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## RESEARCH BULLETIN

Intensity of Relief July 1933 - June 1935

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## Intensity of Relief from July 1933 to June 1935

Over the two year period from July 1, 1933 to June 30, 1935 the monthly average number of persons on general relief rolls in continental United States was 16,293,6621, which is equivalent to 12.8 percent of the estimated average population of the country2 (Table 1). The month with the highest incidence of relief during this period was January 1935 when 20,137,841 persons, equivalent to 15.8 percent of the estimated population, were on the general relief rolls.

From July to September 1933 the intensity of relief declined from 11.7 percent to 10.0 percent of the population, and then increased to 12.0 percent in November. As a result of the C.W.A. program, relief intensity declined in December, and dropped to the lowest point (8.7 percent) in January 1934. Except for the periods from May to June and from August to October 1934 it rose steadily through the year from January 1934 to December 1934. From January 1935 to June there was a steady decline.

## Intensity of Relief by Regions and States.

The Mountain states stand out as those with the highest intensity of relief for the two year period under consideration (16.1 percent). At the other extreme were the Pacific and New England states (10.6 and 10.7 percent, respectively), the Atlantic and South Central regions were above the national average, the East North Central was almost identical with the average, and the West North Central region, in spite of the drouth, was below the average.

The New England States. Massachusetts had the highest intensity of relief of the New England states (12.8), Vermont the lowest (5.9 percent), All the states in the region but Massachusetts were below average in relief intensity. The relief problem in the New England states was proportionately not serious until April 1934, was smallest in January 1934 (6.3 percent), and reached its peak in February 1935 (14.2 percent in February and May).

I/ Figures (revised as of November 15, 1935) obtained from records of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. General relief includes direct relief furnished by E.R.A. or organized relief bodies and work relief provided under the Emergency Work Relief Program, but excludes the special programs of rural rehabilitation, emergency education and college student aid. In January 1935, at which time both the general and special programs were at the peak, altogether 20,676,791 persons were on general and special relief rolls.

<sup>2/</sup> The population estimates were made by straight line interpolation from unpublished 1930 and 1935 estimates of population with age group 0-4 years not comparable to the census, assuming no migration, made in 1934 by Warren S. Thompson of the Scripps Foundation for Research in Population Problems.

The same population estimate for 1933 was employed for each month of 1933 included in the study; the same estimate for 1934 was employed for each month of 1934; and the same estimate for 1935 was employed for each month of 1935 included in the study.

Averages for intensity of relief for half year and year periods were computed from averages of relief load and actual estimates of 1933,1934 and 1935 general population. The average intensity for the entire twenty-four month was computed from the average relief load for the whole period divided by the population estimate for the same period.

The Atlantic States exhibited a very different trend from New England. The intensity rate for the region was high during most of the period, never falling below 9.5 and having a top figure of 15.5 percent (Jamuary and February, 1935). West Virginia and Florida exhibited the highest rate (20.4 and 19.7 percent respectively for the two year peri-Pennsylvania and South Carood). lina were also far above average, while Virginia was lowest (5.9 percent), and Georgia, Delaware, and North Carolina averaged less than 10 percent. Some of the Atlantic states reached a peak in 1934, including Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, and Georgia. West Virginia reached a peak in August, 1933; South Carolina in November, and Florida in September 1933.

Relief intensity in the South Central States was smallest in September 1933 and greatest in August At the beginning of 1935 it again reached a point almost as high as in the summer of 1934. Tennessee had the lowest average rate (10.2 percent), for the two year period and Oklahoma had the highest rate (18.8 percent). Diverse changes in intensity occured within the region. Kentucky was at its worst in July 1933 (19.5 percent) and returned to almost the same rate in May 1935 (18.6 percent). Alabama reached a peak in 1933 and declined markedly thereafter. The reverse was true of Oklahoma and Texas.

The East North Central States as a group were fairly typical of the United States. The low point in in-

tensity was 8.7 percent in January 1934, and the region reached its peak in January 1935 (15.8 percent). The various states were very similar in relief intensity, Ohio having a higher rate than any other state in the group.

