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Exploring Family Economic Hardship in the South: Analysis by Poverty Status

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Key Words

hardship, poverty, South

Goals of the Research

The goal of this study is to provide a portrait of the economic well-being of low-income families in the Southern region of the United States. Utilizing family ecological theory (Klein & White, 1996), I will assess the associations between economic hardship and poverty status among Southern and non-Southern families with children. The cost of living is not considered in the official poverty thresholds. Therefore, in the South, where the cost of living is generally lower than in the West and Northeast, low-income families may be disproportionately classified as poor, regardless of their economic hardship. Further, there have been discussions that only a fraction of a family's material hardship is explained by its poverty status (Mayer & Jencks, 1989).

References

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- Mayer, S. E., & Jencks, C. (1989). Poverty and the Distribution of Material Hardship. *The Journal of Human Resources*, 24(1), 88-114.