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A Case Study on Examining Systemic African American Poverty in Caddo
Parish and Bossier Parish, Louisiana

DISSERTATION

Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for
the Degree Doctor of Philosophy in the Graduate School
of Texas Southern University

By

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Texas Southern University

2023

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A Case Study on Examining Systemic African American Poverty in Caddo Parish and
Bossier Parish, Louisiana.

By

Stephen Pinkney, Ph.D.

Texas Southern University, 2023

Professor Glenn S. Johnson, Advisor

ABSTRACT

There are many states, counties, and cities in the United States of America where people do not have access to basic necessities such as food, housing, proper medical facilities, access to schools, and ready or no transportation, etc. The reason for this situation is due to the issue of poverty. Poverty is an unacceptably low-standard way of life that is a complex human phenomenon. It has multiple causes, manifestations, and dimensions. (Odhiambo, Omiti, Muthaka, 2005) Caddo Parish, Louisiana, is such a place that has high poverty among Black people. The population of African American people in Caddo Parish is larger than the Whites who live there, and African American poverty has more than doubled the White residents. African American poverty in Caddo Parish is higher than the poverty average in the State of Louisiana and is higher than the United States average. The neighboring parish of Bossier is experiencing the same issue as the African Americans in Caddo Parish. Caddo and Bossier Parishes connect by their two largest cities in the parishes, which is named the Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan area. Both cities' poverty level amongst Black people is higher than the United States National Average.

This case study explores and argues how systemic racism has blended into urbanization, sprawl, and politics. The research explores how these factors cause poverty in the Black community and has plagued their progress from the colonization of Louisiana through the American Civil War to the present time in Caddo Parish, Louisiana. Dr. Robert Bullard mentions that “racism is and continues to be a conspicuous part of the American sociopolitical system. As a result, Black people in particular, and ethnic and racial minority groups of color, find themselves at a disadvantage in contemporary society.” (Bullard, 1994, p. 445) The factor of poverty has caused population change in Shreveport and Bossier City. Shreveport has seen a population decline, whereas Bossier has seen an increase in population. However, Caddo Parish still has a larger population. (Bayliss, 2019) African American homeownership is low considering the heavy populations of these people in the Shreveport-Bossier City area and is disproportionate to the White residents. This study will examine housing discrimination in these areas because housing discrimination denies a substantial segment of the African American community a basic form of wealth accumulation and investment through homeownership. (Bullard, Johnson, Torres, 2000)

There are development plans to make the area a more attractive and dynamic location for corporate investments, expansions, and expansion for the future Shreveport-Bossier area. This development attempts to modernize the metropolitan areas’ environmental sustainability, neighborhoods, housing stock, infrastructure, and transportation. Further considerations include aiding with workforce training and business attraction through local organizations and the city’s programs. Eliminating cost-burdened,

extremely cost-burdened residences and improving housing conditions for residents with housing maintenance issues are major concerns.

The purpose of this case study is to shed light on the history of racism, bad politics, sprawl, spatial mismatch, lack of homeownership, population trends, transportation issues, lack of employment opportunities, high crime, bank deserts, health care, present Jim Crow Laws, and the miseducation of African Americans in Louisiana as these factors play on their social and economic place in Northwest Louisiana. The researcher will use qualitative research to answer questions with spatial and statistical analysis to provide visuals of the data collected on the census tracts. There will be some quantitative information within the qualitative findings. There will be some quantitative information within the qualitative findings. Researchers use qualitative research with some quantitative results because they consider both methods extremely effective for poverty analysis and give a more holistic view to a given study. (Odhiambo, Omiti, Muthaka, 2005)

The purpose of this dissertation is to research and understand African American poverty in Caddo Parish, how they ended up in this predicament, and present solutions to rectify the situation. The adverse effects of Urbanization and Sprawl result in poverty. These harmful effects, including the study area, are frequently seen in the African American/Black community. Negative effects of urbanization can be a lack of resources, poverty, unemployment, and overcrowding. Furthermore, the migration from rural areas to metropolitan areas causes congestion that impedes growth and bolsters the negative issues from geographically concentrated poverty, such as crime and violence in Shreveport, LA.

This study highlights Poverty, Education, Unemployment, Homeownership, and Renters and contrasts and compares variables in Caddo Parish to Bossier Parish with Black

versus White residents with GIS Mapping. The GIS Mapping shows the disproportionate percentages in each factor for the Black population versus the White Population for both Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish, Louisiana.

The project distinctively shows (1) inequity and inequality in homeownership, (2) The poor education and miseducation in the Louisiana school system, (3) How incarceration ratios are disproportionate, (4) The lack of employment opportunities in the area, (5) Inequity in public and personal transportation. Furthermore, the results show the negative effects of Black versus White birth rates, IRS inequalities, health care inequalities, and how the factors mentioned in this study are blended in racism, which have kept Blacks in poverty in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish from the colonization of Louisiana to the last 30 years. Lastly, this study presents mapping, snapshots, and negative effects of food deserts, banking deserts, pay-day loan companies, eye-soar neighborhoods, non-walkable and non-bikeable communities, and lack of enough medical facilities in predominately Black neighborhoods in the study area.

Despite the Civil Rights Movement and other Justice Movements, there are still disparities in wealth, employment, health care, education, laws, housing, transportation, poverty, and other factors. To bring change, urban planners and/or environmental justice activists must work diligently to overcome and subdue obstacles to create Smart Growth, Cleaner, Greener Communities, and Sustainable Communities while simultaneously promoting equality and eliminating inequities.

Keywords: Poverty, urbanization, sprawl, renters, homeownership, incarceration, crime, unemployment, housing, transportation, racism, wealth, education, health care, sustainable, smart growth, clean energy, population

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ACRONYMS

ACS	American Community Survey
ALICE	Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed
AMI	Area Median Income
GIS	Geographic Information System
CBD	Central Business District
DDD	Downtown Development District
FBA	Foundational Black American
GE	General Electric
GM	General Motors
HBCU	Historically Black Colleges and Universities
HRC	The City of Shreveport Human Relations Commission
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
NCLB	No Child Left Behind
LSU	Health Services Center Louisiana State University
<i>SNDi</i>	<i>Street-Network</i> Disconnectedness Index
TSU	Texas Southern University
UAW	United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of U.S.
U.N.	United Nations
U.S.	United States
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture

VITA

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DEDICATION

The ultimate dedication of my dissertation goes to my mother and stepfather, Angela and Hiram Clay, and Robert Thomas Jr., my father. The dedication of my dissertation also goes to my daughter Ty Pinkney who is an inspiration to me. In addition, the dedication of this dissertation goes to the Pinkney, Thomas, and Clay families. I also want to give special thanks to Theresa Thomas Moore for her encouragement, support, and prayers.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

The dissertation will examine factors contributing to systemic African American poverty in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish, Louisiana. The significant factors are educational attainment (i.e., bachelor's, master's, doctorate, and professional degrees), unemployment/underemployment (hourly jobs versus salary jobs), income, homeownership, renter, cost of living, transportation, and incarceration. The researcher will provide both parishes' thirty-year (1990-2020) historical context. The researcher will focus on employment trends and opportunities which would include job losses/job gains. It will be essential to examine the percentage of African Americans compared to Whites who had government jobs over the last three decades. Government jobs provide more stability for individuals, and individuals have a great chance of being promoted with these jobs. Oil and gas jobs are high-paying, and it will be essential to see how many African Americans have them. The researcher will also examine how college degrees provide upward opportunities for African Americans. The researcher will explain the barriers and restrictions in these parishes that resulted in sustaining systemic racism.

The dissertation will examine the homeownership of African Americans in both parishes while looking for trends and patterns that will explain low rates of home ownership and high rates of renters. As we know, owning homes is a sign of stability and contributes to a more vital community/parish versus a community/parish with exceptionally high rates of renters. The researcher will examine the cost of living (COL)

rates in both parishes and explain their relationship to poverty. The research will also see if the average wages in the parishes are lower than the cost of living and provide an explanation accordingly. The researcher will examine the number of African Americans who work in a retail, entry-level casino, and fast-food jobs (usually part-time), resulting in many impoverished individuals. It is important to note that many individuals who are employed (e.g., work two part-time jobs) and are still poor or living in poverty.

The researcher will examine the increase and decrease of major industries in the two parishes. It is also important to examine and document the population growth and decline over the last 30 years. Finally, the researcher will examine four types of poverty (i.e., housing, transportation, energy, and food insecurity) and their impact on African Americans in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish, Louisiana.

The researcher is from Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and believes in grassroots activism. The researcher strongly believes in the statement that “It is hoped that an examination of African American activism in Louisiana will result in greater awareness and mutual respect amongst environmental, civil rights, and social justice groups as well as among political leaders, corporate elites, and governmental officials. As an environmental grassroots activist address individual community concerns, they are also promoting human rights, efficacy, and greater stakeholder participation and public involvement in environmental decision-making.” (Johnson, pg. 285, 2005)

The researcher does believe in Environmental Justice. Environmental Justice is the meaningful involvement and fair treatment of all people regardless of national origin, color, race, and income with respect to the implementation, development, and enforcement of environmental laws, policies, and regulations. No group of people, including ethnic, socio-

economic, or racial groups, should endure or tolerate a disproportionate share of pessimistic environmental consequences resulting from municipal, industrial, and commercial operations or execution of tribal, local, state, and federal programs and policies. (Johnson, 2005, p. 1)

1.1 Study Rationale

In Caddo Parish, Louisiana, African Americans have seen more than their fair share of oppression. Systematic racism has affected Black lives in America since the fall of 1492. (Sertima, 1976) The gruesome life of slavery from the northern states of the U.S. made its way to Louisiana officially in 1708 with the help of Pierre Le Moyne D'Iberville. D'Iberville was the person to help build the French colony of Louisiana. The colonization effects still show their residual effects and systematic orchestrations in 2022. (Rodrigue, 2020) Today African Americans in Caddo Parish are faced with the effects of racism, poverty, urbanization, politics, miseducation, sprawl, unemployment, unlawful incarceration, low unemployment rates, population trends, unfair housing practices, low wages, a small amount of business ownership representation, food deserts, banking deserts, and high-interest payday loans companies.

Currently, African American poverty in Caddo Parish is higher than the national average. Knowing these statistics, being born, and raised in Caddo Parish, the researcher wanted to know why such a situation existed. (World Population Review Caddo, 2018) According to a 2017 article that presented data from a survey from WalletHub, Louisiana was labeled to have the “worst public education system in the United States” and is ranked 51st in state rankings for school safety. (McElfresh, 2017) Shreveport City is the largest city in Caddo Parish, the third-largest city in Louisiana, and the land mass has more than

quadrupled while its population grew one and a half times from 1950 to 2009. Since 1980, the city's land area has grown 26% while the population remained stable, with more than 74% of Caddo Parish's population living in Shreveport, the City of Shreveport's story of physical development has been one of sprawl without growth. (Goody Clancy, 2017)

The Louisiana Housing Census of 1990 to 2020 shows Caddo Parish African American/Black homeownership vs. White homeownership disparities. Chapter 2, will provide homeownership data. Many African American renters are in Caddo Parish, especially in Shreveport City. Some African Americans pay larger amounts to rent than they would be paying for homeownership if given similar circumstances. Understanding why there is such a vast gap between African Americans and Whites in homeownership should provide answers to how this can cause persistent poverty for African Americans in Caddo Parish.

Travel time and distance of travel can be a factor that affects the poverty of individuals. Transportation is vital to our everyday lives. There are costs associated with transportation, public transportation, and buying a vehicle. Transportation also profoundly affects residential and industrial growth and physical and social mobility. "Transportation decision-making--whether at the federal, regional, state, or local level--often mirrors the power arrangements of the dominant society and its institutions." (Bullard, Johnson, & Torres, 2000, pg. 26-27) Lack of power cause transportation issues for minorities since they are not the dominant society. This paper will also research the commute times to work and/or to the Central Business District of the people from Caddo Parish. The goal is to show the disparity in commute times between minorities versus Whites. Employment trends will be a factor that could affect African American poverty because it will indeed

affect the income of this group of people. Businesses owned by minorities will be data the researcher will need to provide to show the lack of Black business ownership that could provide jobs for African Americans, act as the primary source of income for African Americans and provide generational wealth for African American families. Understanding current and future business patterns are key to implementing planning strategies. This information may give some idea of how to educate people in this study area to increase the employment rate for local people and pursue a better quality of life. (McCargo, A., Choi, J., & Golding, E. 2019) Population trends can be affected by employment opportunities, job types, and pay wages.

There have been a couple of action plans for the Caddo Parish Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan area for improvement. The first plan is the Consolidated Plan 2019-2023 & 2019 Annual Action Plan Shreveport. The second plan is the Great Expectations Shreveport-Caddo 2030 Master Plan. The Consolidated Plan 2019-2023 & 2019 Annual Action Plan Shreveport is to create more opportunities for business owners in Shreveport's Central Business District, reduce homelessness, increase the potential for more homeownership, and expand job creation. The Shreveport-Caddo 2030 Master Plan is a plan centers around population and land use trends. The plan aims is to find ways to better utilize land with less sprawl. (Goody Clancy, 2017) The Shreveport-Caddo Master Plan Area shares land use and population characteristics with shrinking cities which include high levels of vacancy and blight. The researcher presents the history and development of Caddo Parish, and that Shreveport-Caddo can no longer sustain the "sprawl without growth" development model that has characterized its last 30 years. (Goody Clancy, 2017)

None of the current and past plans include specific plans for African Americans, which will help bring equality and equity to the African American community in Caddo Parish. The plans also do not include what the researcher is proposing, which is to shed light on the inequities and inequalities. The researcher is looking for action regarding such disadvantages. This dissertation is for research and a plan to help Caddo Parish and assist other communities. This research will help attract native Caddo Parish workers who migrated to other cities because they could not find employment in Caddo Parish or obtain the income they needed to live the lifestyle they wanted.

1.2 Research Aim and Objectives

The purpose of this dissertation is to research and understand African American poverty in Caddo Parish, how they ended up in this predicament, and present solutions to rectify the situation. The researcher wants to present why African Americans ended up in this situation because if the research can show why this situation has occurred, then it is less likely these people will fall into the same pitfalls if the problems are solved. The researcher will examine African American poverty by looking at the long history of poor education, politics, planning, housing, and racism, along with Statistical Data and GIS mapping from analyzing census tract data from Caddo Parish. The research will examine the last 30 years (1990-2020) of African American poverty in Caddo Parish.

- To show how racism has affected African American Poverty in Caddo Parish
- To provide details of urbanization effects on African American Poverty in Caddo Parish
- How lack of planning has caused issues with sprawl without growth.
- Provide detail on housing discrimination and lack of African American homeownership in Caddo Parish.

- To provide detail on the lack of Black Business Ownership
- To investigate the Miseducation of African Americans in Louisiana
- Where is the disconnect between African Americans and job opportunities?
- Provide links between transportation and poverty.
- To investigate how employment trends, affect population growth and population decline.
- Show links between poverty and health.
- Give details on how payday loans affect low-income people.

The researcher will use qualitative research to answer these questions with the inclusion of spatial and statistical analysis to provide visuals of the data collected on the census tracts.

There will be some quantitative information within the qualitative findings.

1.3 Research Questions

Research Question #1: Is there a relationship between Poverty due to the negative effects of Urbanization and Politics?

Research Question #2: Is there a relationship between systematic racism and Poverty Urbanization, Politics, and its effect on African Americans' lack of wealth in the Caddo Parish?

Research Question #3: Is there a comparison between African American vs. Whites poverty in Caddo Parish and African American Poverty vs. Whites in neighboring Bossier Parish?

Research Question #4: Is there a relationship between population trends and job opportunities in Caddo Parish?

1.4 Study Structure

This dissertation entails historical research, modern research, statistical data-based information along with GIS mapping to give a visual view of Caddo Parish's demographical position of the factors involved. The researcher plans to show the inequalities and inequities in Caddo Parish towards African Americans and to present policy recommendations for the issues rather than letting them mount and fester. The dissertation will consist of an abstract and five chapters. The first chapter will provide the introduction, demographics, and background of the research provided. Chapter One will further present research questions. The second chapter will review the literature and discuss poverty and the history of racism in Caddo Parish, Louisiana. The Third chapter will discuss the focus areas of Urbanization and Politics and how it relates to Poverty. Chapter Four presents the data found, analysis of data, and GIS mapping. Chapter Five will consist of policy recommendations and proposals for the issues, a summary, a discussion, and a conclusion.

CHAPTER 2:

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Introduction

When Tribal Society began to transform into civil society, poverty began to appear worldwide. At one point in time, wealth was given to us by nature due to the fact nature provided everything for us. Individuals and communities shared goods they had amongst each other that they needed or lacked. There was no cost associated with the majority of goods. Then we will see the population of the world grow. Along with the population increase, we will witness the growth of supply and demand, farming and agriculture, the need for fertile land, and animal domestication. Furthermore, there will be social distinctions between class, race, and prestige, while seeing old traditions vanishing will contribute to significant changes in society across the globe. The fight for wealth, luxury, prestige, and necessities will bring on a few individuals and certain families' wealth but not compared to the masses that will experience individual and generational poverty. (Rajkumar, 1985) One major event for the pursuit of wealth and power which triggered African American poverty in the U.S. was the Transatlantic Slave Trade. The first section of Chapter two will discuss poverty, African American/Black poverty in Caddo Parish, Caddo Parish African American/Black Poverty Links between Institutional Racism, and the other discussed areas of human activity including the focus areas for this dissertation.

2.1 Poverty

What is Poverty? "One could say that, in the developed world, our understanding of poverty is often based on what we see in our own country." (Janofski, 2019, p. 1) Having

traveled to places inside of the U.S. and having seen many people of direct African descent experiencing a large population of poverty in every city raised many questions to the researcher. There are many cities in the U.S. where people do not have access to basic necessities such as food, homes, ready or no transportation, proper medical facilities, and access to schools. The researcher has had many discussions where folks living in the U.S. understood they were poor but felt better off than some people outside of the U.S. in other poverty-stricken countries. Poverty can be economical, marginalized, and or feeling dependent on someone or some entity. The basic definition of poverty is living without the basic necessities of life: water, housing, and/or food. (Rajkumar, 1985) (Kimberlin, 2013) In the United States, poverty is calculated by the U.S. Census Bureau set on a threshold. The United States' numerical definition of poverty is a family of four with an income of less than \$69 per day or an individual with an income of less than \$34 per day. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018) Nevertheless, the researcher asks, "Does anyone have to be in poverty"? In the U.S., African American leads all other races in poverty, with 18.8% which is more than double White Americans. (U.S. Census, 2020)

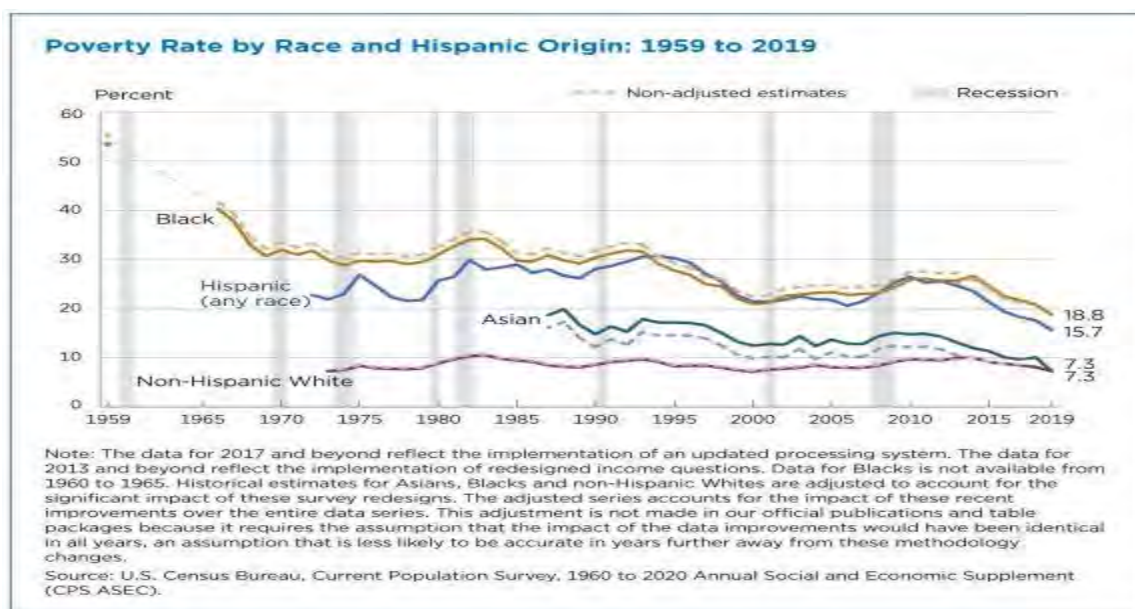


Figure 1: 2019 United States Poverty by Race 1959-2019

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2020)

2.1.1 Types of Poverty: As stated previously, poverty has many dimensions, manifestations, and causes. The definition of poverty suggested by The United Nations Development Program tells us that one cannot measurement poverty by income as a single entity. (Habitat for Humanity, 2021) The measurement process has to include a multi-component method, consider quality of housing, the standard of living, electricity, access to clean water, sanitation, and education. Each of these factors contributes to the foundations of providing individuals and families to lead to an adequate lifestyle. (Habitat for Humanity, 2021) We have to understand that poverty can be broken-down to include Housing Poverty, Transportation Poverty, Energy Poverty, and Food Insecurity Poverty. The research will discuss and explain how African Americans/Blacks are disproportionately impacted in Housing, Transportation, Energy & Food Insecurity Poverty in Caddo and Bossier Parishes, LA.

2.1.1.1 Housing Poverty: Living in impoverished conditions is not just limited or confined to cities, as many people think. Rural areas' poverty rates exceed urban areas' poverty rates in many cases. The number of low-income households around the globe is prevalent and exceeds the affordable housing units available for people. (Habitat for Humanity, 2021) There are just 35 rental units, both affordable and available in the United States for every 100 households that are renters who are in the extremely low-income category. There is not one state in the U.S. where a worker making the prevailing state or federal minimum wage earnings can afford a two-bedroom apartment without paying above 30% of their monthly income. (Habitat for Humanity, 2021) To be exact, a minimum wage worker must clock nearly 127 hours per week, more than three full-time jobs, to afford a two-bedroom rental, or 103 hours per week, more than 2.5 full-time jobs, to afford a one-bedroom, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition. (Habitat for Humanity, p. 1, 2021)

Almost 38 million U.S. citizen households spend more than 30% of their income on housing. This cost forces families to make tough decisions about spending funds on balancing food, health, and transportation. Also, families considered severely cost-burdened and paying more than 50% of their income on housing are 1 in 6 in the U.S. (Habitat for Humanity, 2021) The researcher will cover this information in Chapter 2.6.1, Affordable Housing in Caddo-Bossier Parish. Lack of access to clean water and sanitation, energy, and fuel poverty can be included in Housing Poverty, although Energy Poverty can have its category. For many people, the threat of eviction or insecure tenure is real. Insecure tenure causes psychological, economic, and physical security of having proper shelter. On a daily basis, more than twenty percent of the

earth's population struggle with living on land where they reside. Occupied houses with more than 70% of the globe's population are without legal documents with proof of rights of their property. (Habitat for Humanity, 2021)

2.1.1.2 Transportation Poverty: Thirteen percent of household disbursements for the average American go towards transportation. The cost of transportation is not indistinguishable. Households of lower income pay a larger amount of their spending on transportation. Once individuals or households move up in income brackets, they pay a smaller amount towards transportation. The larger portion of the transportation expenditure is the burden of the lower income in the United States and worldwide. (ITDP, 2019) Even with America's transportation subsidies, the expense difference is evident among low-income earners. Transportation expenses accounted for the fourth largest expenditure for U.S. household spending, with an average of \$9737 each on the cost of transportation in 2017. Americans are the owners of 2.28 vehicles on average. Furthermore, 35% of households in America own three or more vehicles. This contributes to personal vehicles accounting for the larger scale of cost for transportation expenditures totaling \$1.1 million in 2017, which was close to 90% of expenditures of transportation. (ITDP, 2019) The majority of this cost is from the purchase of the vehicle (\$4,001) after that (\$3,603), which includes repairs, insurance, and other vehicle expenditures. For personal vehicles, motor oil and fuel costs are \$1,968 annually, accounting for the smallest expenditure. (ITDP, 2019) Owning a vehicle in the U.S. is an expensive endeavor, and Americans spend less on other methods of travel than on vehicle ownership and maintenance. Vehicles depreciate in value, so if a person sells their vehicle, the value is usually not regained during resale. Public transportation, ground, and local transportation were Under 5%. (ITDP, 2019) In

the United States, \$11,933 is the lowest earning 20% of Americans made on average in 2016. They also spend 29% (\$3497) on transportation costs. Lower-income people get the worst end of the transportation system due to lacking. For Americans averaging about \$30,000 annually, their transportation spending was around 22%, and the next quintile up spent 17%. (ITDP, 2019) In essence, for the U.S. population that moves from lower-income to higher-income, the expenditure portion that is used for transportation decreases. U.S. cities fail to provide enough adequate transportation, so must use personal vehicles. Personal vehicles are not subsidized and are not cheap. Americans categorized in the lower-income bracket possess fewer options. When U.S. citizens began to criticize public transportation, there was pushback with environmental concerns. However, transportation equity is in question, and the lack of public transportation is a burden financially due to citizens not having good options. Transportation inequity continues the cycle of poverty by making things hard to escape such a dire situation as citizens have to make financial decisions on how to survive. (ITDP, 2019) The researcher discusses transportation in Chapter 2.8.2 Transportation and Sprawl in Caddo/Bossier Parish Central Business District and Chapter Transportation Healthcare Needs and Renters.

2.1.1.3 Energy Poverty: Energy Poverty is the lack of access to sustainable modern energy services and products defined by the World Economic Forum in 2010. These services include heating and hot water, cooling, and lighting. (Habitat For Humanity Energy Poverty, 2021) Access to affordable and adequate energy is not equal in global distribution but is the engine of civilization. Energy poverty is noticeable where there is a deficiency of affordable, quality adequate, reliable, safe, and

environmentally sound energy services to reinforce development. (Habitat for Humanity Energy Poverty, 2021)

Social and economic development is solidly and constantly interwoven with the presence of energy, and due to this relationship, poorer countries' energy services are sub standardly equipped. This contributes to unhealthy living conditions, limited access to employment, education, and malnourishment. (Habitat for Humanity Energy Poverty, 2021) Not having proper energy can make manufacturing and the development of agriculture very difficult.

The United States continues to have inequalities in energy justice and poverty among Americans. A third of U.S. households are having difficulties affording energy to cook and provide light for their residents, along with cooling and heating. (Reames, 2021)

2.1.1.4 Food Insecurity Poverty: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life (Hunger and Health, 2021) In 2020, 38 million Americans (1 in 8 Americans), including nearly 12 million children, were categorized as food insecure. Food insecurity and hunger are closely related and are easily understood concepts. Food insecurity is a lack of financial resources for food in the household, and hunger is a person's physical sensation of being uncomfortable or experiencing discomfort from a lack of food with the desire for food. (Hunger and Health, 2021, p. 1) There has been extensive research on food insecurity, an elaborate problem. Poverty and food insecurity are closely related. However, not everyone living beneath the line of poverty is experiencing food insecurity, and people that live above the line of poverty can experience food insecurity. (Hunger and Health, 2021)

The African American community, more than the White community in the U.S., continues to face consistently higher rates of hunger due to African Americans' environmental, social, and economic challenges. (Feeding America, 2021) Discriminatory practices and policies have contributed to Black people living in poverty, having fewer financial resources than Whites, and being more likely unemployed. These factors mentioned will lead people to experience a life of hunger. Due to the pandemic in 2020, 24% of African Americans experienced food insecurity which was an increase. Compared to White children, Black children are three times as likely to be a part of a household that is food insecure. (Feeding America, 2021)

2.2 Poverty in Louisiana

Poverty in Louisiana is a tremendous concern to many of the State's residents. When some residents feel they have made economic progress, it blinds us to the fact that we face an inevitable conclusion that Louisiana still is in the rear of neighboring states in almost every measure of social and economic security and comfort. Louisiana's future conditions will not change unless maximum efforts are taken to bolster the economic and social conditions. This type of transformation requires a great deal of caring to create awareness and change to diminish poverty and the extent or dimensions of poverty and its catastrophic repercussions. We have a huge gap to close before poverty is not in any description of Louisiana and its parishes. (Council for A Better Louisiana, n.d., p. 1) There has been progress made in some areas of the south. However, the poverty bug has not loosened on Louisiana citizens, especially the African American community. During 1996-1998, 18.6 percent of Louisianans were poor, well above the national rate of just over 13 percent. Midway through this decade, virtually one-quarter of all families in the state

earned less than \$10,000 – well below the federal poverty line of \$15,150 for a family of four. There is a large gap in income disparity between the poorest citizens and the wealthiest citizens in Louisiana.

