Peoria City/County Racial Disparities Report

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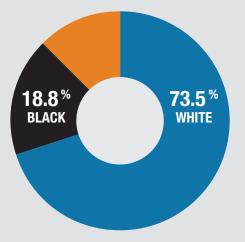
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Overview

Examining racial disparities in Peoria City/County

This report will identify areas of inequity in economic development, jobs, quality housing, child and youth development, mobility and transportation, the justice system, health/human services, information technology, environment and climate impacting Black residents of Peoria. Inequities based on race, ethnicity, and gender exist across every system in the United States and disproportionately impact people of color; the inequities in Peoria mirror those nationwide, but in many cases the disparity far exceeds the national average. This report will explore data as well as common themes present across multiple categories.



Peoria County Demographics:

73.5% White and 18.8% Black

U.S. Census Bureau

This report will explore data as well as common themes present across multiple categories. Addressing inequity requires specific and measurable action. This targeted analysis of the current inequities is designed to equip community leaders with the necessary level of specificity in order to foster productive, focused strategies.

Economic Development and Jobs

Unemployment rates of Black workers in the U.S. have remained close to double those of white unemployment for the past several decades.¹

In Illinois, as well as in the nation, the unemployment rate increased in 2020 for all racial groups. In Illinois, the unemployment rate was 14.4% for Blacks, 12.0% for Hispanics, and 8.5% for whites. In both Illinois and the U.S., Black residents historically have had the highest unemployment rate among all major racial and ethnic groups.¹

Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security, Women and Minorities in the Illinois Workforce: Focus on Unemployment (2021). Economic Information and Analysis Illinois Department of Employment Security. Retrieved from https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/xxlmi/Annual%20Report/Women_and_Minorities_Unemployment.PDF.

In Peoria, Black citizens experience unemployment at an even higher rate than the national average. In 2013, Peoria was ranked 102 among 200 "Best Places for Business and Careers" by Forbes Magazine, demonstrating great strides for the Peoria economy. However, the Black community has not benefited from this growth, particularly in predominately Black areas of Peoria County.

Pre-Covid Unemployment Rate for Peorians

7.25% White

16.2% Black





The Southside neighborhood in Peoria, anchored by the 61605 zip code, is 65% Black.²



















In recent years, Peoria has witnessed a growth throughout the city/county. It is the 3rd largest metropolitan area in Illinois and is home to Bradley University, the National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research, Midwest Affiliate of St. Jude Research Hospital and the global headquarters of Maui Jim. However, the Southside neighborhood in Peoria has not benefited from the overall city growth.

- The Southside is a racially (Black) concentrated area with poverty exceeding 90% of residents, earning the R/ECAP (Racially or Ethnically Concentrated Areas of Poverty) distinction by the federal government.
- Black residents account for 27% of the city's population but represent nearly 50% of those in poverty.

36% of all Black people in Peoria live at or below the poverty line.¹ Nearly double the national average of 19%.2

POVERTY LINE

36%

Black Residents in Peoria live in poverty 1

19%

National Average

¹ Economy, Peoria, IL

² World Population Review

Quality Housing

Homeownership is the primary tool through which Americans build wealth and avoid the cycle of poverty. Homeownership rates show that Black Americans are currently the least likely group to own homes. In 2019, the U.S. homeownership rate was 64.6%. Among Black Americans, it was 42.1%.¹

In Peoria County, the predominately Black neighborhoods are severely impoverished and there is limited homeownership. A high percentage of the residents in the predominately Black neighborhoods are living in government subsidized housing and living below the poverty line.²

There is little to no market demand for the remaining housing stock or land on the Southside, resulting in significant blight, abandonment and disinvestment in the area. Residents have expressed feelings of geographic and social isolation from employment and retail districts of Peoria.

