

INCOME AND POVERTY

Chapter 14. Income and Poverty

The data on income in 1979 were derived from answers to questions 30 and 31. Information on money income received in the calendar year 1979 was requested from persons 15 years old and over. "Total" income is the algebraic sum of the amounts reported separately for wage and salary income; nonfarm net self-employment income; farm net self-employment income; interest, dividend, net royalty or rental income; Social Security or Retirement income; public assistance or welfare income; and all other income (including remittances). "Earnings" is defined as the algebraic sum of wage or salary income and net income from farm and nonfarm self-employment. The earnings figures represent the amount of income received regularly before deductions for personal income taxes, Social Security, bond purchases, union dues, medicare deductions, etc.

Receipts from the following sources were not included as income: money received from the sale of property (unless the recipient was engaged in the business of selling such property); the value of income "in kind" from food stamps, public housing subsidies, medical care, employer contributions for pensions, etc.; withdrawal of bank deposits; money borrowed; tax refunds; exchange of money between relatives living in the same household; gifts and lump-sum inheritances, insurance payments, and other types of lump-sum receipts.

Since questionnaire entries for income were frequently based on memory and not on records, many persons tended to forget minor or irregular sources of income, and therefore, underreported their income. Underreporting tended to be more pronounced for income sources that were not derived from earnings, such as Social Security, public assistance, or net income from interest, dividends, and rentals. In addition, there were errors of reporting due to misunderstanding of the income questions. One such error was the reporting of gross rather than net dollar amounts for the two questions on net self-employment income, which resulted in an overstatement of these items. Another common error was the reporting of identical dollar amounts in two of the seven types of income items where a respondent with only one source of income assumed that the second amount should be entered to represent total income. Such instances of over-reporting would have an impact on the level of mean nonfarm or farm self-employment income and mean total income published for the various geographical subdivisions in the CNMI.

Extensive review procedures were instituted in the coding operation to reduce some of these reporting errors and to improve the accuracy of the income data. Moreover, many reporting errors were rectified through the coding and the computer editing procedures, with the result that consistency of reported income items with work experience, occupation, and class of worker information was improved. For example, if a person reported he or she was self-employed on his/her own farm, not incorporated, but had reported wage and salary earnings only, the latter amount was shifted to net farm self-employment income. Also, if a person reported total income only, the amount was generally assigned to one of the type of income items according to responses to the work experience and class-of-worker questions. Another type

of problem involved the non-reporting of income data. Where income information was not reported, computer allocation procedures were devised to impute appropriate values (either no income or positive or negative dollar amounts) for the missing entries.

Only 107 of the 3,028 households (3.5 percent) in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in 1979 received no income at all (Table 14.1). Of those receiving income, 320 households received \$25,000 or more from all sources, more than 10 percent of all households. Most of these households were on Saipan, with less than 1 percent of the households on Rota and Tinian receiving this much income, and none of the households in the Northern Islands.

About 1 in 6 households received between \$5000 and \$7499, which was the largest or modal category. More than 10 percent of the households were in categories of \$7500 to \$9999, and \$10000 to \$12499, but also more than 10 percent were in the lowest income category - \$1 to \$2999 or loss.

Table 14.1. Households by Household Income in 1979 by Island: 1980

| Household Income | Numbers | | | | Percent | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|------|--------|---------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| | Saipan | Tinian | Rota | N. Is. | Total | Saipan | Rota | Tinian | N. Is. |
| Total..... | 2632 | 233 | 150 | 13 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Without income..... | 93 | 6 | 8 | 0 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 2.6 | 5.3 | 0.0 |
| With income..... | 2539 | 227 | 142 | 13 | 96.5 | 96.5 | 97.4 | 94.7 | 100.0 |
| \$1 to \$2999 or loss... | 244 | 35 | 22 | 7 | 10.2 | 9.3 | 15.0 | 14.7 | 53.8 |
| \$3000 to \$3499..... | 91 | 11 | 6 | 0 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 4.7 | 4.0 | 0.0 |
| \$3500 to \$3999..... | 106 | 13 | 14 | 0 | 4.4 | 4.0 | 5.6 | 9.3 | 0.0 |
| \$4000 to \$4999..... | 171 | 18 | 10 | 3 | 6.7 | 6.5 | 7.7 | 6.7 | 23.1 |
| \$5000 to \$7499..... | 413 | 45 | 26 | 2 | 16.1 | 15.7 | 19.3 | 17.3 | 15.4 |
| \$7500 to \$9999..... | 322 | 40 | 22 | 0 | 12.7 | 12.2 | 17.2 | 14.7 | 0.0 |
| \$10,000 to \$12,499.... | 274 | 15 | 18 | 1 | 10.2 | 10.4 | 6.4 | 12.0 | 7.7 |
| \$12,500 to \$14,999.... | 183 | 15 | 9 | 0 | 6.8 | 7.0 | 6.4 | 6.0 | 0.0 |
| \$15,000 to \$19,999.... | 268 | 19 | 7 | 0 | 9.7 | 10.2 | 8.2 | 4.7 | 0.0 |
| \$20,000 to \$24,999.... | 162 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 5.6 | 6.2 | 2.6 | 2.0 | 0.0 |
| \$25,000 or more..... | 305 | 10 | 5 | 0 | 10.6 | 11.6 | .4 | .2 | 0.0 |

Source: Summary Tape File 3A, Table 68

The income data for families showed similar results (Table 14.2). Only 3 percent of all families received no income, while 10 percent received \$25000 or more.

