

# **HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY IN NEVADA**

**October 2003**

**Presented to  
The Task Force for a Healthy Nevada**

**Research Conducted by  
Food Bank of Northern Nevada  
The Nevada Child Nutrition Initiative  
and  
America's Second Harvest**

EXHIBIT <b>I</b>	HealthyNV	Document consists of <b>32</b> pages
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Entire document provided.	
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Meeting Date		<b>10/8/03</b>

Good Morning Senator Rawson and Task Force Members.

For the record my name is Cherie Jamason, I am president of the Food Bank of Northern Nevada and our task force grant funds the Nevada Child Nutrition Initiative.

My primary purpose today is to provide you with a summary of our needs/gap analysis findings on hunger-related issues in Nevada and to provide you with an update on the child nutrition initiative. Alicia Davisson, will assist in providing the update. Alicia knows this community. She has taught and provided counseling in Clark County for 25 years and is presently with HELP of Southern Nevada, the family resource center management organization. Alicia and HELP have agreed to take a leadership position working with non-profits here in Las Vegas on the Child Nutrition Initiative. My colleague Pat Marble, who has worked with the child nutrition programs for more than 30 years, will be working with the school districts here in Las Vegas and around the state to implement summer food and after school meal programs. She is standing by in Carson for your questions.

In terms of the gap analysis, we are providing packets of information for your review. I will go through a few overheads with you, and we are providing the supporting material to you for your review.

- 20 years in business/ about 50 millions of pounds of food – distribution of emergency food assistance has not ended hunger in Nevada except in the short term.
- Same issues nationally – distribution of donated food - billions of pounds over 25 yrs, food rescue programs, etc. all short term, institutionalized concept of “food pantries” soup kitchens, food bank “industry – why? Helping makes the helpers feel good, often faith based mission, not only does not resolve problem, but makes clients dependent on “hand out” concept –
- Lately, we’ve had to address diminishing quantity/quality of donated food resources/ non-food – NV a food poor area – no manufacturing or farming to speak of. 15 years ago spent \$1200/yr to buy tuna and peanut butter. Today, If we want to distribute nutritious food it means raising \$ and regular purchase of staple items. Last year we spent more than \$260,000, all raised annually.
- what to do? change of focus on national and local level – shift from acquiring and distributing food to purposeful effort to address hunger and food insecurity.
- Stop here: discuss definitions of hunger and food insecurity OVERHEAD – WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO END HUNGER IN AMERICA
- Some solutions identified: primary: full implementation of USDA nutrition programs, which are purposefully designed to provide nutrition support to low income families.
- Late 90’s – local and ultimately national shift of focus from food distribution to addressing hunger and food insecurity as primary mission.

- We were already shifting in that direction, had commissioned gap analysis to identify high risk areas throughout state, understand the demographics, evaluate existing resources and determine how to address needs that were revealed.
- To secure the data we needed, we enlisted assistance of various state agencies notably the Department of Human Resources who run the food stamp program, WIC, Health, Aging Services, etc. To evaluate data, we mapped census information, examined existing information, surveyed as many community organizations as we could locate, etc.
- Nobody has ever before conducted this research in Nevada and while we've had bits and pieces here and there, this is the only consolidated picture that exists containing the diversity of information need to evaluate hunger and food security issues in the state of Nevada. We have not yet received the final/final report, however we are providing a large body of information to you here today.
- THE KIDS CAFÉ (summer food/after school meal) program in Washoe County began as part of the effort to better implement existing USDA nutrition programs.. The program was developed to address an identified gap in service, and most food resources are funded by a USDA child nutrition program. **THIS WAS THE PRIMARY REASON WE WERE CONTACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU to work on what has become the NEVADA CHILD NUTRITION INITIATIVE.**
- Another program just recently begun as part of this initiative to better use USDA programs is the Commodity Supplemental Food Program – we've been working on securing the program for Nevada since the mid to late 90's. It targets low income seniors, we got it in April, and have been certifying and distributing since July 1. It provides about 30 pounds of food monthly to income eligible seniors, and to the WIC population who are not participating in that program...been well received, helping people get the nutrition they need to maintain good health.
- Today I will present to you a few of the findings. The whole document will soon be completed and will be provided to you upon its release. All the data will be available to the state agencies as well.
- **GO THRU DATA/OVERHEADS – KEEP TO 10 OR FEWER**
- **KEY INDICATOR – NUMBER OF CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR FREE/REDUCED MEALS AT SCHOOL....RISING DRAMATICALLY** - 86,000 last year in LV, about 90,000 this year; 36% of students statewide – more than 135,000 school age children, who are considered at risk of hunger due to their families' financial circumstances...plus younger siblings – program available for kids age 2-18. .kids whose health and education are in jeopardy due to their nutritional status. Hungry people are poor. At the time of the 2000 census, there were 102,856 households

in Nevada whose annual income is under \$15,000 per year. That's just the mortgage payment for many of us. There were 33,237 families with children who live below the poverty line, including 14.5% of Nevada's children. Important to understand that probably twice that many families or more are in poverty – these are just the families who are “officially” below the poverty line. Those who make a little more are also more likely to be ineligible for assistance programs. Those numbers have increased dramatically since September 11. It's not ok with anybody that kids are hungry, and we have the tools in our hands to fix the problem.

- Reported very preliminary results to Yvonne Sylva at the Health Division - who quickly understood the ramifications of hunger and poor nutrition as a public health issue touching most of the health division programs, seriously impacting effective education, and the quality of life.
- We were invited to begin working with a coalition on a state plan to end hunger and food insecurity, a project that will bring together state agencies, school districts, non-profit organizations, existing committees, the University, the Cooperative Extension, consumers, and stakeholders throughout the state.
- There are a considerable number of outreach projects that already exist – several for programs run by state welfare alone, such as Nevada Checkup, the energy assistance program, our own food stamp education project. There is committee work being conducted on model nutrition programs for school districts, nutrition education for food stamp clients, healthy schools initiative – which all have the same or similar members, and who are working on very closely related projects. There is a huge amount of duplicative effort presently occurring that could be folded under an umbrella like the Coalition to End Hunger in Nevada. There are numerous programs being run in as if in “silos” – mostly the same people eligible, but generally information provided in isolation....Family resource centers have really helped change this for a targeted population, but the clientele they serve is relatively few in number, and with budget cuts, will be smaller still.
- In order to better serve the client and preserve scarce resources, it makes a lot of sense to have a “no wrong door” system, so that families who apply for WIC are told about food stamps, the commodity programs, related child nutrition programs for older kids, Nevada Checkup and energy assistance, and so forth – all at the same time.....they would have a greater opportunity to get connected to the resources they need, for which they are eligible, and would not have to go search for the 18 programs they don't even know exist, nor have to stand in 18 different lines and tell their story 18 different times....especially helpful if no car.....a considerable problem, as you saw earlier. It would help people get their feet under them faster, so they can move forward with their lives.

THE OPPORTUNITY IS IMMENSE, IT IS TIMELY, AND THE APPETITE IS THERE TO MAKE IT HAPPEN- because smart people at the state agencies, at the non-profits and out in the field know we have to shift gears.

As Einstein once said: "The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking which created them." : it's amazing what we can accomplish just by talking and working together, especially if we don't care who gets the credit.... That's how Kids Café got started...it began as a conversation among people who wanted to make sure that our kids have the food they need, and it works. This can too.

- We are just completing the "plan for the plan" and the process will look like this: Chart from last page of information packet
- What it will take to do this is old -fashioned open dialogue, a willingness to do things a little differently, and a commitment to making it work, no matter what.

If we move ahead, we can end child hunger in Nevada within 5 years or less, and hunger in the general populace within a decade.

- I would appreciate hearing from anyone who is interested learning more about this project, or has contacts to suggest anywhere in the state. My email address is in the document you will receive, and my telephone number is 331-FOOD in Reno/Sparks.

Comments on Child Nutrition Initiative Progress.

There were comments made during the time I was questioned by Senator Rawson and the committee regarding child nutrition issues that are not captured here.

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**Prepared by:**

**Cherle Jamason**

**President and CEO  
Food Bank of Northern Nevada, Inc.  
994 Packer Way, Sparks, NV 89431  
1-775-331-3663**

## Reference Materials

The following reference materials were assembled to assist the reader in interpreting the maps and understanding the report's terminology. The binder format of this report was adopted with hopes that the reader could remove the necessary reference material page(s) and compare its content with a specific section of the report.

## Definitions

In this report, 'Emergency Food Provider' is the umbrella term used to agencies that distribute emergency food. An Emergency Food Provider may be a Food Pantries, Community/Soup Kitchens, Senior Congregate Meal Programs, and Shelters.

America's Second Harvest has defined each term precisely in an effort to add clarity:

**Emergency Shelter** is a program that provides shelter services and serves one or more meals a day on a short-term basis to low-income clients in need. The length of stay will vary. The actual length of residence is less important than the nature of the service. Shelter may be the primary or secondary purpose of the service. Examples: shelters for the homeless, shelters with substance abuse programs, and transitional shelters such as shelters for battered women fit in this group. Residential programs that provide services to the same clients for extended time periods, however, should not be categorized as shelters. Other examples of programs that should not be categorized as shelters are mental health/mental retardation group homes and juvenile probation group homes.

**Emergency kitchen**, also referred to as soup kitchen or community kitchen, is a program that provides prepared meals on-site to clients in need who do not reside on the agency's premises. An emergency kitchen may also distribute prepared meals for clients to take off-site, such as brown bag lunches for weekend consumption when

the kitchen is closed. This category includes Kids' Cafes.

**Food pantry** is a program that distributes groceries (non-prepared foods) and other basic supplies for off-site use, usually for preparation in the client's residence. An agency that picks up boxed food from the food bank to distribute to its clients qualifies as a food pantry. An agency that does not directly distribute food to clients is excluded from the pantry category. An example of this is an agency that screens its clients and refers them to another agency or food bank to pick up non-prepared foods. An agency that only distributes bulk food on a basis other than emergency need (such as USDA commodities to all persons over age 60) should not be categorized as a food pantry. A food bank distributing food directly to clients, including clients who may be referred from another agency, qualifies as a food pantry.

Other programs are any programs that have a primary purpose other than emergency food distribution. Examples: day care programs, senior congregate feeding programs, or summer camps. This category excludes emergency shelters, emergency kitchens, and food pantries.

## Family Resource Centers

Unique to Nevada is the Family Resource Center (FRC). FRCs are local centers that central access to poverty assistance programs. Some FRCs currently distribute emergency food supplies and these facilities are important community assets for extending the supply network. The following definition is from the state's web page:

<http://www.nvcommunityconnections.com/programs/programs.php?programid=4>

Family Resource Centers (FRCs) were established by legislation in 1995 (NRS 430A). Since then, 40 Family Resource Centers have been developed in communities throughout Nevada: 10 in

Washoe County, 5 in rural Nevada, 6 in the frontier areas and 19 in southern Nevada. Because most children's lives take place close to home and because families first seek sources of enrichment and support in their own neighborhoods, FRCs are established within geographic communities where services can be made most responsive to children and families.

### Federal Poverty Threshold

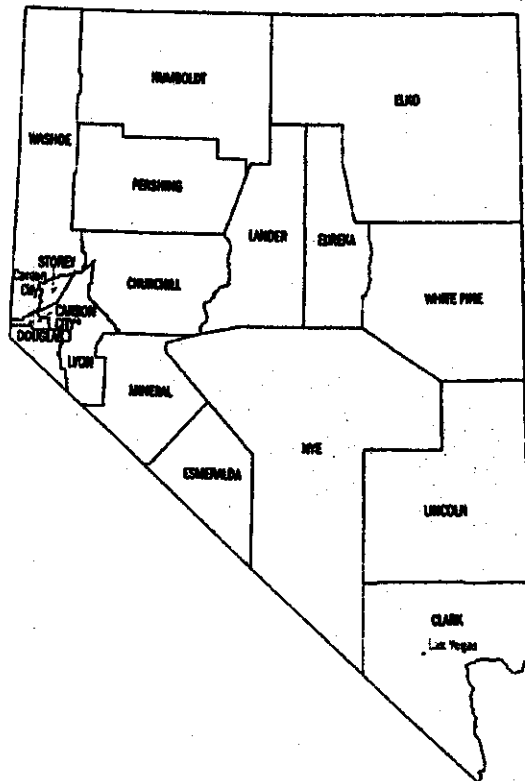
In 1964, the poverty threshold was established as the minimum amount of annual income required to satisfy a family's basic needs. The poverty threshold was set a three times the cost of the USDA thrifty food plan. The poverty threshold is annually increased to reflect the Consumer Price Index inflation rate.

