

Central City Education

The poverty rate for high school dropouts is 2.5 times greater than high school graduates. So if central city residents have lower educational achievement than their suburban counterparts, that would partly explain why poverty is higher in the central city.

Educational achievement in the central city is low.

- (a) Students in central city schools are twice as likely as suburban students to drop out of high school.
- (b) The high school education received by black central city students is about the same quality as the education received by a white high school dropout in the suburbs.
- (c) In high poverty urban school districts (40% of the residents are poor) by the 12th grade only 6% of the students are proficient in math, 9% are proficient in reading.

Why is educational achievement in central city schools low?

- (a) Low income school districts spend less on schools so students get less education.
- (b) Poor school districts have devoted more time and resources to areas that don't involve education. These include dealing with family crises of students, remedial programs for poorly prepared students and students with limited English skills, and providing security. Thus students in central city schools get less education per education dollar spent.