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STATE OF NEW JERSEY

EMERGENCY RELIEF ADMINISTRATION

REPORT ON 10,000 RELIEF CASES IN NEW JERSEY

STATE REPORT NUMBER I

(Preliminary)

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

In December, 1933 the State of New Jersey Emergency Relief Administration authorized a comprehensive survey of approximately 10,000 relief cases for the threefold purpose of facilitating the long-time planning of relief administration, estimating reemployability and gaining some conception of the problem of rehabilitation.

Valuable assistance was obtained from a number of recognized authorities in the fields of economics and sociology in planning the survey. The field work was accomplished between March and October, 1934 in municipalities representing practically all parts of the State as well as all important types of industry and population.

The figures included in this report represent State totals based on data obtained from the study of 10,000 relief cases as follows:

Municipality	Number of Relief Cases Studied
Atlantic City	1,097
Bridgeton City	329
Camden City	1,058
Elizabeth City	1,015
Glassboro Borough	426
Hammonton Town	219
Newark City	2,754
Passaic City	613
Perth Amboy City	545
Phillipsburg Town	220
Trenton City	1,092
Weehawken Township	302
Woodbridge Township	330
Total	10,000

Briefly, the form of this report is as follows:

1. Definitions to facilitate the interpretation of the data presented.
2. General Summaries, indicating by percentages the magnitudes of major classifications and the application of these proportions to the current relief load (month of November 1934).
3. Summaries covering specific divisions of each major classification.

D E F I N I T I O N S

The following definitions will aid in the interpretation of data included in the tables and graphs comprising this report.

Eligibility for Relief

A person is eligible for relief when unable to maintain himself or those dependent upon him.* Inability to provide the necessities of life is the only qualification which entitles a family to receive public aid in New Jersey.

Family

The term family means people living under the same roof, eating at the same table and living together from choice and convenience rather than from causes due to the depression.

Education

In this study education is measured by the highest grade completed in school. Those persons who received all of their education in a foreign country are included in a separate group because of the difficulties in correlating foreign school systems with those of the United States.

Able to Work

As a general classification, all persons between the ages of sixteen and seventy years who are not in institutions, not physically or mentally afflicted, are considered able to work. However, the following deviations have been considered in classifying some people as being "employable" or "available" for work.

1. Female family heads with children under sixteen years of age, though able to work, are not considered "available".
2. Wives of male family heads in families with children under sixteen years are not considered "available".
3. Homemakers in homes of widowers, separated, divorced, or deserted male family heads are not considered "available".
4. Unattached women living alone are considered "available" if not afflicted or too old.

Adults

Persons over sixteen years are considered adults for the purpose of this study.

* Chapter 132 PL 1934

D E F I N I T I O N S (cont'd.)

Children

Persons under sixteen years of age are considered as children, unable to work and dependent upon the head of their family for support. School attendance up to sixteen years is a legal requirement.

Home Maker

The woman member of a family responsible for the care of the home and family is considered the home maker. Hired housekeepers are not considered as home makers.

Marital Status

Couples include persons of either legal or common law marriage.

Widowed includes both widowers and widows.

GENERAL SUMMARY

General

Over 14 per cent of the persons in New Jersey were on relief in November, 1934 (measured against 1930 census).

Forty-two per cent of all persons on relief are children. This proportion is 50 per cent larger than the proportion of children in the entire state.

Nearly half of the relief families have one or more members afflicted.

Color

Nearly three-quarters of the relief families are white.

The other quarter is negro, although this last constitutes only 5 per cent of all families in the state.

The number of families in other races was found to be negligible.

Size of Relief Families

Relief families average larger than others.

Nearly two-thirds of the relief families contain five or more members. Only one third of the families in the entire state are of this size.

Large families are most frequent among the foreign-born.

Among the negroes there is a tendency toward either extremely small or very large families.