FIGURE 14.1

Households by Household Income in 1979: 1980

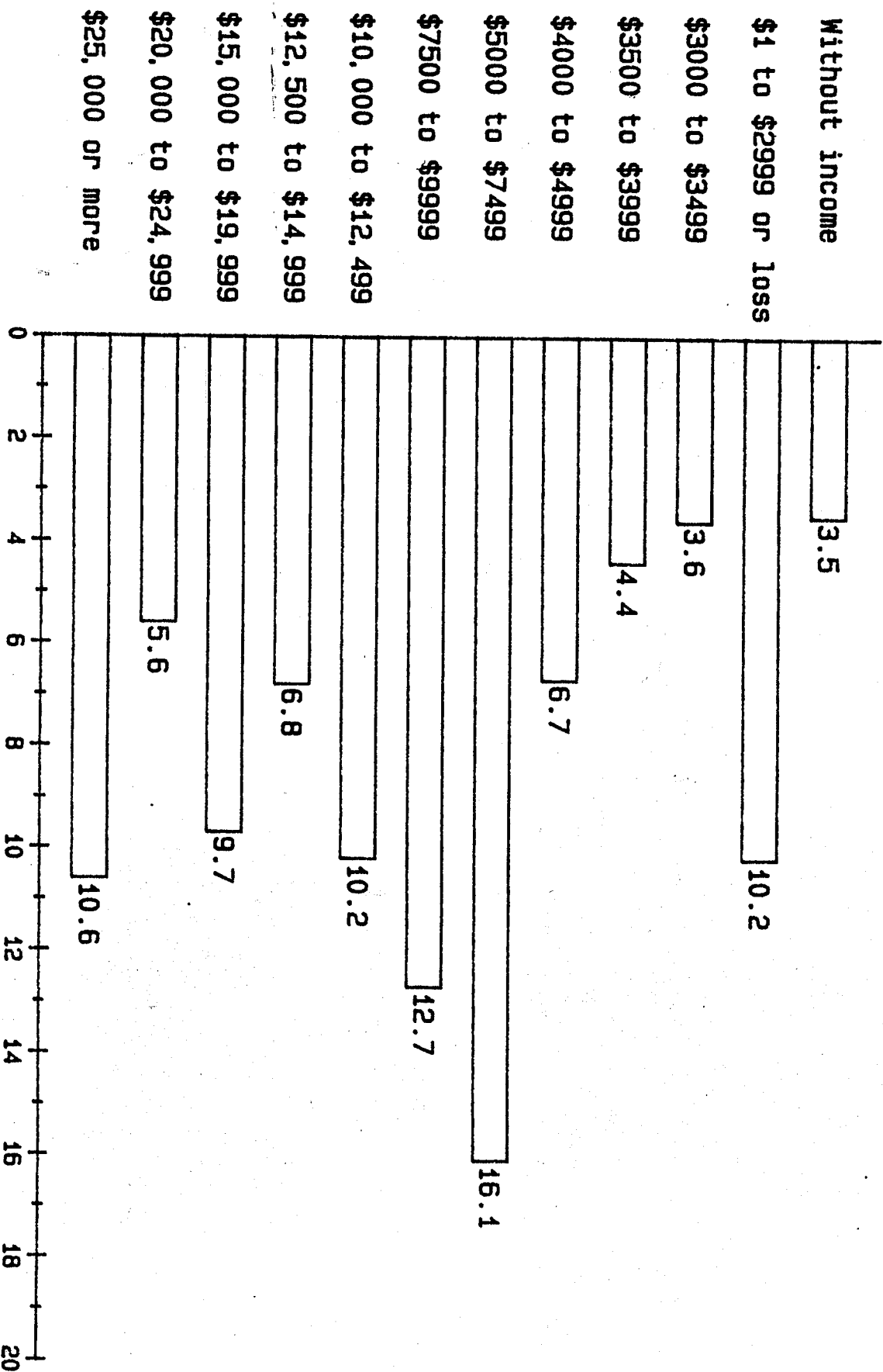


Table 14.2. Families by Family Income in 1979 by Island: 1980

| Family Income | Numbers | | | | Percent | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|---------|-------------|-------|-------------|-----------|
| | Sai- pan | Tin- Rota | N. ian | N. Is. | Total | Sai- pan | Rota | Tin- ian | N. Is. |
| Total..... | 2320 | 188 | 133 | 11 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Without income..... | 70 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 1.6 | 5.3 | 0.0 |
| With income..... | 2250 | 185 | 126 | 11 | 97.0 | 97.0 | 98.4 | 94.7 | 100.0 |
| \$1 to \$2999 or loss... | 211 | 28 | 16 | 7 | 9.9 | 9.1 | 14.9 | 12.0 | 63.6 |
| \$3000 to \$3499..... | 78 | 10 | 6 | 0 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 5.3 | 4.5 | 0.0 |
| \$3500 to \$3999..... | 104 | 12 | 13 | 0 | 4.9 | 4.5 | 6.4 | 9.8 | 0.0 |
| \$4000 to \$4999..... | 154 | 17 | 10 | 2 | 6.9 | 6.6 | 9.0 | 7.5 | 18.2 |
| \$5000 to \$7499..... | 366 | 36 | 25 | 1 | 16.1 | 15.8 | 19.1 | 18.8 | 9.1 |
| \$7500 to \$9999..... | 306 | 34 | 22 | 1 | 13.7 | 13.2 | 18.1 | 16.5 | 9.1 |
| \$10,000 to \$12,499.... | 233 | 14 | 16 | 0 | 9.9 | 10.0 | 7.4 | 12.0 | 0.0 |
| \$12,500 to \$14,999.... | 167 | 11 | 7 | 0 | 7.0 | 7.2 | 5.9 | 5.3 | 0.0 |
| \$15,000 to \$19,999.... | 221 | 13 | 7 | 0 | 9.1 | 9.5 | 6.9 | 5.3 | 0.0 |
| \$20,000 to \$24,999.... | 143 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5.6 | 6.2 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 0.0 |
| \$25,000 or more..... | 267 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 10.4 | 11.5 | .3 | .1 | 0.0 |

Source: Summary Tape File 3A, Table 73

Unrelated individuals are those who live in households or in group quarters but who are not related to the householder. These people are tabulated separately for various reasons.

Almost 14 percent of the unrelated individuals 15 years and over received no income in 1979 (Table 14.3). Only 1 person in the Northern Islands was in this category, but 14 percent of those on Saipan, 9 percent on Rota, and 19 percent on Tinian had no income in 1979.

On the other hand, about 7 percent of the unrelated persons received \$10000 or more in 1979. Almost all of these were on Saipan - only 9 lived on Rota, and 8 on Tinian (each less than 1 percent of the island's unrelated individuals.) A majority of the unrelated persons received less than \$4000 in 1979.

