



P o v e r t y i n t h e
C e n t r a l P e n n s y l v a n i a
W o r k f o r c e I n v e s t m e n t A r e a



Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation
Three Kelly Square, Route 15 North
Lewisburg, PA 17837
(570) 568-0800



Poverty in the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Area

Acknowledgements

Poverty in the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Area was prepared by the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation (CPWDC). The data was provided by DemographicsNow (2005), The United States Census Bureau and the American Factfinder Survey, and The Center for Workforce Information and Analysis. The analysis presented in this report was conducted by the CPWDC on behalf of the Central Pennsylvania WIA as part of the Research Partnership.

Disclaimer

The analysis in this document is based on the data from various sources as collected by Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation (CPWDC). Regional factors that cannot be seen by the data may influence the results and need to be considered when using this analysis. This analysis merely describes the past and present factors concerning poverty and its related issues.



Executive Summary

Poverty in the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Area

- For those in poverty, the Central Region's mean income deficit, the average income that a family in poverty would need to earn to move above their respective poverty threshold, was \$6,361. This was \$345 lower than the average for Pennsylvania and \$585 lower than the United States.
- Between 2001 and 2005, the Central Region had an average unemployment rate that was higher than the state and nation. In 2005, this trend changed and the Region's unemployment rate fell to 5.0 percent, nearly a full percentage point below Pennsylvania's average.
- From 1993 to 2003, the estimated poverty rate for individuals in the Central Region had fallen 1.7 percent, from 11.9 percent to 10.2 percent. This placed it below the national average and relatively similar to the state's rate.
- Demographically, the "multiple race and other race" population had a poverty rate of 28.0 percent, which was the highest poverty rate among all racial groups in the Central Region in 2000. The "white" population had the lowest poverty rate at 11.8 percent. However, the poverty rate for the "multiple race and other race" population was 1.6 percent lower than the rate for the same population for Pennsylvania while the "white" population was 3.6 percent higher than the state's rate.
- In 2000, the Central Region poverty rate for families was 7.4 percent, which was slightly below Pennsylvania's rate of 7.8 percent. However, the Central Region's poverty rate for individuals was 12.3 percent, which was higher than the rate for the state, 11.0 percent. The Central Region's rate nearly mirrored the national poverty rate for individuals of 12.4 percent.
- From 2000 to 2005, the number of households with at least one vehicle increased by 0.5 percent. In total, 91.1 percent of households in the Central Region have at least one vehicle available for use.
- Increased vehicle availability can be correlated with increased household income for those earning more than \$25,000. Since 1990, as the number of households with an income over \$25,000 has grown, the number of households with at least one vehicle available has also grown.
- Housing unit vacancy, the number of unoccupied housing units, has grown 2.2 percent since 2000. During this time the number of owner-occupied housing units and the number renter-occupied housing units each decreased by 1.1 percent.
- The largest percentage of renters spent between \$400 and \$599 for their gross monthly rent in 2000. The largest percentage of homeowners spent between \$600 and \$799 in monthly ownership costs, including their mortgage.

Poverty in the Central Region Workforce Investment Area

A Brief Look at Poverty Concerns in Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder and Union Counties