The West North Central States differ from most of the other regional groups in the extremely low rate of relief in 1933 (6.6 percent). However, in 1934 the rate was almost average for the country and in 1935 was above average. The Dakotas were mainly responsible for the increased intensity of relief, South Dakota reaching the highest rate in the country (39.1 percent in December 1934), followed by North Dakota (30.8 percent in April 1934). drouth was an important factor, hitting in full force in 1934, causing relief intensity rates to increase in comparison with the low point in 1933, more than doubling in Iowa and increasing almost six-fold in North Dakota and South Dakota.

The Mountain States were consistently above average in intensity of relief. Nevada had a very low rate (8.1 percent), Utah and Arizona the highest rates (18.6 percent). Wyoming's average relief intensity was extremely low in 1933 (2.5 percent), but increased to 13.5 percent from January to June 1935.

The Pacific States were slightly below the average for the United States from month to month, and were very similar in relief intensity rates.

Table 1. Persons on General Relief in Continental United States as a Percent of the Estimated Total Population, by States and Geographic Areas July 1933 - June 1935

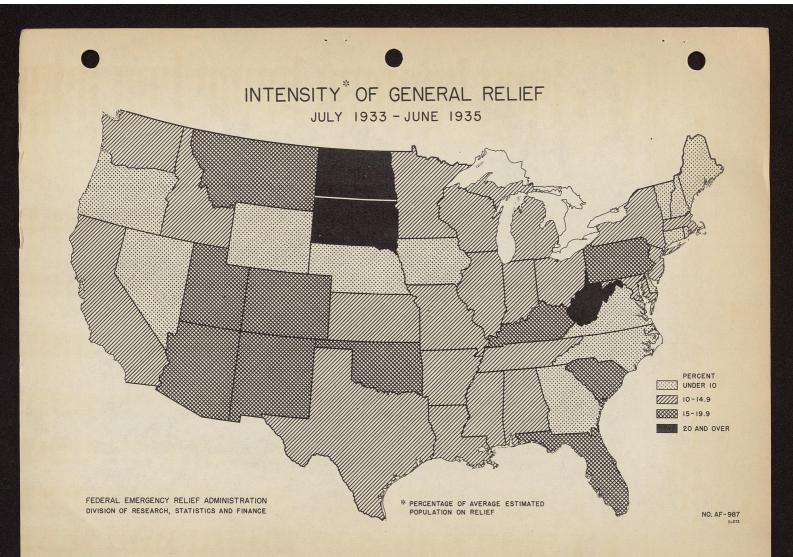
	Average for	Average	1933						
Geographical Areas and States	July 1933 to June 1935	for 1933 (6 mo.)	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec	
Total	12.8	10.8	11.7	11.3	10.0	10.7	12.0	9.	
New England	10.7	7.4	8.0	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.7	7.	
Maine	8.0	5.8	6.4	5.8	5.9	5.6	5.9	5.	
New Hampshire	7.9	5.9	a	a/	<u>a</u> /	a	5.9	6.	
Vermont	5.9	3.9	4.8	4.6	4.0	3.0	3.7	8.	
Massachusetts	12.8 9.1	8.6 7.3	9.1	8.2	8.3	8.5	8.8	4.	
Rhode Island Connecticut	9.4	7.3	8.5	7.7	7.1	6.8	7.2	6.	
Atlantic	13.5	12.2	13.5	12.9	11.9	12.1	13.4	9	
New York	13.6	10.7	11.8	11.6	10.4	10.5	12.1	7	
New Jersey	12.6	9.6	10.4	9.8	9.1	9.1	9.9	9.14	
Pennsylvania Delaware	16.6	16.2	14.3	11.6	10.4	9.3	10.6	11	
Maryland	10.4	8.4	8.2	8.0	7.9	8.0	9.4	8	
District of Columbia		8.4	7.5	8.6	9.5	9.5	10.1	5	
Virginia	5.9	3.0	2.8	a	a	a	3.2	2	
West Virginia	20.4	25.5	29.9	30.9	24.1	23.2	28.8	16	
North Carolina	9.4 15.6	8.5 18.9	9.7	8.3	20.7	21.9	22.8	. 8	
South Carolina Georgia	9.7	7.4	5.5	6.3	6.6	9.3	12.1	4	
Florida	19.7	23.6	24.6	25.2	28.5	27.8	28.4	7	
South Central	13.1	11.3	11.8	12.4	8.5	11.8	13.1	10	
Kentucky	16.1	14.1	19.5	18.7	4.1	12.7	17.4	11 2	
Tennessee	10.2	7.1	9.3	7.8 17.5	7.2	7.1	8.1	15	
Alabama	13.0 11.7	16.9	14.2	17.5	7.7	9.7	10.7	9	
Mississippi Arkansas	13.6	12.8	10.8	17.2	13.9	11.7	10.3	13	
Louisiana	10.7	13.8	13.3	14.2	14.2	14.7	14.7	11	
Oklahoma	18.8	17.7	a/	a	a	18.6	19.8	14	
Texas	12.9	9.2	12.5	11.8	6.4	7.8	9.3	7	
East North Gentral	12.9	11.8	12.4	11.8	11.3	11.5		10	
Ohio	14.3	12.7	14.3	13.4	12.5	12.0	13.9	10	
Indiana	11.3	11.7	13.0	11.9	11.1	11.1	11.8	11	
Illinois Michigan	13.2	14.1	12.6	13.2	12.8	14.1		15	
Wisconsin	11.7	9.2	10.1		9.1	9.0	9.8	8	
West North Central	11.9	6.6	6.4		6.0	6.8 5.7			
Minnesota	12.9 7.6	6.1 5.9	6.3			5.7			
Iowa Missouri	11.0	6.1	6.5			5.5			
North Dakota	21.6	9.4	5.3	4.6		8.8			
, South Dako ta	25.7	11.8	5.9			15.8			
Nebraska Kansas	9.4	5.5 9.2	11.0			5.3			
Mountain	. 16.1	11.3	13.2			10.2		10	
Montana	15.8	13.7	14.8			12.1			
Idaho Wyoming	12.4	6.3 2.5	8.2	6.6		4.0			
Colorado	17.2	11.6	13.1			10.7			
New Mexico	17.9	6.5	5.9	6.5	6.2	5.9	7.6	7	
Arizona	18.6	18.3	23.0	19.5		18.6	19.1		
Utah Nevada	18.6	15.1 5.4	19.3	16.3	14.4	13.5	15.3	11	
Pacific	10.6	9.5	11.6	11.3	8.8	8.8	9.2	7	
Washington	11.3	10.2	14.5	9.8	8.2	8.5	11.8	8	
Oregon	9.9	6.8	8.1	7.0	5.2	5.8	7.3		
California.	10.5	9.7	11.4	12.4	9.6	9.3	8.8	6	

