County, 1970-2006

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2006
Total persons in poverty	85,593	103,710	121,475	121,843	175,184
Age group					
• Under age 18	-	-	40,983	38,477	59,815
• Age 65 and over	13,945	8,656	8,991	8,516	8,763
Race/ethnicity					
• White	59,280	64,491	72,979	65,635	89,408
• African American	25,588	31,953	43,452	42,348	70,247
• Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	-	1,035	4,107	5,134	7,626*
• Hispanic (of any race)	340	1,161	1,227	4,481	9,440
Household type					
Total families in poverty	-	-	22,293	21,742	30,607
• Married-couple families	-	-	6,558	5,590	7,992
• Female-headed families	-	-	14,244	13,787	19,696
with children 0-18 years	-	-	12,887	12,421	18,778
with children 0-5 years	-	-	6,971	6,686	9,436
Unrelated individuals over 15 years	-	-	45,602	51,361	70,139

* Does not include Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders

Source: Neighborhood Change Database 1970-2000 Tract Data (GeoLytics©, in association with the Urban Institute); U.S. Census Bureau: 1990 Census, Census 2000, USA Counties; 2006 American Community Survey

Note: Poverty rates are calculated using a subset of the total population that does not include certain persons in group quarters.



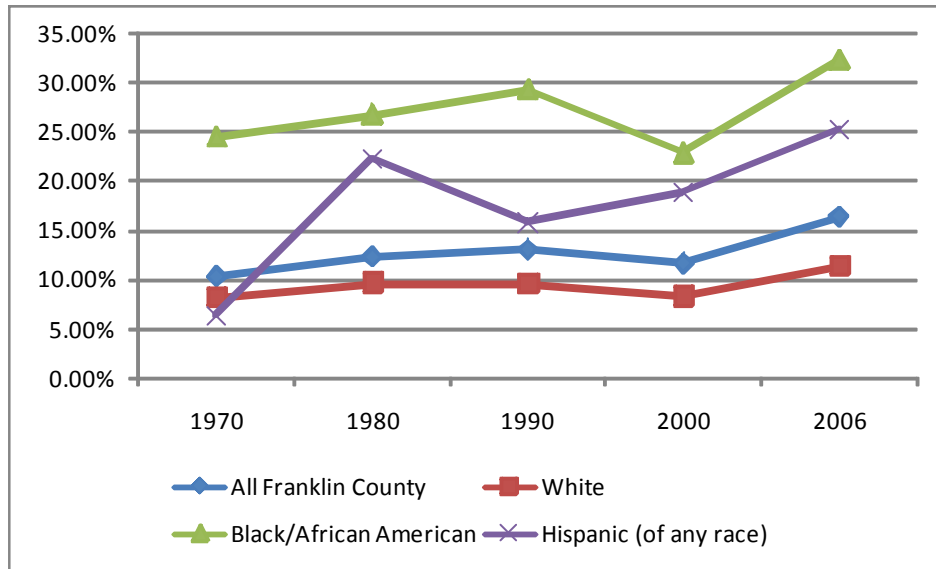
Racial disparities in Franklin County poverty rates

In 2006, Franklin County's black or African American population had a poverty rate nearly three times that for the white population. The Hispanic population had poverty over twice the rate of the white population.

As is the case nationally, disparities in poverty rates persist among Franklin County's racial and ethnic groups (Tables 2 and 3; Figure 1). In 2006, the poverty rate for blacks was nearly three times that of the poverty rate for whites. The percentage of all persons in poverty in Franklin County who are black or African American increased between 1970 and 2006, from 29.9% to 40.1%, while the percentage that is white consistently decreased from 69.3% to 51.0% during the same period. To some extent, these changes reflect the increase in the number of blacks in the overall county population.

The poverty rate for Hispanic/Latino persons has generally increased faster than the rate for other racial and ethnic groups in Franklin County. Between 1970 and 2006, the poverty rate among Hispanics and Latinos of any race had a net increase of 19 percentage points. The poverty rate for all of Franklin County had a net increase of 6 percentage points during the same period (Table 2 and Figure 1).