The poverty threshold is used to determine eligibility for many assistance programs. Weaknesses of the poverty threshold include its focus on pre-tax income, the lack of regional adjustment for varying cost of living expenses, the lack of a mechanism to factor in non-monetary transfer payments (such as food stamps) in the calculation of income and the questionable weighting of food costs relative to other basic needs such as housing and transportation.

### The Federal Poverty Threshold

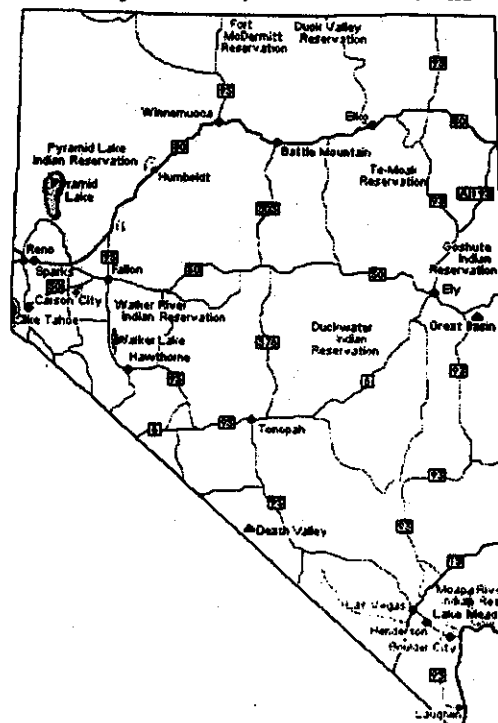
	1990	2000
1 person household	\$6,652	\$8,794
4 person household (2 adults; 2 children)	\$13,254	\$17,463
3 person household (1 adult; 2 children)	\$10,530	\$13,874

### Nevada Counties



Source: US Census

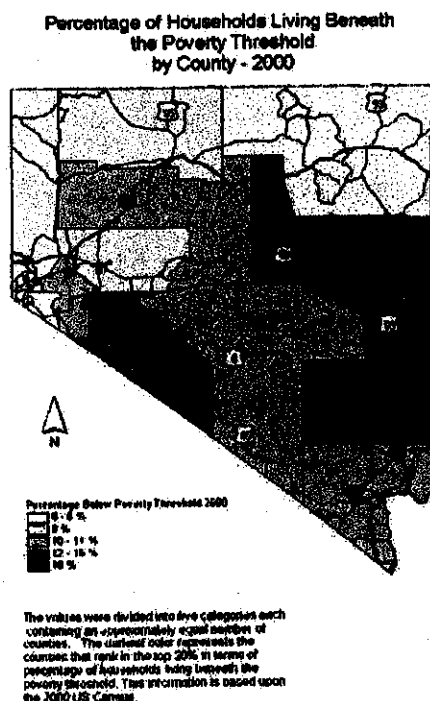
### Major Roads, Cities and Towns





## How to Interpret the Maps:

Within Nevada, the county populations vary widely. To allow for comparison among the counties, the information is displayed as a percentage of the county's residents – not the absolute number of residents. To evaluate which counties have higher percentages of residents with the specified characteristic, the counties have been grouped into 5 classes. Each of these classes contains the same number of counties (with some rounding as the number of Nevada counties cannot be evenly divided by five). In each map, the darkest color illustrates the counties that are in the state's top 20% based upon the percentage of residents with that particular characteristic. The darkest color represents the most severe condition and the lightest color represents the counties in the best condition relative to all counties in Nevada.



## Geographic Units:

### County:

The majority of maps depict information from the decennial census by county. County was

selected as a geographic unit because its boundaries are more clearly understood.

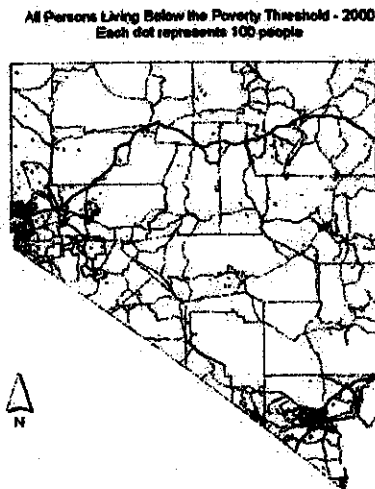
### Census tract:

The maps that illustrate enlarged views of particular communities depict the census information by census tract. The U.S. Census Bureau's definition of a census tract is as follows:

A small, relatively permanent statistical subdivision of a county delineated by a local committee of census data users for the purpose of presenting data. Census tract boundaries normally follow visible features, but may follow governmental unit boundaries and other non-visible features in some instances; they always nest within counties. Designed to be relatively homogeneous units with respect to population characteristics, economic status, and living conditions at the time of establishment, census tracts average about 4,000 inhabitants. (Source: <http://www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.htm>)

### Dot Maps:

The dot maps locate residents by census tract. The dots are assigned to the correct census tract by the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) mapping program. However, the location of the dot within the census tract is random and therefore when examining the map recognize that dots may not be in the exact locations of the people but will be within close proximity.



## **SECTION I: National Population Trends and State Population Projections**

### **National Population Trends:**

William Frey, a demographer and sociologist from the University of Michigan, has recently analyzed the results of the 2000 census. In his article, *Three Americas* (Journal of the American Planning Association, Vol. 68, No. 4, Fall 2002), Frey notes the increasing importance of three 'regions' within the United States. Nevada is an example of a new sunbelt state.

### **Characteristics of the Three Regions:**

#### **1. The Melting Pot**

- This is the place of first arrival for immigrants from outside the United States; the most diverse communities
- Growth is occurring because of foreign immigration
- More churning in neighborhoods (mobility)
- More vitality as immigrants tend to be younger
- Many multi-racial couples
- Politically the residents of these areas more likely to hold liberal views
- States that possess this character are California, Texas, Illinois, New Jersey and New York

#### **2. The Heartland**

- In the heartland, growth is not occurring
- The population is getting older and whiter
- Future issues will include concerns for the elderly
- Politically, these areas are dominated by the baby-boom generation

#### **3. The New Sunbelt**

- This area is the new regional analog to the post war suburbs
- Growth is due to within country migration
- Many of the migrants are young families
- In the southeast, many of the migrants are African-Americans while in the southwest, many of these migrants are white.
- A large number of residents are migrating to the New Sunbelt from other US states. The 13 new 'sunbelt states' include: Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, Georgia, N. Carolina, S. Carolina, Tennessee.
- The urban character is 'suburban' in density
- The reasons for moving focus on affordable housing at lower densities and employment opportunities
- Politically these areas are becoming conservative
- (The 'old' sunbelt states were Florida, Texas, and California)

### **Specific Trends to Nevada:**

- Between 1990 and 1999, Las Vegas had the third largest number of domestic migrants of all US metropolitan areas.

#### **Domestic Migrants (1990-1999):**

1. Atlanta - 498,283
2. Phoenix - 396,092
3. Las Vegas - 394,331
4. Dallas - 235,611
5. Denver - 200,658

- Currently, the percentage of Hispanic individuals in the United States is 12.5%. If you compare all of the metropolitan areas within the United States based upon Hispanic growth rate, Las Vegas is #5 (with 262%) and Reno is #9 (with 145%). Bear in mind that the initial Hispanic populations in these areas were very low and therefore the absolute numbers of new Hispanic residents is less than in many metropolitan areas.
- Las Vegas had the highest increase in the percentage of the population reporting Asian ethnicity between 1990 and 1999 for all metropolitan US areas.

### State Population Projections

As of the 2000 Census, the population of the State of Nevada was slightly less than 2 million people (1,945,800). According to the State of Nevada's Demographer, the population is anticipated to increase to 2,442,116 by the year 2005 and 2,690,079 by the year 2010. In the decade from 2000 to 2010, the population of Nevada will increase by 744,279 people (or 38.25%).

County	Population (2000)	% of State Population	Predicted Population 2005	Predicted Population 2010	Predicted Percentage Increase from 2000 to 2010
Carson City	52,457	2.696%	57,880	61,769	17.75%
Churchill	23,982	1.233%	25,636	26,759	11.58%
Clark	1,375,765	70.704%	1,761,614	1,969,348	43.15%
Douglas	41,259	2.120%	44,308	46,139	11.83%
Elko	45,291	2.328%	47,997	48,621	7.35%
Esmeralda	971	0.050%	1,052	1,076	10.81%
Eureka	1,651	0.085%	1,643	1,724	4.42%
Humboldt	16,106	0.828%	16,634	16,518	2.56%
Lander	5,794	0.298%	5,596	5,403	-3.75%
Lincoln	4,165	0.214%	3,824	3,953	-5.09%
Lyon	34,501	1.773%	41,615	45,175	30.94%
Mineral	5,071	0.261%	3,980	3,641	-29.20%
Nye	32,485	1.669%	39,652	44,985	38.48%
Pershing	6,693	0.344%	6,569	6,196	-7.87%
Storey	3,399	0.175%	3,755	3,791	11.53%
Washoe	339,486	17.447%	372,504	398,003	17.24%
White Pine	9,181	0.472%	7,857	7,005	-23.67%
STATE	1,945,800	100%	2,442,116	2,690,079	38.25%
				Above Average Anticipated Growth	Population Loss

As illustrated in the table above, Clark and Nye Counties are projected to experience above average growth by 2010. However, the populations of Humboldt, Lander, Mineral and White Pine Counties are expected to decline by 2010.

## Establishing Need

	Population (2000)	% of total pop	% increase from 2000 (2010)	% increase from 2000 (2020)	Population below poverty (1999)	% below poverty (1999)
Carson City	52457	2.63%	20.77%	38.37%	5245.7	10.00%
Churchill	23982	1.20%	44.77%	59.69%	2086.434	8.70%
Clark	1375765	68.85%	35.20%	58.32%	148582.62	10.80%
Douglas	41259	2.06%	43.92%	49.92%	3011.907	7.30%
Elko	45291	2.27%	21.05%	54.81%	4030.899	8.90%
Esmeralda	971	0.05%	14.93%	59.63%	148.563	15.30%
Eureka	1651	0.08%	11.69%	35.25%	208.026	12.60%
Humboldt	16106	0.81%	11.72%	55.93%	1562.282	9.70%
Lander	5794	0.29%	6.90%	36.69%	724.25	12.50%
Lincoln	4165	0.21%	0.72%	4.75%	687.225	16.50%
Lyon	34501	1.73%	43.01%	57.01%	3588.104	10.40%
Mineral	5071	0.25%	-11.91%	43.21%	770.792	15.20%
Nye	32485	1.63%	76.86%	49.87%	3475.895	10.70%
Pershing	6693	0.33%	46.02%	34.48%	763.002	11.40%
Storey	3399	0.17%	29.10%	47.13%	197.142	5.80%
Washoe	339486	16.99%	19.67%	32.06%	33948.6	10.00%
White Pine	9181	0.46%	-30.23%	33.46%	1009.91	11.00%
STATE	1945800	100.00%	22.60%	44.15%	210041.35	10.99%

	projected growth above average of 22.6%
	projected growth above average of 44.15%
	existing percent of population living beneath the poverty threshold exceeds the state average of 10.99%

### Counties with the Largest Absolute Population Below Poverty Threshold in 2000

The concentration of population in a few locations in Nevada makes balancing percentages with absolute numbers a constant challenge. Clark (148,583), Washoe (33,949), Carson City (5,246), Elko (4,031), and Lyon (3,588) have the largest numbers of people living beneath the poverty threshold. However, some counties have a disproportionate number of residents living beneath the poverty threshold.

