WHERE WE STAND

Where We Stand ***tracks the health of the St. Louis region compared to 34 peer MSAs.[1] The peer regions are our domestic competition and provide a consistent yardstick to gauge "Where We Stand."***

This update builds on the data included in the WWS sixth edition, providing updated and new data on segregation and racial disparity in the St. Louis region.

6th Edition, Update 9 September 2014

Racial Segregation and Disparity

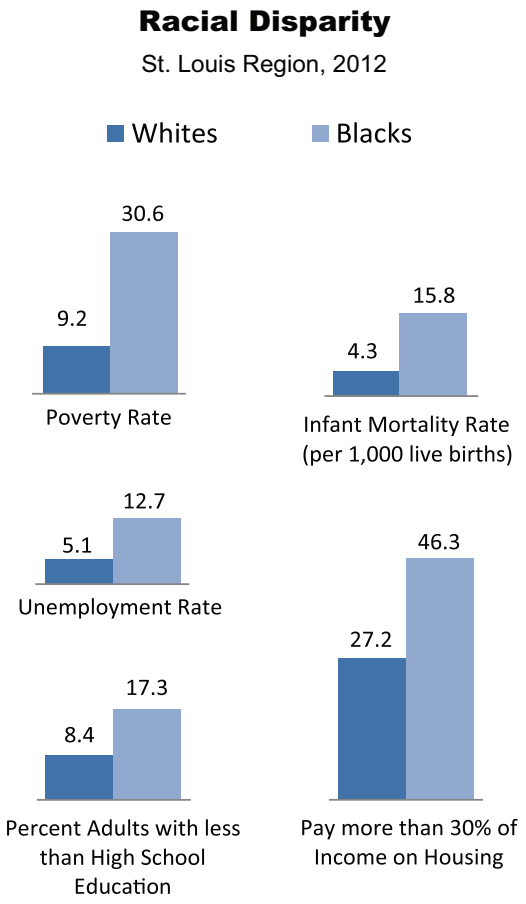
Disparities between blacks and whites are prevalent and persistent. Nationally, a black student is twice as likely to drop out of school, a black worker is more than twice as likely to be unemployed, and a black family is half as likely to own a home. The infant mortality rate for blacks is more than twice the white rate and a study by the Pew Research Center found that the median wealth of white families is 20 times that of black families.[2] The disparity of outcomes between black and white individuals and families presents a moral challenge for the St. Louis region and for the nation.

This update provides facts on the level of segregation in metropolitan areas over the past 30 years and the degree of racial disparity in St. Louis and its peer regions.[3] The story is one that is familiar to most but also one that is often forgotten, overshadowed or downplayed.

Among its peer regions, St. Louis is the 6th most segregated and tends to have a wider gap between whites and blacks than many of the peer regions on a range of social, economic and health indicators. In this update, data are presented on the gaps between whites and blacks on variables for education, health, labor market and wealth.

The challenge is not unique to the St. Louis region, nor is it a new one. Indicators of racial disparity have been part of *Where We Stand* since its inception in 1992. Over the 20 year period, the story has been the same—across the country on all indicators, black individuals and families do not enjoy the same advantages as their white counterparts.

Although no consensus exists regarding solutions, these tables substantiate the need for action and policy changes to address inequity.



1 MSAs (Metropolitan Statistical Areas) are geographic entities delineated by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). MSAs are areas with "at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more population, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting ties."
2 Kochhar, R. et al., Wealth Gaps Rise to Record Highs between Whites, Blacks, Hispanics: Twenty to one. Pew Research in Social and Demographic Trends. http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2011/07/26/wealth-gaps-rise-to-record-highs-between-whites-blacks-hispanics/
3 *Where We Stand* usually includes Salt Lake City as a peer region but the MSA is not included on the tables of racial disparity due to low African American sample size.

Racial Composition of Regions

Together, African Americans and non-Hispanic whites make up 93 percent of the region's population. Neighboring regions in the Midwest and South are similar. Other races and ethnicities make up less than 10 percent of the population in Detroit, Cleveland, Memphis, Louisville and Cincinnati. Regions in other parts of the country have a higher percentage of other races and ethnicities, particularly Hispanics and Asians. Together, Asians and Hispanics make up a majority of the population in Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Antonio. In New York, Denver and Chicago, more than a quarter of the population is either Hispanic or Asian.

Since the St. Louis region is largely bi-racial, this update focuses on the disparities between black and white people. Research indicates that similar disparities exist for other minorities throughout the country as well, particularly in those regions that have higher concentrations of an individual minority group.

The more populated regions tend to have the largest black populations but blacks comprise larger portions of the populations in the Southeast and Midwest regions. St. Louis ranks toward the middle of the peers on both of these variables with the 13th largest black population and the 10th largest black proportion of its total population.

TOTAL POPULATION
2012

1	**New York**	**19,048,167**
2	Los Angeles	12,947,334
3	Chicago	9,496,587
4	Dallas	6,519,849
5	Houston	6,085,873
6	Philadelphia	5,996,101
7	Washington DC	5,710,843
8	Miami	5,677,408
9	Atlanta	5,361,152
10	Boston	4,602,669
11	San Francisco	4,399,211
12	Detroit	4,290,618
13	Phoenix	4,263,663
Average		**4,114,008**
14	Seattle	3,499,632
15	Minneapolis	3,320,190
16	San Diego	3,139,726
17	**St. Louis**	**2,818,187**
18	Baltimore	2,734,138
19	Denver	2,599,275
20	Pittsburgh	2,359,225
21	Portland	2,261,148
22	San Antonio	2,192,939
23	Cincinnati	2,138,136
24	Cleveland	2,069,316
25	Kansas City	2,051,795
26	Columbus	1,859,697
27	Charlotte	1,796,759
28	Austin	1,780,890
29	Indianapolis	1,779,439
30	Nashville	1,618,819
31	Milwaukee	1,561,707
32	Memphis	1,325,160
33	Louisville	1,293,831
34	**Oklahoma City**	**1,276,771**

Source: 2012 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

BLACK POPULATION
2012

1	**New York**	**3,074,017**
2	Atlanta	1,724,632
3	Chicago	1,608,329
4	Washington DC	1,437,544
5	Philadelphia	1,211,025
6	Miami	1,128,867
7	Houston	1,026,043
8	Detroit	968,326
9	Dallas	960,588
10	Los Angeles	849,886
11	Baltimore	775,704
Average		**607,906**
12	Memphis	602,966
13	**St. Louis**	**511,448**
14	Charlotte	423,057
15	Cleveland	408,009
16	San Francisco	347,049
17	Boston	319,826
18	Columbus	272,525
19	Indianapolis	263,066
20	Cincinnati	256,856
21	Milwaukee	255,128
22	Kansas City	251,814
23	Nashville	248,143
24	Minneapolis	243,424
25	Phoenix	206,011
26	Pittsburgh	191,742
27	Seattle	188,524
28	Louisville	174,593
29	San Diego	149,210
30	Denver	139,473
31	San Antonio	133,544
32	Oklahoma City	127,177
33	Austin	126,839
34	**Portland**	**63,404**

