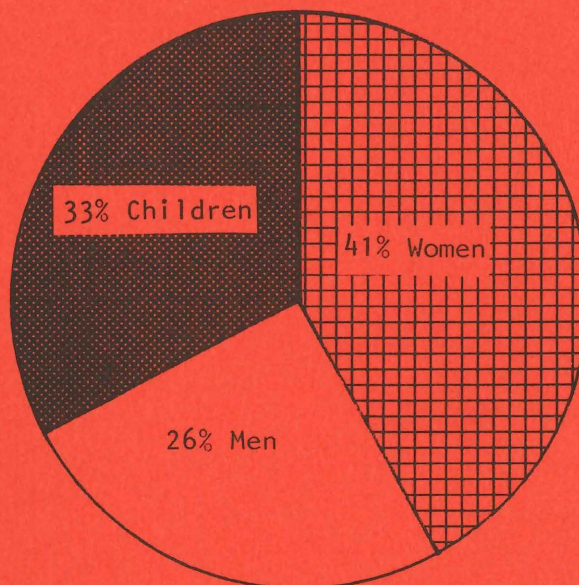




MINNESOTA WOMEN & POVERTY

DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY
IN MINNESOTA, 1979



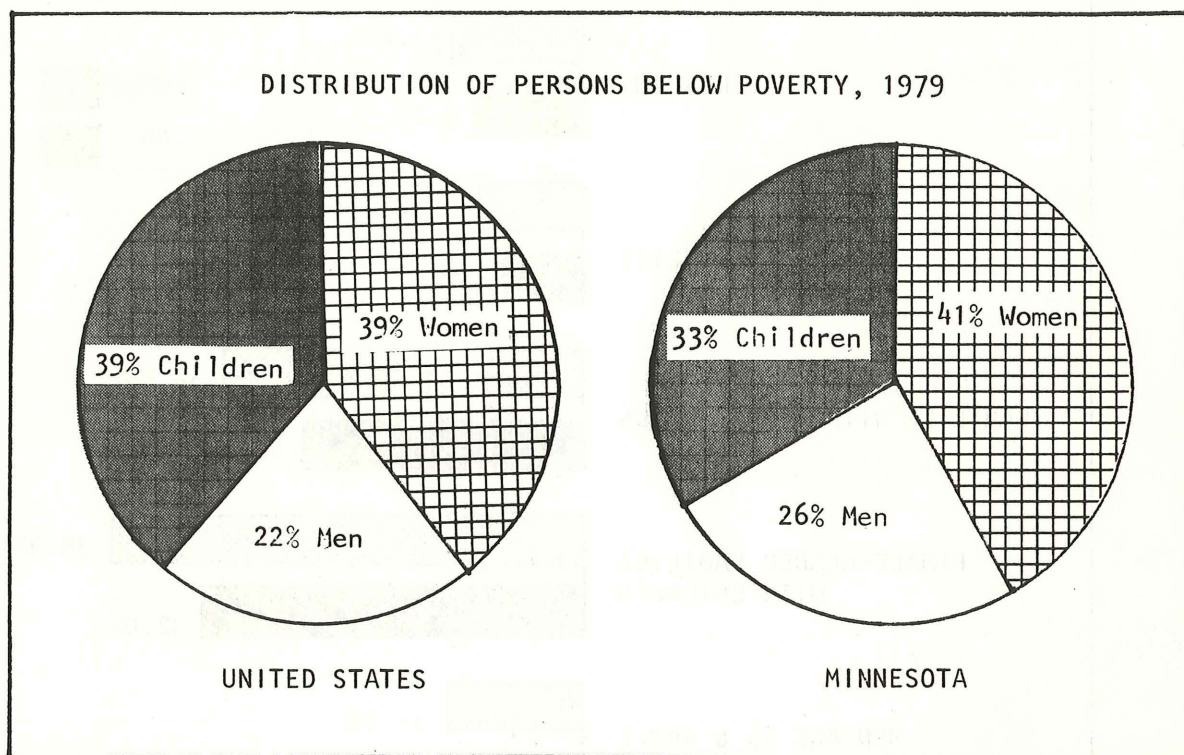
Commission on the Economic Status of Women

59-B State Capitol • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155 • (612) 296-8590

January 1985

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MINNESOTA WOMEN & POVERTY



INTRODUCTION

Poverty rates -- the percentage of a particular group with income below the poverty level--are higher for women than for men. More than 374,000 Minnesotans were living in poverty in 1979. Of these, 41 percent were women, 33 percent were children and 26 percent were men.

The majority of poor people, nationally and in Minnesota, are women and children. In Minnesota women are a greater portion of the poverty population than they are nationally.

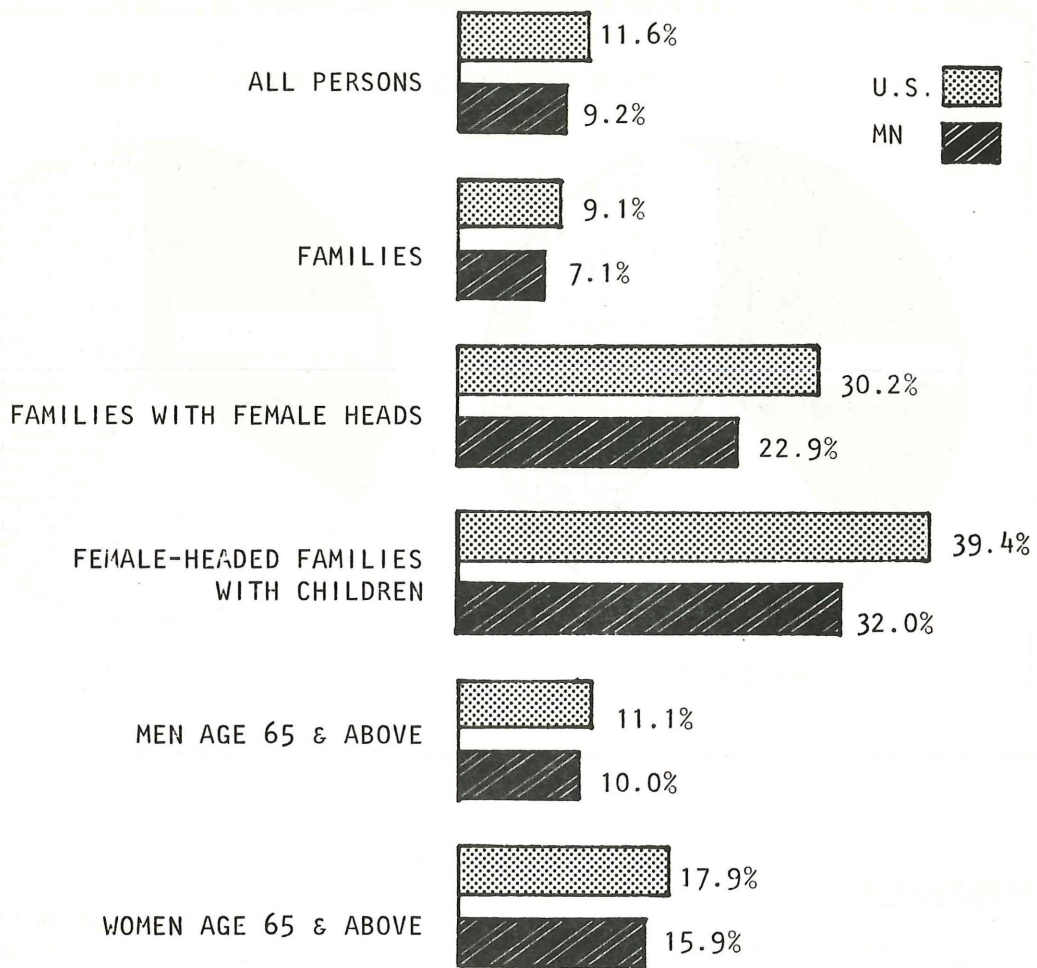
The composition of the poverty population has changed dramatically over the last three decades. In 1959, 70 percent of persons in poverty were in married-couple or male-headed families and only 17 percent of persons in poverty were female-headed families.