Louisiana has one of the widest gaps between its richest and poorest residents, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Center on Budget and Policy Priorities analysis released in December 2016. The report found that only Connecticut, California, and New York had a larger gap than Louisiana between average income from low-income households and the state's wealthiest. (Crisp, 2016)

Leading the nation in child poverty is the state of Louisiana. The state of Louisiana has the largest proportion of children living in poverty than any other state in the United States. Many poor children are living in single-parent households in the state of Louisiana, and with the growing number of single women's birth rates, the amount will grow. In 1997, 43.9 percent of all infants were born to single women, well above the national average of 32.4 percent. (Council for A Better Louisiana, n.d., p.1)

In 2015, with close to 46.4% of African American children living in poverty across the state, the outlook on their situation looked bleak, while White children living in poverty was 16.5%. (Albares, 2016)

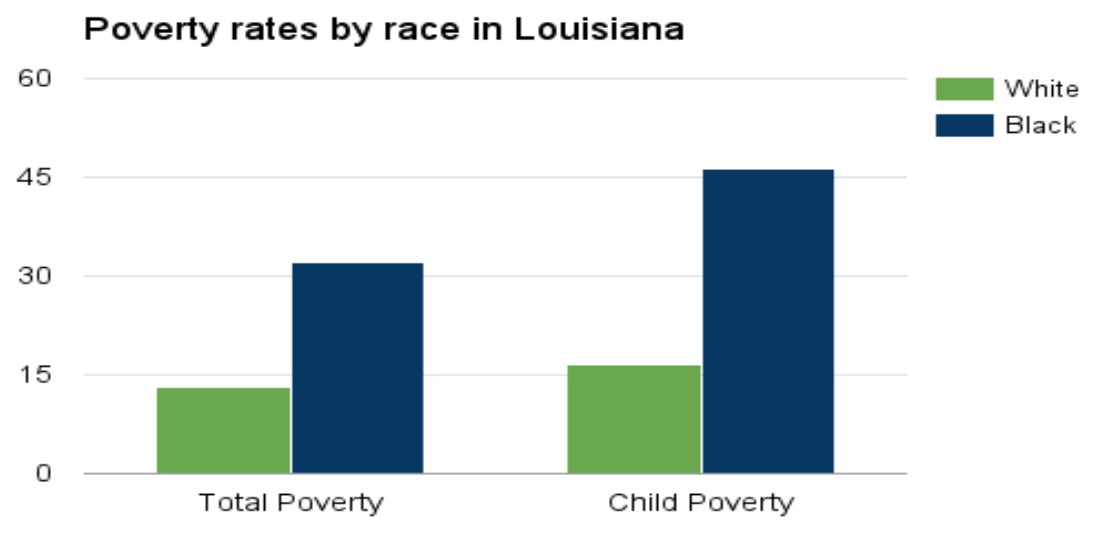


Figure 2: 2015 Louisiana Poverty by Race

Source: Albares (2016)

Poverty is more than a person's status determined by an individual's income. The limited choices associated with poverty have devastating consequences passed on from parent to child in a continuing cycle of despair. Unfavorable conditions are the outcomes of limited opportunities that are associated with poverty being passed from generation to generation. (Council for A Better Louisiana, n.d. pg.1)

Poor health is one of the results associated with poverty. Children are vulnerable to poor health due to poverty. Being that Louisiana's birth rate is lower than any other state creates great concern due to African American children being the highest in poverty. These factors do not lessen as the children mature. As the children mature, the probability of these kids having health problems as adults are significant if the poverty continues throughout their lives.

Senior citizens that are low-income have a greater chance of experiencing problems due to health more than their middle-class and upper-class peers. Lower-income poor

people also have limited access to health care. (Council for A Better Louisiana, n.d., p. 1) Achievements through academics often evade low-income students, limiting how they can escape poverty and become self-sufficient when they achieve adulthood. Many times, low-income students, usually African American, are steered away from the courses that will best benefit them to succeed in future endeavors. Inadequate resources, ill-prepared teachers, low expectations, and today's rapidly changing economy make success challenging for African American students. This changing economy is one that values flexibility and critical thinking, and now labor-intensive, low-skill jobs that once were the staple of Louisiana's economy are being pushed to the back. The starkly evident value of postsecondary training is present when we consider individual income by educational achievement. (Council for A Better Louisiana, n.d.)

Louisiana has been called one of the "most dangerous states in the nation." (Council for A Better Louisiana, n.d. pg.1) When there is high poverty, there is high crime because of a lack of income and resources in a community. A poor job market triggers criminal activity from those citizens who are unable to sustain gainful employment in the labor force. There is evidence that those with poor prospects in the job market are more likely to engage in criminal activity than those that can secure positions in the labor market. Those living in poverty are also more likely to be victims of crime because people who commit crimes usually prey on people near where they live.

Safe and secure housing continues to elude people that are poverty-stricken. Homeownership is falling in Louisiana at a time while homeownership rates are climbing in the U.S. Middle and upper-income citizens can afford safe and secure housing while homelessness increases in the state. People in poverty also face hunger, in which

malnutrition in children is increasing, and they suffer from inadequate diets. For children that are incredibly young, cognitive development can be greatly interfered with due to hunger.

In 2015, nearly 1 in 5 Louisianans, which equates to 889,946 people or 19.6 percent of the population, lived in poverty. Those numbers were the third largest rate in the U.S. That includes 300,000 children at 28.4 percent, which also is the third highest. Wages in Louisiana continue to trail the rest of the U.S. as well. The state of Louisiana's household income was \$45,727 in 2015 in comparison to the national median of \$55,775. This income disparity placed Louisiana fourth highest in the states. The racial disparities are persistent and deep. The economic gap between Whites and African Americans is still severe and substantial. In 2015, 1 out of 3 Black Louisiana citizens lived below federal poverty. Compared to White Louisiana citizens at 13.2%, Black poverty was 32.2% which was almost two and a half times higher than Whites. In the labor force, the average White employee earned \$56,093 compared to \$27,537, more than twice the average African American employee. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019) (Albares, 2016)

Louisiana has had a long tradition of devaluing education and the inadequate public education system that results in relatively depressed wage rates and dramatically unequal distribution of wealth, a generation of the "status quo" which makes it difficult to bring about change and for many people to improve their circumstances. Also, Louisiana has a history of public corruption, resulting in cynicism and cavalier and uncaring attitudes toward the poor and powerless, which sit the African American Louisianians at the bottom. (Council for A Better Louisiana, n.d., pg. 1)

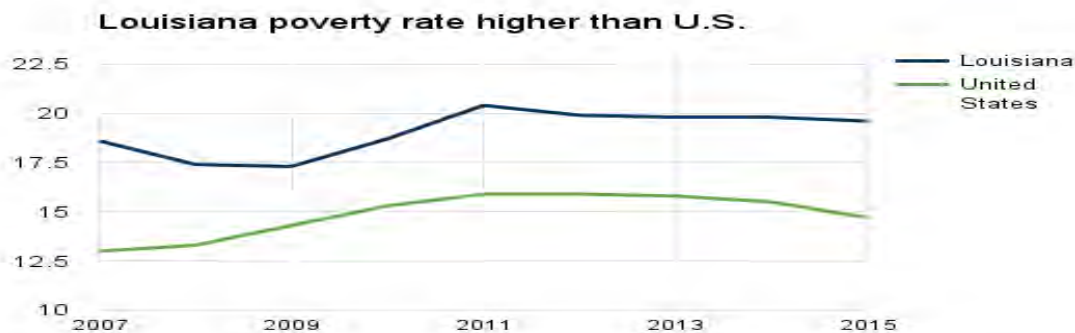


Figure 3: 2016 Louisiana Poverty vs. U.S. Poverty

Source: Albares (2016)

2.3 Past 30 Years Poverty in Caddo Parish vs. Bossier Parish Black vs. White

Poverty can be economical, marginalized, and the feeling of being dependent on someone or some entity. The basic definition of poverty is living without the basic necessities of life: water, housing, and food. (Rajkumar, 1985) (Kimberlin, 2013) In the United States, poverty is calculated by the U.S. Census Bureau set on a threshold. The United States' numerical definition of poverty is a family of four with an income less than \$69 per day and an individual with an income less than \$34 per day. (U.S. Census Bureau 2018) The researcher's question is, does anyone have to be in poverty?

The researcher decided to study the subject of poverty where he grew up, which is Shreveport, Louisiana, in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, the third-largest city in Louisiana. The researcher had resided in the largely African American Communities of Allendale, Lakeside, and Queensborough. The researcher decided to study the last 30 years of African American poverty in Caddo Parish to see if there are any patterns. A national report called Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed (ALICE). The report, named The

ALICE Household Survival Budget, breaks down the minimal cost of the five basic necessities for human living. These necessities include food, housing, childcare, healthcare, and transportation. (Mcarty, E. 2019) Also, considered as basic necessities to live is technology, plus a contingency fund equal to 10% of the household budget and taxes. (United for ALICE, 2020) The minimum income level needed for a household's survival is represented by The ALICE Threshold and is attained from the Household Survival Budget. (United for ALICE, 2020)

This report shows a huge population of hard-working residents who are having trouble making ends meet and are one emergency away from poverty because they have no savings for a safety net. According to the report, in Louisiana, 695,719 households, representing 40 percent of the state's total, cannot afford the basic cost of living, with conditions still lagging behind pre-recession levels. "In Northwest Louisiana, this statistic is higher than the state's total at 44% percent." Said Sarah Berthelot, President/CEO of LAUW (Mcarty, E. 2019, pg. 1)

To place a smaller scope by focusing on a general area, the researcher will study the parish of Caddo to understand what and who is affecting poverty in this area. Caddo Parish received its name from the Caddo Indian tribe. Most of the tribe got removed from the area in the 1830s. The core of Caddo Parish was developed by the White owners of cotton plantations with thousands of enslaved African American who labored them. African American poverty in Louisiana is 29.4% statewide, 33.9% of Caddo African American residents are in poverty, and White Caddo Parish residents' poverty is 15.5%. (Census Bureau, 2019) For 2020, Caddo Parish Poverty was African Americans 34.01% and 12.19 White. The Poverty Rate of African American residents in Shreveport,

Louisiana, the largest city in Caddo Parish, is dramatically higher than the national average of 25.2%. The percentage of 35.6% of African American/Black residents in Shreveport, Louisiana, live below the poverty line. White residents' poverty in Shreveport is 16.5%. One out of every 3.9 Black/African American residents of Shreveport lives in poverty. (World Population Review Caddo, 2018) In Bossier Parish, Louisiana, African American/Black residents are 23.8% below the poverty level, and Whites are 17.6%. (U.S Census Bureau, 2019) For 2020, Bossier City poverty for Blacks is 33.05% poverty and for Whites 11.06% (World Population Review Bossier, 2021)

According to research, the areas for which the poverty rate (population below poverty) reaches 20%, areas encounter systematic issues that are more severe than in lower-poverty areas. A critical point of research and discussion in academic literature regarding the poverty rate of 20% is relevant for examining the social characteristics of low - poverty compared to high-poverty areas. (Dalakar, 2019) As the U.S. Census, World population, and other sources show that African American poverty has been over 30% for African Americans in Caddo Parish for many years.

There is a cost associated with being able to afford the basic necessities. Again, ALICE provides information on households that earn less than the basic cost of living in Louisiana but earn greater than the Federal Policy Level. The bare minimum Household Survival Budget increased by 33% for a family and 16% for an individual with a low rate of inflation from the years 2010 to 2016.

According to the data, these numbers associated with this budget are still substantially higher than the \$11,880 for a single-person adult and \$24,300 for a family of four from the Federal Poverty Level. (The ALICE Report-Update for Louisiana, 2019)

ALICE represents a growing number of individuals and families working but unable to afford the basic necessities of life, such as housing, food, health care, childcare, and transportation. “These people living on the edge, they’re not bums. They’re hard-working people,” said Bruce Wilson, United Way chapter for Northwest Louisiana CEO. “We have this huge population that are working poor, who are living one emergency away from disaster.” (Talamo, 2016 pg. 1) For these working poor people in Louisiana, buying healthy food, providing themselves with healthcare, and obtaining officially recognized childcare are basic needs forgone when disaster hits. People have to make decisions in Caddo and Bossier Parish.

When disaster strikes, ALICE families or individuals often choose to forgo health care, accredited childcare, or buying healthy food to make up the difference. Wilson said, “They have to make a choice,” Wilson said. “Do I take food off the table to pay for this extra thing? Do I not take my child to the doctor or the dentist? Do I make some other choice that has serious consequences?” (Talamo, 2016, pg. 1)

Northwest Louisiana has ten parishes, which include the parishes of Caddo and Bossier. This area has a high average of households living in poverty or at the ALICE threshold of 44 percent. African Americans, other racial minorities, women, immigrants, those who have not completed high school or higher, and citizens with disabilities are in the ALICE population, according to this report.

Job opportunities, community resources, and housing affordability are evaluated for economic viability in the ALICE report. In this report, Caddo received a ranking of “fair” for community resources and job opportunities and a “poor” ranking in the category of housing affordability. Bossier Parish received a “good” ranking for job opportunities

and a “poor” ranking for community resources and housing affordability. (Talamo, 2016, pg. 1)

Households on the ALICE report represents the hard workers in Caddo and Bossier Parish, who play a crucial role in keeping the economic engine of Louisiana running. While these households play crucial roles, these people are not always sure they can provide for their basic needs. The ALICE report presents four main contributing factors that cause a struggling population in the parishes. These factors are a lack of affordable housing, private and public assistance that does not attain economic stability and low wages, and a cost of living that outpaces employee wages. (Talamo, 2016)

Between 2007 and 2013, employment paying less than \$10 by the hour increased by 115 percent in the state of Louisiana, and employment paying \$30 to \$40 an hour decreased by 64 percent. An annual salary for one of the 70,820 cashier jobs in Louisiana is a base rate of \$8.75 an hour. This rate will not bring a family to halfway to the survival budget threshold. (Talamo, 2016) The household survival budget — a bare-minimum budget that does not allow for any savings or luxuries — for a single adult in northwest Louisiana remained set at an estimated annual salary of \$17,266. The survival budget for a family of four remained set at \$41,480 (Talamo, 2016, pg.1) A total of 33% of households in Bossier Parish could not attain these target incomes, and for Caddo Parish, the numbers rose to 44%. (Talamo, 2016)

According to the ALICE report, households that live below the ALICE threshold produce negative effects that extend to surrounding communities. This creates links between poverty and crime, from those who cannot afford housing to being homeless and not being able to afford certified child-care to putting children at risk. These types of issues

will cause communities to be responsible for creating homeless shelters for the homeless, paying into the foster care system for the underaged homeless, investing in social and educational services for children with inadequate childcare, and contributing to income for the unemployed. (Talamo, 2016)

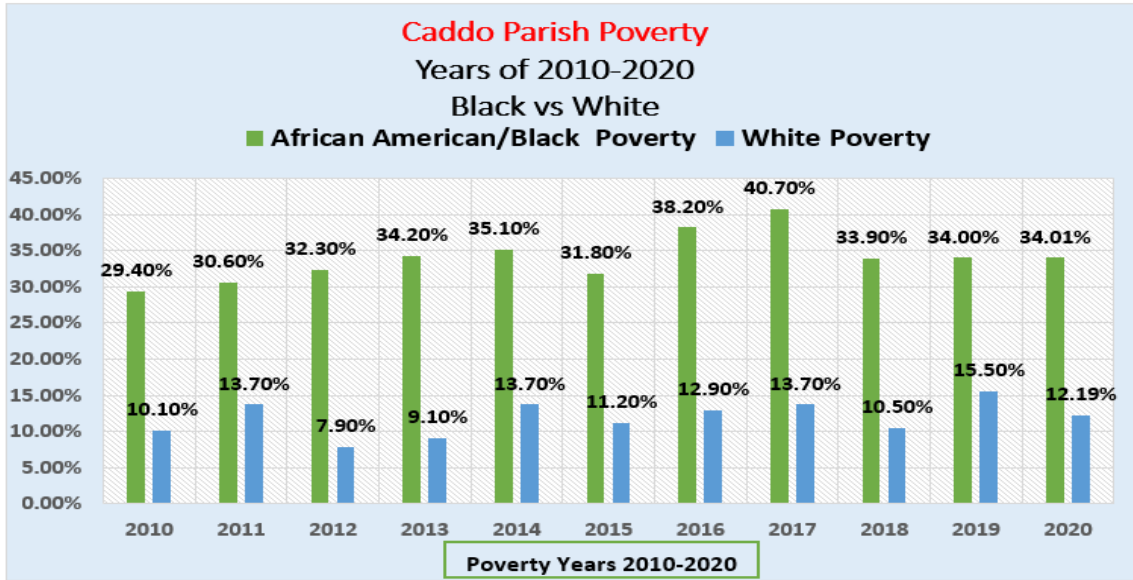


Figure 4: Caddo Parish Poverty 2010-2020 Black vs. White

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2020), World Population Review (2021)

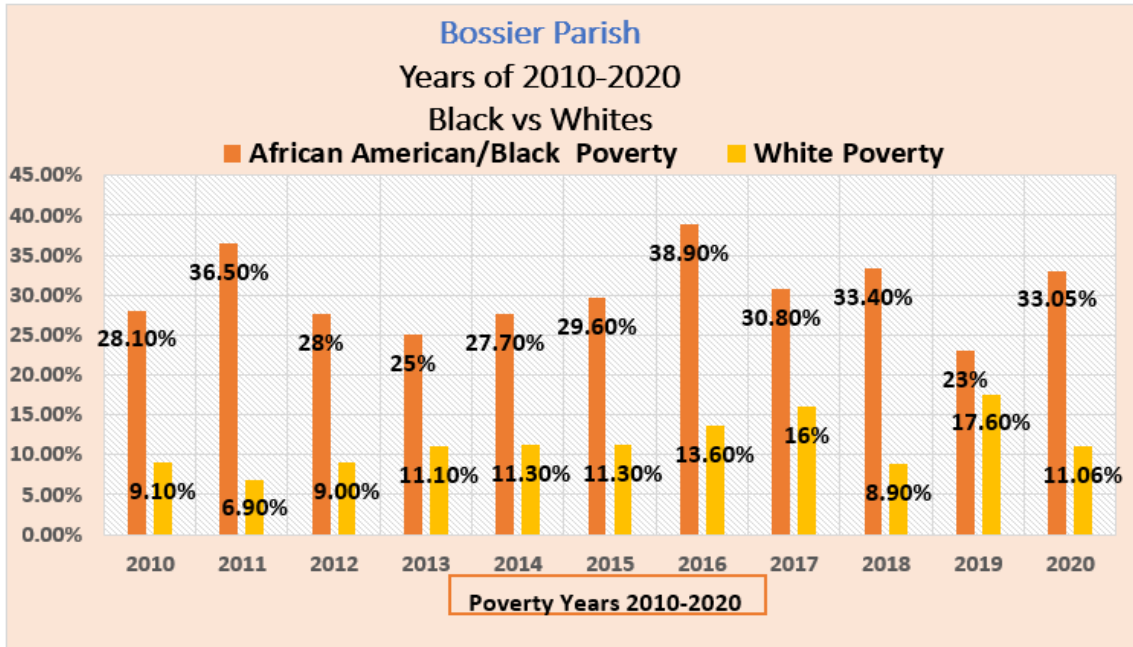


Figure 5: Bossier Parish Poverty 2010-2020 Black vs. White

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2019), World Population Review (2021)

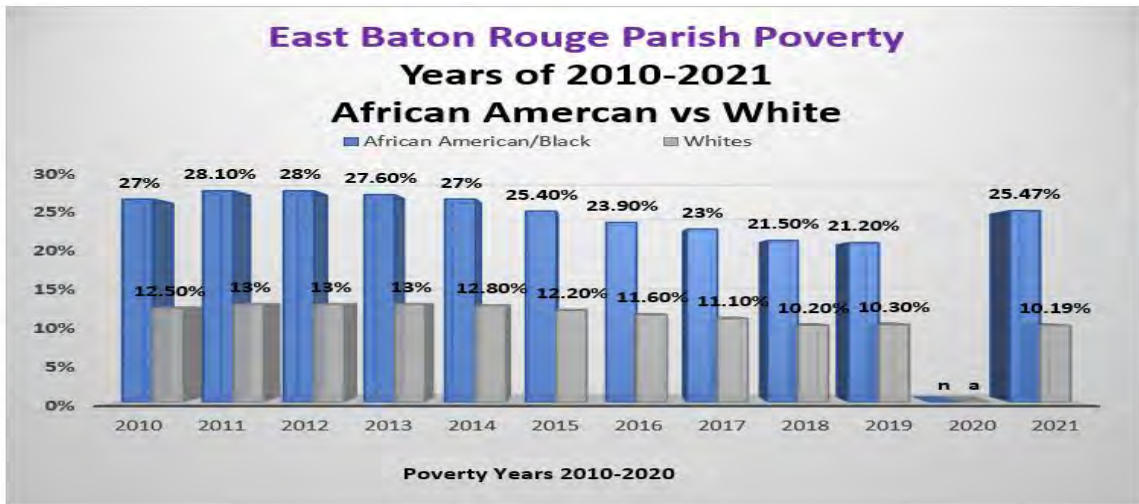


Figure 6: East Baton Rouge Parish Poverty 2010-2021 Black vs. White

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2019) East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana population (2021)

In 2019, U.S. Census shows that the population of East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana was 47.2% African American and 45.9% White 45.9%. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019) According to the World Population Review 2021, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana population of African Americans is 46.10% and Whites 46.83%

2.4 Caddo Parish Poverty Links to Institutional Racism and Study Areas

Wondering how African American people in Caddo Parish find themselves in a poverty-stricken situation linked to Urbanization, Politics, Housing dilemmas, Miseducation, Unemployment, Underemployment, and Sprawl, one must understand the link to Institutional Racism. Some captured and sold Africans from the Trans-Atlantic found themselves in the Americas, some eventually making their way to Louisiana. At the start of the Colonial Era, Whites in the United States possessed socially sanctioned privileges, legally sanctioned privileges, and other rights. At the same time minorities, especially Africans, were denied the same rights. Americans of European descent were granted exclusive privileges in voting rights, criminal procedure, land acquisition, and education. (Vandal, G. 1991) African Americans still face restrictions on their economic, social, and political freedom. The information given by this source states that racism is the systematic oppression of one race over another. In the United States, society has continued to experience high levels of racism and discrimination. (Fuller, 2010) One new phenomenon is the expulsion of sexual and racial minorities from America by the rise of the White nationalist in the “alt-right” movement. Racism consist of “Nine Areas of Human Activity,” which are Economics, Education, Entertainment, Labor, Law, Politics, Religion, Sex, and War. (Fuller, 2010) From these “Nine Areas”, the researcher will only use the areas of **Economics, Education, Labor, Law, Politics, and War** in this dissertation. The

researcher will present information to show that Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish African American/Black residents are targeted in the Areas of Economics, Education, Labor, Law, Politics, and War by Racism White Supremacy. Urbanization and Housing links to Economics, Labor links to Employment and Unemployment, and Miseducation links to Education. Laws maintain control in all areas, War is the act of racism or systematic oppression in the nine areas, and all can be intertwined directly or indirectly. Lastly, all areas directly link to Politics. All the nine Areas of Human Activity are controlled by Whites to keep Africans/Blacks all over the world confused, in poverty, and/or in a lower status than whites on a collective basis.

2.4.1 White on Black Violence Caddo and Bossier Parish: Violence in the Deep South caused significant population changes in the U.S., from the late 1800s until the 1970s. Lynchings were a tactical method used by whites in the Americas to project fear, terror, and racial boundaries in the U.S., especially in the South. The lynchings, along with racial segregation, poor economic conditions, and discrimination, launches one of the largest and most rapid mass internal movements in history. This movement is called the Black Migration (Great Migration, or Great Northward Migration. (Vandal, 1991) The Black Migration transitions from 1916 to 1970. Before 1890, the American South populated more than 90% of African Americans. By the end of the migration, just over 50% of African Americans populated the American South, according to the U.S. Census. When this migration occurred, urbanization occurred in other U.S. cities. A slower reverse migration has occurred back to the south to states and cities since the Civil Rights Movement, where economic opportunities are greater. (Themba-Nixon, M., Quiroz-Martinez, J., Randall, V. R., & Kearney, G. 2001) In the United States, 4,673 lynchings

took place from 1882 to 1936. In Louisiana, there were 389 lynchings during this period which 333 were recorded to have happened to African Americans. “For a time, the top four lynching counties in America were Ouachita, Caddo, Bossier, and Morehouse parishes, all in north Louisiana.” (Finley, 2018, pg. 1) After the American Civil War, there was no peace in the Parish of Caddo. There was little, if any, law years after the Civil War, and citizens in the Parish of Caddo observed some of the most heinous murders in recorded history. (Vandal, 1991)

Ironically, the very last city in the American South scheduled to officially take down its Confederate Monument in October of 2017 was downtown Shreveport, Louisiana, in Caddo Parish at a 7 to 5 vote. (Ferrell, 2019) The simple fact that Caddo had to take a vote on removing the monument presents that there is still a deep love for the Old Confederate South. Not saying that the current concept of America is any better; it is just the Confederate South is an overt type of Racism. However, as of March 2022, the monument still stands. (Benn, D. Davis, T. and Onken, A., 2022)

In Bossier Parish, after the Civil War, many intimidation factors were used by Whites to control Blacks. Sources present extremely violent situations to maintain supremacy over the newly freed enslaved Blacks. (Finley, 2018) Violence increased at the end of Reconstruction into the 20th century. Conservative White Democrats attempted to keep power over the state, but it was a struggle. During the time of Reconstruction, 70% of the population in Caddo Parish was Black. Also, during this period of Reconstruction, there were 566 recorded homicides of Blacks. In Caddo Parish, 85% of the homicides happened against Blacks, and 80% of the perpetrators were presumed to be White. (Vandal, 1991) During this period of struggle, Bossier Parish recorded a total of 26 lynchings of

African Americans by Whites. Many forms of tactics were used as a part of racial terrorism. (Vandal, 1991) There were even records and evidence of mass murders by Whites on the Black population. For example, in October 1868, there were three reported mass murders. The first example was when nine Black people were taken to the Red River, told to swim, and shot at while swimming. All nine died. The second incident happened on the same night as the first. A report states that thirty Blacks were rounded up from around Shreveport, taken to the bank of the Red River, tied together with ropes, shot in the backs, and dumped in the river. The third incident happened when a group of White men took five Black men away from work, tied their hands, marched them to Red River, and shot them dead. Due to all of the murders and violence committed against Blacks in Shreveport and the rest of Caddo Parish, the parish received the nickname “Bloody Caddo.” (Vandal, 1991)

2.4.2 Six of the Nine Areas of Human Activity: As mentioned in the introduction, there are “Nine Areas of Human Activity.” (Fuller, 2010) To keep the System of Racism White Supremacy intact, White individuals who practice the system of Institutional Racism must control all “Nine Areas of Human Activity.” If White people who practice racism lose control over any one of the Areas of Human Activity, then the whole System of Racism could fall because the areas are linked together directly or indirectly. The “Nine Areas of Human Activity” are Economics, Education, Entertainment, Labor, Law, Politics, Religion, Sex, and War. (Fuller, 2010) From these “Nine Areas,” the researcher will only use the areas of **Economics, Education, Labor, Law, Politics, and War** in this dissertation, as stated before, because those areas are closely related to the researcher’s dissertation purpose. Dr. Robert Bullard once said that “Racism plays a key factor in environmental planning and decision-making. Indeed, environmental planning racism is

reinforced by government, legal, economic, political, and military institutions.” (Bullard, 1993, p. 1) Dr. Bullard mentioned **economics, legal, military, and political** in his statement. Ironically those four words are mentioned in the “Nine Areas of Human Activity,” Neeley Fuller Jr. states. Legal as in Law, Economics is the same, Political as in Politics and Military associated with War. Research and data have shown no progressive changes in many areas that could help African Americans obtain equity and equality in the U.S. since the Civil Rights Movement, because these Areas of Human Activities are still maintained and controlled by Racism White Supremacy.

2.4.2.1 Economics: Economics is the branch of knowledge that consist of production, consumption, and transfer of wealth. Economics is a social science involving producing, distributing, and consuming goods and services. It studies how individuals, businesses, governments, and nations make choices with allocating resources. (Hayes, 2021) Economics focuses on the actions of human beings, based on assumptions that humans act with rational behavior, seeking the most optimal level of benefit or utility. Alternatively, simplified, Economics is the study of how people allocate scarce resources for production, distribution, and consumption, both individually and collectively. (Hayes, 2021, p.1)

According to Neely Fuller Jr., Economics is the correct distribution of and/or balance between all animals, persons, places, plants, etc. Economics, in the correct sense, is the sum of all the thought, speech, and/or action used to produce maximum efficiency in revealing the truth in a manner that promotes the establishment of Justice and Correctness in all areas of activity. Economics also means using all things, thought, speech, and/or action with maximum efficiency with the objective of eliminating Racism (White

Supremacy). (Fuller, 2010, p. 59) Economics can be used constructively and successfully to manufacture Correctness and Justice through actions and speech. (Fuller, 2010) The researcher argues that people with access to the most resources can control those resources and the world. The people who acquire smaller portions of the resources must use them wisely to change the predicament that they are in. In Caddo and Bossier Parish, African Americans have limited access or resources to change their economic status. In the Shreveport-Bossier City Area, the casinos are major employers, and there are many unskilled workers that are employed there. Many African Americans in Caddo and Bossier Parish are unskilled laborers. Unskilled laborers are cheaper, have fewer technical skills, and are an inexpensive method for establishments to achieve their goals of services and products. (Keilholtz, 2018) However, these unskilled laborers are not highly paid.

2.4.2.2 Education: Education is receiving or giving systematic instruction, especially at a school or university. The late Nelson Mandela, Former President of South Africa, says, “Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another.” (Amanfo, 2019, p. 1) From the mind of Kofi Annan, Former UN Secretary-General, and Ghanaian diploma, explains that “Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.” “Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope.” “Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy, and sustainable human development.” (Amanfo, 2019) Suppose education can

give a person power, help a poor person become wealthy, be liberating, turn hope into misery, and help produce freedom. What happens if a race systematically oppresses another group of people from being properly educated but is miseducated, purposely uneducated, and hides education from another race? It seems that education is a tool of oppression as well as a tool of liberation and freedom.

Neely Fuller Jr. explains, “Nearly all of the knowledge that non-White people receive while existing among or in contact with White people, has been presented to them by the Racist (White Supremacist) for the purpose of serving Racism (White Supremacy).” (Fuller, 2010 p. 101) White America controls the United States education system. America was created by White men, founded on Racism White Supremacy, and still controlled by Racism White Supremacy. Therefore, African Americans in Caddo and Bossier Parish will only learn what the system of Racism wants them to know at any given time. Also, in Caddo and Bossier Parish, there is a disparity of higher degree attainment with African Americans vs. Whites, where African Americans are on the lower end of attainment. When individuals achieve higher degrees, they can acquire higher-paying jobs.

2.4.2.3 Labor: Labor can be considered the amount of social, physical, and mental strive used to produce goods and services in an economy. (Amadeo, 2020) To obtain a finished product, Labor supplies the manpower, expertise, and services needed to turn raw materials into a completed service and/or product. (Amadeo, 2020) To produce goods and services, individuals must be in charge of accomplishing these goals by way of employees, supervisors or managers, owners, and producers.

