

## ***NOW IT'S YOUR TURN***

*If you're looking for more information or would like to be part of the solution, below are some groups doing work in this field. Please contact them to find out how you can get involved in making Chicago a more prosperous, egalitarian, and peaceful city. For more great organizations that could use your time and energy, view the complete list of Chicago Freedom Movement Friends and Allies at [www.cfm40.org](http://www.cfm40.org)*

### ***The American Friends Service Committee***

The AFSC is working for economic justice, by fighting for a living wage and campaigning against attempts to cut vital social services.

[www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org) 312.427.2533

### ***The Chicago Urban League***

The mission of the Chicago Urban League is to eliminate racial discrimination and segregation and to work for the achievement of equal opportunity and parity in every phase of American life.

[www.cul-chicago.org](http://www.cul-chicago.org) 773.451.3526

### ***Jane Addams Hull House***

Jane Adams Hull House's Small Business Development Unit provides a wide range of small business training and counseling programs to new and existing businesses

[www.hullhouse.org](http://www.hullhouse.org) 312.906.8600

### ***The Jewish Council on Urban Affairs***

The JCUA strives to combat poverty, racism and anti-Semitism in partnership with Chicago's diverse communities.

[www.jcua.org](http://www.jcua.org) 312.663.0960

### ***The National Conference for Community and Justice***

The NCCJ's Workplace Diversity Network works to break down barriers and build more inclusive work environments.

[www.nccj.org](http://www.nccj.org) 718.783.0044

### ***The Southside Community Branch of the NAACP***

The Southside Community Branch of the NAACP cites as one of its major focal points economic empowerment.

[www.chicagosouthsidenaacp.org](http://www.chicagosouthsidenaacp.org) 773.487.9600

### ***Poverty and Race Research Action Counsel***

PRACC strives to link social science research to advocacy work in order to address problems at the intersection of race and poverty

[www.prrac.org](http://www.prrac.org) 202.906.8023

*This report was prepared by the Center for Urban Research and Learning  
at Loyola University Chicago.*

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CURL can be found at [www.luc.edu/curl](http://www.luc.edu/curl)*





# *Income and Employment*

As part of the ongoing collaborative efforts of the Chicago Freedom Movement 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Steering Committee and Loyola University Chicago's Center for Urban Research and Learning (CURL), we are pleased to be able to provide the following research brief.

This document, 1 of 5 summary documents prepared by CURL researchers, provides a snapshot of current and historical data on key social indicators - education, health, employment & income, crime and criminal justice system, and housing. In addition, we are providing a summary document that combines all of these issue areas into one brief report entitled "*Segregation in Chicago 2006.*"

As you may know, these same issues were addressed forty years earlier in the Chicago Freedom Movement, led by Martin Luther King and Al Raby.

## List of Income & Employment Demands of 1966 Chicago Freedom Movement

1. A compliance program that checks on all contractors on a routine basis.
2. Revocation of contracts which firms that do not have a full-scale fair employment practice.
3. Racial headcounts, including white, Negro, and Latin American, by job classification and income level, made public.
4. Radical steps to upgrade and to integrate all departments, at all levels of employment.
5. Headcounts in unions for apprentices, journeymen and union staff and officials by job classification.
6. A cash program to remedy any inequities discovered by the headcount.
7. Indenture of at least 400 Negro and Latin American apprentices in the craft unions.
8. Prepare legislative proposals for a \$2.00 State minimum wage law and for credit reform.

As can be seen in more recent studies, the modest gains of that time have not been enough.

In particular, research from three recent studies show the current and continuing racial and economic segregation by neighborhood in metropolitan Chicago.

The reports are:

**Separate, Unequal: Race, Place, Policy, and the State of African American Chicago.** Paul Street, Chicago Urban League, 2005.

**The Segregation of Opportunities.** John Lukehart, Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities, 2005.

**Minding the Gap: An Assessment of Racial Disparity in Metropolitan Chicago.** The Human Relations Foundation/Jane Addams Policy Initiative in collaboration with the Center for Urban Research and Learning, Loyola University Chicago, 2003.

*Just as this movement calls for the mobilization of communities, we must also utilize and mobilize knowledge. In doing so, the movement possesses the supporting data for a renewed challenge to racial segregation*

All research briefs can be found at [www.cfm40.org](http://www.cfm40.org)



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## Employment and Income Issues at and Around the Chicago Freedom Movement\*

One of the most important indicators of a community's well-being can be found in employment and income issues. They also highlight the means and outcomes of racial disparity in the Chicago region.