By 1980 less than half (43 percent) of poor persons lived in married-couple or male-headed families and over one-third (37 percent) of poor persons lived in female-headed families. In 1980, women not in families were 15 percent of poor persons in the U.S. It is estimated that if present trends continue, the entire poverty population will be women and children by the year 2000.

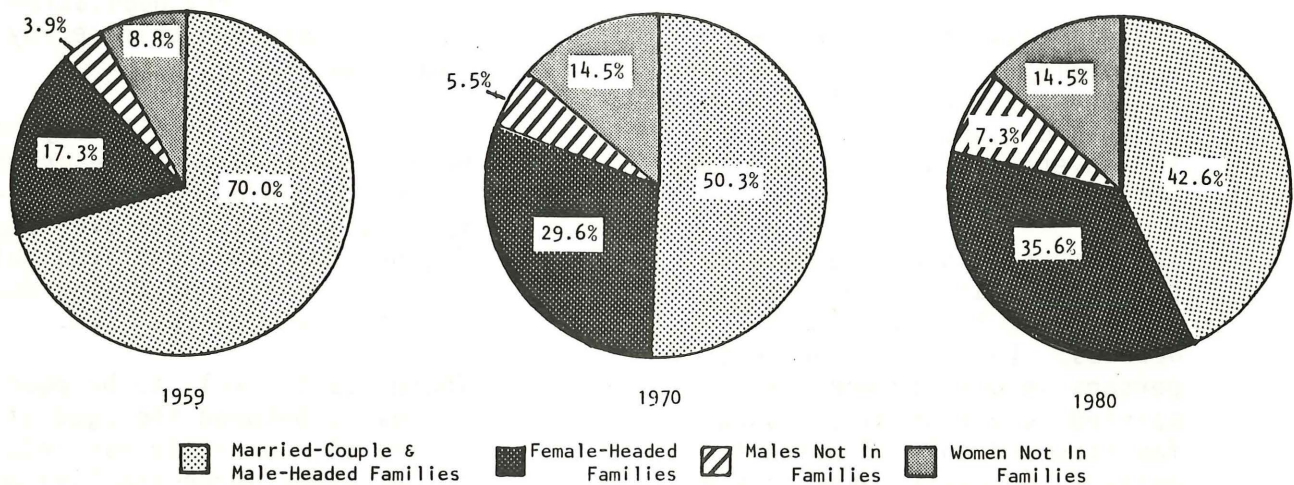
Minnesotans are most likely to be poor if they meet one or more of the following criteria: female, under age 24 or over age 75, not currently married, not in the labor force and living outside the Twin Cities area.

Those least likely to be poor are male, between the ages of 25 and 64, currently married, in the labor force and living in the Twin Cities.

PERCENT OF SELECTED GROUPS BELOW POVERTY, 1979



CHANGING COMPOSITION OF THE POVERTY POPULATION



U.S. POVERTY LEVEL

Thresholds at the Poverty Level in 1979 by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years

(Figures in dollars. For meaning of symbols, see Introduction)

Size of Family Unit	Weighted average thresholds	Related children under 18 years								
		None	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 or more
1 person (unrelated individual).....	3,686	3,686	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Under 65 years.....	3,774	3,774	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 years and over.....	3,479	3,479	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 persons.....	4,723	4,723	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Householder under 65 years.....	4,876	4,858	5,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Householder 65 years and over.....	4,389	4,385	4,981	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3 persons.....	5,787	5,674	5,839	5,844	...	...	...	...	...	...
4 persons.....	7,412	7,482	7,605	7,356	7,382	...	...	...	...	...
5 persons.....	8,776	9,023	9,154	8,874	8,657	8,525	...	...	...	...
6 persons.....	9,915	10,378	10,419	10,205	9,999	9,693	9,512	...	...	...
7 persons.....	11,237	11,941	12,016	11,759	11,580	11,246	10,857	10,429	...	...
8 persons.....	12,484	13,356	13,473	13,231	13,018	12,717	12,334	11,936	11,835	...
9 or more persons.....	14,812	16,066	16,144	15,929	15,749	15,453	15,046	14,677	14,586	14,024

U.S. POVERTY LEVELS

Each year the U.S. government sets the poverty level for families and individuals. The poverty levels are based on a definition originated by the Social Security Administration. Income data for the 1980 census is based on 1979 earnings, therefore the 1979 poverty levels were the basis for defining poverty in the 1980 census.

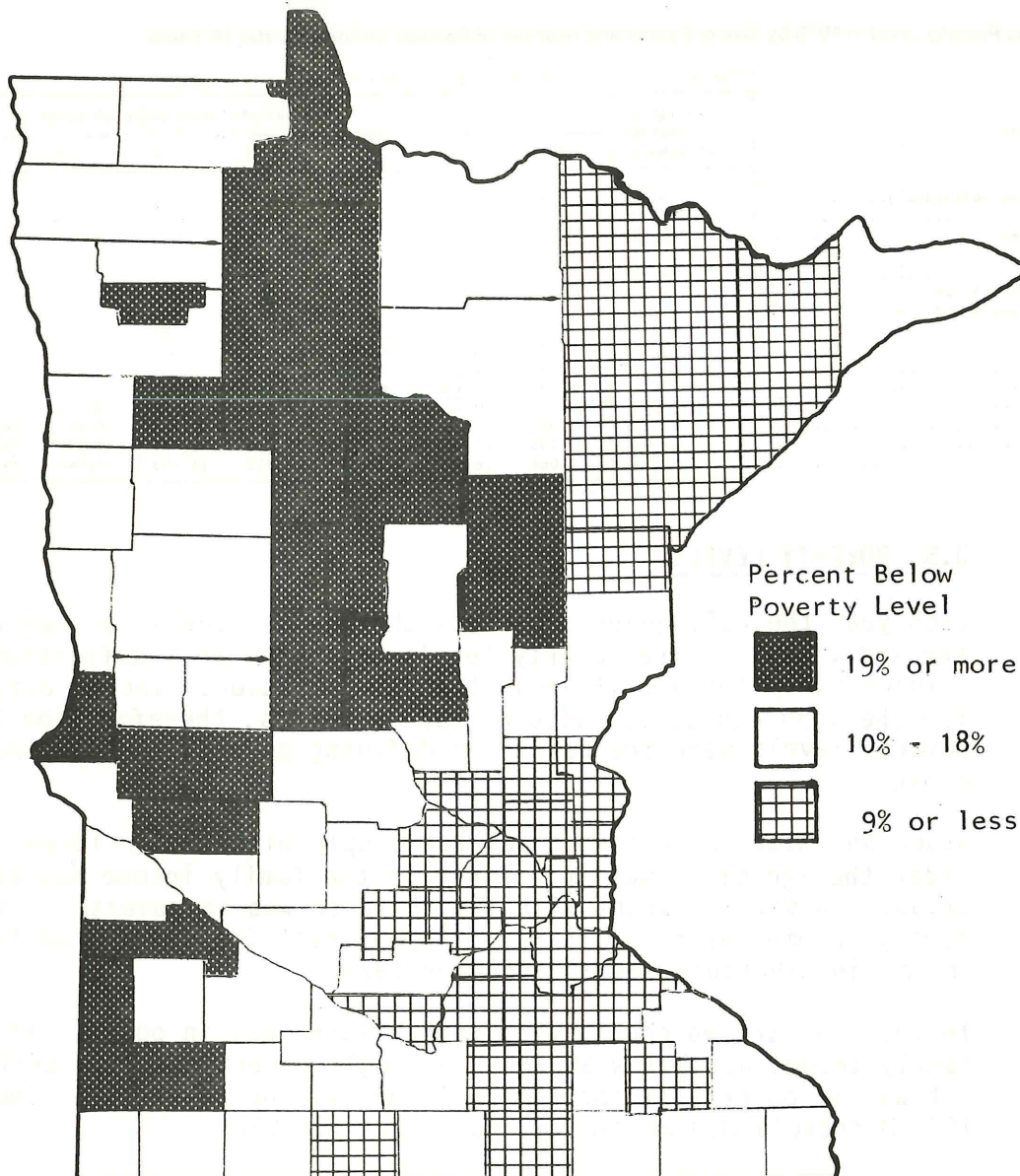
Based on these guidelines a married couple with two children under the age of 18 was in poverty if the family income was below \$7,356. A single parent with two children was in poverty if the family income was below \$5,844. By contrast the median family income in Minnesota was \$19,959 for 1979.

In 1982, a married couple with two children was in poverty if the family income was below \$9,783. A single parent with two children was in poverty if the family income was below \$7,772. The 1982 Minnesota Median family income was \$24,027.

Thresholds at the Poverty Level in 1982, by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years Old

Size of family unit	Weighted average thresholds	Related children under 18 years								
		None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight or more
One person (unrelated individual).....	\$ 4,901									
Under 65 years.....	5,019	\$ 5,019								
65 years and over.....	4,626	4,626								
Two persons.....	6,281									
Householder under 65 years.....	6,487	6,459	\$ 6,649							
Householder 65 years and over.....	5,836	5,831	6,624							
Three persons.....	7,693	7,546	7,765	\$ 7,772						
Four persons.....	9,862	9,950	10,112	9,783	\$ 9,817					
Five persons.....	11,684	11,999	12,173	11,801	11,512	\$11,336				
Six persons.....	13,207	13,801	13,855	13,570	13,296	12,890	\$12,649			
Seven persons.....	15,036	15,879	15,979	15,637	15,399	14,955	14,437	\$13,869		
Eight persons.....	16,719	17,760	17,917	17,594	17,312	16,911	16,403	15,872	\$15,738	
Nine persons or more.....	19,698	21,364	21,468	21,183	20,943	20,549	20,008	19,517	19,397	\$18,649

POVERTY by AGE & REGION



POVERTY RATES BY AGE & REGION

More than a quarter of a million adult Minnesotans had incomes below the poverty level in 1979, and three-fifths of these poor people were women.

Fifteen percent of Minnesota's poor live in the poorest fourth of Minnesota's counties. Fifty percent of Minnesota's poor live in the most affluent fourth of Minnesota's counties.

Poverty rates are highest for

both men and women among those ages 18 to 21 and among those age 65 and over. The highest rates, 19 percent for women and 13 percent for men, are for persons age 75 and above.

Six percent of women and five percent of men age 40 to 54 are poor, the lowest rate for any age group. This is explained in part by the fact that most people this age are married and living with their spouses, a life stage which is associated with economic well-being.

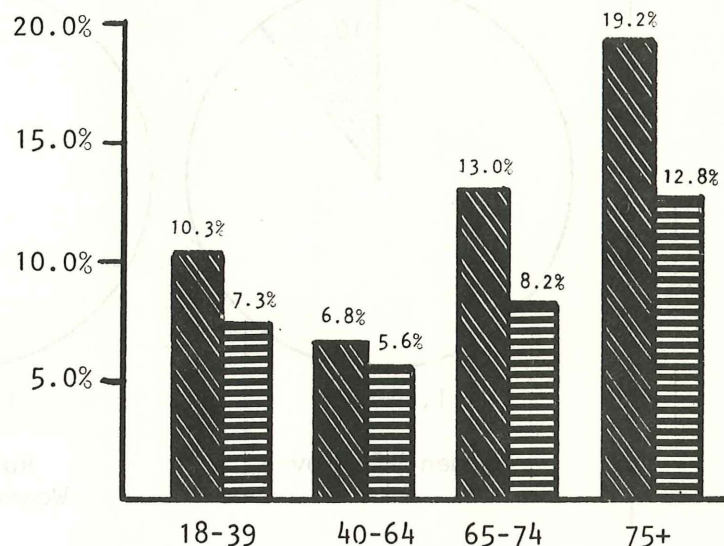
More than one-fourth of poor women (29 percent) are age 65 and over. Only 20 percent of poor men are in this age group. Because of the large numbers of older women and their high poverty rates, older women in poverty outnumber their male counterparts by more than two to one.

Poverty rates are consistently higher in the balance of the state than in region 11*. However, differences by sex and age are evident in both regions. Poverty rates for women are 13 percent in the balance of the state compared with eight percent in region 11. Comparable rates are ten percent and five percent for men.

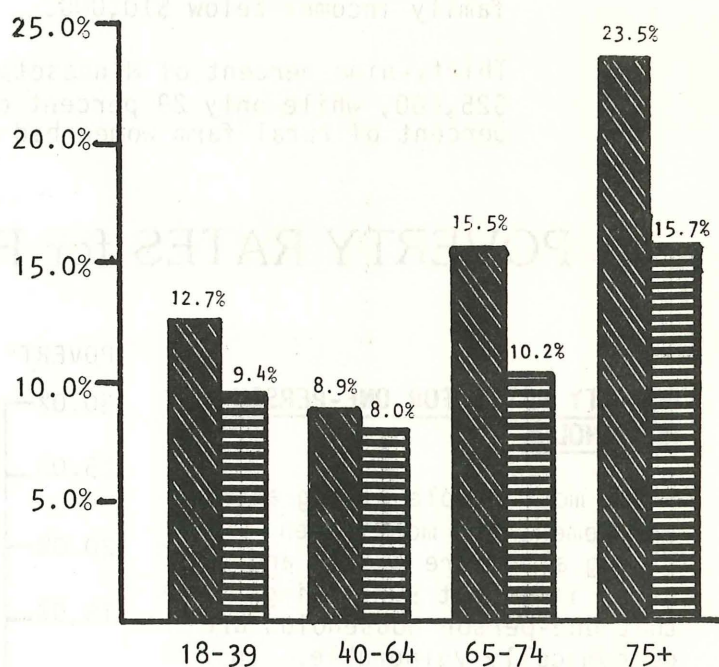
The highest rate by region and age is for women age 75 and over living outside the Twin Cities area. Almost one-quarter of these women had poverty level incomes in 1979.