SIZE OF FAMILY	PER CENT INDICATED BY SURVEY				APPLICATION TO NOV. 1934 RELIEF LOAD			
	ALL FAMILIES	WHITE		NEGRO	ALL FAMILIES	WHITE		NEGRO
		Native Born	Foreign Born			Native Born	Foreign Born	
TOTAL	100.0	39.9	33.6	26.5	153,887	61,401	51,706	40,780
Comparative Distribution	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0				
1	13.2	12.2	11.0	17.6	20,313	7,475	5,674	7,164
2	17.0	16.4	10.2	26.5	26,160	10,074	5,277	10,809
3	17.1	20.8	11.9	17.8	26,315	12,824	6,197	7,294
4	16.2	18.6	16.2	12.7	24,930	11,402	8,361	5,167
5	12.3	13.0	14.2	8.9	18,928	7,971	7,334	3,623
6	9.3	8.6	12.5	6.3	14,311	5,279	6,463	2,569
7	6.4	4.8	9.8	4.5	9,849	2,947	5,067	1,835
8	3.7	2.4	6.4	2.3	5,694	1,463	3,300	931
9	2.0	1.4	3.4	1.3	3,078	832	1,734	512
10 or more	2.8	1.8	4.4	2.1	4,309	1,134	2,299	876

Child Dependency

Two-thirds of the relief families include children.

One-fifth of this group is headed by females and constitutes a special problem in dependency.

	PER CENT INDICATED BY SURVEY			APPLICATION TO NOV. 1934 RELIEF LOAD		
	TOTAL	White	Negro	TOTAL	White	Negro
TOTAL	100.0	73.5	26.5	153,887	113,107	40,780
Comparative Distribution	100.0	100.0	100.0			
With Children	63.2	67.0	52.7	97,257	75,770	21,487
Male Family Heads	53.1	58.7	37.6	81,714	66,384	15,330
Female Family Heads	10.1	8.3	15.1	15,543	9,386	6,157
Without Children	36.8	33.0	47.3	56,630	37,337	19,293
Male Family Heads	28.4	25.7	35.8	43,704	29,095	14,609
Female Family Heads	8.4	7.3	11.5	12,926	8,242	4,684

Sex and Marital Status of Family Head

Normal families (couples with or without children) constitute over two-thirds of the relief families.

Broken families make up nearly all the others - only 5 per cent of the family heads being single persons.

Broken families (classified as widowed, separated, etc.) are particularly frequent among the negroes - only a little over half of the negro families being normal families.

Nearly one-fifth of all relief families are headed by females. This proportion is half again as great as in the state at large.

In this survey as well as in the census, negro families show a much higher ratio of female heads than do the white.

	PER CENT INDICATED BY SURVEY			APPLICATION TO NOV.1934 RELIEFLOAD		
	TOTAL	White	Negro	TOTAL	White	Negro
TOTAL	100.0	73.5	26.5	153,887	113,107	40,780
Comparative Distribution	100.0	100.0	100.0			
Male	81.5	84.5	73.4	125,418	95,509	29,909
Couples	68.7	72.2	58.8	105,720	81,720	24,000
Single	4.1	4.4	3.5	6,309	4,907	1,402
Widowers	4.7	4.7	5.0	7,234	5,227	2,007
Divorced, Separated, Deserted	4.0	3.2	6.1	6,155	3,655	2,500
Female	18.5	15.5	26.6	28,469	17,598	10,871
Single	1.3	1.0	2.1	2,001	1,142	859
Widows	9.8	8.8	12.7	15,080	9,915	5,165
Divorced, Separated, Deserted	7.4	5.7	11.8	11,388	6,541	4,847

Health and Institutions

One-quarter of the family heads are afflicted at home, with a variety of diseases, while less than 2 per cent are in institutions.

Among the disorders of family heads at home, four general classifications, out of a dozen, are most frequent:

First, general disorders, including poisoning, diabetes, malnutrition, mental and nervous troubles, and old age.

Second, disorders of the bones and muscles including deformities and rheumatism.

Next, injuries, including temporary as well as permanent handicaps.

Fourth, affliction of the heart and circulatory system.

The extent to which these and other disorders bring economic disability is not revealed in this survey, but it is apparent that disease and injury cause much temporary and some permanent inability to work.

	PER CENT INDICATED BY SURVEY			APPLICATION TO NOV. 1934 RELIEF LOAD		
	TOTAL	White	Negro	TOTAL	White	Negro
TOTAL	100.0	73.5	26.5	153,887	113,107	40,780
Comparative Distribution	100.0	100.0	100.0			
Not afflicted	73.0	71.7	76.7	112,338	81,070	31,268
Afflicted at home	25.8	27.1	22.2	39,703	30,650	9,053
In institutions	1.2	1.2	1.1	1,846	1,387	459

Education

One-third of the relief family heads had less than four years in school, many of these having none at all.