Figure 1
Poverty Rates by Race/Ethnicity, Franklin County, 1970-2006



Source: CensusCD Neighborhood Change Database 1970-2000 Tract Data (GeoLytics®, in association with the Urban Institute); 2006 American Community Survey

Persons Living in Poverty in Columbus



Profile of the Columbus poverty population

There were 144,832 people living in poverty in Columbus in 2006, representing 83% of all persons in poverty in Franklin County. Over 40% of female-headed families with young children live in poverty, while about 6% of married couple families are poor. Poverty among children is nearly three times the rate of poverty for persons age 65 and over.

In 2006, of the 144,832 persons living in poverty in the city of Columbus, over one-third were under age 18. Compared to the overall poverty rate of 21%, children had a poverty rate of 29%. In addition to the population below the poverty level, another 131,877 Columbus residents were below the economic self-sufficiency measure of 200% of the poverty level, bringing the overall percentage of people below self-sufficiency to 40% (Tables 4 and 5).

Of the 24,611 families living in poverty in Columbus, nearly two-thirds were female-headed families. Female-headed families with children had a poverty rate of 43.2% in 2006, compared to just 5.8% of married couple families (Table 5).

Table 4
Persons Below 100% and 200% of Poverty,
Columbus City, 2006

	Number	Rate
Columbus City total population	733,203	
Population for whom poverty status is determined	699,167	100.0%
Below 100% of poverty level	144,832	20.7%
Below 125% of poverty level	178,364	25.5%
Below 150% of poverty level	210,882	30.2%
Below 200% of poverty level	276,709	40.0%

Source: 2006 American Community Survey

Note: Poverty rates are calculated using a subset of the total population that does not include certain persons in group quarters.



Racial disparities in Columbus poverty rates

In 2006, Columbus's black or African American population had a poverty rate more than double that for the white population. The Hispanic population had a poverty rate of 25.9%, compared to a 15% rate for the white population.

Table 5
Persons in Poverty and Poverty Rates for Selected Population Groups,
Columbus City, 2006

	Number	Rate
Total Columbus City population	733,203	
Population for whom poverty status was determined	699,167	100.0%
Total population in poverty	144,832	20.7%
Age group		
• Under age 18	49,556	28.8%
• Age 65 and over	6,601	10.8%
Race/ethnicity		
• White	67,416	15.0%
• African American	64,709	33.1%
• Hispanic (of any race)	7,423	25.9%
Household type		
Total families in poverty	24,611	14.7%
• Married-couple families	6,244	5.8%
• Female-headed families with children 0-18 years	15,587 14,961	35.3% 43.2%

Source: 2006 American Community Survey

Note: Poverty rates are calculated using a subset of the total population that does not include certain persons in group quarters.

Geographic Patterns of Poverty¹



Geography of poverty in central Ohio

The poverty rate of Older Columbus is nearly three times that of Newer Columbus and almost five times suburban Franklin County; however, poverty is becoming much more dispersed. In 2000, the majority of Franklin County's poverty population (51%) lived outside of Older Columbus, compared to only 30% in 1970.

From 1970 to 1990, Franklin County experienced increasing poverty rates within the older central city. The poverty rate in Older Columbus increased by 10.4 percentage points during this period, while the rate in Suburban Franklin County remained flat. However, similar to national patterns, during the 1990's the poverty rate of Older Columbus dropped by 3.6 percentage points (Table 6).

The geography of poverty within the county has shifted dramatically since 1970 (Table 7 and Map 1). At that time, 69.9% of all Franklin County persons in poverty lived within Older Columbus. By 2000, the poverty population of Older Columbus was below 1970 levels, and only 48.5% of the county's poor residents lived in the older city. Growth in the poverty population has occurred primarily outside of Older Columbus, where the rate of persons living in poverty increased steadily from 1970 to 2000, from 5.6 to 9.6% in Newer Columbus. Suburban Franklin County also experienced an uptick in the poverty rate during the 1990s, from 4.9% to 5.4%.