Female Male

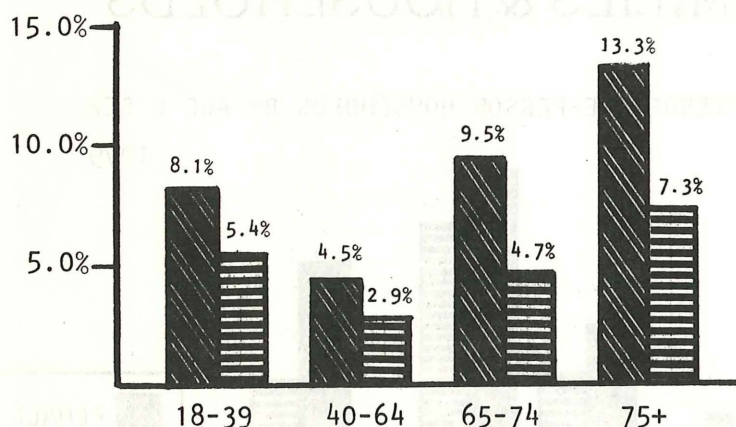
MINNESOTA



BALANCE OF STATE

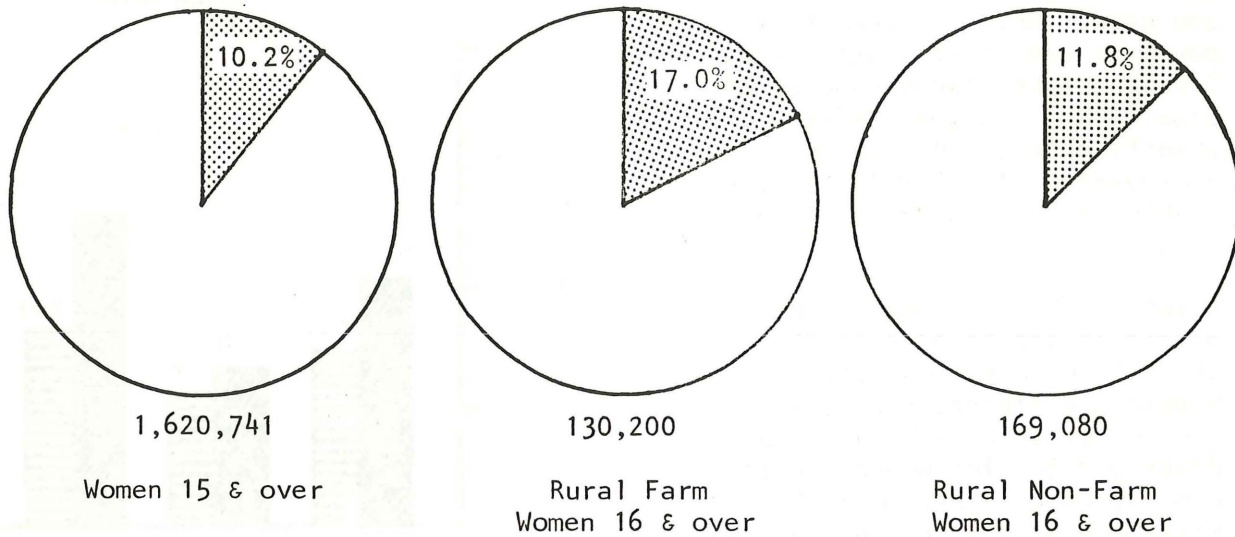


*REGION 11



*Region 11 includes the seven county Twin Cities area: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington counties.

MINNESOTA WOMEN IN POVERTY, 1979



In 1979, as reported in the 1980 census, 17 percent of Minnesota families had income below \$10,000. Twenty-six percent of rural non-farm women and 28 percent of rural farm women had family incomes below \$10,000.

Thirty-nine percent of Minnesota families had incomes above \$25,000, while only 29 percent of rural non-farm women and 26 percent of rural farm women had family incomes that high.

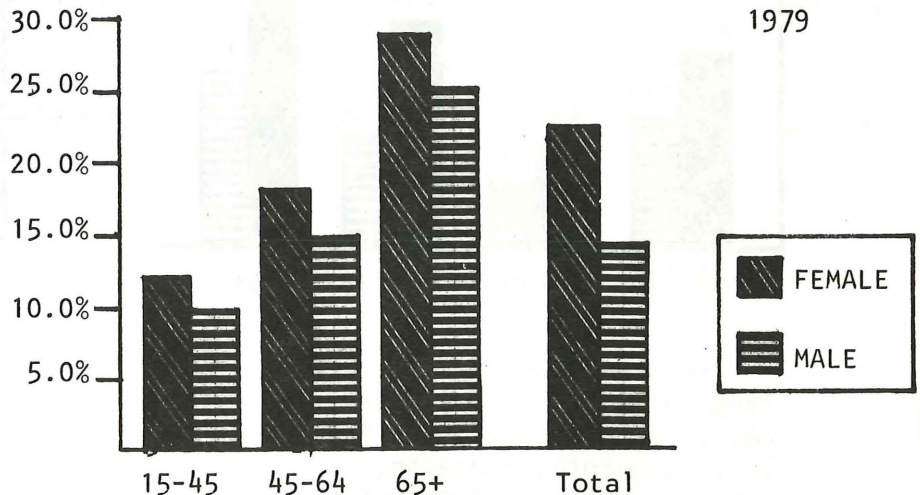
POVERTY RATES for FAMILIES & HOUSEHOLDS

POVERTY RATES FOR ONE-PERSON HOUSEHOLDS

Since most people living alone are women, and most women living alone are age 65 and over, it is not surprising that one-person households are economically vulnerable. In addition, these households are usually supported by only one person, while most Minnesota families (61 percent) have more than one wage earner.

POVERTY RATES OF ONE-PERSON HOUSEHOLDS BY AGE & SEX:

1979



Median income for female one-person households was \$6,483 in 1979, 59 percent of the \$11,039 median for male one-person households. Both figures are well below the average of \$22,533 for married-couple families in the state.

For both men and women living alone, median income decreases at older ages. For female one-person households, the median ranges from \$10,006 for those under age 45 to \$4,610 for those age 65 and over. For their male counterparts, the median ranges from \$13,311 for those under age 45 to \$5,193 for those age 65 and over.

About 17 percent of poor men and about 28 percent of poor women live alone. This is particularly true of older women: 73 percent of poor women age 75 and over live alone.