FIGURE 14.2

Families by Family Income in 1979: 1980

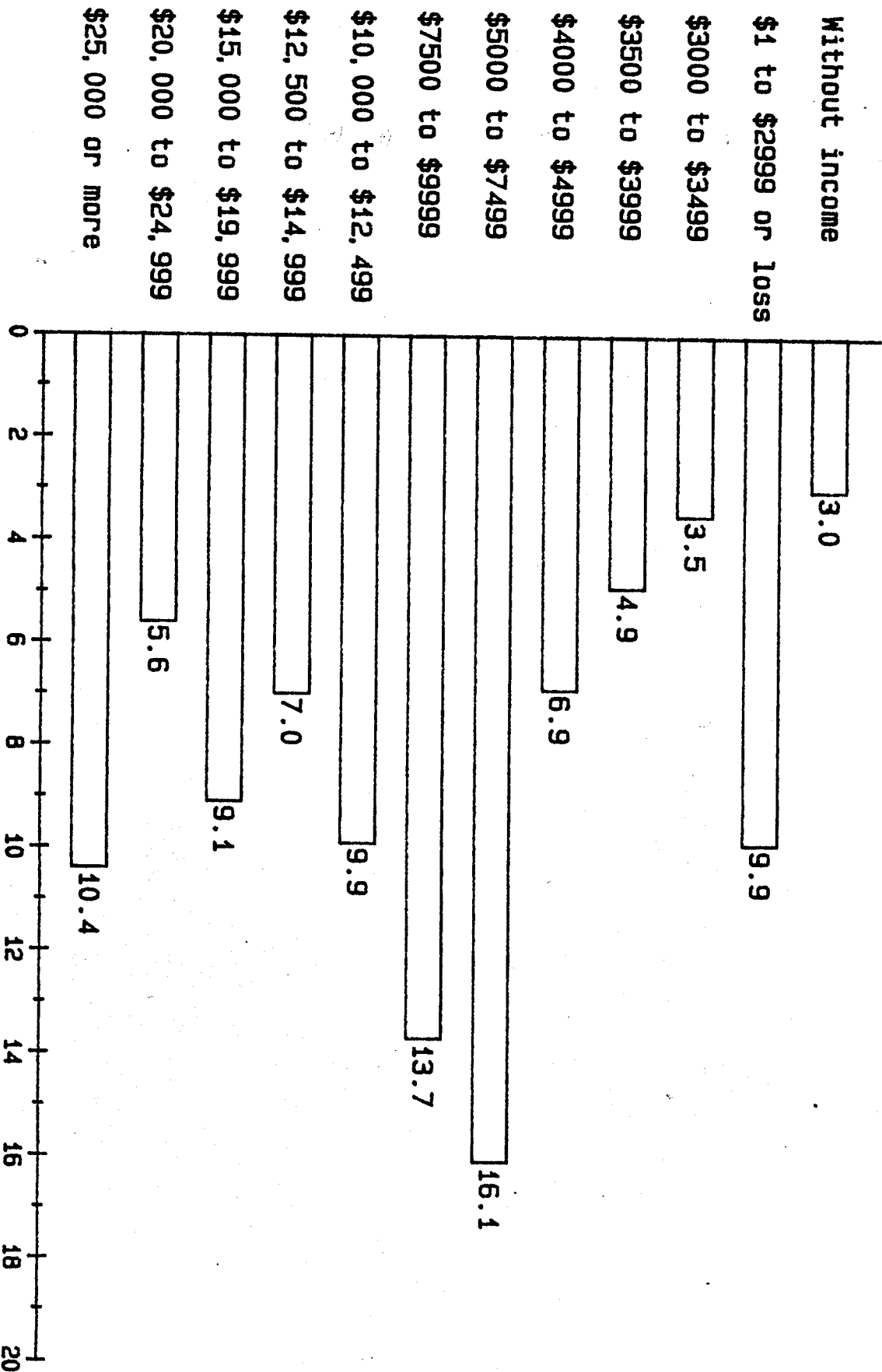


Table 14.3. Unrelated Individuals 15 and over by Income in 1979: 1980

| Unrelated Individuals | Numbers | | | | Percent | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|---------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Sal- pan | Tin- Rota | N. ian | N. Is. | Total | Sal- pan | Tin- Rota | N. ian | N. Is. |
| Total..... | 1375 | 144 | 90 | 8 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Without income..... | 191 | 13 | 17 | 1 | 13.7 | 13.9 | 9.0 | 18.9 | 12.5 |
| With income..... | 1184 | 131 | 73 | 7 | 86.3 | 86.1 | 91.0 | 81.1 | 87.5 |
| \$1 to \$999 or loss.... | 139 | 21 | 10 | 3 | 10.7 | 10.1 | 14.6 | 11.1 | 37.5 |
| \$1000 to \$1999..... | 216 | 13 | 5 | 1 | 14.5 | 15.7 | 9.0 | 5.6 | 12.5 |
| \$2000 to \$2999..... | 182 | 38 | 10 | 1 | 14.3 | 13.2 | 26.4 | 11.1 | 12.5 |
| \$3000 to \$3999..... | 201 | 15 | 7 | 0 | 13.8 | 14.6 | 10.4 | 7.8 | 0.0 |
| \$4000 to \$4999..... | 118 | 15 | 5 | 1 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 10.4 | 5.6 | 12.5 |
| \$5000 to \$5999..... | 112 | 8 | 13 | 1 | 8.3 | 8.1 | 5.6 | 14.4 | 12.5 |
| \$6000 to \$9999..... | 120 | 12 | 15 | 0 | 9.1 | 8.7 | 8.3 | 16.7 | 0.0 |
| \$10,000 or more..... | 96 | 9 | 8 | 0 | 7.0 | 7.0 | .7 | .6 | 0.0 |

Source: Summary Tape File 3A, Table 81

MEDIAN AND MEAN INCOME

Table 14.4 shows the mean and median household income in 1979 by island and for the whole CNMI. The median income in 1979 was almost \$9000, while the mean was almost \$13000 for all persons, and more than \$13000 when only households actually receiving income are considered. The median was highest for Saipan, at \$9,400, and lowest for the Northern Islands, with Rota and Tinian at around \$7,000.

Table 14.4. Mean and Median Household Income in 1979 by Island: 1980

| Household Income | Total | Saipan | Rota | Tinian | Northern Islands |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------------------|
| Households..... | 3,028 | 2,632 | 233 | 150 | 13 |
| Without Income..... | 107 | 93 | 6 | 8 | 0 |
| With Income..... | 2,921 | 2,539 | 227 | 142 | 13 |
| Median Income..... | \$8,955 | \$9,398 | \$7,020 | \$6,827 | \$2,750 |
| Mean Income..... | \$12,859 | \$13,515 | \$9,107 | \$7,990 | \$3,429 |
| With Income Only..... | \$13,330 | \$14,010 | \$9,348 | \$8,440 | \$3,429 |

Source: Summary Tape File 3A, Tables 69 and 70

FIGURE 14.3

Unrelated Individuals 15 and Over by Income in 1979: 1980

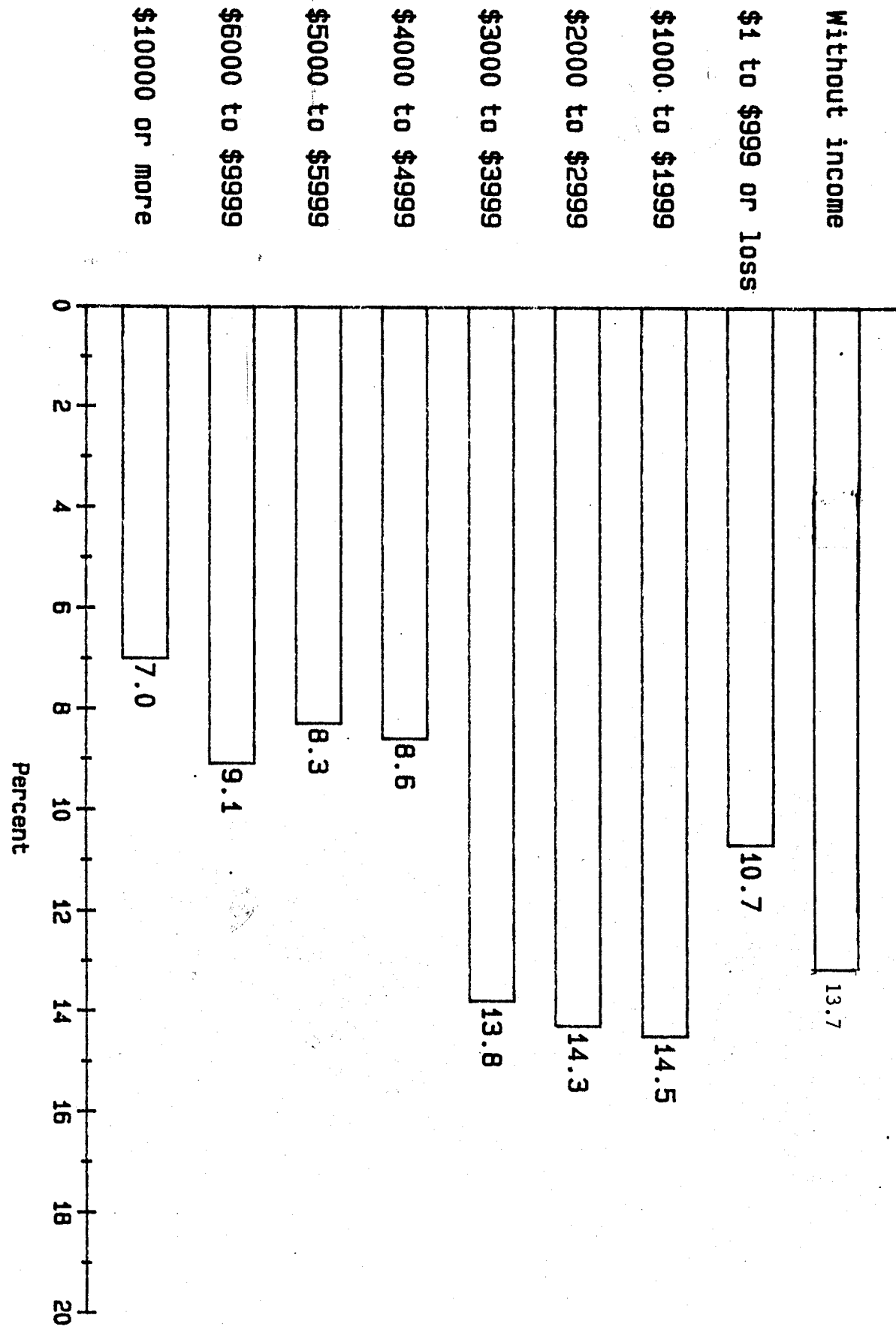
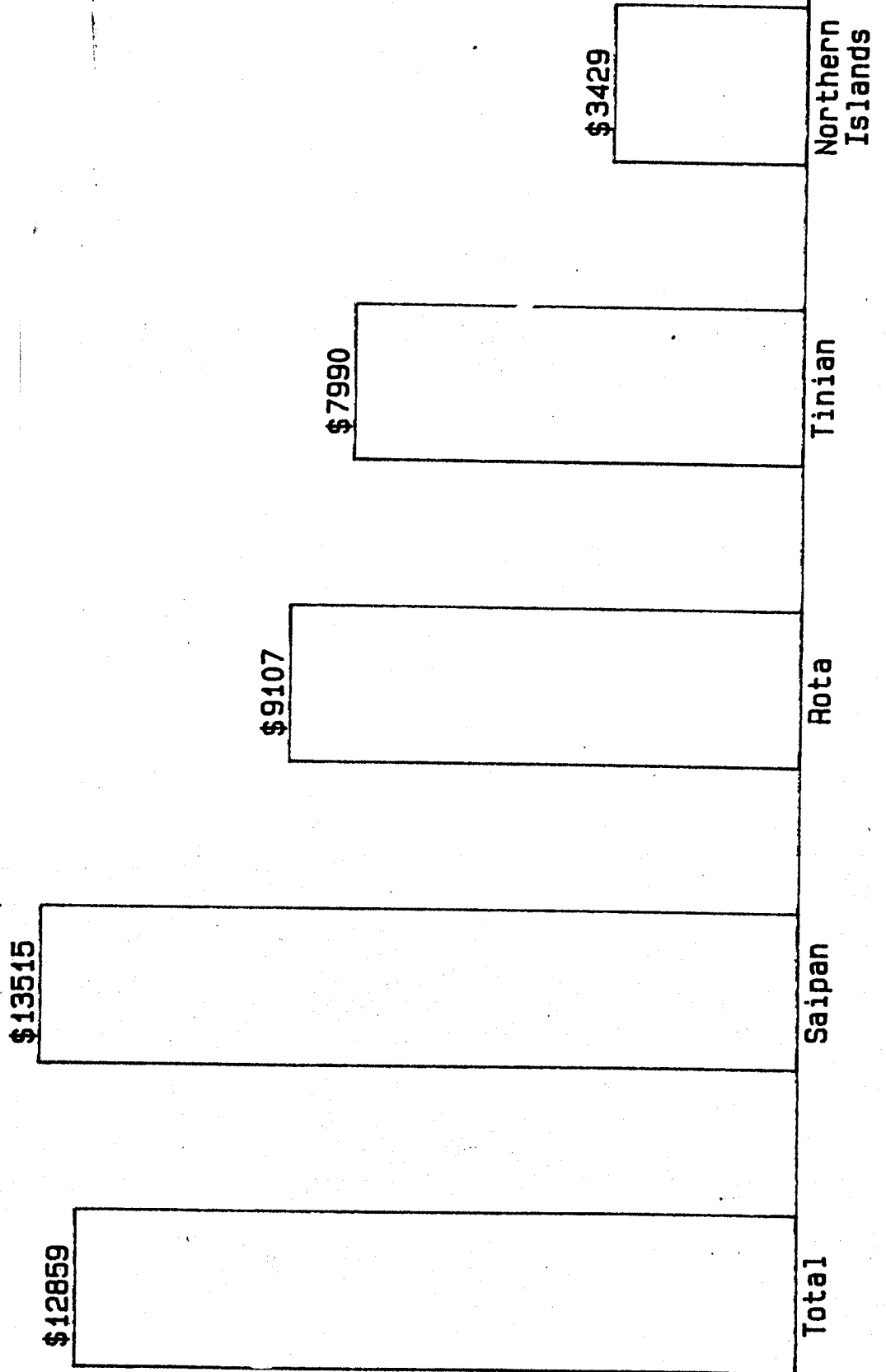


