EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pittsburgh’s Racial Demographics 2015: Differences and Disparities

Center on Race & Social Problems

crsp.pitt.edu
In 2002, the School of Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh established the Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP). Our mission is to help lead America further along the path to social justice by conducting race-related research, mentoring emerging scholars, and disseminating race-related research findings and scholarship. Today, CRSP is one of the most productive and exciting centers in the country.

The center focuses on race-related social problems in the following seven areas:

• Criminal Justice
• Economic Disparities
• Educational Disparities
• Families, Youth, and Elderly
• Health
• Interracial Group Relations
• Mental Health

Now in its second decade, CRSP has become an integral part of local and national race-related scholarship and policy. With University resources behind it, a community that has welcomed its work, and support from the region’s top law firms and foundations, CRSP’s activities have had a major impact on our society.

We invite you to visit CRSP and its Race Research Online Directory at crsp.pitt.edu.

Some of the center’s activities are:

• Creating the Race Research Online Directory, which includes hundreds of lectures, articles, and other race-related research resources
• Publishing the journal Race and Social Problems
• Establishing the Race Ethnicity and Poverty (REAP) Centers Summit
• Hosting Race in America: Restructuring Inequality in 2010, the largest conference on race ever held in America
• Organizing solution-focused summer institutes on race
• Sponsoring the Center on Race and Social Problems Speaker Series
• Teaching graduate courses on race
• Offering study abroad courses
• Holding a University-wide competition for best student papers on race
• Mentoring junior scholars
• Matching undergraduates to faculty research projects on race

“The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line.”

–W.E.B. DuBois, 1903

Race remains America’s defining problem.

Despite some claims that we have moved into a postracial era, race, ethnicity, and color remain ever-problematic features of our society.

This executive summary of Pittsburgh’s Racial Demographics 2015: Differences and Disparities presents excerpts from the full version of the report, which can be found at crsp.pitt.edu. In the following pages, you will see that the struggle for equality, freedom, and equal opportunity continues to be a reality for many. The disparities among racial groups are evident in the data: people of minority racial backgrounds lack opportunities to obtain sufficient employment, become adequately educated, live in good neighborhoods, and enjoy a life free of foul treatment from the legal justice system.

We hope that this report will encourage readers to join us in finding equitable solutions to the disparities highlighted in these pages.
This report provides indicators of quality of life by race and ethnicity for the Pittsburgh area and the nation. Data are provided for four groups (Whites, Blacks, Asians, and Hispanics) and for four geographic areas (city of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area [MSA], and the U.S.). The Pittsburgh MSA consists of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

The most recent data available for the Pittsburgh area and the nation were used in this report. Data are provided for seven subject areas. These areas are the same as those addressed by the Center on Race and Social Problems. The findings, by section of the report, are:

**Population Diversity**
- Of U.S. metropolitan areas with a population of more than 1 million, Pittsburgh continues to have the Whitest metro area.
- A small share of the population in the Pittsburgh area is Asian or Hispanic.
- A large proportion of people in the Pittsburgh area and nation identify as a single race.
- Native Americans/Alaska Natives make up less than 1% of the population in the Pittsburgh area and the nation.
- 4% or less of the White and Black population in the Pittsburgh area is foreign-born compared to more than 70% of the Asian population and more than 20% of the Hispanic population.
- Less than 8% of Whites and Blacks in the Pittsburgh area and nation speak a language other than English at home compared to more than 76% of Asians and more than 39% of Hispanics.

![Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2010](image-url)
Families, Youth, and Elderly

- Asians represent the highest share of two-parent families in the Pittsburgh area and nation.
- The percentage of Black two-parent families with children is lower in the Pittsburgh area than in the nation, and the percentage of Black single female-headed families is higher here than in the nation.
- Asian men and women represent the highest marriage rates in the Pittsburgh area and nation.
- Black men and women represent the highest rates of never married in the Pittsburgh area and nation.