Peoria Homeownership Rate²

32.6% June State S

Black Households

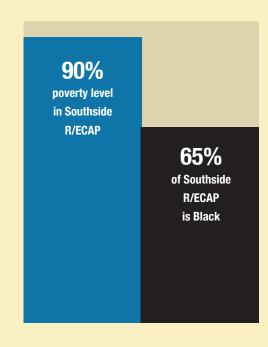
White Households

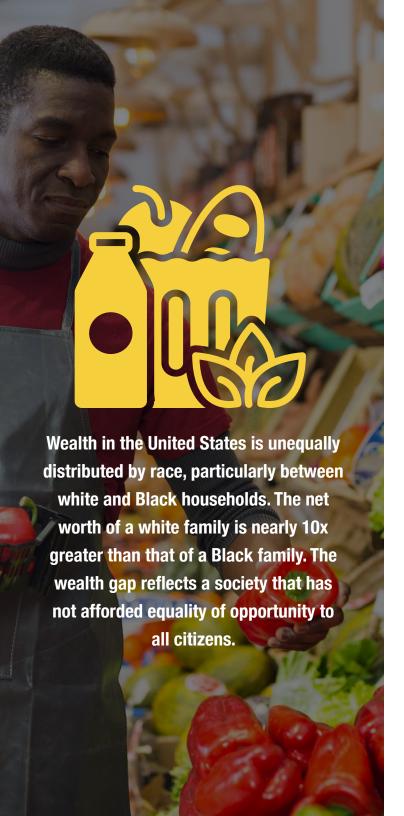


36% of the Peoria Housing Authority's units are in the Southside; most public housing residents in Peoria are Black.²

Poverty Level in Southside R/ECAP

- Southside is the only racially/ethnically concentrated area of poverty (R/ECAP)3 in the Peoria metropolitan area.²
- Poverty in the Southside R/ECAP exceeded 90% of residents, and Blacks were 65% of the population of this area, while poverty in the City of Peoria was 24.9% and Blacks were 27% of city population in 2013.²





In 2020, the median household income in the U.S. was \$67,521. White and Asian households had relatively high median incomes, while Black and Hispanic/Latino households both came in lower than the national average median income.

Source: Statista Research Department. (2021, September 21). Average (median) household income 1990-2018.

Retrieved January 12, 2022, from https://www.statista.com/statistics/200838/median-household-income-in-the-united-states/





Median Household Income

In Peoria, the median household income is \$51,771. The median annual household income of Black families is \$28,019.1



The Southside median family income is less than 50% of the average resident/family income in the city of Peoria. Census data has shown a correlation between race, income, and poverty.¹

Education K-12 Data

Disparities in child and youth development are striking in Peoria. White residents in Peoria County are doing very well in nearly every category, leading to Peoria being ranked as an All-American City in 2013 and rated 13th best city in the country for total well-being by The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index. These accolades are particularly alarming when juxtaposed against the data for Black residents during the same period in Peoria.

79.6%

Black
Graduates
in Peoria

Peoria Graduation Rates

79.6% of Black adults in Peoria have a high school diploma, which is 13.3% points below the white high school attainment rate of 92.9%. This is one of the largest such attainment gaps in the entire country.

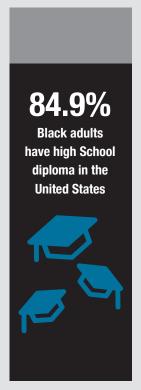
Nationwide, 84.9% of Black students graduate from high school; 89.3% of white students graduate from high school.

Those without a high school diploma are more likely to struggle financially; this data is consistent with the fact that nearly 36% of Black Peoria residents live below the poverty line, nearly four times the 9.3% white poverty rate in the area.



In addition, "the inadequate representation of minorities in teaching and leadership positions is discouraging to students seeking role models in their schools."

> Sherry Cannon, founder and executive director of Hope Renewed Youth Conference





Racial disparities in educational attainment in the United States are tied to other forms of inequality, including gaps in poverty and school quality.

While nationwide, 84.9% of Black adults have a high school diploma — it is 4.4% points less than the white high school diploma attainment rate of 89.3%.

Peoria Public Schools

57% Black, 22% White¹



Advanced Placement (AP) Course Composition

AP Courses: white students are 3.7 times more likely to be enrolled in at least 1 AP course compared to Black students.