Table 6
Poverty Rates, Franklin County Geographic Areas, 1970-2000

	1970	1980	1990	2000
Franklin County	10.7%	12.3%	13.0%	11.6%
City of Columbus	13.9%	16.5%	17.2%	15.0%
• Older Columbus	18.7%	24.1%	29.1%	25.5%
• Newer Columbus	5.6%	9.1%	9.1%	9.6%
Suburban Franklin County	5.0%	4.8%	4.9%	5.4%

Source: City of Columbus 2005-2009 Consolidated Plan; Census 2000

Table 7
Persons in Poverty, Franklin County Geographic Areas, 1970-2000

	1970	1980	1990	2000
Franklin County	85,592	103,750	121,475	121,843
City of Columbus	71,379	89,214	105,494	102,723
• Older Columbus	60,727	64,434	73,353	59,350
• Newer Columbus	10,652	24,780	32,141	43,373
Suburban Franklin County	14,213	14,536	15,981	19,120

Source: City of Columbus 2005-2009 Consolidated Plan; Census 2000

¹ Because American Community Survey data is not available at the census tract level, the analysis of geographic patterns of poverty cannot be updated from Census 2000 data.

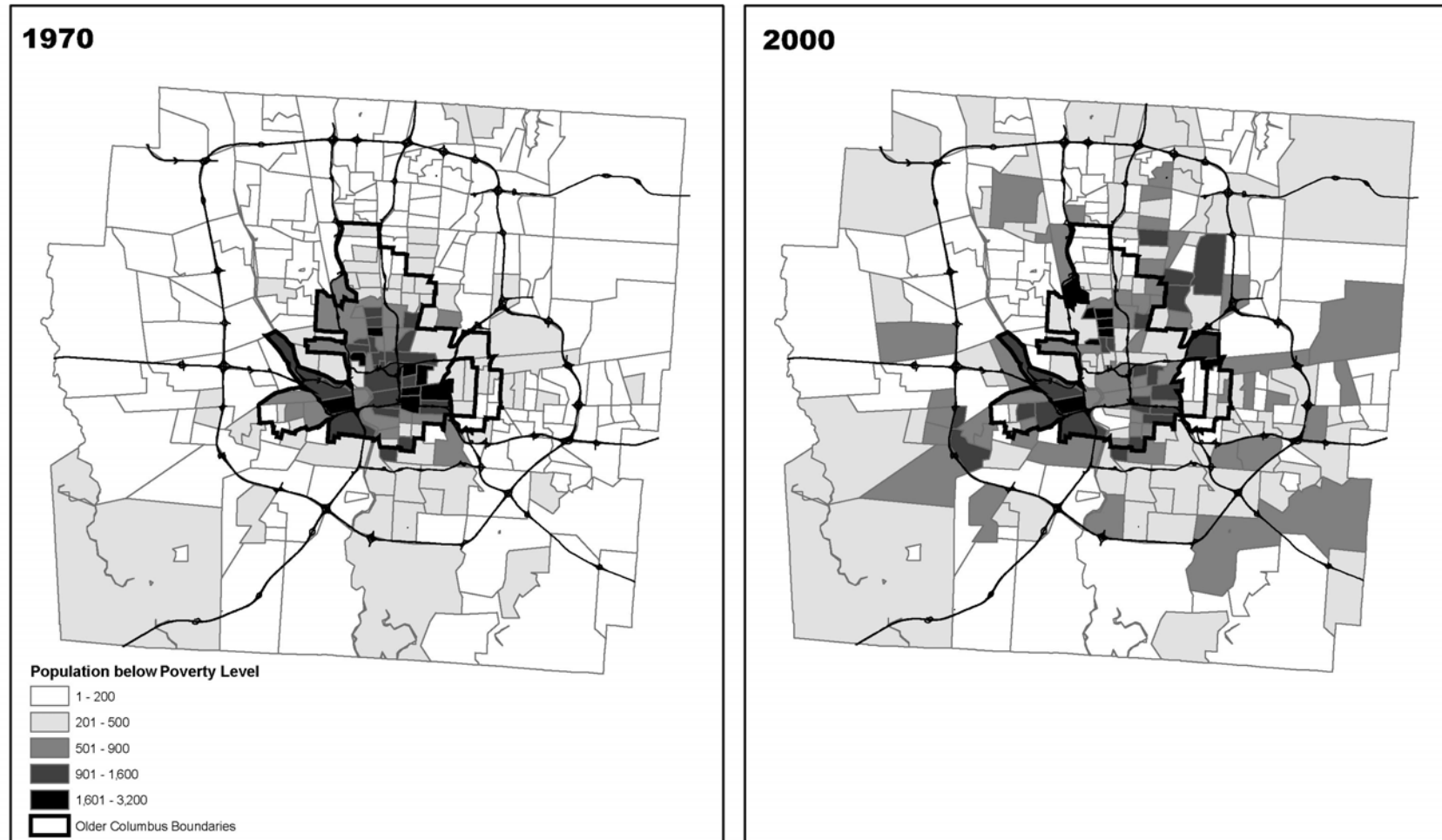
The dispersion of poverty is supported by research by the Brookings Institution that identified the six-county Columbus metropolitan area as one of the 15 metro areas in the nation with the largest declines in concentrated poverty from 1990 to 2000 (people living in census tracts with a 40% or higher poverty rate). The concentrated poverty rate in the Columbus metro area dropped from 25.3% in 1990 to 13.0% in 2000, with 48,020 fewer people living in areas of concentrated poverty (Jargowsky, 2003).²