Counties with a Percentage of Population Living Beneath the Poverty Threshold that Exceeds 11% (11% was the Nevada Average in 2000)

1. Lincoln 16.5%
2. Esmeralda 15.3%
3. Mineral 15.2%
4. Eureka 12.6%
5. Humboldt 12.5%
6. Lander 12.5%
7. Pershing 11.4%

## Other Indicators:

While the federal poverty threshold establishes an economic baseline for vulnerability, research has shown that true need is not always accurately reflected by this statistic. A measure of material deprivation may provide a more accurate representation of households that have basic unmet needs and may require emergency food. The material deprivation score equally combines the following five measures to create one cumulative score. These measures are:

1. Percentage of Unemployed People in Labor Force (indicator of short-term financial stress)
2. Percentage of Persons with permanent employment disability (ages 16-65)
3. Percentage of Housing living in rental housing (indicator of no financial reserves)
4. Percentage of Households without access to a vehicle
5. Percentage of Persons arriving from another state or country in the last five years (an indicator of few social ties and possibly little support from family/friends)

County	% Unemployed	% Employment Disabled	% Rental Housing	% Households with No Vehicle	% Population from Different State or Country within 5 yrs	Material Deprivation Score	Population below poverty (1999)	% below poverty (1999)
Carson City	8	18	37	6	20	89	5245.7	10.00%
Churchill	10	17	34	6	27	94	2086.434	8.70%
Clark	10	25	41	9	32	97	148582.62	10.80%
Douglas	10	15	26	3	28	82	3011.907	7.30%
Elko	10	19	30	5	20	84	4030.899	8.90%
Esmeralda	5	28	34	4	19	90	148.563	15.30%
Eureka	6	28	26	8	19	87	208.026	12.60%
Humboldt	15	16	27	5	21	84	1562.282	9.70%
Lander	13	29	23	6	16	87	724.25	12.50%
Lincoln	8	20	25	11	16	80	687.225	16.50%
Lyon	11	20	24	5	22	82	3588.104	10.40%
Mineral	18	29	27	5	14	93	770.792	15.20%
Nye	10	29	24	4	26	93	3475.895	10.70%
Pershing	13	20	31	5	19	88	763.002	11.40%
Storey	8	26	20	6	23	83	197.142	5.80%
Washoe	8	22	41	9	23	90	33948.6	10.00%
White Pine	12	19	23	6	20	80	1009.91	11.00%

STATE	Average=10%	Average=22%	Average=29	Average=6%	Average=21%	Average=89	210041.35	10.99%
	Std. Dev =3	Std. Dev =5	Std.Dev=6	Std. Dev=2	Std. Dev=5	Std. Dev=9		

higher than average material deprivation

Nevada presents some unique demographics. Therefore, the percentage of residents from another state or country within five years may be less important is this highly mobile population.

# 2000 Census Indicators by County

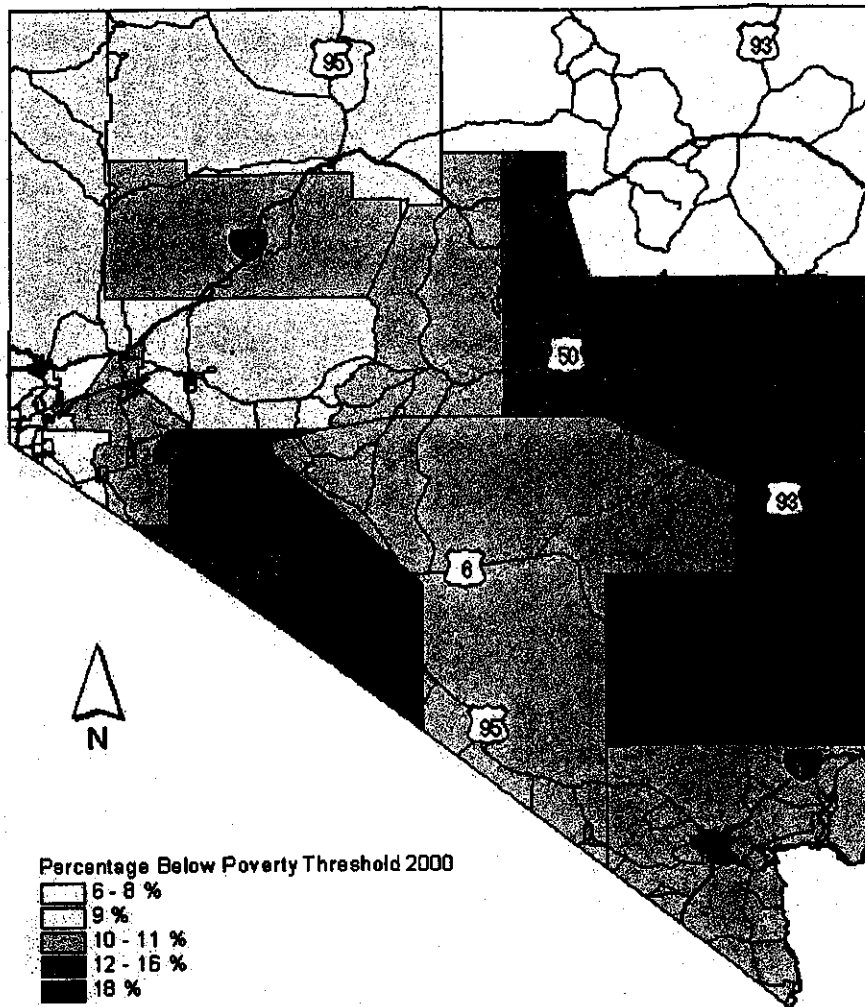
County	Population (2000)	% below poverty (1999)	1. Percentage Adults in Labor Force Unemployed	2. Percentage Adults Employment Disabled	3. Percentage of Households No Vehicle Access	4. Percentage of Rental Occupied Housing Units	5. Percentage of Adults (18 plus) With Less than High School Diploma	6. Percentage of Families - Female in Same Headed Households with Children	7. Percentage of Residents in Same Home as 5 Years Ago (reverse)	Material Deprivation Score
Carson City	52,457	10.000%	8.00	18	6	37	14.93	11.49	46.11	2
Churchill	23,982	8.700%	10.00	17	6	34	11.59	7.61	45.37	0
Clark	1,375,765	10.800%	10.00	25	9	41	18.37	10.43	34.47	4
Douglas	41,259	7.300%	10.00	15	3	26	6.93	7.26	48.9	0
Eiko	45,291	8.900%	10.00	19	5	30	20.47	7.37	47.65	1
Esmeralda	971	15.300%	5.00	28	4	34	14.32	4.35	53.09	1
Eureka	1,651	12.600%	6.00	28	8	26	18.57	3.87	59.41	1
Humboldt	16,106	9.700%	15.00	16	5	27	19.01	7.11	45.77	2
Lander	5,794	12.500%	15.00	29	6	23	18.17	7.39	55.98	2
Lincoln	4,165	16.500%	8.00	20	11	25	12.10	8.75	55.79	1
Lyon	34,501	10.400%	11.00	20	5	24	14.20	6.7	44.11	0
Mineral	5,071	15.200%	18.00	29	5	27	12.82	10.68	55.98	3
Nye	32,485	10.700%	10.00	29	4	24	14.85	5.72	41.07	2
Pershing	6,693	11.400%	13.00	20	5	31	22.35	9.23	48.38	1
Storey	3,399	5.800%	8.00	26	6	20	9.21	3.25	49.12	0
Washoe	339,486	10.000%	8.00	22	9	41	14.38	9.54	41.2	3
White Pine	9,181	11.000%	12.00	19	6	23	14.53	10.55	52.54	1
STATE	1,945,800	Average 10.98%	Average 10.29%	Average 22%	Average 6%	Average 29%	Average 15.11%	Average = 7.72	Average 48%	

Std. Dev. = 3% 3.24%      Std. Dev. = 5      Std. Dev. = 2      Std. Dev. = 6%      Std. Dev. = 4.02      Std. Dev. = 2.46%      Std. Dev. = 7%

Material Deprivation is offered as an alternative measure of vulnerability (alternative to the poverty threshold) and is an experimental concept (based upon Townsend's research in the United Kingdom). Material deprivation is calculated by adding the number of times a county lies 1 standard deviation beyond the norm (average) for #1 to 7. The experimental material deprivation score indicates greatest vulnerability in Clark, Mineral, & Washoe Counties. However, in the highly mobile communities of Clark and Washoe, the inclusion of rental housing, residential stability (#7) and no vehicle may skew these results.

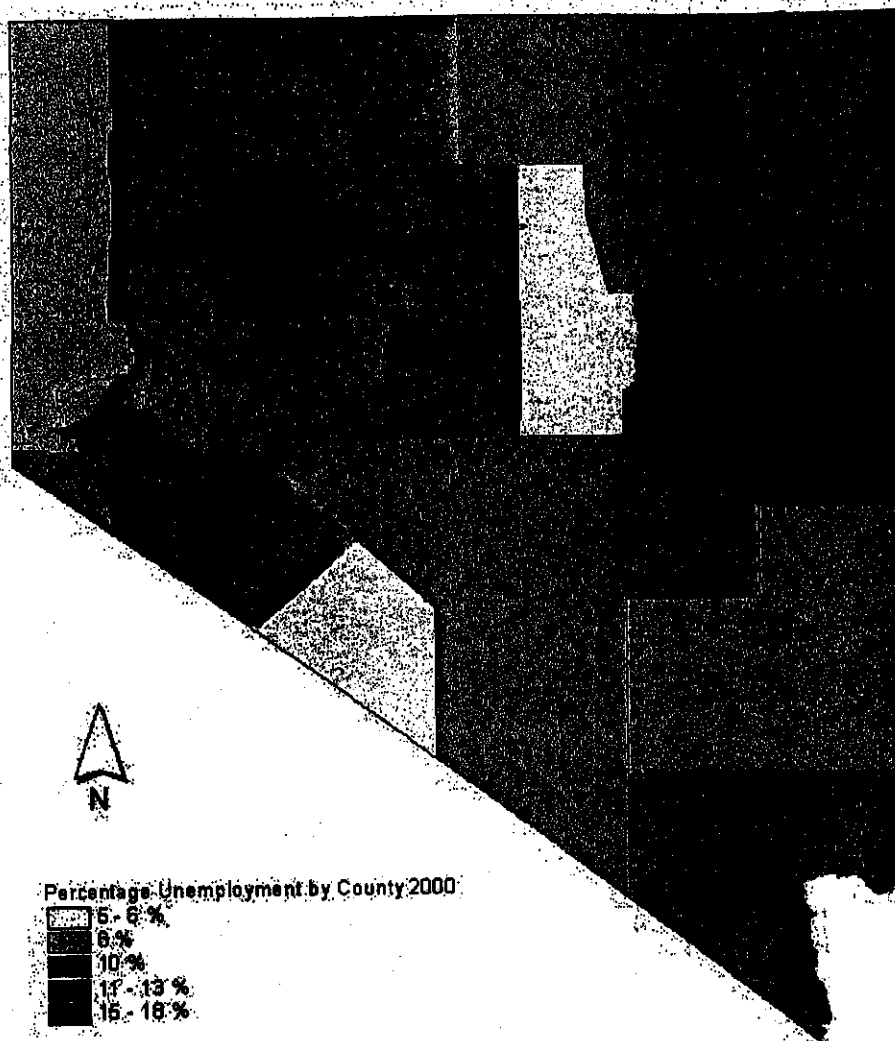
### SECTION III: Census Data

#### Percentage of Households Living Beneath the Poverty Threshold by County - 2000



The values were divided into five categories each containing an approximately equal number of counties. The darkest color represents the counties that rank in the top 20% in terms of percentage of households living beneath the poverty threshold. This information is based upon the 2000 US Census.

# Percentage of Unemployed by County - 2000

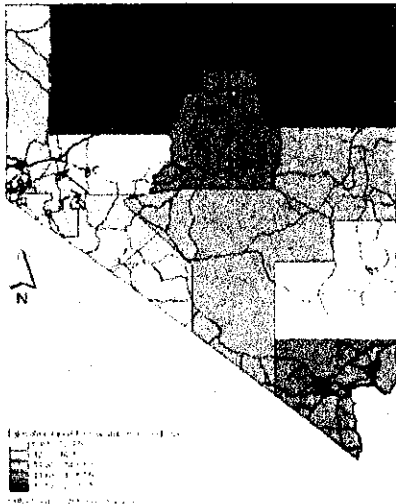


Percentage Unemployment by County 2000



The values were divided into five categories each containing an approximately equal number of counties. The darkest color represents the counties that rank in the top 20% in terms of percentage of unemployment rates for adults between 16 and 64 and currently in the labor force. This information is based upon the 2000 US Census.