Labor is any act of using energy and time to achieve an objective constructively. (Neely, 2010) In a socio-material system controlled and dominated by a system of

oppression called Racism, all employment sustained and/or established by White folk is directly or indirectly controlled and dominated by White folk who practice Racism White Supremacy. (Neely, 2010) If the last statement is true, this could explain why African American unemployment numbers are high in the U.S., especially in the researcher's focus areas of Caddo and Bossier Parish. If African Americans are in a system of Racism White Supremacy, and the purpose of Racism is to oppress African Americans/Blacks in the U.S., including Caddo and Bossier Parish, then it would make sense that employment is kept from African Americans directly or indirectly. To take it a step further, we could include Education links to Labor, whereas if African Americans are miseducated and do not achieve a high level of education, then African Americans will not be even considered for high salary/paying jobs and the lack of sufficient education scenario makes it easier for ruling them out of higher salary/paying jobs.

2.4.2.4 Law: According to the Columbia Law Review, "Law is a rule of civil conduct prescribed by the supreme power in a state, commanding what is right and forbidding what is wrong." (Columbia Law Review, 1905) According to Neely Fuller Jr., It is important to know and understand that "Law" is not the same as "Justice," law is anything that is "done." In the system of Racism White Supremacy, do not expect the truth to be revealed or used in a manner that results in Justice and/or correctness through so-called law-making. (Fuller, 2010, p. 149) Through the United States Constitution, Congress has a designated duty of organizing the judicial and executive branches, declaration of war, increasing revenue, and creating **all laws** required to execute these powers. The U.S. Constitution was written in 1787 and placed into functioning in 1789. According to the U.S. Constitution, the United States government exists to serve its citizens. (United States

Senate, 2020) However, Blacks were not considered citizens but were treated as enslaved people since Christopher Columbus brought over Africans in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade in 1492. Furthermore, the enslavement of Black people was included in the U.S. Constitution legally until ratified under the 14th Amendment in the U.S. Constitution in 1868. (Jones. M.S., 2018) After 1865, the southern states in the U.S. passed the Black Codes. The Black Codes were a series of laws to restrict and control the newly freed slaves' right to be from bondage as humans. (Weatherspoon, 2014) Also, there are the Jim Crow Laws that existed from the post-Civil War era through 1968. These particular collections of laws were to marginalize African Americans by refusing their rights to education, hold jobs, right to vote, and or other opportunities. (History.com editors, 2018) Some Jim Crow laws still exist today. Richard Nixon's War on Drug laws and Bill Clinton's 1994 Crime Bill laws were used to disproportionately jail and imprison Black people in the U.S. (Equal Justice Initiative, 2016) (Chung, Pearl, Hunter, 2019) Understanding U.S. Government laws have been made to oppress Black people since the existence of America, both written and unwritten. These laws are to keep Racism White Supremacy intact. Neely Fuller Jr. shares that "a law is a tool that can be used to produce and/or maintain justice or produce and/or maintain injustice. (Fuller,2010, p. 150) In the United States, we have many injustices against people of color, especially African Americans/Blacks presently. The researcher will discuss more data and research regarding the creation of criminals in America, Black incarceration, and Jim Crow Laws in the 2.13 Politics in Louisiana section.

2.4.2.5 Politics: A simple definition of Politics explained is the way groups of individuals interact with one another while making decisions and agreements as they live together in communities, neighborhoods, tribes, cities, states, and countries. (Barker, 1958)

During the existence of Racism, the interactions between Non-White people and White people and between Non-White people and each other can be described as “terroristic,” “trashy,” and/or “tacky” or “The Tragic Arrangement” as defined and described by Neely Fuller Jr. (Fuller, 2010, p.167) The meaning of Fuller’s term the “The Tragic Arrangement” is the total of all of the things that Non-White people and White people think, say, and do, in regards to their interactions with each other, in all areas of activity which consist of Economics, Education, Entertainment, Labor, Law, Politics, Religion, Sex, and War. (Fuller, 2010) According to evidence and based on Fuller’s Compensatory Counter Racist Logic, the system of Racism White Supremacy has not been replaced with a system of Justice which is a balance between people. This is because of the lack of White people and Non-White people abilities to have not come up with a way to do so, and this is “The Tragic Arrangement.” (Fuller, 2010) This inability and the interactions between White racists and Non-Whites are “insanities” since White racists require their victims of this system to promote insane ways of speaking, acting, and thinking. This control operates through Politics. Politics can play a role in using humans as resources because if someone has power or control over you, then that person in power can use you through politics or by force.

The purpose behind the researcher using Neely Fuller Jr’s, Dr. Robert Bullard’s, and Dr. Frances Cress-Welsing’s definitions and terms regarding Racism is because the researcher postulates that Racism or White Supremacy is the cause of poverty, miseducation, poor political position, lack of homeownership, dictating population trends, lack of employment opportunities, high crime, miseducation, and overall poor social and economics in the African American community in Caddo Parish, Northwest Louisiana, and

the entire United States. Racism White Supremacy is a global oppression system that plagues people of color worldwide.

2.4.2.6 War: War is defined as “a state of usually open and declared armed hostile conflict between states or nations.” (Long, n.d.) Another definition is “war should be understood as an *intentional, actual, and widespread* armed conflict between political communities (Long, n.d.) The researcher sees War as a Tool of Racism. Neeley Fuller Jr. includes War in the “Nine Areas of Human activity control by Racism White Supremacy because he argues that White people have posed war on Black people in various manners, and Dr. Robert Bullard includes a military (the military is used in and for wars) solution is a key factor in Racism. (Fuller, 2010), (Bullard, 1993)

2.4.2.6.1 Warfare on Black People: One can easily see that Racism is War on Black/African American people and other minorities, with Black/African American being the primary target based on skin tone and genetics. Furthermore, it is evident White people who still practice Racism are a dominant force in the world, especially in the United States. Dr. Frances Cress-Welsing’s research and studies presented that Racism is a tool for White genetic survival. Dr. Welsing presented that the Whiteness of the skin or non-colored melanated skin possessed by Caucasian people is a recessive genetic trait, is a deficiency to produce color in the skin, and melanated skin people are genetically dominant in which Black people have the most dominant trait. (Bryan, 2019) (Welsing, 1974) Dr. Welsing’s words were “To understand that it is a system for White genetic survival and to prevent White genetic annihilation. If we fail to understand this, we don’t understand what exactly is happening to the Black family, the attack on the Black family in general, and the attack very specifically on Black males as husbands and fathers. The White collective is not going

to change because it is a survival system as a tiny minority of people on the planet.” (Welsing, 1974)

Another tactic of war is psychological warfare. Psychological warfare is the planned tactical use of non-combat techniques such as propaganda, threats, demoralization, intimidation, threats of war, geopolitical unrest to mislead, intimidate, demoralize, and or influence the behavior or thinking of an enemy. (Longley, 2019) War and Psychological Warfare are tools used by Racism White Supremacy to keep non-white people oppressed especially African/Black people. The researcher will go into more detail regarding this subject matter. Warfare on Africans/Blacks by Europeans/Whites has been going on for centuries, in recent history and the present. The harsh treatment of the enslaved in the Americas would have the Africans endure torture, rape, brainwashing, being experimented on medically and psychologically, long-work days, and separation of families. The Jim Crow era included lynchings, no voting rights, unlawful incarceration, labor camps, segregation, and indentured servitude. (History.com Editors, 2018) Other war tactics during the Jim Crow Era included Whites destroying predominantly Black towns, communities, and neighborhoods, such as the Rosewood Massacre, the Tulsa Race Massacre, and the Atlanta Race Massacre, to name only a few. Whites destroyed these places while killing Black people and injuring Black people for various reasons. (Black Past, 2020) During the Civil Rights era, Blacks dealt with police violence, segregation, voter suppression, and Black Civil rights leader assassinations. Also, Blacks dealt with discrimination in employment, education, and housing practices. (Black Past, 2020) Currently, there is less segregation in some areas, but segregation still exists, and unjust police killings. With regard to war tactics in Environmental racism,

African Americans deal with targeted issues in their communities, such as pollution dumping, housing discrimination, employment discrimination, and human health disparities. For example, in 2007, there was extraordinary evidence examined in the Toxic Waste and Race at Twenty Report highlighting 413 nationally commercial hazardous waste facilities were sited in neighborhoods that were disproportionately in minority neighborhoods since 1965. (Bullard, Johnson, & Torres, 2011) In 2009, the Americans' Changing Lives Study presented that African Americans and people at lower education levels were more likely to reside within one mile of a pollution facility. (Bullard, Johnson, & Torres, 2011) People of color make up one-third of the U.S. population, but the percentage of children of color who attend "sick schools" is 45% "Sick Schools" are typically comprised of low-income students living in a low-income community that is subject to living in poor and health risk communities and attending schools that older and poorly maintained. These schools have indoor environmental issues, indoor air pollution, toxic pesticides, toxic chemicals, mold infestation, asbestos, radon, lead in paint, lead in drinking water, and other heavy metals. In Louisiana, the number of children of color in "sick schools" is 50%. (Bullard, Johnson, & Torres, 2011) Water and air pollution cause health issues, shorter life spans, and death of people of color. The researcher presented the tactics and points in this section to show that White Racism is a war on people of color, especially African Americans/Blacks.

2.4.2.6.2 Psychological Warfare on Black People: Psychological warfare is the planned tactical use of non-combat techniques such as propaganda, threats, demoralization, intimidation, threats of war, geopolitical unrest to mislead, intimidate, demoralize, and or influence the behavior or thinking of an enemy. (Longley, 2019)

Psychological warfare can assist with overcoming the enemy's will to fight back or uprising. Also, psychological warfare propaganda methods on the people are popular towards a target enemy... (Longley, 2019) Such as, White racists use propaganda on other Whites and other non-Black races to influence emotions, reasonings, motives, values, behaviors, and beliefs against Blacks/African Americans. To understand how psychological warfare was and is still used on Black people, the researcher will give a brief history in this section.

Psychological warfare tactics on Blacks were used in the Trans-Atlantic Slave trade to the present time. Typical ways Whites use these tactics is to dehumanize and demonize Africans/Blacks. These tactics were the leeway of justification to mistreat, harm, enslave, keep in poverty, miseducate, and murder Black people. Other tactics included referring that Blacks were less than Whites because of their skin color, lips, noses, hair, and inability to learn and be civilized. (Adiele, 2017)

Whites steadily made ideologies and studies that Blacks were inferior to Whites in the 1920s. This was mainly due to Whites drawing tests and giving the test to Blacks to take. When Black people did not perform well on a test, they were deemed less intelligent than Whites, who performed better. However, the test's validity was challenging because the test was given to Blacks that were not in a good environment, was unfamiliar with testing items, had poor education opportunities, came from disadvantaged home conditions, and had cultural barriers. (Thomas, 1982) Nevertheless, the stigma on Black intelligence and other psychological warfare strategies would continue for decades. African Americans still encounter these tactics in the workplace and schools.

For decades African Americans faced discrimination wearing their natural hair and/or naturally locked hair at work and school. For many years, some African American

natural hairstyles were deemed by Whites to be unprofessional. However, here in recent times, there has been a significant natural hair-wearing pushback by African Americans. During the era of the United States slavery, in many instances, enslaved Black women had to cover their hair with wraps, and if they worked inside the enslaver's house, they had to put on wigs to imitate White women. (Griffin, 2019) The Tignon Laws was a law passed in 1786 by Governor Estaban Rodriguez Miro in Louisiana used to police Black people's hair. (Tadele, 2020)

For years if Blacks did not conform to certain hairstyles that Whites didn't see fit, they were and are still not allowed access to certain jobs, play in sports events, and attend certain schools. This was an attempt to make Blacks feel their hair was not as good as White folk's hair to make Blacks feel inferior. Recently in 2010, Chastity Jones refused to cut off her locks after accepting a job with Catastrophe Management Solutions, and the company rescinded its job offer. In 2013, there was a filed suit by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for Jones, but it was lost, and in 2016 the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the district court's ruling and dismissed the case. (Griffin, 2019) Africans/Blacks had worn Afro's, braided hair, and locked hair for thousands of years before the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Discoveries show Africans/Blacks are the first humans on the planet by 200,000 or more years. Furthermore, it was also discovered through research that all races of humanity derived from Africans/Blacks. (Stony Brook University, 2011) (Zhongxi, Yanfang, & Shan, 2009) (Coleman, 2013)

Professor John Shea Ph.D. of Stony Brook University, links the earliest Africans to the first tool makers. (Stony Brook University, 2011) Professor Jin Li, a Chinese geneticist at the Research Center of Contemporary Anthropology at Shanghai Fudan University

(RCCASFU), recently performed research that proved modern Chinese people originated from Black Africans, based on modern DNA testing techniques. (Zhongxi, Yanfang, & Shan 2009) Discoveries show the White race to be only as old as 8,000 to 10,000 years old. (Gibbons, 2017) If Blacks were the first race of people on the planet and are the fathers and mothers of humanity, why are there such despicable tactics being taken against Blacks on their hair, skin color, and other physical features?

Because Africans/Blacks were the first tool makers, they were the first race to build civilizations, including the pyramids in Egypt and Mesopotamia. Egypt consisted of all Black people for thousands of years, dating back from around 8000 B.C. to 10,000 B.C. Lower Egypt was conquered for 100 years by the Hyksos around 1640 B.C., but the Africans took back control until being fully conquered by the Persians in 525 B.C., the Greeks in 332 B.C., and finally, the Romans in 30 B.C. (Howard, 2009) (Coleman, 2013) (Finch, 1987) (Walker, 2006) Africans inhabited the continents first and maintained the World's **lands and natural resources** in good care. Also, Africans were the first to invent languages, astronomy, literature, philosophy, science, math, medicine, spirituality, metallurgy, and the arts. (Finch, 1987) (Howard, 2009) (Walker, 2006) Some of those inventions and discoveries were passed to original the Egyptians by African descendants that predated Egypt. (Walker, 2006) In fact, the Greeks received language and literature from the Black Africans, and the Romans received literature form the Africans/Blacks as well. (Howard, 2009) (Coleman, 2013) (Staff, 2016) (Gardinerv, 1916) (Smith, J. (1970) Then there has to be a discussion regarding **Africans** being the first **urban planners** or city planners of the world and were the first explorers. Discoveries show Africans began cultivating crops as far back as 12,000 years ago and sailing boats since around 5000 B.C.

(Walker, 2006) (Golden Destiny Publishing) Furthermore, the correlation between the architectural influences of ancient Egypt is seen in Rome, Greece, and Washington D.C. (Howard, 2009) (Browder,1992) Greeks were excellent record keepers. Chancellor Williams captures a passage saying, “[The Greeks] drew upon the Land of the Blacks for architectural designs, city planning, sculpture, science, and even religion. These they reshaped and made Greek. [...]. [The Greeks had] the readiness to borrow from other people [...], to [... reshape or make] over to suit’s one own ideals and needs.” (Williams, Chancellor, 1987) Knowing and understanding this information, Black people can prove they are the fathers and mothers of mankind and are not inferior in intellect nor genetics but are in a physical and mental war waged by White people who practice Racism. To keep African Americans from this information is part of psychological warfare because a tactic was to take away African Americans’ rich history and teach Blacks that they come from enslaved people, making them think less of themselves and easier to be controlled mentally. This tactic can be deemed as miseducation as well. African Americans do have notable great inventors, intellectuals, and awesome accomplishments in America despite being oppressed. The Transatlantic Slave trade assisted in interrupting Black history and endeavors.

To present more background on psychological warfare, the researcher will refer to another important event, The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. During the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, the Portuguese, the British, the Spanish, the French, the Dutch, and the Danish, who are races of European descent, begin the most horrific treatment of human beings. (Bedard, 2021), (Library of Congress, n.d.) These White Europeans kidnapped and stole African people from the continent of Africa and shipping across the ocean to multiple continents.

Now, this is an act of war. Also, they purchased African indentured servants. African indentured servants usually only served anywhere from 4 to 7 years of servitude and would be free of their services after the terms. Indentured servants in Africa could own property, have their own indentured servants, go to school, and even marry. (Public Broadcasting Service, n.d.) (Bedard, 2021) (Library of Congress, n.d.) Most importantly, African slavery never passed from one generation to another, and it lacked the racist notion that Whites were masters and Blacks were slaves. (Public Broadcasting Service, n.d. p. 1) The harsh treatment of slavery in the Americas would have the Africans endure rape (of women, men, and children), beatings, brainwashing, long workdays, etc.

Dr. John Henrik Clarke explained that there is only one race, the human race. The reason the race categories were created was to justify the Transatlantic Slave trade and colonialism. (Clarke, 1970) Being that the Catholic Church had a history of slave masters and slaves authorized by Pope Nicholas V, he gave notice to Catholic Kings and Princes' along with Christopher Columbus, to the Trans-Atlantic Slave trade to help Europeans to take over the planet. "The Bull "Dum Diversas" was the first Bull written by Pope Nicholas V on the issue of the Black African enslavement together with the right of ownership granted to Portugal over West Africa." (Adiele, 2017, p. 309)

Early stages of Racism as a tool to separated humans and justified the cause of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. Also, the Pope justified their Slavery of Africans to not only be of a different race but to claim and identify that Africans were inferior, pseudo-human, barbarous, lacking good morals, morally debased, untamed, and sexually lascivious. (Adiele, 2017) And the sexually lascivious label was placed on the African man saying the "sexual lasciviousness of the Black man located it in his sexual organ, which they portrayed

to be similar in length and size with that of the Devil.” (Adiele, 2017, p. 207) The English physician and surgeon Charles White (1728-1813), in 1799, concluded that the Black African was very hyper-sexual based on his long penis. Convinced of his clinical observations, he stated that: “The penis of an African is larger than that of a European.” So, the Black man was ruled a demon. (Adiele, 2017, p. 207) To make African lives even cheaper, they were also labeled as not having God in them, having no religion, lack commonwealth, being without laws, being libidinous, and beastly. (Adiele, 2017)

One last damaging tactic of psychological warfare during the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade American slavery was telling Blacks there was something wrong with their skin and hair while simultaneously raping them, which in turn produced mixed-race children and using those children as buffers between the lighter-skinned blacks and darker-skinned Blacks. The mixed-race children were treated better than the darker-skinned Blacks and often helped police the dark-skinned Blacks. Even in the present time, darker-skinned Blacks and lighter-skinned Blacks still encounter competition, complexion battles, complexion issues, etc., between each other to this day due to the psychological tactics of slavery. Whites still benefit from this because it can keep the focus off defeating Racism. As we move into the 21 Century, such psychological warfare tactics are pinning Black women and Black men against each other for the confusion and destruction of the Black race.

2.5 Urbanization

Urbanization refers to the mass movement of populations from rural to urban settings and how we adapt to the physical changes in urban settings through the movement. (Kuddus, Tynan, & McBryde, E. 2020) There have been different observations and

different views of the urbanization of the world's population. Many see it as a positive force in activity and development on an economic basis as economic activity moves away from agriculture to more remunerative activities. (Martin, Chen, Shaohua, & Prem, 2016) (Christiaensen, Weerdt, & Todo, 2013) Poverty reductions, distribution change, and economic growth have been viewed as a core part of population urbanization's leading process in many longstanding theories. If we look at urbanization from this view, then rural workers and homesteaders should be attracted by new economic opportunities in urbanized areas. However, in many instances, there has been a negative effect of urbanization that has ushered in new problems of poverty. (DeJonge, 2014) (Christiaensen, Weerdt, & Todo, 2013) Negative effects of Urbanization can be a lack of resources, poverty, unemployment, overcrowding, and crime.

2.5.0.1 Residential Land Uses: Residential land uses are for single- or two-family homes. Local jurisdictions can help increase the units of housing in parishes or counties, towns, and cities by modifying zoning policies which will also help with residential growth, higher density residential uses, and local jurisdictions. (Zoning Changes, 2020)

2.5.0.2 Rural Land Uses: Rural lands include but are not limited to, those generally developed to lower residential densities, timber harvesting, public or private recreation or open space, agricultural activities, resource conservation, and resource extraction. Rural lands can also include solid waste disposal sites, public services use, and institutional uses. (Robinson, 2004) Rural land uses are for Rural Residential Subdivisions. They are usually clusters of residential development subdivided into parcels that are generally slightly larger or less than five acres. Neighborhood commercial uses vacant parcels or can be used for

Rural Residential Subdivisions but predominately developed with single-family homes. (Robinson, 2004)

2.5.0.3 Commercial and Industrial Land Uses: Commercial areas include strip malls, supermarkets, hotels, hospitals, schools, churches, condominiums, gaming places, and office buildings. Industrial areas include chemical, petrochemical, and power plants, along with food processing or storage and manufacturing plants. (Schmidt, 2017) Commercial and industrial land uses typically are located near highways, roadways, and rail systems.

2.5.0.4 Land Use: Land Use is an umbrella term for activities occurring on a given parcel of land, such as residential, retail, industrial, agricultural, or transportation uses. (Goody Clancy, 2017, p. 13) We must understand that zoning is how government (local) regulates the different uses of parcels of land. Zoning and land use are not the same. To create an understanding regarding zoning and land use, the researcher will provide the details of how the two work together. As vacant land can be zoned for a use that has not yet developed; uses can be “grandfathered” or “nonconforming” (meaning that they existed before the land was zoned for different use); and zoning categories can permit more than one use, for example, an area zoned for industrial uses may also permit commercial uses, which may come to predominate in the area. (Goody Clancy, 2017)

2.5.0.5 Zoning and Ordinance: Zoning codes and ordinances give details and directions as to what type of development is allowed or permissible in each zoning district which includes residential, mixed-use, commercial, etc. Also, there are provisions for use of land within a district, down to each developed and used parcel. Zoning in residential areas and residential density is limited and managed regarding the number of housing units

constructed in a particular land area. Parishes, counties, towns, and cities that are looking to add to their housing units may wish to revisit the zoning codes they have in place to facilitate growth by either researching and identifying possibilities in existing residential areas to add density and opening areas where residential development was not permitted at one point in time. (Local Housing Solutions, 2020)

2.5.1 Urbanization and Caddo Parish: Since the ending of The Black Migration during the period of 1916 to 1970, a slower reverse migration has occurred back to the southern states and cities. This reversal happened since the Civil Rights Movement when economic opportunities were greater in the south. In Caddo Parish, there was a decline in the population in the early 1990s, which was probably due to the loss of industries, high gang activity, murder, drugs, and criminal activity. After the Casinos stabilized in the late 1990s and Hurricane Katrina's devastation happened, the population steadily increased in 2013 then the number started to decline again. The population in Shreveport is 182,616, in which the Black population is the largest with 57.09% outnumbering Whites at 38%. Blacks have the majority poverty rate in the city of Shreveport, which is the largest urbanized area in Caddo Parish and northern Louisiana. (World Population Review Caddo, 2021) The casino boom in Shreveport-Bossier happened in 1994. Shreveport City has three riverboats on its side of the Red River. The Casinos are Eldorado, Sam's Town, and Cash Magic. Shreveport City's twin city Bossier City has four Casinos, with now a total of seven between the twin cities. The first Casino to open was Harrah's. When Harrah's opened in April of 1994, a month later, Isle of Capri opened in May, and then a month after that, Horseshoe opened in June. Not only would the casinos bring gambling, but they would also bring fine dining, buffets, hotels, entertainment, sponsorship opportunities, and tax

dollars. Four more casinos opened directly on the Red River of Shreveport-Bossier, along with the other three casinos. (Ferrel, 2019) The gaming industry in Shreveport-Bossier quickly became recognized as the state's leader. Back in 2003, reports said that Shreveport-Bossier was "the most prolific provider of revenue of the state. (Ferrel, 2019, p. 1) However, the expectation of a foundation of a new economy in the Shreveport-Bossier City area was a wrong assumption. Other nearby states started in the gaming industry, and there came increased competition. As far as the worker's situation, the casino boom, in the beginning, came real for unskilled workers and for people who did not have advanced degrees. Unskilled and labor workers could work for the casinos and receive better pay than other jobs prior, but now it does not have much of an impact on them.

2.5.2 Housing Discrimination: To prevent a person from buying or renting housing because of race or color, national origin, family status, sex, religion, and or disability by a housing provider is deemed as housing discrimination. A real estate management company, landlord, or lending institution such as a bank is a housing provider. (USA Government Housing, 2021) "Race still plays a significant part in distributing public "benefits" and public "burdens" associated with economic growth. The roots of discrimination are deep and have been difficult to eliminate. Housing discrimination contributes to the physical decay of inner-city neighborhoods. It denies a substantial segment of the African American community a basic form of wealth accumulation and investment through homeownership." (Bullard, 2008)

Housing segregation and/or Residential segregation and/or Residential apartheid is the dominant housing pattern for most African Americans/Blacks, the most racially segregated group of people of color in America. (Bullard, 1994) Racism, created by White

folks who in turn created apartheid in the United States. Dr. Robert Bullard mentions that “racism is and continues to be a conspicuous part of the American sociopolitical system, and as a result, Black people in particular, and ethnic and racial minority groups of color, find themselves at a disadvantage in contemporary society.” (Bullard, 1994, 445) A variety of White players that consisted of politicians, business elites, workers, merchants, shippers in the earlier stages, slaveholders, and slave owners created racial patterns in the cities of America since slavery. (Bullard, 1994) The Black ghettos being created and maintained by White racism, which was implicated in 1968 by the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, continue the separate and unequal societies of Black and White. By way of lucid institutional practices, government policies, and private actions, a larger amount of White society will contain themselves from the nation’s ghettos, reservations, and barrios, which are strategically kept isolated. (Bullard, 1994)

Housing discrimination is discrimination through tactical patterns that affect people’s ability to purchase or rent housing units. This type of treatment, usually based on group characteristics, the housing market, and or the area where people live, assists with the discrimination. (McCargo, A., Choi, J., & Golding, E. 2019)) Many tactical measures can ensure racism is strategically ingrained in the housing market. Tactics such as housing discrimination, which includes redlining, house pricing discrimination, house buying exclusion, and white flight, are tools of racism used to cause home buying issues, prevent home buying, and home maintaining in the Black Community, which can bolster poverty and prevent African American wealth in the U.S. including Caddo Parish. Housing discrimination denies a substantial segment of the African American community a basic form of wealth accumulation and investment through homeownership. (Bullard, Johnson,

Torres, 2000) “Even though the federal Fair Housing Act 1968 prohibited racial discrimination in housing, Blacks still do not receive equal treatment in the market or joy complete freedom of choice in housing.” (Bullard, 1987, p. 50) Presented is a limited varying success with agencies in nearly every major city in the U.S. States that has constructed a fair housing division to implement and monitor fair housing policies. (Bullard,1987) There are alarming restrictions that Blacks encounter in the housing market regarding homeownership options. It denies them benefit of long-term investments and tax savings due to institutional racism. (Bullard,1987) Institutionalized racism can include such practices as coding records, threats, or acts of intimidation, refusing to lease or sell housing to Blacks, applications used to indicate racial preferences of landlords, redlining (the act of lenders making policies not to create loans for homes in a minority or low-income areas of the city), and racial steering (when agents in real estate present/show minority clients homes strictly in low-income or minority areas). (Bullard,1987) A heavy burden that Blacks and other minorities take on, along with some other U.S. citizens, is the spiral cost of housing. This is an addition to institutional and individual discrimination against Blacks and other minorities. The relevant discrimination in housing patterns in the U.S. is price discrimination and exclusion. (Bullard,1987) Price discrimination refers to the act of charging one group a higher price than another group for identical housing. (Bullard, 1987, p. 53) Exclusion refers to any technique designed to avoid selling or renting housing in a given location to a certain group of people. (Bullard, 1987, p.53) In housing discrimination, Blacks pay more than Whites who make equal income for identical housing because Blacks face a restricted housing supply. When this occurs, other social and economic costs get imposed on Blacks. The scenario of Blacks paying more for housing

(who are already making less income than Whites) and using most of their income to pay for housing costs leave less money for food, water, clothing, medical, and exedra. (Bullard,1987) Getting less on the return on their tax dollars are consequences that Blacks face whose housing options are face confinement to the inner city. The tax dollars for residential services such as street repair, fire and police protection, drainage systems, and so on vary remarkably according to neighborhood racial/ethnic makeup and location. (Bullard,1987) There is racial discrimination in housing that arises independently of income level. A report stated that lending institutions had a higher percentage of minorities rejected for mortgage applications than non-minorities applications, despite income, according to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Reports. (Bullard,1987)

If there were no discrimination, the percentage of African Americans/Blacks that own homes would be higher. The number of middle-class African Americans in the U.S. was only 59% in 2008, versus 74% of Whites. (Bullard, 2008) In 2017, 42% of African Americans owned their own homes and in 2017 there were 41% of African Americans owned their own homes. (Wake, 2021)

2.5.2.0.1. Shreveport/Caddo Housing Discrimination and Complaints: The City of Shreveport Human Relations Commission or HRC take complaints regarding discrimination in housing, public accommodations, or employment against a protected group of people. (City of Shreveport, 2021)

2.5.2.1 Redlining: Redlining is the act of lenders making policies of not creating loans for homes in minority and low-income areas of the city. (Bullard, pg. 50, 1987) In other words, redlining refers to discriminatory practices which deny access to credit and

insurance for borrowers in neighborhoods that are economically disadvantaged and/or have high percentages of minorities. (Richardson, Mitchell, Meier, Lynch, & Edlebi, 2021) “Jim Crow,” “laws were prevalent at one time in the U.S., mainly in the southern parts of the U.S. However, redlining was a common segregation tactic not used in many parts of the U.S. that “Jim Crow” laws were not as extreme.” (Richardson, Mitchell, Meier, Lynch, & Edlebi, 2021, p. 1)

The federal government was faced with housing shortages in 1933. These shortages sparked the program created by the government to overtly segregate and increase the U.S. housing stock. The housing programs were created under the New Deal and were said to be virtually the same as the "state-sponsored system of segregation," by author Richard Rothstein who proclaimed this in his book. (Richardson, Mitchell, Meier, Lynch, & Edlebi, pg. 1, 2021) Rothstein said, “The government's efforts were "primarily designed to provide housing to white, middle-class, lower-middle-class families," he says. African Americans and other people of color were left out of the new suburban communities and pushed into urban housing projects. This action furthered the segregation efforts by refusing to insure mortgages in and near African American neighborhoods. (Gross, pg. 1 2017) However, Rothstein’s critics say that his accusations are not legit and respond by explaining that “Housing segregation, like racism in general, has deep roots in American society. It wasn’t imposed by the federal government and certainly not by the New Deal.” (Walker, Karp, Marcetic, Jones, Traverso, Cohen, & Mittelstadt, 2019, p. 1) (Gross, 2017) With both comments said, redlining did and still does exist.