Less than one-tenth attained more than the eighth grade.

	PER CENT INDICATED BY SURVEY			APPLICATION TO NOV. 1934 RELIEF LOAD		
	TOTAL	White	Negro	TOTAL	White	Negro
TOTAL	100.0	73.5	26.5	153,887	113,107	40,780
Comparative Distribution	100.0	100.0	100.0			
No education	13.8	14.2	12.5	21,236	16,118	5,118
1 to 3 years	15.8	13.1	23.4	24,314	14,783	9,531
4 to 8 years	57.9	59.6	53.2	89,101	67,375	21,681
9 to 12 years	8.8	9.3	7.3	13,542	10,553	2,989
13 to 16 years	.9	.9	1.0	1,385	988	397
Over 16 years	.1	.1	.0	154	154	0
Educated in foreign country	1.6	2.2	.0	2,462	2,462	0
Unknown	1.1	.6	2.6	1,693	674	1,064

Citizenship of Family Heads

Almost half of the white family heads are foreign-born.

Three-quarters of these foreign-born heads are from southern and eastern Europe.

Only half of the foreign-born family heads have become citizens, but this is typical of the entire foreign-born population of the state.

	PER CENT INDICATED BY SURVEY			APPLICATION TO NOV. 1934 RELIEF LOAD		
	TOTAL	White	Negro	TOTAL	White	Negro
TOTAL FOREIGN BORN HEADS	*100.0	*98.4	1.6	51,552	50,727	825
Comparative Distribution	100.0	100.0	100.0			
Citizens	51.5	51.8	31.6	26,549	26,288	261
Non-citizens	48.3	48.0	68.4	24,900	24,336	564
Unknown	.2	.2	.0	103	103	0

*Includes .2% other colors

Persons in Relief Families Available for Work

Seven-eighths of the relief families have at least one person in each family available for work.

This measure of re-employability takes into account the persons who are unable to work, as well as those home-makers who are not available for employment outside of the home.

Half of the relief families have only one person in each family available for employment. In this half, over two-thirds of the families have children (under 16 years of age).

Over one-third of all relief families have two or more persons available for work but only half of them have children.

One-eighth of the families have no one available for work. Three-quarters of these families have children. Dependency among these families is discussed in a later paragraph.

	PER CENT INDICATED BY SURVEY			APPLICATION TO NOV. 1934 RELIEF LOAD		
	FAMILIES			FAMILIES		
	Total	With Children	Without Children	Total	With Children	Without Children
TOTAL	100.0	63.2	36.8	153,887	97,257	56,620
Comparative Distribution	100.0	100.0	100.0			
Families with no one available for work. . . .	11.7	12.5	10.3	18,005	12,167	5,838
Families with one person available for work. . . .	51.4	57.0	41.7	79,098	55,468	23,630
Families with two persons available for work. . . .	21.8	16.1	31.5	33,547	15,681	17,866
Families with three persons available for work .	9.1	8.7	9.8	14,004	8,457	5,547
Families with four or more persons available for work	6.0	5.7	6.7	9,233	5,584	3,749

Prevailing Type of Occupation of Family Heads Available for Work

Ninety per cent of the male relief-family heads are able to work.

Nearly two-thirds of those able to work are unskilled and semi-skilled.

Only one-eighth is embraced in the combined classifications of professional, owners of business, and clerical. Owners include proprietors in some very small enterprises.

Exact comparison with the census is impossible, but unskilled and semi-skilled workers apparently constitute a larger proportion of relief family heads than of the general adult male population of the state. Skilled family heads are on relief in about the same proportion as shown in the census, while professional and white-collar workers are on relief in much smaller proportion.

Less than one-third of the female family heads are available for employment outside the home (health as well as family conditions being considered).

Half of the available female family heads are unskilled, and one-fifth never have worked outside the home.

PREVAILING TYPE OF OCCUPATION 1920 - 1934	PER CENT INDICATED BY SURVEY			APPLICATION TO NOV.1934 RELIEF LOAD		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
TOTAL	100.0	93.3*	6.7*	121,448	113,311	8,137
Comparative Distribution	100.0	100.0	100.0			
Professional	.8	.8	1.1	972	882	90
Props., Mgrs., Officials	6.0	6.3	2.3	7,287	7,105	182
Clerks, Kindred Workers	4.6	4.7	3.8	5,586	5,281	305
Skilled Workers	21.6	23.1	.3	26,232	26,202	30
Semi-skilled Workers	28.6	29.0	23.3	34,734	32,839	1,895
Unskilled Workers	34.6	33.5	48.5	42,021	38,058	3,963
Never Worked	1.9	.7	19.0	2,308	778	1,530
Unknown	1.9	1.9	1.7	2,308	2,166	142

* 1.4% of males and 4.3% of females designate themselves able to work though 70 years or older.