Within Franklin County, 43 of the 265 census tracts had a poverty rate of 25% or over in 2000. Of these, 13 census tracts had a poverty rate of over 40%. This compares to 25 census tracts in 1970 that had a poverty rate of 25% or over and 3 census tracts that had a poverty rate of over 40%. In 2000, there were 142,803 persons (13.4% of total population) living in census tracts with a poverty rate of over 25% (Map 2).

There are also concentrations of poverty in suburban Franklin County, outside of the city of Columbus boundaries. The overall poverty rate for this area increased from 5.3% to 7.7% between 1970 and 2000, and the number of persons in poverty living in suburban Franklin County increased by 143.4% during this period. As part of the development of the 2005-2009 City of Columbus and Franklin County Consolidated Plan, county officials identified target areas throughout the county where there are concentrations of low to moderate income households and/or evidence of blighted conditions (Map 3). The Franklin County target areas include the following neighborhoods and streets: Flint Road, West Shrock South State, Sunbury-Central, Homeacre, Cleveland Heights, Proprietor's Schrock, East Clinton, Cooke Road, Oakland Park Agler, McCutcheon Agler, Leonard Park, Blacklick Village, Taylor Station, Whitehall, RoseHill/Livingston, Chambers/Kenny, Olde Hilliard, Lincoln Village, Westland Mall, Mon-e-bak, Jackson Hopkins, Stimmel North, Frank Road North, Alkire Southwestern, Big South Run, Urbancrest, Kunz Johnson, Georgesville, Olde Darbydale, Olde Grove City, Casa-Ventura, Home Parlin Area, Olde Obetz, South High East, Olde Groveport, Gender West, Lockbourne, Madison West, Madison North, Pickerington, Winchester South Hamilton, Edgewater Park, and Blacklick Estates.

