American Dreams and St. Louis Realities: A Presentation to the Ferguson Commission

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University of Missouri – St. Louis • J.C. Penney Center • February 23, 2015
The American Dream

Each generation does better than the last

The Opportunity Agenda, 2006; Xavier “American Dream” Poll, 2011
Mobility is lower in the U.S.

Chetty, 2014a
Mobility depends on where you live

St. Louis ranks 42nd of 50 large metro areas

Chetty, 2014b
Factors related to mobility

1. African American population
2. Segregation
3. Income inequality
4. School quality
5. Social capital
6. Family Structure

Chetty, 2014b
A project involving researchers and the community to:

- Describe how education, economics, and health are related
- Determine impact of disparities on the St. Louis community
- Suggest solutions that will close gaps in health and well-being
Mobility factor #1: African American population

Table 1. Population estimates of African Americans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>St. Louis County</th>
<th>St. Louis City</th>
<th>City &amp; County Combined</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>233,048</td>
<td>152,068</td>
<td>385,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>1,000,438</td>
<td>318,172</td>
<td>1,318,610</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: ACS 2012 1-year estimates*

- St. Louis has the 10th largest African American population of the 50 large metro areas
- African Americans make up about 29% of the City and the County combined
Mobility factor #2: Segregation

- St. Louis is the 5th most racially segregated of the 50 large metro areas
- It is the 20th most segregated of the 50 metros by income
Mobility factor #3: Income inequality

Table 6. Median household income by race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>St. Louis County</th>
<th>St. Louis City</th>
<th>City and County combined</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>$35,757</td>
<td>$21,931</td>
<td>$28,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>$65,500</td>
<td>$49,192</td>
<td>$62,010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ACS 2012 1-year estimates

Notes: In 2012 inflation adjusted dollars; income within the past 12 months

- St. Louis has the 29th highest income inequality among the bottom 99% of the 50 large metro areas
- Whites have more than twice the median income of African Americans in the City and County combined
Mobility factor #4: School quality

- St. Louis ranks 20th in high school dropout after accounting for parent’s income among the 50 large metro areas
- 1 in 10 African American 9-12th graders dropped out in 2012
- St. Louis ranks 16th for teacher-student ratio at 17.2 to 1
Mobility factor #5: Social capital

- St. Louis has the 20th largest religious population of the 50 large metro areas.
- It ranks 14th in the rate of violent crime.
- African Americans have a homicide death rate that is 12 times that of Whites in the City and County combined.
Mobility factor #6: Family structure

- St. Louis has the 11th largest rate of children being raised by single mothers of the 50 large metro areas.
- XX% of African American children are being raised by single mothers in the City and County combined.
Economic realities: A matter of life and death

A tale of two ZIP codes

63105
Clayton
Life expectancy: 85 years
Racial makeup: 78% White | 9% African American | 14% Other
Unemployment: 4%
Percent below the poverty line: 7%
Median household income: $90,000

63106
North St. Louis City
Life expectancy: 67 years
Racial makeup: 95% African American | 2% White | 3% Other
Unemployment: 24%
Percent below the poverty line: 54%
Median household income: $15,000

Source: City of St. Louis Department of Health - Center for Health Information, Planning, and Research; Census 2010; MODHSS, Death MICA 2010
Notes: ZIP code life expectancies were derived using population counts from Census 2010 and deaths from Death MICA 2010. Total percentage for race may exceed 100% due to rounding.
Economic realities: A matter of life and death

Figure 13. Household income for African Americans in St. Louis County and St. Louis City

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $10,000</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000 to $14,999</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,000 to $24,999</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000 to $34,999</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$35,000 to $49,999</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 to $74,999</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000 to $99,999</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 to $149,999</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150,000 to $199,999</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200,000 or more</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ACS 2012 1-year estimates

Notes: Dollars adjusted for inflation to match value in 2012; percentages are rounded.
Economic realities: A matter of life and death

Figure 14: Percent of St. Louis County and St. Louis City residents with income below poverty level

- **Poverty Level**
  - **9%** Whites
  - **31%** African Americans

Source: ACS 2012 1-year estimates

A JOB IS A HEALTH INTERVENTION

- **Unemployment in St. Louis is almost 4x higher among African Americans compared with Whites**
- **280 Deaths due to poverty**
- **237 Deaths due to less than high school education**

Combined the number of deaths could fill about 7 Metrolink cars

The estimated cost of this loss of life is approximately **$3.3 Billion**
Recommendations

1. Invest in quality early childhood development for all children.

2. Help low-to-moderate income families create economic opportunities.

3. Invest in coordinated school health programs for all students.

4. Invest in mental health awareness, screening, treatment, and surveillance.

5. Invest in quality neighborhoods for all in St. Louis.

6. Coordinate and expand chronic and infectious disease prevention and management.
Discussion Guide and Action Toolkit

Creating economic opportunity for low-to-moderate income families in St. Louis

Purpose

The purpose of this guide is to help low-to-moderate income families create economic opportunities. By engaging in the activities outlined, families can take steps to improve their economic situation and achieve financial stability.

Background

Low-income families in St. Louis face significant challenges in accessing opportunities that can improve their economic well-being. Many struggle to find stable employment, access affordable housing, and save for the future.

556 DEATHS
555 DEATHS

15 METROLINK CARS

The Coalition for Healthy and Just Communities

£7.8 BILLION

There are many steps you can take to help improve economic opportunities for low-to-moderate income households.

Take Action!

Be part of the solution.

Resources and Ideas

Learn more about policies, initiatives, and programs that are working to address economic disparities in St. Louis.

Conclusion

This Discussion Guide provides insights and recommendations for creating economic opportunities for low-to-moderate income families in St. Louis. By following the steps outlined, families can work towards securing a brighter future for their households.
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