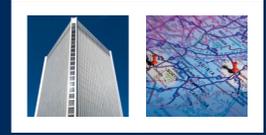


5th District Footprint

MARCH 2013



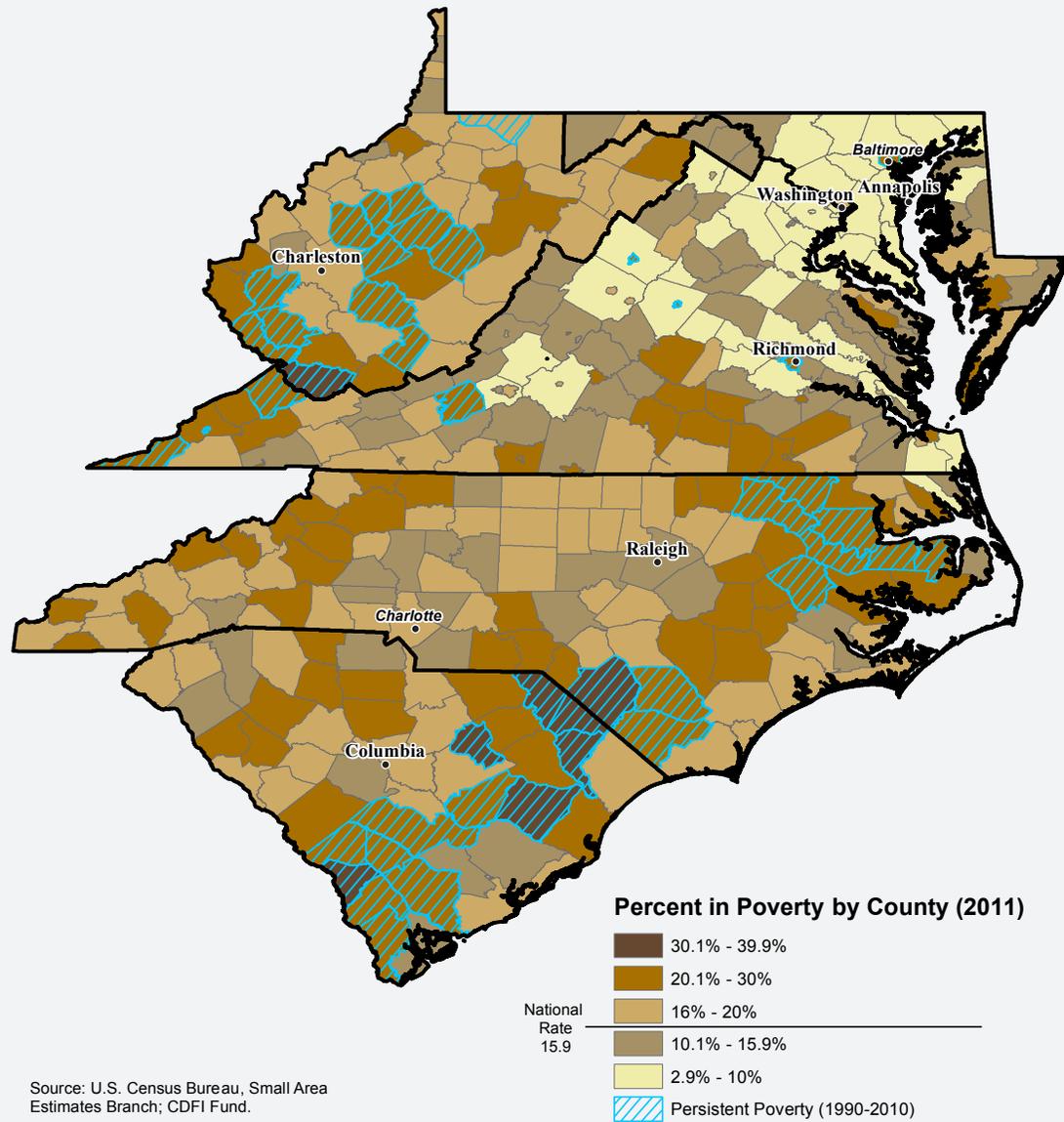
2011 Poverty Rates in the Fifth District

The March 2011 issue of *5th District Footprint* focused on 2009 poverty rates and areas of “persistent poverty” in the Fifth District.¹ Since then, the definition of “persistent poverty” has been revised and more recent poverty rates have been released. This issue of *5th District Footprint* examines 2011 poverty rates and new persistent poverty areas.

The poverty rate in the U.S. increased from 14.3 percent in 2009 to 15.9 percent in 2011. Maryland (10.2 percent) and Virginia (11.6 percent) continue to have poverty rates below the national average while the District of Columbia (19.1 percent) and South Carolina (18.8 percent) are ranked among the ten states with the highest poverty rates in the U.S. The poverty rates in West Virginia (18.7 percent) and North Carolina (17.8 percent) are also above the national average.

Sixty-four percent of Fifth District counties have poverty rates higher than the national average. The Fifth District’s highest and lowest poverty rates are in Allendale County, S.C. (39.9 percent) and Falls Church, Va. (2.9 percent). The suburban counties surrounding Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Md. form a contiguous region of low poverty.

In December 2011, Congress revised the definition of “persistent poverty” to reflect more recent data.² An area is designated as a persistent poverty



area if 20 percent or more of its population has lived in poverty for at least three consecutive decennial censuses. The older definition was based on data from 1970 to 2000 whereas the revised definition uses data from 1990 to 2010.

With the revised definition, the number of persistent poverty areas nationwide declined from 386 to 384 whereas the number of Fifth District persistent poverty areas increased from 33 to 45. This increase occurred in all Fifth District states except for North Carolina. Northampton County,

Va. was the only Fifth District area to lose its persistent poverty designation. Newly designated areas include independent cities in Maryland (Baltimore) and Virginia (Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, Norton, Radford and Richmond).

[richmondfed.org/publications/
community_development](http://richmondfed.org/publications/community_development)

¹ See the *March 2011 Issue of 5th District Footprint*.

² The revision was enacted through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-74).