To explain the New Deal was an endeavor by President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s response to alleviate the anguish of the Great Depression when he took office in 1933. The

New Dealers and President Roosevelt initiated various new programs to attack the issues hindering the country, such as creating jobs, supporting banks, investing in public works, bolstering wages, modernizing lagging regions, and giving a sense of hope to the U.S. citizens. (Walker, 2019)

Redlining bolsters the evacuation of shopping centers in the inner city. Once these businesses leave the neighborhood and communities, replacements include liquor stores, fast-food operations, pawn shops, check cashing stations, and small food marts (mainly junk food). (Bullard, Johnson, Torres, 2000) African Americans face discrimination from real estate brokers who shows them limited options, mortgage companies, and banks which reveals they do not have full access to saving institutions and lending banks as their white counterparts. (Bullard, Johnson, Torres, 2000)

2.5.2.2 White Flight: After there was World War II era, there was a migration occurrence in the U.S. called “White flight.” Many white residents in predominantly or “all-White” neighborhoods would pick up and leave as African Americans and/or other people of color moved into these neighborhoods. The White residents that pick up and leave would/will resettle in newly built, overwhelmingly white suburbs.

Some had debated that white flight is an instinctive maneuver to a decline in a neighborhood’s property value and median household income that had been prone to happen in the past when there was an inundation of people of color and not because of racial attitudes or prejudices. (Kaul, Askari, Hackett, & Orenstein, 2018) However, modern research shows that white flight happens in middle-class suburban areas where there is economic stability. White flight occurs as White folks move from one suburb to another as non-white people move into the suburbs of the neighborhoods Whites flee. (Kaul, Askari,

Hackett, & Orenstein, 2018) Studies have shown that non-White people's neighborhood attraction ability is one that's integrated. In contrast, the average White person in the same study says they prefer predominantly White neighborhoods because they are more desirable than integrated neighborhoods. (Kaul, Askari, Hackett, & Orenstein, 2018) The suburbs aren't as White as they used to be, and as these suburbs get more diverse, the White flight phenomenon is repeating itself. Dr. Samuel Kye a sociologist, primarily studies racial inequality in metropolitan areas, micro-level data, and U.S. Census to understand why and how residential segregation continues. In 2018, an analysis of the 150 largest metro areas in the United States by Samuel Kye, who was pursuing his Ph.D. in sociology at Indiana University. Dr. Kye found White flight in recent years in 3,252 suburban U.S. Census tracts. He further found White flight in seven middle-class suburban neighborhoods in the county of Hennepin. (Kaul, Askari, Hackett, & Orenstein, 2018)

2.5.2.3 Renters Rights: Between various states in the U.S., it is common for landlord or landlord laws to differ. It is crucial for all parties involved to be knowledgeable concerning laws and rules in each state, and Louisiana is no different. In Louisiana, each person involved must do their own research. (American Apartment Owners Association, 2021) When and if the rent's paid in a prompt/timely method in exchange for occupying a property, a landlord-tenant agreement is confirmed with or without a lease within the laws in Louisiana (Code Title VIII). (iPropertyManagement.com, 2020) Within this agreement, the renter/tenant has the right to a suitable residence and the proper due process before evictions, among others. (iPropertyManagement.com, 2020) According to Fair Housing laws, a tenant cannot be denied housing based on Color, Race, Sex, Age, Religion, Disability, National Origin or Family Status, Sexual Orientation, and Marital Status. Those

individuals who are also protected are people that have a criminal record (unless they could be dangerous to other tenants or the rental) or use Section 8 housing vouchers to pay rent. In essence, the criteria mentioned regarding the Fair Housing laws are reasons a prospective tenant can be accepted or denied. The landlord must decide on a prospective renter based on the information used in a formal screening procedure. (Manolas, 2021) Receiving rental payments on time and the right to an eviction process after a violation of the rental agreement are the rights of the Landlords. (iPropertyManagement.com, 2020)

2.5.3 Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish Home Ownership: The Louisiana Housing Census of 1990 shows Caddo Parish White homeownership is 64.8% and Black homeownership was 34.4%, with a gap of 30.4%. (1990 U.S. Census Louisiana Population and Housing, 1992) The Louisiana Population and Housing Census of 2000 details a housing gap of 18.9%, with White homeownership at 58.3% and African American at 39.4% and. (2000 U.S. Census Louisiana Population and Housing, 2002) The Louisiana Population and Housing Census of 2010 show Whites 53.2% in homeownership and African American 43.6% which puts the homeownership gap to 9.6%. (2010 U.S. Census Louisiana Census Population and Housing, 2012) (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2016)

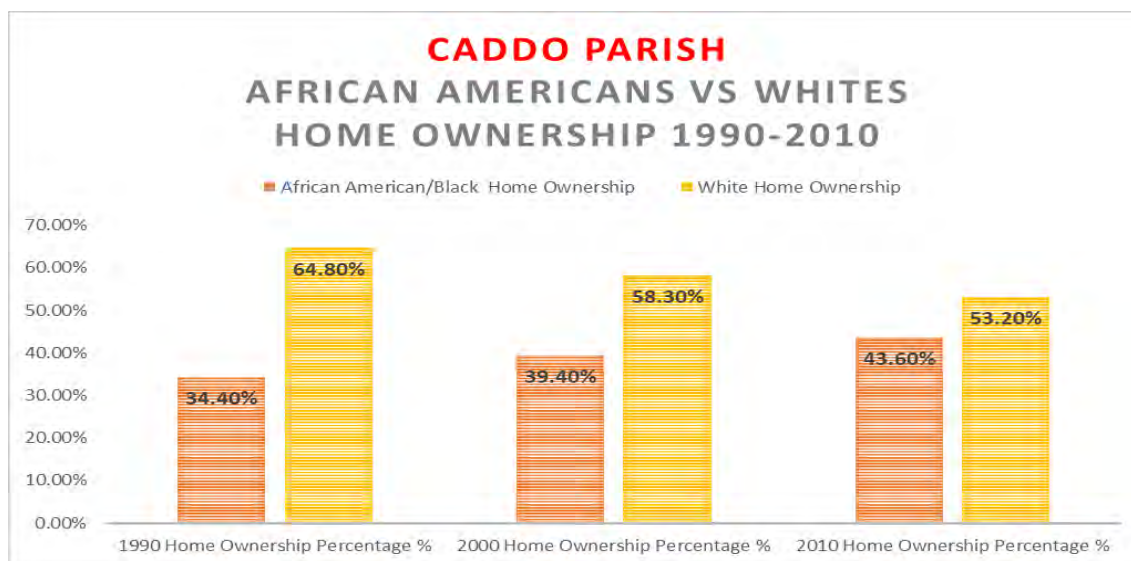


Figure 7: Caddo Parish Home Ownership 1990-2010 Black vs. White

Source: 1990 U.S. Census Louisiana Population and Housing, (1992), 2000 U.S. Census Louisiana Population and Housing, (2002), 2010 U.S. Census Louisiana Census Population and Housing, (2012)

The current trend from 1990 to 2010 is that African American homeownership has increased by 9.2%, which is an improvement. White homeownership has decreased by 11.6% from 1990 to 2010. Looking at the increase in African American homeownership and decrease in White home ownership, it seems to be a positive trend for African Americans in Caddo Parish. Research also shows a trend in the population trend Caddo Parish.

Caddo Parish Population in **1990** was 248,253 with Whites 58.4% and Blacks 40%. (1990 U.S. Census Louisiana Population Characteristics, 1992) (1990 U.S. Census Louisiana Population and Housing, 1992) In **2000**, the population was 252,161, the population of Whites was 52.2%, and Blacks were 45%. (U.S. Census of Population and Housing 2000) Looking into the census year **2010**, the total population was 255,543 White population was 47.8%, and the Black population was 46.9%. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020) The **2020** U.S. Census data showed a total population of 243,243, the Black population

was 49.2%, and Whites were 44.3%. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020) Judging by the decrease in the White population, the research can determine that this decrease is the reason for the White homeownership decrease in Caddo Parish. The increase in the African American population is the reason for African American homeownership. Although the gap between them has closed, judging by the 2010 and 2020 population count, there is still a big homeownership gap between African Americans and Whites in home ownership. As of 2020, Caddo Parish African American Population Black population is 49.2% with only 43.6% homeownership, and White homeownership is 53.2% with 44.3% of the population, which shows a racial disadvantage. (1990 U.S. Census Louisiana Population, 1992) (2010 U.S. Census Louisiana Census Housing, 2012)

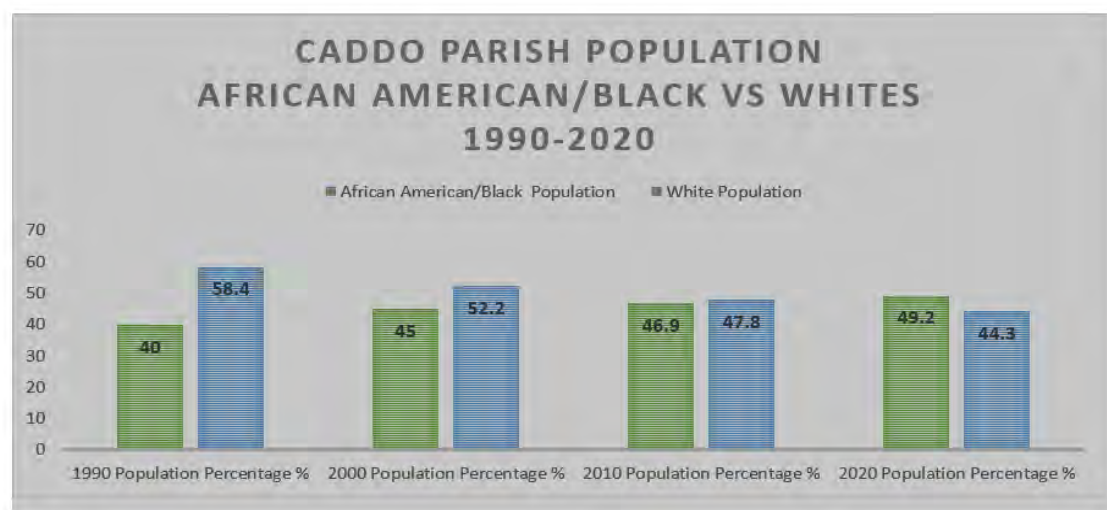


Figure 8: Caddo Parish Population Percentage 1990-2019 Black vs. White

Source: 1990 U.S. Census Louisiana Population (1992), 2000 U.S. Census Louisiana Population (2002), 2010 U.S. Census Louisiana Population (2010), U.S. Census Bureau (2020)

To provide a comparison, it is fair to judge the same statistics in Caddo Parish with the neighboring parish, Bossier Parish. In the 1990 Census in Bossier Parish, White

homeownership was 79.9%, and African American homeownership was 17.4%, with a difference of 62.5%. (1990 U.S. Census Louisiana Population, 1992) **The 2000** Census reported White homeownership was 77.1% and Black homeownership was 18.9%, with a gap of 58.2%. (2000 U.S. Census Louisiana Population, 2002) **In 2010**, White homeownership was 75% and Black homeownership 20%, which makes for a difference of 55%. (2010 U.S. Census Louisiana Population, 2010) In Bossier Parish, the White population is significantly larger than the Black population.

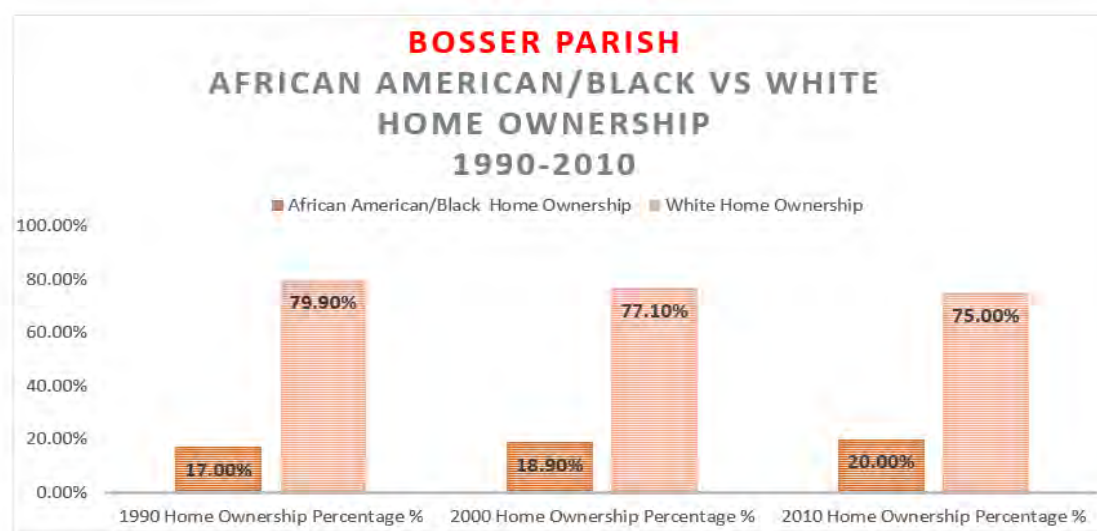


Figure 9: Bossier Parish Home Ownership 1990-2010 Black vs White

Source: 1990 U.S. Census Louisiana Population and Housing (1992), 2000 U.S. Census Louisiana Population and Housing (2002) 2010 U.S. Census Louisiana Census Population and Housing (2012)

Reviewing Bossier Parish population, in 1990, Whites were 76.4% and African American 20.02%, with a gap of 56.4%. (1990 U.S. Census Louisiana Population and Housing, 1992) The following 2000 Census White population was 72.9% and African American 21%, with a difference of 51.9%. (2000 U.S. Census Louisiana Population and Housing, 2002) In 2010, the White population was 69.2% Whites and African Americans

23.1%, with a difference of 46.1%. (2010 U.S. Census Louisiana Census Population and Housing, 2012) In the recent 2020, the population of Whites was 66.3%, and African Americans was 23.3%, with a gap of 43%. (U.S. Census Bureau 2020, 2020) The White population is a large majority in Bossier Parish. The homeownership gap decreased between African Americans and Whites in Bossier Parish from 1990 to 2010 by 7.7%.

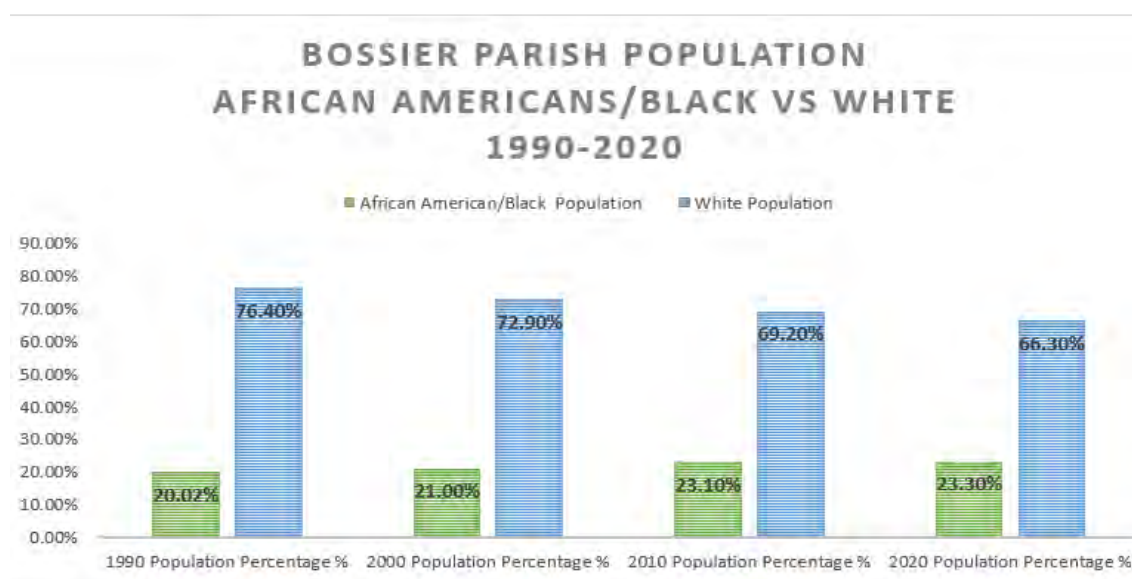


Figure 10: Bossier Parish Home Ownership 1990-2020 Black vs. White

Source: 1990 U.S. Census Louisiana Population (1992), 2000 U.S. Census Louisiana Population (2002), 2010 U.S. Census Louisiana Population (2010), Surbanstats.com (2019)

2.5.4 Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish Owners vs Renters: In Caddo Parish's 1990 Census Owners vs. Renters, there were 60,067 Owner-occupied units and 33,181 Renter units and a total of 93,248 units. Caddo Parish Owners 64.4% and Renters 35.5%. The percentages of Black Owners were 27.5%, Black Renters 52%, White Owners 71.8%, and White Renters 52%. (U.S. Census of Housing, 1990) Caddo Parish Owners vs Renters total statistics in 2000 was Owners 63.8% and Renters 36.2%. Caddo Parish Blacks Owners

were 50.5%, Black Renters 49.5%, and White Owners 73.3%, and White Renters 26.7%.% (U.S. Census of Housing, 2000) In **2010** Caddo Parish Owners vs. Renters was Owners 61.4% and Renters 38.6%. Caddo Parish Black Owners 34.8% and Black Renters 56.5%, and 2010 White Owners 63.2% and Renters 37.5%. %. (U.S. Census of Housing, 2010) In **2019** Caddo Parish Owners 63.4% and Renters 36.6%. Caddo Parish Black Owners were 40.2%, Black Renters 64.3%, and White Owners 57.1% and White Renters 32.7%. (U.S. Census of Housing, 2019) (U.S. Census of Housing, 2020)

In Bossier Parish **1990**, U.S. Census Owners vs Renters there were 30,718 total housing units, of which 20,477 were Owned units, and 10,241 were Renters units. Bossier Parish had 66.7% Owners and 33.3% Renters. Bossier Parish Black Owners were 13% and Black Renters 26.4%. The White Owners were 85.9%, and White Renters were 71%. (U.S. Census of Housing, 1990) In **2000**, Bossier Black Owners were 48.2% and Black Renters 51.8%. The White Owners were 75% and White Renters 25%. (U.S. Census of Housing, 2000) In the **2010** Census, there were 65.7% Owners and 34.3% Renters. The Black Owners were 13.9%, and Black Renters were 36.4%. The Whites Owners were 83.6% and White Renters 60.3%. (U.S. Census of Housing, 2010) In the **2019** Census, Bossier Parish's total Owners were 66.7% and Renters 33.3%. No other information is available as of yet. (U.S. Census of Housing, 2019)

Located in the northwestern part of the U.S. State of Louisiana, Caddo Parish has a total estimated population of 245, 831 with 49.2% Blacks, 46.2% Whites, 0.4% American Indians/Alaska Native, 1.3% Asian, and 2.8 % Hispanic (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019) Bossier Parish has an estimated population of 126,499 with Blacks 22.8%, Whites 72%, Hispanic 6.6%, American Indian/Alaska Native 0.5% and Asian 1.9%(U.S. Census Bureau

2018) The Median Age in Caddo Parish is 37.7 years of age, and the Median Age in Bossier Parish is 35.3 years of age. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019) African American poverty in Louisiana is 29.4% statewide, and 33.9% of Caddo African American residents are in poverty. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019) White Caddo Parish residents' poverty is 15.5%. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019) The poverty rate of the Black residents in Shreveport, Louisiana, the largest city in Caddo Parish, is dramatically higher than the national average of 25.2%. A total of 35.19% of African American/Black residents in Shreveport, Louisiana, live below the poverty line. White residents' poverty in Shreveport is 11.62%. One out of every 3.9 Black/African American residents of Shreveport lives in poverty. (World Population Review Caddo, 2021) In Bossier Parish, Louisiana, Black/African American residents' poverty is 23.8%, and Whites were 17.6%. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019) Bossier City poverty for Blacks was 33.05% poverty and for Whites was 11.06% (World Population Review Bossier, 2021)

Most Blacks in Caddo Parish have migrated to Shreveport. The population in Shreveport is 182,616, with the black population being the largest at 57.09%, Whites at 38%, American Indian and Alaska Native.04%, Asians 1.67%, Native Hawaiian, and Other Pacific Islander .06%and Two or more races 1.85% (World Population Review Bossier, 2021) Blacks have the majority poverty rate even in the city of Shreveport, which is the largest urbanized area in Caddo Parish and northern Louisiana. A total of 35.19% of African American/Black residents of Shreveport, Louisiana, live below the poverty line. One out of every 3.9 residents of Shreveport live in poverty. (World Population Review Caddo, 2021) The Poverty Rate of Black residents in Shreveport, Louisiana, is dramatically higher than the national average of 10.5 in 2019 by more than 25%. (U.S. Census Bureau,

2019) Approximately 55.7% of the total population of Shreveport, Louisiana, is African American. The Poverty Rate of White residents in Shreveport, Louisiana, is 11.62%. Approximately 36.5% of the total population of Shreveport, Louisiana, is White. (World Population Review Caddo, 2021) Bossier City African American/Black residents represent 27.89% and White 65.62%, American Indian, and Alaska Native.39%, Asians 2.39%, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander .05%, and Two or more races 2.52%. (World Population Review Bossier, 2021) Black residents in Bossier City's poverty is 33.05% ,and White resident's Poverty is 11.06%. (World Population Review Bossier, 2019)

According to the Housing Census of 1990, African American homeownership was 60,470 Blacks, and Whites were 93,248 in Caddo Parish. Bossier Parish African American homeownership was 24,924 and Whites 30,718. (U.S. Department of Commerce Economics and Statistics Louisiana, 1990) The Louisiana Housing Census of 1990 shows a huge gap of over 30,000 people in Caddo Parish. The Louisiana Housing Census of 2010 shows African American homeownership 44,622 and Whites 54,326. Bossier Parish African American homeownership shows 9,081 and Whites 33,953. (U.S. Department of Commerce Economics and Statistics Louisiana, 1990) In Caddo Parish, the African American population outnumbers the Whites population by over 2.5%, yet the homeownership is greater by Whites. However, judging by the Louisiana Housing Census of 1990, the gap has decreased dramatically. In Shreveport, Louisiana, the largest urbanized city in Caddo Parish, Black or African American Total homeowners is 18,245, and White homeowners are 25,260. (U.S. Department of Commerce Economics and Statistics Louisiana, 1990)

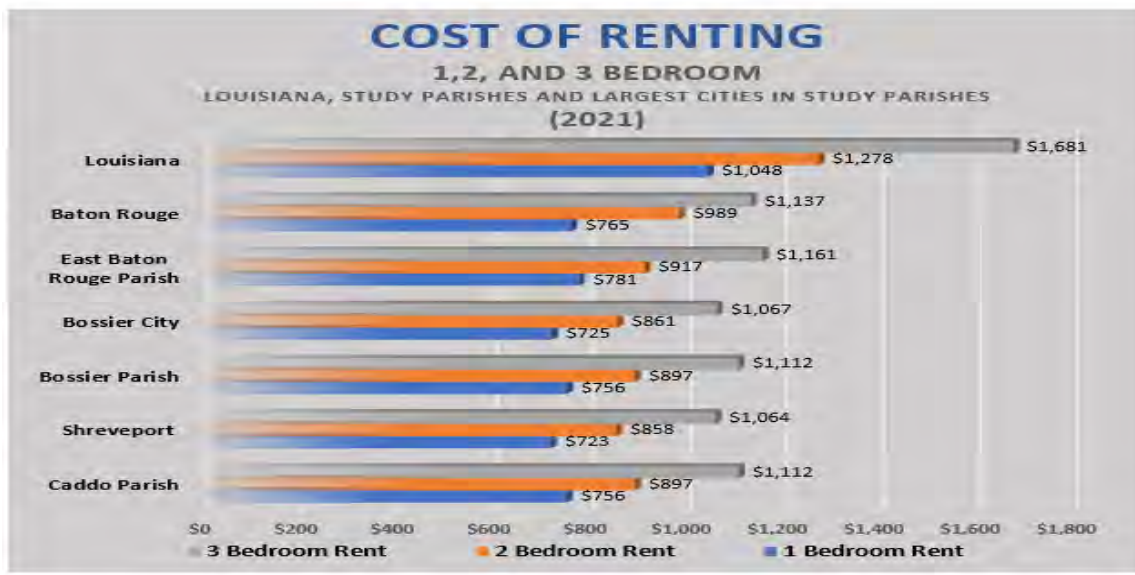


Figure 11: Renting Cost 1,2-, and 3-Bedroom: LA, Study Parishes, and Largest Cities

Source: Best Places (2021)

Caddo Parish: The U.S. Census 2000 reports that in Louisiana, just over 24 percent of renter-occupied households and 6 percent of owner-occupied households have no vehicle available. (Caddo Parish Health Profiles, 2005) In Caddo Parish, nearly 24 percent of renter-occupied households and nearly 7 percent of owner-occupied households are without vehicles. (Caddo Parish Health Profiles, pg. 130, 2005) According to the Census of ACS survey in 2019, the median monthly gross residential rent in Caddo Parish was \$810. Also, in 2019 the average gross rent in Caddo Parish was \$780. The median rent more accurately depicts rental rates in the middle of the distribution of rents and is thus preferred in the analysis below. (Department of Numbers Caddo Parish, 2021)

Real Gross Rent History for Caddo Parish

2019

Caddo Parish LA Median \$810

Caddo Parish LA Average \$780

2010

Caddo Parish LA Median \$753

Caddo Parish LA Average \$720

(Department of Numbers Caddo Parish, 2021)

Bossier Parish: According to the Census of ACS survey in 2019, the median monthly gross residential rent in Bossier Parish was \$983. Also, in 2019 the average gross rent in Bossier Parish was \$956. The median rent more accurately depicts rental rates in the middle of the distribution of rents and is thus preferred in the analysis below.