FIGURE 14.4

Median Household Income in 1979 by Island: 1980



The median income is the amount which divides the distribution into two equal groups, one having incomes above the median and the other having incomes below the median. The median for persons in all areas was based on persons with income. It should be noted that the median income values for persons were computed on the basis of more detailed income intervals than shown in Tables 14.1, 14.2, and 14.3.

The mean income is the amount obtained by dividing the total income of a particular statistical universe by the number of units in that universe. Thus, mean income is obtained by dividing the aggregate persons income by the total number of persons with income.

Care should be taken in using and interpreting mean income values for small populations such as the CNMI. Since the mean is strongly influenced by extreme values in the distribution, it is especially susceptible to the effects of sampling variability, misreporting, and processing errors. The median, which is not affected by extreme values, is, therefore, a better measure than the mean when the population base is small. The mean, nevertheless, is shown because, when weighted according to the number of cases, the means can be added to obtain summary measures for areas and groups other than those shown.

The mean household income distribution by type also shows variation among the islands (Table 14.5). As would be expected, most income received was from earnings, with relatively small amounts from other sources. The average household in the CNMI which received any interest, dividend or net rental income, received about \$2800, with smaller amounts being reported for Social Security, Public Assistance, and all other sources (including remittances).

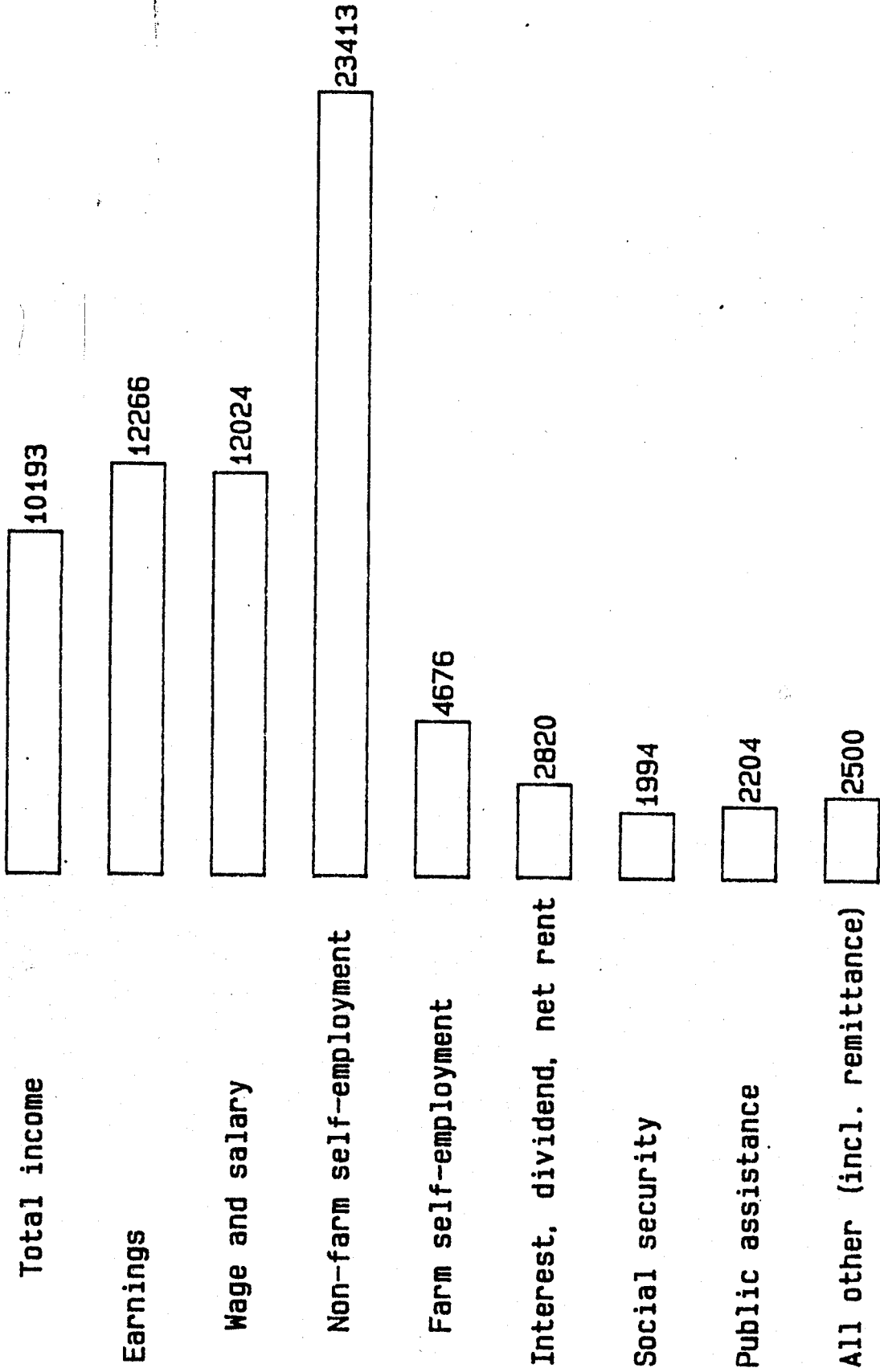
Table 14.5. Mean Household Income by Type: 1980

| Income Type | Total | Saipan | Rota | Tinian | Northern Islands |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|
| Total income..... | \$10,193 | \$10,407 | \$6,957 | \$12,211 | \$2,786 |
| Earnings..... | \$12,266 | \$12,876 | \$8,594 | \$7,867 | \$2,875 |
| Wage and salary..... | \$12,024 | \$12,507 | \$9,094 | \$8,075 | \$3,778 |
| Non-farm self-employment.. | \$23,413 | \$24,433 | \$17,811 | \$10,395 | |
| Farm self-employment..... | \$4,676 | \$6,433 | \$1,192 | \$838 | \$1,069 |
| Interest, dividend, net rent | \$2,820 | \$2,900 | \$2,027 | \$1,395 | |
| Social security..... | \$1,994 | \$1,950 | \$2,682 | \$2,228 | |
| Public assistance..... | \$2,204 | \$2,220 | \$2,176 | \$2,211 | \$1,455 |
| All other (incl. remittance) | \$2,500 | \$2,536 | \$2,529 | \$1,092 | |

Source: Summary Tape File 3A, Tables 71 and 72

FIGURE 14.5

Mean Household Income by Type: 1980 (Dollars)



The median family income in 1979 in the CNMI was \$9,600, somewhat more than the median household income (Table 14.6). The medians for each island were similar to the household income medians. The mean family income was \$12,906 in 1979, also somewhat higher than the mean for households.