AP Course Composition: 30% Black students, 43% white students.1



■ Black students
■ White students

Segregation between Black students and white students:

There is an indication that the segregation of these racial groups among schools in this district is relatively uneven.¹

Black students are 2.9 times more likely to be suspended than their white peers.

Discipline Disparities

Out-of-School Suspension: 76% Black, 10% White¹

76% Black

10% White

Expulsion: 80% Black, 8% White¹

80% Black

8%

White

Opportunity Gap

Black students are 2.8 academic grades behind white students.1

Gifted and Talented Composition

12% Black, 63% White1

12% Black

63% White

Black students are often seen as troublemakers and their misbehaviors more severe, resulting in disciplinary action. Studies have shown that Black students are subject to more serious disciplinary actions at much higher rates than their white counterparts. These disciplinary actions put students at higher risk for negative outcomes, including involvement in the criminal justice system. For example, Black students make up 9% of the Peoria Heights School District, yet make up 28% of all out-of-school suspensions.

Peoria Heights Community Unit School District 325

9% Black, 76% White 1



Out-of-School Suspension

28% Black, 41% White¹

28% Black

41% White

Black students are 5.4 times more likely to be suspended than white students¹

Nationwide, Black students are less likely to be selected for gifted programs and AP courses than their white peers.

Peoria Regional Office of Education District

39% Black, 50% White¹



Out-of-School Suspension

0 white students have been suspended to compared to 6 Black students¹

Awarded Degrees In 2017, Peoria schools awarded degrees to 1,563 white students, nearly 16 times more than the 100 degrees awarded to Black students.³ 16x

Dunlap Community Unit District 323

6% Black, 66% White²



Out-of-School Suspension

23% Black

77% White

- Black students make up 23% of out-of-school suspensions²
- Black students are 8.5x more likely to be suspended than white students²

Opportunity Gap

Black students are two academic grades behind white students²

¹ Peoria ROE District

² Dunlap Community Unit District 323

³ Education, Peoria, IL

Impact of Suburbanization

- A 2015 report notes "Preferences for suburban-style housing" as a factor in the resegregation of Peoria County schools, failing to recognize race as a key driver of this change. This is a trend in several similar reports in Peoria, failing to explicitly reference race, while the data tells an entirely different story.
- While this suburbanization is not specifically identified as "white flight" by this report, it has resulted in rapid expansion of northern suburban areas and the Dunlap School District, which are far more racially homogeneous and 70% white.1
- Between 2000 and 2010, Peoria grew by 2%, while the population of these northern suburban areas increased by more than 50%.1
- In 2012-2013, 67% of Peoria Public Schools (PPS) did not meet Illinois accountability standards, compared to 42% of schools statewide.1
- The PPS graduation rate was 71%, and the school district faced a deficit of \$8.3 million for 2015-2016.1

As of 2015, 61% of PPS students were eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) compared to just 12% of students in the Dunlap School District.1

61% Peoria Public Schools







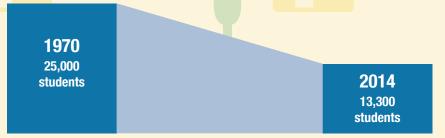




12% Dunlap School District



- The "market preference for suburban housing" typologies and challenges at PPS have resulted in a significant decline in enrollment.1
- Since 1970 the student population of PPS has fallen from approximately 25,000 to 13,300 in 2014, resulting in reduced fiscal resources as well as a student body that is no longer representative of the overall Peoria population.1



- Non-white students account for 75.9% of PPS population compared to 37.5% of the overall city population.1
- The decline in the number of students has caused state grants linked to the size of the student body to fall.1
- The migration of wealthier residents from PPS to the Dunlap School District resulted in stagnation in local school resources derived from property taxes.1
- School quality heavily influenced their personal decision to reside in neighborhoods within the Dunlap School District or outside of Peoria.1
- Stakeholders who remained in PPS mentioned making a difficult decision to send their children to charter or private schools.1