Education Disparities

- There are 24,000 students in Pittsburgh Public Schools. Blacks are 53.4%, Whites are 33.5%, Asians are 3.5%, and Hispanics are 2.4% of those enrolled.
- Preschool enrollment rates are much higher in the city of Pittsburgh than in the nation. However, racial disparities in preschool enrollment are greater in Pittsburgh than in the nation.
- White, Asian, and Hispanic K–12 students are enrolled in private schools in the city of Pittsburgh at much higher rates than in the nation. Black K–12 students in the city are enrolled in private schools at much lower rates than the other racial/ethnic groups.
- In Pittsburgh Public Schools, even after many low-skill students had dropped out, 24% of White, 59% of Black, 54% of Asian, and 41% of Hispanic students in 11th grade were not proficient in reading.
- In Pittsburgh Public Schools, even after many low-skill students had dropped out, 37% of White, 73% of Black, 53% of Asian, and 54% of Hispanic students in 11th grade were not proficient in math.
- Blacks represent the majority of students in Pittsburgh Public Schools, and they received more high school diplomas from Pittsburgh Public Schools than Whites, Asians, or Hispanics.
- 80% of White females, 69% of Black females, and 56% of Black males graduate from Pittsburgh Public Schools within four years of entering ninth grade.
- A smaller share of adults in each racial/ethnic group in the Pittsburgh area than in the nation has less than a high school degree.
- Asian adults in the Pittsburgh area have much higher rates of graduate and professional degrees than other racial/ethnic groups in the Pittsburgh area or Asians in the nation.

Economic Disparities

- White and Asian households had the highest incomes in the Pittsburgh area and nation.
- White and Asian households had the highest wealth in the nation.
- The nation’s poverty rate in 2012, 15%, was the same as in 1964—the start of the war on poverty.
- One-third of Blacks, one-quarter of Hispanics, one-fifth of Asians, and 15% of Whites live in poverty in the city of Pittsburgh.
- White homeownership rates are much higher than Black, Asian, and Hispanic rates in the Pittsburgh area and the nation.
- The Black and Hispanic unemployment rates are much higher than White and Asian rates in the Pittsburgh area and the nation.
- Asians are employed in management and professional occupations at much higher rates than the other racial groups in the Pittsburgh area and the nation.
- Asians are employed in management and professional occupations at much higher rates than the other racial groups in the Pittsburgh area and the nation.
- Whites make up the highest percentage of workers who take a car, truck, or van to work in the Pittsburgh area and nation. Blacks have the highest rates for using public transportation to get to work. Asians make up the highest percentage who walked to work.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2010). Table B11004: Family Type by Presence and Age of Related Children under 18 years, American Community Survey (2006–10).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2010). Table B14002: Sex by School enrollment by Level of School by Type of School for the Population 3 Years and Over, American Community Survey (2006–10).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2008 Panel, Wave 10 Internet Release Date: 3/21/2013
Interracial Group Relations

- Blacks continue to be the most segregated minority group in the Pittsburgh area and the nation. Even though Asians are the least segregated minority group in the nation, 41% of Asians or Whites would have to relocate to be equally distributed.
- Over the past three decades, racial residential segregation in the Pittsburgh area and the nation has declined somewhat.
- The typical White student in the Pittsburgh area attends a school where 90% of the students is White and the majority of students are not poor. The typical Black student in the Pittsburgh area attends a school where half of the students is Black and the majority of students is poor.
- Some research has found Pennsylvania to be among the most prejudiced states in the nation.
- More than one-third (37%) of non-Blacks residents in the Pittsburgh area believes that its neighborhood or community is not at all racially diverse. Only 18% of Black residents thought its neighborhood or community was not at all diverse.
- A much higher share of non-Blacks than Blacks in the Pittsburgh region thinks that its neighborhood or community is a good, very good, or excellent place to live.
- A much higher share of Blacks than non-Blacks in the Pittsburgh region thinks that its neighborhood has more crime than other neighborhoods.
- A much higher share of Blacks than non-Blacks in the Pittsburgh region thinks that its neighborhood has more crime than one year ago.
- A much higher share of Blacks than non-Blacks in the Pittsburgh region thinks that police do a fair or poor job of protecting people in their neighborhood.

