



Typologies of persistent-poverty communities

FROM THE REPORT:

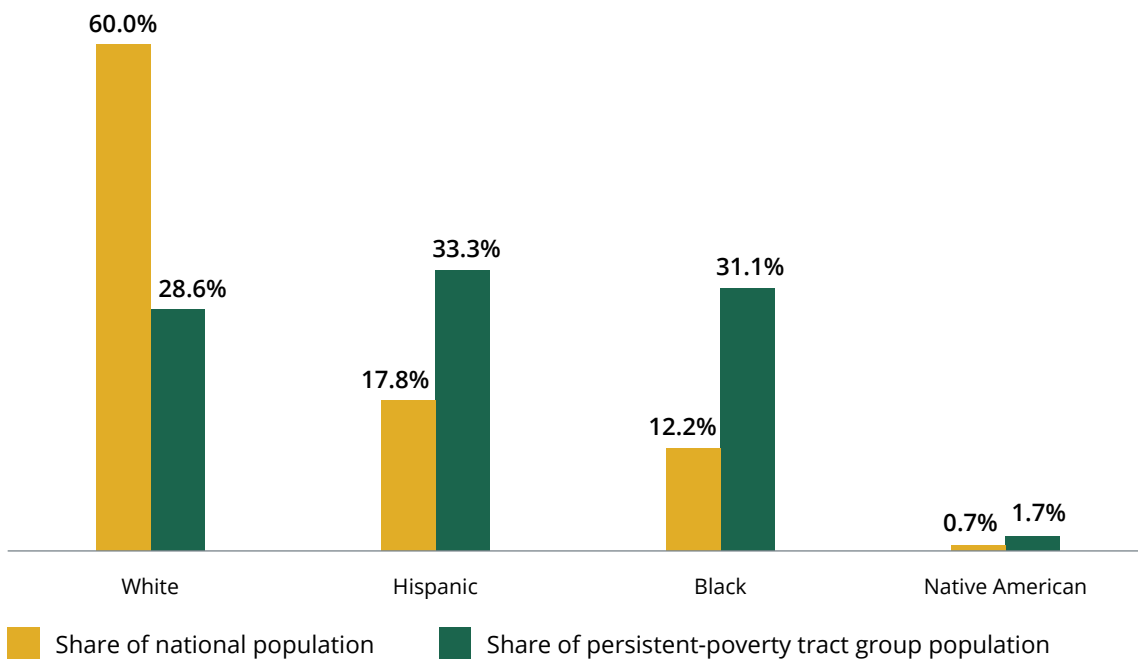
Advancing Economic Development in Persistent-Poverty Communities

A close look at the map of persistent-poverty areas in the United States quickly reveals how inextricably tied together present-day poverty is with matters of race and region, or the specific history of a people in a place. A single racial or ethnic group tends to predominate in each persistent-poverty area, and this group varies by region. Blacks predominate in the South and urban areas in the East and Midwest. Whites predominate in Appalachia and the Ozarks region. Hispanics are the largest group in most of the Southwest, and Native Americans populate most of the persistently poor counties in the Mountain West and Great Plains.

Blacks, Hispanics, and Native Americans populations are disproportionately likely to live in persistent-poverty communities

- Blacks, Hispanics, and Native Americans are heavily overrepresented in persistently poor places. This is especially true for Black people, who make up 12.2 percent of the country's population, but 31.1 percent of the population lives in a persistent-poverty tract group (PPTG).
- The gap is slightly smaller for Hispanics but still significant with almost twice the national share living in PPTGs. And while only 1.9 percent of the population of PPTGs is Native American, 27.9 percent of Native Americans live in these communities, the highest proportion for any race or ethnicity.
- Whites are much less likely to reside in a community affected by persistent poverty than most minority groups but still represent the largest group by population.

Racial and ethnic breakdown of the population living in persistent-poverty tract groups relative to the country as a whole