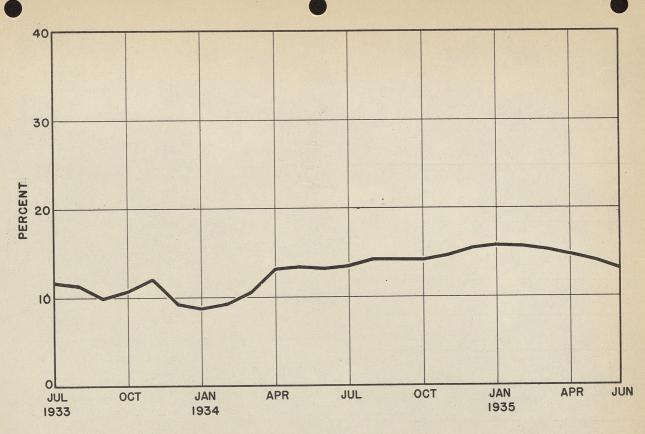
Table 1. Persons On General Relief in Continental United States as a Percent of the Estimated Total Population by States and Geographic Areas July 1933-June 1935 (Continued)

Geographical	Avg.	1931.											
Areas and	for	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May J	une	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Total	12.9	8.7	9.2	10.6	13.2	13.4	13.2	13.4	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.6	15.4
New England Maine N.H. Vermont Mass. R.I. Conn.	10.6 7.7 6.9 5.4 12.8 9.0 9.4	6.3 4.9 6.3 7.2 4.3 6.0	6.5 5.9 7.2 3.6 7.2 4.4 6.1	7.0 6.1 7.9 4.2 7.8 5.4 6.6	12.0 11.2 8.8 6.4 13.0 9.9 12.9	6.9 6.4 6.3 13.8	7.5 5.9 5.6 14.0 10.0	7.7 5.6 5.5 14.4 10.0 9.2	11.4 6.9 6.0 5.0 14.4 10.1 9.4	12.1 7.2 6.0 5.2 15.3 11.1 9.8	12.7 8.5 6.9 5.5 15.7 10.8 10.7	12.6 9.9 7.4 6.5 15.0 11.0	13.1 9.4 8.9 7.3 15.8 10.7 11.0
Atlantic New York New Jersey Penn. Delaware Maryland	15.9 9.1 11.3	7.6 8.4 15.0 10.7	8.1 9.6 14.6 14.8	10.4	14.6 16.2 16.8 15.8 12.2 15.0	15.9 13.5 17.3 6.5	15.2 13.0 16.1 6.5	14.1 15.4 12.8 15.5 6.7 10.4	14.4 15.3 13.0 16.2 6.9 10.0	14.5 15.2 12.9 15.7 6.8 9.7	14.4 15.2 14.2 15.6 6.8 9.8	14.6 15.6 15.2 16.1 7.4 9.9	15.1 16.1 15.9 17.5 7.8 10.4
District of Columbia Virginia West Va. N.Carolina S.Carolina Georgia Florida	12.5 6.6 17.7. 9.8	9.3	4.6 14.4 10.5 9.2 7.7	16.5 12.5 11.6	14.4 5.1 14.1 9.5 16.9 9.3 22.5	8.7 17.3 9.6 17.3 10.3	7.3 18.4 9.6 15.8 10.6	13.0 6.5 18.6 9.8 16.5 10.7 24.5	14.2 7.5 18.6 10.5 16.4 11.3 25.4	13.8 6.9 19.5 10.1 19.2 13.3 24.9	13.6 7.0 20.0 7.8 19.2 12.8 23.7	13.3 7.3 20.2 8.8 16.3 12.9 21.6	13.3 7.6 21.0 9.6 15.8 11.8 20.3