POVERTY RATES BY FAMILY TYPE

People living in families are generally less likely than those in non-family households to be poor. Twenty-two percent of women living alone and 15 percent of men living alone are poor. By contrast about seven percent of families have poverty level incomes.

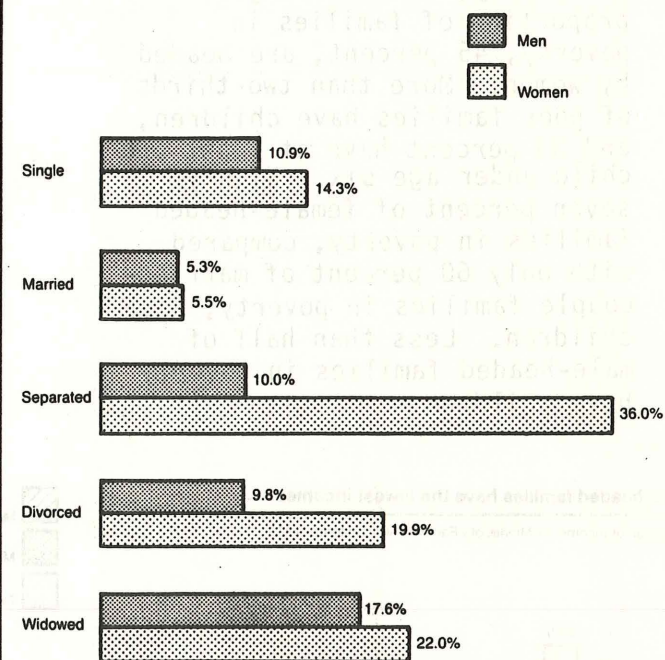
Families with children have a higher poverty rate, at nine percent, than those without children, at five percent. Those with preschool-age children are more likely than those with only school-age children to be poor, 11 percent compared with seven percent.

Married people are much less likely than those in other marital situations to be in poverty. Only 31 percent of poor women are married, compared with 57 percent of women in the general population. Forty-five percent of poor men are married, compared with 61 percent of men generally.

More than one in three women in poverty are widowed (22 percent), separated (4 percent) or divorced (11 percent). Only about one in ten poor men are widowed (5 percent), separated (1 percent) or divorced (6 percent).

Married people have the lowest poverty rates

Poverty Rates by Marital Status for Persons 15 and Over in Minnesota, 1979

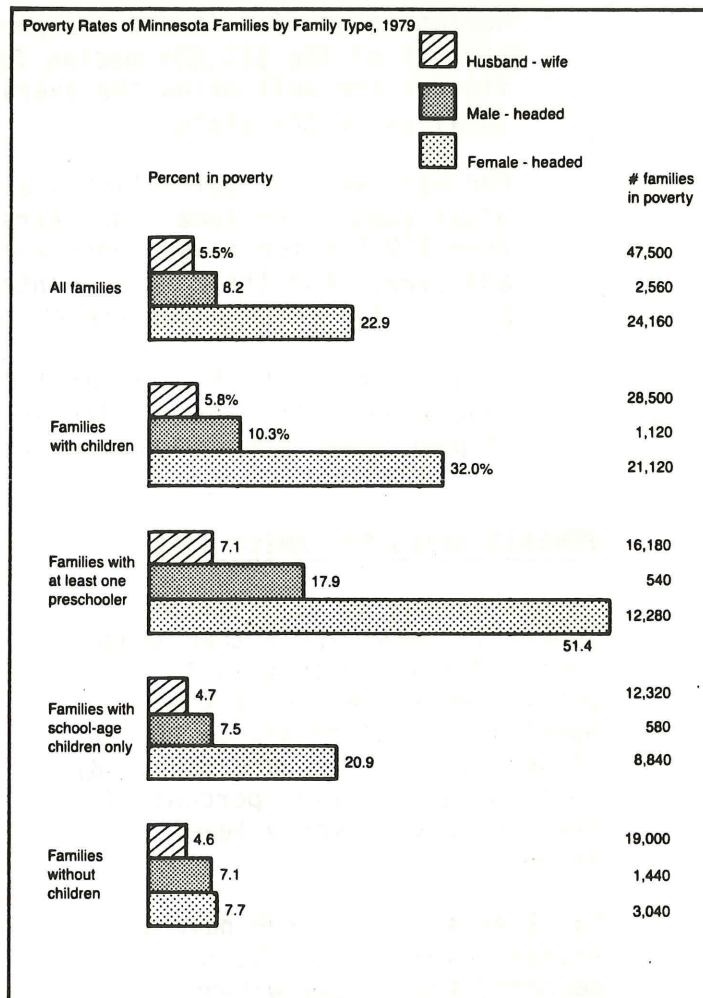


There were more than 74,000 Minnesota families with incomes below the poverty level in 1979. Of these 64 percent were married-couple families, 33 percent were female-headed families and three percent were male-headed families.

Although female-headed families represent only 13 percent of families in Minnesota, they account for 33 percent of families living in poverty. The proportion of poor families headed by women represents a large increase in the last decade, up from one-fourth to one-third of all poor families in Minnesota.

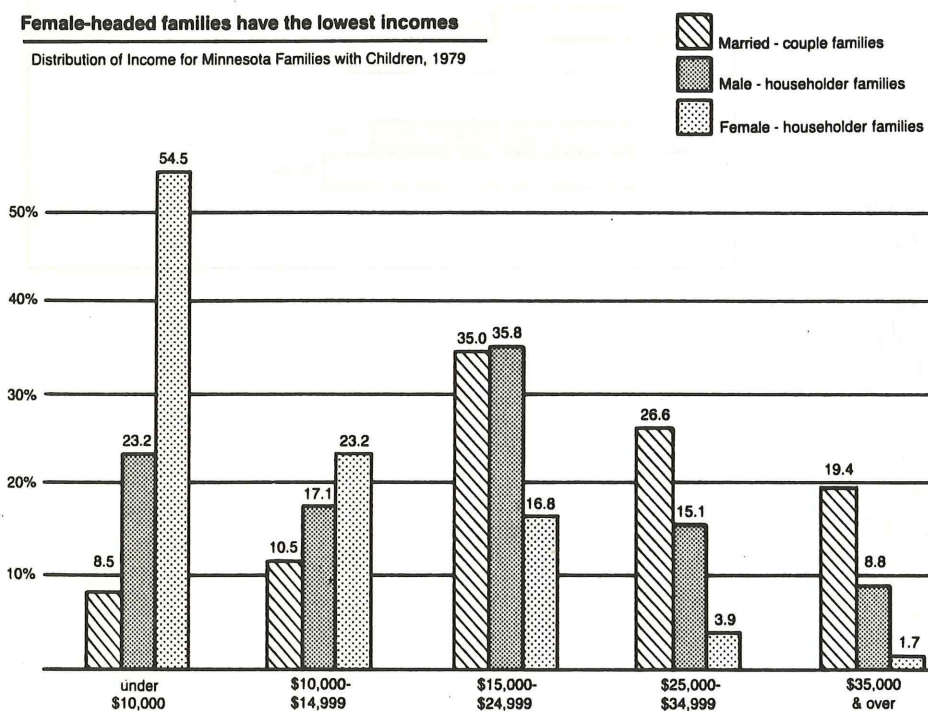
Nationally, an even larger proportion of families in poverty, 45 percent, are headed by women. More than two-thirds of poor families have children, and 39 percent have at least one child under age six. Eighty-seven percent of female-headed families in poverty, compared with only 60 percent of married-couple families in poverty, have children. Less than half of male-headed families in poverty have children.