Source: 2012 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

HIGHER

AVERAGE

LOWER

BLACK POPULATION
Percent of total, 2012

1	**Memphis**	**45.5**
2	Atlanta	32.2
3	Baltimore	28.4
4	Washington DC	25.2
5	Charlotte	23.5
6	Detroit	22.6
7	Philadelphia	20.2
8	Miami	19.9
9	Cleveland	19.7
10	**St. Louis**	**18.1**
11	Chicago	16.9
12	Houston	16.9
13	Milwaukee	16.3
14	New York	16.1
15	Nashville	15.3
16	Indianapolis	14.8
Average		**14.8**
17	Dallas	14.7
18	Columbus	14.7
19	Louisville	13.5
20	Kansas City	12.3
21	Cincinnati	12.0
22	Oklahoma City	10.0
23	Pittsburgh	8.1
24	San Francisco	7.9
25	Minneapolis	7.3
26	Austin	7.1
27	Boston	6.9
28	Los Angeles	6.6
29	San Antonio	6.1
30	Seattle	5.4
31	Denver	5.4
32	Phoenix	4.8
33	San Diego	4.8
34	**Portland**	**2.8**

Source: 2012 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

HISPANIC POPULATION
Percent of total, 2012

1	**San Antonio**	**54.3**
2	Los Angeles	44.7
3	Miami	41.9
4	Houston	35.7
5	San Diego	32.4
6	Austin	31.7
7	Phoenix	29.7
8	Dallas	27.8
9	New York	23.3
10	Denver	22.7
11	San Francisco	21.8
12	Chicago	21.0
Average		**15.9**
13	Washington, DC	14.2
14	Oklahoma City	11.7
15	Portland	11.0
16	Atlanta	10.5
17	Charlotte	10.0
18	Milwaukee	9.7
19	Boston	9.3
20	Seattle	9.2
21	Kansas City	8.3
22	Philadelphia	8.1
23	Nashville	6.7
24	Indianapolis	6.3
25	Minneapolis	5.5
26	Memphis	5.1
27	Cleveland	4.9
28	Baltimore	4.8
29	Louisville	4.1
30	Detroit	4.0
31	Columbus	3.7
32	Cincinnati	2.7
33	**St. Louis**	**2.6**
34	**Pittsburgh**	**1.4**

Source: 2012 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

ASIAN POPULATION
Percent of total, 2012

1	**San Francisco**	**23.3**
2	Los Angeles	14.7
3	Seattle	11.5
4	San Diego	10.9
5	New York	10.1
6	Washington, DC	9.3
7	Boston	6.7
8	Houston	6.6
9	Portland	5.8
10	Minneapolis	5.8
11	Chicago	5.7
12	Dallas	5.5
Average		**5.3**
13	Philadelphia	5.1
14	Atlanta	5.0
15	Austin	4.8
16	Baltimore	4.7
17	Denver	3.6
18	Detroit	3.4
19	Phoenix	3.3
20	Charlotte	3.3
21	Columbus	3.2
22	Milwaukee	2.9
23	Oklahoma City	2.8
24	Kansas City	2.3
25	Nashville	2.3
26	Miami	2.3
27	Indianapolis	2.2
28	**St. Louis**	**2.1**
29	San Antonio	2.0
30	Cleveland	2.0
31	Cincinnati	2.0
32	Memphis	1.9
33	Pittsburgh	1.8
34	**Louisville**	**1.6**

Source: 2012 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

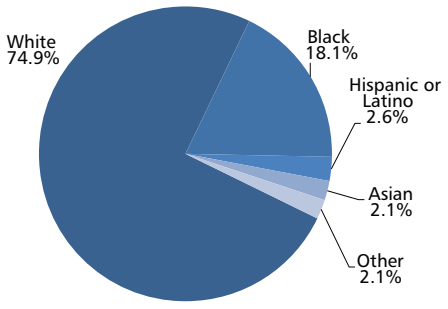
HIGHER

AVERAGE

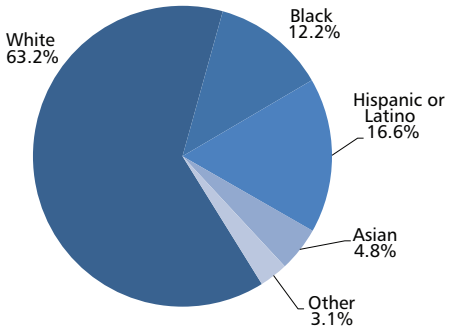
LOWER

Racial and Ethnic Composition

St. Louis MSA, 2012



United States, 2012



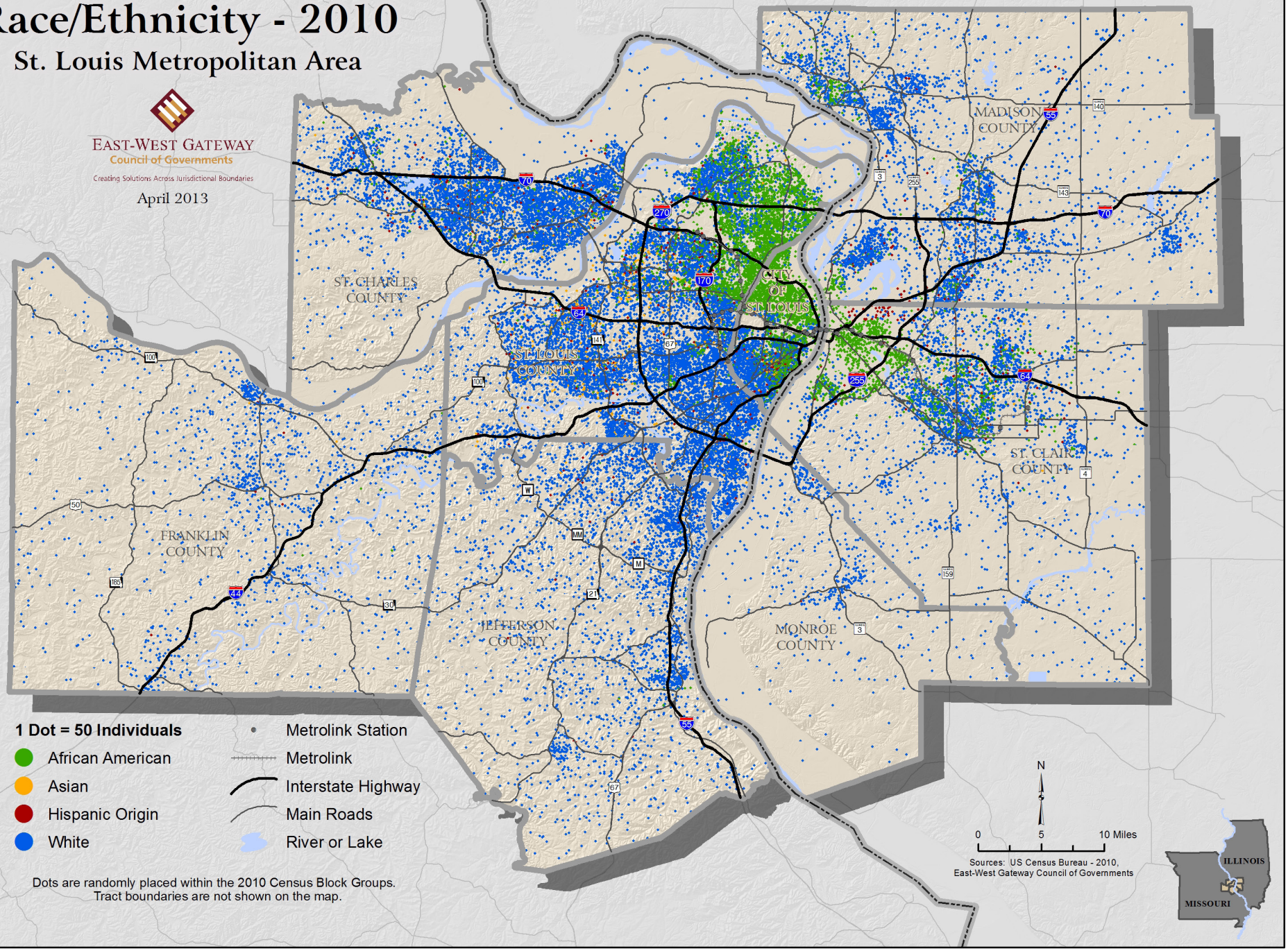
Source: 2012 American Community Survey 3-year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