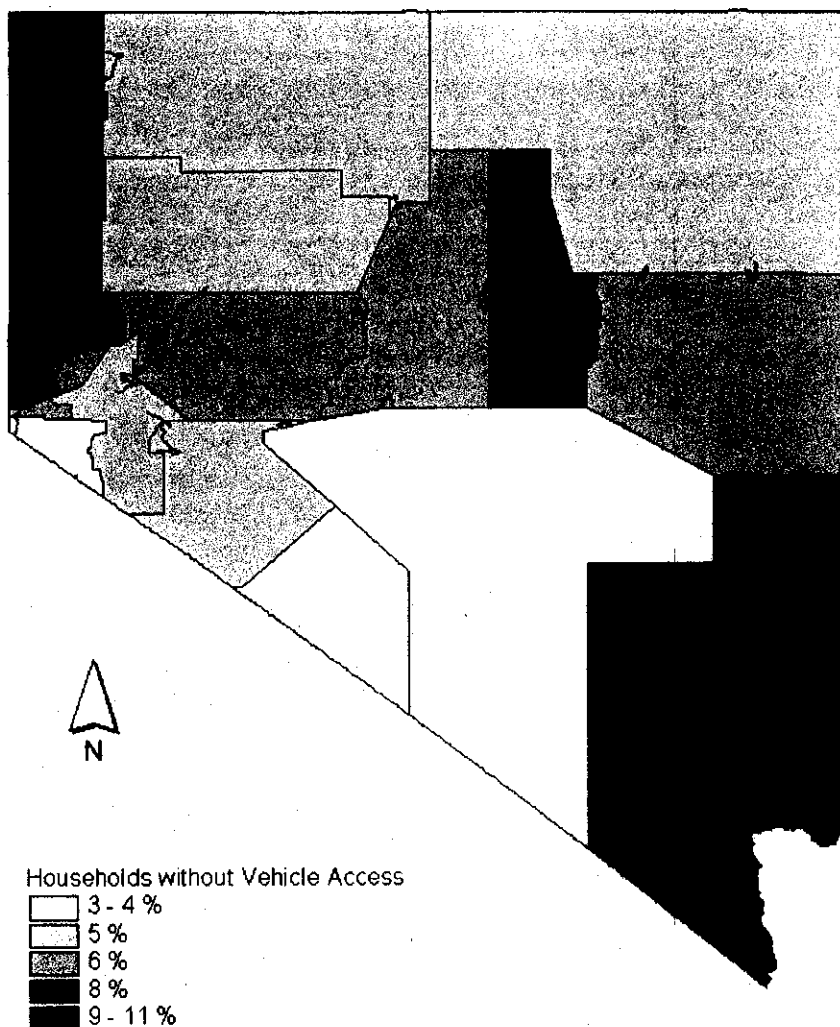
#### EDUCATION LEVEL - An Indicator of Vulnerability

County	Population 18 Years of Age or Older	Less Than High School Diploma	Percentage of Population 18 or Older with Less Than High School Diploma	County Ranking by Percentage of Population with Less Than High School Diploma
Carson City	40249	6010	14.93	7
Churchill County	17045	1975	11.59	15
Clark County	1025435	188322	18.37	5
Douglas County	31384	2176	6.93	17
Elko County	30633	6272	20.47	2
Esmeralda County	775	111	14.32	11
Eureka County	1190	221	18.57	4
Humboldt County	11046	2100	19.01	3
Lander County	3936	715	18.17	6
Lincoln County	2908	352	12.10	14
Lyon County	25191	3577	14.20	12
Mineral County	3845	493	12.82	13
Nye County	24879	3694	14.85	8
Pershing County	4993	1116	22.35	1
Storey County	2746	253	9.21	16
Washoe County	255301	36711	14.38	10
White Pine County	6970	1013	14.53	9

Average = 15.11

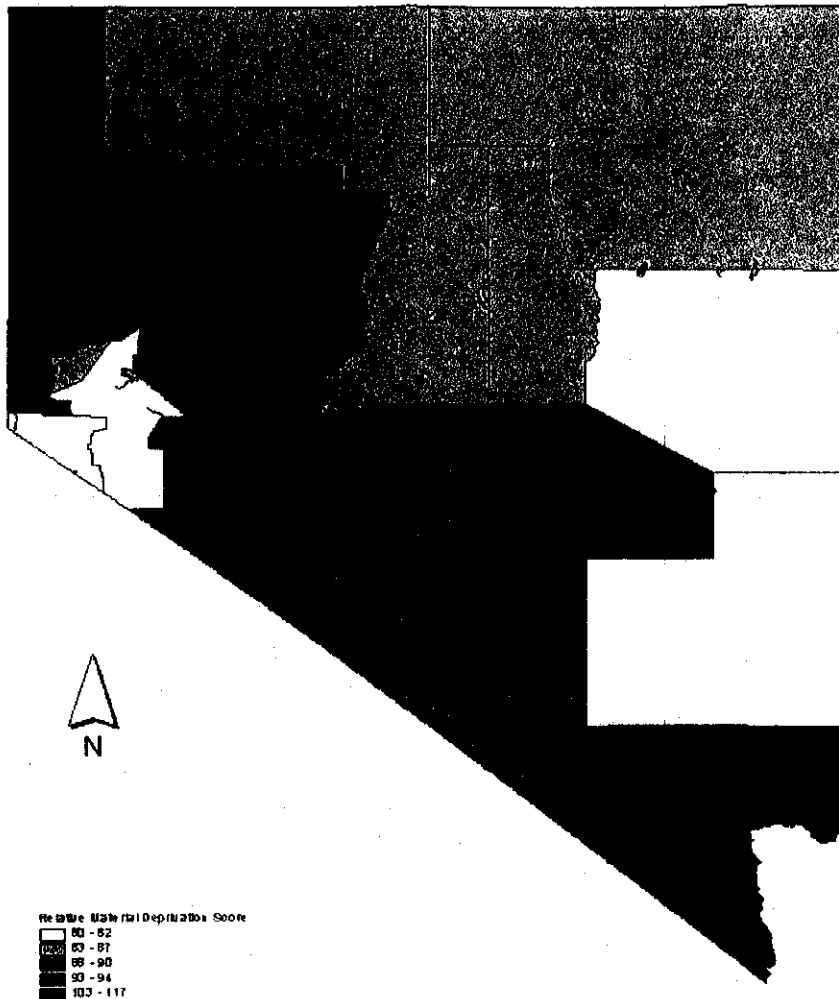
Legend
Highest Percentage
Second Highest Percentage

# Percentage of Households Without Vehicle Access By County - 2000



The values were divided into five categories each containing an approximately equal number of counties. The darkest color represents the counties that rank in the top 20% in terms of percentage of households without access to a vehicle. This information is based upon the 2000 US Census.

## Material Deprivation Scores by County - 2000



The values were divided into five categories each containing an approximately equal number of counties. The darkest color represents the counties that rank in the top 20% in terms of percentage of the material deprivation score. This score combines the percentages of unemployment, no vehicle access, rental housing, employment disabled, and residents from another state or country in the last 5yrs. This score is intended to serve as an alternative indicator for vulnerability. This information is based upon the 2000 US Census.



# Median Family Income

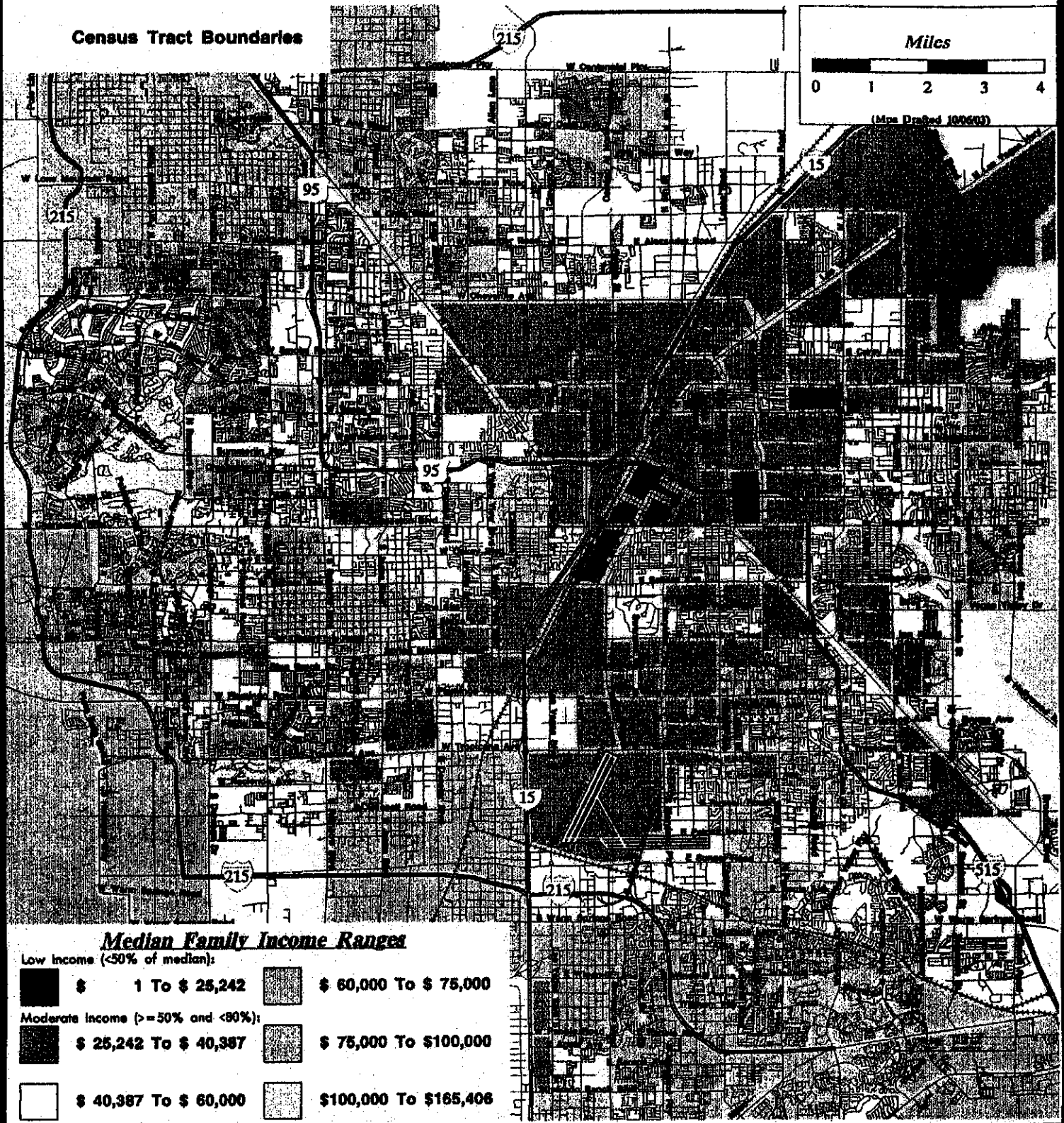
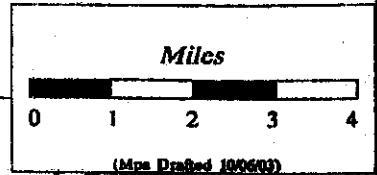
(Source: 2000 Census Summary File 3)

## Greater Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada

(Clark County Median Family Income - \$56,495)



Census Tract Boundaries



### Median Family Income Ranges

Low Income (<50% of median):

■ \$ 1 To \$ 25,242    ■ \$ 60,000 To \$ 75,000

Moderate Income (>=50% and <90%):

■ \$ 25,242 To \$ 40,387    ■ \$ 75,000 To \$ 100,000

□ \$ 40,387 To \$ 60,000    ■ \$ 100,000 To \$ 165,406

## TRENDS AND TOUCHPOINTS:

Several trends were uncovered in the course of the gap analysis, identifying why clients were in need of food assistance. Leading trends were:

- Notable increases in the number of single parents and seniors
- General increase in the number of clients (dramatically increased since Sept 11/2001)
- Increase in clients seeking assistance due to unemployment and low paying jobs

The Hunger Study conducted in 2001 in northern Nevada , just before the Sept 11 tragedy, revealed the following about clients who were interviewed at emergency food pantries. Subsequent to that date, a 34% increase in pantry usage was noted, never returning to former levels:

- Age:** Two thirds were children under 18 (37%) or seniors (28%)  
25% were single parent families
- Gender:** 58.2% were female, 47.8% male
- Ethnicity:** In north, clients were 68.7% white, 11% Hispanic, 12% African American
- Education:** almost 1/3 of clients have less than high school education  
43% graduated from high school  
25% had a business/technical education or some college – 2 year degree
- Residence:** 80% lived in permanent housing – home, apartment, mobile home, etc.
- Employment:** 21% had at least one adult employed full time  
Of 79% unemployed, 57% had been unemployed for three months or less  
More than 40% held one or more part time job  
*\* Survey conducted in April 01 – subsequently marked 13 monthly decreases in gaming revenue, and 9/11 economic impact.*
- Gov't Asst:** Of those unemployed, 35% were seniors on Social Security, 7.5% received SSI, and only 8.8% received TANF.
- Hard Choices:**  
44.3% had to choose between paying utility bills and buying food  
43.8% had to choose between paying for rent/mortgage or food  
30.3% had to choose between paying for medical care/prescriptions or food

### **Trends in Client Characteristics or Reasons for Need:**

Survey respondents were asked to identify any observed trends amongst their client population. All of the comments were reviewed and then categorized based upon the content of each comment. The emerging fifteen categories were:

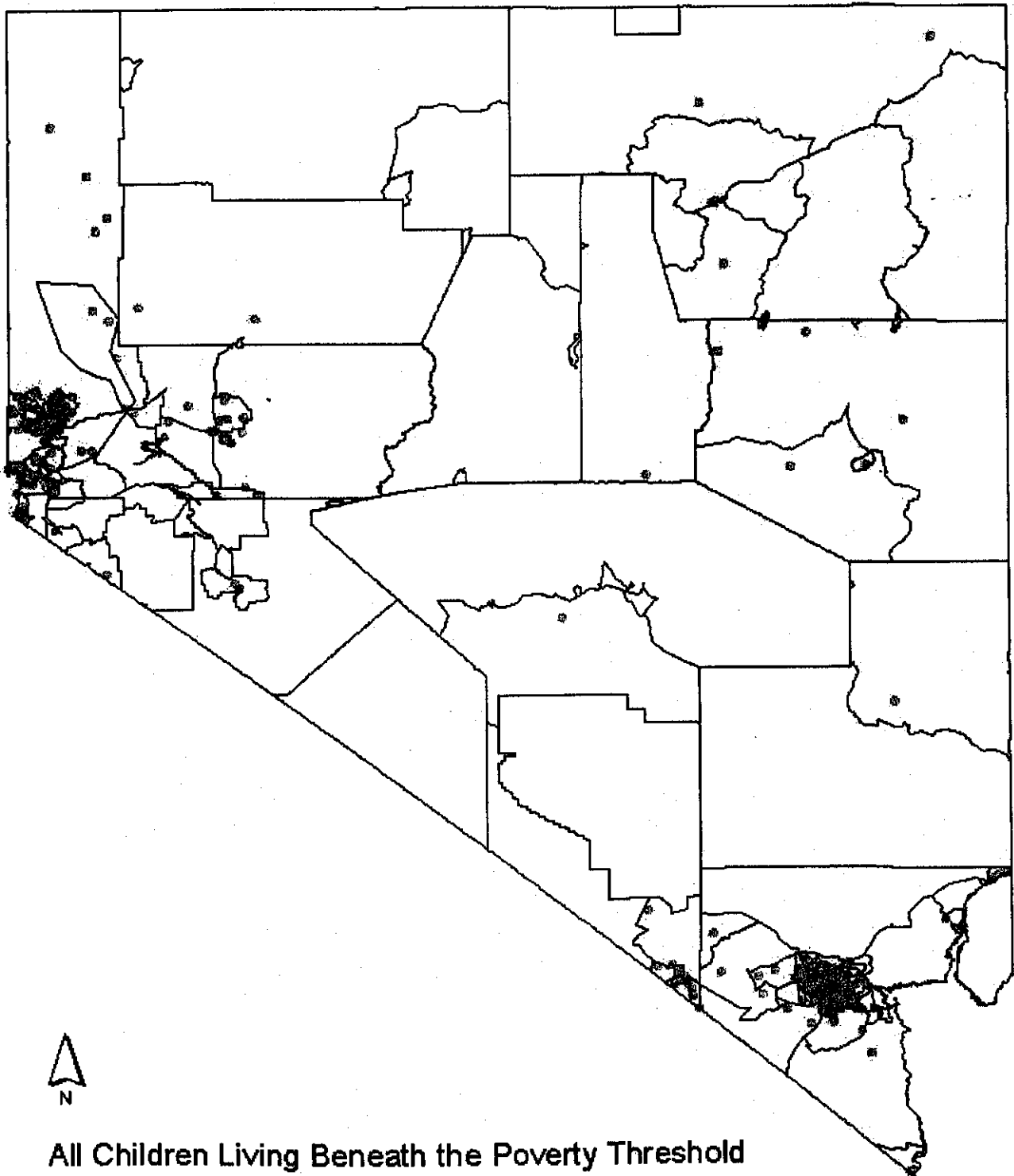
1. Increasing number of Transients
2. Increasing number of Homeless Individuals
3. Increasing number of Families in need
4. Increasing number of Single Parents
5. Increasing number of Immigrants
6. Increasing number of Seniors
7. Increasing number of Seniors raising Grandchildren
8. Increasing number of clients with Mental Illness or Substance Abuse Problems
9. Increasing number of Younger People
10. Fewer (or changes to) Social Assistance Programs
11. Increasing Numbers
12. Increasing Severity of Need
13. Unemployment
14. Low Paying Jobs
15. Shelter/Housing Needs

<b>Content Category</b>	<b>Number of Responses (176 comments)</b>	<b>Relative Percent %</b>
Transients	7	3.9
Homeless	14	7.9
Families	8	4.6
Single Parents	24	13.6
Immigrants	10	5.7
Seniors	19	10.8
Seniors raising Grandchildren	5	2.8
Mental Illness/ Substance Abuse	8	4.6
Younger People	3	1.7
Fewer Social Assistance Programs	10	5.7
Increasing Numbers	16	9.1
Increasing Severity	8	4.5
Unemployment	20	11.4
Low Paying Jobs	20	11.4
Shelter Needs	4	2.2

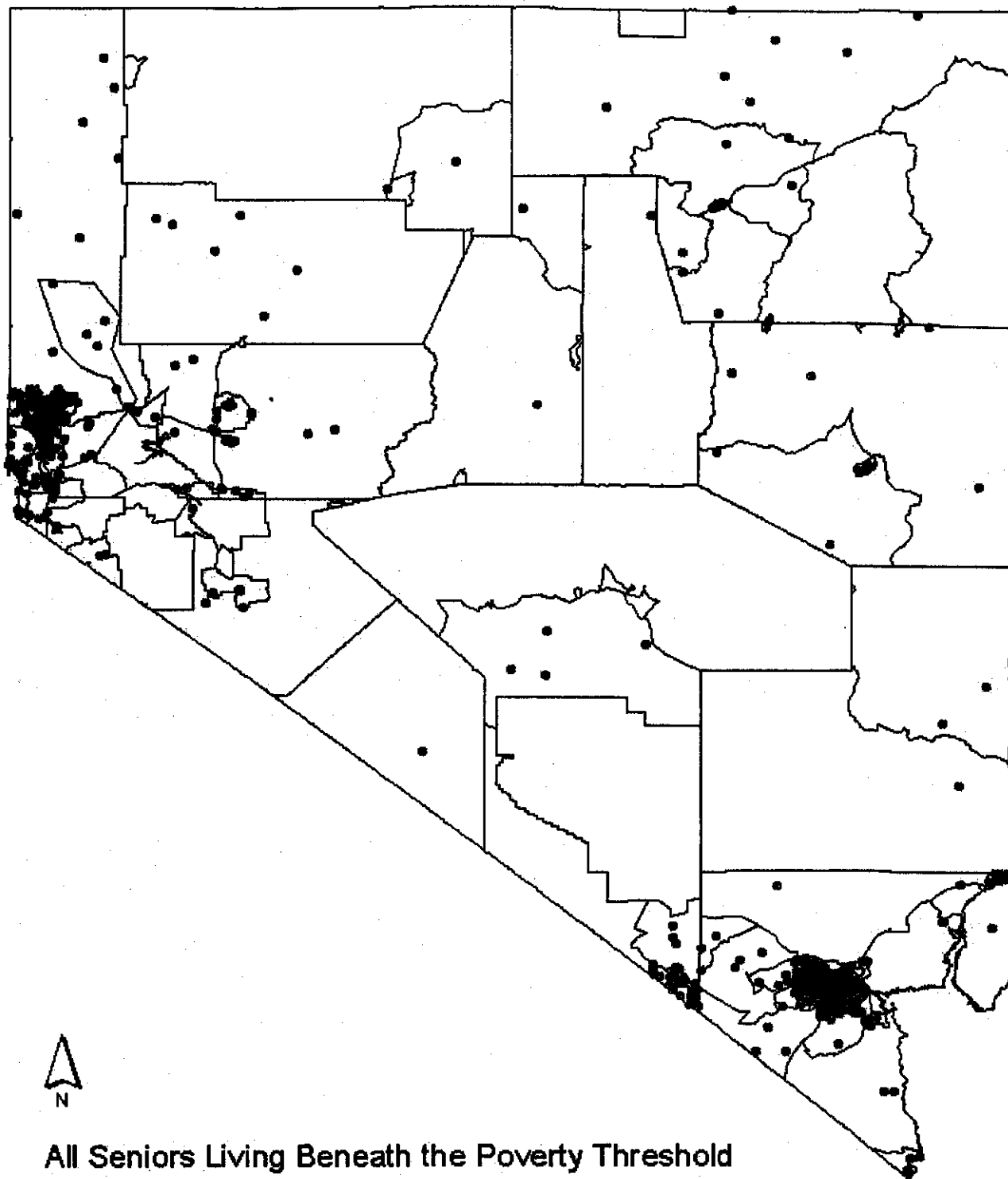
Many of these categories could be combined, such as 1) transients and 2) homeless individuals and 6) seniors and 7) seniors raising grandchildren, and such combinations alter the relative importance of the issue.

#### **Leading trends were:**

- notable increases in the number of single parents and seniors
- increase in the number of recent clients
- clients are seeking emergency food assistance due to unemployment or low paying jobs



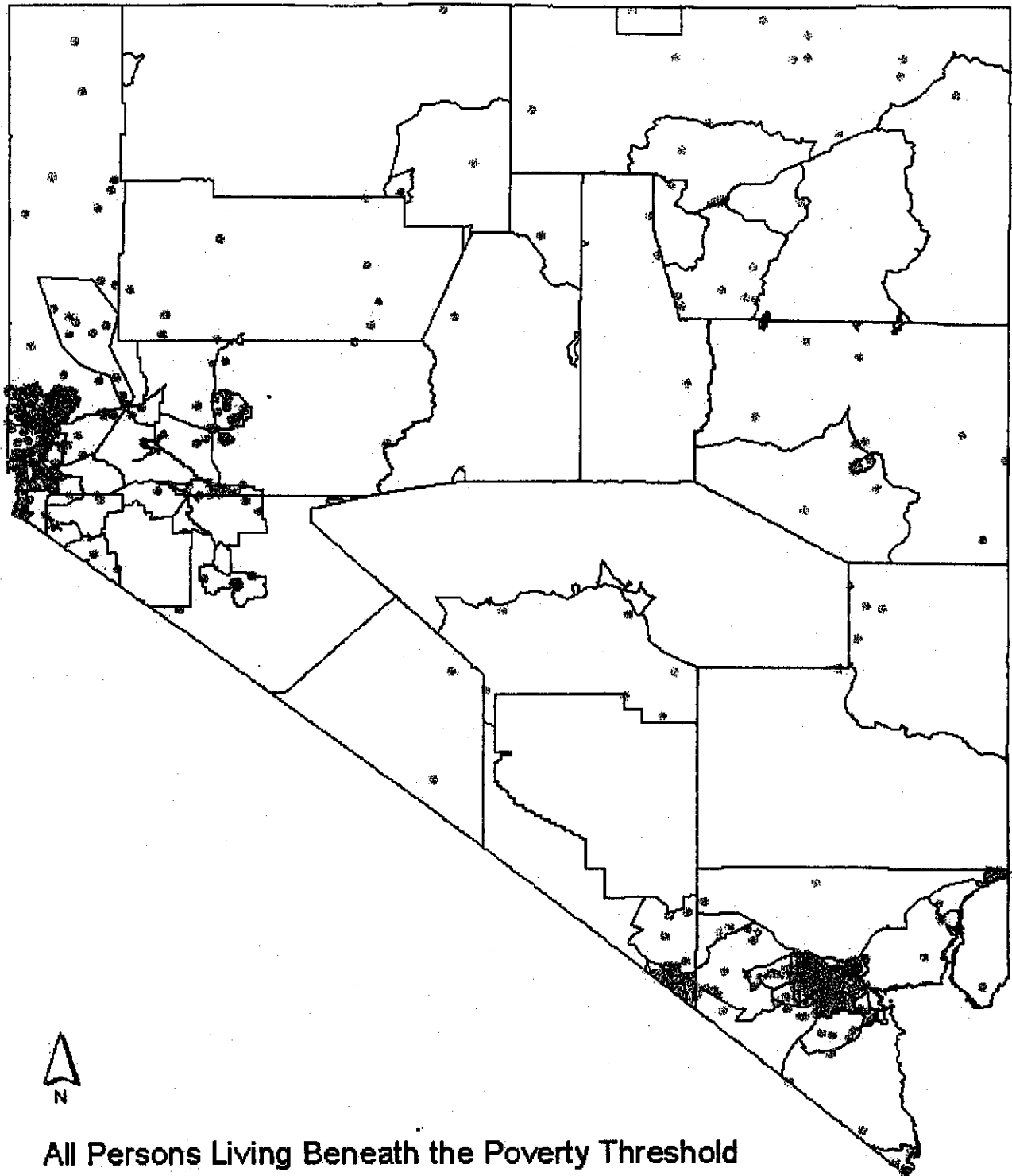
All Children Living Beneath the Poverty Threshold  
• 1 Dot = 100



