

Persons in poverty

	Millions	Percent of all ages of poor	Percent of poor who are nonwhite	Percent of all poor and nonpoor in this age group
Under 6.....	5.8	17	40	24
6 to 15.....	8.1	23	38	21
16 to 21.....	3.0	9	30	17
22 to 54.....	9.3	27	31	12
55 to 64.....	2.7	8	22	16
65 plus.....	5.4	16	15	31
All ages.....	34.3	100	31	18

FAMILY COMPOSITION

Programs to alleviate or end poverty are directed toward people. Poor people, like all others, live mostly in families. Programs intended to affect one person in the family will affect all members. The relationships defined below therefore indicate the pervasive effect of specific programs. As examples, the poor youth who is retrained will be an asset rather than a burden to his parents and society; the aged couple receiving larger retirement incomes are a lesser burden on younger family members sharing their home. Such matters are detailed for each age group in the following text, but to underline their significance, tables 3 through 3b have been prepared, apportioning all poor persons by the age and sex of the heads of the households in which they live.

To a noticeable extent, much of poverty is traceable to the numbers of children in the families of the unskilled, including particularly the preschool children in fatherless homes. As an example, the average male head aged 22 to 54 had 3.3 children under 22 and an average family income of \$2,253 if he was classified as poor, but only 2 children and a family income of \$8,782 if he was not. Although these figures understate family size by not including other relatives present, the extra 1.3 child alone was equivalent to about \$730 of income requirement in our sliding scale of income thresholds to poverty. The average female head in this age group was even worse placed. If poor, she averaged 3.2 children under 22 and a family income of but \$1,567; if not poor, she had 1.6 children and \$5,715 of income for them