

Welfare and Poverty in Lancaster County

“They seem to think that there are thousands of jobs out there for people with no work experience, no skills, and no training. Tell me where those jobs are and I’ll get one. Otherwise let me get the education I need to get out of this situation I am in.”

Pennsylvania Welfare Recipient

“New Voices in Welfare Reform”

Women’s Association for Women’s Alternatives

Philadelphia Pennsylvania

Fall, 1998

Materials and Data compiled by:

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September, 2004



Materials:

Poverty by Municipality – Bureau of the Census

Federal Poverty Income Guidelines- US Department of Health and Human Services, February 2004

Persons Receiving Cash Assistance – January 1999 to July 2004 – Office of Income Maintenance

Chart of Benefit Levels – Office of Income Maintenance, last adjusted January, 2003

Food Stamp Participation and Eligibility Requirements– January 1999 through May 2002 – Office of Income Maintenance

Self Sufficiency Standard for Lancaster, PA – PathwaysPA

A demographic analysis of the Southeast area of Lancaster City - Jayne Thomas, Inner City Group

Disparity of Income and other factors between Lancaster City and suburbs – Lewis Mumford Center for Comparative Urban and Regional Research

Poverty by Municipality

Bureau of the Census

Lancaster County
Poverty by Municipality (alphabetical listing)

Municipality	Total Population	# of Families in Poverty	With related children under 5	# of Individuals in Poverty	% of Population (individuals)
Lancaster County	470,658	6,569	1,384	35,553	7.80%
Adamstown Borough	1,203	5	-	29	2.40%
Akron Borough	4,046	38	-	179	4.60%
Bart Township	3,003	72	54	399	13.00%
Brecknock Township	6,699	91	54	588	8.80%
Caernarvon Township	4,278	66	29	340	8.10%
Christiana Borough	1,124	11	4	63	6.30%
Clay Township	5,173	73	52	279	5.50%
Colerain Township	3,261	72	42	370	11.40%
Columbia Borough	10,311	195	73	1,133	11.30%
Conestoga Township	3,749	24	-	131	3.50%
Conoy Township	3,067	26	10	113	3.70%
Denver Borough	3,332	42	20	174	5.20%
Drumore Township	2,243	24	10	113	5.10%
Earl Township	6,183	154	66	923	15.00%
East Cocalico Township	9,954	63	14	334	3.40%
East Donegal Township	5,405	7	7	82	1.50%
East Drumore Township	3,535	75	28	407	12.90%
East Earl Township	5,723	47	20	293	5.20%
East Hempfield Township	21,399	108	58	833	3.90%
East Lampeter Township	13,556	183	66	882	6.50%
East Petersburg Borough	4,450	27	3	122	2.70%
Eden Township	1,858	36	13	165	8.90%
Elizabeth Township	3,833	28	21	169	4.40%
Elizabethtown Borough	11,887	89	20	508	5.20%
Ephrata Borough	13,213	130	25	804	6.20%
Ephrata Township	8,026	76	36	466	5.90%
Fulton Township	2,826	79	33	385	13.70%
Lancaster City	56,348	2,175	999	11,162	21.20%
Lancaster Township	13,944	265	162	1,335	9.90%
Leacock Township	4,878	148	56	750	15.40%
Lititz Borough	9,029	63	21	355	4.10%
Little Britain Township	3,514	81	25	477	13.60%
Manheim Borough	4,784	56	28	255	5.30%
Manheim Township	33,697	225	35	1,286	4.00%

Municipality	Total Population	# of Families in Poverty	With related children under 5	# of Individuals in Poverty	% of Population (individuals)
Manor Township	16,498	112	16	621	3.80%
Marietta Borough	2,689	49	12	248	9.20%
Martic Township	4,990	21	7	121	2.40%
Millersville Borough	7,774	48	22	906	16.40%
Mount Joy Borough	6,765	95	47	475	7.10%
Mount Joy Township	7,944	37	17	240	3.00%
Mountville Borough	2,444	32	24	169	7.20%
New Holland Borough	5,092	50	21	263	5.20%
Paradise Township	4,698	71	37	392	8.40%
Penn Township	7,312	45	22	313	4.40%
Pequea Township	4,358	39	15	159	3.70%
Providence Township	6,651	97	9	393	6.00%
Quarryville Borough	1,994	34	11	140	7.10%
Rapho Township	8,578	73	17	352	4.10%
Sadsbury Township	3,025	63	23	375	12.70%
Salisbury Township	10,012	180	88	922	9.30%
Strasburg Township	4,021	51	23	188	4.70%
Strasburg Borough	2,800	15	10	90	3.20%
Terre Hill Borough	1,237	11	1	59	4.80%
Upper Leacock Township	8,229	94	56	576	7.00%
Warwick Township	15,475	124	69	555	3.60%
West Cocalico Township	6,967	23	17	179	2.60%
West Donegal Township	6,539	7	7	103	1.60%
West Earl Township	6,766	92	29	550	8.40%
West Hempfield Township	15,128	171	74	862	5.70%
West Lampeter	13,145	81	9	398	3.10%

