

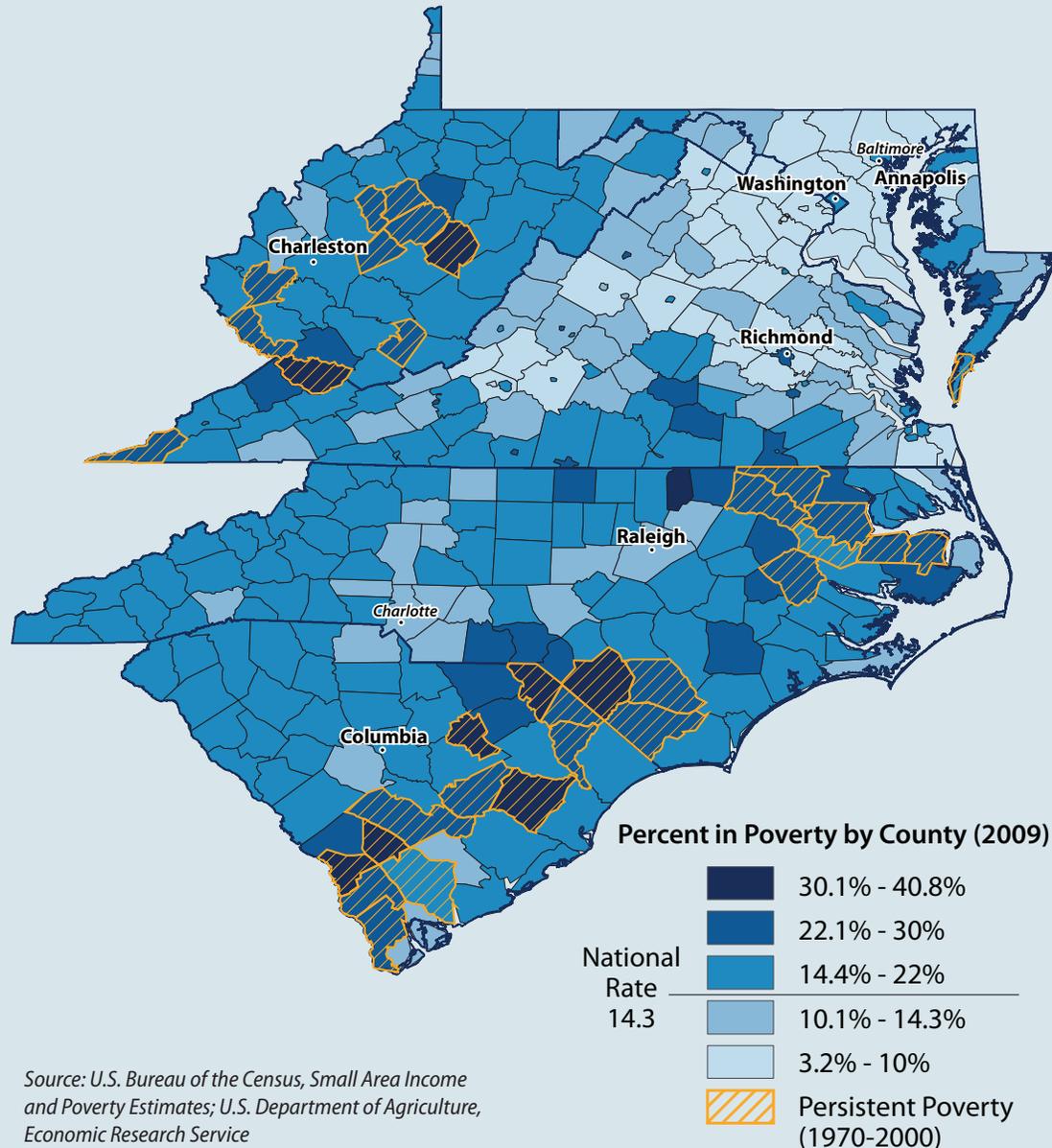
5th District Footprint



Poverty Rates in the Fifth District

The geography of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond's Fifth District covers the poverty dichotomy. Maryland and Virginia have among the lowest poverty rates in the country while West Virginia, the District of Columbia and South Carolina have among the highest. In a U.S. Census Bureau ranking of the 50 states and the District of Columbia by their 2009 overall poverty rate estimate, Maryland and Virginia are listed among those with the ten lowest estimates with poverty rates of 10.6 percent and 9.2 percent, respectively. West Virginia, the District of Columbia and South Carolina are ranked amongst the ten highest estimates with poverty rates of 17.8 percent, 17.6 percent and 17.1 percent. North Carolina falls in the middle with an estimated poverty rate of 16.2 percent which is above the national estimated poverty rate of 14.3 percent.

The map shows that data at the county level reveals a clear spatial pattern in the incidence of poverty. The city of Falls Church, Virginia has the lowest poverty rate (3.2 percent) for the District while McDowell County, West Virginia has the highest rate (40.8 percent). In Virginia, the higher levels of poverty occur in the counties bordering North Carolina, the Appalachia Region and the Eastern Shore. In Maryland, the city of Baltimore stands out for its high poverty rate along



with the counties on the Eastern Shore and the western half of the state. In the remaining states, the lower poverty rates are concentrated in the counties containing the major employment centers such as the state capital or largest city.

Every state except for Maryland contains at least one county that can be classified as having "persistent poverty." A county is defined as having persistent poverty if 20 percent or more of its population lived in poverty in each

of the last four censuses. South Carolina has the largest number of counties in persistent poverty, with twelve. All but one of these counties are adjacent to one another. They form a chain running across the southeastern region of the state approximately parallel to Interstate 95. North Carolina and West Virginia each have two distinct pockets of persistent poverty.