- Possession of a high school diploma is a decisive factor in obtaining and retaining employment. 36% of African American males between the ages of 16 and 21 who did not graduate high school were unemployed, while 16% those who did graduate high school were unemployed compared to 16% and 9% for non-African American males.\*
- In 1969 the unemployment rate for African American Chicagoans was 7%, more than twice that of non-African American Chicagoans (3%) with 4.8% being the unemployment rate for the total city population.
- In 1970 58% of Chicago African Americans age 16 and older were in the labor force, compared to 62% of non-African Americans.\*
- African American workers in Chicago were concentrated in blue-collar occupations. 53% of African Americans were operatives, laborers, or service workers compared to 34% of non-African Americans. °
- African Americans were found to be underrepresented in the professional and managerial occupations. °
- Median earnings for African American males were \$6,864, a 19% difference from the \$8,173 for non-African American males.\*
- Chicago's African American families had a median income of \$7,883 considerably less than the \$11,330 median income of non-African American families.\*
- 21% of Chicago's African American families were considered to be below the poverty level, 3.5 times the rate for non-African American families.\*

### **Family Income by Selected Ranges for the African American and Non-African American Populations of Chicago, 1970\***

<b>Income Category</b>	<b>African American</b>	<b>Non-African American</b>
Under \$4,000	53,795 (22.0%)	58,037 (10.0%)
\$4,000 to \$6,999	52,041 (21.3%)	74,299 (12.8%)
\$7,000 to \$9,999	51,268 (21.0%)	110,689 (19%)
\$10,000 to \$14,999	54,359 (22.2%)	179,789 (30.9%)
\$15,000 to \$24,999	29,102 (11.9%)	126,381 (21.7%)
\$25,000 to \$49,999	3,608 (1.5%)	27,479 (4.7%)
\$ 50,000 and over	453 (0.2%)	5,141 (0.9%)

### **Income and Employment Today**

\* Chicago's Black Population: Selected Statistics. Barbara Enwell. City of Chicago Department of Development and Planning, 1975.

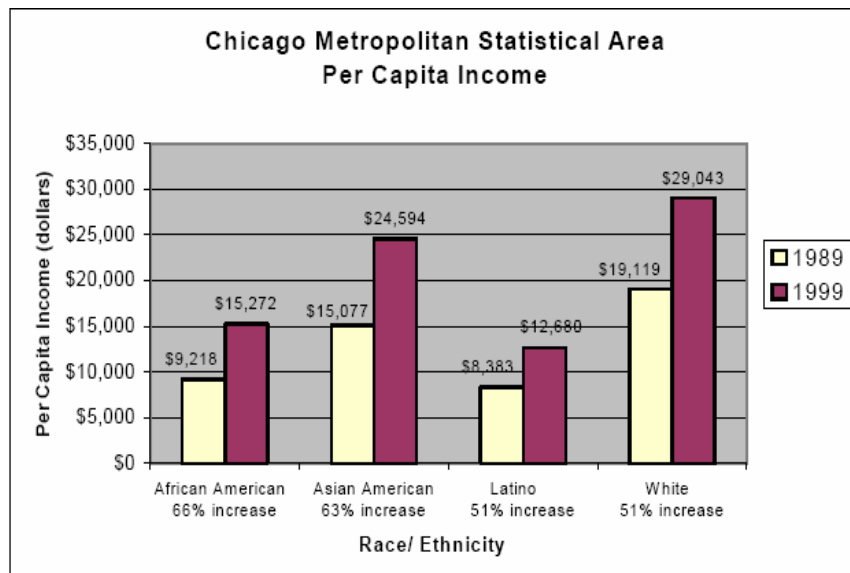
+ The economics of equality. Tom Kahn. League for Industrial Democracy, 1964.

° Barometers of Black Economic Achievement: The Reality and the Myth. Beverly Hurst, Chicago Urban League, 1974

The initial economic boom of the 1990's decreased the racial income gap in both the city and suburbs. The gap, however, still persists, and the recent economic downturn (1999-2000) increased the income gap by 11%.

While the poverty level fell, more Caucasians were pulled out of poverty than any other group, increasing the poverty gap between racial and ethnic groups. The gap is strongest in the mid to low income ranges. +

- In 2000, for every dollar a low-income household earned in Chicago, a high-income household earned \$3.89, compared to the national average of \$1 to \$3.75. +
- The median income for African American households is 66% of the average Caucasian household income.
- When the highest range is ignored, we see that “Latino and African American men earn less than half of their Asian American and Caucasian counterparts.” \*
- More than thirty percent of African Americans in Chicago make less than \$15,000 \*



Taken from Minding the Gap

Chicago has experienced a net loss of jobs over the past decade. The racial gap in employment has remained constant, with the average unemployment rate for people of color being 11.5% compared to 3.3% for Caucasians.

Over this time period, unemployment was higher in Chicago than in the suburbs, demonstrating the movement of jobs into higher opportunity areas. Businesses, factories, retail, and other institutions along with the jobs they entail, have for the most part left the inner city, especially the predominately African American neighborhoods.+

- 10 of the city's poorest 15 neighborhoods are 94% or higher African American. +
- African Americans comprise a disproportionately high amount of those who are working but remain poor in both the city and the metropolitan area. °
- African Americans comprise a disproportionate amount of the city's homeless.+
- 14 out of the 16 Chicago community areas which comprise the bottom quintile of neighborhood “economic vitality” are 94% or more African American.°

\* Minding the Gap Report

+ Chicago Urban League Report

° Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities