



## Segregation in Chicago 2006 ~ Executive Summary ~

**Full Report Available at [www.cfm40.org](http://www.cfm40.org)**

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, prepared by CURL researchers, provides a snapshot of current data on key social indicators - education, health, employment & income, crime and criminal justice system, and housing.

These same issues were addressed forty years earlier in the Chicago Freedom Movement, led by Martin Luther King and Al Raby.

As can be seen in most 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*

*This report was prepared by the Center for Urban Research and Learning at Loyola University Chicago. Special thanks to CURL Undergraduate Fellows - Robert Gutierrez, Alena Chaps, and Timothy Johnston, for gathering and compiling the data. More information on Loyola CURL can be found at [www.luc.edu/curl](http://www.luc.edu/curl)*



### Income and Employment

- 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.<sup>∞</sup>
- 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.<sup>∞</sup>

### Wealth Generation

- Jobs that provide wealth building benefits were more available to Caucasian employees than racial and ethnic minorities.\*
- African Americans are five times more likely to be denied conventional mortgages than Caucasians, and Latinos two-and-a-half times more likely to be denied.+
  - Key among these resources is full service bank branches.\*+
    - In terms of banking, the racial gap seems to fall with African Americans and Latinos on one side, and Caucasian and Asian Americans on the other.
    - Quality of banks, number of branches and accessibility vary widely between predominantly African American and Latino community versus Caucasian and Asian American communities.
    - The lack of full service bank branches in low income areas creates a reliance on costly pseudo versions of banks, including high interest payday loans, check cashing stores, and currency exchanges, as well as the use of pawn shops.

### Transportation and Job Access

- Access to public transportation is uniform across the Chicago area. However, African Americans are less likely to own cars than Caucasians, Asian Americans and Latinos, making them more dependent on public transportation.\*
- Commute times have increased for all groups but the predominantly African American and Latino communities of Burnham, Dolton and Riverdale all experienced an increase of seven or more minutes in their average commute between 1990 and 2000 compared to the three-minute average increase in the region.<sup>∞</sup>
- African Americans comprise less than 5% of officers and directors of local large companies.\*
- In 2003, less than half of the city's adult African American population was attached to the labor market.+
- Overall unemployment has fallen over the past decade, but the racial gap remains, with the unemployment rate for people of color being 11.5% compared to 3.3% for Caucasians (as of 2003).\*
- There is also a difference in quality of employment. Suburban employers pay into pension plans other than social security for 75% of suburban Caucasians compared to 58% of Chicago Latinos. Suburban employers are also considerably more likely to pay for training programs and provide health insurance.<sup>∞</sup>
- These disparities have interrelated and compounding effects, positive or negative and it is important to note the role of job creation and transportation in the maintenance of de facto segregation and the inequality of opportunity.+

### Housing

- Chicago ranks fifth in the nation for the most residentially segregated metropolitan area by race (based on dissimilarity index).+
- Contrary to the belief that segregation is the product of economic and not racial discrimination, census data shows that African Americans and Caucasians of the same social class are just as segregated as all African Americans and Caucasians.+
- Between 1993 and 1999, 80% of the homes purchased by Asian Americans and Caucasians were purchased in the suburbs, compared to 56% for African Americans and Latinos.\*

- African Americans have begun to move into the suburbs, but the shift has been concentrated in the South and South collar suburbs.<sup>∞</sup>
- Asian Americans have followed what can be considered a typically Caucasian settlement pattern, concentrating in the Northern suburbs, which are also the suburbs with the highest-median selling prices.+
- The suburban Latino population has seen the most dramatic increase; from 1990 to 2000 the proportion of Latinos to the suburban residents rose from 1 in 20 to 1 in 10.\*

### Education

- The Chicago area ranks fourth in the nation in African American-Caucasian school segregation.+
- 30% of all public schools are 100% African American, and 47% are 90% or more African American.+
- In Chicago, nearly 60% of African American high school freshman do not graduate with a degree in four years.\*
- Illinois ranks 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the amount of educational funding provided by the state. Most funding is local, and the disparity ranges from \$18,225 per student in Lake Forest to \$6,678 per student in the Harvey Chicago school district. This discrepancy in educational quality is both an explanation and cause of some of the inequalities that exist in Chicago.<sup>∞</sup>
- Drop out rates for the 2000-2001 school year are: 38% African American, 21% Latino, 0.2% Native American, 38.3% Caucasian and 1.7% Asian American.\*
- Since the 1995 Safe Schools Law went into effect, most of the students expelled from classrooms were either African American or Latino. African Americans are three times more likely to be expelled than Latinos or Caucasians.+
- In the Prairie State Achievement Exam, the average African American scores for reading and math were 31.8 and 19.2 respectively, compared to 66.1 and 62.8 for Caucasian students. Similarly, Caucasian students receive higher scores on the ACT and SAT standardized exams and are more likely to take Advanced Placement exams in high school (70% of AP Exams were administered to Caucasian students, as opposed to 4% African American, 15% Asian American and 6% Latino).\*