So. Central Kentucky Tennessee Alabama Miss. Arkansas Louisiana Oklahoma Texas	16.0 10.8 13.4 13.2 13.8 10.2	14.1 4.5 13.1 13.6 16.3 17.9	16.0 6.9 11.2 16.8 15.6 19.9	10.2	12.4 11.7 10.5 16.9 11.8 5.8 9.8 16.6 12.9	16.4 13.4 15.4 12.5 8.2 8.8	16.2 13.3 13.6 13.6 11.2 8.6	14.1 16.6 13.6 14.3 13.7 2 10.3 8.8 18.0 14.8	16.4 17.0 13.9 16.4 14.4 18.8 9.7 23.7	15.8 16.3 11.5 16.8 12.7 21.1 8.9 24.3 15.3	14.1 16.1 10.4 12.1 10.9 13.1 8.6 22.6 15.8	14.6 16.5 10.2 8.9 10.6 14.5 7.8 26.4 17.1	15.2 17.5 10.8 8.5 11.6 16.7 7.9 26.3 18.2
East N.Cent. Ohio Indiana Illinois Michigan Wisconsin	13.8 11.1 12.4	8.6 6.6 8.8	9.9 7.1 8 8.5 9.8	10.1	12.9 14.6 11.7 13.0 12.3 11.6	14.0 11.5 13.0 11.6	13.6 11.3 13.6 11.3	3 12.8 5 13.9 1 11.0 5 13.7 1 11.4 1 12.1	13.3 14.8 11.5 13.5 12.5	13.8 15.3 12.3 13.5 13.4 13.1	14.3 16.0 12.9 13.6 14.9	13.6 13.6 16.3	14.5 14.4 17.0
West N.Cent. Minn. Iowa Missouri N.Dakota S.Dakota Nebraska Kensas	14.8 7.1 10.9 24.1 29.3	5.2 4.0 5.3 4.18.9 5.15.5	5.7 5.0 5.0 5.0 5.0	8.1 7 5.1 7 7.7 9 28.4 19.1 6.8	12.6 16.0 7.0 10.2 30.8 28.6 8.2	19.5 7.5 20.3 32.9	19. 8. 8. 8. 8. 8. 9. 33. 7.	8 12.1 7 20.4 8 32.8	15.7 8.6 12.3 19.7 32.2 8.5	13.1 23.4 31.7 10.6	15.2 16.6 8.5 15.1 27.2 33.3 11.1 13.8	18.4 8.9 15.0 27.1 37.2 12.1	20.6 10.0 15.8 26.9 39.1 13.2
Mountain Montana Idaho Wyoming Colorado New Mexico Arizona Utah Nevada	16.5 15.5 11.9 9.7 17.8 19.7	8 8 8 8 7 2 8 7 2 8 7 8 10 8 10 8 10 8 11 3 10 8 11 3 10 8 11 3 10 8 11 3 10 8 11 3 11 3	3 10.2 5 10.1 3 5.3 4 12.6 7 10.5 2 10.6 3 13.6	2 12.9 4 12.0 1 5.9 4 6.0 6 15.9 3 13.7 9 14.8 0 16.2	16.3 17.0 12.3 8.9 18.5 12.6 19.7	17.2 15.5 14.0 10.5 19.1 16.8 21.3	2 17. 5 17. 9 9. 5 12. 1 18. 8 18. 3 23.	3 18.4 0 17.0 4 10.8 5 12.5 5 19.4 4 24.9 6 22.6 6 20.0 9 8.0	19.6 17.5 12.2 11.2 20.6 29.5 21.6	17.0 13.2 11.1 20.1 25.8 21.4 21.5	18.2 16.6 13.7 10.9 19.7 22.5 19.9 20.2	16.4 17.8 12.2 19.1 24.9 19.8	18.7 22.1 14.4 20.8 28.4 20.1 21.3 12.1
Pacific Wash. Oregon Calif.	9 1 10 0 9 1	7 8.	1 9. 5 7.	4 9.9	12.1	10.9	7 8.	1 10.L 5 11.2 8 10.7 2 10.1	11.1	9.9	10.7 10.5 9.9 10.9	11.9	12.5