Table 14.6. Mean and Median Family Income in 1979 by Island: 1980

| Family Income | Total | Saipan | Rota | Tinian | Northern Islands |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|---------|---------|------------------|
| Families..... | 2,652 | 2,320 | 188 | 133 | 11 |
| Without Income..... | 80 | 70 | 3 | 7 | 0 |
| With Income..... | 2,572 | 2,250 | 185 | 126 | 11 |
| Median Income..... | \$9,615 | \$9,232 | \$6,771 | \$6,800 | \$1,875 |
| Mean Income..... | \$12,906 | \$13,628 | \$8,355 | \$7,577 | \$2,803 |
| With Income Only..... | \$13,307 | \$14,052 | \$8,490 | \$7,998 | \$2,803 |

Source: Summary Tape File 3A, Tables 73, 77 and 80

Table 14.7 shows the mean family income in 1979 by the number of workers in the family. The mean for the CNMI was \$12,900. Of course, families with no workers had a very low mean annual income of only \$2000. As would be expected, the more workers in the family, the higher the mean family income, except that families with 2 workers had slightly higher mean incomes than those with 3 workers. (This might be explained by the third person being a young worker, who may have entered the labor force to supplement an already low family income derived from the income of the other two workers.)

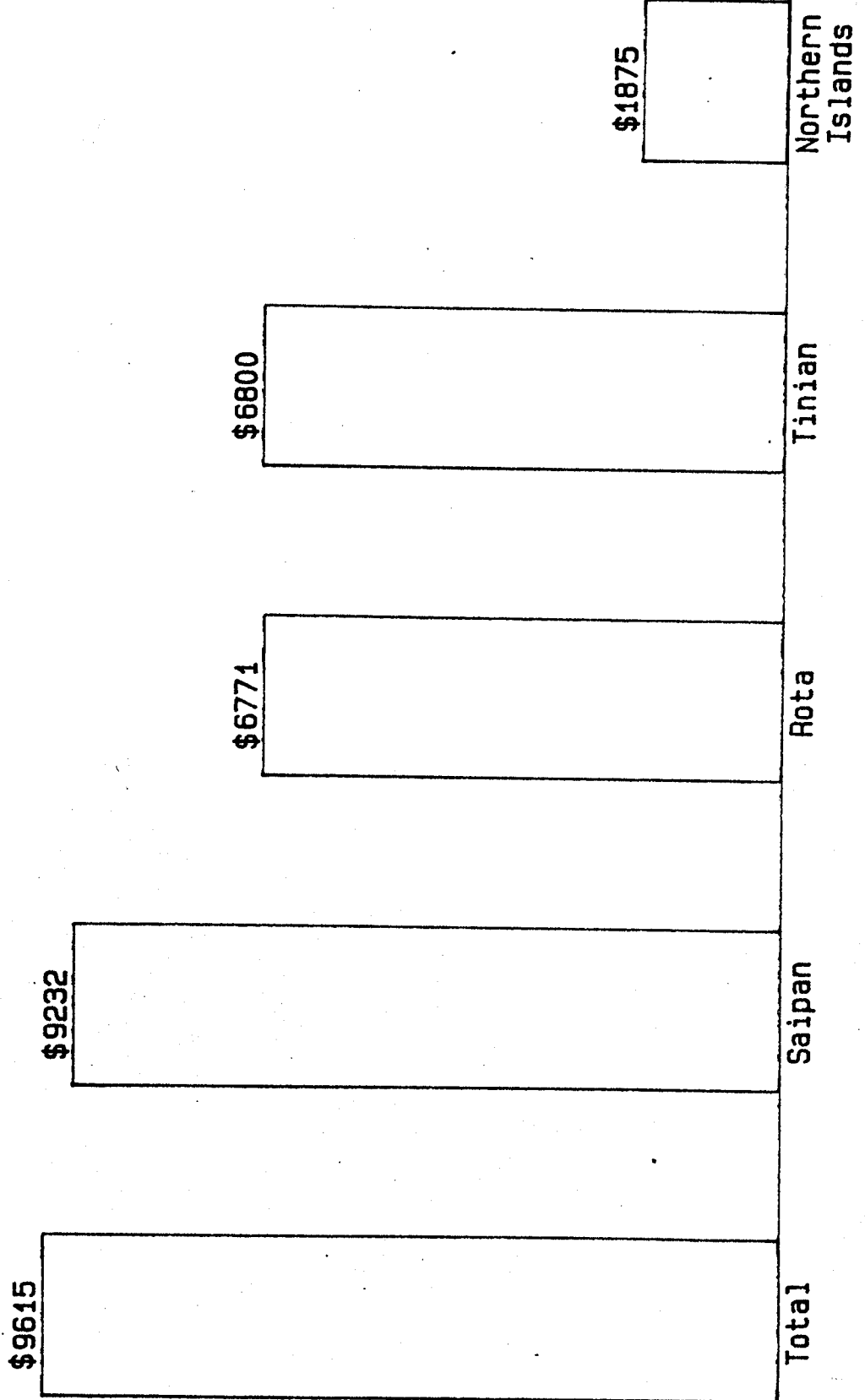
Table 14.7. Mean Family Income by Workers in Family in 1979: 1980

| Workers in Family | Total | Saipan | Rota | Tinian | Northern Islands |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|
| Total..... | \$12,906 | \$13,628 | \$8,355 | \$7,577 | \$2,803 |
| No workers..... | \$2,039 | \$2,102 | \$1,894 | \$1,631 | \$1,455 |
| 1 worker..... | \$9,179 | \$9,770 | \$5,497 | \$5,143 | \$2,092 |
| 2 workers..... | \$15,695 | \$16,308 | \$10,118 | \$10,865 | \$4,410 |
| 3 workers..... | \$14,915 | \$15,819 | \$9,861 | \$10,920 | \$0 |
| 4 or more workers. | \$24,116 | \$25,263 | \$16,348 | \$9,762 | \$8,230 |

