

Nickel *and* Dimes

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Appalachian
STATE UNIVERSITY

FAST FACTS

Who's Poor in America?

33 million people, or 12% of the US population, live in poverty.

20% of US children under age 6 live in poverty. 40% of Hispanic and African American children are poor.

The US has a higher child poverty rate than almost any other western industrialized country.

35% of homeless people are families with children.

The US government recommends spending no more than 30% of household income on rent in order to maintain economic stability. In North Carolina, 40% of renters must pay more than this amount for rent.

Federal government spending on housing assistance is less than half of the amount spent 25 years ago.

On average, a household needs to earn \$14.66 an hour to afford fair market rent on a two-bedroom apartment.

The minimum wage set by the US government is \$5.15 an hour.

A person working for minimum wage in a fulltime job falls 28% below the poverty level set by the US government.

Women earn 78 cents for every dollar earned by men. This results in an average annual loss of \$4000 per US family.

In North Carolina, the average woman working full-time earns \$16,000 per year.

Over the past two decades, the poverty rate among working families has increased by nearly 50%.

43 million Americans have no health insurance.

Only 6% of families on welfare own a car. For many poor families, transportation is one of the major barriers to employment.

In the United States, 1% of the population owns 25% of the country's wealth.

Sources:

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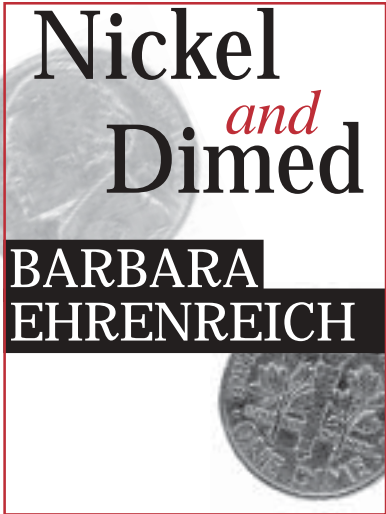
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US Census Bureau. United States Department of Commerce. <www.census.gov> (2003, April 14).

National Center for Children in Poverty. <www.nccp.org> (2003, April 14).

National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness. <www.nscanh.org> (2003, April 14).

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**MEDIAN INCOME: FULL-TIME WORKERS
25 AND OLDER**

Education Level	Males	Females
9th to 12th grade	\$25,094	\$17,918
High school degree	34,302	24,967
Some college	40,339	28,695
Bachelor's degree	56,334	40,413
Master's degree	68,309	50,139
Professional degree	99,435	58,978

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Source: "Median Income of People By Selected Characteristics," Income 2000, Census Bureau, 2001, Table 7.

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