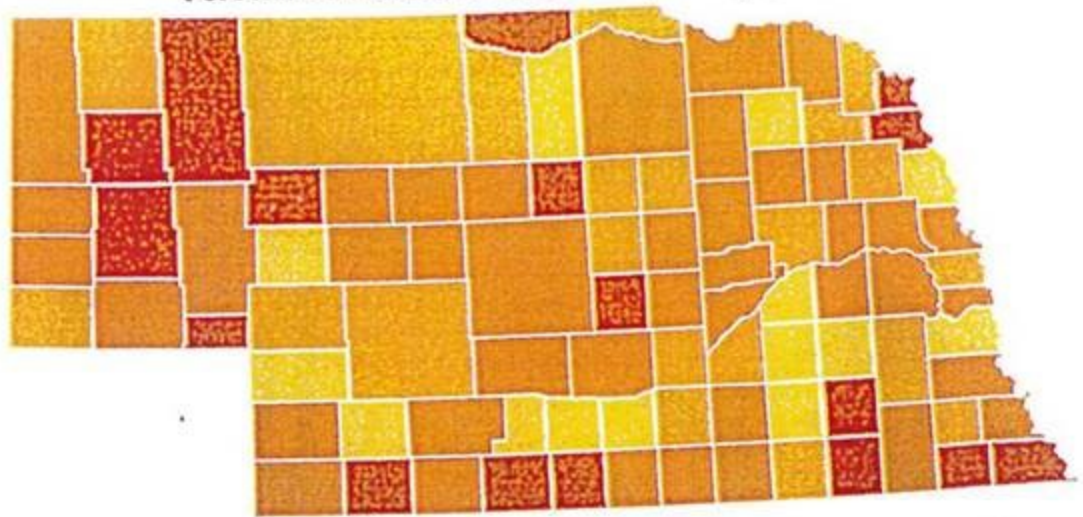


Hidden Rules Among Classes

	POVERTY	MIDDLE CLASS	WEALTH
POSSESSIONS	People.	Things.	One-of -a-kind objects, legacies, pedigrees.
MONEY	To be used, spent.	To be managed.	To be conserved, invested.
PERSONALITY	Is for entertainment. Sense of humor is highly valued.	Is for acquisition and stability. Achievement is highly valued.	Is for connections. Financial, political, social connections are highly valued.
SOCIAL EMPHASIS	Social inclusion of people he/she likes.	Emphasis is on self-governance and self-sufficiency.	Emphasis is on social exclusion.
FOOD	Key question: Did you have enough? Quantity important.	Key question: Did you like it? Quality Important.	Key question: Was it presented well? Presentation important.
CLOTHING	Clothing valued for individual style and expression of personality.	Clothing valued for its quality and acceptance into norm of middle class. Label important.	Clothing valued for its artistic sense and expression. Designer important.
TIME	Present most important. Decisions made for moment based on feelings or survival.	Future most important. Decisions made against future ramifications;	Traditions and history, most important. Decisions made partially on basis of tradition and decorum.
EDUCATION	Valued and revered as abstract but not as reality.	Crucial for climbing success ladder and making money.	Necessary tradition for making and maintaining connections.
DESTINY	Believes in fate. Cannot do much to mitigate chance.	Believes in choice. Can change future with good choices now.	Noblesse oblige.
LANGUAGE	Casual register. Language is about survival.	Formal register. Language is about negotiation.	Formal register. Language is about networking.
FAMILY STRUCTURE	Tends to be matriarchal.	Tends to be patriarchal.	Depends on who has money.
WORLD VIEW	Sees world in terms of local setting	Sees world in terms of notional setting.	Sees world in terms of international view.
LOVE	Love and acceptance conditional based upon whether individual is liked.	Love and acceptance conditional and based largely upon achievement.	Love and acceptance conditional and related to social standing and connections.
DRIVING FORCES	Survival, relationships, entertainment.	Work, achievement.	Financial, political, social connections.
HUMOR	About people and sex.	About situations.	About social faux pas.
POWER	Respect me as an individual.	Respect me by my position in life.	Keep things stable. Gather around me. The people with prestige. Setting policy.

Children 17 & under in poverty (2009 & 2013)

Percent of children 17 & under in poverty (2013)



< 10.0% 10.0-14.9% 15.0-19.9% 20.0-24.9% 25.0%+

Year	Number	% of all children
2009	65,331	15.0%
2013	78,578	17.4%

Year	By number	By % of all children
2009	Douglas	Thurston
2013	Douglas	Loup

Year	By number	By % of all children
2009	Thomas	Thomas
2013	Arthur	Arthur

	2009	% of all children	2013	% of all children
Adams	1,290	16.6%	1,354	18.8%
Antelope	236	15.1%	216	14.0%
Arthur	4	3.1%	0	0.0%
Benning	43	23.6%	42	24.1%
Blaine	12	16.9%	29	20.3%
Bone	75	5.7%	143	11.4%
Box Butte	609	21.6%	1,203	42.7%
Boyd	50	13.1%	63	15.2%
Brown	118	17.0%	132	19.5%
Buffalo	1,579	15.3%	1,543	14.3%
Burt	87	5.3%	125	8.3%
Butler	268	12.9%	229	11.6%
Cass	348	5.3%	522	8.4%
Cedar	216	9.7%	247	11.2%
Chase	148	17.9%	238	24.6%
Cherry	107	7.8%	198	17.0%
Cheyenne	290	12.8%	516	21.8%
Clay	190	12.3%	169	10.7%
Colfax	345	11.5%	592	20.1%
Cuming	459	19.5%	387	17.3%
Custer	289	11.2%	251	10.1%
Dakota	1,248	20.9%	1,629	26.4%
Dawes	394	25.3%	265	16.2%
Dawson	1,843	25.5%	1,463	21.8%
Deuel	73	18.0%	104	27.2%
Dixon	225	14.5%	258	17.3%
Dodge	1,288	15.5%	1,183	14.0%
Douglas	22,514	17.6%	26,295	19.7%
Dundy	61	15.6%	52	12.8%
Fillmore	91	7.4%	102	8.7%
Franklin	193	29.0%	83	13.0%

