

City of Peoria and Peoria County Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity

2022 Annual Report Executive Summary

March 28, 2023

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Introduction

- Mission of Commission
- Four-stage work plan
- Data-driven
- 2022 Annual Report is our baseline
- US Census Bureau, Illinois State Board of Education, US EPA, Peoria City and County Police records and Peoria County Health Department were primary data sources
- Hispanic data included where available

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Steering Committee & Eight Sub-Committees

- Child & Youth Development
- Economic Development & Jobs
- Environment & Climate
- Health & Human Services
- Housing
- Information & Technology
- Justice System
- Transportation & Mobility

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Key Indicators of Racial Disparity

- **Overall life expectancy** is 79 years for a White person and 64 years for a Black person
- **Median home value** for a Black homeowner is 59% that of a White homeowner; Hispanic-owned homes have a median value that is 74% of Whites
- **Household food assistance** used by 47.4% of Black families, 23.2% of Hispanic families and 14.5% of White families
- **Elevated lead levels** are found in 10.1% of Black children, 6.3% of White children

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Key Indicators - Child & Youth Development

Peoria Public Schools Data

- Kindergarten Readiness:
White 35.3% Black 17.7% Hispanic 19.7%
- English Proficiency – Third Grade:
White 26.6% Black 3.6% Hispanic 8.2%
- Math Proficiency – Eight Grade:
White 31.8% Black 3.8% Hispanic 16.8%
- High School Truancy:
White 24.3% Black 59.2% Hispanic 40.9%

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Key Indicators - Economic Development & Jobs

- Median Household Income:
White \$63,100 Black \$30,400 Hispanic \$42,700
- Unemployment Rate:
White 4.9% Black 15.6% Hispanic 15.7%
- Families Living in Poverty:
White 11.0% Black 40.3% Hispanic 20.3%

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Key Indicators - Environment & Climate

- US EPA Environmental Justice Index measures threats like particulate matter, air toxins, lead paint and proximity to hazardous waste sites
- Zip Codes 61602, 61603 and 61605, which have a high percentage of people of color, rank at or near the 90th percentile nationally in 11 of the 12 EJ Indexes
- Primarily white zip codes in Peoria have few EJ Index categories above the 75th percentile nationally – and most categories are much lower

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Key Indicators - Health & Human Services

- Black infant mortality rate is 3.25 times that of White infants
- Teen birth rates for Blacks are 4.7 times that for Whites
- Blacks have higher mortality rates from cancer and cardiovascular disease than Whites
- Blacks live with sexually transmitted diseases at rates over ten times that of Whites

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Key Indicators - Housing

- Home ownership rates:
Whites 76.7% Blacks 33.2% Hispanics 64.9%
- 66.8% of Black families rent their homes compared to the national rate for Black renters of 58%
- Over half of Blacks and Hispanics have rent burdens over 30% of their income; nearly one third have rent burdens of 50% of their income

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Key Indicators - Information & Technology

- Microsoft Digital Equity Score evaluates census tracts on the following:
 - 25+ year-olds without a HS diploma
 - Households without a desktop or laptop computer
 - Households with internet or broadband
 - % of people using internet at less than broadband speed
 - % of income spent on broadband
- In Peoria, there is a strong correlation between increased digital inequity among census tracts with higher populations of people of color

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Key Indicators - Justice System

- The population of Peoria County Juvenile Detention Center is 79% Black, 16% White, 5% Other
- Black drivers comprise 61% of the traffic stops in the City of Peoria, despite Blacks being only 27% of the population
- In 2021, Peoria Police arrested 387 Black juveniles and 35 White juveniles

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Key Indicators - Transportation & Mobility

- The 2021 Greater Peoria Mass Transit District (GPMTD) Microtransit Study showed graphically that zip codes 61602, 61603 and 61605 are very underserved by grocery stores, drug stores and other retail outlets
- Blacks are much more likely to depend on public transportation than Whites, both to get to work and for general commuting
- About 15% of Peoria households do not own an automobile. The most prevalent areas of zero-vehicle households are overwhelmingly in zip codes 61602, 61603 and 61605

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Next Steps: 2023

- Create a historical record of Key Indicators of Racial Disparity
- REIA ordinances for major units of government in Peoria County
- Gather community input from City and County groups
- Engage community partners
- Understand what other communities are doing to address equity
- Develop high-level strategic plans