

the condition of education 2008



INDICATOR 29

Poverty Concentration in Public Schools by Locale and Race/Ethnicity

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2008*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2008*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2008031>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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School Characteristics and Climate

Poverty Concentration in Public Schools by Locale and Race/Ethnicity

Larger percentages of Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native students attended high-poverty schools than White or Asian/Pacific Islander students in 2005–06.

The percentage of students eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program provides a proxy measure for the concentration of low-income students within a school. For the purpose of this indicator, high-poverty schools are defined as public schools with more than 75 percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.¹ In 2005–06, approximately 15 percent of all elementary and secondary public school students (or 7.1 million students) attended high-poverty schools (see supplemental table 29-1).

Nationally, larger percentages of Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native students attended high-poverty schools than did White or Asian/Pacific Islander students in 2005–06, and higher percentages of Asian/Pacific Islander than White students attended these schools. Some 32 percent of Black, 34 percent of Hispanic, and 24 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native students were enrolled in high-poverty schools, compared with 4 percent of White and 10 percent of Asian/Pacific Islander students. In contrast, nationally, larger percentages of White (19 percent) and Asian/

Pacific Islander (24 percent) students attended low-poverty schools (public schools with 10 percent or less of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch) than did Black (4 percent), Hispanic (7 percent), and American Indian/Alaska Native (5 percent) students.

Overall, a similar pattern existed among racial/ethnic groups within different school locales. In each locale (cities, suburban areas, towns, and rural areas), higher percentages of Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native students attended high-poverty schools than did their White and Asian/Pacific Islander peers in 2005–06. Among students attending city schools, for example, 44 percent of Blacks, 46 percent of Hispanics, and 27 percent of American Indians/Alaska Natives attended high-poverty schools, compared with 9 percent of Whites and 17 percent of Asians/Pacific Islanders. In rural areas, higher percentages of Black (25 percent), Hispanic (26 percent), and American Indian/Alaska Native (33 percent) students attended high-poverty schools than did their White and Asian/Pacific Islander (4 percent for both) peers.

¹ Private school students are excluded because large proportions of private schools do not participate in the free or reduced-price lunch program.

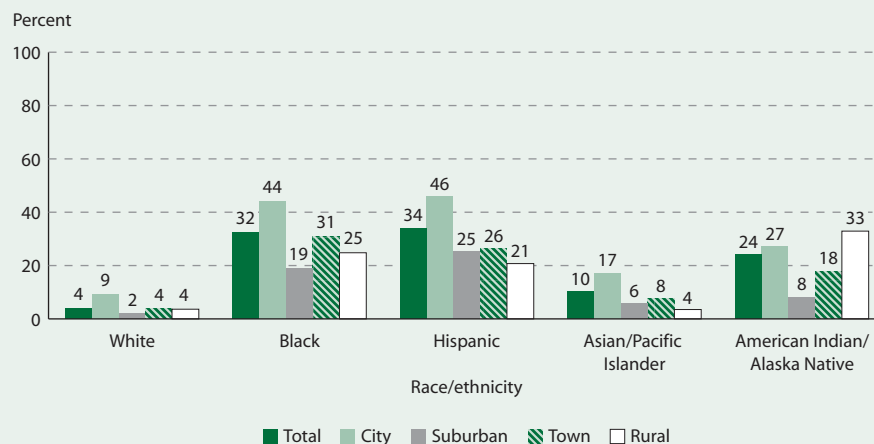
NOTE: Figure represents percentages of students in public schools with more than 75 percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. The National School Lunch Program is a federally assisted meal program. To be eligible, a student must be from a household with an income at or below 130 percent of the poverty threshold for free lunch or between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty threshold for reduced-price lunch. Approximately 10,745 public schools (or 11 percent) did not report information on the number of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch. For details on Census-defined areas and poverty thresholds, see *supplemental note 1*. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey," 2005–06.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Note 1
Supplemental Table 29-1
NCES 2007-039
NCES 2007-040

POVERTY CONCENTRATION: Percentage of public elementary and secondary school students in high-poverty schools, by race/ethnicity and locale: School year 2005–06



Poverty Concentration in Public Schools by Locale and Race/Ethnicity

Table 29-1. Number and percentage distribution of public elementary and secondary students, by percentage of students in school eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, locale, and race/ethnicity: School year 2005–06

Locale and race/ethnicity	Number eligible for free or reduced-price lunch	10 percent or less	11–25 percent	26–50 percent	51–75 percent	More than 75 percent
Total¹	47,190,246	14.3	19.5	29.8	21.3	15.1
White	27,196,646	19.1	26.1	34.5	16.3	4.0
Black	7,887,387	4.2	8.7	24.2	30.5	32.4
Hispanic	9,140,172	7.0	8.9	21.6	28.5	34.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	2,086,658	24.3	21.8	26.5	17.2	10.2
American Indian/Alaska Native	560,053	5.4	11.8	27.8	30.6	24.3
City¹	13,420,920	8.8	11.9	23.8	25.0	30.5
White	4,695,316	13.1	22.4	34.7	20.6	9.2
Black	3,650,628	2.7	4.7	18.4	29.9	44.2
Hispanic	4,038,790	6.7	5.1	15.9	26.4	45.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	830,330	20.5	16.5	24.4	21.4	17.1
American Indian/Alaska Native	111,639	5.4	13.3	27.8	26.4	27.1
Suburban¹	17,081,489	23.9	25.3	26.3	15.3	9.2
White	10,120,962	32.7	31.8	25.3	8.3	1.9
Black	2,470,871	7.2	14.8	31.8	27.3	18.8
Hispanic	3,287,008	7.8	13.2	25.5	28.1	25.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	957,859	30.1	25.3	25.1	13.8	5.8
American Indian/Alaska Native	95,073	12.5	25.6	35.2	18.5	8.2
Town¹	6,149,758	5.2	16.8	40.1	27.5	10.3
White	4,335,316	5.9	21.3	45.7	23.3	3.7
Black	690,920	1.2	4.2	23.0	40.7	30.8
Hispanic	866,261	4.8	5.7	25.8	37.3	26.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	106,049	5.5	16.6	48.3	22.0	7.7
American Indian/Alaska Native	118,647	2.7	9.5	32.7	37.3	17.8
Rural¹	10,538,079	11.3	21.2	36.9	22.7	8.0
White	8,045,052	12.7	23.6	39.8	20.2	3.6
Black	1,074,968	3.8	11.2	27.2	33.1	24.8
Hispanic	948,113	7.3	13.1	28.4	30.5	20.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	192,420	22.5	29.9	30.6	13.5	3.5
American Indian/Alaska Native	234,694	3.8	6.7	22.4	34.2	32.9

¹ Includes other racial/ethnic groups not separately shown.

NOTE: The National School Lunch Program is a federally assisted meal program. To be eligible, a student must be from a household with an income at or below 130 percent of the poverty threshold for free lunch or between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty threshold for reduced-price lunch. Approximately 10,745 public schools (or 11 percent) did not report information on the number of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch. For details on Census-defined areas and poverty thresholds, see *supplemental note 1*. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey," 2005–06.