Population by Race/Ethnicity - 2010

St. Louis Metropolitan Area

East-West Gateway
Council of Governments
Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

April 2013



Dots are randomly placed within the 2010 Census Block Groups.
Tract boundaries are not shown on the map.

SEGREGATION: DISSIMILARITY INDEX
1980 and 2010

White-black segregation scores on the dissimilarity index. Scores range from 0 to 100 with "0" indicating complete integration and "100" indicating complete segregation

	2010 Segregation		1980 Segregation	Change from 1980 to 2010
1	**Milwaukee**	**79.6**	**83.9**	**-4.3**
2	New York	76.9	81.3	-4.5
3	Chicago	75.2	88.1	-13.0
4	Detroit	74.0	87.6	-13.6
5	Cleveland	72.6	85.8	-13.2
6	**St. Louis**	**70.7**	**81.6**	**-11.0**
7	Philadelphia	67.0	77.2	-10.2
8	Cincinnati	66.9	78.2	-11.3
9	Los Angeles	65.2	81.0	-15.8
10	Indianapolis	64.5	78.8	-14.3
11	Baltimore	64.3	74.4	-10.1
12	Miami	64.0	82.1	-18.1
13	Pittsburgh	63.1	73.3	-10.3
14	Memphis	62.2	68.8	-6.5
15	Boston	61.5	74.6	-13.1
16	Washington DC	61.0	69.7	-8.7
17	Houston	60.6	73.7	-13.1
18	Columbus	60.0	72.9	-13.0
19	Denver	59.4	69.1	-9.8
20	San Francisco	59.3	72.0	-12.7
Average		**59.1**	**73.1**	**-13.9**
21	Kansas City	58.6	77.7	-19.0
22	Atlanta	58.4	76.9	-18.6
23	Louisville	56.2	73.6	-17.4
24	Dallas	55.5	78.2	-22.7
25	Nashville	55.0	65.2	-10.2
26	Charlotte	53.1	58.0	-4.9
27	Minneapolis	50.2	67.7	-17.5
28	Oklahoma City	49.0	71.6	-22.6
29	Austin	48.4	64.8	-16.4
30	San Diego	48.4	64.4	-16.0
31	San Antonio	47.7	61.4	-13.7
32	Seattle	45.7	64.8	-19.2
33	Phoenix	41.3	61.4	-20.1
34	Portland	40.9	68.7	-27.8
35	**Salt Lake City**	**34.0**	**48.3**	**-14.3**

HIGHER

AVERAGE

LOWER

Source: US2010, the American Communities Project

Segregation

People of all races and ethnicities tend to live in somewhat segregated communities. As the population of the United States becomes more diverse, there is increased integration in communities across the country but segregation continues, particularly for African Americans.[4]

The dissimilarity index is a standard measure of segregation that expresses the degree to which two groups of people are evenly spread among census tracts in a given region based on the racial composition of the entire region. Values can range from 0 to 100 on the index. A score of 0 would mean the community is completely integrated and a score of 100 would mean the community is completely segregated.

The average level of black-white segregation in U.S. metro areas has declined considerably from the average index score of 79 in 1960 and 1970 to a low of 59 in 2010.[5]

The St. Louis MSA has seen small decreases in segregation over each of the last three decades. In 1980 St. Louis had a score of 81.6, 77.2 in 1990, 73.4 in 2000 and 70.6 in 2010. By this measure, St. Louis is one of the most segregated metropolitan areas among its peers.

From 1980 to 2010 segregation decreased in all of the 35 peer regions, but not to the same degree. The average decrease for the peer regions was 14 points on the dissimilarity index. St. Louis experienced the 11th lowest change with an 11 point decrease.

Many of the regions that are considered highly segregated are in the Northeast and the Rust Belt. These regions also have some of the largest black populations—New York and Chicago—or the largest proportions of black population—Cleveland and St. Louis. Most of the regions that experienced the largest declines in segregation over the time period were those that were the least segregated at the beginning of the time period and have smaller black populations.

4 Logan, John R. and Brian J. Stults; The Persistence of Segregation in the Metropolis: New Findings from the 2010 Census; US2010 Project, 24 March 2011; http://www.s4.brown.edu/us2010/Data/Report/report2.pdf
5 Logan, 2011.

Segregated communities have been shown to provide unequal opportunities. In regions with higher levels of segregation, minorities are more likely to live in neighborhoods with underperforming schools, environmental problems, and lack of access to basic services. On average, black and Hispanic families in the U.S. live in poorer communities with fewer resources, even when they have higher incomes.[6]

Disparity: Education

On two measures of educational attainment the St. Louis region ranks about average among the peers. For disparity in adults with less than a high school diploma, the region ranks 18th with black adults being twice as likely to not have a high school education. Blacks are about half as likely as whites in the region to have a bachelor's degree or higher; 17 percent of black adults are college graduates, compared to 33 percent of white adults.