(Department of Numbers Bossier Parish, 2021)

Real Gross Rent History for Bossier Parish

2019

Bossier Parish Median Rent \$983

Bossier Parish Average Rent \$956

2010

Bossier Parish Median Rent \$845

Bossier Parish Average Rent \$868

(Department of Numbers Bossier Parish, 2021)

East Baton Rouge Parish: According to the Census of ACS survey in 2019, the median monthly gross residential rent in East Baton Rouge Parish was \$913. Also, in 2019 the average gross rent in East Baton Rouge Parish was \$901. The median rent more accurately depicts rental rates in the middle of the distribution of rents and is thus preferred in the analysis below. (Department of Numbers East Baton Rouge Parish, 2021)

Real Gross Rent History for East Baton Rouge Parish

2019

East Baton Rouge Parish Median Rent \$913

East Baton Rouge Parish Average Rent \$901

2010

East Baton Rouge Parish Median Rent \$849

East Baton Rouge Parish Average Rent \$876

(Department of Numbers East Baton Rouge Parish, 2021)

Study Areas Cost of Living

Parishes Largest Cities in Louisiana

Year 2021

Shreveport	Bossier City	Baton Rouge
Median Home Price \$290,786	Median Home Price \$292,174	Median Home Price \$302,584
Median Rent Monthly \$910.91	Median Rent Monthly \$915.25	Median Rent \$947.86
Energy Bill Monthly \$125.24	Energy Bill Monthly \$131.45	Energy Bill Monthly \$137.65
Phone Bill Monthly \$133.50	Phone Bill Monthly \$140.12	Phone Bill Monthly \$146.73
Gas \$2.44/Per Gallon	Gas \$233/Per Gallon	Gas \$2.42/Per Gallon
Doctor's Visit \$104.62	Doctor's Visit \$102.19	Doctor Visit \$125.77
Dentist Visit \$89.99	Dentist Visit \$87.79	Dentist Visit \$108.04

Figure 12: Cost of Living Cities of Study Area Parishes

Source: PayScale Shreveport (2021), PayScale Bossier City (2021), PayScale Baton Rouge (2021)

2.6 Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is having access to housing that the residents of a household can pay for while still having funds left over to afford needs such as meals, health care, and transportation. So, depending on a household's income determines "affordable." (Local

Housing Solutions, 2021) Affordable housing is social rented, affordable rented, and intermediate housing provided to eligible households whose needs the market does not meet. Eligibility is determined by local incomes and local house prices. Affordable housing should include provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or for the subsidy recycled for alternative affordable housing provisions. (LDN gov, 2016, pg. 3.61) The term “affordable housing” refers only to publicly subsidized housing, such as those financed with Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, Section 8 vouchers, public housing funds, and exedra. The term “affordable housing” does not necessarily mean living in government housing or project living. (Elkin, 2017) Discussing affordable housing narrowly on publicly subsidized housing can be misleading because subsidized housing does not represent the majority of affordable housing. Most affordable housing is developed and operated without public subsidy. This situation is “naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAH).” (NALCAB, 2018, p. 1) Affordable housing means a resident spends less than 30% on housing after post-tax income. If residents pay more than 30% on housing, they are “cost-burdened.” (Elkin, 2017) We need to understand that affordable housing should be first affordable, then appealing, of good sound quality, and adequate. To measure affordable housing, we must consider not only the simple cost of the mortgage payment or rent but all housing costs. All housing costs, such as payments related to the home, including insurance, taxes, utility associations dues, and phone service, should be included in housing affordability. (Bossier City Comprehensive Plan 2013, 2013)

2.6.1 Affordable Housing Caddo-Bossier Parish: Affordable Housing is a crisis Nationwide, in the State of Louisiana, Caddo Parish, and the Shreveport-Bossier City Metro area. The most significant element in Shreveport that is affecting housing needs is

residents being able to pay housing expenses or “affordable housing.” (Shreveport Department of Community Development, 2018) (J-Quad Planning Group, 2013) In Shreveport, households that have the lowest income earners have the least housing units to choose from and lack of safe housing which does not meet community needs.” (Shreveport Department of Community Development, 2018) Those households earning below the 30% median-income options are mainly limited to rental properties. Also, with limited housing stock, the lower earnings tend to spend more on higher-priced rental housing. This situation forces to double-up households together in one housing unit. (J-Quad Planning Group, 2013) The residents that have higher incomes have greater options for housing in the Shreveport area, and the economy is segregated heavily, especially in home values. (Shreveport Department of Community Development, 2018)

According to data that was put together by Housing Louisiana in 2018 from numerous sources, one being the American Community Survey’s showed, nearly 60% of the renters in the city of Shreveport-Bossier are not able to afford to live there. (Bayliss, 2020) The numbers presented signify that 40% of the population cannot afford to live in this area, and this percentage includes homeowners as well. A significant number of households in the Shreveport area are categorized under extremely low-income (under 30% median income), exceeding 13,500. Nearly 3,000 of the extremely low-income households have one or more children six years of age and younger, and over 3,000 are elderly. (Shreveport Department of Community Development, 2018) Data extracted from the American Community Survey estimates that 31.5% of homeowners with a mortgage, 10.8% percent with no mortgage, and 58.3% of renters are cost burdens. (Shreveport Department of Community Development, 2018)

The Shreveport Area has a severe cost burden issue when it comes to the lack of affordable housing for extremely low-income households. The cost-burdened homeowner households greater than 50% is 1,630, and the cost-burdened renters above 50% are 5,715. (Shreveport Department of Community Development, 2018) Also, there are over 2,900 extremely low-income households with one or more children over the age of 6 or younger. These numbers place cost-burdened and extremely low-income households at approaching the risk of becoming homeless. (Shreveport Department of Community Development, 2018)

There is a large unmet demand or wait list for Section 8 and public housing for The Shreveport Housing Authority with extraordinary demand for two- and three-bedroom housing. (J-Quad Planning Group, 2013) Habitat for Humanity presented data that show 1 in 6 residents in the U.S., roughly 18 million households spend more than half of their income on housing which is deemed a severe cost burden. If a resident pays more than 30% of their gross income on housing, they are considered a cost burden, and if residents pay more than 50% of their income on housing expenses, then they are labeled in the severe cost burden category. (Bayliss, 2020) (J-Quad Planning Group, 2013) In the city of Shreveport, 71% of households earning below 30% of the median in the area are paying more than 30% of housing expenses, in which 57% percent of that group is paying over 50% of their housing expenses. (J-Quad Planning Group, 2013) Residents that earn 30 to 50 percent of the median income are 65% of those residents is cost-burdened, and 31% of that collective is severely cost-burdened. (J-Quad Planning Group, 2013)

Of those residents that are earning 50 to 80 percent of the median income in the area, there are more than 41% that are labeled as cost-burdened. Residents with elderly

with fixed or limited incomes and children are the most severely impacted by the cost burden. Also, owners and renters are both affected by the cost-burdened issue. (J-Quad Planning Group, 2013) In terms of sheer numbers, the Shreveport area's biggest housing problem is the cost-burdened households. (Shreveport Department of Community Development, 2018)

In Shreveport, prices of homes are at their highest since 1980, and rent has gone up overall by 3.6% as of 2018. Rent is rising, which has contributed to the higher cost of housing, and this combination undercut the moderate gains in earnings. Cost-burdened homeowners and cost-burdened renters in the lower tier of income levels spend notably less on healthcare, retirement savings, transportation, and especially food than other households in their earning bracket who live in affordable housing. (Bayliss, 2020)

In 2017, though incomes varied throughout the city of Shreveport, the median income was \$37,390. Even with the 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates showing higher median incomes in Shreveport City, sometimes there were over 60% renters and over 40% homeowners who were cost-burdened. (Shreveport Department of Community Development, 2018) Now based on 100% AMI being the area median income, the 2015 CHAS data showed that 3,620 homeowners and 7,310 renters in the 0% to 100% housing expenses spending was more than 30% of their income, and this is not including the households who earned over 100% of the median income. If the households were included that earned over 100% of the median income, the numbers would be even worse. Near the Central Business District downtown, there is a high population of African Americans in older neighborhoods whose census tracts show that their income is 80%

below the median income. These areas show there are poverty levels of over 37% in these population tracts. (Shreveport Department of Community Development, 2018)

Affordable housing differs from a household earning \$30,000 a year to a household earning \$120,000 a year. Both earning groups are looking for affordable housing, and both deserve affordable housing. In 2009, the median household in Bossier City was \$47,057. For housing to be affordable for a household making the median income in Bossier City, all housing costs could not exceed \$1,176. A household that earns 180% (\$84,703) of the median could pay a bit more than \$2100 in housing expenses and still be in the affordable housing cost range. A household earning only 30% (\$14,117) of the median income can only afford \$353 of housing expenses. (Bossier City Comprehensive Plan 2013, 2013) The chart below shows the Blacks vs. Whites cost burden in the Shreveport City Area. The Black cost burden of 30-50% exceeds Whites by 3,000, and greater than 50% cost burden Black exceeds Whites by 4,735. In 2018, the Black/African American population in the Shreveport Area was 56.8% and Whites 37%. (Shreveport Department of Community Development, 2018)

Shreveport City Area Cost Burdened Black vs White

	Less Than 30%	30-50%	Greater Than 50%	No/ Negative Income (Not Computed)
African American/Black	22,670	7,500	8,230	1,730
White	25,650	4,500	3,495	410

Figure 13: Shreveport City Area Cost Burdened Black vs White

Source: Shreveport Department of Community Development (2018)

2.6.2 Shreveport-Caddo Parish Housing Development: Single-Family structures in Shreveport make up the majority of housing units at 72%, and renter households with two or fewer bedrooms represent 70% of renters. The residents who make the lowest of incomes will have the lesser options of housing stock to pick from, meaning the community needs are not met. So, typically rental properties become the only options for those residents who earn less than 30% of the median income in the area because there is no affordable housing priced for them. Owning a home is becoming less affordable, with a 53% increase in median home value. (J-Quad Planning Group, 2013) Some single-family structures tend to meet some larger housing unit needs for renters. However, there is a wide disparity between larger unit owners' single-family housing units at 81% and renters' housing units at 30%. (J-Quad Planning Group, 2013) This gap shows there is a specific need for new housing development that should be targeted at larger households of renters needing three or more bedrooms. There is a growing senior population in Shreveport. This

growth might put pressure on the market to provide new development of efficiencies, one-bedroom units, and senior apartment living. There are many land areas targeted for development that have deteriorating housing conditions and low homeownership. The HAPPI program gives families opportunities to purchase homes at any location in the city. Shreveport is targeting small geographical areas to make them more visible and create a measurable impact. (J-Quad Planning Group, 2013) In 2000, Shreveport Adopted its Revitalization Master Plan (RMP) in accordance with Parish Redevelopment Law RS 33:4625. This Louisiana Law gives local jurisdictions the authority to remove slum, blighted, and conditioned property and to requisition property to gain a clear title for the development of affordable housing. (J-Quad Planning Group, 2013)

To provide more affordable housing the City-funded programs are providing programs for significantly low, low, and moderate-income households, which include 150 down-payment assistant projects, 40 units of new construction provided by CHDOs, 50 new construction units, 50 additional units for homeownership, 250 for rental, 15 reconstruction projects, 300 volunteer home repair projects, 50 accessibility projects, 10 relocations for tenants living in substandard housing, and 100 emergency repair projects. (J-Quad Planning Group, 2013) The Consolidated Strategic Plan supports efforts to provide for homelessness prevention through a tenant-based mortgage, temporary assistants to prevent evictions through rental assistance programs, and permanent supportive housing, including special needs populations. Also, for low-income homeowners, there is a plan to provide funding for reconstruction projects. Shreveport City and Bossier City Downtown Central Business District are connected, and there has been planning for the potential for the development of housing in this urban area. (Shreveport/Caddo MPC, 2016)

The Shreveport-Bossier (Cross Bayou) has great potential to be a new urban neighborhood from a downtown planning outlook. All downtown neighborhoods can be affected positively with a concentrated mix of new types of housing if developed in and around this part of town. (Shreveport/Caddo MPC, 2016)

Furthermore, chronic homelessness in the inner city and rural areas of individuals and families in shelters, transitional shelters, and unsheltered needs to be addressed immediately. (J-Quad Planning Group, 2013)

2.6.3 Bossier City-Bossier Parish Housing Development: The Housing chapter of the Bossier City Comprehensive Plan is a purposeful agenda to strategize for the Bossier area to have homes and neighborhoods satisfy present and future needs of residence requirements. (Bossier City Comprehensive Plan 2013, 2013) In the plan, the neighborhoods in which affordable homes reside should offer curb appeal, dynamic character, a strong identity, proximity to amenities, and quality infrastructure.

The Bossier City Comprehensive Plan indicates residential developments located southwest of Barksdale Air Force Base and north of Interstate-220. (Bossier City Comprehensive Plan 2013, 2013) This strategic planning is to have a central location of a residential development pattern, partnered with moderate density levels of the city, pushing a healthy development trend to counter sprawl, using important open space deemed a less efficient development pattern. (Bossier City Comprehensive Plan 2013, 2013) The Department of Housing and Community Development is a source used to assist with several housing programs. It provides annual funding to the Community Development Block Grant Fund utilized by the Bossier City Community Development Department. Bossier City has the smallest average household size when compared to comparable nearby

cities as well as Bossier Parish and the State of Louisiana. (Bossier City Comprehensive Plan 2013, pg. 146, 2013) The average household in Bossier City is 2.43, Bossier Parish is 2.48, Shreveport is 2.48, and Louisiana is 2.61. This reflects that the 25- to 29-year-old age group represents the larger age group by percentage and are often young families and working singles in Bossier City. So, smaller housing is a part of the development plan to accommodate the residents. In Bossier, single-family units are the largest percentage of development than apartments, followed by townhomes. Central Bossier City needs housing for the middle-income and is encouraging housing diversity. (Bossier City Comprehensive Plan 2013, 2013) There is a plan for lower-income housing and housing for young professionals. One plan is to renovate older homes and create mixed-use residential areas. Part of the development plan is to place condos and townhomes in and near the downtown and apartments in south Bossier City while limiting mobile home use. (Bossier City Comprehensive Plan 2013, 2013) The Bossier City downtown area is connecting to the Shreveport City downtown area. Both are part of the Cross Bayou possible development plan to include a concentrated mix of new types of housing development in and around this part of town to revive the neighborhoods. (Shreveport/Caddo MPC, 2016)

2.7 Sprawl

Sprawl is characterized by inadequate access to essential land uses such as housing, jobs, and public services like schools, hospitals, and mass transit. Sprawl development has sucked population, jobs, investment capital, and tax base from the urban core. (Bullard, Johnson, Torres, 2000, p. 6) Sprawl creates a situation where citizens need their own automobiles because of the scattered developments. These developments happen and create a situation where citizens without automobiles find it hard to gain access to the areas for

jobs, adequate food, medical care, schools, and other public services. The citizens are affected by sprawl by way of urban decline, racial polarization, lack of affordable housing, suburban/city disparities in public education, erosion of community, water, and air pollution, disappearing farmland, and wildlife habitat. (Bullard, Johnson, Torres, 2000)

2.7.1 Metropolitan Areas, Sprawl, and Spatial Mismatch: With the sprawl, there is a disconnect in the street network that very well hurts the African American community in Caddo Parish. As mentioned before, in the Shreveport-Bossier Metropolitan area, there is a “spatial mismatch” between jobs and the labor force, including two of the top employers in the area, the LSU Health Services Center and Willis-Knighton Health System. However, these systems are not the only two employers in town. There are many employers and plenty of people who need to get to work, especially African Americans, who make up 57.09% of the population in Shreveport, 27.89% in Bossier City, and not to mention people who are traveling to work to and from outside of the Shreveport-Bossier Metropolitan Area. (World Population Review Shreveport, 2021), (World Population Review Bossier City, 2021) In 2000, an analysis of data was collected on jobs and people in metropolitan areas. Included in the data were job-sprawl measures of employment decentralization for metropolitan areas. The findings revealed that Black residents living in metropolitan areas with higher levels of employment decentralization place Blacks at a greater spatial mismatch between them and job locations. The association of greater job-sprawl is a higher spatial mismatch is not an issue for Whites but an issue for Blacks. (Stoll, 2005) Metropolitan job sprawl is nearly twice as important a factor affecting spatial mismatch for Blacks as for Latinos, overall. (Stoll, pg.1, 2005) There is a presence of more severe racial segregation between Blacks and Whites in metropolitan areas characterized

by higher job-sprawl. In job-sprawl areas, the level of racial segregation is 15% higher in high job-sprawl areas than in low job-sprawl areas on averages with adjustments for metropolitan area size. The metropolitan job sprawl is transferring into more spatial mismatch for Blacks, caused by Black vs. White segregation, among other factors. The results firmly imply that job-sprawl magnifies particular dimensions of inequalities racial in the U.S. (Stoll, 2005, p.1)

2.7.2 Shreveport-Bossier Metropolitan Area Sprawl and Spatial Mismatch:

The relationship between sprawl and the spatial mismatch between Blacks and jobs is a constant factor in the U.S. Location of jobs from the residential areas of Blacks is a key factor in Black employment. (Stoll, 2005) As of 2010, the census-delineated Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) that includes Caddo, Bossier, and DeSoto parishes has been growing in job creation, population, and relatively low unemployment. Compared to other places in the U.S., this area was doing well despite The Great Recession of 2007-2009. (Goody, 2017) However, there is still major employment and income gap in the racial lines that consisted of African Americans and Whites in this area. High levels of vacancy and blight are characteristics of a shrinking city that Shreveport-Caddo seems to possess due to a decrease in population and land use. With continuing Leap Frog Development, such as isolated subdivisions that are not easily accessible to the city limits it could affect income, transportation, economic competitiveness, fiscal needs, cost, and quality of life in a negative way. (Goody, 2017) In Caddo Parish, the Central Business District is in downtown Shreveport, Louisiana, where residents drive far to get to the CBD for jobs and drive back to the rural areas or suburbs after work. Having a vehicle is essential for traveling to school, jobs, hospitals, church, shopping, entertainment purposes, etc. A “spatial mismatch” exists

between jobs and the labor force in the Shreveport-Bossier Metropolitan area. LSU Health Services Center and Willis-Knighton Health System are two major employers in Shreveport-Bossier; however, there is a lack of quality housing near the two healthcare systems. (Shreveport/Caddo MPC, 2016) Willis-Knighton Health System is the 3rd highest rank employer with 6,732 employees, and LSU Health Service Centers is the 3rd highest with 2,762 employees in the Shreveport-Bossier Metropolitan Area. (NLEP, 2019)

There is a way to measure urban sprawl globally, by way of the connectedness of the streets called Street-network Sprawl. When sprawl is minimized, the streets are more connected, and they become more walkable. (SNDi Trends, 2015) Cities' environmental footprint and livability are affected for decades by a street network because they are permanent and connected. Residents walk more and drive less in communities where the streets are more connected. (SNDi Trends, 2015) Better outcomes for equity, social integration, health, sustainable consumption, and the environment are a result of a well-connected street network, not just sprawl reduction. (SNDi Trends, 2015) Less-connected cities lead to more sprawl which equals a higher SDNi score for a city. The average SNDi is 2.25. The cities scored between 1.08 and 3.25 in a dataset of 10137 cities.

For the 10137 cities in our dataset, the average SNDi is 2.25, with half of the cities' SNDi falling between 1.08 and 3.25. In 2014, Shreveport's score was 2.62 in the overall level of street-network sprawl and has risen. For development practices of street construction from 2001 to 2014 in Louisiana, Shreveport ranked 2nd out of 6 cities in most disconnected cities and has held that same ranking since 1975. (SNDi Trends, 2015) Compared to the United States, from 1991 to 2000, Shreveport ranked 95th out of 315 most disconnected streets and 56th from 2001-2014, steadily on the rise. (SNDi Trends, 2015)

As of 2015, out of 315 U.S. cities, Shreveport is ranked 205th most disconnected. (SNDi Trends, 2015) Currently, there is a huge growth period in the entire Shreveport/Bossier City metropolitan area. Shreveport is growing in the west and the south, whereas Bossier City is growing mainly in the east and the north. This growth is triggering the two areas to grow away from one another, creating urban sprawl not experienced before. The result of urban sprawl is inner-city traffic pushed to the outer rim of the cities to the suburbs, which is creating a need for easier access to local freeways and the need for wider roads running north and south. (Urban Planet Shreveport, 2009) The U.S. Census 2019 shows that transportation ownership of African American is 39.7% and Whites 56.6%. The U.S. Census data shows a consistent disparity in personal transportation have been consistent from 2010 to 2019, with African Americans having less personal transportation than Whites in both Caddo and Bossier Parish (Figures 7 and 8). (U.S. Census Caddo, 2021) (U.S. Census Bossier, 2021) African Americans not having their own transportation in a metropolitan area that has spatial mismatch and road disconnected will make it difficult to get and maintain employment, especially in Central Business Districts. With African Americans being the majority renters in both Parishes, with less transportation, the renters in the suburbs and rural areas are at a higher disadvantage to getting to work (including the CBD), financial institutions, hospitals, medical facilities, and shopping. Also, not having frequent and good-quality public transportation in the Shreveport/Bossier metro area is an issue. In some areas, there is an hour's wait for a bus, and some areas experience no service that needs public transportation. (Burriss, 2016) SporTran is the public bus provider in the Shreveport/Bossier Metropolitan area. There was a study in 2016 in which part of the research examines where the buses should go after they leave certain transit, which tells

residents that the operators of SporTran do not even know where to pick up the residents. The Shreveport-Bossier metropolitan area has a plague of urban sprawl, street network sprawl, and spatial mismatch, making public transportation difficult for residents to use efficiently.

2.8 Caddo Parish Central Business District

Shreveport's Central Business District (CBD), or Downtown Development District (DDD) of Shreveport, Louisiana, is the downtown of the entire region and is the center of government, business, and courts for Caddo Parish. (Streetscape, 2020) Every Monday through Friday, between 12,000-14,000 people travel into downtown Shreveport to work, and thousands more funnel into the city to attend events at the Shreveport Convention Center, play at the casinos, or visit other downtown businesses or amenities, and enter the city center with business at Government Plaza or the courts. (Streetscape, 2020) Residents drive far to get to the CBD/DDD for jobs and drive back to the rural areas or suburbs after work.

2.8.1 Transportation, Sprawl, in Caddo/Bossier Central Business District:

Transportation provides access to opportunity and serves as a key component in addressing poverty. In a day's time, transportation assists with getting people to school, work, church, visit friends, and shopping. (Bullard, Johnson, & Torres, 2004) "Transportation also profoundly affects residential and industrial growth and physical and social mobility. Transportation decision-making--whether at the federal, regional, state, or local level often mirrors the power arrangements of the dominant society and its institutions." (Bullard, Johnson, & Torres, 2000, p. 26) Transportation affects the growth of cities and towns by way of physical, social, mobile, and industrial growth. Public transit

systems, freeways, and roads in the U.S. are subsidized and are helped built by federal tax dollars. Essential Services such as public transit systems offer livability and sustainability in any city or town. There are challenges faced with public transit, such as availability, punctual and consistent transit service, and/or reliable service. (Diab, 2015) The citizens of Caddo Parish average about a 21.3-minute drive alone commute time drive to work. (U.S. Census Bureau 2019, 2021) Car ownership in Caddo Parish is the same as the national average, with about two vehicles per household. (U.S. Census Bureau 2019, 2021) Being that sprawl is urbanization away from the Central Business District, it harms citizens who need their own transportation or readily available transportation. There is a disproportionate number of Blacks vs. Whites that have their own transportation to work, favoring the White citizens of Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish. When people do not have transportation to get to work it can cause them to lose their salary, which can lead to more poverty. When a person does not have adequate transportation to grocery stores and healthy foods, it will eventually lead to health-associated problems. When people that do not have reliable transportation with health problems cannot get to hospitals and medical centers in an efficient manner, this can lead to death.

With continuing Leap Frog Development, such as isolated subdivisions that are not easily accessible to the city limits it could affect income, transportation, access to employment, economic competitiveness, fiscal needs, cost, and quality of life in a negative way to where it causes poverty for some. (Goody, 2017) Smart Development will assist in stopping this Leap Frog Development in the Shreveport-Bossier City area, which can easily cause poverty to people that have trouble accessing jobs.

Shreveport City public bus transportation or SporTran Website shows the operating hours are Monday through Friday between 6 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and Saturday between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. (SporTran, 2020) However, when the researcher called to verify this information, the customer service representative said that the hours of operation are Monday through Saturday, 6 a.m. to 11:45 p.m., and on Sundays, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. If a person leaves work after midnight or has a shift between roughly 11:45 p.m. or before 6 a.m., they cannot take public transportation to and from work. If these people do not have their own transportation, they will have to find alternative ways of transportation to work. Suppose they cannot rely on someone they know personally to provide them with a free ride. In that case, they will have to take a taxi, Uber, LYFT, etc., which usually costs more money. They will have difficulty maintaining a job which keeps them in poverty because it is difficult for them to obtain consistent transportation. Being that the SporTran Website was not up to date, it can confuse potential riders. Furthermore, SporTran does not travel outside of the outer perimeter of the Shreveport-Bossier City area, which means people that do not have their own transportation will find it difficult to get transportation to work to secure employment. (SporTran 2020). The researcher discovered that the main office buildings and sub-stations are closed on the weekends and some weekdays. On the Bossier side, SporTran extends less than 5 miles east and less than 3 ½ miles north of downtown to the Central Business District.

2.8.2 Data on Car Ownership in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish: Caddo Parish: Census 2019 shows that transportation ownership of African Americans is 39.7% and Whites 56.6%. The disadvantage of personal transportation has been consistent from 2010 to 2019. (U.S. Census Caddo, 2021)

With the data of renters showing less transportation than homeowners, the renters in the suburbs and rural areas are at a higher disadvantage in getting to work, hospitals, medical facilities, and shopping. Having a high percentage of African Americans in rural areas and suburbs in Caddo Parish with less access to their own and public transportation will put them at a greater risk of poverty.

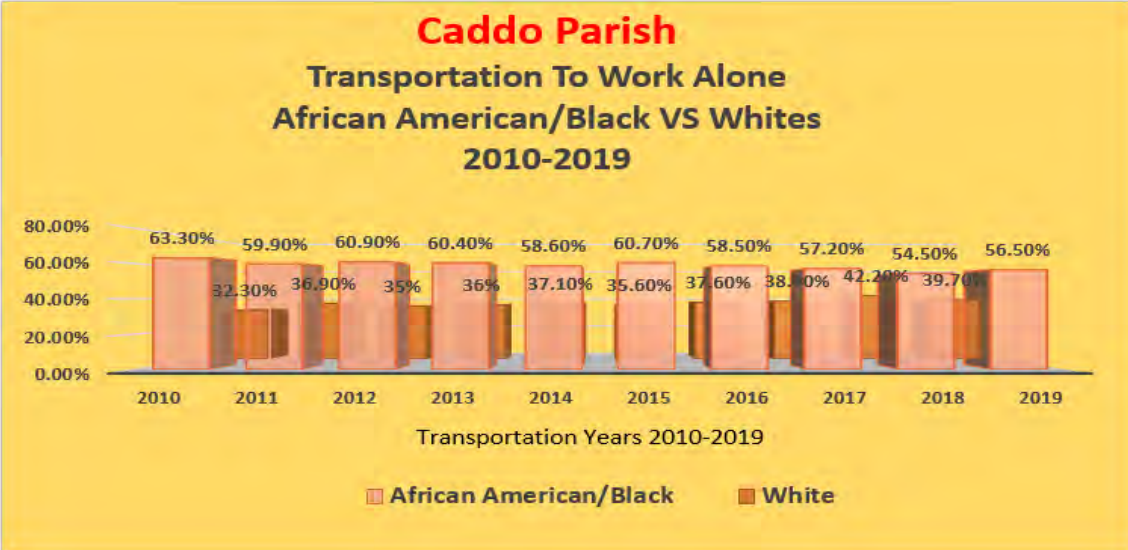


Figure 14: Caddo Parish Owning Transportation Black vs. White 2010-2019

Source: U.S. Census (2019)

Bossier Parish: Bossier Parish showed a higher disparity in 2019, with African Americans 27% vs. Whites 67.10% having their own transportation (U.S. Census Bossier, 2021)

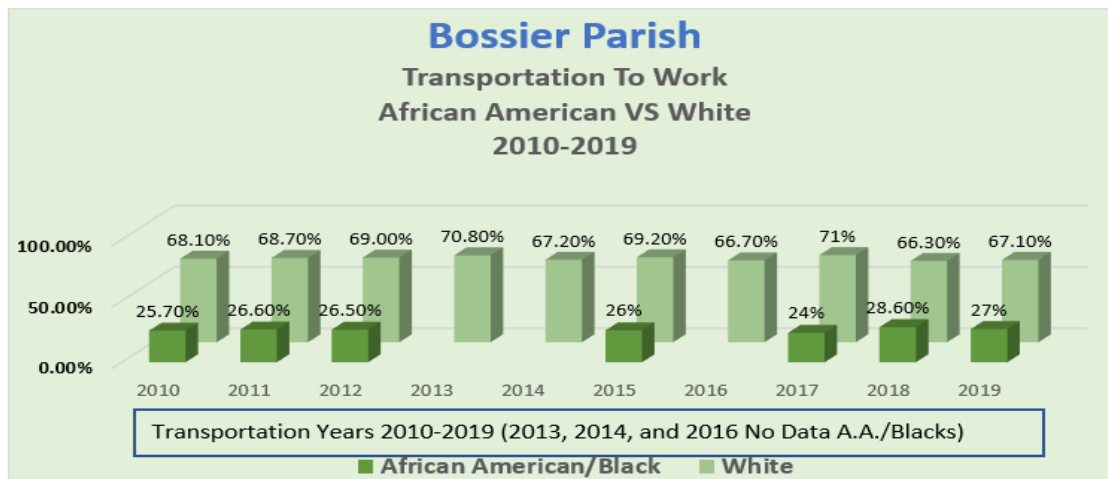


Figure 15: Bossier Parish Owning Transportation to Work Black vs. White 2010-2019

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2019)

2.8.3 Transportation, Health Care Needs, and Renters: Affordable and accessible transportation and the lack of availability areas are major barriers for people in poverty. The majority of the people in poverty in Caddo Parish are African American. The African American disabled, the elderly who may not be able to drive, and the African Americans that are in poverty may not be able to purchase a vehicle due to low-income are at a disadvantage. The U.S. Census 2000 reports that in Louisiana, just over 24 percent of renter-occupied households and 6 percent of owner-occupied households have no vehicle available. (Caddo Parish Health Profiles, 2005) In Caddo Parish, nearly 24 percent of renter-occupied households and nearly 7 percent of owner-occupied households are without vehicles. (Caddo Parish Health Profiles, 2005, p. 130)

Below are the data taken from the U.S. Census 2019. It shows that transportation ownership of African Americans is 39.7% and Whites 56.6%. The disadvantage of personal transportation has been consistent from 2010 to 2019. (U.S. Census Caddo, 2021) Bossier

Parish shows a higher disparity in 2019, with African Americans 27% vs. Whites 67.10% having their own transportation. (U.S. Census Bossier, 2021) With the data of renters showing less transportation than homeowners, the renters in the suburbs, and rural areas are at a higher disadvantage getting to work, hospitals, medical facilities, and shopping. Having a high percentage of African Americans in rural areas and suburbs in Caddo Parish with less access to their own transportation and public transportation will put them at a greater risk of poverty.