Table 1. Persons on General Relief in Continental United States as a Percent of the Estimated Total Population by States and Geographic Areas July 1933—June 1935 (Continued).

Geographical Areas	Average for						
and States	1935 (6 Mo.)	January	February	March	April	May	June
Total	14.8	15.8	15.6	15.3	14.7	14.1	13.1
New England	14.0	13.7	14.2	14.1	14.1	14.2	13.7
Maine	10.7	10.3	10.3	11.2	11.1	11.2	10.4
New Hampshire	10.6	7.9	9.8	11.4	11.9	11.9	10.7
Vermont	9.1	8.9	9.4	9.4	9.2	9.0	8.9
Massachusetts Rhode Island	16.8	16.5	17.2	16.9	16.8	17.2	16.6
Connecticut	11.0 11.5	11.1	11.1	10.8	11.2	11.0	10.6
Atlantic	14.9	15.5	15.5	15.3	14.9	14.5	13.7
New York	16.2	16.7	17.1	16.6	16.2	15.6	15.1
New Jersey	14.8	15.5	15.5	15.4	14.8	13.9	13.4
Pennsylvania	18.5	18.1	18.7	18.9	18.7	18.8	17.8
Delaware	6.8	7.6	7.5	7.2	6.5	6.2	6.1
Maryland	10.8	11.3	12.1	11.8	10.9	10.0	8.4
District of Columbia	12.0	13.7	13.5	12.4	12.1	10.9	9.8
Virginia	8.8	8.5	8.7	8.9	9.3	9.0	8.3
West Virginia	20.8	21.9	21.6	21.1	20.4	20.4	19.5
North Carolina	9.4	10.0	9.6	9.8	9.7	8.9	8.3
South Carolina	13.0	15.9	14.4	13.6	11.4	11.4	11.2
Georgia Florida	10.2	11.2	11.1	10.7	10.4	9.8	7.7
South Central	14.0	75.0					
Kentucky	18.1	15.6 17.9	15.2	14.6	13.7	12.8	11.8
Tennessee	12.1	11.7	17.8 12.0	18.0 12.4	18.4	18.6	17.7
Alabama	8.5	8.5	8.2	7.9	12.6	12.3	11.8
Mississippi	9.6	12.5	11.0	10.3	8.6	8.8 7.6	8.8
Arkansas	14.0	17.9	17.2	14.1	12.3	11.5	10.7
Louisiana	8.4	8.0	8.2	8.3	8.6	8.7	8.6
Oklahoma	22.6	25.6	24.9	24.2	21.9	20.2	18.8
Texas	15.4	18.5	18.0	16.9	15.0	12.9	10.9
East North Central	14.6	15.8	15.5	15.0	14.5	13.7	13.2
Ohio	16.7	17.8	17.3	16.9	16.5	16.1	15.9
Indiana	14.0	14.8	15.0	14.5	13.9	13.3	12.4
Illinois	14.1	14.7	14.8	14.8	14.3	13.4	12.8
Michigan Wisconsin	13.4 13.7	15.7 15.1	14.5 15.5	13.8 13.8	12.9	12.0	11.7
West North Central	15.9	17.4	17.3				
Minnesota	15.8	18.2	17.6	16.9	16.1 16.0	15.2	12.7
Iowa	9.6	10.6	10.6	10.5	9.6	14.7	12.1
Missouri	15.9	17.1	17.1	16.9	15.9	15.0	13.6
North Dakota	27.9	28.3	28.7	29.3	29.1	27.5	24.4
South Dakota	32.3	36.7	35.5	34.4	33.5	32.6	21.1
Nebraska	13.0	14.4	14.7	14.3	12.4	11.9	10.2
Kansas	16.0	16.4	17.0	16.8	16.4	16.1	13.1
ountain	20.2	21.8	21.4	21.9	20.3	18.9	16.7
Montana	18.6	19.1	19.5	19.8	19.0	18,3	15.9
Idaho	19.5	22.2	19.6	20.4	20.2	18.7	15.8
Wyoming	13.5	14.9	15.4	15.9	15.5	10.6	8.6
Colorado New Mexico	21.3	22.6	22.8	23.1	21.0	20.5	18.2
Arizona	25.2 18.4	29.5	28.5	29.9	23.4	21.0	18.8
Utah	21.9	19.5	18.1	19.2	18.8	18.2	16.7
Nevada	11.6	22.7 14.0	23.1	23.3	22.9	20.8	18.6
acific	13.4	14.0	13.8	13.7	13.3	13.2	12.3
Washington	13.6	13.4	13.9	13.4	13.1	13.8	13.8
Oregon	12.7	14.1	14.5	13.6	12.8	11.3	10.0
California	13.4	14.1	13.7	13.8	13.5	13.3	12.2