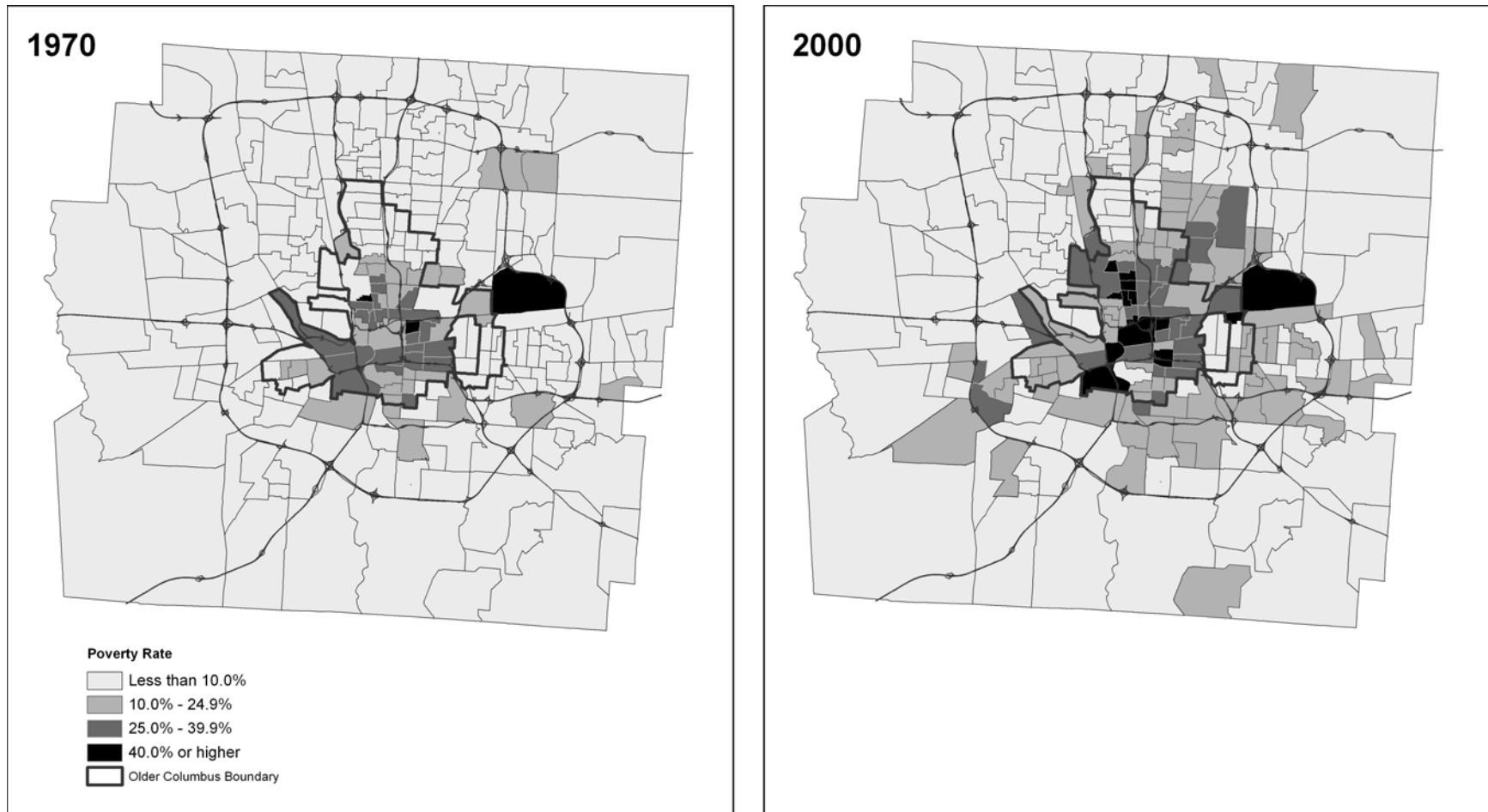
² Jagowsky, Paul A. (2003, May). *Stunning Progress, Hidden Problems: The Dramatic Decline of Concentrated Poverty in the 1990s*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.
http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2003/05demographics_jargowsky.aspx.