Source: Summary Table File 3A, Tables 79 and 80

FIGURE 14.6

Median Family Income in 1979 by Island: 1980



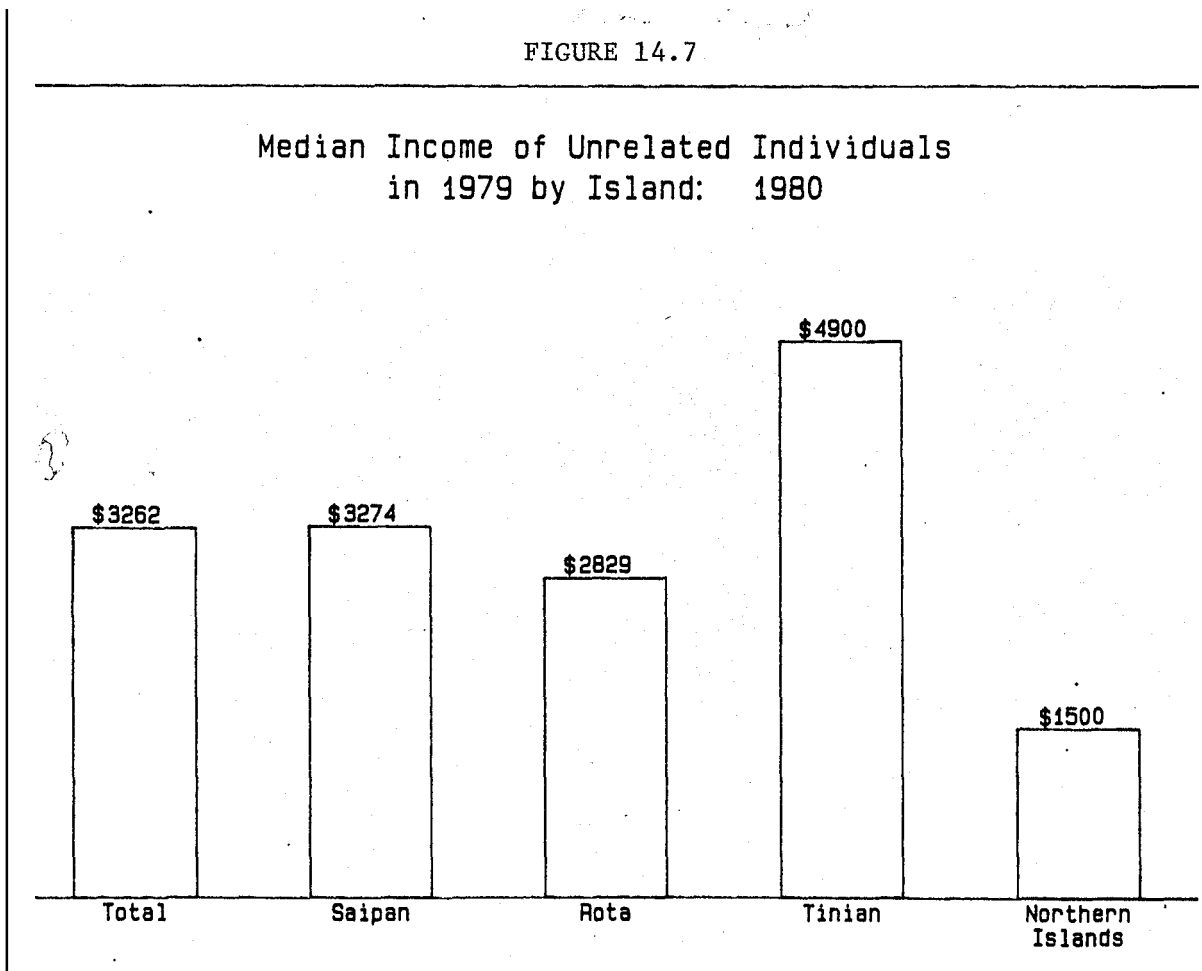
The income for unrelated persons was lower than for either households or families, because these are single individuals. The mean for all unrelated persons in 1979 was \$3300, and the mean was \$3900 (Table 14.8).

Table 14.8. Mean and Median Income of Unrelated Individuals in 1979
by Island: 1980

| Income | Total | Saipan | Rota | Tinian | Northern Islands |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------|
| Unrelated Individuals.... | 1,617 | 1,375 | 144 | 90 | 8 |
| Without Income..... | 222 | 191 | 13 | 17 | 1 |
| With Income..... | 1,395 | 1,184 | 131 | 73 | 7 |
| Median Income..... | \$3,262 | \$3,274 | \$2,829 | \$4,900 | \$1,500 |
| Mean Income..... | \$3,902 | \$3,881 | \$4,132 | \$4,059 | \$1,718 |
| With Income Only..... | \$4,523 | \$4,507 | \$4,542 | \$5,004 | \$1,963 |

Source: Summary Tape File 3A, Tables 82 and 83

FIGURE 14.7



The per capita income is a measure of the average income per person in an area and is derived by determining the income of all persons from all sources and dividing by the total number of persons in the area. The per capita income in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in 1979 (as determined by the 1980 census) was \$2418. The per capita income in the United States for 1979 was \$7298 and the per capita income on Guam was \$4793, so it is evident that the CNMI was poorer than either the U.S. or Guam. In 1979, the per capita income for Saipan was \$2542, for Rota was \$1717, for Tinian was \$1585, and was \$429 for the Northern Islands.

In 1969, the per capita income for the Commonwealth was \$681, but inflation makes this figure uncomparable with the 1979 figure. However, by adjusting for inflation, that is, multiplying by 1.98 to account for inflation during the decade, the 1969 per capita income would be \$1335 in 1979 dollars. Therefore, the change in per capita income between 1969 and 1979 was 81.2 percent, which shows real monetary growth in the Commonwealth during the period. Since the 1969 figure was so low, even with this phenomenal growth, the CNMI was still very poor when compared to any of the States or Guam.

In order to obtain more income data for individuals, another series of tabulations was prepared. There were 5,384 males and 4,591 females over 15 in 1980, and of these 4,258 of the males (79 percent) and 2,446 (53 percent) of the females received income in 1979 (Table 14.9). The median income for all individuals in 1979 was \$3800, \$4200 for males and \$3100 for females. That is, the average female received 73 percent of what the average male in the CNMI received in 1979.

Table 14.9. Income of Persons in 1979 by Sex: 1980

| Income. | Numbers | | | Percent | | |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Total | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females |
| Total..... | 9,975 | 5,384 | 4,591 | ... | ... | ... |
| Total with income. | 6,704 | 4,258 | 2,446 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| \$1 to \$499/loss. | 283 | 165 | 118 | 4.2 | 3.9 | 4.8 |
| \$500 to \$999.... | 354 | 180 | 174 | 5.3 | 4.2 | 7.1 |
| \$1000 to \$1999.. | 893 | 443 | 450 | 13.3 | 10.4 | 18.4 |
| \$2000 to \$2999.. | 1,013 | 563 | 450 | 15.1 | 13.2 | 18.4 |
| \$3000 to \$4999.. | 1,734 | 1,185 | 549 | 25.9 | 27.8 | 22.4 |
| \$5000 to \$6999.. | 1,055 | 695 | 360 | 15.7 | 16.3 | 14.7 |
| \$7000 to \$9999.. | 562 | 377 | 185 | 8.4 | 8.9 | 7.6 |
| \$10000 to \$14999 | 353 | 262 | 91 | 5.3 | 6.2 | 3.7 |
| \$15000 to \$24999 | 268 | 220 | 48 | 4.0 | 5.2 | 2.0 |
| \$25000 or more.. | 189 | 168 | 21 | 2.8 | 3.9 | .9 |
| Median..... | \$3,810 | \$4,210 | \$3,094 | ... | ... | ... |
| Mean..... | \$6,052 | \$6,963 | \$4,465 | ... | ... | ... |

Source: PC80-1-C/D57A, Table 46

The mean income data showed similar results... Although the average income in 1979 was \$6100, it was \$6900 for males and \$4500 for females. About 1 in 4 of the persons received between \$5000 and \$6999, with a larger proportion of males than females in this category.

The median income of persons born in the CNMI was similar to the median income of those born outside, although persons born inside received slightly smaller incomes (Table 14.10). For the mean, however, the average CNMI-born person received about \$2000 less over the year on the average than the average person born outside the CNMI. Some of this difference may be attributable to U.S. contract workers who command higher salaries than local people. Of the 189 persons received \$25000 or more in 1979, 130 (68.8 percent) were not born in the CNMI. Also, although 3 percent of all persons in the CNMI received \$25000 or more, this was true of almost 5 percent of those born outside (and less than 2 percent of those born inside).