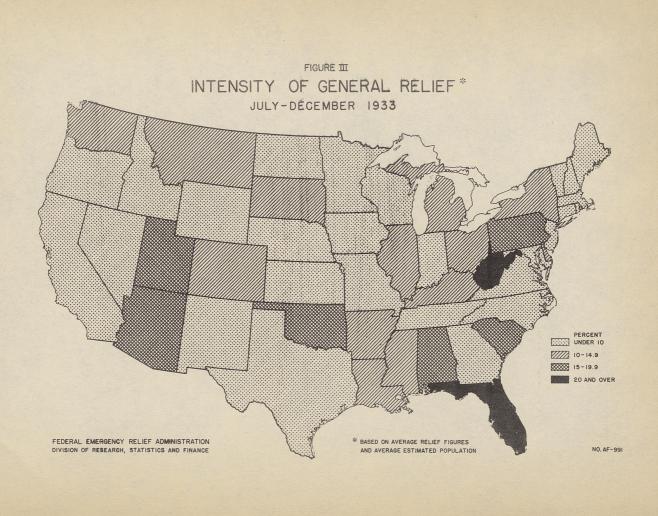


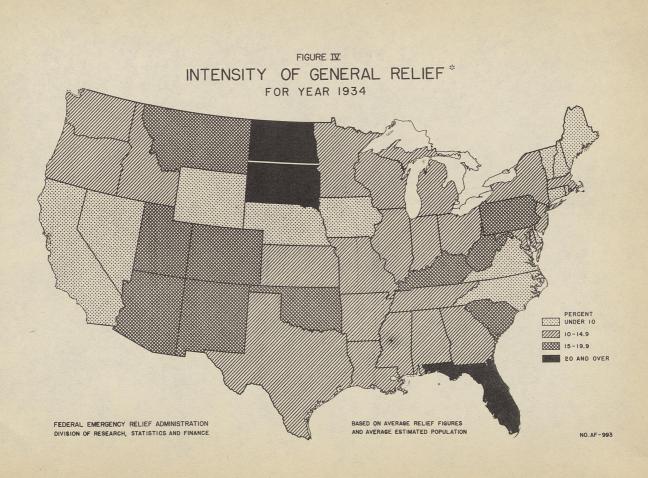
## INTENSITY\*OF GENERAL RELIEF IN THE UNITED STATES JULY 1933-JUNE 1935