Female-headed families are the most likely to be in poverty



Female-headed families have the lowest incomes

Distribution of Income for Minnesota Families with Children, 1979

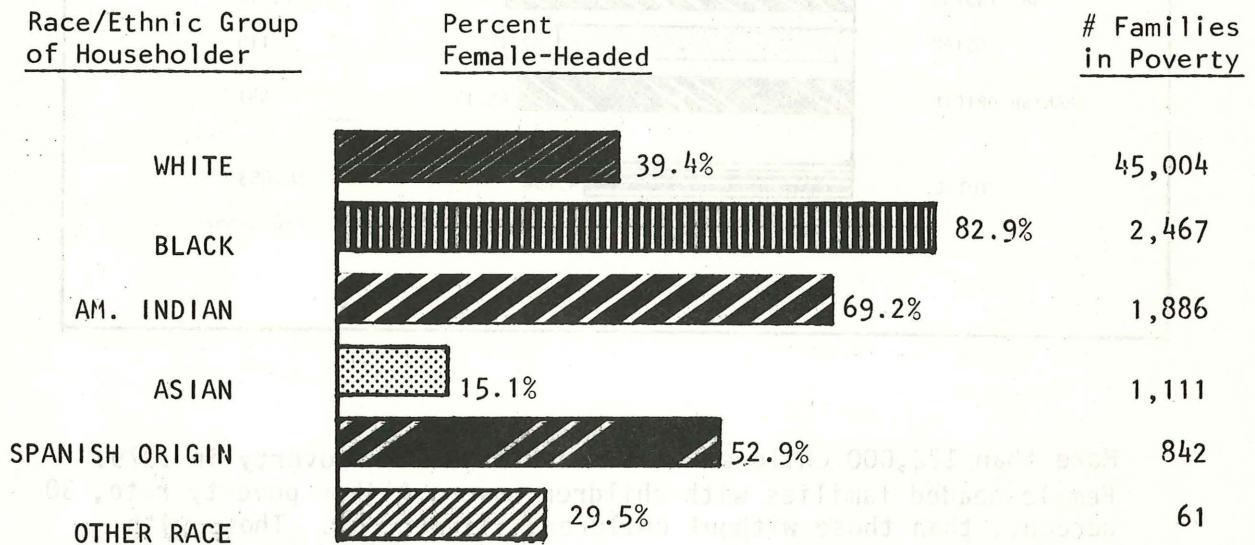


Families maintained by women with no spouse present are most vulnerable to poverty: 23 percent of these families compared with five percent of husband-wife families and eight percent of male-headed families had income below the poverty level in 1979.

Median income for male-headed families is 80 percent of the median income for married couples, while for female-headed families it is only 50 percent of the married couple median.

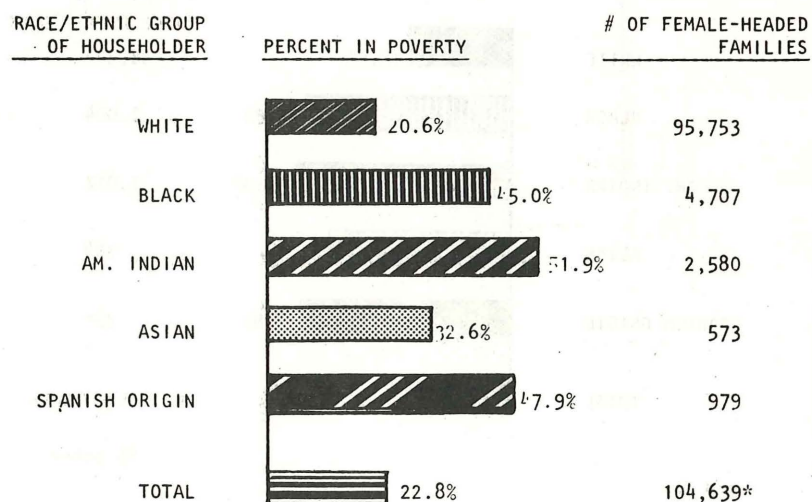
In every racial group female-headed families were a disproportionately large number of the families in poverty in 1979. Over two-thirds of black and American Indian families in poverty were headed by women. Over half of Spanish origin families in poverty were headed by women. And nearly 40 percent of white families in poverty were headed by women.

FEMALE-HEADED SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES AS A
PERCENT OF FAMILIES IN POVERTY IN MINNESOTA, 1979



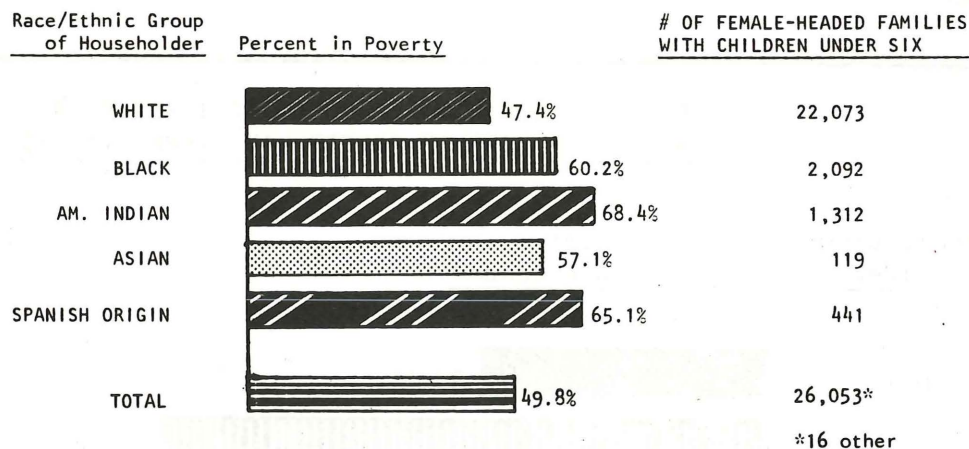
Over 20 percent of white female-headed families and almost half of black and Spanish origin female-headed families were poor in 1979. Over half of American Indian female-headed families were in poverty in 1979.