A recent study, For the Sake of All, makes the case that closing this gap in educational attainment is not only good for individuals but also for the region as a whole. The research estimates that for every 1,000 additional high school graduates, the region could expect to see $21 million more spent on homes, the gross regional product to increase by $15 million and the collection of an additional $1.1 million in state and local taxes.[7]

If the same proportion of black adults had high school diplomas as whites in the St. Louis MSA, 45,000 more adults would be contributing to the region's economy in these ways.

Access to Opportunity in St. Louis Region: Findings from the Fair Housing Equity Assessment

In 2013 the Metropolitan Equal Housing and Opportunity Council conducted a Fair Housing Equity Assessment (FHEA) for the eight-county St. Louis region. The research documents the history of segregation and discrimination in the region, identifies areas of racially concentrated poverty, identifies areas of opportunity and offers recommendations for addressing inequities in the region.

The FHEA supports the larger body of research, finding that black people have less access to opportunities than whites. The research measured access on six dimensions of opportunity: poverty, school proficiency, labor market engagement, job access, transit access and health hazards exposure. The results show high disparity between whites and blacks in the region on three of the dimensions of opportunity—blacks are significantly more likely to live in high poverty and high unemployment neighborhoods and to live in underperforming school districts. The disparities are less for job access and health hazards exposure. Black households have more access to transit than whites but a limitation of this measure is that it does not capture the lack of access blacks have to some areas of the region. Furthermore, black households are 4.5 times more likely than white households to lack access to a vehicle.

See the FHEA at onestl.org for the report, including maps on the opportunity indicators.

6 Logan, John R., Separate and Unequal: The Neighborhood Gap for Blacks, Hispanics and Asians in Metropolitan America; US2010 Project, July 2011.
7 Tate, William F., How Does Health Influence School Dropout?, For the Sake of All; September 2013; accessed at forthesakeofall.org

DISPARITY IN EDUCATION

Adults age 25 years or older with less than a high school diploma or equivalent, 2012

		Ratio black to white adults	WHITE Percent of white adults	BLACK Percent of black adults
1	**Minneapolis**	**4.8**	**3.9**	**18.6**
2	Milwaukee	3.5	5.7	19.8
3	Austin	3.4	3.2	10.9
4	Miami	3.4	6.4	21.5
5	San Francisco	2.9	3.7	10.8
6	Boston	2.9	5.9	17.2
7	Denver	2.7	4.0	10.9
8	Washington DC	2.7	3.9	10.4
9	Chicago	2.5	6.2	15.5
10	New York	2.4	7.0	16.7
11	Seattle	2.3	5.2	12.2
12	Memphis	2.3	8.1	18.5
13	Kansas City	2.2	6.5	14.6
Average		**2.2**	**6.9**	**14.5**
14	Portland	2.2	6.0	13.2
15	Philadelphia	2.2	7.4	16.2
16	Cleveland	2.2	8.7	19.0
17	San Diego	2.1	4.8	10.0
18	**St. Louis**	**2.1**	**8.4**	**17.3**
19	Baltimore	2.0	8.2	16.4
20	Los Angeles	2.0	5.7	11.3
21	Houston	1.9	6.4	12.2
22	Dallas	1.8	6.3	11.5
23	Indianapolis	1.8	8.7	15.8
24	Detroit	1.8	9.5	16.8
25	Phoenix	1.8	5.8	10.2
26	San Antonio	1.8	6.0	10.5
27	Pittsburgh	1.7	7.7	13.3
28	Charlotte	1.7	8.6	14.7
29	Cincinnati	1.7	10.1	17.2
30	Columbus	1.7	8.4	14.1
31	Nashville	1.5	10.4	15.8
32	Louisville	1.5	11.3	16.8
33	Oklahoma City	1.4	8.4	11.8
34	**Atlanta**	**1.4**	**8.6**	**11.7**

Source: 2012 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

DISPARITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Adults age 25 years or older with a bachelor's degree or higher, 2012

		Ratio white to black adults	WHITE Percent of white adults	BLACK Percent of black adults
1	**Milwaukee**	**3.1**	**37.2**	**12.0**
2	San Francisco	2.3	55.3	23.7
3	Cleveland	2.3	31.2	13.4
4	Miami	2.3	38.7	17.0
5	Philadelphia	2.2	38.0	17.3
6	Austin	2.2	50.0	22.9
7	Chicago	2.1	41.7	19.8
8	New York	2.1	45.8	22.1
9	Minneapolis	2.1	41.0	19.8
10	Memphis	2.1	33.6	16.3
11	Kansas City	2.1	36.2	17.6
12	Indianapolis	2.0	34.0	17.2
13	Seattle	2.0	39.5	20.0
14	Boston	2.0	46.0	23.3
15	Cincinnati	2.0	30.6	15.5
16	San Diego	2.0	42.6	21.6
17	**St. Louis**	**1.9**	**32.7**	**16.8**
18	Washington DC	1.9	59.0	30.5
Average		**1.9**	**38.8**	**20.4**
19	Pittsburgh	1.9	30.1	15.8
20	Los Angeles	1.9	45.5	24.0
21	Denver	1.9	46.3	24.5
22	Baltimore	1.9	40.3	21.6
23	Columbus	1.8	34.9	18.9
24	Detroit	1.8	30.0	16.5
25	Charlotte	1.8	38.1	21.7
26	Dallas	1.7	39.5	23.0
27	Houston	1.7	39.1	23.3
28	San Antonio	1.6	39.0	23.8
29	Louisville	1.6	27.1	17.0
30	Oklahoma City	1.6	31.3	19.8
31	Portland	1.6	35.9	22.9
32	Phoenix	1.5	34.1	22.3
33	Atlanta	1.5	40.3	27.0
34	**Nashville**	**1.4**	**32.9**	**23.7**

HIGHER

AVERAGE

LOWER

Source: 2012 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

Disparity: Labor Market

In St. Louis black adults are slightly less likely than white adults to be in the labor force (62.6 and 66.9 percent, respectively) but are more than twice as likely to be unemployed.[8] The disparity in unemployment between blacks and whites in the St. Louis region is high, ranking 4th among the peer regions, with blacks being 2.5 times more likely to be unemployed than whites. Blacks comprise 17 percent of the population in the labor force but about twice that, 34 percent, of those unemployed.

The disparity in unemployment rates is high for all of the regions. On average for the 34 regions, blacks are twice as likely to be unemployed. In the regions with the lowest levels of disparity, the black unemployment rate is still 3.5 to 4.8 percentage points higher than that of whites.

