

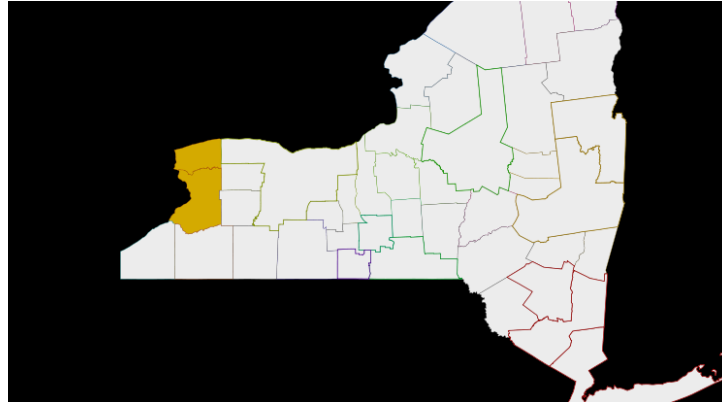
Geographies of Poverty: Buffalo-Niagara Metropolitan Area

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What is the poverty rate in the Buffalo-Niagara Metropolitan Statistical Area?

The local economy is often discussed in terms of the Buffalo-Niagara Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), a multi-county area with a population of over one million. While it is useful to take a regional perspective, it is also useful to consider individual cities, towns or villages.¹ The economic picture in the city of Buffalo (population 266,012) is so quite different than that of the town of Holland (population 3,430).²

The Buffalo-Niagara MSA:



The poverty rates in the cities of Buffalo (29.6%) and Niagara Falls (21.8%) are vastly higher than in the remaining parts of the MSA (just over 8%).³ The 2010 poverty rates for a sampling (52) of the municipalities and “census designated areas” (densely settled areas that may or may not be municipalities) in the Buffalo-Niagara MSA are detailed below:⁴

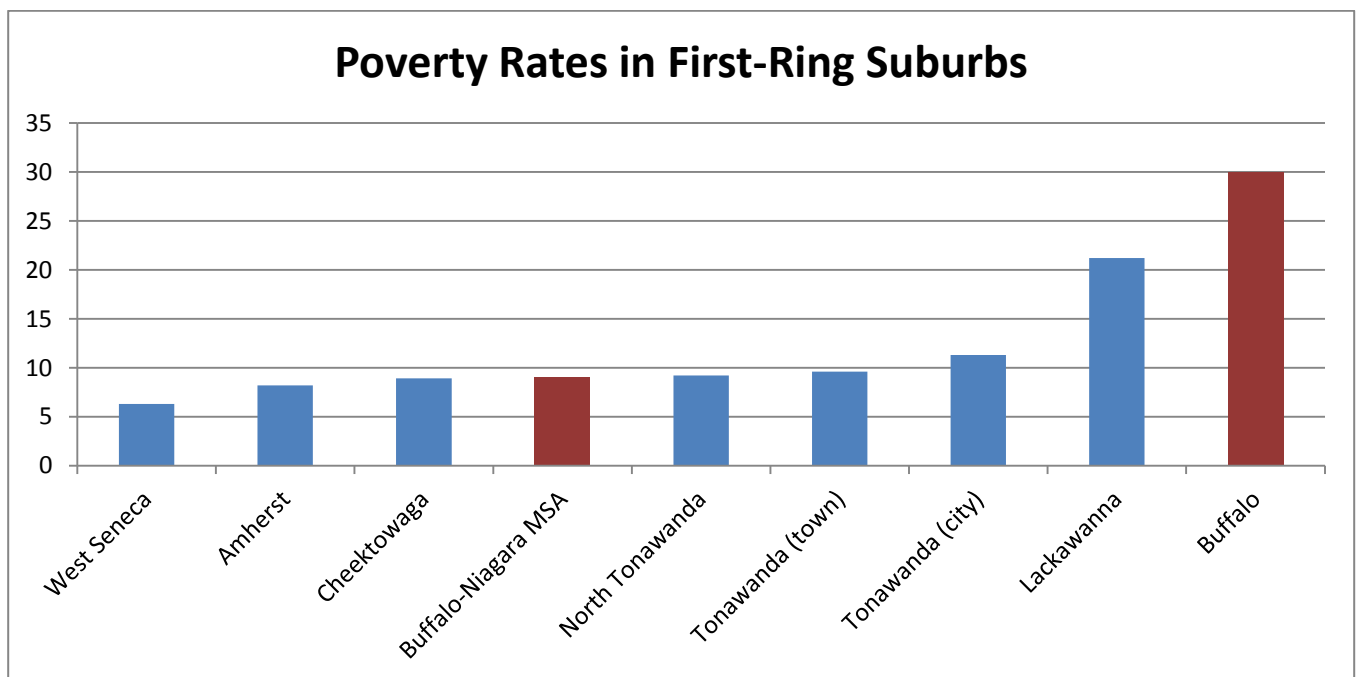
Village, Town, or City	Percentage in poverty
Akron (village)	10.7%
Alden (village)	7.6%
Amherst	8.2%
Angola (village)	15.9%
Angola on the Lake	8.5%
Barker (village)	18.9%
Billington Heights	9.5%
Blasdell (village)	13.5%
Buffalo (city)	29.6%
Cheektowaga	9.1%
Clarence	14.9%
Clarence Center	2.5%
Depew (village)	8.3%
East Aurora (village)	3.0%
Eden	1.7%
Eggertsville	12.8%
Elma Center	7.3%
Farnham (village)	7.2%
Gasport	1.9%
Gowanda (village)	13.7%
Grandyle (village)	5.4%
Hamburg (village)	4.4%
Harris Hill	3.8%
Holland	8.4%
Kenmore (village)	8.9%