### Health

- The rate of elderly uninsured African Americans and Latinos are above the national average of 20%.\*
- African American neighborhoods have disproportionately less access to healthcare including hospitals, clinics, health professionals, and reputable pharmacies and are more likely to lack health insurance than the general population.\*<sup>∞</sup>
- Throughout the region persons of color are less likely to be employed in places where the employer provides health insurance.\*
- Chicago has the highest asthma death rate for African Americans in the country. In Chicago, African Americans are nearly five times more likely to die from asthma as Caucasians.\*
- African American males account for more incidences of cancer than all other ethnic and racial groups. As of 1997, the mortality rate for African American women with breast cancer was almost double that of Caucasians.+
- African Americans account for only 15.1% of the population of Chicago but account for 50% of AIDS positive individuals.+
- In 1997 26.9% of African American births and 16.9% of Latino births compared to 5.4% of Caucasian births were to teenage mothers.<sup>∞</sup>
- The rate of obesity and morbid obesity is rising across virtually all racial and ethnic groups, but it is rising most rapidly in African American and low income neighborhoods.+
- The obesity problem is largely the result of the lack of access to resources needed to live a healthy lifestyle. Due to the lack of full service grocery stores, there is an over reliance on corner stores which are less likely to have fresh fruit and vegetables and instead offer processed, salty, and fatty foods.+

- There is also a lack of resources that promote active lifestyles including gyms, playgrounds, parks, organized youth sports, and bike-friendly roads and paths. African Americans are in turn more likely to suffer from problems connected to obesity, unhealthy diet, and sedentary lifestyles such as heart disease and obesity. +<sup>∞</sup>
- Between 1994 and 1996, 9 out of every 10 children who died accidentally were minority children.+
- African American children are more likely to remain on welfare for longer, 200% longer than Caucasian children and 50% longer than Latino children.+
- The 15 Chicago community areas with the most unlicensed caregivers are all communities of color.+
- In 1998, African American children made up 95% of the foster child population in Chicago.\*

### Crime and the Criminal Justice System

- Caucasians are 125% more likely to use marijuana, 181% more likely to use cocaine, 413% more likely to use inhalants, and 516% more likely to use LSD than African Americans.\*
- African Americans account for 79% of Chicago's drug arrests, but only 66% of clients at drug treatment centers, 57% of drug related emergency room visits, and 45% of drug related deaths.+
- Caucasian youths (12-17) are considerably more likely to traffic and use drugs, especially cocaine and heroin, but despite higher drug use and sales by Caucasian teens in Illinois, African American youth make up 15.3% of Illinois youth population, 59% of youth arrested for drug crimes, 85.5% of youth automatically transferred to adult court, 88% of youth imprisoned for drug crimes and 91% of youth admitted to state prison. Statistics regarding Latinos follow a similar pattern; with Caucasians have the fewest number of arrests.\*
- As of 2001 there were nearly 20,000 more African American males incarcerated in the Illinois' state prison system than were enrolled in the state's public universities.+
- In Cook County in 2000 about one in five African American men in their 20s was either in jail, prison or parole, compared to 1 in 104 Caucasian men and 1 in 26 Latino men.+
- African American men are most likely to be crime victims of both violent crimes (61%) and property crimes (42%).+
- African American men are the most likely to be the victims of homicide.+
- In 2001, of all racially motivated hate crimes, 85% were against people of color, 72% motivated by anti-African American sentiment.+

### Recommendations Based on Reports

- Increased equity in public school system funding.
- Increase in state funding for public schools, scale down or removal of current lottery system.
- Elimination of No Child Left Behind testing policies which encourage schools to allow, encourage, or even force under performing students to drop out.
- Increased availability of training and vocational programs especially in fields inner city residents may be particularly lacking in like technology and computer use.
- Create affordable housing in areas that do offer financial and occupational opportunities.
- Increased access to public transportation, especially that which allows easy commutes to areas with high job opportunities.
- Prohibit discrimination against the use of public aid vouchers in rent payment.
- Implement affirmative fair housing provisions as well as enforce and strengthen current fair housing laws.
- Establishment of community, medical, and financial resources currently unavailable to low income neighborhoods including full service groceries, banks, restaurants, hospitals and clinics).
- Removal or downsizing of harmful pseudo versions of these institutions (corner stores offering no fresh or healthy foods, extremely high interest payday loans, pawn shops, and fast food chains).
- Increased availability of public and private loans to fund community development and neighborhood entrepreneurs.
- Community development careful to avoid the damaging effects of gentrification.