Map 1
Population below the Poverty Level, Franklin County Census Tracts, 1970 and 2000



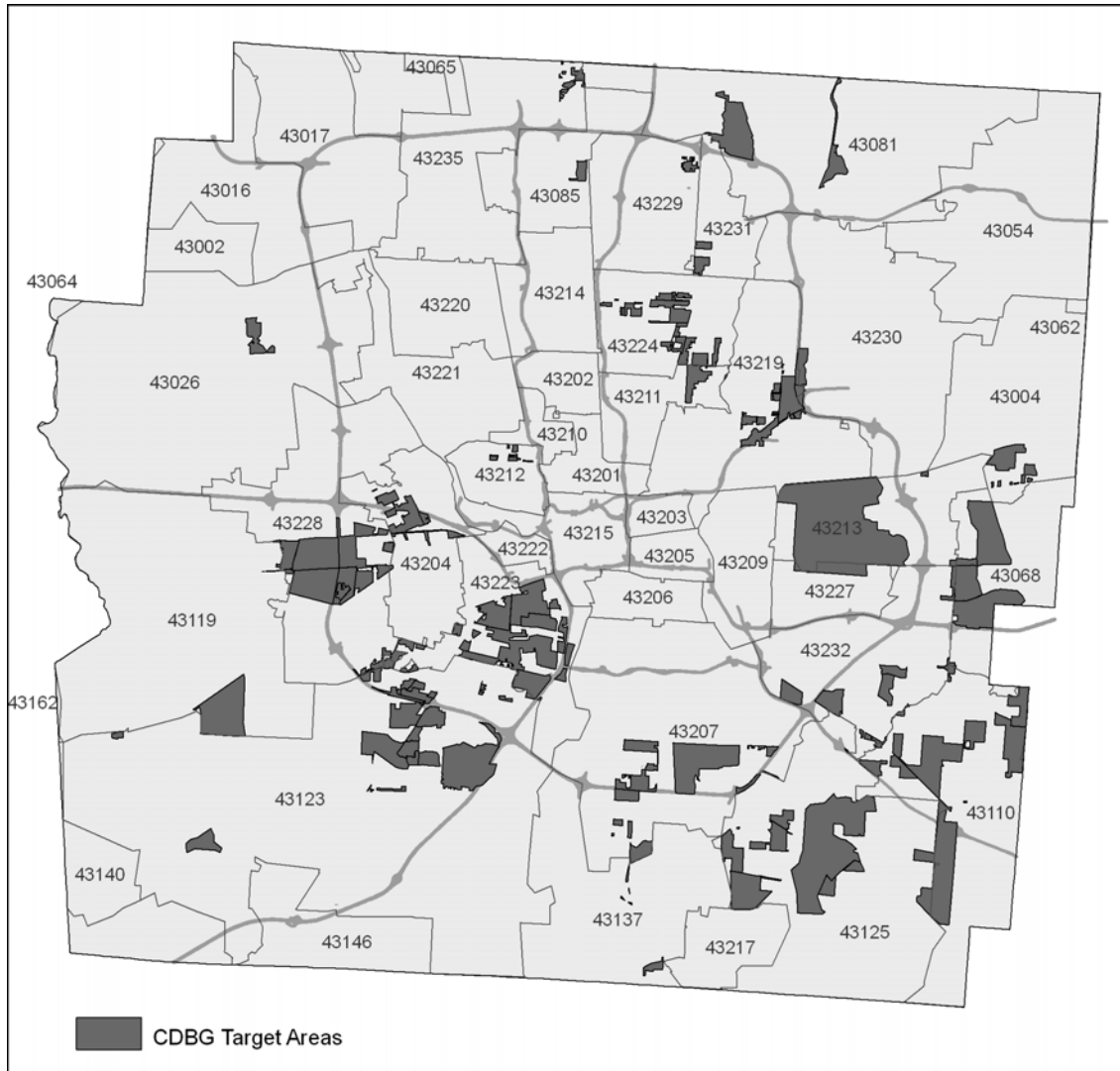
Source: CensusCD Neighborhood Change Database 1970-2000 Tract Data (GeoLytics®, in association with the Urban Institute);

Map 2
Poverty Rates, Franklin County Census Tracts, 1970 and 2000



Source: CensusCD Neighborhood Change Database 1970-2000 Tract Data (GeoLytics®, in association with the Urban Institute);

Map 3
**Franklin County Community Development Block Grant
Target Areas*, 2000**



Source: Franklin County Economic Development and Planning

* All the CDBG target areas in the map above are outside the City of Columbus corporate boundaries.