Health and Mental Health

- Hispanics have a higher life expectancy than Whites and Blacks in the nation.
- Black infant mortality and low birth-weight rates are much higher than White rates in the Pittsburgh area and the nation.
- The Black birthrate for girls ages 15–17 in Allegheny County is about seven times the White rate. The Black birthrate for girls ages 18–19 in the county is six times the White rate. Teen birthrates have declined substantially over the last 20 years.
- Black and Hispanic adults have higher diabetes rates than Whites and Asians in the nation.
- Blacks in the Pittsburgh area and the nation have much higher HIV infection rates than the other racial groups.
- Death rates from cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes are much higher for Blacks than other racial groups in the Pittsburgh area and the nation.
- Whites have much higher suicide death rates than the other racial groups in the nation.
- Non-Blacks report their health to be very good or excellent at much higher rates than Blacks in the Pittsburgh area.
- A much higher share of Blacks than non-Blacks lacks health insurance in the Pittsburgh area.
- A much higher share of Blacks than non-Blacks provides care to a family member or friend in the Pittsburgh area.
- Blacks have substantially higher rates of emotional health problems and mental distress than Whites in Allegheny County.
- Significantly more Whites than Blacks use the mental health and drug abuse services provided by the Allegheny County Department of Human Services.

Sources:
- NA=Not available
Criminal Justice

- Whites represent the largest number of total youth arrests in the Pittsburgh MSA and the nation. Blacks represent the largest number of total youth arrests in the city of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.
- All of the juvenile murder victims in the city of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County in 2012 were Black. The majority of juvenile murder victims in the nation were White.
- Whites represent the largest number of total adult arrests in Allegheny County, the Pittsburgh MSA, and the nation. Blacks and Whites have about the same number of total adult arrests in the city of Pittsburgh.
- Whites make up the largest number of youth and adult arrests for drugs in Allegheny County, the Pittsburgh MSA, and the nation. Blacks make up the largest number in the city of Pittsburgh. It is noteworthy that Blacks and Whites have comparable drug use rates but Blacks have much higher arrest rates.
- Blacks make up the largest number of adult murder victims in the Pittsburgh area and nation in 2012.
- In general, racial disparities in criminal justice statistics are greater in the Pittsburgh area than in the nation.

Sources: National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Summary on National Findings, 2013 Bureau of Justice Statistics, Data Analysis Tools

Race Research Online Directory

The center has always served as a leading resource for race-related research, but now it offers unprecedented access for students, educators, foundations, and government agencies whose work depends on good scholarship. The Race Research Online Directory allows users to access more than a decade of information at the touch of a button, including the following:

- More than 100 videos of lectures from the speaker series, summer institutes, and Race in America conference
- Pilot studies and other research projects at the center
- Hundreds of publications, including from the journal Race and Social Problems
- Educational resources, such as graduate course listings and award-winning student papers
- A listing of all center activities

Information available from the Race Research Online Directory is particularly helpful to community leaders and policymakers interested in gaining a better understanding of racial disparities and finding effective strategies for improving these conditions.

To search the database, simply go to crsp.pitt.edu to access the directory. Click on the Search button on the upper right side of any page and type in a topic or name of a person. One also can click on names of speakers and authors to find all of the center resources available for each person.

In addition, one can search by area of focus. The seven areas of focus for the center and the online directory are criminal justice; economic disparities; educational disparities; families, youth, and elderly; health; interracial group relations; and mental health.

To access the Race Research Online Directory, please visit crsp.pitt.edu.