All Seniors Living Beneath the Poverty Threshold

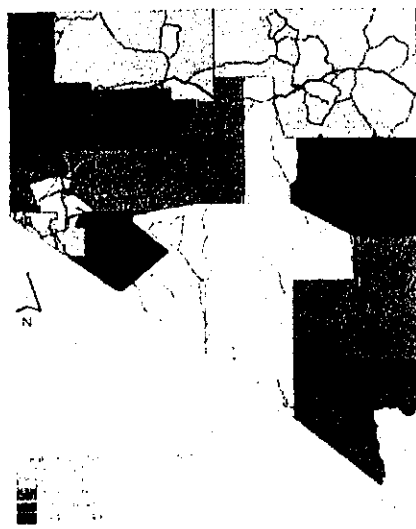
• 1 Dot = 100





All Persons Living Beneath the Poverty Threshold

• 1 Dot = 100



# FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

County	Number of Families	Female Headed Households with Children	Percentage of Families - Female Headed Households with Children	County Ranking for Highest Percentage of Female Headed Households with Children
Carson City	15455	1543	11.49	1
Churchill County	6560	499	7.61	8
Clark County	342405	35703	10.43	4
Douglas County	12004	872	7.26	11
Elko County	11581	853	7.37	10
Esmeralda County	253	11	4.35	15
Eureka County	439	17	3.87	16
Humboldt County	4164	296	7.11	12
Lander County	1569	116	7.39	9
Lincoln County	1028	90	8.75	7
Lyon County	9550	640	6.7	13
Mineral County	1395	149	10.68	2
Nye County	9075	519	5.72	14
Pershing County	1398	129	9.23	6
Storey County	984	32	3.25	17
Washoe County	84518	8067	9.54	5
White Pine County	2152	227	10.55	3

Average = 7.72

Legend

Highest Percentage

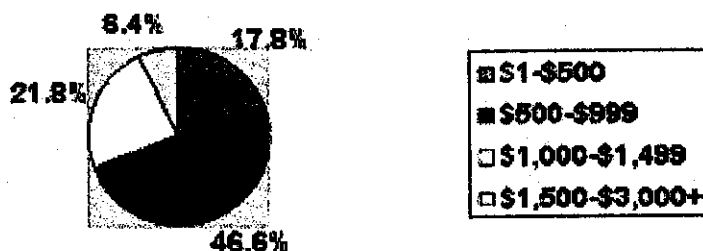
Second Highest Percentage

## **Hungry people are poor**

By every measure, people who seek emergency food lack enough money to provide for themselves and their families.

Two-thirds of adults who seek food at an emergency food assistance pantry in northern Nevada reported that their monthly income was under \$1,000 a month. The average monthly income was \$821, or \$9,852 per year.

**Monthly household income,  
adult clients**



More than half of respondents, 62.1 percent, live below the federal poverty level and have less income than is required to support living. More than 80 percent have incomes at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty level, the income level used to determine eligibility for food stamps.

## The Federal Poverty Threshold

	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>
1 person household	\$6,652	\$8,794
4 person household (2 adults; 2 children)	\$13,254	\$7,463
3 person household (1 adult; 2 children)	\$10,530	\$13,874

### What it takes to live in our state

People who have an average income of only \$821 per month, or less than \$10,000 annually, cannot support themselves in Nevada. In Washoe County, a single adult needs almost \$16,000 a year to meet basic needs without public or private assistance.

#### Self-Sufficiency Standard in Washoe County, NV in 2002

Family size	Per hour	Per year
Single adult	\$8.05	\$15,994
Adult with preschooler	\$13.67	\$28,864
Adult, preschooler, school-age child	\$21.90	\$46,243

#### Self-Sufficiency Standard in Clark County, NV in 2002

Family Size	Per hour	Per year
Single adult	\$8.68	\$18,338
Adult with preschooler	\$13.78	\$29,099
Adult, preschooler, school-age child	\$22.48	\$47,483

Source: "The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Nevada," a report for the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada by Diana Pearce, Ph.D. with Jennifer Brooks.

## How much it takes to eat

Using the USDA Low-Cost Plan, a single woman would need to spend \$33.20 a week to feed herself. Feeding a teen-age boy would cost \$38 a week.

*Cost of Food at Home on the USDA Low-Cost plan*

<b>Household size</b>	<b>per week</b>	<b>Per month</b>
Single woman 20-50 years	\$33.20	\$143.90
Single man 20- 50	\$37.90	\$164.20
Boy, age 15-19	\$38.00	\$164.70
Couple, 51 years and over	\$75.20	\$326.00
Couple, two small children	\$112.60	\$487.90

Source:

USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, Feb. 2001

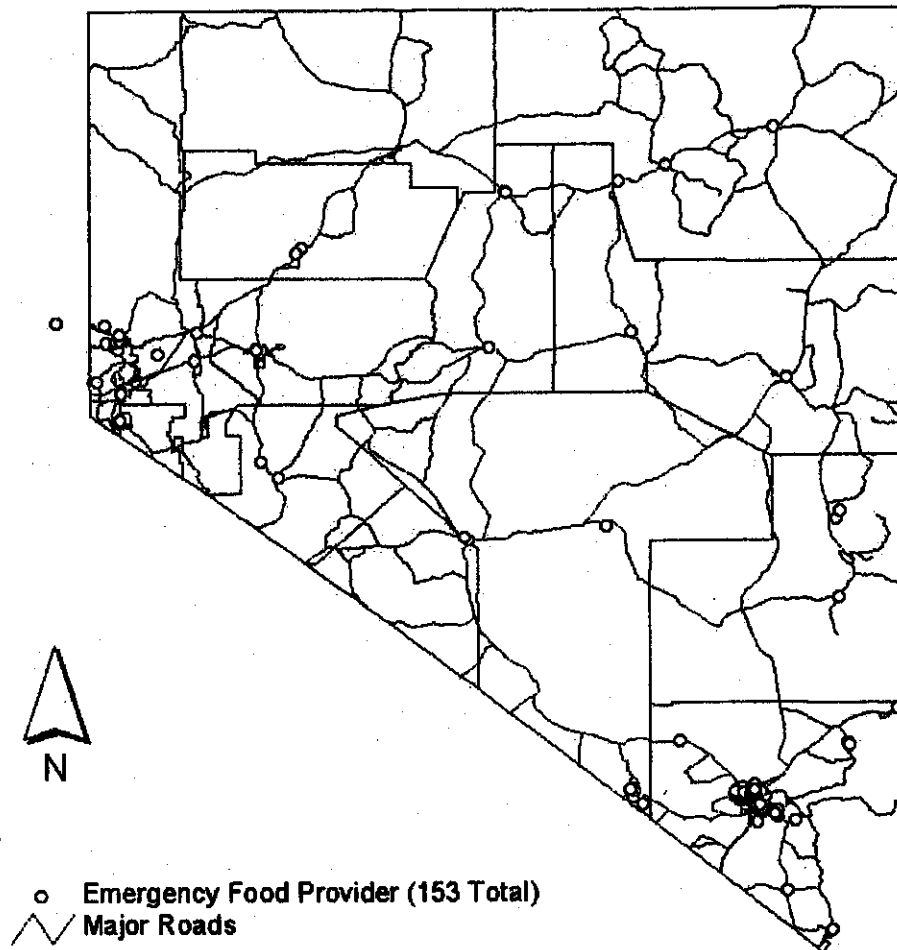
### **The USDA Low-Cost Food Plan**

Although food stamp allotments are based on the lower-cost Thrifty Food Plan, that plan is meant for emergency use only. The Low-Cost Plan is more realistic based on food preparation time and consumption patterns. The Low-Cost Plan does not allow for any take-out, fast-food or restaurant meals.

## SECTION II: Emergency Food Provider Survey Results:

A total of 153 emergency food providers responded with completed surveys (78% response rate). Ninety-two completed surveys were received from the four southern counties of Clark, Lincoln, Nye and Esmeralda. Sixty-one completed surveys were received from the remaining northern counties. Each of the emergency food providers has been located by latitude and longitude as illustrated on the map below.

### Location of Emergency Food Providers in Nevada - 2002



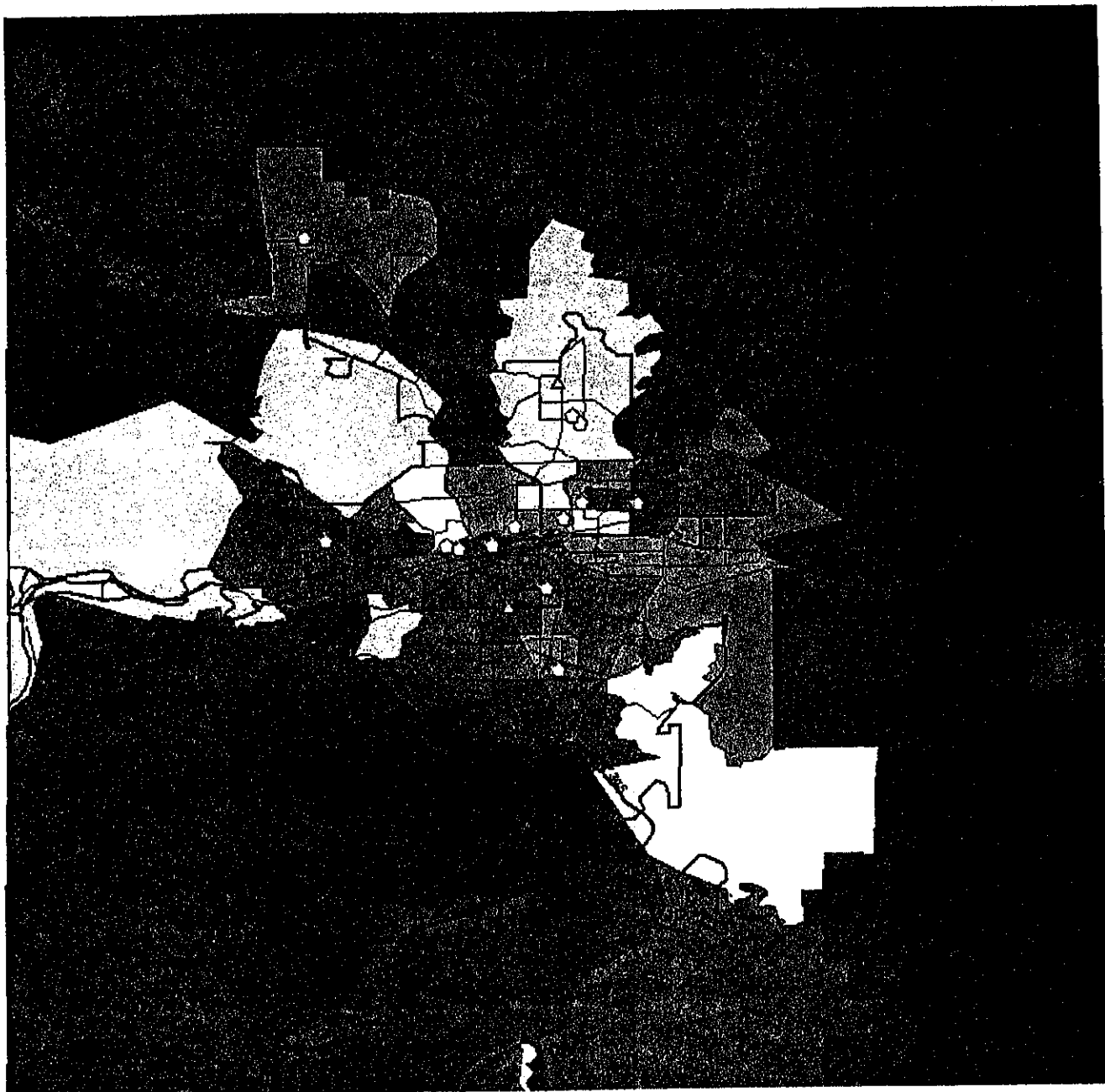
# Existing Emergency Food Providers and Poverty Population Projections