Table 14.10. Income of Persons in 1979 by Birthplace: 1980

| Income | Birthplace | | | Percent | | |
|--------------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Total | CNMI | Not-NMI | Total | CNMI | Not-NMI |
| Total..... | 9,975 | 6,251 | 3,724 | ... | ... | ... |
| Total with income. | 6,704 | 3,897 | 2,807 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| \$1 to \$499/loss. | 283 | 162 | 121 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.3 |
| \$500 to \$999.... | 354 | 204 | 150 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.3 |
| \$1000 to \$1999.. | 893 | 529 | 364 | 13.3 | 13.6 | 13.0 |
| \$2000 to \$2999.. | 1,013 | 649 | 364 | 15.1 | 16.7 | 13.0 |
| \$3000 to \$4999.. | 1,734 | 1,039 | 695 | 25.9 | 26.7 | 24.8 |
| \$5000 to \$6999.. | 1,055 | 652 | 403 | 15.7 | 16.7 | 14.4 |
| \$7000 to \$9999.. | 562 | 332 | 230 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.2 |
| \$10000 to \$14999 | 353 | 169 | 184 | 5.3 | 4.3 | 6.6 |
| \$15000 to \$24999 | 268 | 102 | 166 | 4.0 | 2.6 | 5.9 |
| \$25000 or more.. | 189 | 59 | 130 | 2.8 | 1.5 | 4.6 |
| Median..... | \$3,810 | \$3,702 | \$4,163 | ... | ... | ... |
| Mean..... | \$6,052 | \$5,188 | \$7,252 | ... | ... | ... |

Source: PC80-1-C/D57A, Table 47

Two of the largest groups of immigrant workers receiving income in 1979 were from the Philippines and from the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI). Since the TTPI government was still in operation in 1980, and headquartered in Saipan, a relatively large number of persons from that area were employed on Saipan, both directly for that government and for other government and non-government employers.

Of the 9975 persons 15 years and over, 1458 were from the Philippines and 1164 were from the TTPI (Table 14.11). Altogether 1285 persons born in the Philippines (88 percent) received income in 1979, and 716 (61.5 percent) from the TTPI. The median income for persons born in the Philippines was \$3400, about \$300 less than for those born in the CNMI, and for persons born in the TTPI was \$3900, about \$200 more than for those born in the CNMI, the latter probably due to higher incomes for TTPI employees since cost of living allowances would be necessary to help pay for rents and other associated costs.

The mean incomes for both persons born in the Philippines and those born in the TTPI were less than for the population as a whole, with the amount for Philippines born being more than \$2000 less, indicating that a large number of Philippines were earning small amounts and a few were earning higher incomes. For example, only 2 percent of all Philippines received more than \$15000, compared to 7 percent for the population as a whole (and more than 10 percent for all persons born outside the CNMI). Almost 1 in 3 persons born in the Philippines received between \$3000 and \$5000 in 1979.

Table 14.11. Income of Persons in 1979 by Birthplace: 1980

| Income | Birthplace | | | Percent | | |
|--------------------|----------------|---------|----------------|---------|----------------|-------|
| | Total Philipp. | TTPI | Total Philipp. | TTPI | Total Philipp. | TTPI |
| Total..... | 9,975 | 1,458 | 1,164 | ... | ... | ... |
| Total with income. | 6,704 | 1,285 | 716 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| \$1 to \$499/loss. | 283 | 57 | 32 | 4.2 | 4.4 | 4.5 |
| \$500 to \$999.... | 354 | 83 | 42 | 5.3 | 6.5 | 5.9 |
| \$1000 to \$1999.. | 893 | 221 | 82 | 13.3 | 17.2 | 11.5 |
| \$2000 to \$2999.. | 1,013 | 185 | 109 | 15.1 | 14.4 | 15.2 |
| \$3000 to \$4999.. | 1,734 | 412 | 165 | 25.9 | 32.1 | 23.0 |
| \$5000 to \$6999.. | 1,055 | 185 | 130 | 15.7 | 14.4 | 18.2 |
| \$7000 to \$9999.. | 562 | 78 | 63 | 8.4 | 6.1 | 8.8 |
| \$10000 to \$14999 | 353 | 40 | 47 | 5.3 | 3.1 | 6.6 |
| \$15000 to \$24999 | 268 | 22 | 27 | 4.0 | 1.7 | 3.8 |
| \$25000 or more.. | 189 | 2 | 19 | 2.8 | .2 | 2.7 |
| Median..... | \$3,810 | \$3,377 | \$3,921 | ... | ... | ... |
| Mean..... | \$6,052 | \$3,874 | \$5,632 | ... | ... | ... |

Source: PC80-1-C/D57A, Table 47

Because of single and multiple ethnicity reporting, data for Chamorros and Carolinians is obscured. However, language use can be used as an indirect measure. For persons speaking Chamorro at home, the median income in 1979 was \$3900, slightly more than for the total population; the median for persons speaking Carolinian at home was \$2900, about \$1000 less than for Chamorro

speakers (and \$900 less than for all persons) (Table 14.12). There could be a relationship between language spoken at home and income. Chamorro speakers had an average income of \$5600, about \$400 less than the average for all persons in the CNMI, while the average for Carolinian speakers was \$3500, about \$2500 less than average, again, indicating that a majority of Carolinians were receiving very low incomes and very few were receiving high incomes. Only 4 Carolinian speakers (much less than 1 percent) received more than \$15000 in 1979, compared to 180 Chamorro speakers (more than 5 percent). On the other hand, more than 13 percent of the Carolinian speakers earned less than \$1000, compared to only 8 percent of the Chamorro speakers.

Table 14.12. Income of Persons in 1979 by Language: 1980

| Income | Language | | | Percent | | |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| | Total | Chamorro | Carolin. | Total | Chamorro | Carolin. |
| Total..... | 9,975 | 5,505 | 1,150 | ... | ... | ... |
| Total with income. | 6,704 | 3,504 | 649 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| \$1 to \$499/loss. | 283 | 117 | 48 | 4.2 | 3.3 | 7.4 |
| \$500 to \$999... | 354 | 171 | 38 | 5.3 | 4.9 | 5.9 |
| \$1000 to \$1999.. | 893 | 443 | 120 | 13.3 | 12.6 | 18.5 |
| \$2000 to \$2999.. | 1,013 | 566 | 125 | 15.1 | 16.2 | 19.3 |
| \$3000 to \$4999.. | 1,734 | 925 | 178 | 25.9 | 26.4 | 27.4 |
| \$5000 to \$6999.. | 1,055 | 608 | 80 | 15.7 | 17.4 | 12.3 |
| \$7000 to \$9999.. | 562 | 319 | 40 | 8.4 | 9.1 | 6.2 |
| \$10000 to \$14999 | 353 | 175 | 16 | 5.3 | 5.0 | 2.5 |
| \$15000 to \$24999 | 268 | 111 | 2 | 4.0 | 3.2 | .3 |
| \$25000 or more.. | 189 | 69 | 2 | 2.8 | 2.0 | .3 |
| Median..... | \$3,810 | \$3,892 | \$2,943 | ... | ... | ... |
| Mean..... | \$6,052 | \$5,628 | \$3,526 | ... | ... | ... |

Source: PC80-1-C/D57A, Table 48

About 45 percent of all persons in the CNMI 25 years and over were high school graduates, as were 51 percent of those who received income in 1979 (Table 14.13). Almost 52 percent of the males and 49 percent of the females receiving income were high school graduates.

There was a fairly direct relationship between income and percent high school graduates. Although 29 percent of those persons receiving less than \$500 in 1979 were high school graduates, this was true for 85 percent of those with \$25000 or more, and 90 percent for those having received \$15000 to \$24999. More than 3 out of every 4 persons receiving \$7000 or more in 1979 were high school graduates. In general, males had higher percentages of high school graduates for a particular income category than females.