Higher Education Data

ICC Data: Fall 2021 student enrollment¹



808 Black students

5,512 White students

Black students at ICC are performing 13-19% lower than all other ICC student populations in the following areas: fall-to-spring persistence, fall-to-fall persistence, developmental math and English success, and student advancement.¹

In Fall of 2017, Black students made up 2.7% of the total number of graduates, despite making up 8.2% of the full cohort and 12.1% of total undergraduate population.¹

2.7% Black graduates

8.2% Full cohort

12.1% Undergraduate

In 2017, Black students trailed in the institutional average for the advancement rate by more than 20%. There has been an overall increase in Black students enrollment, but the gap remains.¹

From 2012-2017, graduation rates of Black students in first-time, full-time (FTFT) cohorts average 14.9%, about 20% lower than the full cohort average.¹

In Fall 2017, Black students represented 10% of the total number of transfer students, while making up 8.2% of the full cohort population.¹

Health and Human Services

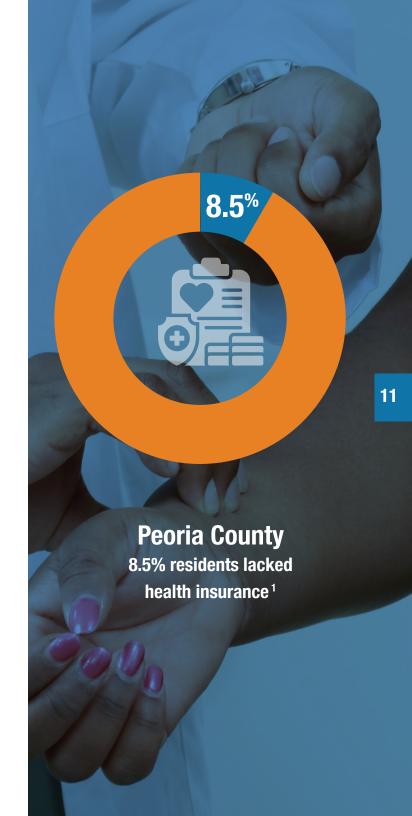
An analysis of the available data shows a consistency with the trend of inequities along racial lines between Black and white residents of Peoria County. The majority of available data uses zip code rather than race as a categorizing method; however, due to the large-scale racial segregation in Peoria County, one can draw certain conclusions based on race utilizing this data. For instance, 61605 zip code, a primarily Black area, demonstrates the greatest healthcare disparities.

- In Peoria County, Black people between the ages of 25 and 64 are dying at a rate more than twice that of their white counterparts.³
- Gonorrhea infection rates continue to differ significantly by age, race, and region in Peoria County, with incidence rates highest among Black individuals between the ages of 15 and 29.
- The gonorrhea incidence rate for Black females was more than 10 times greater than that of white females, while the incidence rate for Black males was 20.6 times higher than that of white males.²
- Zip codes 61603 and 61605, where the largest concentration of Black people reside, report higher incidences of sexually transmitted disease than any others in the county.²

Black teen birth rates are approximately 4.2 times that of white teens. Both race and zip code were found to be statistically significant.¹









Justice System

2014: Peoria incarcerated 334 Black individuals compared to 134 white individuals.1

334 Black

134 White

10th judicial court arrested 6,462 non-whites compared 8,181 white individuals. Yet Black Peoria County residents were sent to prison at 3x the rate.¹

Commitment Rates of Black Youth

Peoria County suffers from a relatively high level of disproportionate minority confinement within its juvenile sector.

According to Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA, 2003), most juveniles detained in Peoria County and/or IDOC commitments were Black males who committed property offenses.²

The Illinois Department of Corrections commitment rates of Black youth in Peoria County are 71% higher than surrounding communities.²

Despite representing only 18.8% of the Peoria County population, Black residents are 3.6 times more likely than white residents to be incarcerated.³

¹ Hilyard, 2016

² Armstrong, Armstrong, & Webb, 2006

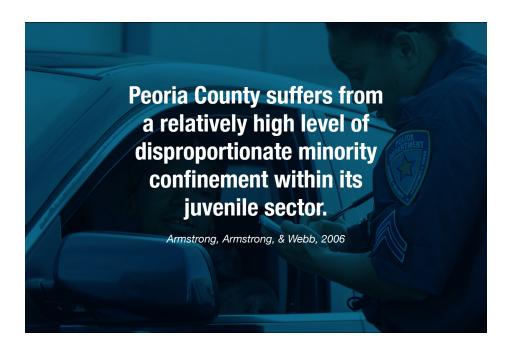
³ Prison Policy Initiative. (n.d.)