DISPARITY IN UNEMPLOYMENT

Percent of labor force unemployed, 2012

		Ratio of black to white	WHITE Percent of white labor force	BLACK Percent of black labor force
1	**Milwaukee**	**2.9**	**4.6**	**13.5**
2	Minneapolis	2.7	4.7	12.8
3	Washington DC	2.7	3.3	8.8
4	**St. Louis**	**2.5**	**5.1**	**12.7**
5	Cleveland	2.4	5.3	12.7
6	Indianapolis	2.4	5.2	12.4
7	Kansas City	2.4	4.7	11.2
8	Columbus	2.4	4.8	11.3
9	Miami	2.3	5.5	12.9
10	Cincinnati	2.3	5.3	12.2
11	Memphis	2.3	4.8	11.0
12	Baltimore	2.3	4.4	9.9
13	Chicago	2.2	6.0	13.4
14	Boston	2.2	5.1	11.3
15	San Francisco	2.2	5.2	11.4
16	Pittsburgh	2.2	4.5	9.7
17	Denver	2.2	5.3	11.4
Average		**2.1**	**5.2**	**11.0**
18	Detroit	2.1	7.2	15.4
19	Houston	2.1	4.4	9.4
20	Atlanta	2.1	6.0	12.7
21	Dallas	2.1	4.7	9.7
22	Louisville	2.0	5.7	11.6
23	Oklahoma City	2.0	3.6	7.3
24	Phoenix	2.0	5.3	10.6
25	Philadelphia	2.0	5.5	10.8
26	Charlotte	2.0	6.5	12.7
27	New York	1.9	5.1	9.9
28	San Antonio	1.9	4.0	7.6
29	Austin	1.7	4.7	8.2
30	Seattle	1.7	5.8	10.1
31	Nashville	1.7	5.3	9.2
32	Portland	1.7	6.9	11.7
33	San Diego	1.7	5.6	9.3
34	**Los Angeles**	**1.7**	**6.3**	**10.4**

HIGHER

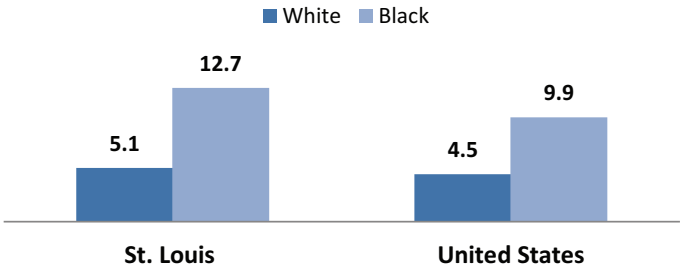
AVERAGE

LOWER

Source: 2012 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

Disparity in Unemployment

Unemployment rate, 2012



Source: 2012 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

8 An individual is considered a labor force participant if he/she is either employed or unemployed and looking for work. An individual that is neither employed nor looking for work is not considered to be unemployed.

Disparity: Income and Poverty

In 2012 the median household income for white households in the St. Louis region was $59,000. For black households it was about half that amount, $30,500. This gap between blacks and whites puts the region in the top 10 of the 34 regions on this measure of disparity. On average, the income gap has grown over the last 20 years for the 34 peer regions. Between 1990 and 2012, the median income of white households in the St. Louis region grew by 2 percent while it decreased 5 percent for black households.

On average for the peer regions, black families are 3.2 times more likely to be in poverty than white families. The difference in poverty rates between whites and blacks is one of the largest gaps among those reviewed in this report. In the St. Louis region, 9 percent of white families have income below the poverty level while about one-third of black families have income below the poverty threshold.[9]

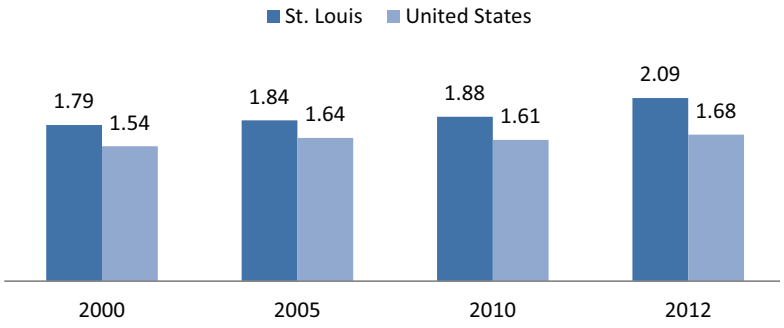
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME, ST. LOUIS AND 34 PEER REGION AVERAGE; 1990, 2000 AND 2012

	St. Louis MSA	Peer Average
1990		
White Median Income	$57,786	$61,892
Black Median Income	$32,274	$36,307
White to Black Ratio	1.8	1.7
Difference White-Black	$25,513	$25,585
2000		
White Median Income	$63,884	$70,426
Black Median Income	$36,731	$42,499
White to Black Ratio	1.7	1.7
Difference White-Black	$27,153	$27,927
2012		
White Median Income	$59,041	$66,531
Black Median Income	$30,479	$36,631
White to Black Ratio	1.9	1.8
Difference White-Black	$28,562	$29,900

Note: All dollars adjusted to 2012 dollars
Source: US2010 Project and 2012 ACS 3-Year US Census Bureau

Racial Disparity in Income

Ratio of white to black median household income
St. Louis and United States



Note: In this chart, 2012 data is based on American Community Survey 1-year data to allow for comparison over time while the WWS table is based on American Community Survey 3-year data to allow for comparison with the peer MSAs.
Sources: U.S. Census and American Community Survey, United States Census Bureau

9 In 2012 the poverty threshold for a family of four was $23,492.

DISPARITY IN INCOME

Household income, 2012

	Ratio of white to black		WHITE Median income (dollars)	BLACK Median income (dollars)
1	**Minneapolis**	**2.4**	**70,721**	**29,522**
2	Milwaukee	2.3	61,617	26,381
3	San Francisco	2.2	89,789	41,276
4	Cleveland	2.1	55,572	26,403
5	Cincinnati	2.1	57,721	27,486
6	Chicago	2.0	70,881	35,274
7	Philadelphia	2.0	71,672	35,982
8	**St. Louis**	**1.9**	**59,041**	**30,479**
9	Pittsburgh	1.9	52,129	27,052
10	Detroit	1.9	57,463	30,021
11	Kansas City	1.9	61,225	32,105
12	Houston	1.9	75,494	40,403
13	Memphis	1.9	61,839	33,131
14	Indianapolis	1.9	57,960	31,224
15	Columbus	1.9	59,536	32,083
Average		**1.8**	**66,531**	**36,631**
16	New York	1.8	81,669	44,546
17	Louisville	1.8	52,441	28,882
18	Los Angeles	1.8	74,690	41,195
19	Boston	1.8	77,864	43,171
20	Portland	1.8	58,670	32,892
21	Dallas	1.8	70,733	39,927
22	Denver	1.8	69,041	38,980
23	Baltimore	1.8	80,164	45,349
24	Seattle	1.7	70,077	40,586
25	Oklahoma City	1.7	53,556	31,106
26	Charlotte	1.7	62,355	36,388
27	Austin	1.7	68,467	40,490
28	Washington DC	1.7	107,413	63,995
29	Atlanta	1.6	67,525	41,528
30	Nashville	1.6	55,632	34,645
31	Miami	1.6	57,701	36,286
32	San Antonio	1.6	64,760	41,356
33	Phoenix	1.6	58,025	37,366
34	**San Diego**	**1.4**	**68,614**	**47,952**