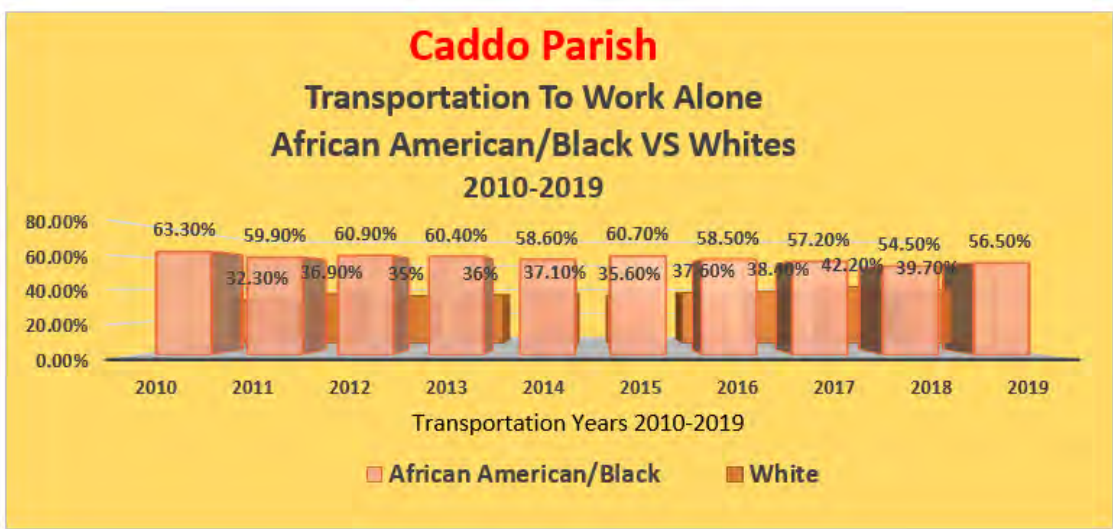


Figure 16: Caddo Parish Owning Transportation to Work Black vs. White 2010-2019

Source: U.S. Census (2019)

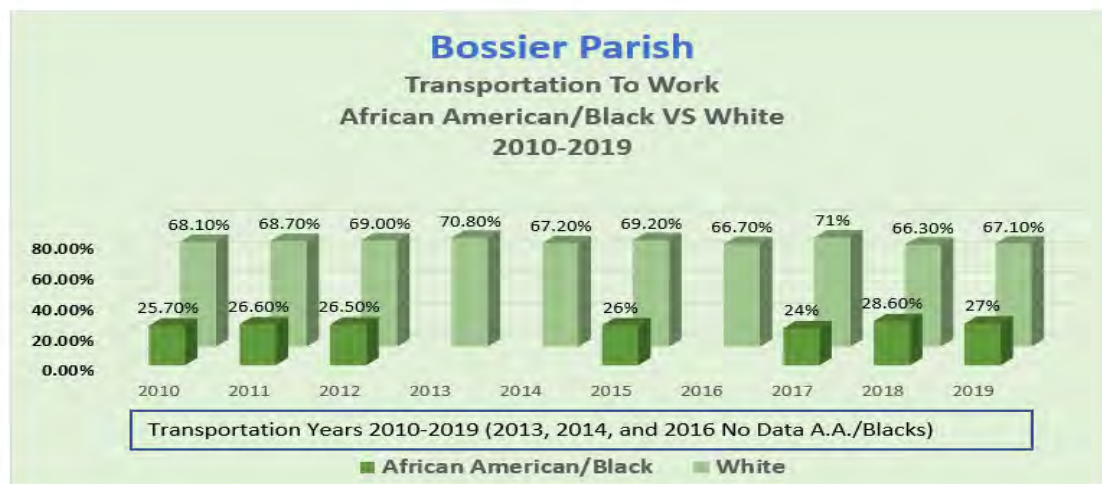


Figure 17: Bossier Parish Owning Transportation to Work Black vs. White 2010-2019

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, (2019)

2.8.4 Caddo Parish Development Plans: To make the area a more attractive and dynamic location for corporate investments and expansion are plans for future Shreveport development and are part of The Great Expectation Master Plan. This plan modernizes the city's environmental sustainability, housing stock, neighborhoods, infrastructure, and transportation. Shreveport-Bossier City's plan for public transportation is to make SporTran more visible, increase the number of routes, run later routes, more covered stops, increases the efficiency of service, technological advances, newer buses, and change the location of certain terminals. (Shreveport Department of Community Development, 2018) (Burris, 2016) Further plans include aiding with workforce training and business attraction through local organizations and in the city. Eliminating the cost burden, extreme cost burden residences, and improving housing conditions for residents with housing maintenance issues are in the plan. The Cross-Bayou plan is a plan for a concentration of mixed new housing types along with investment in the adaptive reuse of existing buildings

and new products in the Downtown area. Furthermore, there is a development plan to address the needs of inner-city and rural homelessness. (Shreveport Department of Community Development, 2018) (J-Quad Planning Group, 2013)

2.8.5 Bossier Parish Development Plans: The Bossier City Council along with the Bossier Police Jury adopted the Bossier City Comprehensive Plan. This plan is an official public document to assist with making a master plan for the physical development of the Bossier jurisdiction area. Under this plan, there is an objective to address the flooding and drainage issues along with the utilization and protection of Bossier's natural resources and beauty. Just like the Shreveport-Caddo side of downtown Bossier City has its contributing plan as well for the downtown area. This plan will create a new downtown and make use of brownfields for redevelopment and rehabilitation, manage growth patterns, mix-use housing, and manage community resources. (Bossier City Comprehensive Plan 2013, 2013) Improving the Bossier multiple transportation network objectives include improvement of automobile and truck traffic, water, rail, air, train, pedestrian safety, and adequate access to communities. Bossier's public transportation is included in the Shreveport-Bossier City plan for public transportation of SporTran to increase the number of routes, efficiency of service, newer buses, more covered stops, more visibility, later routes, technological advances, and change location of certain terminals. (Shreveport Department of Community Development, 2018) (Burriss, 2016) There is a proposal for more business development for better economic opportunities, which consists of a secure incentive program, designated opportunities, and a multitalented workforce to meet the needs of Bossier. The plan includes the Barksdale Air Force Base conservation and the surrounding Air Installations Compatible Use Zone. This is for the protection of

both areas from the invasion by continuous new public parks and facilities, renovation and/or redevelopment of existing and improving maintenance of the area. (Bossier City Comprehensive Plan 2013, 2013)

2.9 Caddo Parish Population and Bossier Parish Population

The current estimated population of Caddo Parish is 237,848, of which African Americans/Black is the largest residents at 50.3%, outnumbering Whites at 43.6%, American Indian and Alaska Native at 0.5%, Asian at 1.4%, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander at 0.1%, and Hispanic 3.1%. (U.S Census Bureau, 2021) Most Blacks in Caddo Parish have migrated to Shreveport. The population in Shreveport is 185,249, in which the Black population is the largest, with 57.30% outnumbering Whites at 37.17%. Blacks have the majority poverty rate, even in the city of Shreveport, which is the largest urbanized area in Caddo Parish and northern Louisiana. (World Population Review Caddo, 2022)

The current estimated population of Bossier Parish is 128,746, of which Whites are the largest residence at 64.4%, outnumbering African Americans at 24.1%, American Indian and Alaska Native at 0.7%, Asian at 1.9%, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander at 0.1%, and Hispanic 7%. (U.S Census Bureau, 2021) The population in Bossier City is 62,979, with the White population being the largest, with 64.04% outnumbering Blacks at 28.15%. Blacks have the majority poverty rate (World Population Review Caddo, 2022)

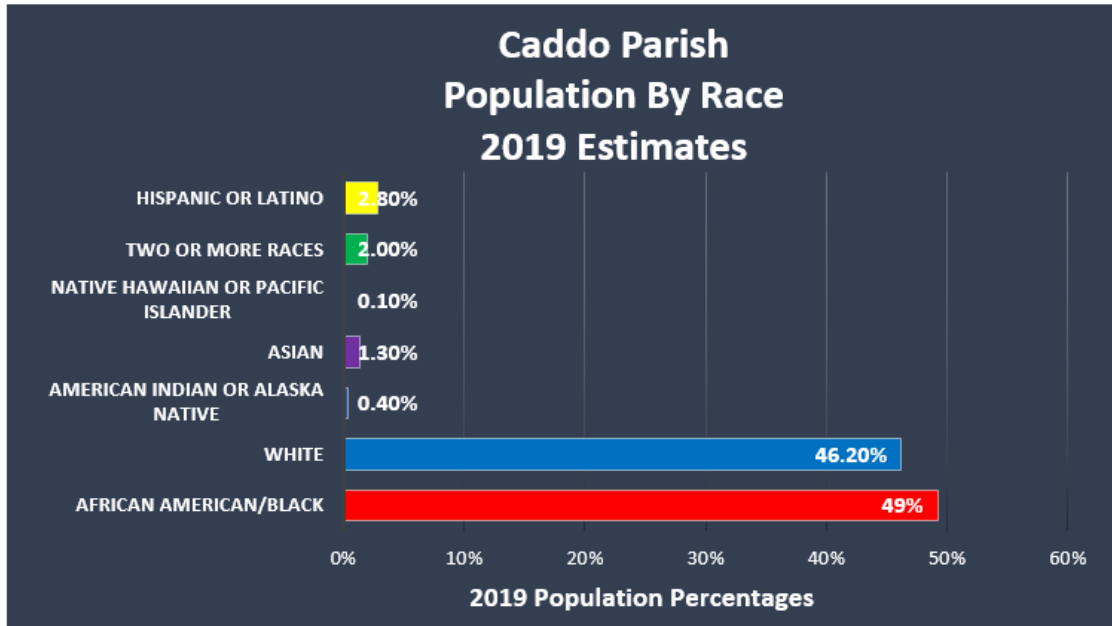


Figure 18: Caddo Parish Population Estimates by Race 2019

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2019)

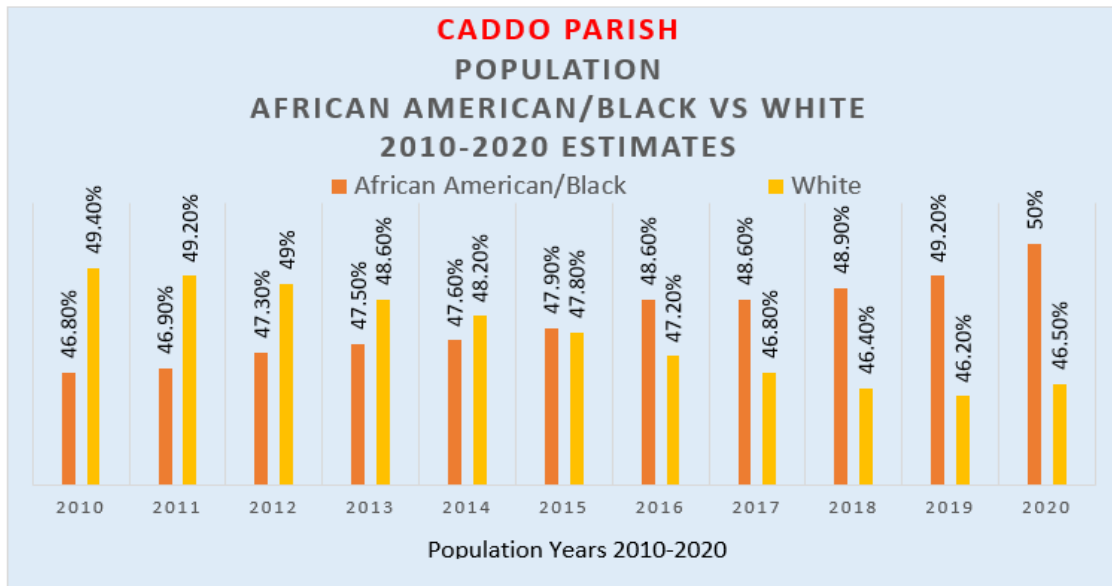


Figure 19: Caddo Parish Population Estimates Black vs. White 2010-2020

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2021)

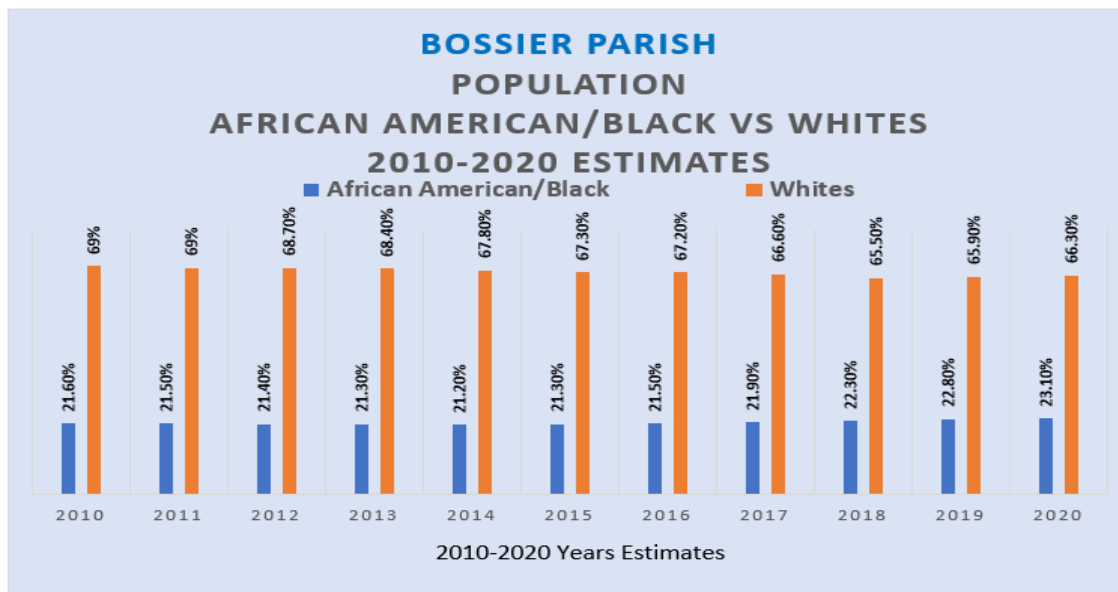


Figure 20: Bossier Parish Population Estimates Black vs White 2010-2020

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2021)

2.9.1 Population Trends: Urbanization refers to the mass movement of populations from rural to urban settings and how we adapt to the physical changes in urban settings through the movement. (Kuddus, Tynan, & McBryde, E. 2020) Understanding the mass movements and trends of populations helps with urban planning. Like metropolitan populations all over the country, the population in Shreveport-Bossier metropolitan area has been growing older and more diverse, not just in race and ethnicity but also in household type, with fewer traditional families and more non-family households. (Goody Clancy, 2017, p. 7)

The current median age in Caddo is 38, an increase from 36 in 2009. Caddo Parish has particularly strong concentrations of employment in entertainment and recreation (which includes the casino industry), mining (oil and gas), arts, and health care. (Goody Clancy, 2017) The Shreveport-Bossier region has grown in the last 30 years, but Shreveport

and Caddo Parish have not maintained their share of this growth. Population trends in Shreveport City have been somewhat negative and, since 1980, has been experiencing a small net loss in population and a declining share of the region's population. (Goody Clancy, 2017)

2.9.2 Population Projections: Population projections will help the researcher predict estimates of the population for the future. Projections are made based on an estimated population. The estimated population will be consistent with the most recent decennial census and further produced using the cohort-component method. Based on assumptions of future deaths, births, domestic migration, and international migration population changes, we can predict possible courses by illustrated projections. In some cases, several projections might be produced based on alternative assumptions for life expectancy, future fertility, state-to-state or domestic migration, and net international migration. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020)

2.9.3 Caddo and Bossier Parish Migration Trends: Data collected through research by the U.S. Census provides information regarding the increase and decrease in population in a Parish/County. In the most recent collection, government officials in Shreveport-Bossier City expressed their concerns regarding making sure all residents are counted. The ultimate goal is to help researchers, communities, and businesses achieve an accurate and complete count. The count assists in determining such things as funding for school breakfast and lunch, where to open new shopping strips, where to build new police stations and fire stations, which services and products to offer, and population increase and decline. (Bayliss, 2019)

There has been some population change in Shreveport and Bossier City, the two major cities in Caddo and Bossier Parish. Shreveport has seen a decline in population, and Bossier has seen an increase in population. (Bayliss, 2019) Louisiana went through a depression in the 1980s due to the oil industry global crash. The depression equaled a substantial amount of job loss. Caddo and Bossier Parish were greatly affected by the 1980 recession and Caddo Parish's declining population was the most visible of the impact. The 1980 recession, presented Caddo Parish with its first population loss since the creation of the parish. (Shaw's Environmental & Infrastructure Group, 2012)

From the 1990s and 2000s, a continued weak economy produced little growth, especially in Caddo Parish more than in Bossier Parish. Bossier Parish grew more in the early 2000s because of a \$70 million bond to build three schools in 2004. Furthermore, the production of the schools led to the construction of the Louisiana Boardwalk (featuring Bass Pro Shops, several restaurants, outlet shopping, a bowling complex, and a 14-screen movie theater), Haynesville Shale, Stage Works, several casinos, Cyber Innovation Center, Millennium Studios, and Stageworks in Bossier. Even though Bossier Parish has seen some population gain since the 1990's Caddo Parish still has more population. (Shaw's Environmental & Infrastructure Group, 2012)

General Motors and AT&T/BellSouth both closed in the 2000s in Shreveport, LA. AT&T/BellSouth closed in the early 2000s, which led to the loss of around 7000 jobs. General Motors was closed in August 2012. The General Motors plant produced GMC Canyon, Isuzu I-Series, Chevrolet Colorado, and Hummer H3 series. (Listing Bidder, 2021) (Wendling, 2016)

According to the 2010 U.S. census, Shreveport lost an estimated 8,848 residents, a 4.4% decline. An estimated 2,359 population decline occurred in Shreveport from July 2016 to July 2017, a 1.21% decline from 194,394 to 192,036. (Bayliss, 2019, pg. 1) The reason for the population decline is the result of the loss of higher-paying jobs. Data collected by 24/7 Wall St. from June 2014 to June 2019 put Shreveport-Bossier City on the list of cities losing the most jobs with a -3.6% employment change (183,363 to 176,850). (Bayliss, 2019, pg. 1) The Corporation 24/7 Wall St. provides information on financial news, such as the stock market, industries, and government policy on the economy. 24/7 created an index measuring eight categories which include housing, health education, economy, crime, infrastructure, and leisure. These categories were used to pinpoint the 50 worst cities to live in, in the U.S. (Stebbins, S., & Comen, E., 2019) Shreveport made the top 25 out of the 50 cities with a ranking of #21, just above Compton, California, at #20. In this report, Shreveport, LA's violent crime rate is more prevalent than all of Louisiana. Louisiana's violent crime rate is 566 for every 100,000 residents, and Shreveport's violent crime rate was 959 for every 100,000 residents, nearly double the state of Louisiana and fifth highest among the states in 2016. (Stebbins, S., & Comen, E., 2019)

When there are substantially poor areas, violence is sure to follow. The financial hardships residents face in Shreveport are serious. A percentage of 30.8% of the residents reside below the poverty line compared to the state population of Louisiana at 20.2% and the population of the United States at 14%. (Stebbins, S., & Comen, E., 2019) Shreveport is continuously losing residents. Within the last five years the population fell by 3.7%, and the population in the United States grew by 3.7%. (Stebbins, S., & Comen, E., 2019)

Residents in Caddo Parish due to factors that cause poverty, such as lack of higher-paying jobs, unemployment, and employment.

Many residents are moving out of the city of Shreveport into the rural country areas surrounding the city for more space and privacy. The flight from urban or downtown areas is part of the city's growth pattern. Shreveport City has seen migration to the south part of the city, north, and west, bordering Caddo Parish. This effect is also happening east across the Red River from Caddo Parish to Bossier Parish. (Ferrell, 2006) There is new housing growth surrounding the Shreveport Area. There is new home construction in the west, including the Greenwood area, new apartments to the north of the city, and multiple neighborhoods building up in the South along the Ellerbe Road corridor. (Ferrell, 2006)

According to an analysis done by 24/7 Wall St., between 2010 and 2018, the Shreveport-Bossier City area had the highest net migration decline among the metro areas in Louisiana. (The Center Square, 2020) The most recent migration is residents moving from Caddo Parish to the outer areas of Bossier Parish. This is a result of the employment of Haynesville Shale construction and natural gas play as well as the trend of affordable housing in northern Bossier Parish. The affordable housing trend in the parish of Bossier has assisted with an average net in-migration of 300 residents yearly, migrating across the Red River from the Caddo submarket during the 2000s. (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2012)

A study from the 2015 American Community Survey (updated 2019) showed which states the people from the state of Louisiana are moving to when they leave Louisiana. The top 10 states with the number of Louisiana migrants are below.

1. Texas 31,044, 2. Mississippi-8,678, 3. Florida-6,560, 4. California-6,324,

5. Virginia-3,993, 6. Arkansas-3,601, 7. Georgia-3,277, 8. Colorado-3007, 9. Tennessee-2,784, 10. North Carolina-2,632 (Larino, J. 2019)

Texas is the closest state with a better economy than Louisiana and other neighboring states. Many of the researcher's friends and family have moved to Texas, with most of them living in Dallas, Houston, Austin, and San Antonio, Texas. The researcher moved from Caddo Parish and did not consider living anywhere else in Northwest Louisiana. The researcher moved to southern Louisiana and then moved to Houston, TX, because there were very limited employment opportunities for work in Caddo Parish and Southern Louisiana. In terms of domestic migration, Louisiana is one of the least diverse states. In Louisiana, 4 out of 5 residents were born locally in the state, which shows there is little migration to the state. (Aisch, Gebeloff, & Quealy, 2014)

Immediately following Hurricane Katrina, on August 29, 2005, there was an influx of climate migrants that settled in the Shreveport-Bossier City area. The hurricane was the cause of 25,000 migrants relocating to Caddo and Bossier Parish. However, less than a year later, those 25,000 evacuees had dropped to 10,000 evacuees. (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 2006) Most migration in Caddo and Bossier Parish is due to employment from Casinos, Barksdale Air Force Base, and jobs in the medical field. Others move to Northwest Louisiana for **secondary education choices**, including Southern University of Shreveport, **LSU Medical School, LSU-Shreveport, Centenary College, along with Louisiana Tech, Grambling State University, and Northwestern State University.**

There is a compiled list of 2019's five-year estimates of immigrants who are foreign-born who moved to the Shreveport-Bossier Metro Area for work and family. Listed below are the top 10 Countries and the number of immigrants.

1. Mexico-2,779, 2. Philippines-904, 3. Vietnam-746, 4. Honduras-704, 5. India-602, 6. Germany-450, 7. United Kingdom-381, 8. Pakistan-323, 9. South Korea-244, 10. China-211 (Rizvi, 2021)

2.10 Study Area Employment and Unemployment

When a person or head of the household can take care of their family's basic needs and tackle unexpected costs, they feel financially secure. People being gainfully employed, fairly paid, secure, and having meaningful work is a sign of an inclusive economy. A city that struggles to provide a healthy economy will find it difficult to attract people to work, live or play there. Not having a good health economy will make it difficult to create a well-being community with sufficient resources for adequate schools, roads, parks, and other amenities to establish a thriving community. (WIN Network, n.d.) A person's mental and physical health can be affected negatively if a person is unemployed. Unemployment leads to negative behaviors such as physical inactivity, unhealthy diet, alcohol use, and smoking. Those factors mentioned are key to sustaining good health. People who are unemployed usually do not possess a steady stream of income, health care insurance, access to health services, or even delay health care problems due to financial concerns. Premature deaths, a faster aging process, hopelessness, and intergenerational poverty result from financially insecure and unemployed people. (WIN Network, n.d.)

2.10.1 Occupational Breakdown of the Labor Force in Study Areas: Below are charts of the Occupational breakdown of the labor force in Caddo Parish, Bossier Parish,

East Baton Rouge Parish, Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan Area, and Baton Rouge Metropolitan Area. The charts break down Whites vs Minorities in the statistical data. In Caddo Parish African American/Blacks are the majority. Caddo Parish minorities other than Blacks represent 3%. (U.S Census Bureau, 2019) In Shreveport, LA, minorities other than Blacks represented 4.91%. (World Population Review Caddo, 2021) In Bossier Parish, minorities other than Blacks make up 5.3%. (U.S Census Bureau, 2019) Bossier City minorities other than Black is 6.49%. (World Population Review, 2021) East Baton Rouge Parish minorities other than Black is 7.07% (East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana population 2021) Baton Rouge minorities other than the Black population is 6.6% (Baton Rouge, Louisiana population 2021)

Table 1: Caddo Parish Labor Force by Ethnic Group and Sex

017 Caddo Parish

Occupational Breakout of the Civilian Labor Force by Sex & Ethnic Group, 2017

Total Civilian Labor Force:

112,139

Occupational Categories	Total	White			Minority		
		Both Sexes		Female	Both Sexes		Female
		Male	Female		Male	Female	
Total Labor Force Both Sexes:	110,710	63,598	34,190	29,408	47,113	21,705	25,408
Management, professional, and related occupations	30,385	22,414	10,954	11,460	7,970	2,367	5,604
Management, business, & financial operations occupations	10,439	8,296	5,064	3,232	2,143	880	1,264
Management occupations, except farmers & farm managers	6,984	5,657	3,742	1,915	1,327	710	617
Farmers and farm managers	131	102	83	19	29	29	0
Business and financial operations occupations	3,315	2,532	1,234	1,298	782	141	642
Business operations specialists	1,327	923	413	510	403	102	301
Financial specialists	1,988	1,609	821	787	379	39	340
Professional and related occupations	19,950	14,118	5,890	8,228	5,832	1,487	4,345
Computer and mathematical occupations	943	744	515	228	199	83	117
Architecture and engineering occupations	1,239	1,030	909	121	209	185	24
Architects, surveyors, cartographers, and engineers	700	617	564	53	83	68	15
Drafters, engineering, and mapping technicians	549	418	345	73	131	121	10
Life, physical, and social science occupations	593	437	258	180	156	92	63
Community and social services occupations	1,536	962	467	496	573	146	428
Legal occupations	1,283	1,103	632	471	180	107	73
Education, training, & library occupations	6,328	3,966	812	3,154	2,362	399	1,963
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, & media occupations	1,298	1,064	573	491	233	92	141
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	6,726	4,807	1,720	3,086	1,920	384	1,536
Health diagnosing & treating practitioners & technical occup.	4,675	3,684	1,419	2,265	991	224	768
Health technologists and technicians	2,046	1,123	301	821	923	160	763
Service occupations	21,748	8,072	3,606	4,466	13,676	4,918	8,758
Healthcare support occupations	3,144	904	73	831	2,240	214	2,027
Protective service occupations	2,615	1,526	1,298	228	1,089	705	384
Fire fighting, prevention, & law enforcement workers, incl. sup.	1,385	977	875	102	408	277	131
Other protective service workers, including supervisors	1,225	549	423	126	676	423	253
Food preparation and serving related occupations	6,731	2,396	889	1,507	4,335	1,594	2,741
Building & grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	5,297	1,249	850	399	4,048	1,954	2,095
Personal care and service occupations	3,966	1,997	496	1,502	1,968	457	1,511
Sales and office occupations	29,029	18,473	7,028	11,445	10,556	2,926	7,630
Sales and related occupations	13,414	8,422	4,826	3,596	4,991	1,234	3,757
Office and administrative support occupations	15,605	10,041	2,197	7,844	5,565	1,691	3,873
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	315	48	44	4	267	248	19
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	10,702	6,712	6,435	277	3,990	3,810	180
Construction and extraction occupations:	5,939	3,626	3,499	126	2,313	2,270	44
Supervisors, construction and extraction workers	724	578	569	10	146	146	0
Construction trades workers	4,918	2,814	2,692	121	2,104	2,061	44
Extraction workers	306	243	243	0	63	63	0
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	4,763	3,086	2,935	151	1,677	1,541	136
Production, transportation, and material moving occup.	16,266	7,305	5,905	1,400	8,962	6,600	2,362
Production occupations	9,035	4,043	3,208	836	4,991	3,183	1,808
Transportation and material moving occupations	7,227	3,261	2,697	564	3,966	3,417	549
Supervisors, transportation and material moving workers	227	180	165	15	48	44	4
Aircraft and traffic control occupations	101	97	97	0	4	4	0
Motor vehicle operators	3,548	1,808	1,395	413	1,740	1,526	214
Rail, water and other transportation occupations	569	272	272	0	296	243	53
Material moving workers	2,775	904	768	136	1,871	1,594	277
Unemployed, with no recent work experience	2,241	557	205	352	1,684	834	850

Totals by occupation may not add to total labor force because of the new Census 2000 confidentiality regulations.

Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission (2018)

Table 2: Shreveport-Bossier City Labor force by Ethnic Group and Sex

43340 Shreveport - Bossier City MSA

Occupational Breakout of the Civilian Labor Force by Sex & Ethnic Group, 2017

Total Civilian Labor Force:

190,836

Occupational Categories	Total	Whit			Minority				
		Both Sexes		Male	Female	Both Sexes		Male	Female
		Sexes	Male			Female	Sexes		
Total Labor Force Both Sexes:	187,545	126,127	69,197	56,930	61,417	28,193	33,225		
Management, professional, and related occupations	46,247	36,437	16,553	19,883	9,810	2,776	7,035		
Management, business, & financial operations occupations	16,216	13,388	7,875	5,512	2,828	1,160	1,669		
Management occupations, except farmers & farm managers	10,845	9,027	5,822	3,204	1,818	850	968		
Farmers and farm managers	547	475	422	53	72	72	0		
Business and financial operations occupations	4,837	3,875	1,642	2,232	962	247	715		
Business operations specialists	1,930	1,443	692	752	487	167	320		
Financial specialists	2,887	2,404	946	1,458	483	85	398		
Professional and related occupations	30,012	23,036	8,665	14,371	6,976	1,608	5,368		
Computer and mathematical occupations	986	876	619	257	110	56	54		
Architecture and engineering occupations	2,002	1,784	1,624	160	218	157	60		
Architects, surveyors, cartographers, and engineers	999	905	848	57	94	78	17		
Drafters, engineering, and mapping technicians	998	873	776	96	126	78	48		
Life, physical, and social science occupations	1,097	888	673	214	210	78	131		
Community and social services occupations	2,565	1,722	840	882	843	283	560		
Legal occupations	1,316	1,209	547	662	107	45	62		
Education, training, & library occupations	10,355	7,183	1,372	5,811	3,172	443	2,730		
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, & media occupations	1,547	1,249	609	640	298	181	118		
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	10,113	8,090	2,332	5,758	2,023	383	1,639		
Health diagnosing & treating practitioners & technical occup.	6,368	5,437	1,675	3,761	932	209	723		
Health technologists and technicians	3,733	2,654	657	1,997	1,079	170	908		
Service occupations	32,895	16,047	6,680	9,367	16,848	5,508	11,340		
Healthcare support occupations	4,957	1,881	141	1,740	3,078	230	2,846		
Protective service occupations	4,471	2,990	2,648	342	1,481	1,096	385		
Fire fighting, prevention, & law enforcement workers, incl. sup.	2,797	2,068	1,880	188	730	605	124		
Other protective service workers, including supervisors	1,665	926	767	159	739	483	256		
Food preparation and serving related occupations	9,391	4,326	1,381	2,946	5,065	1,448	3,617		
Building & grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	7,088	2,335	1,546	790	4,752	2,170	2,582		
Personal care and service occupations	6,963	4,483	933	3,550	2,480	589	1,891		
Sales and office occupations	46,789	35,067	11,591	23,476	11,722	2,918	8,804		
Sales and related occupations	21,411	15,509	7,514	7,995	5,901	1,452	4,450		
Office and administrative support occupations	25,342	19,509	4,052	15,456	5,833	1,479	4,354		
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	1,384	679	606	73	705	584	121		
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	24,287	18,251	17,744	508	6,036	5,692	343		
Construction and extraction occupations:	14,274	10,472	10,189	283	3,802	3,645	156		
Supervisors, construction and extraction workers	2,050	1,789	1,762	26	261	251	11		
Construction trades workers	11,119	7,733	7,466	267	3,386	3,269	117		
Extraction workers	1,131	973	963	11	158	113	44		
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	9,975	7,747	7,549	198	2,228	2,047	181		
Production, transportation, and material moving occup.	33,289	18,845	15,729	3,116	14,444	9,948	4,496		
Production occupations	18,345	10,722	8,791	1,931	7,623	4,255	3,368		
Transportation and material moving occupations	14,947	8,146	6,960	1,185	6,801	5,688	1,113		
Supervisors, transportation and material moving workers	203	168	130	38	35	33	2		
Aircraft and traffic control occupations	172	170	160	11	2	2	0		
Motor vehicle operators	7,797	4,762	4,031	731	3,035	2,728	307		
Rail, water and other transportation occupations	1,023	642	581	60	382	349	33		
Material moving workers	5,723	2,423	2,081	342	3,300	2,535	765		
Unemployed, with no recent work experience	2,755	866	322	544	1,889	799	1,090		

Totals by occupation may not add to total labor force because of the new Census 2000 confidentiality regulations.

Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission (2018)

Table 3: Bossier Parish Labor Force by Ethnic Group and Sex

016 Bossier Parish

Occupational Breakout of the Civilian Labor Force by Sex & Ethnic Group, 2017

Total Civilian Labor Force:

57,661

Occupational Categories	Total	White			Minority		
		Both Sexes			Both Sexes		
		Male	Female	Male	Female		
Total Labor Force Both Sexes:	55,921	44,073	23,284	20,789	11,848	5,448	6,400
Management, professional, and related occupations	15,963	13,741	6,083	7,658	2,222	889	1,333
Management, business, & financial operations occupations	5,981	5,169	2,927	2,241	813	366	457
Management occupations, except farmers & farm managers	3,930	3,422	2,229	1,194	508	235	273
Farmers and farm managers	81	76	76	0	5	5	0
Business and financial operations occupations	1,966	1,664	622	1,041	292	114	178
Business operations specialists	787	803	178	425	184	102	83
Financial specialists	1,181	1,060	444	616	121	19	102
Professional and related occupations	9,988	8,572	3,156	5,416	1,416	540	876
Computer and mathematical occupations	488	457	317	140	30	25	5
Architecture and engineering occupations	933	895	832	63	38	25	13
Architects, surveyors, cartographers, and engineers	424	408	387	19	18	5	13
Drafters, engineering, and mapping technicians	513	489	444	44	24	19	5
Life, physical, and social science occupations	279	210	165	44	70	25	44
Community and social services occupations	730	533	190	343	197	102	95
Legal occupations	364	349	140	210	5	0	5
Education, training, & library occupations	2,927	2,432	406	2,026	495	121	375
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, & media occupations	603	508	260	248	95	57	38
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	3,670	3,188	845	2,343	483	171	311
Health diagnosing & treating practitioners & technical occup.	2,407	2,133	629	1,505	273	83	190
Health technologists and technicians	1,257	1,054	216	838	203	88	114
Service occupations	9,963	6,185	2,794	3,391	3,778	1,397	2,381
Healthcare support occupations	927	565	32	533	362	38	324
Protective service occupations	1,637	1,168	1,022	146	368	241	127
Fire fighting, prevention, & law enforcement workers, incl. sup.	971	781	692	89	190	121	70
Other protective service workers, including supervisors	559	387	330	57	171	114	57
Food preparation and serving related occupations	3,218	1,894	654	1,200	1,365	514	651
Building & grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	1,746	743	546	197	1,003	413	591
Personal care and service occupations	2,521	1,848	533	1,314	673	190	483
Sales and office occupations	15,639	13,182	4,591	8,591	2,457	705	1,762
Sales and related occupations	6,927	5,696	2,934	2,762	1,232	367	845
Office and administrative support occupations	8,712	7,486	1,657	5,829	1,225	317	908
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	184	140	121	19	44	25	19
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	6,394	5,464	5,365	89	940	902	38
Construction and extraction occupations:	3,212	2,629	2,616	13	583	578	5
Supervisors, construction and extraction workers	608	557	552	5	51	51	0
Construction trades workers	2,558	2,038	2,026	13	519	514	5
Extraction workers	57	38	38	0	19	19	0
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	3,175	2,819	2,743	76	356	324	32
Production, transportation, and material moving occup.	7,226	5,137	4,210	927	2,089	1,391	698
Production occupations	3,454	2,489	2,006	483	965	476	489
Transportation and material moving occupations	3,765	2,648	2,203	444	1,118	908	210
Supervisors, transportation and material moving workers	81	76	38	38	5	5	0
Aircraft and traffic control occupations	108	108	95	13	0	0	0
Motor vehicle operators	2,349	1,746	1,467	279	603	476	127
Rail, water and other transportation occupations	254	190	171	19	63	51	13
Material moving workers	959	521	425	95	438	375	63
Unemployed, with no recent work experience	554	235	117	118	319	145	174

Totals by occupation may not add to total labor force because of the new Census 2000 confidentiality regulations.

Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission (2018)

Table 4: Baton Rouge Metro Area Labor Force by Ethnic Group and Sex

12940 Baton Rouge MSA

Occupational Breakout of the Civilian Labor Force by Sex & Ethnic Group, 2017

Total Civilian Labor Force: 418,406

Occupational Categories	Total	White			Minority		
		Both Sexes		Female	Both Sexes		Female
		Male	Female		Male	Female	
Total Labor Force Both Sexes:	411,230	280,916	154,958	125,956	130,316	61,289	69,027
Management, professional, and related occupations	127,568	99,490	50,910	48,580	28,078	10,217	17,861
Management, business, & financial operations occupations	46,913	37,876	21,983	15,894	9,037	3,516	5,621
Management occupations, except farmers & farm managers	29,845	24,324	15,581	8,743	5,521	2,554	2,966
Farmers and farm managers	999	899	768	131	100	81	19
Business and financial operations occupations	16,069	12,646	5,633	7,013	3,422	881	2,542
Business operations specialists	7,294	5,639	2,735	2,904	1,655	481	1,174
Financial specialists	8,781	7,013	2,904	4,109	1,767	400	1,368
Professional and related occupations	80,655	61,614	28,927	32,687	19,041	6,701	12,340
Computer and mathematical occupations	5,664	4,703	3,066	1,636	992	412	550
Architecture and engineering occupations	10,492	9,062	7,831	1,230	1,430	1,193	237
Architects, surveyors, cartographers, and engineers	7,113	6,220	5,595	625	893	724	169
Drafters, engineering, and mapping technicians	3,385	2,848	2,242	606	537	468	69
Life, physical, and social science occupations	5,714	4,315	3,048	1,268	1,399	968	431
Community and social services occupations	5,471	3,391	1,418	1,973	2,080	799	1,280
Legal occupations	5,177	4,578	2,467	2,111	600	300	300
Education, training, & library occupations	24,512	16,693	4,453	12,240	7,819	1,911	5,908
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, & media occupations	5,602	4,827	2,760	2,067	774	450	325
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	18,011	14,045	3,884	10,161	3,966	662	3,304
Health diagnosing & treating practitioners & technical occup.	11,416	9,324	2,710	6,614	2,092	425	1,667
Health technologists and technicians	6,595	4,721	1,174	3,547	1,874	237	1,636
Service occupations	62,251	31,219	14,370	16,849	31,032	11,463	19,578
Healthcare support occupations	7,906	2,973	343	2,629	4,934	537	4,397
Protective service occupations	9,830	5,527	4,546	980	4,303	2,548	1,755
Fire fighting, prevention, & law enforcement workers, incl. sup.	6,084	3,922	3,347	575	2,142	1,336	806
Other protective service workers, including supervisors	3,760	1,599	1,193	406	2,161	1,212	949
Food preparation and serving related occupations	20,584	10,841	4,434	6,507	9,642	3,578	6,064
Building & grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	13,171	5,327	3,778	1,549	7,844	3,809	4,034
Personal care and service occupations	10,766	6,457	1,274	5,183	4,309	987	3,322
Sales and office occupations	115,240	80,805	26,791	54,013	34,435	8,968	25,467
Sales and related occupations	48,206	33,792	17,230	16,562	14,414	4,072	10,342
Office and administrative support occupations	67,034	47,013	9,555	37,458	20,022	4,896	15,126
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	1,493	793	681	112	699	637	62
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	46,932	35,097	33,804	1,293	11,834	11,304	531
Construction and extraction occupations	30,351	22,257	21,333	924	8,094	7,825	269
Supervisors, construction and extraction workers	4,428	3,859	3,722	137	568	556	12
Construction trades workers	25,486	18,123	17,336	787	7,363	7,126	237
Extraction workers	442	280	275	5	162	150	12
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	16,574	12,840	12,471	368	3,735	3,472	262
Production, transportation, and material moving occup.	53,014	32,150	27,716	4,434	21,664	17,349	4,315
Production occupations	28,840	19,809	17,392	2,417	9,030	6,589	2,442
Transportation and material moving occupations	24,974	12,340	10,323	2,017	12,634	10,760	1,874
Supervisors, transportation and material moving workers	681	462	425	37	219	162	56
Aircraft and traffic control occupations	194	194	175	19	0	0	0
Motor vehicle operators	12,340	6,308	4,984	1,324	6,033	5,071	962
Rail, water and other transportation occupations	2,180	1,630	1,499	131	550	450	100
Material moving workers	9,561	3,735	3,235	500	5,827	5,071	756
Unemployed, with no recent work experience	3,916	1,343	674	668	2,573	1,361	1,212

Totals by occupation may not add to total labor force because of the new Census 2000 confidentiality regulations.

Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission (2018)

Table 5: East Baton Rouge Parish Area Labor Force by Ethnic Group and Sex

033 East Baton Rouge Parish

Occupational Breakout of the Civilian Labor Force by Sex & Ethnic Group, 2017

Total Civilian Labor Force:		234,099							
Occupational Categories	Total	White			Minority				
		Both Sexes		Male	Female	Both Sexes		Male	Female
		Total Labor Force Both Sexes:	229,617	140,723	76,147	64,576	88,794	41,554	47,240
Management, professional, and related occupations	80,957	60,017	32,169	27,849	20,939	7,991	12,948		
Management, business, & financial operations occupations	28,816	21,975	13,176	8,799	8,841	2,658	4,183		
Management occupations, except farmers & farm managers	18,475	14,303	9,317	4,986	4,172	1,924	2,248		
Farmers and farm managers	194	185	137	28	28	17	11		
Business and financial operations occupations	10,148	7,501	3,717	3,785	2,647	723	1,924		
Business operations specialists	4,405	3,182	1,673	1,508	1,224	387	837		
Financial specialists	6,743	4,320	2,043	2,277	1,423	336	1,087		
Professional and related occupations	62,135	38,042	18,993	19,050	14,092	5,327	8,765		
Computer and mathematical occupations	3,973	3,162	2,157	1,024	791	336	456		
Architecture and engineering occupations	6,716	5,663	4,798	865	1,053	882	171		
Architects, surveyors, cartographers, and engineers	5,020	4,348	3,865	484	672	552	120		
Drafters, engineering, and mapping technicians	1,696	1,309	928	381	387	330	57		
Life, physical, and social science occupations	3,762	2,664	1,793	871	1,008	791	307		
Community and social services occupations	3,597	2,038	842	1,195	1,559	603	956		
Legal occupations	3,836	3,335	1,964	1,372	501	239	262		
Education, training, & library occupations	15,669	9,983	3,250	6,733	5,686	1,582	4,104		
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, & media occupations	3,785	3,159	1,679	1,480	626	359	268		
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	10,785	8,008	2,510	5,498	2,777	535	2,242		
Health diagnosing & treating practitioners & technical occup.	7,240	5,731	1,850	3,882	1,508	347	1,161		
Health technologists and technicians	3,522	2,282	680	1,622	1,269	188	1,081		
Service occupations	34,787	14,838	7,484	7,353	19,949	7,900	12,049		
Healthcare support occupations	3,910	1,235	171	1,064	2,675	347	2,328		
Protective service occupations	5,037	2,379	2,020	359	2,658	1,668	990		
Fire fighting, prevention, & law enforcement workers, incl. sup	2,937	1,690	1,480	211	1,246	842	404		
Other protective service workers, including supervisors	2,106	694	546	148	1,412	825	586		
Food preparation and serving related occupations	12,351	5,902	2,897	3,005	6,449	2,692	3,756		
Building & grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	7,268	2,277	1,719	558	4,991	2,425	2,567		
Personal care and service occupations	6,204	3,039	672	2,368	3,164	763	2,402		
Sales and office occupations	66,739	41,656	15,014	26,642	25,083	5,699	18,384		
Sales and related occupations	28,537	18,236	9,903	8,332	10,302	3,085	7,217		
Office and administrative support occupations	38,202	23,421	5,111	18,310	14,787	3,614	11,173		
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	387	176	154	23	211	182	28		
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	19,078	11,694	11,121	472	7,484	7,188	296		
Construction and extraction occupations:	11,776	6,750	6,420	330	5,026	4,889	137		
Supervisors, construction and extraction workers	1,725	1,360	1,275	85	364	353	11		
Construction trades workers	9,846	5,259	5,014	245	4,587	4,474	114		
Extraction workers	199	131	131	0	68	57	11		
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	7,302	4,844	4,701	142	2,459	2,299	159		
Production, transportation, and material moving occup.	25,276	11,804	9,937	1,867	13,472	10,717	2,755		
Production occupations	12,573	7,075	5,988	1,087	5,498	3,693	1,805		
Transportation and material moving occupations	12,704	4,730	3,950	780	7,974	8,824	1,150		
Supervisors, transportation and material moving workers	347	176	154	23	171	120	51		
Aircraft and traffic control occupations	171	171	154	17	0	0	0		
Motor vehicle operators	6,147	2,373	1,895	478	3,773	3,199	575		
Rail, water and other transportation occupations	729	421	393	28	307	258	51		
Material moving workers	5,310	1,594	1,360	233	3,717	3,250	467		
Unemployed, with no recent work experience	2,271	626	262	364	1,645	870	775		

Totals by occupation may not add to total labor force because of the new Census 2000 confidentiality regulations.

Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission (2018)

Table 6: Occupational Employment and Wages May 2020

Occupational Employment and Wages by Occupational Group

	Shreveport Metropolitan Area (Including Bossier City)		Baton Rouge Metropolitan Area		United States
	% In Field Shreveport Metro	% In Field Baton Rouge Metro	Mean Shreveport Metro	Hourly Baton Rouge Metro	Wage U.S.
Total, All Occupations	100%	100%	\$21.01	\$23.68	\$27.07
Management	4.50%	5.9	\$45.60	\$49.26	\$60.81
Business and Financial Operation	3.4	5	\$29.97	\$29.67	\$38.79
Computer and Mathematical	1.3	1.5	\$33.39	\$35.02	\$46.53
Architecture and Engineering	0.08	2.4	\$36.34	\$43.50	\$43.41
Life, Physical and Social Science	0.05	1.1	\$34.76	\$34.74	\$38.15
Community and Social Service	1.3	1.3	\$25.00	\$23.98	\$25.09
Legal	0.04	0.8	\$34.94	\$38.90	\$54.00
Educational Instructional and Library	6.1	7.2	\$21.71	\$23.33	\$28.75
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	0.6	1	\$22.00	\$28.20	\$30.96
Healthcare practitioners, and Technical	9.4	5.8	\$35.21	\$33.96	\$41.30
Healthcare support	5.6	4	\$12.77	\$12.48	\$15.50
Protective service	2.9	3.5	\$20.46	\$18.81	\$25.11
Food preparation and serving Related	8.9	7.6	\$10.31	\$10.64	\$13.30
Building and Grounds cleaning and Maintenance	3.6	2.5	\$11.58	\$12.78	\$15.75
Personal care and Service	2.1	1.7	\$13.59	\$13.12	\$15.68
Sales and Related	11.4	9.1	\$15.99	\$17.29	\$22.00
Office and Administrative Support	14.5	11.8	\$17.59	\$18.07	\$20.38
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	NR	0.2	\$17.35	\$16.52	\$16.02
Construction and Extraction	4.3	8.8	\$20.88	\$24.53	\$25.93
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	5.1	4.6	\$23.06	\$25.85	\$25.17
Production	4.8	5.5	\$22.05	\$29.25	\$20.08
Transportation and Material Moving	8.4	8.5	\$16.40	\$18.01	\$19.08

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, (2021)

2.10.2 Louisiana Government Employment: The following information reflects the demographics of the 70,518 employees of the Louisiana state government at the end of Fiscal Year 2019-2020. Data includes both classified and unclassified employees.

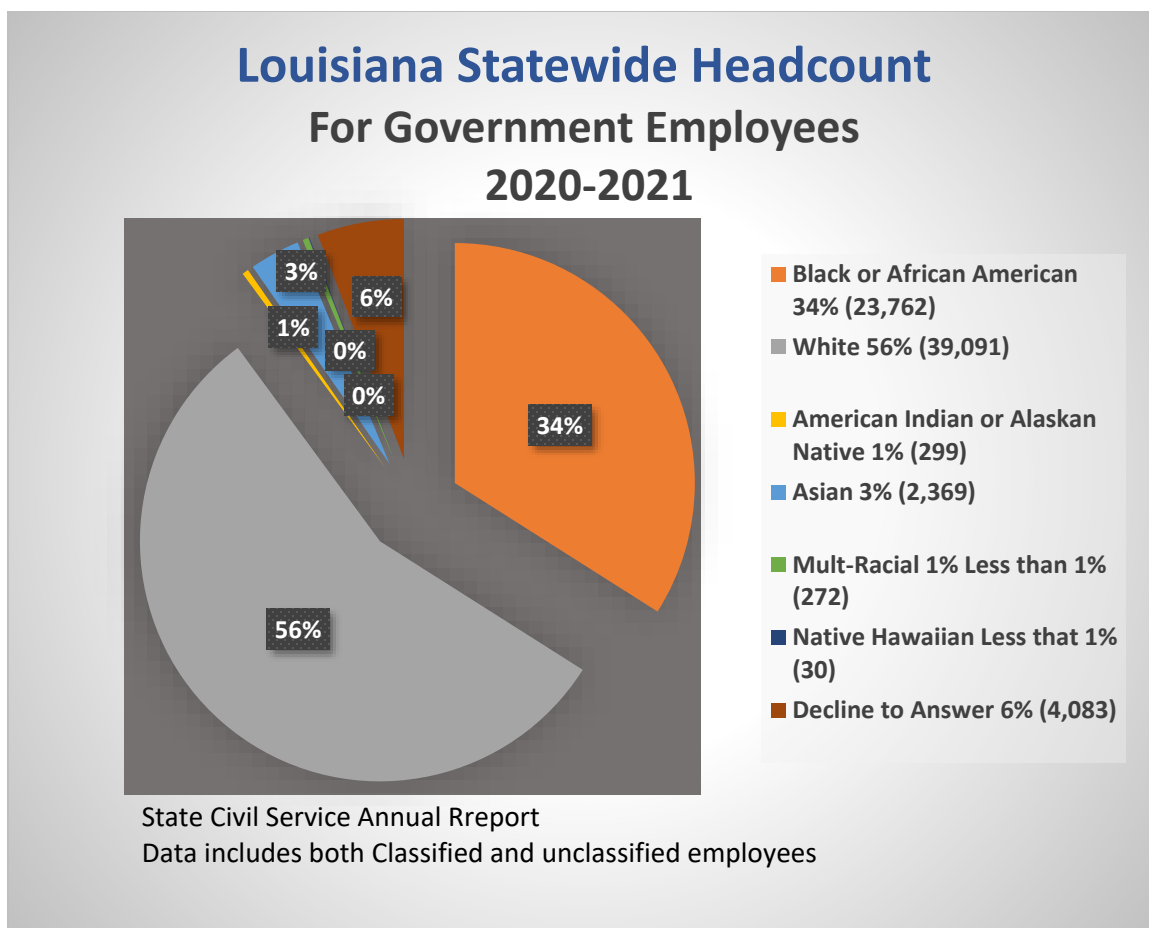


Figure 21: Louisiana Government Employee Headcount

Source: Louisiana State Civil Service (2022)

Caddo Parish:

2019 Government Workers - 15,874 at 16.5%

2019 Self-employed - 5,292 at 5.5%

Bossier Parish:

2019 Government Workers - 9,596 at 17.6%

2019 Self-employed - 3,219 at 5.9%

(Louisiana State Civil Service, 2022)

2.10.3 African American Unemployment in Shreveport-Caddo Parish: The

unemployment rate and income level in Caddo Parish is an issue. The Caddo Parish share of regional employment has been decreasing, and per capita income in Caddo Parish has declined slightly since 1999, with opposite trends in Bossier Parish. (Goody Clancy, pg. 11, 2017) Caddo's Master Plan area shows a significant gap in income and employment between African Americans and Whites, in which African Americans are on the lower end of the spectrum. African Americans have a poverty rate almost four times as great as White residents; twice as likely as whites to be unemployed, and their median earnings stand at less than two-thirds of White median earnings. (Goody Clancy, 2017) The urbanization factor in Caddo Parish has seen most of the population migrate to Shreveport City, the largest city in Caddo Parish. African American unemployment rate in Caddo Parish was 11.6 in 2006-2008, and White's unemployment rate was 4.6. In 2008, African American median earnings were 59% of the White median, and African American Poverty Rate was 32.9% compared to White 8.4%. However, in most recent years, the African American unemployment rate has declined in Caddo Parish but is still twice as high as the Whites. (Goody, 2017) High levels of vacancy and blight are characteristics of a shrinking city that Shreveport-Caddo Parish seems to have due to population and land use. Continuing Leap Frog Development, such as isolated subdivisions that are not easily accessible to the city limits, could negatively affect income, transportation, economic competitiveness, fiscal needs, cost, and quality of life. (Goody, 2017) In January 1990, Caddo Parish's unemployment rate was 9.2. In January 2000 it was 4.8. In January 2010 it was 7.8. In January 2020 it was 5.7. (Fred Economics Data Caddo Parish, 2021) In 2019, the U.S. unemployment rate was 3.5. (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2020)

2.10.4 Unemployment Bossier City-Bossier Parish: In January 1990, Bossier Parish's unemployment rate was 6.9. In January 2000, it was 5.0. In January 2010, it was 6.0. In January 2020, it was 4.6. In reference to the 2008 ACS, Bossier City's unemployment rate is 4.8% which was a bit higher than that of the State of Louisiana and Bossier Parish. (Fred Economic Data Bossier Parish, 2021)

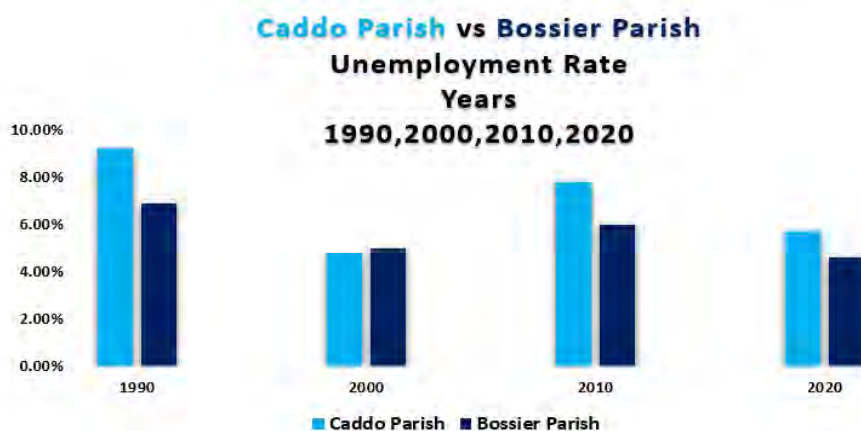


Figure 22: Unemployment Rate Caddo Parish vs. Bossier Parish 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020

Source: Fred Economic Data Bossier Parish (2021), Fred Economic Data Caddo Parish (2021)

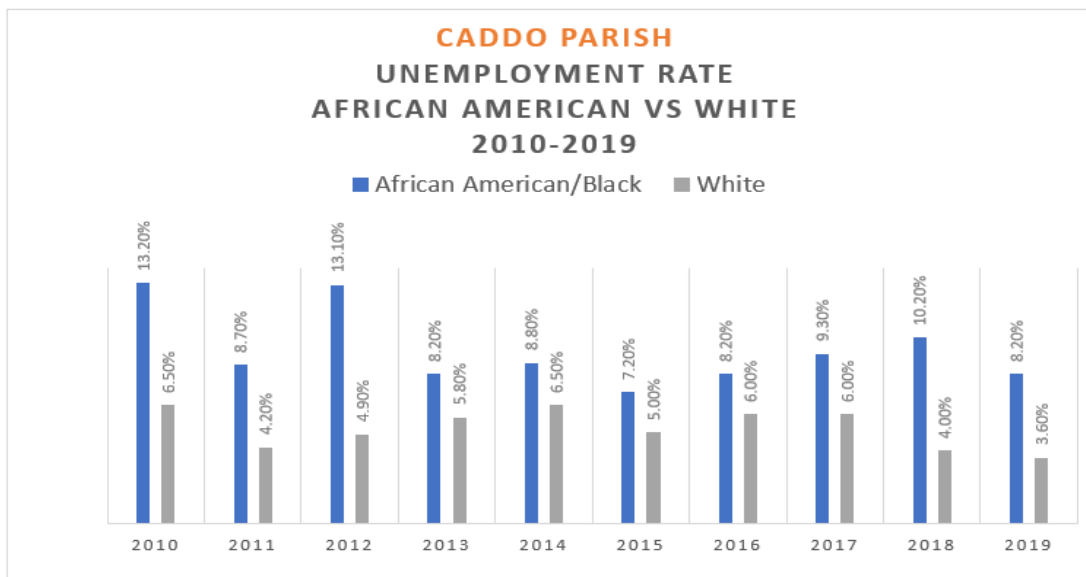


Figure 23: Caddo Parish Unemployment Rate Black vs. White 2010-2019

Source: U.S. Census (2019)

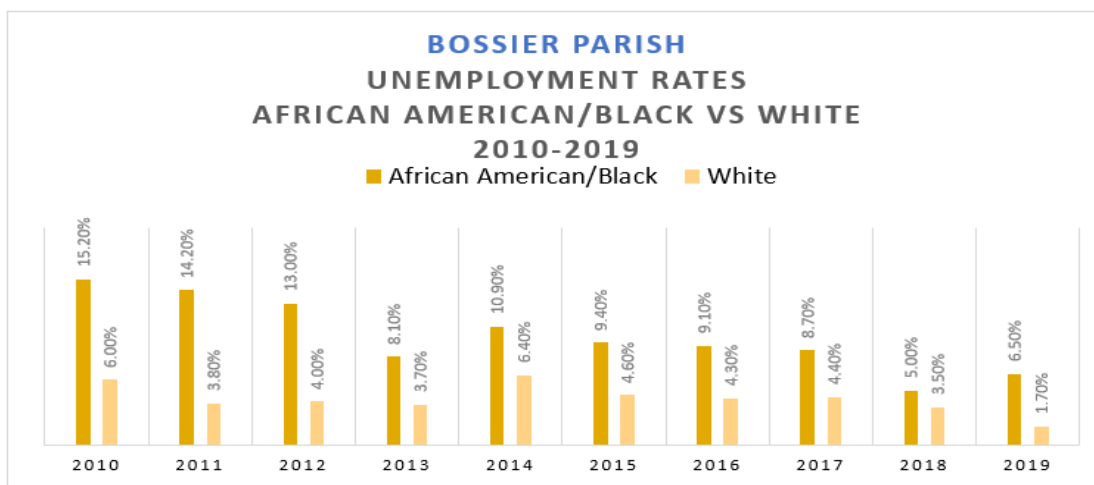


Figure 24: Bossier Parish Unemployment Rate Black vs. White 2010-2019

Source: U.S. Census (2019)

2.10.5 Local Business Ownership Study Area African American vs. White:

Local business owners can help a struggling community. Local business owners can create

their income and their family's generational wealth and help employ other people locally. Business owners allow themselves an opportunity to make more money for the risk they take. One big enticement for business ownership is reaping the bigger financial rewards. (Leonard, 2019) The research data that gives details providing businesses owned by minorities will show a lack of Black business ownership. Black-owned businesses could provide jobs for Blacks, act as the main source of income for Blacks and provide generational wealth for Black families. Understanding current and future business patterns is key to implementing planning strategies. The County Business Patterns is an annual series of local information that supplies sub-national economic data by industry. This information also provides several establishments and employment quarterly. As of 2017, Caddo Parish has 3,761 White employer firms and 142 African American/Black employer firms. The White firms have a total of 42,745 employees with an Annual Payroll of \$1,654,794; the African American firms have a total of 2,317 employees and an Annual Payroll of \$38,757. Neighboring Bossier Parish, as of 2017, has 1,460 White employer firms and 46 African American/Black employer firms. The White firms have a total of 21,860 employees with an Annual Payroll of \$768,426, and the African American firms have a total of 1,643 employees and an Annual Payroll of \$24,235. (Census Bureau, 2020)

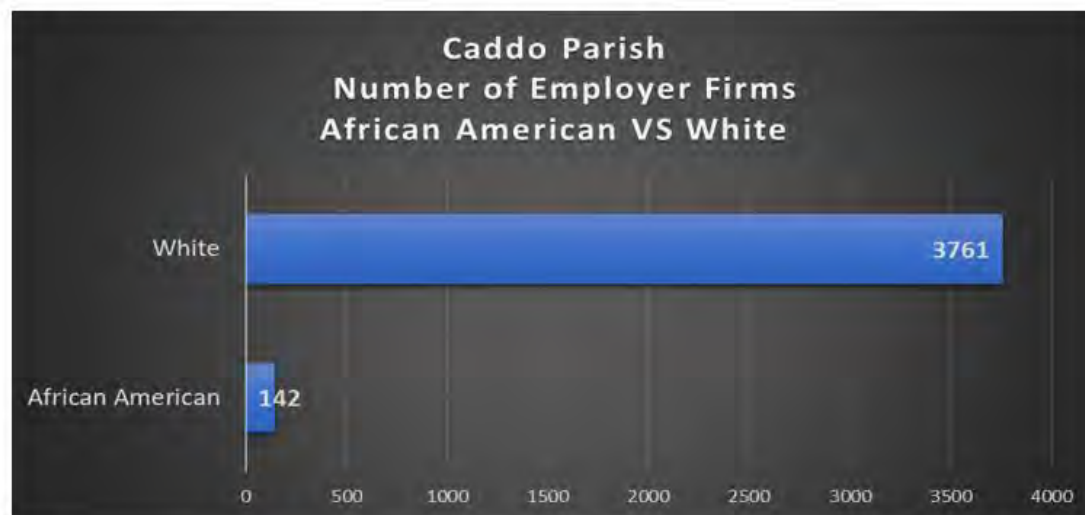


Figure 25: Caddo Parish Number of Employer Firms 2017

Source: Census Bureau (2020)

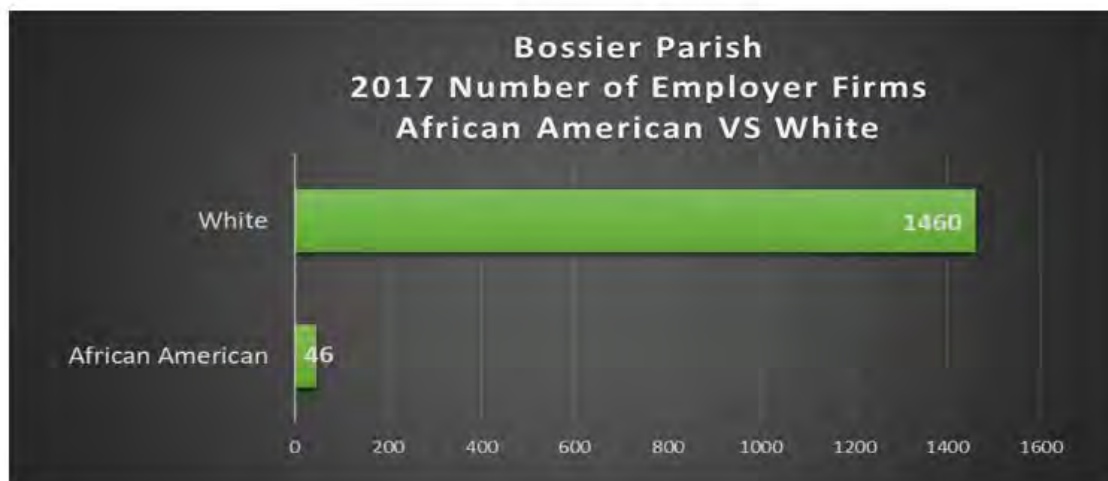


Figure 26: Bossier Parish Number of Employer Firms 2017

Source: Census Bureau (2020)

2.11 Caddo Parish Median Income Black vs. White and Classes

Listed below are the 2010-2019 Estimated median income earnings for African Americans vs. Whites and the 2012, 2015, and 2018 5-Year ACS Estimates for median income for African Americans vs. Whites. This chart will show an income disparity between African Americans and Whites from 2010-2019. The disparities will be present in the 2012 5-Year ACS median income of \$26,512, the 2015 5-Year ACS median income difference was \$28,622, and the 2018 report shows a gap of \$29,016. The reports show that the median income gap is widening. The chart below shows the Caddo Parish median income statistics, with the following chart with Bossier Parish data for comparison.