Lackawanna (city)	21.2%
Lake Erie Beach	8.0%
Lancaster (village)	8.4%
Lewiston (village)	3.3%
Lockport (city)	19.5%
Middleport (village)	12.3%
Newfane	3.5%
Niagara Falls (city)	21.8%
North Boston	6.2%
North Collins (village)	14.1%
North Tonawanda (city)	9.2%
Olcott	4.5%
Orchard Park (village)	4.2%
Ransomville	15.3%
Rapids	13.7%
Sanborn	8.5%
Sloan (village)	16.9%
South Lockport	13.5%
Springville (village)	10.9%
Tonawanda (city)	11.3%
Tonawanda	9.8%
Town Line	4.2%
Wanakah	4.5%
West Seneca	6.3%
Williamsville (village)	8.3%
Wilson (village)	16.4%
Youngstown (village)	5.9%

What are poverty levels in Buffalo's suburbs?

Although Buffalo and Niagara Falls lead the area in poverty rates, poverty is increasing in the suburban areas as well. To illustrate, a recent study found that poverty rates generally increased in Buffalo's suburbs between 2000 and 2010. As a result "Of the 159,000 people in the region living below the poverty line, more than half -- 52 percent -- reside in the suburbs."⁵

'First-ring' suburbs are closest to, and intimately related to the city of Buffalo. However, they do not mirror the economic conditions of Buffalo as one might expect. There is actually a wide disparity between places like the town of Amherst, where the median household income is \$65,439, and the town of Lackawanna, where it is only \$33,544.⁶



¹ Some of the ‘municipalities’ listed below are actually a “Census Designated Place,” which is a densely settled concentration of population that is not within an incorporated place, but is locally identified by a name. The only Census Designated Place that is excluded from the data is the “University at Buffalo.”

² U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey

³ Id.

⁴ Id.

⁵ Maki Becker and Jay Rey, “Suburban Plight for Poor,” The Buffalo News, updated October 30, 2011, available at <http://www.buffalonews.com/city/article612880.ece>

⁶ Id.

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