Table 1: Characteristics of Alternative Poverty Measures

	Official Measure	**NAS Panel Measure**	**50 % of Median**
Thresholds	Based on 1955 food consumption survey	Based on current consumption needs	Based on median family income
Non-Cash Income	Excluded	"Cash-like" sources included	Excluded
Out-of-Pocket Medical Expenses	Not considered	Deducted from income	Not considered
Work Expenses	Not considered	Deducted from income	Not considered
Taxes	Not considered	Deducted from income	Usually not considered
Family size adjustment	Based on food needs for a 1969 mix of family sizes and types	Based on the relative needs of additional adults and children	Usually none