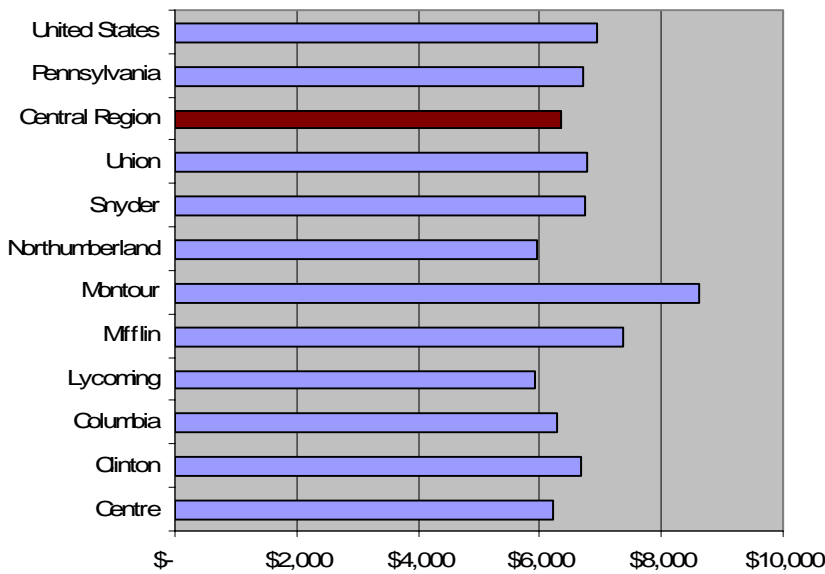
Estimated Population: 599,907

Number of Households: 227,558

Number of Families: 149,037

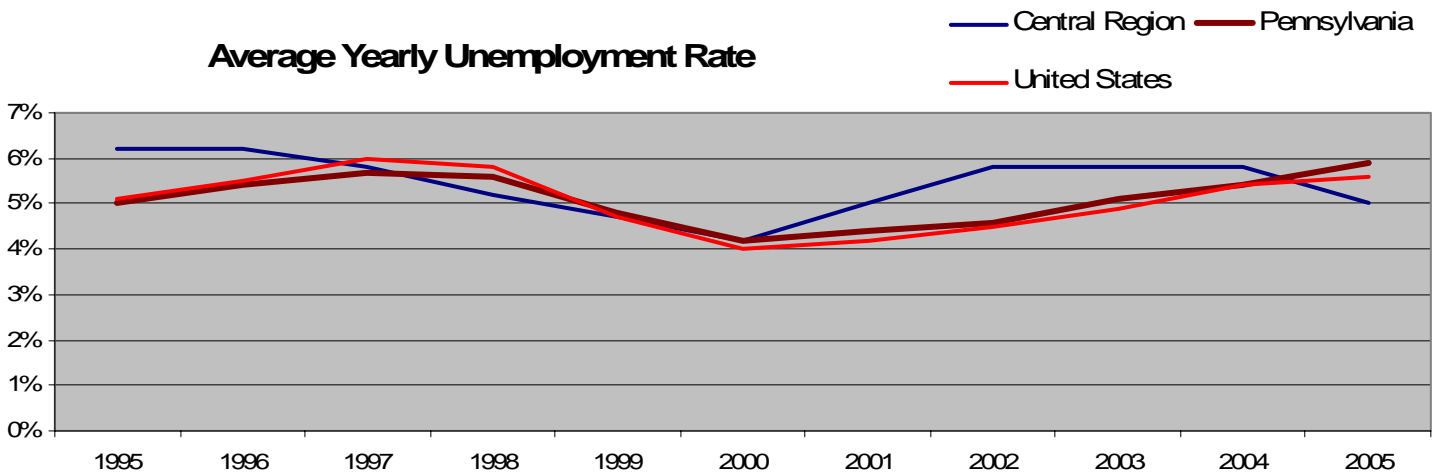
The poverty levels utilized in this report are defined by the Office of Management and Budget by using a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total income is less than the family's threshold, then that family and every individual in the family is considered to be in poverty. For example, in 2005 a family of four, comprised of two adults and two children (under the age of 18), with a total family income below \$19,806 would be considered to be in poverty. If the income is equal to or above the poverty threshold the family would not be considered to be in poverty. The official poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated yearly for inflation using the Consumer Price Index. The official poverty definition uses money income before taxes and does not include capital gains or non-cash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps). Among a host of factors that impact the income of individuals and families, forcing them into poverty, are unemployment, limited part-time employment, and/or very low wages.

Mean Income Deficit By Area



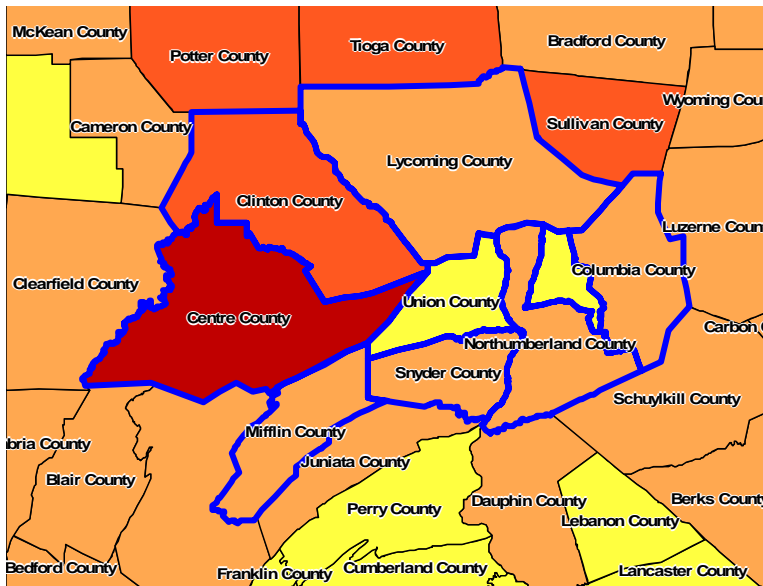
"Mean Income Deficit" represents the average income that a family in poverty would need to earn in order to move above their respective poverty threshold.