The American Civil Liberties Union said Black drivers are disproportionately pulled over in Peoria.¹

The ACLU found 58% of traffic stops in Peoria involved a Black driver, versus 38% for white drivers.¹

58% Traffic stops involve a Black driver

38% Traffic stops involve a White driver



Information Technology

Peoria County households with no internet access

18.4%

Peoria County households with no computer

13.2%

Peoria County households with access to internet only via cellular

13.4%

61605 zip code has the highest overlap in the Peoria area of households with both no internet access and no computer.

The two factors that exclude communities from digital connectivity are poverty and proximity; if a household cannot afford a computer/internet they are excluded, and if they reside in an area without quality internet resources, they are excluded.²

¹ Shelley, 2019

² Digital Inclusion: An analysis of the digital divide and where to close the gap

Environment and Climate

Climate change impacts environmental health and poses a major threat to human health as well as social, financial, and political stability and well-being. The health impacts of climate change include increased heat-related morbidity and mortality, expanded ranges and frequency of infectious disease outbreaks, malnutrition, trauma, violence and political conflict, mental health issues, and loss of community and social connections. Peoria is ranked as the 22nd fastest warming city in the U.S. (Illinois' Climate Threats 2016) and the effects of the increased temperature will have the greatest impact on the Black community. Due to racial inequalities across systems, Black communities are often the least equipped with resources to cope with and address climate change.

Environmental health impact: the quality of air, food, and water in the communities where we live, work, and play.



The Peoria County Board of Health recognizes the impacts of climate change on public health and the well-being of a community and acknowledges that the Black community and other marginalized individuals will experience disproportionate negative effects.

Climate Change Impact on Public Health

Environment:

- The southern area of Peoria and the East Bluff, 61605 and 61603, were among the highest in the state for children with elevated lead levels in 2014.¹
- Peoria County ranks high in lead poisoning among children at 10.3%.
 "Lead exposure happens in the most underserved populations," explained Monica Hendrickson, Public Health Administrator at the Peoria City/County Health Department.
- Lead exposure affects a greater proportion of children who live in lower income areas, because many older homes that have lead paint are in the city's poorer neighborhoods.¹
- Data reports pulled show a link between childhood lead poisoning and high rates of sexually transmitted disease and violent crime. Lead poisoning has lifelong effects which include aggressiveness, impulsivity, lower IQ, attention problems and delayed growth.²
- Peoria County has the highest concentration of toxic releases of any Illinois county and ranked 16th highest in the nation.³
- Studies have found that Black citizens in the U.S. are exposed to more air pollution, making climate change a racial justice problem.
- A coal plant is permitted to pollute Peoria at rates of more than seven times the safe limit.³

² Howard, 2016

Mobility and Transportation

Transportation is about more than just moving people from point A to point B. It is a system that can either limit or expand the opportunities available to people based on where they live. Across the nation, the most impoverished cities have limited access to transportation, which decreases individuals' access to jobs, goods, and services. It systemically creates and perpetuates inequality and limits upward mobility and economic progress.





Impact of Interstate 74 and 474

- The construction of Interstate 74 along this southern Peoria route created a racial boundary in Peoria running through the heart of the city that has persisted to this day, resulting in a culture of neighborhood decay and high crime rates.
- The southern area of Peoria, which includes neighborhoods to the south of 74 and north of 474, is a predominantly a Black neighborhood.
- The effect of Interstate 74 running on the border of the neighborhood, and with 474 running on its southern edge, has led to a systematic decline in the quality of life for the neighborhood's residents.

The neighborhood itself deteriorated largely as a result of being cut off by the interstate.¹

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