Federal Poverty Income Guidelines

Programs - -->	Welfare and Housing Assistance	Federal Poverty Income Guidelines	<p>The poverty thresholds were originally developed in 1963-1964 by Mollie Orshansky of the Social Security Administration. She published an analysis of the poverty population using these thresholds in a January 1965 Social Security Bulletin article. Orshansky based her poverty thresholds on the economy food plan — the cheapest of four food plans developed by the Department of Agriculture. The actual combinations of foods in the food plans, devised by Agriculture Department dietitians using complex procedures, constituted nutritionally adequate diets; the Agriculture Department described the economy food plan as being "designed for temporary or emergency use when funds are low." (Orshansky also developed a second set of poverty thresholds based on the Agriculture Department's somewhat less stringent low-cost food plan, but relatively little use was ever made of these higher thresholds.)</p> <p>Orshansky did not develop the poverty thresholds as a standard budget that is, a list of goods and services that a family of a specified size and composition would need to live at a designated level of well being, together with their estimated monthly or annual costs. If generally accepted standards of minimum need had been available for all or most of the major essential consumption items of living (for example, housing, medical care, clothing, and transportation), the standard budget approach could have been used by costing out the standards and adding up the costs. However, except for the area of food, no definitive and accepted standards of minimum need for major consumption items existed either then or today.</p> <p>"Poverty Guidelines for 1992," by Gordon M. Fisher, <i>Social Security Bulletin</i>, Vol. 55, No. 1, Spring 1992, pp. 43 46.</p>
Family Size	80%	100%	
1	\$7,448	\$9,310	
2	\$9,992	\$12,490	
3	\$12,536	\$15,670	
4	\$15,080	\$18,850	
5	\$17,624	\$22,030	
6	\$20,168	\$25,210	
7	\$22,712	\$28,390	
8	\$25,256	\$31,570	
EACH ADD'TL PERSON	\$2,512	\$3,140	

Annual income for a wage earner working full-time at \$5.15 per hour (minimum wage) is:	\$10,712
Annual income for a wage earner working full-time at \$6.00 per hour is:	\$12,480
Annual income for a wage earner working full-time at \$7.00 per hour is:	\$14,560

Persons Receiving Cash Assistance
January 1999 through July 2004

Office of Income Maintenance
Department of Public Welfare

Number of unduplicated families receiving assistance

County	TANF – Cash	General Assistance
January 1999		
State Total	115,116	51,743
Lancaster	1,456	460
Philadelphia	57,027	26,742
January 2001		
State Total	88,338	42,334
Lancaster	1,288	401
Philadelphia	43,633	21,985
July 2001		
State Total	86,422	41,814
Lancaster	1,375	393
Philadelphia	42,035	21,615
July 2002		
State Total	83,248	41,378
Lancaster	1,649	516
Philadelphia	38,881	20,874
July 2003		
State Total	77,929	47,353
Lancaster	1,738	575
Philadelphia	34,425	23,821
April, 2004		
State Total	83,600	56,074
Lancaster	1,984	899
Philadelphia	36,145	27,537

- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**

TANF provides money for dependent children and their parents or other relatives with whom they live, and for pregnant women. TANF payments are funded by Federal and State dollars.

- **General Assistance (GA)**

GA provides money for persons who do not meet the requirements for TANF. Most GA recipients are individuals or couples with no dependent children, who have temporary or permanent disabilities that prevent their employment. GA is State funded.

**Chart of Benefit Levels
Office of Income Maintenance**

Monthly TANF Cash Assistance Benefits

Family Size	Benefits
1	\$215
2	\$330
3	\$421
4	\$514
5	\$647
6	\$87
Additional Persons	\$83

**Food Stamp Participation –
January 1999 to July 2004
Office of Income Maintenance
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**

**Number of unduplicated families
receiving food stamps**

County	Public Assistance	Non Public Assistance	Percent of Population
January 1999			
State Total	130,438	251,827	7.2%
Lancaster	1,358	3,765	2.7%
Philadelphia	68,163	62,341	20.4%
January 2001			
State Total	96,982	248,448	6.3%
Lancaster	1,121	3,968	2.6%
Philadelphia	50,770	63,142	17.9%
July 2001			
State Total	94,149	246,998	6.0%
Lancaster	1,172	4,199	2.6%
Philadelphia	48,852	62,618	16.2%
June 2002			
State Total	95,312	256,553	6.3%
Lancaster	1,464	4,982	3.2%
Philadelphia	47,953	62,499	16.1%
June 2003			
State Total	97,625	280,722	6.8%
Lancaster	1,695	5,829	3.8%
Philadelphia	49,930	67,077	16.6%
July, 2004			
State Total	106,045	330,864	7.9%
Lancaster	2,300	7,761	5.1%
Philadelphia	49,149	78,478	18.9%

Self Sufficiency Standard for Lancaster, PA

PathwaysPA

Formerly Women's Association for Women's Alternatives

Table 12
The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Lancaster, PA MSA, 2004
Lancaster County