Average Yearly Unemployment Rate



Poverty in the Central Region Workforce Investment Area

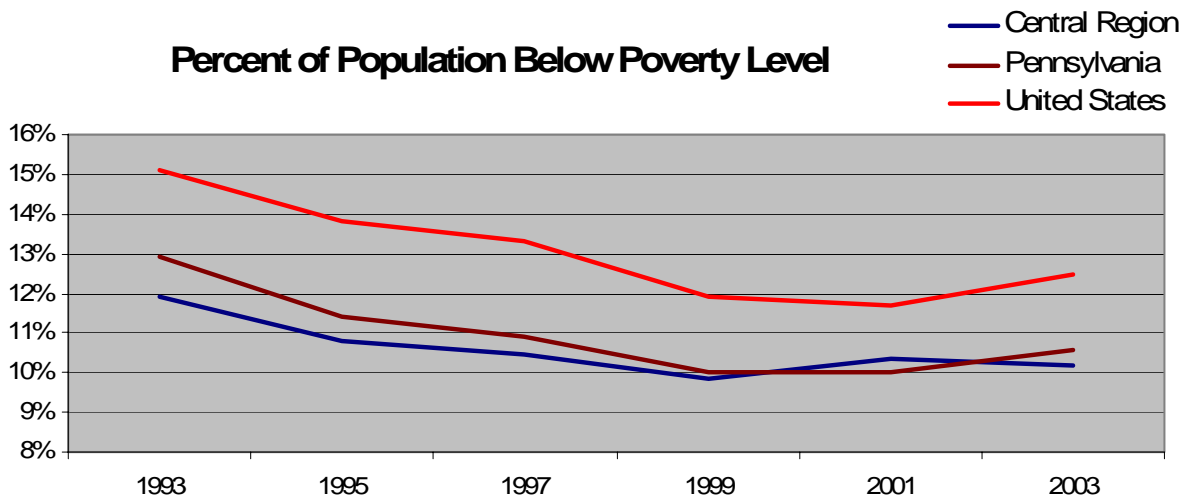
A Brief Look at Poverty Concerns in Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder and Union Counties



Poverty Rates by County Within the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Area

Percent of Population Below Poverty Level (2000)	
High	Above 16.0%
Medium High	12.5%-15.9%
Medium	9.0%-12.4%
Medium Low	5.5%-8.9%
Low	Less than 5.5%

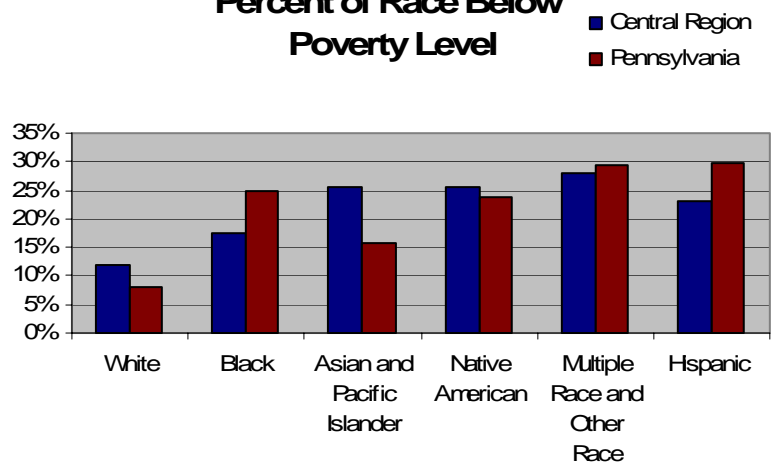
Percent of Population Below Poverty Level



Central Region Poverty Demographics (2000)