FEMALE-HEADED FAMILIES IN POVERTY IN MINNESOTA, 1979



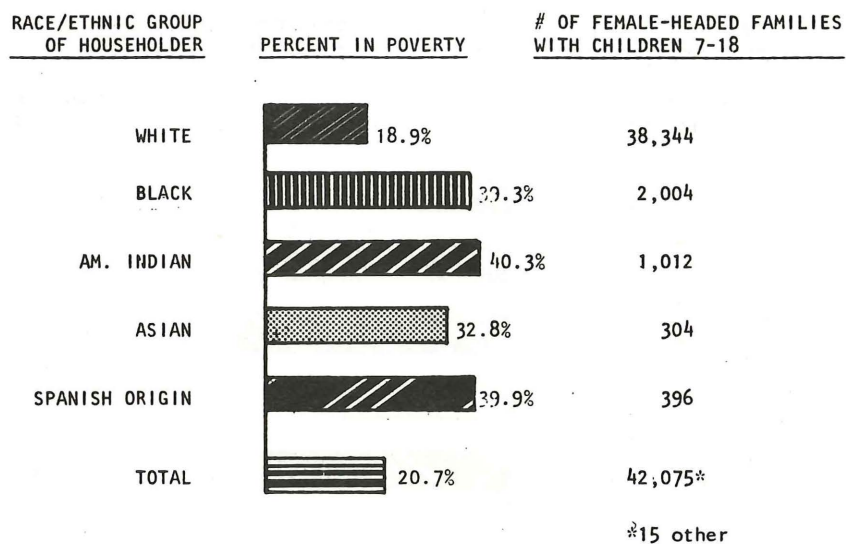
*47 other

**FEMALE-HEADED FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER SIX
IN POVERTY IN MINNESOTA, 1979**

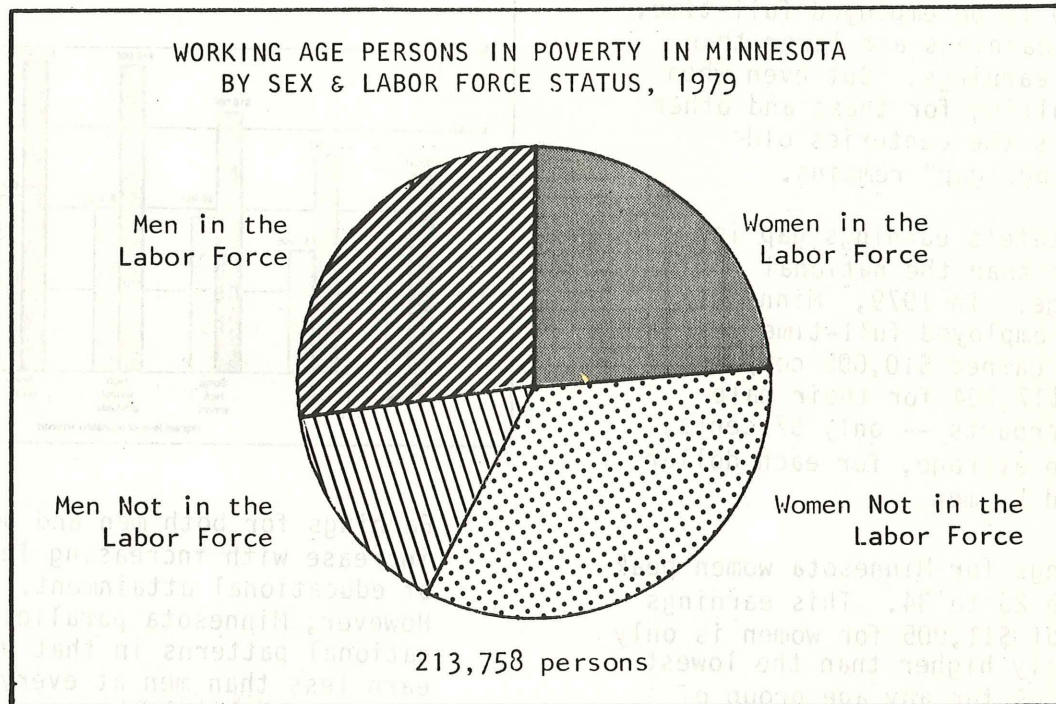


More than 122,000 children in Minnesota were in poverty in 1979. Female-headed families with children have a higher poverty rate, 30 percent, than those without children, six percent. Those with preschool-age children are more likely than those with only school-age children to be poor, 50 percent compared with 21 percent.

**FEMALE-HEADED FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN 7-18
IN POVERTY IN MINNESOTA, 1979**



POVERTY by LABOR FORCE STATUS



POVERTY RATES AND LABOR FORCE STATUS

Not surprisingly, persons not in the labor force are more likely to be poor, up to three times as likely as those who are in the labor force. Overall, 15 percent of women not in the labor force and 14 percent of men not in the labor force are poor.

In 1979, there were 213,758 persons of working age in poverty in Minnesota. Fifty-seven percent were women and 43 percent were men.

Forty-two percent of working age (16-64) women and 63 percent of working age men with poverty level income are in the labor force. The lower rate for women may be explained in part by the lack of adequate child care, since poor women are far more likely than their male counterparts to be single-parents of preschoolers.

This compares to an overall labor force participation rate of 86 percent for men and 64 percent for women. The labor force participation rate for people of working age is lower for those in poverty than for the general population. However the majority of poor people are in the labor force.

EARNINGS

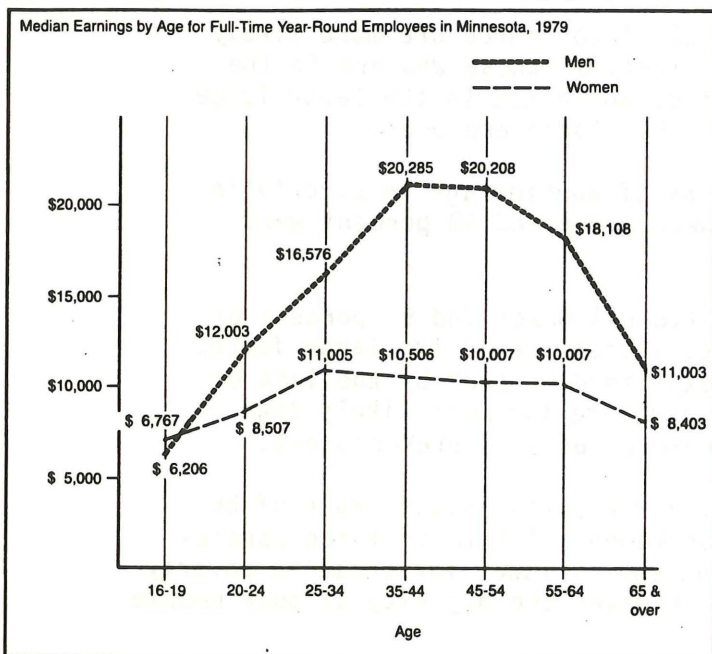
EARNINGS

Earnings are the most important source of income for both men and women. Since women are less likely to be employed full-time, their earnings are lower than men's earnings. But even when controlling for these and other factors the centuries old "earnings gap" remains.