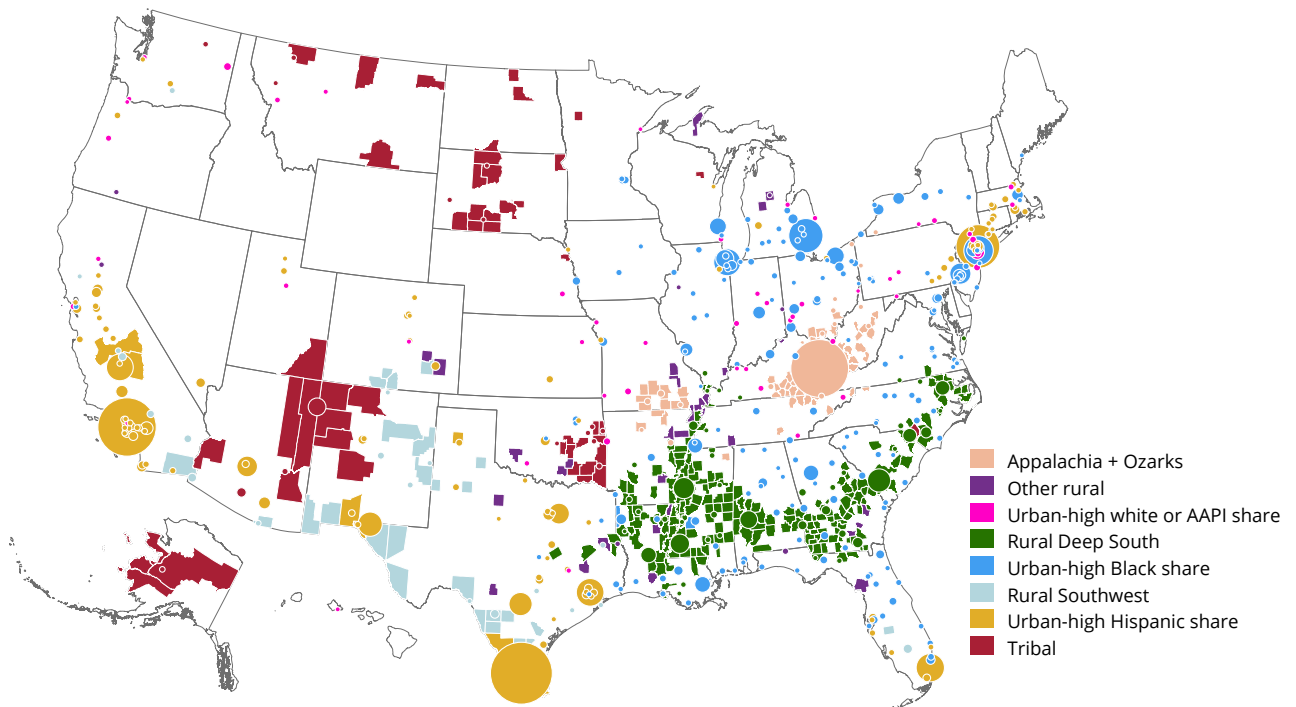
Source: EIG analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data and American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Eight typologies based on race, region, and rurality capture the diverse areas of persistent poverty across the map

1. **Tribal:** These areas contain at least 50 percent federally-recognized tribal land and/or at least 10 percent of the population identifies as Native American. This typology consists of 115 counties, 48 of which are persistently poor, and 16 PPTGs.
2. **Rural Deep South:** Rural counties in the South with a Black population share at least 1.5 times the national average (18.5 percent or higher). Another term for these counties is the Black Belt. This term refers to the region's rich soil and alludes to the long history of slavery and disenfranchisement that has kept these communities poor for over a century. This typology consists of 406 counties, 196 of which are persistently poor, and 42 PPTGs.
3. **Appalachia and Ozarks:** Areas in these two regions share similar physical geographies, ethnic heritages, and industrial histories. This typology contains 399 counties, 88 of which are persistently poor, and 18 PPTGs.
4. **Rural Southwest:** Rural counties with a Hispanic population share at least 1.5 times the national average (27.0 percent or higher). Most of these counties are either agriculture-dependent or close to the US-Mexico border. This typology contains 188 counties, 32 of which are persistently poor, and 19 PPTGs.

5. **Other rural:** These rural areas have no elevated minority presence and do not share meaningful regional distinctions. This typology consists of 1,486 counties, 33 of which are persistently poor, and six PPTGs.
6. **Urban-high Black share:** These urban geographies have a Black population share that is at least 1.5 times the national average (18.5 percent or higher). This typology consists of 58 counties, 10 of which are persistently poor, and 189 PPTGs.
7. **Urban-high Hispanic share:** These urban geographies have a Hispanic population share that is at least 1.5 times the national average (27.0 percent or higher). This typology consists of 42 counties, eight of which are persistently poor, and 121 PPTGs.
8. **Urban-high white or AAPI share:** These urban geographies have no elevated Hispanic or Black presence, although some may contain elevated shares of other races and ethnicities). This typology consists of 406 counties, none of which are persistently poor, and 52 PPTGs.

Typologies of persistent-poverty counties and persistent-poverty tract groups (centroids scaled by population)



Source: EIG analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data and American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

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