	Below Poverty Level	Percent of Race Below Poverty Level
White	66,656	11.77%
Black	2,541	17.55%
Asian and Pacific Islander	1,960	25.39%
Native American	204	25.40%
Multiple Race & Other Race	1,980	27.98%
Hispanic	1,688	23.07%

Percent of Race Below Poverty Level

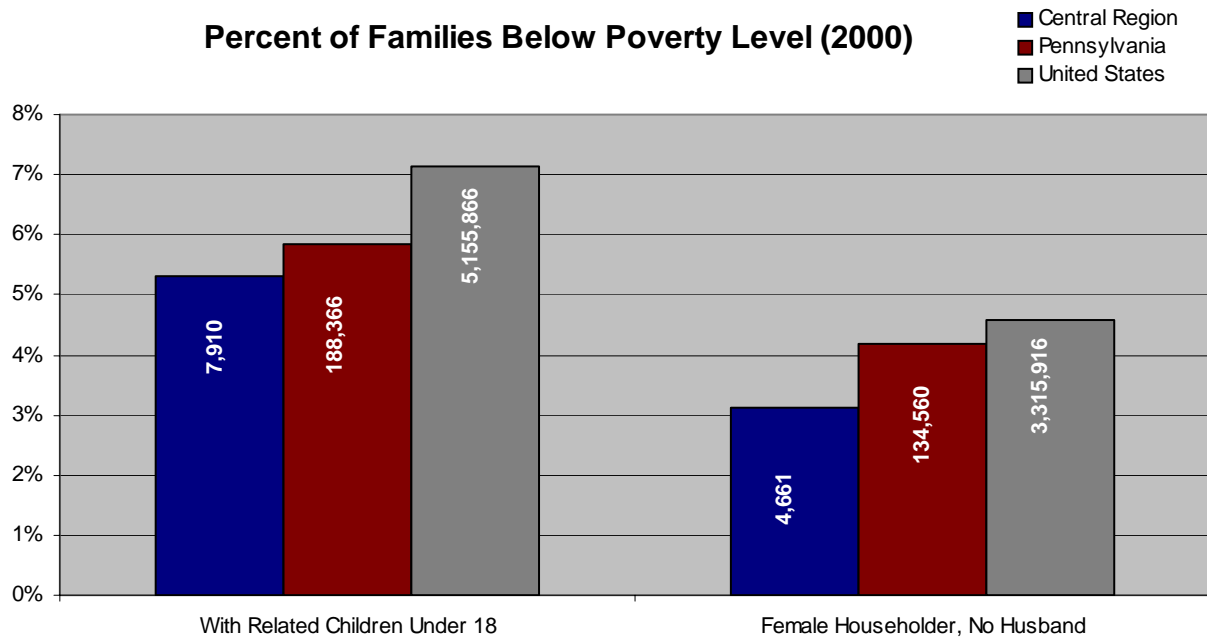


Poverty in the Central Region Workforce Investment Area

A Brief Look at Poverty Concerns in Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder and Union Counties

Families Below Poverty Level (2000)						
	Central Region		Pennsylvania		United States	
	Number Below Poverty Level	Percent of All Families	Number Below Poverty Level	Percent of All Families	Number Below Poverty Level	Percent of All Families
Families Below Poverty Level	11,077	7.42%	250,296	7.76%	6,620,945	9.16%
Below 150% of poverty level	22,560	15.12%	449,412	13.93%	11,703,323	16.20%
Below 185% of poverty level	32,408	21.72%	621,273	19.26%	15,655,286	21.66%

Percent of Families Below Poverty Level (2000)