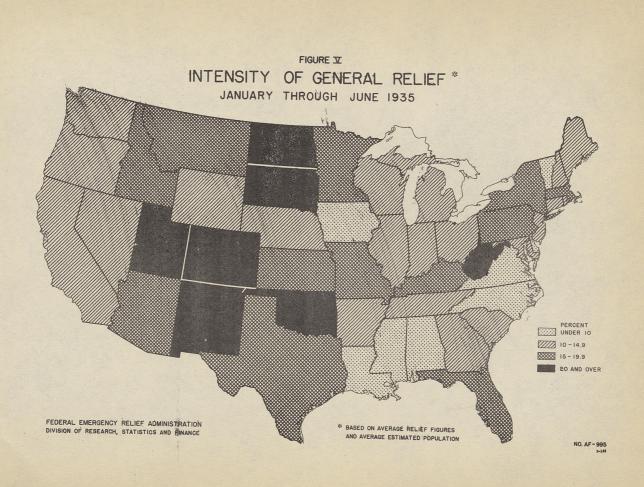
\* PERCENTAGE OF ESTIMATED POPULATION ON RELIEF

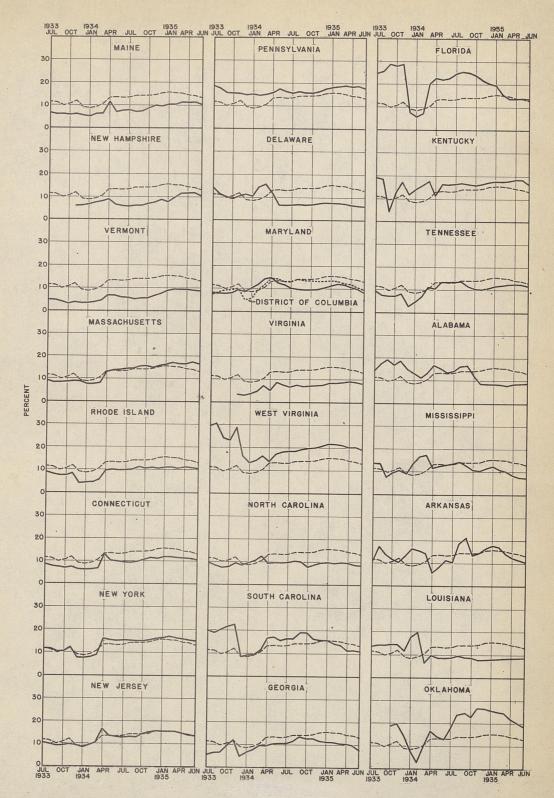
FEDERAL EMERGENCY RELIEF ADMINISTRATION DIVISION OF RESEARCH STATISTICS AND FINANCE

NO AF-989 R 299



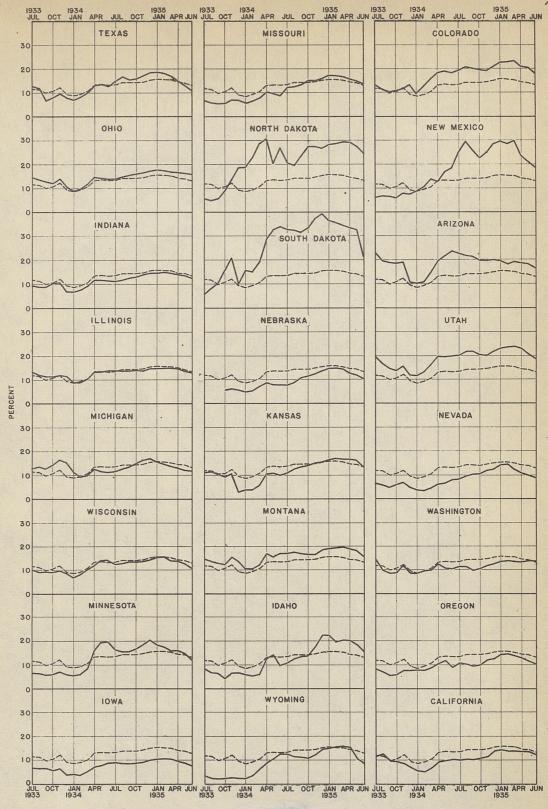






INTENSITY\* OF GENERAL RELIEF, JULY 1933 - JUNE 1935





INTENSITY\* OF GENERAL RELIEF, JULY 1933 - JUNE 1935
\*\*PERCENTAGE OF ESTIMATED POPULATION ON RELIEF