

BOSTON POVERTY DATA OVER THE DECADE OF THE 1990s: Bad News for the Elderly, Some Good News for Children, Families with Children, & Single Parent Families

- The elderly and individuals 18 to 64 years of age accounted for all of the increase in poverty in the city.

- Boston's poverty rate rose from 18.7% to 19.5% during the 1990's.

- The number of families living in poverty increased only slightly, while families with children saw a decline.



The poverty rate for the city of Boston has increased over the past 10 years. The total number of people living in poverty grew by 7,038 from 102,092 to 109,128, making Boston's poverty rate rise from 18.7% to 19.5%.

The Bad News

During the decade of the 90's, the increase in the total number of people living in poverty was seen primarily among the elderly and individuals 18 to 64 years of age.

The Elderly. While the number of elderly in Boston decreased between 1990 and 2000, they were hit the hardest, with an increase of almost three percentage points in the poverty rate for elderly persons 65+. The number of elderly living in poverty grew by 1,046 from 9,386 to 10,432 and the poverty rate went from 15.3% to 18.2%. The increase in elderly living in poverty represented 14.9% of the total growth in persons living in poverty in the city.

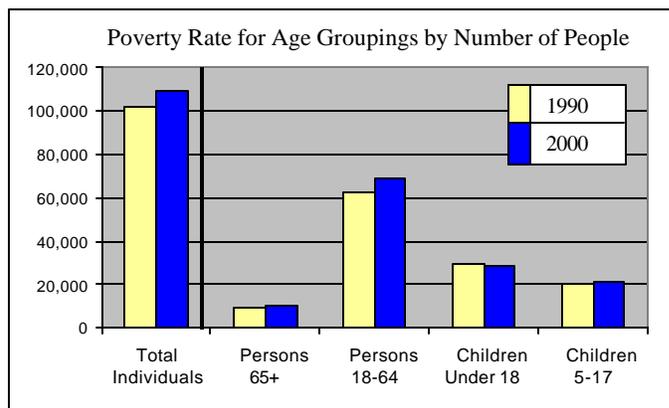
The 18 to 64 Population. The number of individuals 18 to 64 living in poverty grew by 6,863. This change

accounts for most of the total increase of individuals living in poverty in Boston. However, due to the simultaneous rise in the number of persons in this age group, the corresponding poverty rate advanced only slightly from 15.6% to 16.8%.

Families. The number of families living in poverty remained stable with a slight increase of 294, going from 17,598 to 17,982 and a poverty rate from 15% to 15.3%. Families with children, however, received some good news as shown below.

Some Good News

Despite an overall increase in the number of people living in poverty in Boston,



during the past decade, children, families with children, and female headed single parent families - saw decreases in poverty rates. The good news, however, is tempered by the fact that there are still very large numbers of children and families living in poverty and the poverty rate for single parent families remain shockingly high.

Children Under 18. The number of children living in poverty decreased slightly by 894 from 29,822 to 28,928 and the corresponding poverty rate from 28.0% to 25.6%.

Children 5 to 17. Although the number of school age children aged 5 to 17 living in poverty increased slightly by 979 from 20,083 to 21,062

POVERTY DATA CENSUS 2000	1990		2000		Change in Poverty Rate
	Number	%	Number	%	
GROUPS					Direction
Total individuals	102,092	18.7	109,128	19.5	+
Persons 65+	9,386	15.3	10,432	18.2	+
Persons 18-64	62,334	15.6	69,197	16.8	+
Children under 18	29,822	28.0	28,928	25.6	-
Children 5-17	20,083	28.1	21,062	25.7	-
Families	17,598	15.0	17,892	15.3	+
Families with children	13,980	23.9	13,811	22.2	-
Single parent families – female headed	11,765	31.1	11,275	29.0	-
with children under 18	10,554	44.4	9,801	37.4	-
with children under 5	5,688	54.6	4,549	45.6	-

21,062, the poverty rate for these children dropped from 28.1% to 25.7%.

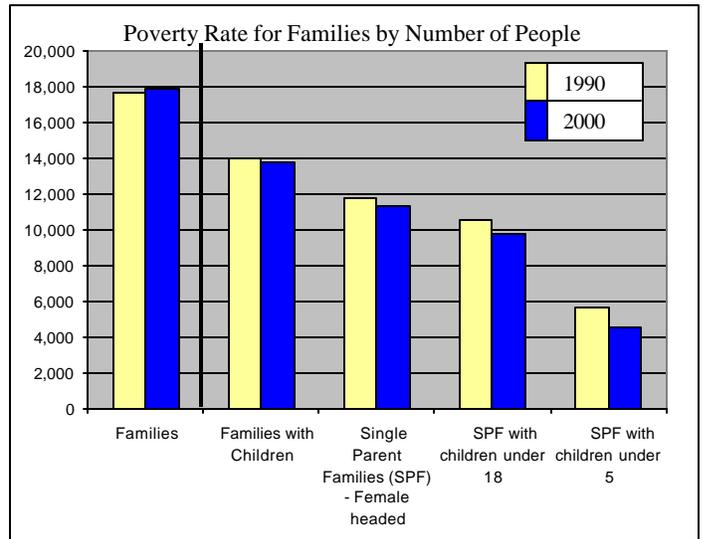
Families with Children. The number and percentage of families with children living in poverty remained stable with a small decline of 169 from 13,980 to 13,811, while the poverty rate declined slightly from 23.9% to 22.2%.

Female Headed Single Parent Families. The poverty rate for single

parent families headed by females decreased from 31.1% to 29% and the number of these families declined by 490.

With children under 18. The poverty rate slid from 44.4% to 37.4% and the number of families dropped by 753.

With children under 5. The poverty rate dropped from 54.6% to 45.6% and the number of families by 1,139.



Boston Poverty Data over the Decade of the 1990s