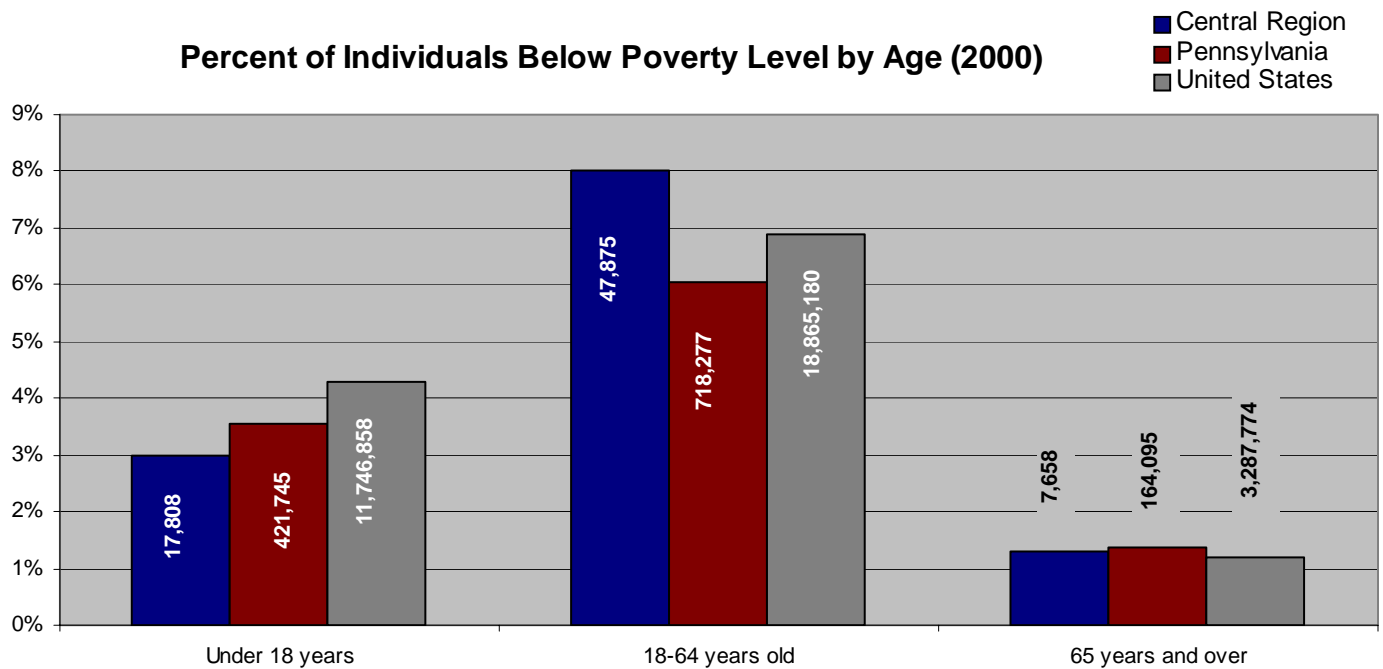


Poverty in the Central Region Workforce Investment Area

A Brief Look at Poverty Concerns in Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder and Union Counties

Individuals by Level of Poverty (2000)						
	Central Region		Pennsylvania		United States	
	Number Below	Percent of All	Number Below	Percent of All	Number Below	Percent of All
Individuals Below Poverty Level	73,341	12.30%	1,304,117	10.98%	33,899,812	12.38%
Below 50% of poverty level	33,621	5.64%	600,304	5.05%	15,337,408	5.60%
Below 150% of poverty level	127,083	21.31%	2,227,895	18.75%	57,320,149	20.93%
Below 185% of poverty level	168,278	28.22%	2,949,360	24.83%	74,297,407	27.13%

Percent of Individuals Below Poverty Level by Age (2000)

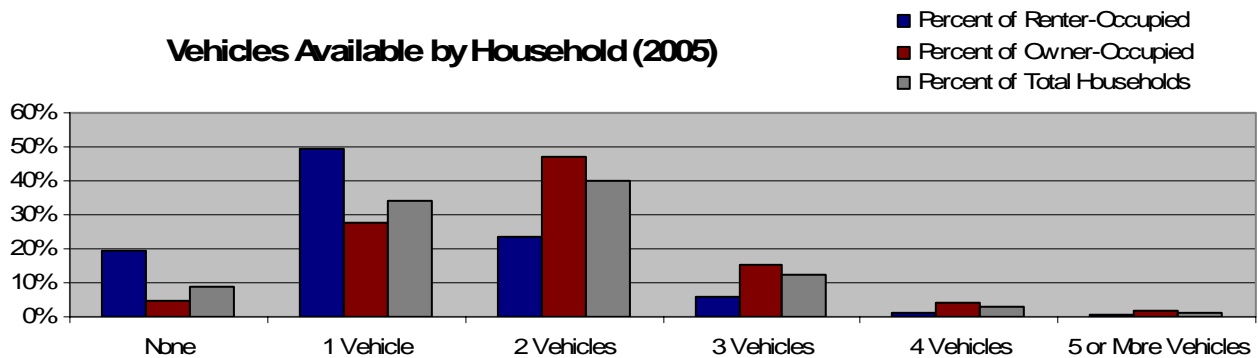


Poverty in the Central Region Workforce Investment Area

A Brief Look at Poverty Concerns in Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder and Union Counties

