

central cities. Well over half of all unrelated non-whites (55.0 per cent) compared with less than two-fifths of the whites (38.5 per cent) were inhabitants of central cities. Non-farm areas outside metropolitan areas contained 36 per cent of the poor non-white and 43 per cent of the poor white families. They also contained 27 per cent of the poor non-white and 38 per cent of the poor white households made up of unrelated individuals.

Although poverty is concentrated in the non-farm areas of the United States, reflecting population distribution, it disproportionately afflicts the farm population. In 1965 only 6.6 per cent of all families resided on farms but 12.9 per cent of the poor families, 13.6 per cent of the whites and 11.0 per cent of the non-whites, lived on farms. As might be expected, 3.0 per cent of all unrelated individuals and only 3.5 per cent of those poor lived on farms. Poverty in non-farm areas, however, has different political implications than poverty in farm areas widely dispersed over the countryside. In urban and other non-farm areas the frustration, alienation and bitterness bred by poverty generates social unrest more readily translatable into hostility and violence as recent national experience testifies.

Within the racial and geographic framework outlined above poverty had disproportionate incidence in other identifiable sub-categories of the population. For example, among unrelated individuals in metropolitan areas, 55 per cent aged 65 and over were poor, 35.9 per cent of the older women and 42.5 per cent of the older men. Among these senior citizens over three-fourths (76.5 per cent) of the non-whites, compared with a little over half (52.7 per cent) of the whites were poor. Among female heads of families about one-third (32.3 per cent) were poor, compared with 7.4 per cent of families with male heads. Among non-white families with female heads almost three-fifths (57.3 per cent) were poor, compared with one-fourth (24.6 per cent) of comparable whites. Among families with female heads with children under 6 over three-fourths (78.5 per cent) of the non-whites, compared with about one-half (51.7 per cent) of the whites were poor.

Within metropolitan areas the concentration of non-white poverty in central cities is readily demonstrable. Of the poor non-white metropolitan families four-fifths were found in central cities (80.7 per cent). Of the poor metropolitan non-white families with female heads 85.9 per cent were residents of central cities and, also, 76.4 per cent of the families with male heads. Of the metropolitan non-white families with female heads and children under 6, 89.1 per cent were concentrated in the central cities, and, also, 77.9 per cent of similar families with male heads.

Other data permit even further pinpointing of the incidence of poverty. Within metropolitan areas specific geographic areas disproportionately contain the poor. This is revealed in the information collected by the Bureau of the Census in March 1966 for the Office of Economic Opportunity. The survey was aimed at families residing in "Poverty Areas" within the 101 SMSA's having 250,000 or more persons in 1960. These SMSA's in 1960 contained 56 per cent of the Negro and 54 per cent of the white population. The central cities in these metropolitan areas contained 45 per cent of all Negroes and 25 per cent of all whites in the nation; and they contained 81 per cent of the Negroes and 46 per cent of the whites resident within these SMSA's.

A "Poverty Area" was determined by the use of a "poverty index" calculated by utilizing five equally weighted "poverty-linked characteristics" for census tracts (small statistical areas within SMSA's).¹

The population resident in these Poverty Areas was disproportionately non-white. Of the 27 million families in these SMSA's 3.2 million or 12 per cent were non-white. Of the total number of families, 4.5 million or 17 per cent resided in the Poverty Areas. Of the white families about one-tenth (11 per cent) lived in the Poverty Areas. In contrast, almost three-fifths (58 per cent) of the non-white families were concentrated in the Poverty Areas.

Not all residents of the Poverty Areas were poor and many of the poor lived outside the Poverty Areas. All told there were 2.8 million poor families in the

¹ These characteristics were: (1) per cent of families with incomes under \$3000 in 1959; (2) per cent of children under 18 not living with both parents; (3) per cent of persons 25 and over with less than 8 years of schooling; (4) per cent of unskilled males (laborers and service workers) in the employed civilian labor force; (5) per cent of housing units dilapidated or lacking some or all plumbing facilities. The Poverty Areas were, in general, the census tracts falling in the lowest quartile which fell into the contiguous groupings adjusted for urban renewal activities since 1960. In all, some 193 Poverty Areas were delineated in the 101 SMSA's; 22 per cent of all the tracts in these SMSA's.