

Effective Policies and Interventions to Reduce Inequalities

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SRCD Ethnic & Racial Issues Committee (Dawn P. Witherspoon, Gabriela Livas Stein) in collaboration with SRCD Equity & Justice Committee and SRCD Asian, Black, and Latino Caucuses

- Acknowledgements – ERI, Tri-Caucus
- Approach – “Fireside Chat”
- Disparities Facing African American Children
 - Family contexts
 - Schooling
 - Community

Families



- In 1890, 80 percent of black American households were husband-wife households.
- 1970, the percentage of husband-wife households among African-Americans was down to 64 percent and slipping.
- Today, it's around 39 percent.
- “... automation and deindustrialization made dramatic changes ...The impact of these changes hit blacks hardest ...the effects became noticeable in about 1958. That was the first time in history that black male unemployment became twice as high as for white men.”
- --Andrew Billingsley, author of *Climbing Jacob's Ladder. The Enduring Legacies of African-American Families.*

Battling the enduring and historical legacy of poverty

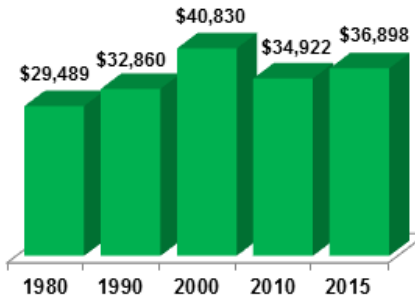


Black Population Statistics

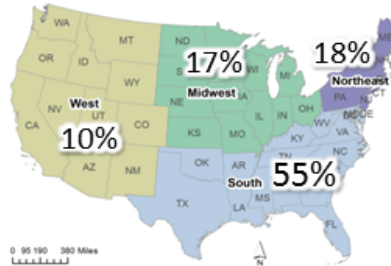
Black Population Growth

1990	2000	2010	2016
29,986,060	36,419,434	42,020,743	46,778,764

Median Household Income (In 2015 dollars)



Population Distribution



Black Population (2015)

	MALE	FEMALE
Total	48%	52%
Under 18	51%	49%
18 to 34 years	49%	51%
35 to 64 years	47%	53%
65 years and over	40%	60%

Educational Attainment

High school graduate or higher	83%	86%
Bachelor's degree or higher	18%	22%

Salary/Occupation

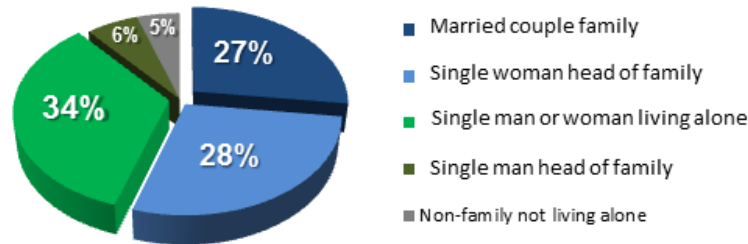
Median Earnings (full time)	\$38,243	\$34,426
* White collar	42%	64%
Service occupations	22%	27%
Blue collar	36%	8%
Percent in labor force	62%	62%

Poverty in Black Households

Percent at or below poverty	21.6%
Percent on food stamps/SNAP	27.4%

*White collar: Management, business, science, arts, Sales and office occupations
Blue collar: Production, transportation, material moving occupations, construction, and maintenance occupations

Household Make-up



Created by BlackDemographics.com

SOURCE: US Census Bureau Source: 2010, 2000, 1990 Census, 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: July 1, 2016



Family Income and Wealth



- “For white people living in the Boston area, the median net worth for their household is \$247,500. For African-Americans, the median net worth is eight dollars.”
 - “For every dollar in wealth that white families have, black families hold just five to 10 cents. And that large gap is true across the board.”
 - “Black households where the head has a college degree at the median have less wealth than white households where the head has never finished high school.”
- William “Sandy” Darity, “*Why the Racial Wealth Gap Still Persists.*” <https://socialequity.duke.edu/news/why-racial-wealth-gap-persists>