Source: 2012 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

DISPARITY IN POVERTY RATES

Families in poverty, 2012

	Ratio of black to white		WHITE Percent of white families	BLACK Percent of black families
1	**Minneapolis**	**5.4**	**6.7**	**36.2**
2	Milwaukee	5.1	7.6	39.1
3	Chicago	4.1	7.2	29.4
4	Denver	3.8	7.4	28.3
5	Memphis	3.6	8.1	29.2
6	Philadelphia	3.6	7.1	25.5
7	Cleveland	3.6	9.4	33.4
8	Baltimore	3.4	6.2	21.1
9	Kansas City	3.3	8.5	28.4
10	**St. Louis**	**3.3**	**9.2**	**30.6**
11	Cincinnati	3.3	10.6	34.8
12	San Francisco	3.3	7.2	23.6
Average		**3.2**	**8.8**	**27.2**
13	Portland	3.1	11.2	34.8
14	Detroit	3.1	11.1	34.2
15	Houston	3.1	7.4	22.7
16	Dallas	3.1	7.6	23.3
17	Pittsburgh	3.1	10.0	30.6
18	Seattle	3.1	8.5	26.0
19	Washington DC	3.0	4.4	13.4
20	Boston	3.0	7.0	21.2
21	Louisville	2.9	11.4	33.0
22	Columbus	2.9	11.3	32.6
23	Miami	2.9	9.6	27.4
24	Austin	2.8	8.6	24.3
25	Indianapolis	2.8	9.8	27.1
26	New York	2.7	7.5	20.6
27	San Antonio	2.7	8.0	21.3
28	Oklahoma City	2.7	11.3	30.0
29	Charlotte	2.6	9.2	24.3
30	Los Angeles	2.6	9.1	23.6
31	Atlanta	2.5	9.0	22.5
32	Phoenix	2.5	10.1	25.0
33	Nashville	2.5	10.7	26.3
34	**San Diego**	**2.0**	**11.0**	**21.7**

HIGHER

AVERAGE

LOWER

Source: 2012 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

DISPARITY IN HOMEOWNERSHIP

Owner-occupied housing units, 2012

		Ratio of white to black	WHITE Percent of white households	BLACK Percent of black households
1	**Minneapolis**	**3.2**	**76.7**	**24.1**
2	Milwaukee	2.2	69.6	31.3
3	Cincinnati	2.2	73.9	34.3
4	Boston	2.1	68.4	32.9
5	Phoenix	2.1	69.7	33.8
6	San Diego	2.1	61.2	29.7
7	New York	2.0	66.7	32.7
8	Portland	2.0	64.6	31.7
9	Seattle	2.0	65.0	32.1
10	Pittsburgh	2.0	73.7	36.4
11	Columbus	2.0	68.5	34.3
12	Louisville	2.0	74.2	37.8
13	Cleveland	1.9	75.4	38.7
14	Indianapolis	1.9	73.3	38.2
15	Chicago	1.9	76.1	40.8
Average		**1.9**	**71.4**	**39.5**
16	San Francisco	1.8	60.5	33.2
17	**St. Louis**	**1.8**	**77.6**	**42.8**
18	Kansas City	1.8	72.8	41.1
19	Dallas	1.7	70.4	40.4
20	Detroit	1.7	78.8	45.7
21	Denver	1.7	69.5	40.5
22	Oklahoma City	1.7	71.2	41.5
23	Nashville	1.7	72.4	42.5
24	Los Angeles	1.7	59.4	34.9
25	Baltimore	1.7	77.0	46.0
26	Charlotte	1.6	75.8	46.4
27	San Antonio	1.6	71.4	44.1
28	Houston	1.6	72.9	45.2
29	Austin	1.5	64.2	41.5
30	Memphis	1.5	76.1	49.2
31	Atlanta	1.5	77.1	50.0
32	Miami	1.5	74.4	48.3
33	Philadelphia	1.5	76.0	49.7
34	**Washington DC**	**1.4**	**72.6**	**50.4**

HIGHER

AVERAGE

LOWER

Source: 2012 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

Disparity: Wealth

By one estimate, the racial wealth gap in the U.S. (total assets minus total liabilities divided by debt) is three times larger than the racial income gap.[10] While data is not available at the regional level for an overall measure of wealth, the following tables provide some indication of the disparities in wealth in the peer regions.

A primary means of gaining wealth is through homeownership. In the St. Louis region, 43 percent of black householders and 78 percent of white householders own their homes while the remaining householders rent their homes.

Where We Stand: Social Mobility

A recent *Where We Stand Update* on social mobility demonstrates the difficulty African Americans have in moving up the economic ladder, particularly in St. Louis and similar metropolitan regions. The Update and the larger body of research that it is based on, the Equality of Opportunity Project at Harvard University, found a relationship between social mobility and a number of factors, including residential segregation, income inequality, and the size of the African American population in a region.

The St. Louis region was found to have lower social mobility than many of its peers on three indicators of how likely a person born into a low-income family is to move up the economic ladder and achieve a higher standard of living as an adult. In St. Louis this low level of mobility affects black people to a greater extent since 30 percent of black individuals are in poverty (compared to 9 percent of whites), black household incomes are half that of whites and blacks have substantially less wealth than whites.

To view the update visit
http://www.ewgateway.org/wws/wws.htm

10 McKernan, Signe-Mary and Caroline Ratcliffe; Less than Equal: Wealth Building among White, Black and Hispanic Families, Urban Institute; 29 April 2013; http://blog.metrotrends.org/2013/04/equal-wealth-building-white-black-hispanic-families/

DISPARITY IN HOME VALUE

Median value of owned-homes, 2012

		Ratio of black to white	WHITE Median value (dollars)	BLACK Median value (dollars)
1	**Detroit**	**2.2**	**134,400**	**61,100**
2	Milwaukee	2.1	210,800	100,200
3	Philadelphia	2.0	260,700	129,300
4	San Francisco	1.9	631,500	336,100
5	Memphis	1.8	162,400	89,200
6	Cleveland	1.8	151,300	85,900
7	**St. Louis**	**1.8**	**164,300**	**93,800**
8	Pittsburgh	1.7	126,400	74,100
9	Kansas City	1.7	163,400	98,400
10	Chicago	1.6	241,400	149,300
11	Baltimore	1.6	301,200	188,300
12	Los Angeles	1.6	537,100	336,100
13	Miami	1.6	211,900	136,000
Average		**1.5**	**240,165**	**164,494**
14	Houston	1.5	164,100	109,600
15	Columbus	1.5	164,400	110,900
16	Charlotte	1.5	182,200	123,600
17	Atlanta	1.4	188,800	130,400
18	Washington DC	1.4	407,800	285,300
19	Louisville	1.4	151,100	106,700
20	Austin	1.4	211,000	149,000
21	Indianapolis	1.4	148,500	104,900
22	Dallas	1.4	166,100	118,000
23	Cincinnati	1.4	155,400	111,600
24	San Diego	1.4	429,100	316,100
25	San Antonio	1.4	166,000	122,700
26	Denver	1.3	258,800	194,200
27	Oklahoma City	1.3	136,600	104,000
28	Phoenix	1.3	174,200	133,100
29	Nashville	1.3	178,200	140,000
30	Minneapolis	1.3	216,500	170,100
31	Boston	1.3	364,000	290,000
32	New York	1.2	425,700	360,700
33	Seattle	1.2	317,400	270,000
34	**Portland**	**1.0**	**262,900**	**264,100**

