

Table 7.

## Alternative Poverty Estimates Based on National Academy of Sciences Recommendations: 2001 and 2002

(Numbers in thousands, poverty rates in percentages)

Alternative NAS-based method	2001		2002		Change (2002 less 2001) <sup>1</sup>	
	Number below poverty level	Poverty rate	Number below poverty level	Poverty rate	Number below poverty level	Poverty rate
<b>Official measure.....</b>	<b>32,907</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>34,570</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>*1,663</b>	<b>*0.4</b>
<b>No Geographic Adjustment of Thresholds</b>						
MSI-NGA (Medical costs alternative 1).....	34,790	12.4	35,244	12.4	454	–
MIT-NGA (Medical costs alternative 2).....	36,001	12.8	37,013	13.0	*1,012	0.2
CMB-NGA (Medical costs alternative 3).....	36,597	13.0	37,135	13.0	538	–
<b>Geographic Adjustment of Thresholds</b>						
MSI-GA (Medical costs alternative 1).....	34,694	12.3	35,036	12.3	342	–
MIT-GA (Medical costs alternative 2).....	35,824	12.7	36,481	12.8	657	0.1
CMB-GA (Medical costs alternative 3).....	36,442	12.9	36,896	12.9	454	–

–Represents zero.

\*Statistically different from zero at the 90-percent confidence level.

<sup>1</sup>Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Notes: While the alternative measures differ among one another in their computation of medical expenses and geographic variations in costs, they are similar in their scaling of thresholds by family size and their treatment of noncash benefits and child care and work-related expenses. See text and footnotes for additional information and references.

For an explanation of the measures, see text and Short (2001).

All measures are updated for inflation with the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U).

See [www.census.gov/poverty/povmeas/report.htm](http://www.census.gov/poverty/povmeas/report.htm) for measures updated using growth in median expenditures.

MSI means medical out-of-pocket expenses (MOOP) subtracted from income.

MIT means MOOP included in the thresholds.

CMB means combined methods.

NGA means no geographic adjustment for housing costs.

GA means geographic adjustment for housing costs.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2002 and 2003 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.