



# The Role of Social/Economic Background in Crime

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## *Social Influence of Poverty*

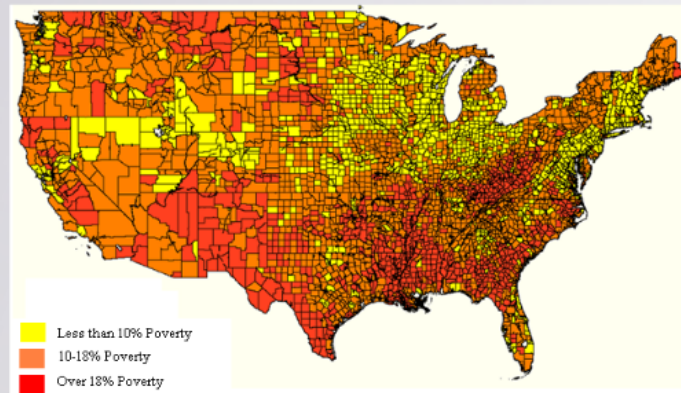
A potent factor in driving people to the extremes in order to survive. The social environment of impoverished communities creates dysfunction, resentment, and a lack of jobs and revenue making it impossible for any opportunities to break the poverty is run down and deteriorating with minimal public services and a severely and inadequate environment many families living in poverty are broken and many single-parent families live in poverty. This family dynamic of little supervision create criminal tendencies at a very young age. Communities that are stricken with a heightened crime rate simply because they are poor. Lower class communities are less likely to report it and are not able to demand the heightened level of police