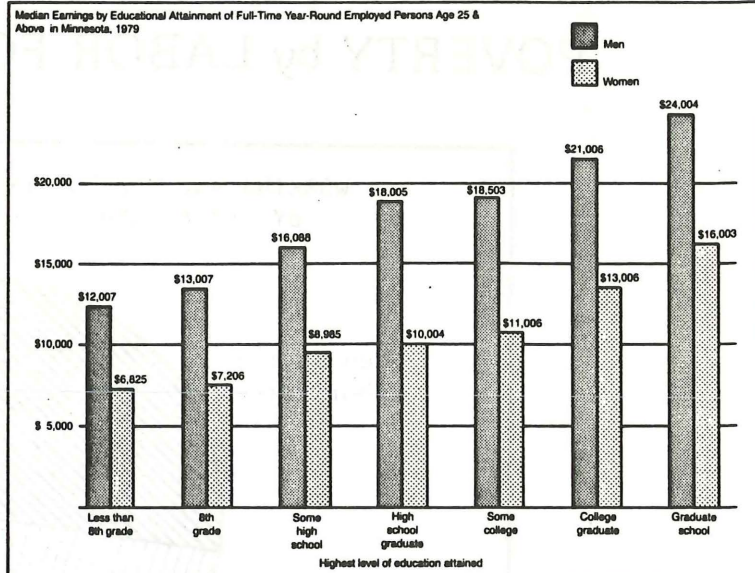
The state's earnings gap is larger than the national average. In 1979, Minnesota women employed full-time year-round earned \$10,005 compared with \$17,704 for their male counterparts -- only 57 cents, on the average, for each dollar earned by men.

Earnings for Minnesota women peak at age 25 to 34. This earnings peak of \$11,005 for women is only slightly higher than the lowest earnings for any age group of men -- \$11,003 for those age 65 and over.

Women's earnings remain fairly constant across different age groups



Female college graduates earn less than male high school dropouts



Earnings for both men and women increase with increasing levels of educational attainment. However, Minnesota parallels national patterns in that women earn less than men at every educational level.

On average female college graduates earn about the same as men with an eighth grade education -- and women who have attended graduate school earn less than male high school dropouts.

Female high school graduates earn 56 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts, while female college graduates earn 62 cents for every dollar earned by men with this much education. The earnings gap has been widely studied, and the gap persists even when controlling for factors such as occupation, industry, geographic area, labor force experience and other characteristics of employed persons and their jobs.

TABLES

Persons in Poverty by Age and Region: 1979

Age and Sex	Minnesota		Region 11		Balance of State	
	Total Population	% In Poverty	Total Population	% In Poverty	Total Population	% In Poverty
CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18	1,174,202	10.4%	557,087	7.8%	617,115	12.8%
WOMEN AGE 18 AND OVER	1,505,769	10.2	749,686	7.5	756,083	12.9
Age 18 to 21	164,249	16.0	78,905	13.1	85,344	18.6
Age 22 to 39	578,283	8.7	320,469	6.9	257,814	10.8
Age 40 to 54	294,233	5.9	147,894	3.8	146,339	8.1
Age 55 to 59	97,107	7.2	45,859	4.8	51,248	9.2
Age 60 to 64	89,580	9.1	38,813	6.8	50,767	10.9
Age 65 to 74	150,174	13.0	61,671	9.5	88,503	15.5
Age 75 and Over	132,143	19.2	56,075	13.3	76,068	23.5
MEN AGE 18 AND OVER	1,395,999	7.1	679,100	4.6	716,899	9.5
Age 18 to 21	158,373	10.4	75,425	7.3	82,948	13.2
Age 22 to 39	579,206	6.5	312,597	5.0	266,609	8.2
Age 40 to 54	289,352	5.2	144,230	2.5	145,122	7.8
Age 55 to 59	91,596	5.5	42,969	3.0	48,627	7.8
Age 60 to 64	80,371	6.9	33,557	4.2	46,814	8.8
Age 65 to 74	119,746	8.2	43,618	4.7	76,128	10.2
Age 75 and Over	77,355	12.8	26,704	7.3	50,651	15.7

Source: STF 4 PB 114

Families in Poverty by Parental Status: 1979

Family Type	Minnesota
	Percent in Poverty
TOTAL FAMILIES	7.1%
Without children	4.9
With children	8.9
Under 6	11.4
6 to 17 only	6.9
Married-Couple Families	5.2
Without children	4.6
With children	5.8
Under 6	7.1
6 to 17 only	4.7
Female-Headed Families	22.9
Without children	7.7
With children	32.0
Under 6	51.4
6 to 17 only	20.9
Male-Headed Families	8.2
Without children	7.1
With children	10.3
Under 6	16.9
6 to 17 only	7.5

Source: PUMS

Income and Poverty Rates of One-Person Households by Age: 1979

One Person Households With Income	Minnesota							
	Women				Men			
	Total	15-45	45 to 64	65 and Over	Total	15-45	45 to 64	65 and Over
Percent Distribution	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Less than \$5,000	38.5	16.6	24.2	54.7	22.4	12.7	20.6	47.8
\$5,000 to \$9,999	31.1	31.0	30.8	31.3	22.5	20.3	18.6	31.3
\$10,000 to \$14,999	16.9	30.1	22.4	8.3	18.7	23.3	14.9	10.5
\$15,000 to \$24,999	11.3	20.0	18.6	4.4	26.5	34.3	28.3	6.0
\$25,000 to \$49,999	1.8	2.1	3.5	1.0	8.3	8.4	14.1	3.3
\$50,000 and over	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	1.6	1.1	3.5	1.1
Median Income	\$ 6,483	\$10,006	\$9,006	\$4,610	\$11,039	\$13,311	\$13,220	\$5,193
Poverty Rate	22.4%	12.0%	18.6%	28.9%	14.5%	9.9%	15.0%	25.3%

Source: PUMS

Persons 16 and over in Poverty by Age and Labor Force Status: 1979

Labor Force Status	Minnesota	
	Percent in Poverty	
	Females	Males
TOTAL, AGE 16 AND OVER	10.6%	7.7%
In Labor Force	6.3	5.5
Not in Labor Force	15.3	14.3
AGE 16 TO 44	10.0	7.6
In Labor Force	7.1	5.9
Not in Labor Force	15.6	17.9
AGE 45 TO 64	7.6	6.3
In Labor Force	3.7	4.4
Not in Labor Force	11.6	13.4
AGE 65 AND OVER	16.8	10.8
In Labor Force	6.4	5.0
Not in Labor Force	17.8	12.1

Source: PUMS

Persons Age 15 and Over in Poverty by Age and Marital Status: 1979

Age	Minnesota				
	Percent in Poverty				
	Single	Married	Separated	Divorced	Widowed
FEMALES, 15 AND OVER	14.3%	5.5%	36.0%	19.9%	22.0%
15 to 24	14.8	7.2	40.1	34.1	42.9
25 to 44	10.0	5.1	37.9	18.8	18.4
45 to 64	14.2	4.7	28.2	15.2	16.3
65 to 74	18.5	7.0	24.2	25.8	20.3
75 and over	23.0	10.7	63.6	37.2	26.9
MALES, 15 AND OVER	10.9	5.3	10.0	9.8	17.6
15 to 24	10.9	7.2	12.3	8.1	0.0
25 to 44	8.0	5.0	4.6	7.8	14.6
45 to 64	15.8	4.5	13.6	11.3	13.8
65 to 74	20.9	5.8	41.2	19.4	15.1
75 and over	28.3	10.6	42.9	27.4	20.9

Source: PUMS