Table 14.13. Income of Persons in 1979 by Percent High School Grads:1980

| Income | Numbers | | | Percent High School Grads | | |
|--------------------|---------|-------|---------|---------------------------|-------|---------|
| | Total | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females |
| Total, 25+ yr | 6,760 | 3,833 | 2,927 | 44.7 | 49.7 | 38.2 |
| Total with income. | 5,180 | 3,488 | 1,692 | 50.6 | 51.6 | 48.6 |
| \$1 to \$499/loss. | 119 | 70 | 49 | 28.6 | 22.9 | 36.7 |
| \$500 to \$999... | 200 | 113 | 87 | 37.0 | 35.4 | 39.1 |
| \$1000 to \$1999.. | 609 | 313 | 296 | 25.1 | 22.4 | 28.0 |
| \$2000 to \$2999.. | 704 | 412 | 292 | 26.4 | 28.1 | 24.0 |
| \$3000 to \$4999.. | 1,336 | 961 | 375 | 43.0 | 41.8 | 46.1 |
| \$5000 to \$6999.. | 913 | 626 | 287 | 60.1 | 54.4 | 72.5 |
| \$7000 to \$9999.. | 514 | 354 | 160 | 74.3 | 72.9 | 77.5 |
| \$10000 to \$14999 | 340 | 255 | 85 | 80.6 | 82.4 | 75.3 |
| \$15000 to \$24999 | 260 | 218 | 42 | 90.4 | 91.8 | 83.3 |
| \$25000 or more.. | 185 | 166 | 19 | 84.9 | 86.8 | 68.4 |

Source: PC80-1-C/D57A, Table 49

Poverty status is dependent on number of persons in the family and various income criteria. The same measures for poverty were used in the CNMI as in the states, and are therefore not particularly useful for determining actual financial need in the CNMI.

For example, the poverty definition used in the States placed 59 percent of the CNMI population below poverty in 1979 (Table 14.14). The population on Saipan was least in poverty (56 percent), while 72 percent of those on Rota were in poverty, as well as 77 percent of those on Tinian, and 98 percent of those in the Northern Islands.

Persons living below 75 percent of the poverty level are considered to be in "extreme poverty". By this criterion, 45 percent of the CNMI population was in extreme poverty. Since subsistence, differences in the standard of living, and other factors are not taken into account, it is difficult to attribute any meaning to these data. In fact, only 15 percent of the total population was at 200 percent or more of poverty.

FIGURE 14.8

Income of Persons in 1979 by Percent
High School Graduates: 1980

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Total, 25 years and over | 44.7 |
| Total with income | 50.6 |
| \$1 to \$499 or loss | 28.6 |
| \$500 to \$999 | 37.0 |
| \$1000 to \$1999 | 25.1 |
| \$2000 to \$2999 | 26.4 |
| \$3000 to \$4999 | 43.0 |
| \$5,000 to \$6,999 | 60.1 |
| \$7,000 to \$9,999 | 74.3 |
| \$10,000 to \$14,999 | 80.6 |
| \$15,000 to \$24,999 | 90.4 |
| \$25,000 or more | 84.9 |

Table 14.14. Persons in Poverty by Status and Island in 1979: 1980

| Poverty | Total | Saipan | Rota | Northern Tinian Islands |
|---|-------|--------|------|----------------------------|
| Persons for whom poverty is determine..... | 16640 | 14418 | 1258 | 863 101 |
| Income below poverty..... | 58.6 | 56.0 | 72.4 | 77.4 98.0 |
| Income below 75 % of poverty | 45.2 | 43.1 | 55.1 | 59.0 98.0 |
| Income 75-124 % of poverty.. | 23.8 | 23.3 | 29.0 | 26.3 1.0 |
| Income 125-149 % of poverty. | 8.0 | 8.6 | 2.8 | 7.0 1.0 |
| Income 150 to 199% of pover. | 8.6 | 9.0 | 7.6 | 3.9 0.0 |
| Income 200 % or more..... | 14.5 | 16.0 | 5.6 | 3.8 0.0 |

Source: Summary Tape File 3A, Tables 91 and 95

Table 14.15 shows cumulative percents by poverty level. As noted before, considerably more than half the population in 1980 was in poverty. More than 2 in 3 persons were at 125 percent of poverty, and more than 3 in 4 at 150 percent of poverty.

Table 14.15. Persons in Poverty by Status and Island in 1979: 1980

| Poverty | Total | Saipan | Rota | Northern Tinian Islands |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|------|----------------------------|
| Income below 75 % of poverty | 45.2 | 43.1 | 55.1 | 59.0 98.0 |
| Income below poverty..... | 58.6 | 56.0 | 72.4 | 77.4 98.0 |
| Income below 125% of poverty | 68.9 | 66.4 | 84.1 | 85.3 99.0 |
| Income below 150% of poverty | 77.0 | 75.0 | 86.9 | 92.2 100.0 |
| Income below 200% of poverty | 85.5 | 84.0 | 94.4 | 96.2 100.0 |

Source: Summary Tape File 3A, Tables 91 and 95

FIGURE 14.9

Persons in Poverty by Status in 1979: 1980
(Percent)

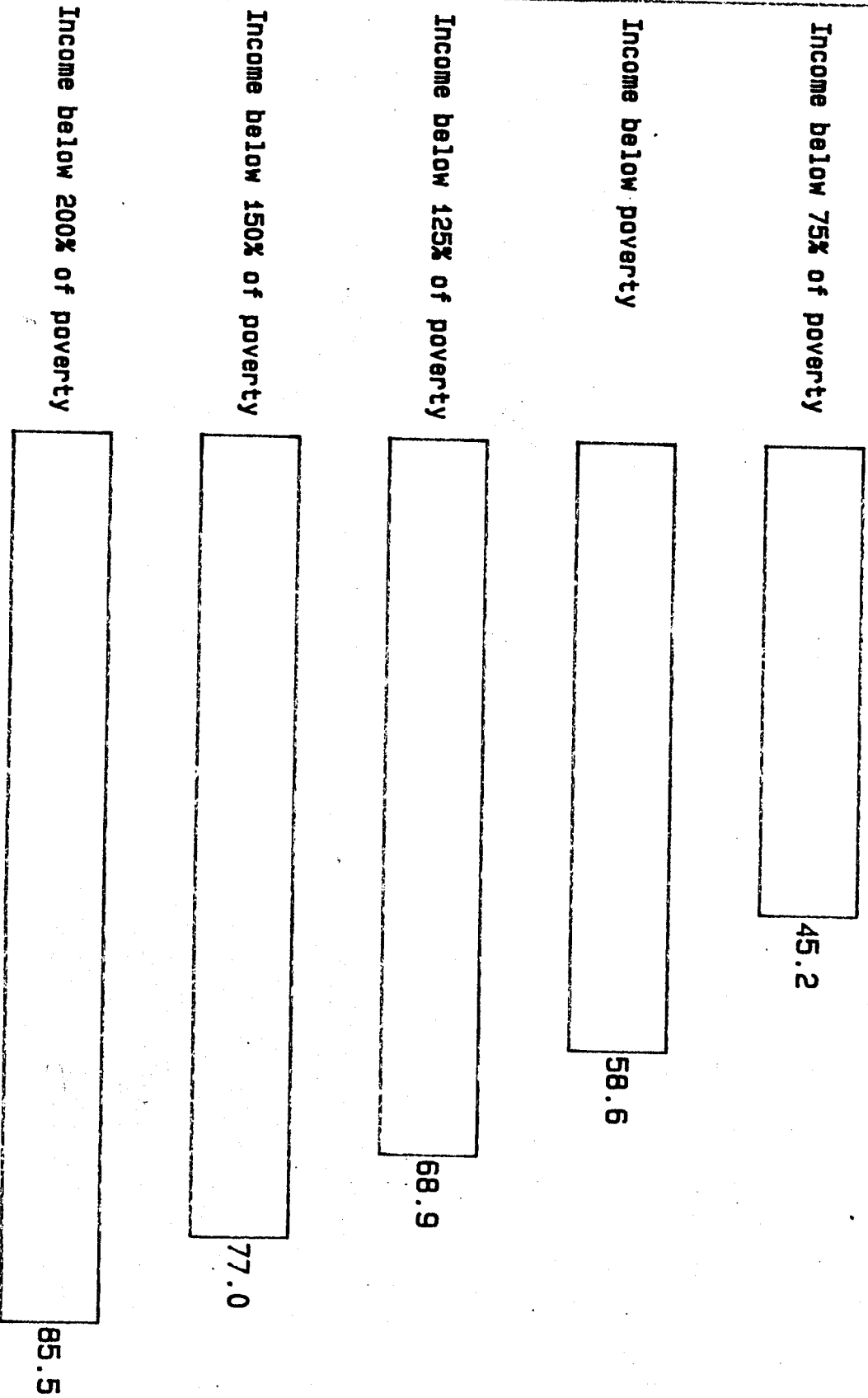


FIGURE 14.10

Per Capita Income in 1979: 1980