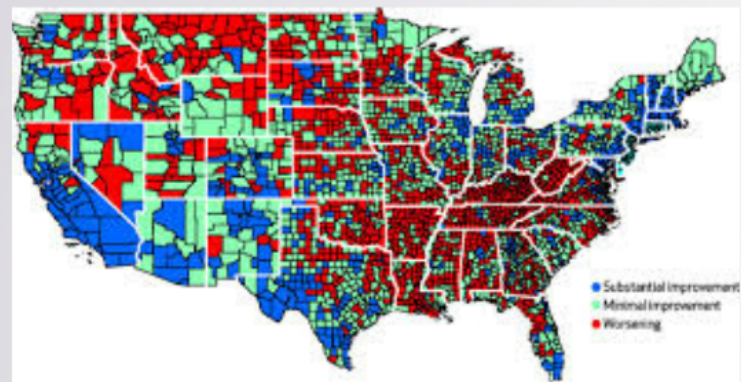
# Poverty: The Creation of a Criminal

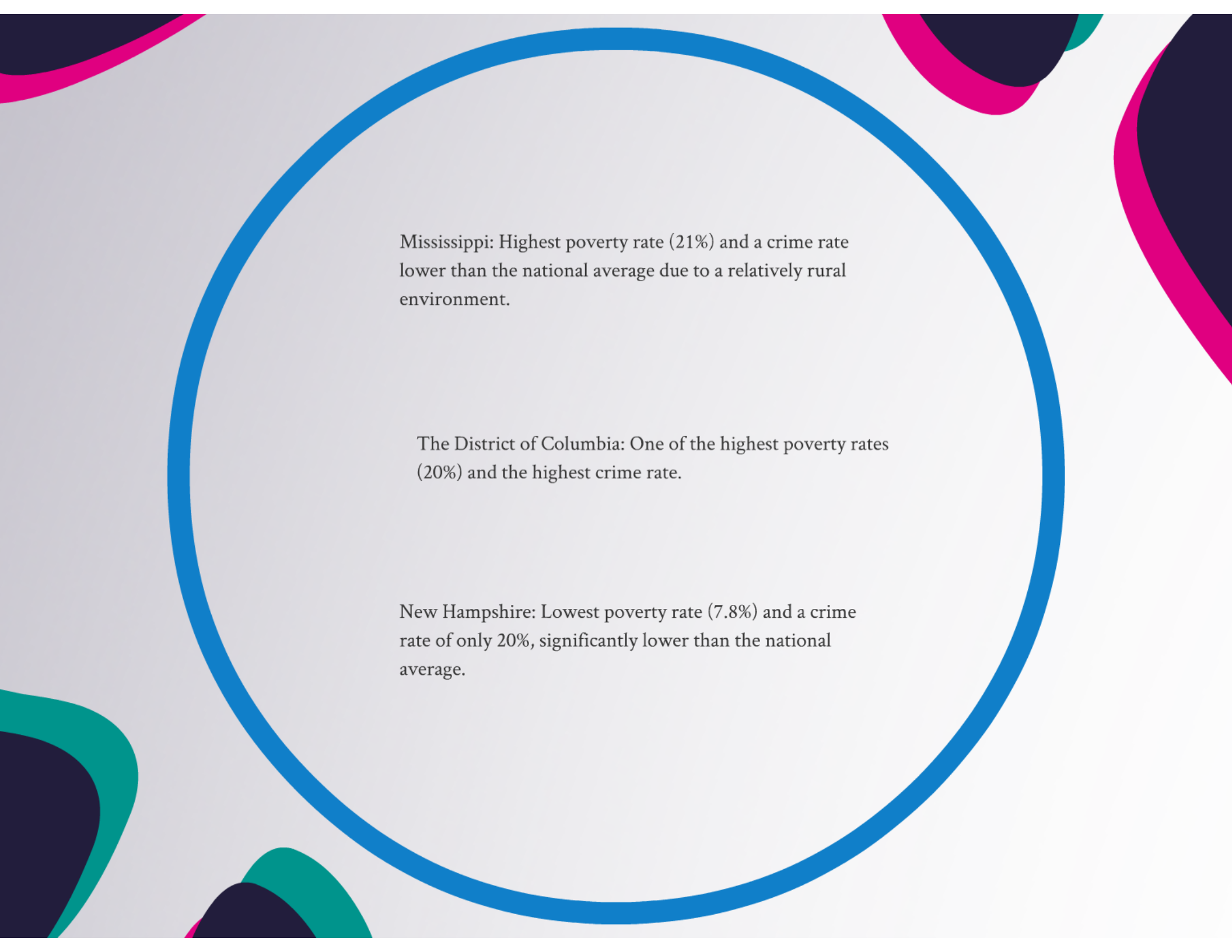
Poverty is the main cause of crime due to the environment that envelopes the persons inflicted with its stresses. An environment in which broken families are plentiful, basic needs are rarely met, and any opportunity to escape its grasp is scarce. Poverty has long been linked to crime, but it's not so much the poverty itself, but the characteristics of poverty and concentration of poverty among one community. This creates a barren desert that welcomes and cultivates crime by nature. Dysfunction, stress, and desperation run rampant. Survival is every man for himself. These situations come together to make the perfect condition to create a criminal. People in poverty are left with no other choice than to steal, scam, and obtain money in any way necessary. They are surrounded by an environment that is just as desperate as they are and they are forced to compete. Role models are non-existent, and pressure is dealt with by any means available. All these side effects of poverty produce a heightened crime rate.