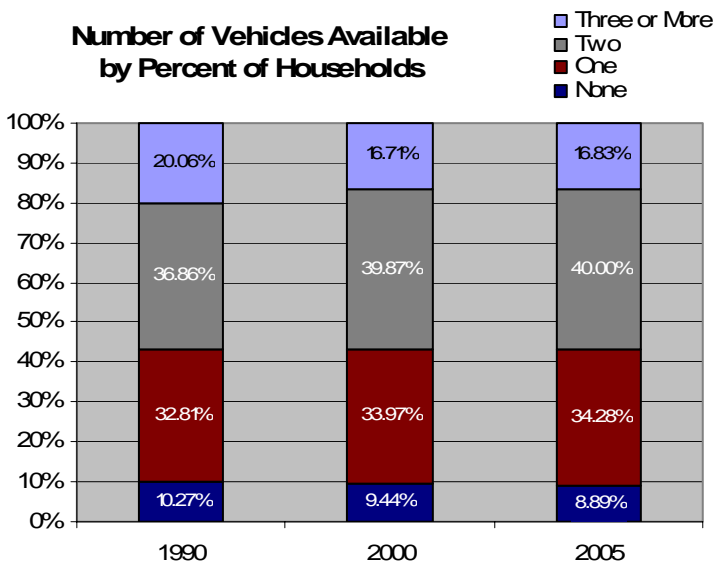
Transportation (All Households)				
Number of Vehicles Available	2000		2005	
	Number of Households	Percent of Total Households	Number of Households	Percent of Total Households
None	21,448	9.44%	20,233	8.89%
1 Vehicle	77,176	33.97%	78,012	34.28%
2 Vehicles	90,585	39.87%	91,020	40.00%
3 or More	37,970	16.71%	38,293	16.83%

Vehicles Available by Household (2005)

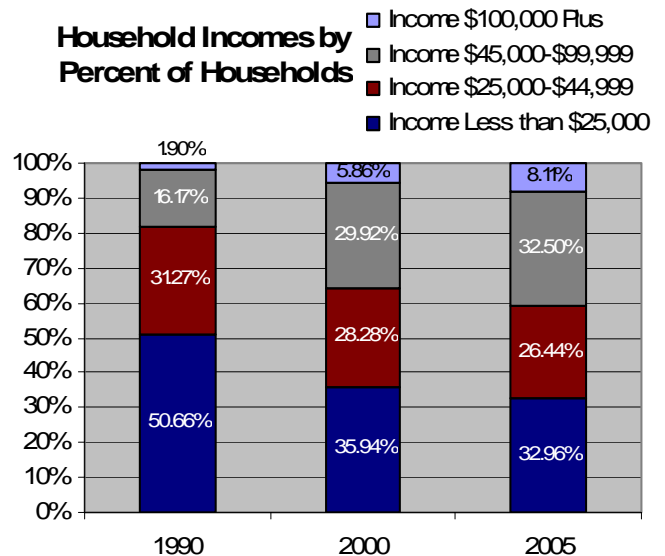


As shown in the graphs below, there is a correlation between household income and the percent of households with at least one vehicle available. Since 1990, as household incomes have increased, the percent of households with no vehicles available has declined, meaning more households have at least one vehicle. This correlation is particularly strong between households earning less than \$100,000 and households with two or fewer vehicles. This may be because these households have a greater need for an additional which could not be afforded at their previous income level, thus it becomes a priority to purchase one with their additional income. In contrast, those at a higher income level might have always been capable to buy the number of vehicles needed.

Number of Vehicles Available by Percent of Households



Household Incomes by Percent of Households



Poverty in the Central Region Workforce Investment Area

A Brief Look at Poverty Concerns in Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder and Union Counties

Population in Owner-Occupied Housing (2000)	68.05%	Population in Renter-Occupied Housing (2000)	24.65%
---	--------	--	--------

Comparison of Housing Units				
Type of Housing Unit	2000		2005	
	Number	Percent of Housing Units	Number	Percent of Housing Units
Occupied Housing Units	227,179	89.92%	227,558	87.76%
Vacant Housing Units	25,455	10.08%	31,748	12.24%
Owner Occupied Housing Units	158,590	62.77%	160,081	61.73%
Renter Occupied Housing Units	68,589	27.15%	67,477	26.02%