Age Distribution of Relief Family Heads

Male relief family heads are of approximately the same age distribution as male family heads in the population at large.

An exception is 11 per cent greater concentration of relief family heads in the age range of 45 to 54 than among the male family heads recorded in the census.

Over two-thirds of relief family heads (both sexes) are less than 50 years old. These family heads are more readily re-employable than the other third.

Those above 50 are handicapped not only by fewer employment opportunities, but by more rapidly increasing physical disability to work, In this group are the problems of continued relief and pensions.

Among the relief family heads above 50, one-fifth of the males and nearly half of the females are unable to work.

In addition to the foregoing female family heads who are unable to work on account of health, many are unavailable for employment on account of home duties. Of those female family heads who are available for work outside the home, over half are at least 50 years old.

AGE DISTRIBUTION	PER CENT INDICATED BY SURVEY			APPLICATION TO NOV.1934 RELIEF LOAD		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
TOTAL	100.0	81.5	18.5	153,887	125,418	28,469
Comparative Distribution	100.0	100.0	100.0			
Under 25	3.5	3.4	3.9	5,386	4,274	1,112
25 to 29	9.0	9.6	6.4	13,850	12,028	1,822
30 to 34	12.1	12.3	11.2	18,620	15,429	3,191
35 to 39	14.8	15.0	13.7	22,775	18,860	3,915
40 to 44	14.8	14.8	14.4	22,775	18,647	4,128
45 to 49	14.5	15.1	11.9	22,314	18,925	3,389
50 to 54	10.7	10.4	11.9	16,466	13,069	3,397
55 to 59	7.1	7.0	7.3	10,926	8,835	2,091
60 to 64	5.6	5.3	7.0	8,618	6,629	1,989
65 to 69	4.0	3.6	6.2	6,155	4,425	1,730
70 and over	3.8	3.4	5.9	5,848	4,192	1,656
Unknown	.1	.1	.2	154	105	49

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Sex and Marital Status of Family Heads

One-eighth of the relief families have no one available for work. These families contain 9 per cent of all relief persons and 11 per cent of all relief children.

Over two-thirds of the families in which no one is available for work, have children.

Relief families having children but no workers constitutes a grave and continuing problem in dependency.

In this dependent group the family heads are largely widows and separated women. Not only are these family heads unavailable for employment on account of home duties, but many are handicapped by disease.

In addition to the foregoing families, another class of questionable position is the families headed by females who are unable to work but in which some other member is able. These families average almost five persons and more than two children per family, and make up nearly 2 per cent of total families.

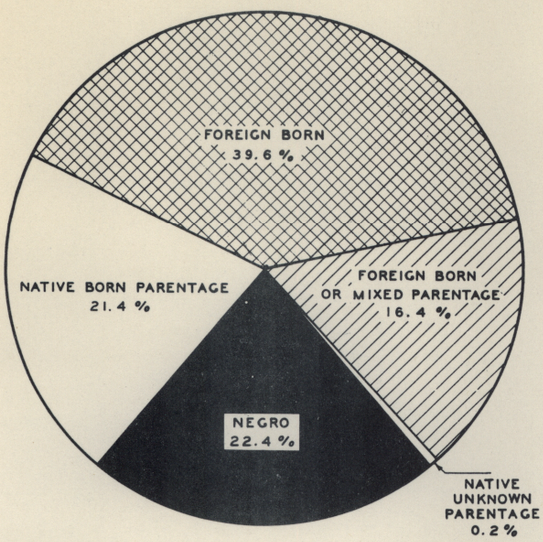
In the entire relief load, broken families constitute over one-quarter of the families. Broken families are headed mostly by females.