## Poverty Rates 2012



## Crime Rates 2012

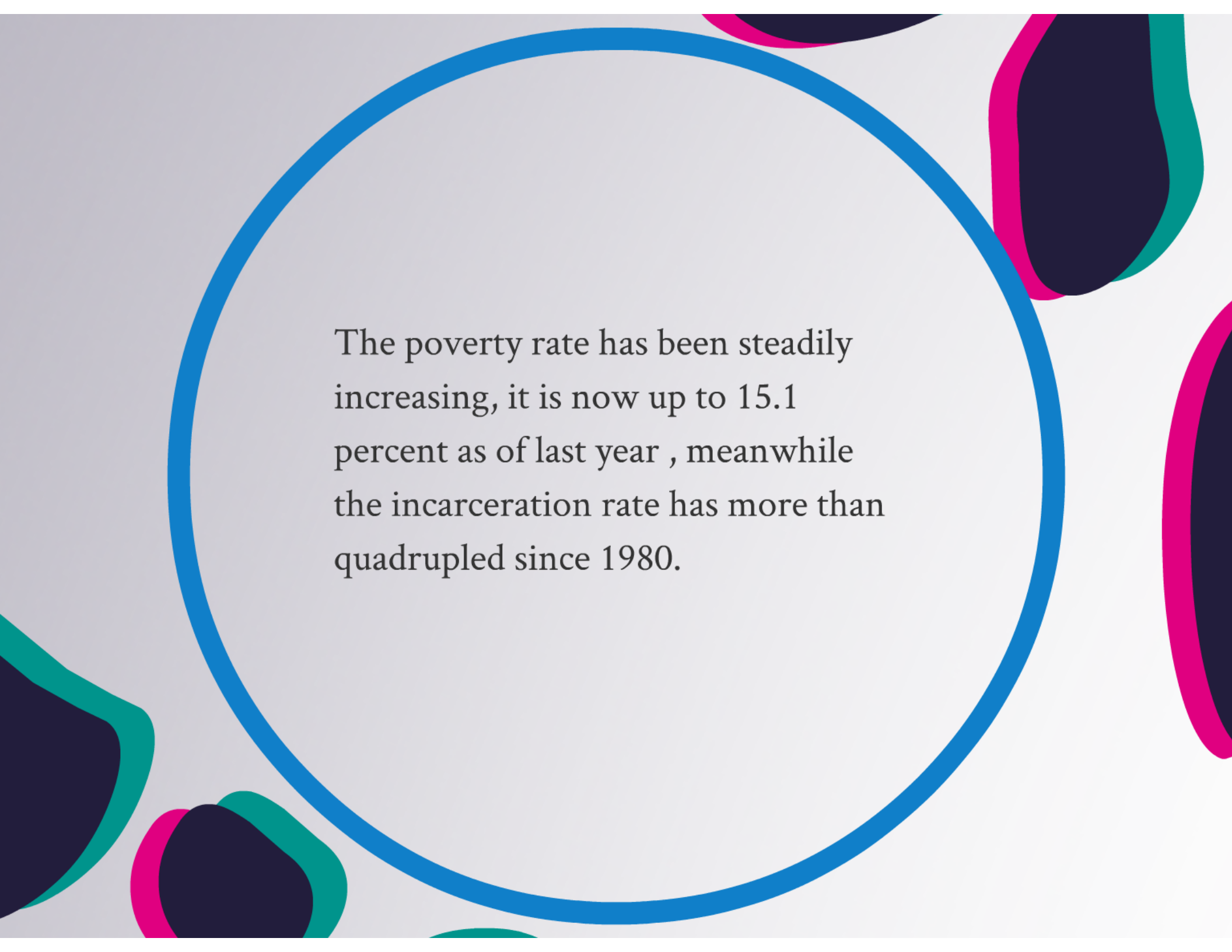




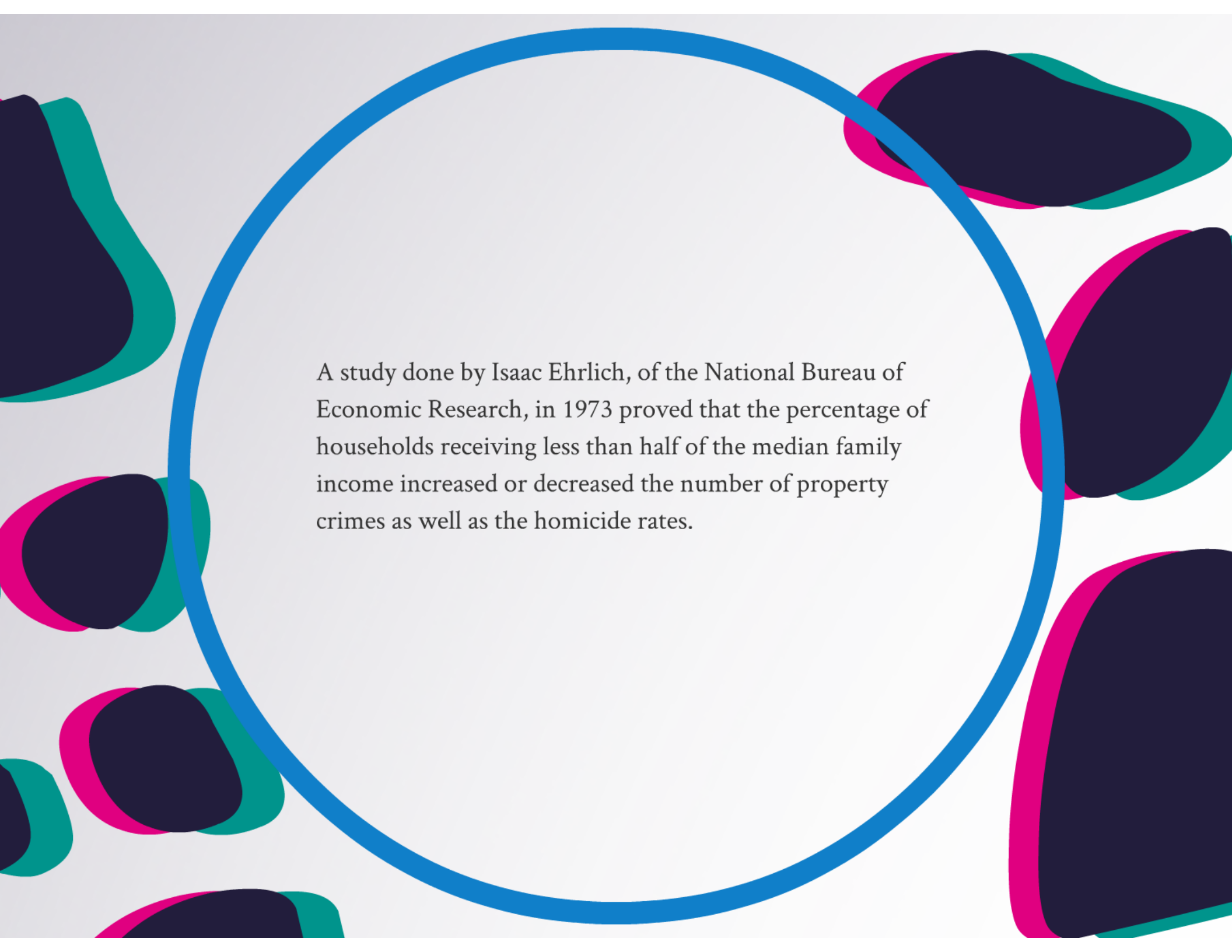
Mississippi: Highest poverty rate (21%) and a crime rate lower than the national average due to a relatively rural environment.

The District of Columbia: One of the highest poverty rates (20%) and the highest crime rate.

New Hampshire: Lowest poverty rate (7.8%) and a crime rate of only 20%, significantly lower than the national average.



The poverty rate has been steadily increasing, it is now up to 15.1 percent as of last year , meanwhile the incarceration rate has more than quadrupled since 1980.

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A study done by Isaac Ehrlich, of the National Bureau of Economic Research, in 1973 proved that the percentage of households receiving less than half of the median family income increased or decreased the number of property crimes as well as the homicide rates.

# *Social Influence of Poverty*

The stress of poverty is a potent factor in driving people to the extremes in order to survive. The social influence of poverty affects both adults and children. As parents struggle to stay above water, the children are often left to their own devices. The environment of impoverished communities creates dysfunction, resentment, and anger. A community in poverty is run down and deteriorating with minimal public services and a severely limited tax base. This causes a lack of jobs and revenue making it impossible for any opportunities to break the cycle. Education is interrupted and inadequate, gangs run the streets and drugs are a plentiful and welcome distraction. In addition to the physical environment many families living in poverty are broken and dysfunctional. For example, many single-parent families live in poverty. This family dynamic of little supervision and excessively low income create criminal tendencies at a very young age. Communities that are stricken with poverty are also threatened by a heightened crime rate simply because they are poor. Lower class communities are the targets of criminal because they they do not require much skill or risk. People in these communities are accustom to crime and are less likely to report it and are not able to demand the heightened level of police attention.