	2009	% of all children	2013	% of all children
Frontier	69	12.1%	71	13.8%
Furnas	251	24.3%	338	30.0%
Gage	757	15.0%	707	14.3%
Garden	50	17.9%	41	12.7%
Garfield	50	12.0%	65	15.9%
Gosper	50	11.2%	47	9.8%
Grant	37	30.8%	44	29.9%
Greeley	144	24.0%	78	12.8%
Hall	2,347	15.4%	2,854	18.2%
Hamilton	246	9.9%	373	16.4%
Harlan	153	22.1%	190	26.9%
Hayes	20	9.0%	18	7.4%
Hitchcock	113	19.1%	169	29.6%
Holt	276	11.2%	323	13.2%
Hooker	14	11.4%	31	20.0%
Howard	276	17.4%	194	12.8%
Jefferson	283	18.3%	414	25.6%
Johnson	111	13.9%	166	17.1%
Kearney	229	14.4%	51	3.3%
Keith	170	10.4%	309	18.8%
Keya Paha	64	29.0%	39	36.1%
Kimball	133	16.1%	133	15.0%
Knox	399	20.3%	430	21.4%
Lancaster	8,887	14.4%	12,025	18.4%
Lincoln	938	10.9%	1,438	16.5%
Logan	1	0.7%	40	22.5%
Loup	28	21.4%	75	52.1%
Madison	13	10.5%	1,740	20.3%
McPherson	1,277	14.9%	10	11.6%
Merrick	146	8.0%	258	14.5%
Morrill	280	23.3%	294	25.0%

	2009	% of all children	2013	% of all children
Nance	85	10.3%	116	13.5%
Nemaha	118	8.1%	165	11.0%
Nuckolls	310	33.8%	117	13.3%
Otoe	611	16.5%	447	12.0%
Pawnee	55	9.9%	187	33.5%
Perkins	20	3.1%	43	6.6%
Phelps	237	11.4%	185	8.3%
Pierce	250	13.6%	98	5.4%
Platte	899	10.7%	1,545	18.3%
Polk	119	9.6%	111	8.7%
Red Willow	214	9.1%	506	20.2%
Richardson	399	22.1%	581	32.9%
Rock	73	24.6%	17	6.4%
Saline	472	14.0%	885	26.1%
Sarpy	3,466	8.5%	4,836	10.6%
Saunders	461	9.1%	634	11.9%
Scotts Bluff	2,303	25.6%	1,849	20.7%
Seward	123	3.3%	339	8.7%
Sheridan	189	16.1%	328	26.8%
Sherman	78	12.6%	190	27.3%
Sioux	27	12.0%	24	11.6%
Stanton	224	13.5%	194	11.8%
Thayer	200	18.4%	202	19.0%
Thomas	0	0.0%	16	10.7%
Thurston	996	39.0%	822	34.0%
Valley	184	20.4%	152	16.6%
Washington	122	2.4%	573	11.7%
Wayne	261	15.2%	352	19.1%
Webster	115	15.2%	168	20.4%
Wheeler	25	14.1%	30	16.9%
York	190	6.9%	268	9.3%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 and 2013 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B17001.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

1. **Poverty is relative.** If everyone around has similar circumstances, the notion of poverty and wealth is vague. Poverty or wealth only exists in relationship to known quantities or expectations.
2. **Poverty occurs in all races and in all countries.** The notion of middle class as a large segment of society is a phenomenon of this century. The percentage of the population that is poor is subject to definition and circumstance.
3. **Economic class is a continuous line, not a clear-cut distinction.** In 2017 the poverty line was considered \$24,000 for a family of four. In 2017, 20% of the population made more than \$100,000 per year. Individuals are stationed all along the continuum of income, they sometimes move on that continuum as well.
4. **Generational poverty and situational poverty are different.** Generational poverty is defined as being in poverty for two generations or longer. Situational poverty is a shorter time and is caused by circumstance (i.e. death, illness, divorce, etc.)
5. **This information is based on patterns.** All patterns have exceptions.
6. **An individual brings with him/her the hidden rules of the class in which he/she was raised.** Even though the income of the individual may rise significantly, many of the patterns of thought, social interaction, cognitive strategies, etc., remain with the individual.
7. **Schools and businesses operate from middle-class norms and use the hidden rules of the middle class.** These norms and hidden rules are not directly taught in schools or in businesses.
8. **For our participants to be successful, we must understand their hidden rules and teach them the rules that make them successful at school and at work.**
9. **We can neither excuse participants nor scold them for not knowing;** as teachers or social workers we must teach them and provide support, insistence, and expectations.
10. **To move from poverty to middle class or middle class to wealth, an individual must give up relationships for achievement (at least for some period of time).**