The Prison Industrial Complex



- Since the 1970's the rate of incarceration has increased 500% , 2.2 million people behind bars
- In 2017 US Census Bureau estimated 47.5 million African Americans in the United States, 13.4- 14.6% identify as Black
- 1 in 6 Black men incarcerated, with current trend 1 in 3 can expect to spend time in prison.
- African Americans are incarcerated at nearly six (5.6) times the rate of whites;
- Marc Mauer, Executive Director, and Ryan S. King, Policy Analyst, The Sentencing Project, *Uneven Justice: State Rates of Incarceration By Race and Ethnicity*.

IMPACT OF AND UPON MARRIAGE



- By 2000, more than 2 million children had incarcerated fathers; 1 in 10 black children under age 10 had a father in prison or jail by 2000.
- Analysis of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 and the Fragile families Study of Child Wellbeing, indicates that formerly incarcerated men experience lower marriage rates and increased risks of divorce
- From a socialization perspective, marriage, wives, and children form “a web of responsibilities” and reduced opportunity for association with antisocial peers (Laub, Nagin and Sampson 1998; Sampson and Laub, 1993; Western, 2004).

Why should developmentalists care?



- “2 million children had incarcerated fathers;”
- “1 in 10 black children under age 10 had a father in prison or jail by 2000.” (Western, 2004)
- Single-parent African American mothers are more likely to be impoverished
- Incarceration impacts both the marital bond and attachment with children
- Community crime increases with fewer males and less marriage, e.g. social capital (Sampson & Laub, 1993).

Early Disparities for Children

- Disparities in Academic Achievement and School readiness
- Importance of family and home factors
- Importance of school factors
 - Disciplinary disparities emerge as early as preschool
 - Affect both African American girls and boys



School Factors



- Learning Environments of School: Cultural and Gender Responsivity (Hilliard, 1982; Hale Benson 1986)
- Disciplinary disparities (Noguera, 2003; Gregory, Noguera, & Skiba, 2010)
- Access to quality instruction
- Quality resources (Kozol, 1991)
- Gifted education (Ford, 2013)
- Advanced level courses (Schiller et al., 2010; Tyson et al., 2007)

Community As Structure and Experience



- Disparities in out-of-school experiences (Lareau, 2011)
- Structural Aspects of Community (Witherspoon et al, 2016)
- Social Aspects of Community (Caughy et al., 2001; 2003; Smith et al., 2003; Smith et al., 2018)

Family- Focused Solutions

- Early Childhood Homevisiting Programs
 - Nurse-Family Partnership (Olds et al., 2006)
 - Healthy Families – Galano, 2014
 - Parents as Teachers – Wagner et al., 2002
- Parenting Programs
 - Family Check-Up – Dishion et al., 2008
 - Families and Schools Together (FAST) – McDonald et al., 2012
 - SAAF – Brody et al., 2006; Murray et al., 2004
 - MST – Henggeler et al., 2002
- Focus on Fatherhood in programming
 - Caldwell et al., 2010
- Poverty reduction
 - Poverty reduction programs - Huston, et al., 2005
 - Cash transfers
 - Welfare policy – International perspectives
 - Preparing the next generation

School-Based Approaches

- Home-School-Community Partnerships
- Pedagogical Approaches (Ladson-Billings, 1995, 2014)
- Professional Development Communities
- Reducing Disciplinary Disparities –
(Gregory, Skiba, & Mediratta, 2017)
- Universal behavioral management and disciplinary practices (Bradshaw et al., 2010; Smith & Bradshaw, 2018)

The important role of community

- Out of school time and Achievement - Simpkins et al., 2006; Simpkins, Fredricks, & Eccles, 2012)
- Youth serving programs, Character and Achievement – Lerner & Lerner, 2011
- Quality Afterschool Programs – Durlak, Pachan, & Weissberg, 2010; Smith, 2017, 2018; Vandell et al., 1999, 2013;

Translating
Developmental
Science into
Applied Research
and Policy:
“Taking it to the
Streets”



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- Questions/Comments?