	Adult	Adult + Infant	Adult + Preschool	Adult + Infant Preschool	Adult + Schoolage teen	Adult + infant preschool	2 Adults + infant	2 Adults + preschooler
Monthly Costs								
Housing	500	624	624	624	624	814	624	624
Child Care	0	396	493	889	316	1205	889	809
Food	182	266	276	358	473	481	515	565
Transportation	205	210	210	210	210	210	404	404
Health Care	85	191	190	200	234	219	242	250
Miscellaneous	97	169	179	228	186	293	267	265
Taxes	225	317	373	520	223	685	542	533
Earned Income								
Tax Credit (-)	0	-87	-54	-20	-188	0	0	0
Child Care								
Tax Credit (-)	0	-75	-73	-130	-57	-105	-115	-115
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-83	-83	-167	-104	-250	-167	-167
Self-Sufficiency Wage								
-Hourly	\$7.35	\$10.96	\$12.13	\$15.41	\$10.89	\$20.18	\$9.10	\$9.00
-Monthly	\$1,294	\$1,929	\$2,135	\$2,712	\$1,917	\$3,552	<i>per adult</i> \$3,201	<i>per adult</i> \$3,168
-Annual	\$15,527	\$23,149	\$25,615	\$32,545	\$23,006	\$42,620	\$38,418	\$38,021

Source: The Self Sufficiency Standard for Pennsylvania, PathWaysPA. (www.pathwayspa.org)

The Self-Sufficiency Standard provides a measure that is customized to each family's circumstances, making it possible to determine if their incomes are adequate to meet their basic needs. *The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Pennsylvania* calculates the bare-minimum costs for housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, miscellaneous (clothing, shoes, household items, telephone, etc.), and federal, state and local taxes that working families in Pennsylvania face. The Child Care Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and Earned Income Tax Credit are also included in the calculations of the Standard. The result is a measure set at a level that is neither luxurious—or even comfortable—nor so low that it is insufficient to adequately provide for a family. This market-basket approach to document the cost of living for families takes into account family size, ages of children, geography, and the number of breadwinners, and thus more accurately reflects what it costs to support families in today's environment. Self-sufficiency means maintaining a decent standard of living and not having to choose between basic necessities—whether to meet one's need for child care but not for nutrition, or housing but not health care. Self-Sufficiency Wages are family-sustaining wages.

Demographics of Southeast Lancaster City:

The community known as the Southeast Area includes Lancaster City's poorest and most distressed areas. The area includes five census tracts: 8,9,14, 15 and 16, and a small portion of census tract 10. This area includes the state's first designated Weed and Seed site, and is adjacent to the city's Keystone Opportunity Zone. Our community also includes the South Duke Street Corridor. This corridor is identified in the Lancaster Economic Development Action Agenda, the citywide plan for economic development adopted by City Council in 1998, as being one of four major corridors critical to the successful revitalization of the city as a whole.

Ten years ago the Kids Count Project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation identified "distressed neighborhoods" across the country based on five risk factors:

- High poverty rate (above 27.5%)
- High percent of female headed families (above 39.6%)
- High percent of high school drop-outs (above 23.3%)
- High percent of males unattached to the labor force (above 46.5%)
- High percent of families receiving public assistance (above 17.0%)

A total of 330 census tracts in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are labeled distressed. Five of these census tracts are located in Lancaster City and all are located within this neighborhood.

In Poverty and Place (Paul A. Jargowsky, 1997), Lancaster was one of a number of communities across the country cited for an increase in the concentration of poverty in the past twenty years. This concentration was centered primarily in the southeast and southwest sections of the city. In 1970, none of the five complete census tracts that comprise our neighborhood had a poverty rate over 40%. By 1990, poverty rates in two of these census tracts exceeded 40%. According to the 2000 Census all of the five census tracts fully included in our neighborhood have poverty rates over 30% ,with one over 40%. The poverty rate for Lancaster City as a whole, based on the 2000 Census, is 21%.

In addition to poverty, crime is a major issue. In our analysis of police service calls for the years 2000 through 2002, reported assaults, robberies and drug activity complaints increased at a significantly higher rate in our neighborhood than in the city as a whole. For example, between 2001 and 2002, assault and robbery reports increased by 20% and 36%, respectively, in areas within the neighborhood: for the city as a whole the corresponding figures were only 10.9% and 1% respectively. Furthermore, reported assaults, robberies and drug activity in the community have accounted for a steadily increasing share of citywide complaints in those categories. In 2002, reported drug activity alone in the neighborhood area accounted for 80% of all drug related complaints within the city.

Declining real estate values in the neighborhood are also a significant. A 1999 study on the determinants of house prices in Lancaster City, conducted by a doctoral student from the University of Delaware, revealed that house prices had declined in the city's low income neighborhoods by nearly 25% during the 15 months prior to the study. Conversely, the study also found that in upper income neighborhoods within the city, housing values had increased by 6.5% during that same time period, indicating a huge disparity in wealth accumulation between lower and higher income homeowner populations. This income disparity is borne out by the 2000 Census, where the median value of owner occupied housing units in census tracts located within the neighborhood is roughly 80% of the median value of owner occupied housing units citywide. Furthermore the 2000 Census shows an anemic home ownership rate of 47% in the city as a whole. In the southeast area neighborhood the figure drops to 41%.