County	Population (2000)	% of State Population	% below poverty (1999)	Below Poverty in 2000	Number of Emergency Food Providers	Ratio of People in Poverty 2000/ Emergency Food Providers by County	Below Poverty 2005 at County's Existing % Poverty	Ratio of People in Poverty 2005/ Emergency Food Providers by County	Below Poverty 2010 at County's Existing % Poverty	Ratio of People in Poverty 2010/ Emergency Food Providers by County
Carson City	52,457	2.70%	10.000%	5246	3	1748.7	5,788	1,929	6,177	2059
Churchill	23,982	1.23%	8.700%	2086	4	521.5	2,230	558	2,328	582
Clark	1,375,765	70.70%	10.800%	148583	91	1632.8	190,254	2,091	212,690	2337
Douglas	41,259	2.12%	7.300%	3012	1	3012.0	3,234	3,234	3,368	3368
Elko	45,291	2.33%	8.900%	4031	4	1007.8	4,272	1,068	4,327	1082
Esmeralda	971	0.05%	15.300%	149	0	0.0	161	0	165	0
Eureka	1,651	0.08%	12.600%	208	1	208.0	207	207	217	217
Humboldt	16,106	0.83%	9.700%	1562	0	0.0	1,613	0	1,602	0
Lander	5,794	0.30%	12.500%	724	3	241.3	700	233	675	225
Lincoln	4,165	0.21%	16.500%	687	3	229.0	631	210	652	217
Lyon	34,501	1.77%	10.400%	3588	3	1196.0	4,328	1,443	4,698	1566
Mineral	5,071	0.26%	15.200%	771	2	385.5	605	302	553	277
Nye	32,485	1.67%	10.700%	3476	13	267.4	4,243	326	4,813	370
Pershing	6,693	0.34%	11.400%	763	2	381.5	749	374	703	351
Storey	3,399	0.17%	5.800%	197	1	197.0	218	218	220	220
Washoe	339,486	17.45%	10.000%	33949	16	2121.8	37,250	2,328	39,800	2488
White Pine	9,181	0.47%	11.000%	1010	1	1010.0	864	864	771	771
STATE	1,945,800	100.00%	Average 10.98%	213809	148	Average = 833	257,348	Average = 905	295,592	Average = 949

No Emergency Food Provider 2002

Largest Projected Demand for Emergency Food based upon population projections and existing Emergency Food Providers

Reno - Sparks, Nevada  
Percentage in Poverty and Emergency Food Providers



- ◇ Emergency Food Provider
  - △ Family Resource Center
  - Reno - Sparks Boundary
- Percentage in Poverty by Census Tract
- 0 - 4 %
  - 5 - 7 %
  - 8 - 11 %
  - 12 - 16 %
  - 17 - 41 %

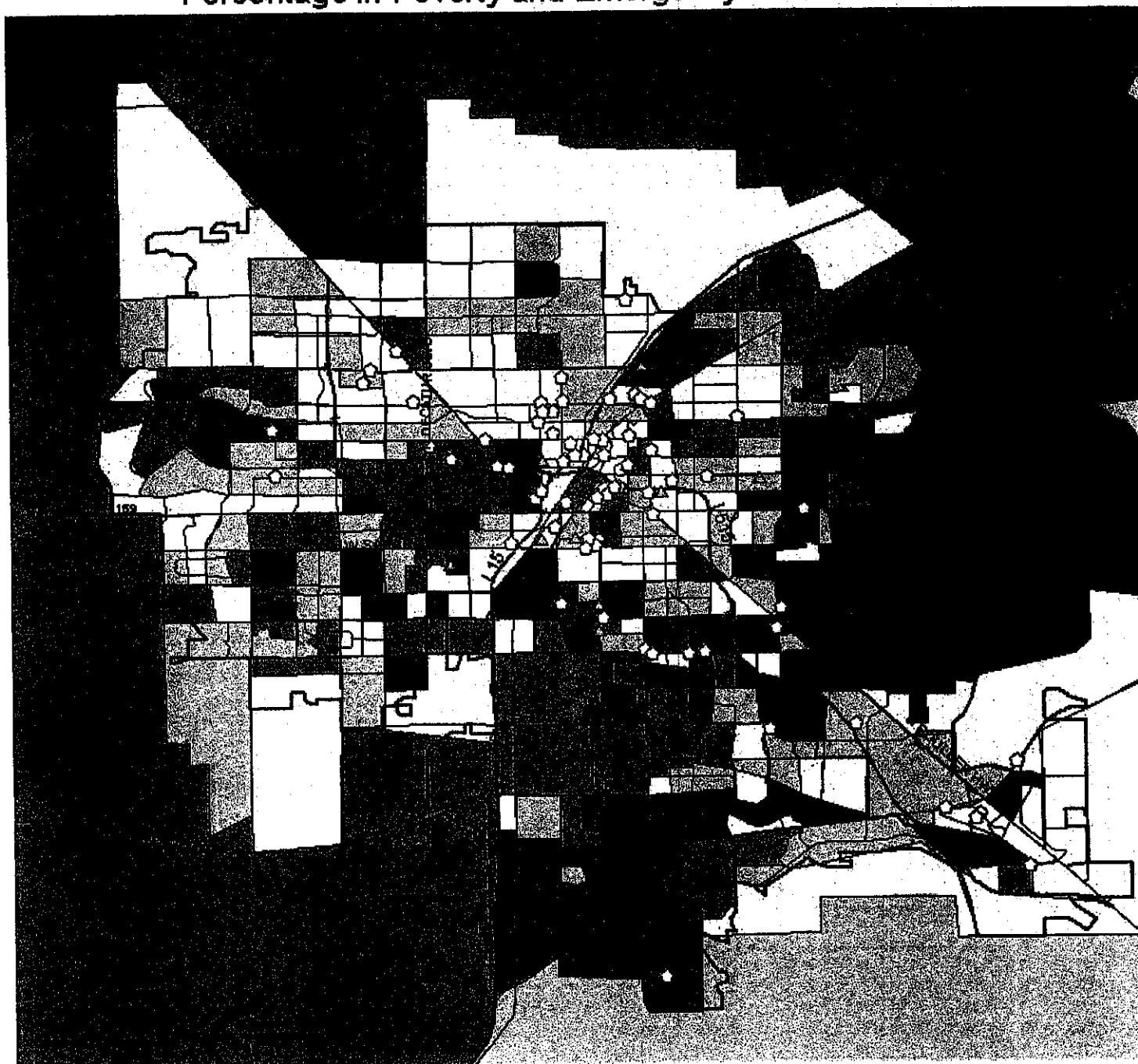


Data Source: 2000 US Census



# Las Vegas, Nevada

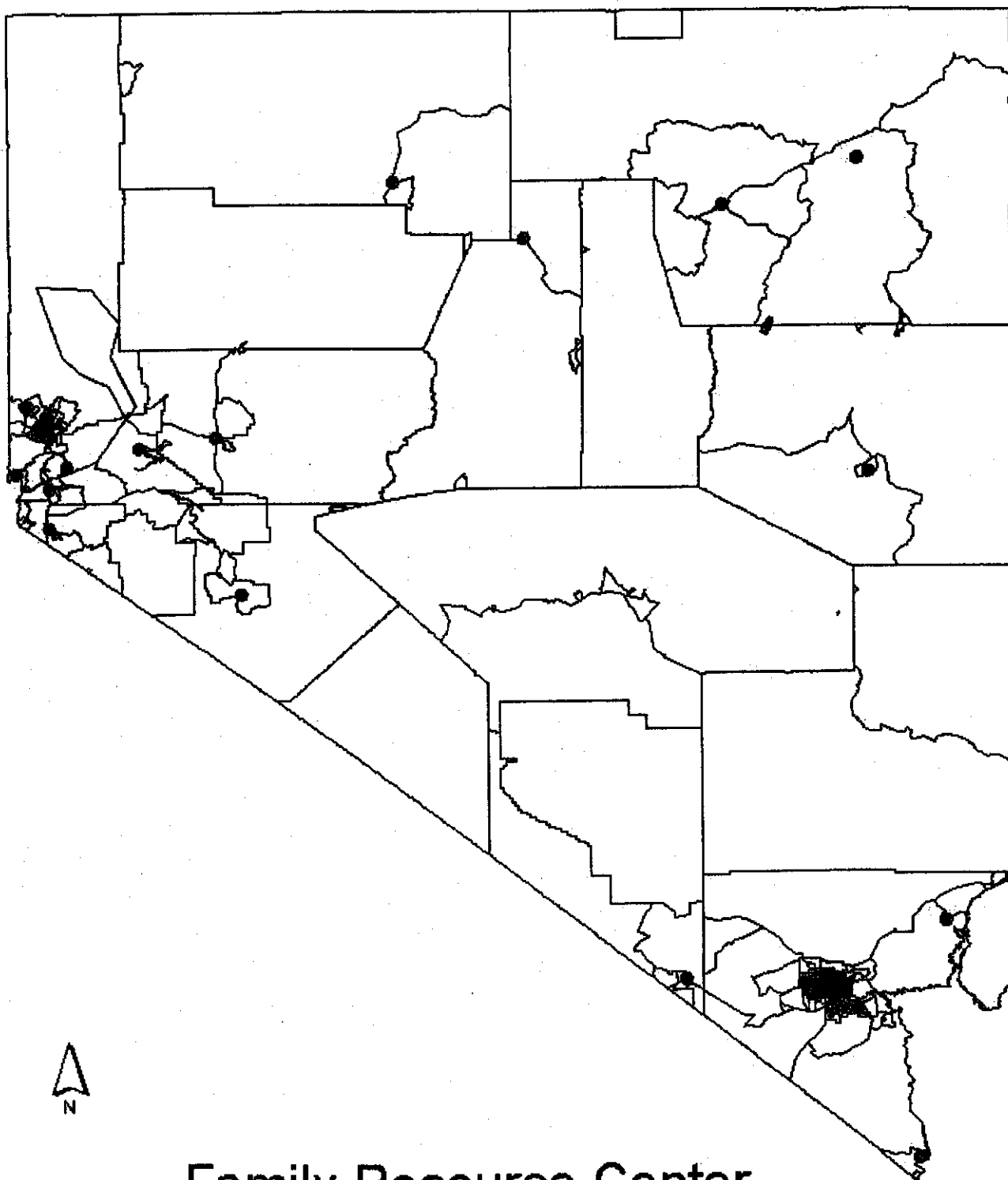
## Percentage in Poverty and Emergency Food Providers



- Emergency Food Provider
- △ Family Resource Center
- ▭ Las Vegas Boundary
- Percentage in Poverty by Census Tracts
- 0 - 4 %
- 5 - 7 %
- 8 - 11 %
- 12 - 16 %
- 17 - 41 %