Source: 2012 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

DISPARITY IN RENTAL HOUSING COSTS

Households paying over 30 percent of income on rent, 2012

		Ratio of black to white	WHITE Percent of white rental households	BLACK Percent of black rental households
1	**Milwaukee**	**1.4**	**47.4**	**65.7**
2	Houston	1.4	41.2	57.1
3	**St. Louis**	**1.4**	**45.6**	**62.3**
4	Memphis	1.4	46.7	63.6
5	Charlotte	1.3	44.2	59.6
6	San Francisco	1.3	46.6	62.1
7	Kansas City	1.3	45.1	59.5
8	Portland	1.3	51.1	66.9
9	Atlanta	1.3	45.8	59.9
10	Minneapolis	1.3	47.1	61.5
11	Dallas	1.3	42.7	55.6
12	Chicago	1.3	47.5	61.7
13	San Antonio	1.3	42.4	54.2
14	Denver	1.3	46.8	59.6
15	Washington DC	1.3	42.6	53.9
16	Cleveland	1.3	47.8	60.2
Average		**1.3**	**47.6**	**59.7**
17	Detroit	1.3	51.0	63.9
18	Indianapolis	1.3	47.9	60.0
19	Columbus	1.2	46.7	58.3
20	Cincinnati	1.2	48.7	60.6
21	Miami	1.2	55.5	69.0
22	Seattle	1.2	47.5	59.0
23	Oklahoma City	1.2	48.5	60.1
24	Phoenix	1.2	48.7	60.1
25	Austin	1.2	47.4	58.2
26	Boston	1.2	47.6	57.7
27	Pittsburgh	1.2	44.5	53.9
28	Los Angeles	1.2	54.7	64.0
29	Baltimore	1.2	48.0	56.0
30	Nashville	1.2	48.6	56.4
31	Philadelphia	1.2	51.5	59.5
32	Louisville	1.2	46.4	53.6
33	New York	1.1	49.8	55.8
34	**San Diego**	**1.1**	**56.0**	**61.6**

Source: 2012 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

HIGHER

AVERAGE

LOWER

The racial gap in the median value of homes and amount of income spent on housing further demonstrates the differences between whites and blacks in building wealth and attaining economic stability. The median housing value for blacks who own their home is just over half that of whites ($93,800 compared to $164,300). Despite having lower value homes, black homeowners are 1.7 times more likely than white homeowners to spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing.

Notably, the median gross rent spent by those in the St. Louis region who rent their homes is about the same for black and white households; $756 and $783 per month, respectively. Yet, since the income of black households is lower, blacks are 1.4 times more likely to pay more than what is considered affordable for rental housing (30 percent of income).

Disparity: Health

Research indicates that while disparities in health have decreased in some areas, it has grown in others. Two indicators of health disparity are provided here along with additional data on health disparities in the St. Louis region.

Infant mortality rates are often used as an indicator of health and well-being in a community because factors that affect the health of the entire population also affect infant mortality, including maternal health, quality and access to medical care, socioeconomic conditions and public health practices.

For 2011 the infant mortality rate for the U.S. was 6.1 infant deaths (less than one year old) per 1,000 live births. This is a slight decline from 6.9 in 2000. The infant mortality rates for both blacks and whites improved but there was only a slight decrease in the gap. In 2011 the rate for black infants was 2.2 times greater than that of whites, 11.4 and 5.1 deaths per 1,000 births, respectively.[11] In 2000 blacks were 2.4 times more likely to die during infancy than whites, 13.6 and 5.7 deaths, respectively.[12]

The average disparity in infant mortality for the 34 peer regions is slightly higher than for the U.S. as a whole, at 2.7 deaths. St. Louis has one of the highest infant mortality gaps with blacks being 3.6 times more likely than whites to die during infancy.

DISPARITY IN INFANT MORTALITY

Infant deaths (less than one year old) per 1,000 live births, 2007 to 2009

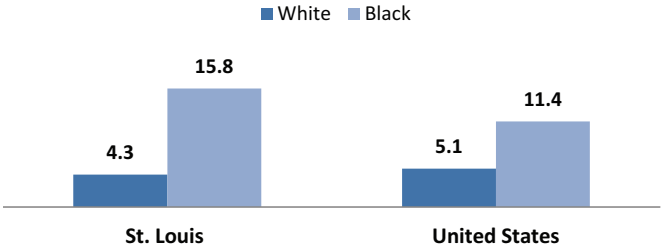
	Ratio of black to white		WHITE Deaths per 1,000 white births	BLACK Deaths per 1,000 black births	
1	**Charlotte**	**3.9**	**3.0**	**11.6**	HIGHER
2	Portland	3.7	4.5	16.6	
3	**St. Louis**	**3.6**	**4.3**	**15.8**	
4	Memphis	3.5	5.0	17.5	
5	Washington DC	3.4	4.0	13.4	
6	Pittsburgh	3.3	4.7	15.8	
7	New York	3.2	3.2	10.3	
8	Philadelphia	2.9	4.7	13.7	
9	Cleveland	2.8	5.6	15.9	
10	Boston	2.8	3.6	10.2	
11	Los Angeles	2.7	3.7	10.3	
12	Chicago	2.7	5.1	13.7	
13	Baltimore	2.7	5.4	14.4	
14	San Francisco	2.7	3.4	9.0	
Average		**2.7**	**4.9**	**12.9**	AVERAGE
15	Austin	2.6	4.5	11.9	LOWER
16	San Antonio	2.6	4.0	10.5	
17	Cincinnati	2.6	6.7	17.6	
18	Phoenix	2.6	5.7	14.7	
19	Detroit	2.6	5.8	14.9	
20	Atlanta	2.6	4.4	11.3	
21	Miami	2.5	3.8	9.7	
22	Denver	2.4	5.5	13.4	
23	Dallas	2.4	5.4	12.9	
24	Minneapolis	2.4	4.8	11.5	
25	Indianapolis	2.3	7.4	17.3	
26	Seattle	2.3	3.7	8.7	
27	Milwaukee	2.3	6.2	14.1	
28	Nashville	2.3	5.1	11.5	
29	Oklahoma City	2.2	7.0	15.5	
30	San Diego	2.1	4.2	8.9	
31	Columbus	2.1	6.5	13.6	
32	Louisville	2.0	4.8	9.6	
33	Houston	1.9	5.4	10.5	
34	**Kansas City**	**1.8**	**6.9**	**12.5**	

