

Studies of Central City Poverty

Katz and Allen (2001) - This study of Atlanta suggests employment growth is occurring in areas that are not accessible to black workers. Key findings are:

1. 75% of new entry level jobs are located more than 10 miles from neighborhoods where mostly low income people live.
2. Public transit does not reach three of the suburban counties with the most rapid growth.

Raphael (1998) - This study of 1980s employment changes in the San Francisco Bay area suggests that employment growth is occurring in areas that are not accessible to black workers. Key findings are:

1. For the San Francisco Bay area as a whole, employment increased 21 percent.
2. In areas near mostly white neighborhoods, employment rose 23 percent.
3. In areas near neighborhoods that are at least 20 percent black, employment increased 2 percent.
4. Manufacturing employment increased slightly near mostly white neighborhoods, but fell substantially near neighborhoods with large black populations.

Ihlandfeldt and Sjoquist (1990) - This study of Philadelphia shows that higher commuting costs of black workers reduces the employment rates of black workers. The key findings are:

1. For all youths, the likelihood of being employed decreases as commuting distance increases.
2. Black youths have lower employment rates than white youths since the average commuting time for black youths is 26 minutes compared to 19 minutes for white youths.
3. The differences in commuting distances explain 50 percent of the black-white differences in employment rates.

Ihlandfeldt and Sjoquist (1991) - This study also measures the relative importance of spatial mismatch in central city poverty. The key findings are:

1. Inferior access to employment opportunities explains 24 to 27 percent of the gap between black-white employment rates and 29 to 34 percent of the gap between Hispanic-white employment rates.
2. Spatial mismatch is a more significant factor in poverty in large metropolitan areas. In small cities, only 3 percent of the gap between black-white employment rates is due to inferior job access; in medium size cities, 14 percent; and in large cities, 25 percent.
3. Spatial mismatch is only one of several factors that cause higher poverty rates in the central city.