Data Source: 2000 US Census



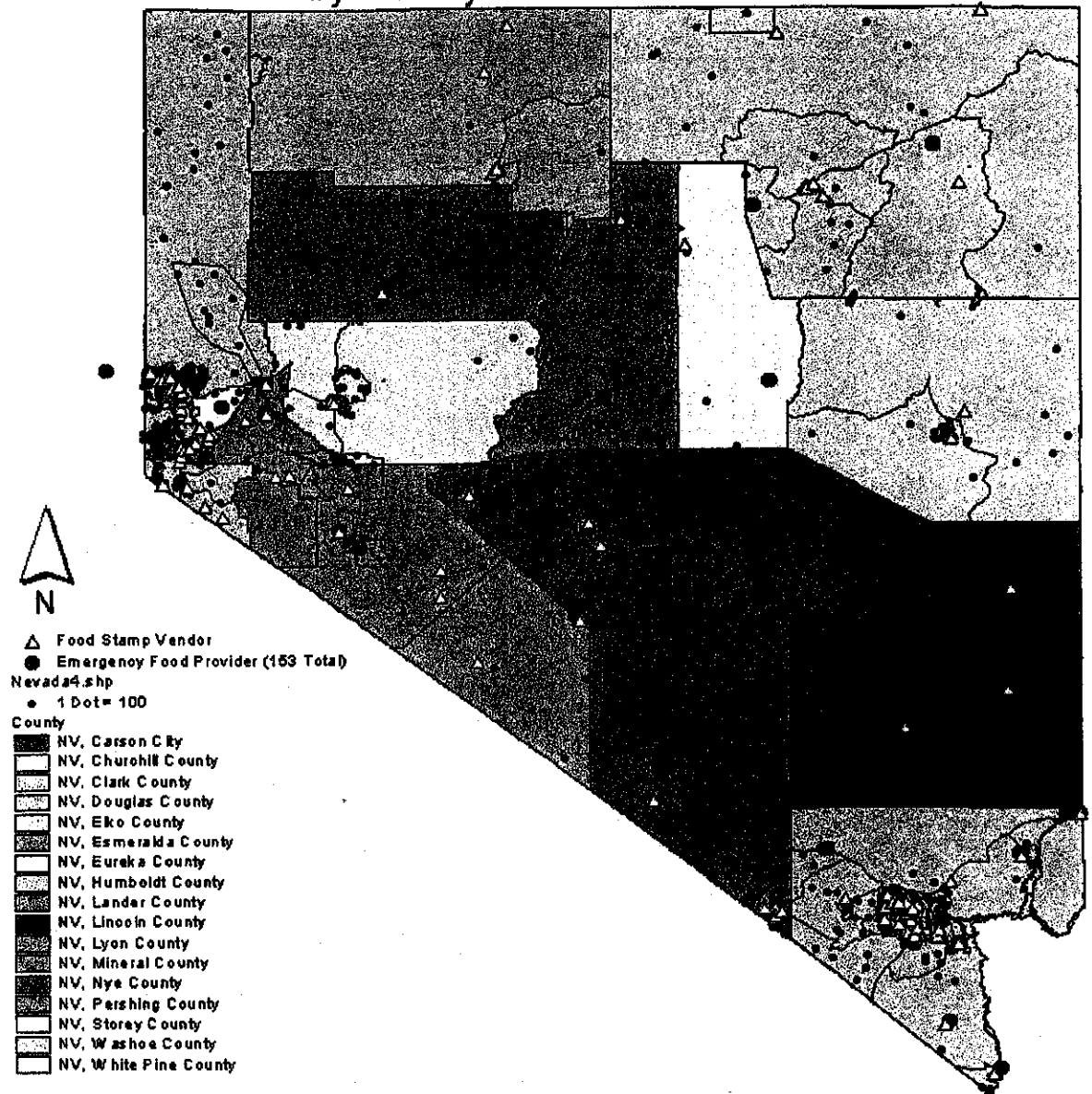
- Family Resource Center

### Distribution of Food Stamp Vendors by County

	Population (2000)	% of total pop	Number of Emergency Food Providers	% Emergency Food Providers	Number of Food Stamp Vendors	% Food Stamp Vendors
Carson City	52457	2.63%	3	2.03%	17	2.73%
Churchill	23982	1.20%	4	2.70%	6	0.96%
Clark	1375765	68.85%	91	61.49%	411	65.97%
Douglas	41259	2.06%	1	0.68%	6	0.96%
Elko	45291	2.27%	4	2.70%	16	2.57%
Esmeralda	971	0.05%	0	0.00%	1	0.16%
Eureka	1651	0.08%	1	0.68%	1	0.16%
Humboldt	16106	0.81%	0	0.00%	8	1.28%
Lander	5794	0.29%	3	2.03%	2	0.32%
Lincoln	4165	0.21%	3	2.03%	5	0.80%
Lyon	34501	1.73%	3	2.03%	11	1.77%
Mineral	5071	0.25%	2	1.35%	5	0.80%
Nye	32485	1.63%	13	8.78%	18	2.89%
Pershing	6693	0.33%	2	1.35%	1	0.16%
Storey	3399	0.17%	1	0.68%	1	0.16%
Washoe	339486	16.99%	16	10.81%	110	17.66%
White Pine	9181	0.46%	1	0.68%	4	0.64%
STATE	1945800	100.00%	148	100.00	623	100.00%

Food Stamp Vendors are those retailers who accept the Nevada Quest Card as of January 27, 2003.

# Location of Food Stamp Grocery Vendors, Emergency Food Providers, and Households living Beneath the Poverty Threshold by County - 2000



Each green triangle represents a vendor/grocery store who accept food stamps (as of January 2003). Each blue dot represents 100 household living beneath the poverty threshold. Each red dot represents an emergency food provider.

This information is based upon the 2000 US Census, a survey of emergency food providers, and the USDA.

## **GENERAL CONCLUSIONS**

- Emergency food assistance is inadequate to accommodate need of poverty population for food.
- Full implementation of USDA nutrition programs including food stamps (Quest card), child nutrition programs, commodities, senior nutrition programs, etc. will bring more food resources into low income households, possibly lessen need for emergency food assistance.
  - Nevada has last in food stamp participation, summer food and afterschool meal participation, and terrible in school breakfast participation.

### **Three key initiatives**

- Full implementation of child nutrition programs to ensure adequate food resources to maintain good health and maximize education opportunities. Increasing summer food and school breakfast by a small percentage will bring between \$2 and \$7 million in food resources annually for Nevada's kids
- Increased implementation of food stamp (Quest card) program will provide low income families with basic nutrition, and millions of additional dollars to circulate in the Nevada economy. At 40% participation, \$98.5 million in federal funds initially used by poor families to buy food came into Nevada. Only 10% increase in participation will bring an additional \$10 million into the state. It is worth the effort.
- Increase participation in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program for seniors and children.

If nothing else is done, low income families, children and seniors in Nevada will be healthier and better nourished with these three efforts. Additional initiatives will be outlined at a later date.

## **ULTIMATE GOAL**

### **End hunger in the state of Nevada**

## **Definitions**

- **Food secure:** household shows no or minimal signs of food insecurity.
- **Food Insecure without Hunger:** Food insecurity is evident in household *adults'* concerns and in adjustments to household food management, including reduced quality of diets. Little or no reduction in household members' food intake is reported.
- **Food Insecure with Moderate Hunger:** Food intake for adults in the household has been reduced to an extent that adults have *repeatedly* experienced the physical sensation of hunger. Such reductions are not observed at this stage for children in the household.
- **Food Insecure with Severe Hunger:** Households with children have reduced the children's food intake to an extent that it implies that the children have experienced the physical sensation of hunger. Adults in households with and without children have repeatedly experienced more extensive reductions in food intake at this stage.

## **GOAL**

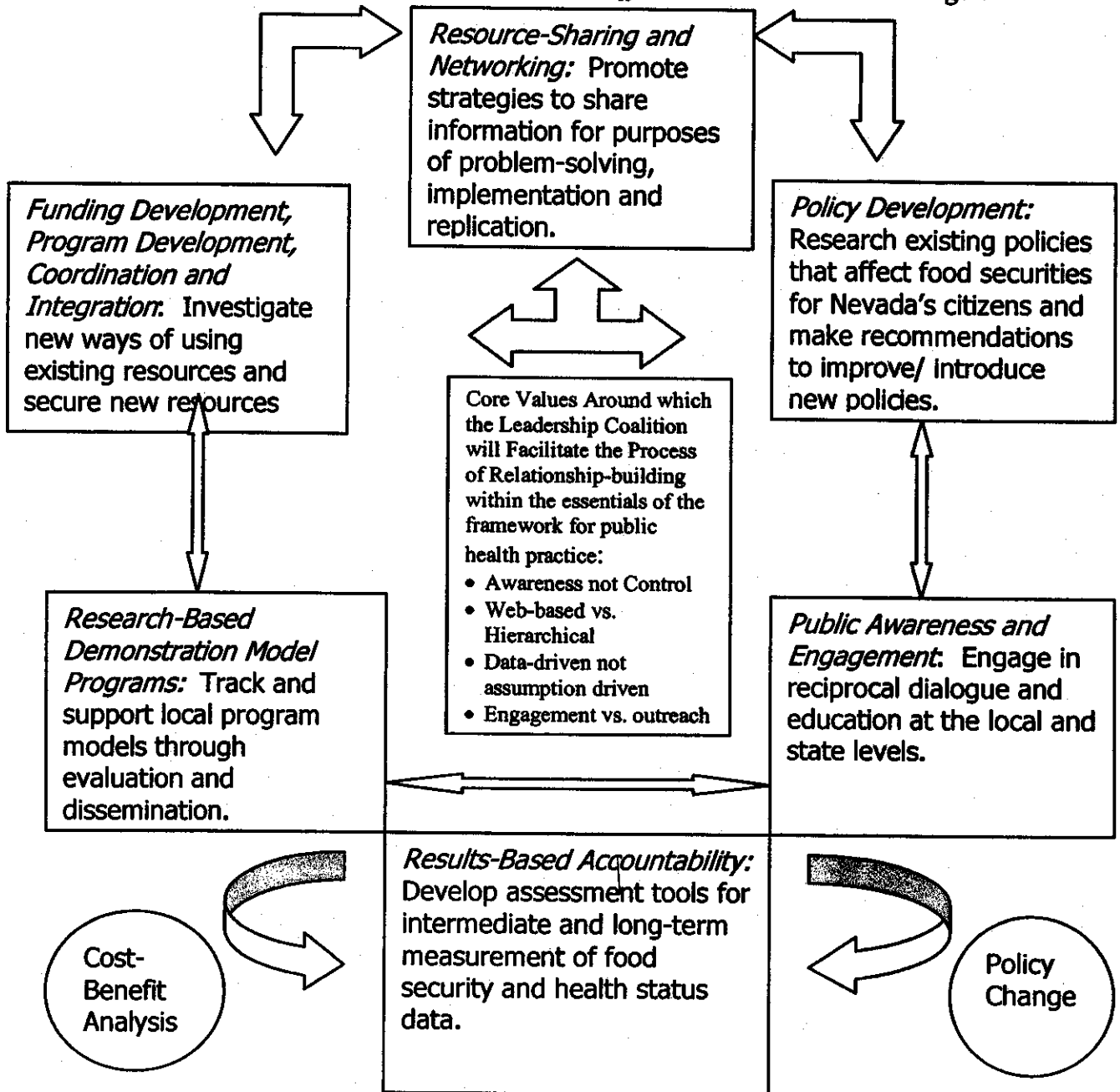
**Working together, we can achieve the elimination of food insecurity with severe hunger within five years.**

A Coalition of state agencies, non-profits, and educational institutions has begun to discuss and devise a plan to address these issues. The following document, the outcome of 30-40 hours of dialogue, provides a template for the planning process.

Presented by Cherie Jamason, President and CEO, Food Bank of Northern Nevada  
[cjamason@fbnn.org](mailto:cjamason@fbnn.org) 1-775-331-3663

## **Leadership Coalition to End Hunger in Nevada**

*To facilitate relationship-building among health and human service practitioners, funders, policy-makers and the public in an effort to collaborate to end hunger.*



**CPEPD WILL ENGAGE THE COALITION AND KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN AN ONGOING EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT OF THE PROCESSES AND SOCIAL NETWORKS INVOLVED IN ACHIEVING THE GOAL OF ELIMINATING HUNGER.**