	PER CENT INDICATED BY SURVEY					APPLICATION TO NOV. 1934 RELIEF LOAD				
	Total	Couples	Single	(1) Widowed	(2) Separated	Total	Couples	Single	(1) Widowed	(2) Separated
TOTAL	100.0	68.6	5.5	14.6	11.3	153,887	105,566	8,464	22,468	17,389
Comparative Distribution	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0					
Families with Children	63.2	74.3	9.0	40.0	52.1	97,257	78,442	763	8,989	9,063
Male Family Heads	53.1	74.3	2.9	9.4	5.3	81,714	78,442	245	2,110	917
Female Family Heads	10.1		6.1	30.6	46.8	15,543		518	6,879	8,146
Families with no Children	36.8	25.7	91.0	60.0	47.9	56,630	27,124	7,701	13,479	8,326
Male Family Heads	28.4	25.7	72.5	23.3	29.7	43,703	27,124	6,149	5,250	5,180
Female Family Heads	8.4		18.5	36.7	18.2	12,927		1,552	8,229	3,146

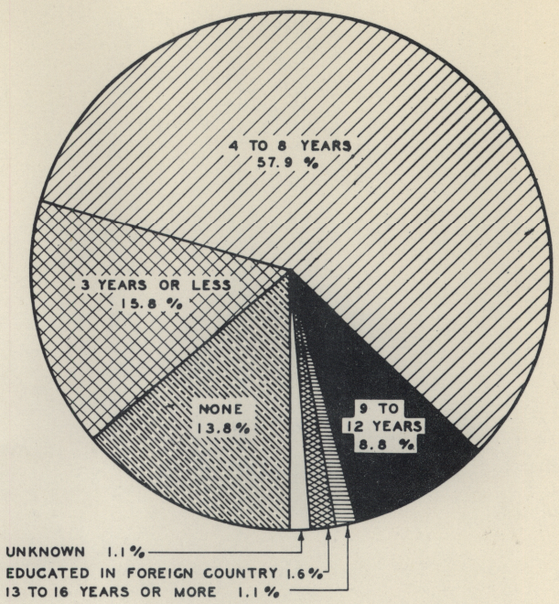
(1) Includes widowers and widows.
(2) Includes divorced and deserted family heads.

RELIEF FACTORS

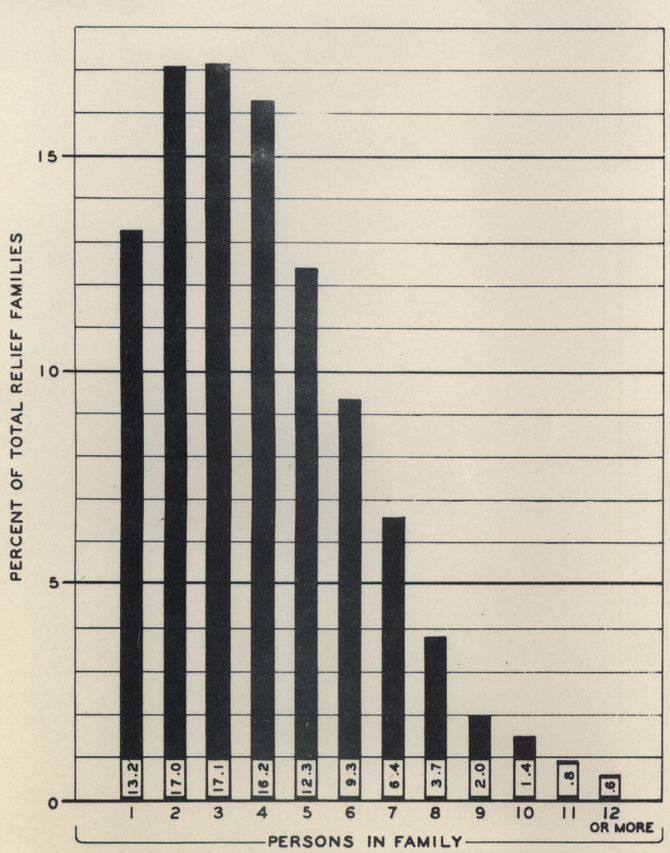
PERSONS IN RELIEF FAMILIES
BY
COLOR AND NATIVITY OF FAMILY HEADS



EDUCATION OF RELIEF FAMILY HEADS
BY
NUMBER OF YEARS COMPLETED IN SCHOOL



CLASSIFICATION OF RELIEF FAMILIES
BY
SIZE OF FAMILIES



PERSONS IN RELIEF FAMILIES
BY
SIZE OF FAMILIES

