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Start your research with a basic keyword or text search. Keywords are the most important words in a topic.
The keyword search returned 1,323 results. We’ll look at ways to narrow the number of items and make a better search.

Relative poverty is a valid subject heading for this database. Open the Advanced Search box, and search for this again as a subject.
Searching the database by subjects helps fine-tune your results. We narrowed our search to 69 articles. There are a variety of ways to further limit and strengthen results. Next we will limit to full text articles, to eliminate items that require requesting through interlibrary loan. If you do find something perfect for your research, which is not available as full text, don’t hesitate to make the request. However, be aware that the process may take several days and there might be a charge.
By choosing to limit to full-text we eliminated 9 articles. Scroll down the page and look at the other limiters on the left.
Other means of limiting a search include source types, subject, publication, company name, language, geography and type of industry. For our purposes, we will limit the search for relative poverty to articles focusing on the United States.
1. WEAKLY RELATIVE POVERTY.


Subjects: Poverty; Income; Relative poverty; Economic development; United States; Social integration; Economic conditions in the United States; Poor people

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2. Estimated Deaths Attributable to Social Factors in the United States.


Subjects: Analysis of variance; Poverty; Financing of research; Vital statistics; Socioeconomic factors; United States; Other individual and Family Services; Confidence intervals; Causes of death; Racism; Literature reviews; Social support; Educational attainment; Relative risk (Medicine); Disease prevalence

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WEAKLY RELATIVE POVERTY

Martin Ravallion and Shaohu Chen

Abstract—Prevailing measures of relative poverty are challenged when all incomes grow or contract by the same proportion. This property makes them fail to capture the cost of social inclusion and the cost of social exclusion. We propose "weakly relative" lines that reflect these two aspects. Once defining the measures in national poverty lines and survey data, we find that the share of the developing world in 2000 facing poverty, only half of whom were absolutely poor. The total number of poor rose over 1981 to 2003 despite falling numbers of absolutely poor. With sustained economic growth, the incidence of relative poverty became less responsive to further growth. The number of relatively poor rose, just as the numbers of absolutely poor fell.

1. Introduction

The methods used to set poverty lines have differed radically between rich and poor countries. Poverty in the developing world is typically measured using absolute lines, which aim to have the same real value at different dates and places. Virtually all developing countries use such lines, and at the global level, the World Bank’s $1-a-day line is an absolute line, aiming to have the same purchasing power in different countries at different dates. By contrast, most developed countries use what we shall call "strongly relative poverty lines," which are set at a constant proportion—typically 40% to 60%—of the current mean or median income. This difference in how poverty lines are set means greatly to the properties of the resulting poverty measures. The bulk of the literature has confirmed attention to measures that are homogeneous of degree 0 between the mean and the poverty line for any given Lorenz curve. Using an absolute line, such a poverty measure automatically falls when all incomes grow at the same proportionate rate—which we term inequality-neutral growth—while any measure based on strongly relative lines will be unchanged with such a growth process. So it is hardly surprising that this choice has been found to matter greatly to assessments of how poverty is changing over time, as well as to cross-sectional poverty comparisons.

Two main arguments can be identified in support of strongly relative lines. The first views poverty lines as money-metrics of utility and claims that people attach value to their income relative to the mean in their country of residence. Since this presents that relative income is a source of utility, it can be called the well-accepted argument for relative poverty lines.

The second (needless to say) argument says that poverty lines should allow for differences in the cost of social inclusion, which can be defined as the expenditure needed to cover certain commodities that are deemed to have a role in ensuring that a person can participate with dignity in customary social and economic activities. This argument does not rest on the view that social inclusion is a (direct or indirect) source of utility. Rather, it is seen as a desired capability for not being deemed poor in a specific context. The most influential exponent of this line of argument has been Sen (1982, 1985), who argued that it is a person’s capabilities that should be seen as absolute. In the context of poverty measurement, this means that "an absolute..."
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