

Minorities

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Although minorities, including African Americans and Hispanics, have made gains in areas like employment and home ownership, they often still lag behind their white counterparts in these and other areas. Moreover, problems like poverty and low wages disproportionately impact minority families still.

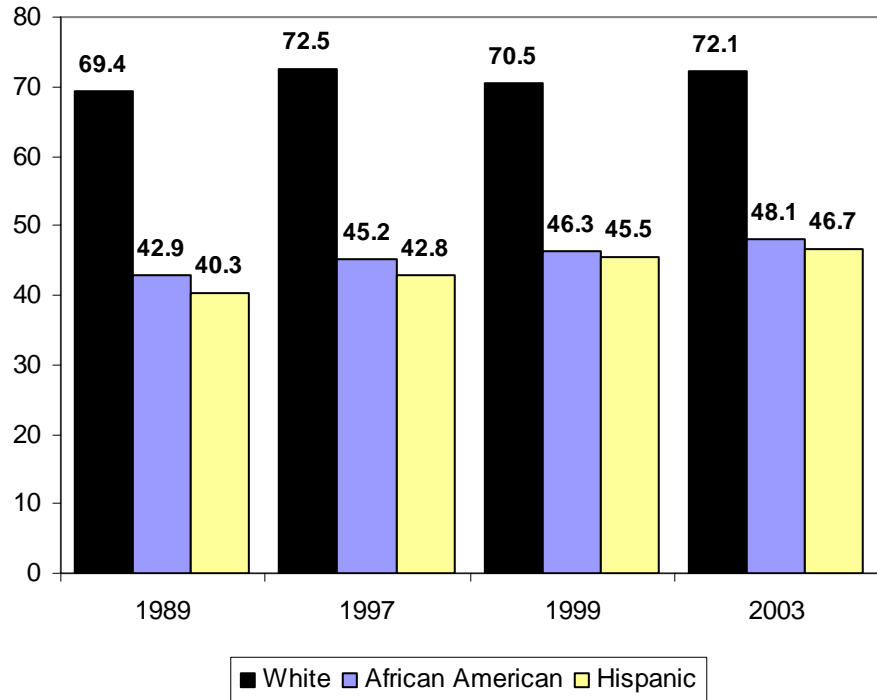
Jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ The 2003 unemployment rate for African Americans was 10.8%, 7.7% for Hispanics, and 6.0% for Asians and compared to 5.2% for whites.❖ In 2001, African Americans' unemployment rate was 8.7%, compared to the overall average of 4.8%. In 2003, the rate for African Americans increased to 10.8%, while the overall unemployment rate rose to 6.0%.❖ In 2003, unemployment among African American college graduates was 4.5%, the same as for whites with some college and just below that of whites with a high school degree (4.8%).
Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ In the downturn from 2000 to 2002, minorities lost ground over three times as fast as whites. Annual real income losses were -2.4% for blacks and -2.5% for Hispanics, compared to -0.7% for whites.❖ Although the racial gap compressed during the 1990s, black income never reached two-thirds of white income. Even if the faster growth of the late 90s had continued, it would have taken until 2054 to close the black/white income gap.
Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ More than one-fifth of African American and Hispanic families were poor in 2000 at the end of the longest and strongest recovery since the 1960s.❖ In 2003, 20.1% (4.4 million) of children under six were poor, and the rates for minorities were far higher: 35.7% for young black children and 29.1% among Hispanics.❖ The most recent data show that more than one-third of black children and about three out of every ten Hispanic children were poor in 2002.
Compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ In 2003, 30.4% of black workers and 39.8% of Hispanic workers earned poverty-level wages.❖ Minority women are even more likely to earn poverty-level wages -- 33.9% of black women and 45.8% of Hispanic women in 2003.❖ There was a sizeable erosion of pension coverage among all racial/ethnic groups over the 1979-2002 period: whites (down 5.5 percentage points), blacks (down 6.3 points), and Hispanics (down 12.9 points). In 2003, only 39.5% of black

workers had employer-provided pension plans. Hispanics had even less pension coverage with 25.3% in 2002.

- ❖ In 2002, only 53.8% of black workers had employer-provided health insurance, down from 63.1% in 1979. Only 43.5% of Hispanic workers had employer-provided health insurance coverage in 2002.
- ❖ In 2003, when nearly three-quarters of whites owned their homes, less than half of blacks or Hispanics were homeowners (whites: 72%; blacks: 48%; Hispanics: 46.7%).

Wealth

FIGURE 4H Home ownership rates by race, 1989-2003



- ❖ In 2001, the average financial wealth of black households was only about 12% of the average for white households. Median financial wealth for blacks was just \$1,100, less than 3% of the corresponding figure for whites.
- ❖ In 2001, more than twice as many black households (30.9%) as white households (13.1%) had zero or negative net worth.
- ❖ 40% of black households will be unable to replace half of current income in their retirement years, compared to 25.4% of white households.

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