Note: Rates included for counties with over 250,000 population and those for which CDC reported mortality rates for both races for a given year. Data is combined for 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Source: United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Disparity in Infant Mortality

Infant deaths (less than one year old) per 1,000 live births, St. Louis (2007-2009) and United States (2011)



Source: United States Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS), Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

11 National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics Reports, Volume 61, Number 6; 10 October 2012; Deaths: Preliminary Data for 2011; accessed on 13 January 2014 http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr61/nvsr61_06.pdf

12 MacDorman MF, Mathews TJ. Recent Trends in Infant Mortality in the United States. NCHS data brief, no 9. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2008. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db09.htm

For the Sake of All: A Report on the Health and Well-Being of African Americans in St. Louis

Researchers from Washington University and St. Louis University recently completed a study on the health and well-being of African Americans in St. Louis. The series of publications discusses the connection between a lack of opportunity for African Americans in the St. Louis area and the health of individuals as well as the health and vitality of the entire region.

The study documents how disparities in access, education, and economic factors in the region play an important role in the health and well-being of African Americans and why it matters to everyone. For example, the final report points out that African Americans experience chronic diseases at a higher rate than other groups. The study estimates that $65 million a year could be saved in the city of St. Louis and St. Louis County if the disparity between whites and blacks in treatment of heart disease, cancer and diabetes was addressed. Some of the ways identified for closing this gap are increasing employment opportunities to provide access to health insurance and workplace wellness programs; and increasing access to services and amenities.

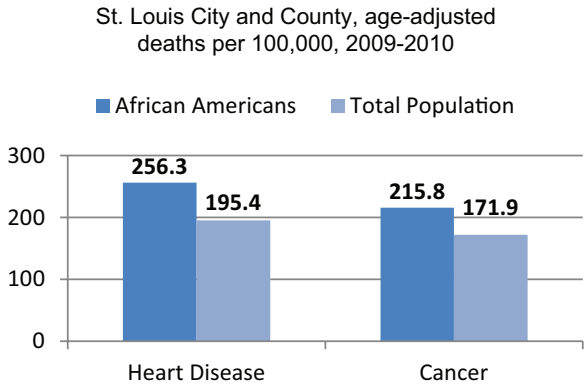
The report concludes with recommendations that stress the importance of addressing disparities in jobs, education and housing in order to improve individual health outcomes and regional prosperity outcomes. In July 2014 the program received a grant to begin implementation of the study's recommendations.

For the Sake of All Recommendations:

- Invest in quality early childhood development for all children.
- Help low-to-moderate income families create economic opportunities.
- Invest in coordinated school health programs for all students.
- Invest in mental health awareness, screening, treatment, and surveillance.
- Invest in quality neighborhoods for all in St. Louis.
- Coordinate and expand chronic and infectious disease prevention and management.

To view the report, go to forthesakeofall.org.

Disparity in Heart Disease and Cancer



Source: For the Sake of All, 2013

DISPARITY IN HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

Percent of population with no health insurance coverage, 2012

		Ratio of black to white	WHITE Percent of white population	BLACK Percent of black population
1	**Minneapolis**	**2.6**	**6.0**	**15.4**
2	Milwaukee	2.4	5.9	14.1
3	Miami	2.3	13.2	30.6
4	**St. Louis**	**2.2**	**8.6**	**18.9**
5	Kansas City	2.2	9.4	20.5
6	Chicago	2.2	8.3	18.1
7	Washington DC	2.1	5.4	11.3
8	New York	2.1	6.8	14.0
9	Philadelphia	2.0	6.7	13.5
10	San Francisco	1.9	6.8	13.2
11	Baltimore	1.9	6.1	11.6
12	Boston	1.9	3.7	7.0
13	Columbus	1.8	9.6	17.3
Average		**1.8**	**9.6**	**16.8**
14	Cincinnati	1.8	9.6	17.2
15	Atlanta	1.8	11.8	21.0
16	Cleveland	1.8	9.2	16.3
17	Seattle	1.7	10.3	18.0
18	Denver	1.7	10.1	17.6
19	Pittsburgh	1.7	7.5	12.9
20	Memphis	1.7	10.5	18.0
21	Louisville	1.7	10.7	18.3
22	Dallas	1.7	12.8	21.7
23	Houston	1.7	12.3	20.6
24	Charlotte	1.6	11.3	18.5
25	Detroit	1.6	10.5	16.8
26	Los Angeles	1.6	10.8	16.9
27	Phoenix	1.5	10.7	16.4
28	Oklahoma City	1.5	12.9	19.7
29	Indianapolis	1.5	11.3	16.9
30	San Diego	1.5	10.7	15.7
31	Austin	1.4	11.8	17.1
32	San Antonio	1.4	11.8	16.3
33	Nashville	1.4	10.8	14.7
34	**Portland**	**1.4**	**12.0**	**16.3**

HIGHER

AVERAGE

LOWER

Source: 2012 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

In 2012, on average for the 34 peer regions, black individuals were 1.8 times more likely than whites to lack health insurance coverage. The St. Louis region has the 4th highest gap on this indicator with 8.6 percent of white individuals having no insurance compared to 18.9 percent of blacks.

Although the gap between blacks and whites on infant mortality has improved, research indicates that the cancer mortality gap has increased since 1981. According to the National Cancer Institute, the cancer mortality rate in 2010 for black women with breast cancer was 8.8 deaths more per 100,000 women than whites (30.9 for blacks compared to 22.1 for whites). The gap has steadily increased since 1981 when the rate for both black and white women was 32.0 deaths per 100,000 women.[13]

Conclusion

The statistics presented in this report document the substantial level of racial disparity that is part of the lives of people in the St. Louis region and across the country. Despite the passage of the Civil Rights Act 50 years ago and the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision 60 years ago, there are large disparities between the well-being of white and black people on a range of factors, including income, employment, health, housing and education.

The gaps between white and black people are longstanding and difficult to close. For the most part, areas of the country that were the most segregated 30 years ago remain the most segregated today. These same regions have high levels of disparity between whites and blacks, which suggests a connection between segregation and the inequities that African American individuals encounter.

The challenge is one that deserves attention. Aside from alleviating disadvantages faced by African Americans, closing racial gaps could also enhance the competitiveness of the region. There are many different interpretations for the reasons behind these disparities, and there are many possible policy proposals. It is our hope that this report will contribute to the discussion by providing facts about the challenges facing our region.

13 National Cancer Institute, A Stark Gap in Breast Cancer Deaths, the New York Times, accessed on 15 January 2014 at http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2013/12/20/health/a-racial-gap-in-breast-cancer-deaths.html

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