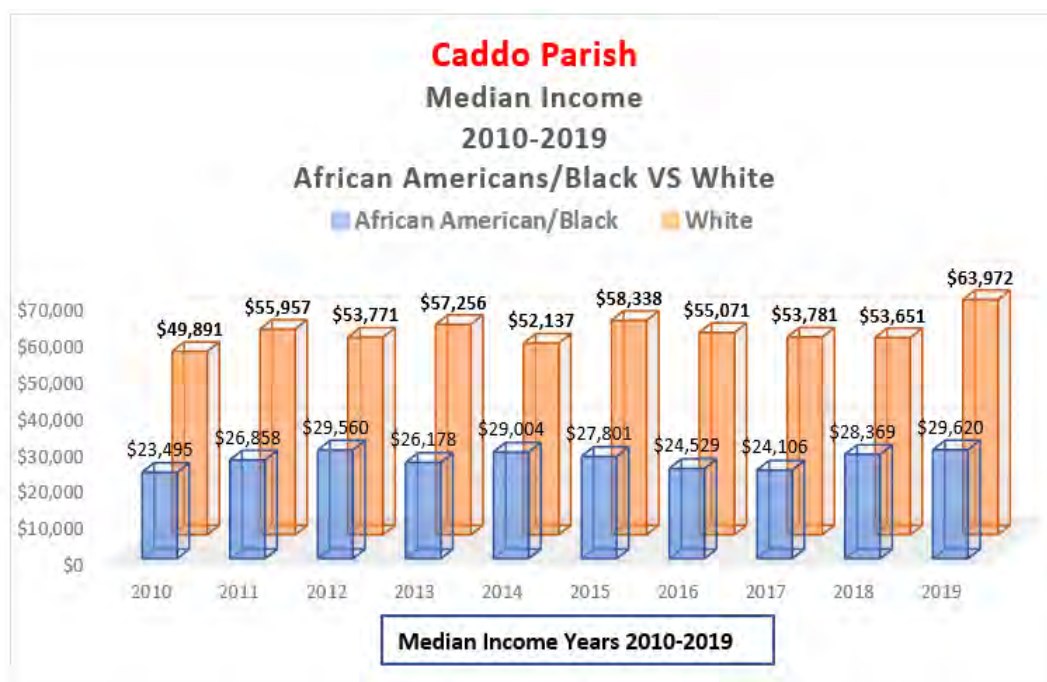


Figure 27: Caddo Parish 2010-2019 Median Income Black vs. White

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2019)

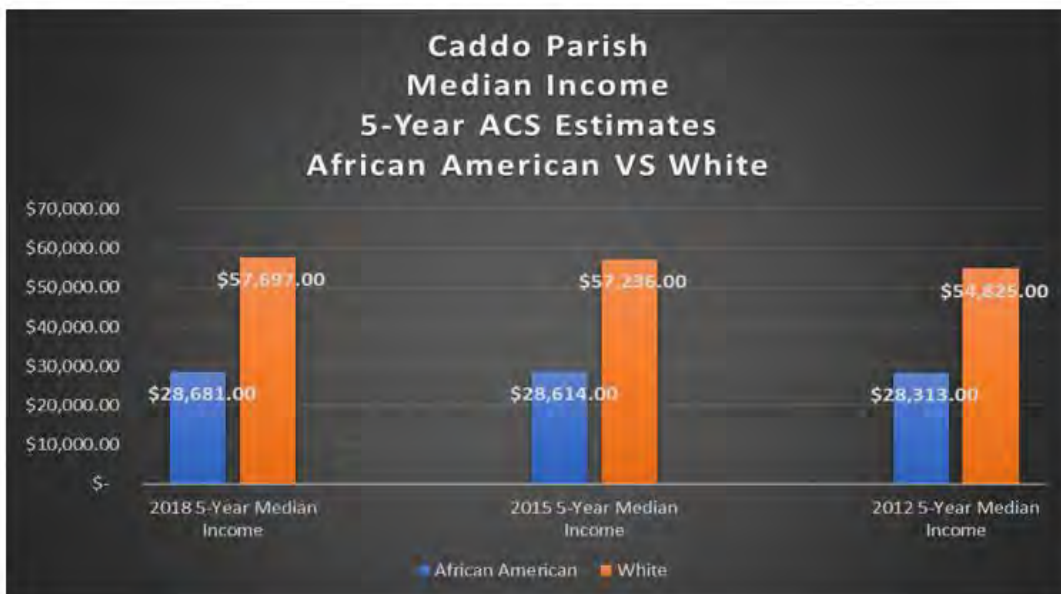


Figure 28: Caddo Parish 2012, 2015, and 2018 Median Income 5-Year ACS Estimates

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2019)

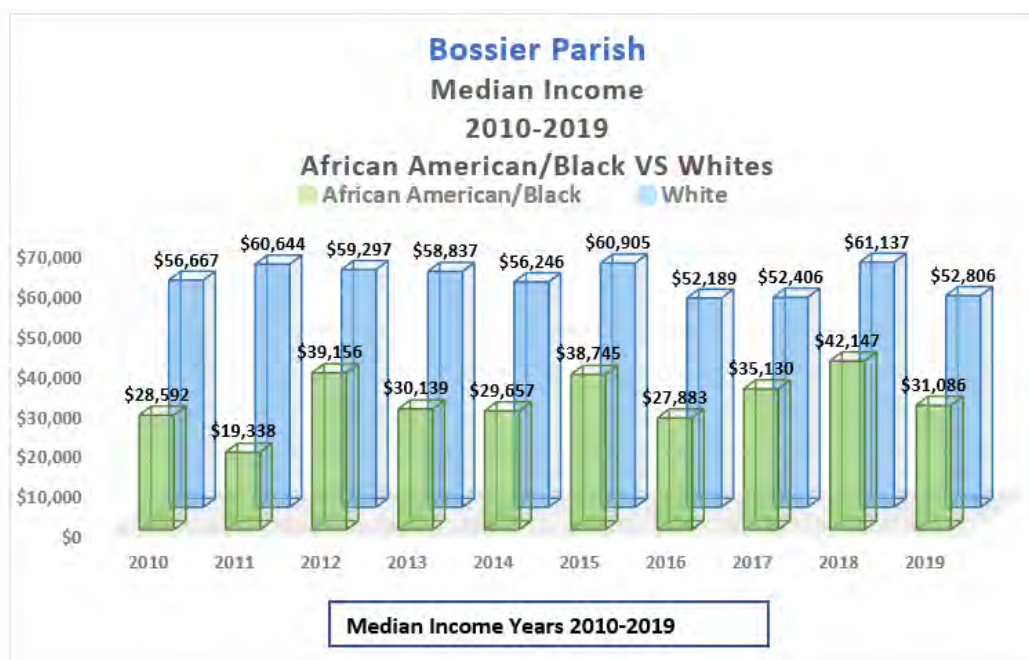


Figure 29: Bossier Parish 2010-2019 Median Income Black vs. White

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2019)

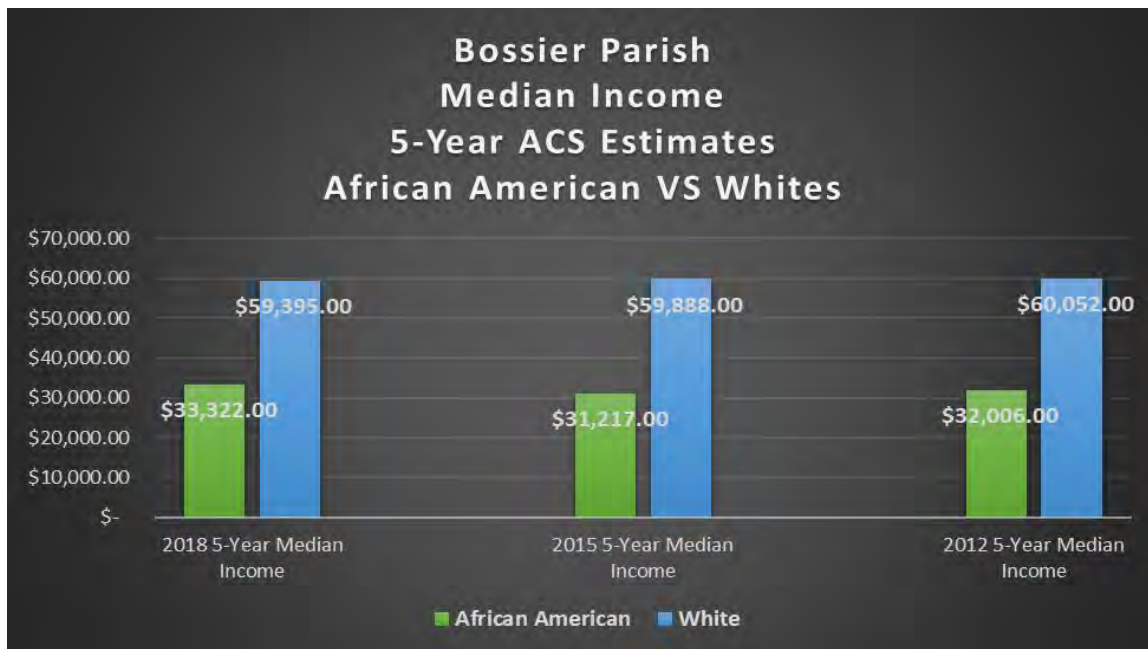


Figure 30: Bossier Parish 2012, 2015, and 2018 Median Income 5-Year Estimates

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2019)

2.11.1 Middle-Class: Middle-class citizens are not considered rich people but instead considered a person or financially secure family. Middle-class is financially stable enough to take care of all of their needs, able to save and invest for the next generation, have a good job, able to provide themselves a safety net in case of an emergency, healthcare, be secure enough to start a business and or send children to college. The strength of a prosperous middle-class and income inequality affects economic stability and economic growth. A strong middle class stimulates a well-educated population and human capital development. A strong middle-class population reinforces economic and political institutions influencing where the support of economic growth occurs. The strength of a prospering middle-class breed forthcoming generations of new entrepreneurs and stimulates communities. We will also witness a steady source of which goods and services in demand as a result of a strong middle-class population. (Boushey, Hersh, 2012) Middle-

class America is not the only factor affecting economic growth and poverty, but it is indeed important.

Working together, human capital, skills, knowledge, and health are critical to growth. Using human capital is highly effective and must be commonly obtainable in a population. There must be avenues for children raised from low to moderate-income backgrounds to be nursed along with their abilities and talents to match them to the most appropriate career. The strength of the middle-class and inequity directly affects the use and access of human capital. (Boushey, Hersh, 2012)

In the United States, the more middle-class that exist and the less inequality exists, the more the population is included in the government's political system. This maneuvers politics away from only answering to the economically powerful elite. The result would boost growth from the effects of providing a foundation for more inclusive economic institutions. Meaning incorporating effective governance that bolsters broad-based economic growth through initiating stable property rights, and investing in public goods and quasi-public goods, such as infrastructure, education, and health. Accompanying these tangible things and level playing contains accountable, transparent, and regulatory structures. (Boushey, Hersh, 2012, p. 1)

Being in a strong middle-class or less inequality or non-poverty-stricken family enables a person to take more risks in becoming an entrepreneur. Living in the middle class gives entrepreneurs access to credit and financial security, allowing them time to foster ideas and take the risk of starting a business. A person in poverty or low income will not have access to the same education that furnishes the skills and training to start a business as a middle-class person would on average. Being subject to less inequality gives way to

greater macroeconomic security. Furthermore, it allows entrepreneurs to form knowledgeable investment decisions with more confidence concerning starting a business and its economic conditions. The existence of a strong middle class lets business investors know there is a marketplace for goods and services they are supplying to the population. (Boushey, Hersh, 2012)

As more of the nation's economic gains go to those at the top of the income distribution—and if those families have a lower propensity to consume—this will pull down demand from potentially higher levels, given more equitable distribution. (Boushey, Hersh, 2012, 1)

Heightened inequality and a squeezed middle-class lead families to either consume less, lowering demand, or put in place short-term coping strategies, such as borrowing more, which has long-term implications for growth and stability. (Boushey, Hersh, 2012, p. 1)

2.11.2 Middle-Class Study Area: Shreveport City experienced a decline during the 1980s due to the slow process of the downsizing of GE, the closure of General Motors, and a misguided K-12 educational system. Black and White graduates did not return to the Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan area, and this caused a steady decrease in population. There were many losses in middle-class manufacturing jobs with no replacement jobs as of yet. This event has left the city with 65% of the population living below the poverty line. (Clark, 2019) Furthermore, many residents were no longer attracted to the area once the \$36 million economic development project was taken out of the bond. The project would have produced 1200 to 2400 new jobs resulting from The Citizen Bond Committee putting

funds forward to create eight new industries. The project could have benefited African Americans, the area's largest population and impoverished group. (Clark, 2019)

The Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan area has seen a great out-migration of its population, especially its young and high-skilled workers, since the 1980s. With the incorporation of Webster Parish into the MSA and Bossier Parish's economic growth, the Shreveport-Bossier City MSA has seen some small gains in the last decade. (D. Norris, A. Norris, 2020) The Shreveport-Bossier MSA situation of out-migration of its young skilled workers can support the economic stagnation or decline in this area. (D. Norris, A. Norris, 2020) Population Growth of Metropolitan Statistical Areas 2008-2018 comparable to Shreveport-Bossier City MSA is ranked 5th out of 11, and Median Household Income, 2018 the Shreveport-Bossier City MSA is ranked 11th out of 11.

2.11.3 Middle-Class and Higher Paying Jobs in Study Area: According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the highest-paying jobs in the Shreveport-City Bossier Metropolitan are shown hourly in Table 6 in Chapter 2.10.1. The job sectors are Management \$45.60, Business and Financial Operations \$29.97, Computer and Mathematical \$33.39, Architecture and Engineering \$36.34, Life, Physical and Social Science \$34.76, Community and Social Services \$25.00, Legal \$34.94 and Healthcare practitioners, and Technical \$35.21. Figures 5, 7, and 9 show hourly the 2018 Labor Force by Ethnic Group and Sex (Reflects 2017 data), which details the number of Whites and Minorities employed in each occupation category in the study areas. (Louisiana Workforce Commission, 2018) Though minorities get lumped into one racial group vs. Whites, the majority of the population of minorities in 2018 in each parish is African American or Black. According to the 2018 U.S. Census, Caddo Parish African American or Black

population was 44.5%, other minorities 6.2%, Bossier Parish was African American 23.4%, other 11.2%, and Baton Rouge's African American 51.7%, other minorities 9.7%. (U.S. Census Bureau 2018) In Caddo Parish and East Baton Rouge Parish, African American populations were greater than Whites. However, Whites have the majority of the higher-paying jobs. I am proposing that Whites are unequally obtaining higher paying jobs than Blacks and or unequally obtaining higher education to obtain higher paying jobs in the study area. It is essential to have higher paying jobs to obtain middle-class status for the African Americans in the study areas. As of November 2021, there are 31,000 government jobs in the Shreveport-Bossier City metropolitan area, according to the Labor Statistics. (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022) Those jobs are included in the Caddo and Bossier Parish Labor Force by Ethnic Group and Sex and didn't have a separate category for just government jobs racial breakdown. It is essential to have higher paying jobs to obtain middle-class status for the African Americans in the study areas. (Go Government, 2019) The average annual salary for a Federal Government job category in Shreveport, LA, is \$85,870 a year as of January 2022. The calculation equals \$41.28 hourly, \$1,651 weekly, and \$7,156 monthly. (ZipRecruiter, 2022) These types of jobs definitely can put a person in the middle-class category. Judging by the Labor Force by Ethnic Group and Sex Figures, Whites in the study areas are likely employed in these positions.

2.11.4 Middle-Class Home Ownership: Homeownership has allowed middle-class families to build wealth and generational wealth simultaneously paying their housing costs. A wealth equalizer in the United States is homeownership. Because houses appreciate at rates that exceed inflation, housing is often an essential source of wealth

accumulation for low- and middle-income families, which are generally not invested in stocks or other financial investments. (Clemens, Sabelhaus, Page 1, 2020) A home's equity represents an average of 42% of an average family's wealth, which defines middle class. Middle-Class families can build equity by owning a home. Historically, homeownership granted families the opportunity to keep in stride with the blooming value of financial investments held at the peak of the income distribution. (Clemens, Sabelhaus, 2020) Couples getting married and having children are generally lifecycle events that middle-class families enter into homeownership. Their homes appreciate while simultaneously their mortgages are paid off. The family continuously accumulates the housing wealth needed to assist in financing themselves in retirement. (Clemens, Sabelhaus, 2020)

2.11.5 Middle-Class Home Ownership and Study Areas: Figure 7 in Chapter 2.5.3 shows Caddo Parish Homeownership from 1990-2010. It displays is a disproportionate percentage of homeownership between African Americans and Whites in Caddo Parish. The most current U.S. Census of 2019 shows a reverse trend in the opposite direction from 2010 in homeownership gains for African Americans. In Figure 10, African American homeownership is 40.2%, and White is 57.10%, according to the 2019 U.S. Census. In 2019, the African American population was 49.2% and Whites (Alone) 44.3%. (U.S. Census 2019, 2022)

Taking a look at Figure 9 in Chapter 2.5.3 shows Bossier Parish Homeownership 1990-2010. In 2010, White homeownership was 75%, and Black homeownership was 20%, which makes a difference of 55%. (2010 U.S. Census Louisiana Census Population and Housing, 2012) In 2019, the African American population was 23.2, the White (Alone) was 65.9%, the homeownership of African Americans was 21.2%, and Whites were 73.9%.

(U.S. Census 2019, 2022) African American homeownership was down from 2010 by almost 1.2%. For comparison, the researcher included data from East Baton Rouge Parish. In 2019, East Baton Rouge Population consisted of Blacks 46.1% and Whites 44.6% with homeownership Black 32.5% and White (Alone) 62.5%. (U.S. Census 2019, 2022)

With the lack of homeownership in Caddo and Bossier Parish, African Americans cannot sustain a middle class nor accumulate wealth and generational wealth. And with the homeownership loss in both Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish, it is known that if an individual and or family loses their home, they lose their class status. With African Americans in Caddo and Bossier parish being in high poverty and lacking high-paying jobs, it is difficult to purchase a home in these conditions.

2.12 Study Area Banking Deserts and Pay Day Loan Companies

A community or neighborhood without financial services or banking institutions is deemed a “Banking Desert.” When banking deserts occur, replacements are "payday loan" companies that charge high-interest rates and more frequently generate a cycle of high-interest loans that are a struggle to pay off borrowers of the loans. These borrowers continue to borrow even more funds to cope with overlapping debt and continue a cycle of poverty. (Smith, 2019) (MacNeil, 2019) While payday lending has some restrictions, they are legal in Louisiana. In Louisiana, payday lender storefronts outnumber the number of McDonald’s locations. A state audit in Louisiana shown to be severely critical, discovered that state regulators managed the payday lending companies and failed to do their jobs. They should have exposed a magnificent range of tactics used to bypass maximize fees and state regulations charged per customer. Predatory lending has been targeting poor people, low-income communities, low-income elderly, and poor to low-

income communities of color in the United States for years. This process continues to plague poor people, especially poor African American communities. (Abello, 2018) These “banking deserts” have developed in Caddo and Bossier Parish. Caddo Parish’s population is around 50 percent African American/Black, an estimated 24.1 percent of households live below the poverty line, and the median household income is around \$41,797—below the U.S. median household income of around \$68,703. (U.S. Census Bureau 2019, 2021)

Cedar Grove, Mooretown, Forest Oak, Queensborough, Hollywood Heights, Allendale, Lakeside, Martin Luther King Jr. neighborhood, and other African American heavily populated neighborhoods in Shreveport have been subject to banking deserts with “payday loan companies, pawn shops, and liquor stores replacing financial institutions. (Smith, 2019) (MacNeil, 2019) (Abello, 2018)

In poor African American communities in Caddo Parish, high-interest rates loans promotions are frequent. Sign advertising for payday loans, income tax advance loans, or sometimes even “holiday loans signage is often placed in poor communities of color, especially in poor African American communities in Shreveport. Technically, all signage without city approval on city streets is illegal in Shreveport, but the signs keep popping up anyway. “It creates a barrier for folks,” Caddo Commissioner Steven Jackson says. “If a person in the [predominantly black] MLK neighborhood had a new year’s resolution to open a savings account, they’d have to drive ten minutes to [a bank] branch, but you can easily find a payday lending place over there.” (Abello, pg. 1, 2018) People in poor communities need help finding a financial empowerment center, a credit union, or a full-service bank to perform simple transactions such as making deposits, cashing checks, obtaining a mortgage, and securing a personal or small car loan. There has been a record

of a local credit union designated as a community development financial institution being turned away from establishing themselves in “bank deserts” communities in Shreveport/Caddo Parish, according to Caddo Commissioner Steven Jackson. (MacNeil, 2019) Why are full-service financial institutions turned away?

There is no specific credit score to acquire a payday loan in Louisiana. However, valid identification, bank account information, proof of regular income, and a person’s Social Security number must be requirements. (Sherris, 2021) Borrowers can obtain payday loans even with no credit or poor credit. Payday lenders do not routinely check into borrowers’ credit reports, but borrowers’ credit can be harmed if they fail to make payments on time. (Sherris, 2021) Since there is no restriction on how often a person can apply for a payday loan or how many they can apply for, it can be risky for those who are already financially struggling. Payday lenders will convince individuals that payday loans will help borrowers, but in reality, these lenders are out to make a profit quickly. (Sherris, 2021) Not only do these payday loans not build credit, but the borrowers run the risk of hurting their credit. The maximum loan amount in the state of Louisiana is \$350, and the maximum finance charges are at 16.75% -or 391% APR. The term of the loan is limited to 30 days, and if the borrower fails to pay the total amount by the date due, there will be no rollover loans allowed. (Sherris, 2021)

People who often use payday loans are African Americans and Latinos families with children. These families’ earnings are typically \$15000-\$40,000, with poor credit, Social Security Recipients, need extra cash for living expenses, and different types of emergencies. Louisiana has 23% of residents who depend on predatory lending, the 6th largest in the U.S. The United States’ percentage of residents that use predatory loans is

18%. There are around 57,000 Louisiana households that use payday loans yearly. In the United States, there are 20,600 payday loans compared to 12,800 McDonalds'. In Louisiana, there are 936 payday loans compared to 230 McDonalds'. (News & Politics, 2014) (Louisiana Budget Project, 2016) There are 78 total payday loan lenders in Shreveport/Bossier City. (News & Politics, 2014) (Louisiana Budget Project, 2016) Individuals who take out payday loans are four times as likely to have filed for bankruptcy in the last five years and two times as likely to have filed for bankruptcy as individuals that were rejected for a payday loan. (News & Politics, 2014) The **GIS and Community Map 4.6** section will show a map of the Shreveport/Bossier area showing bank branches (black map markers), low-income areas (polka-dotted areas), minority populations (darker means higher percentage), and payday loan lenders. (Abello, pg. 1, 2018) (News & Politics, 2014) (Louisiana Budget Project, 2016)

Table 7: United States Comparable Interest Rates to Payday Loan Rates

	Interest Rates	
	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	
	Average	Up to
Student Loan	2%	8%
30-Year Mortgage	5%	8%
Subprime Mortgage	8%	15%
Credit Cards	15%	36%
PAYDAY LOANS	150%	782%

Source: News & Politics (2014), (Louisiana Budget Project (2016)

Table 8: Example of Payday Loan Interest Calculations

**How Payday Loans Carry Triple Digit
APR's**

Payday Loan Amount		\$100									
<u>Interest</u>		<u>16.75%</u>									
Amount Owed		Equals \$116.76									
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">16.75%</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">X 26 Two-Weeks Periods</td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Two-Week Periods</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1 Year</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Equals 436% APR.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			16.75%	X 26 Two-Weeks Periods		Two-Week Periods	1 Year			Equals 436% APR.	
16.75%	X 26 Two-Weeks Periods										
Two-Week Periods	1 Year										
	Equals 436% APR.										
Plus fees of \$10 PER LOAN brings APR to 696%											

Source: (News & Politics, 2014) (Louisiana Budget Project, 2016)

2.13 Politics in Louisiana

Just like the Reconstruction in 1867, the second Reconstruction did nothing to end economic inequalities that began in American Slavery and stop reinforced years of Black/White Segregation. (Fonner & Mahoney, 2003) Many Blacks remain unemployed, and Black poverty remains far higher than Whites even though some Blacks entered middle class, upper-middle class, and affluent status. During this time, the Southern Black communities mobilized and joined White allies politically to bring power to the Republican Party. Since 1980, Caddo Parish has voted for the overall national popular vote winner in presidential campaigns. However, 50 years after the Jim Crow Era, nationwide Black Homeownership in 1968 was 41.1% vs. 41.2% in 2018, Black Incarceration in 1968 was 604 (per 100,000) vs. 1730 (per 100,000) in 2018, and Black Unemployment in 1968 was 6.75% vs. 7.5% in 2018. (Jan 2018) Not much has changed nationwide to favor Blacks,

even with Blacks in political offices, electing a black president, more black millionaires, and black switching political parties and views.

2.13.1 Politics in Caddo Parish: The current Mayor of Shreveport, Louisiana, is Mayor Andrew Perkins, who ran for United States Senate and experienced defeat in 2020. (May, 2020) All legislative powers accruing to the city under the City Charter and the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana are vested in and exercised by the council. Section 4.02 of the Charter states that the council is composed of seven members, each elected from a separate city district. The council holds regular meetings twice each month at city hall. (City Council Members Shreveport, LA, pg.1, 2021) City Council Members include District A - Tabatha Taylor District, B - LeVette Fuller District, C - John Nickelson District, D -Grayson Boucher District, E - James Flurry, District F - James Green and District, G - Jerry Bowman Jr (City Council Members Shreveport, LA. 2021) Caddo Public Schools serves all of Caddo Parish and is a school district based in Shreveport, Louisiana, United States. The district's founder was a Virginia native, superintendent Clifton Ellis Byrd, who assumed the chief administrative position in 1907 and continued until he died in 1926. C.E. Byrd High School in Shreveport, L.A., was named after the founding superintendent. There are 10 Public High Schools, 7 Middle Schools, 7 Middle/Elementary Schools, 32 Elementary Schools, and 6 Unique Schools in Caddo Parish. (Caddo Parish School Board, n.d.) Dr. Theodis Lamar Goree was appointed superintendent of Caddo Parish Public Schools in Shreveport, Louisiana, in December 2013. Superintendent Goree serves over 62 schools, including three charter agreements with 40,000 students (Caddo Parish School Board, n.d.)

2.13.2 African American Incarceration and the U.S. Political System: Scientists have discovered that Africans/Blacks originating in Africa were the first humans dating back over 200,000 years before other races. (Yong, 2018) Africans/Black people were the first to build civilizations such as Nubia, Egypt (Kemet), and Mesopotamia. (Sertima,1976) (Bradley & Clarke, 1991) The Ancient Egyptians, who were all African/Black before being conquered, began record-keeping before 4000 B.C., gave other civilizations languages and literate, including providing the Greek alphabet to the Greeks, color therapy, philosophy, and art to name a few early contributions. (Bradley & Clarke, 1991) (Gamil, 2017) & (Rutherford, (2016) Africans/Blacks were also the first to arrive in the Americas, before Christopher Columbus and the American Indians. (Sertima,1976) (Imhotep, 2021) Many Africans were brought over in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. However, all Africans became subjugated to systemic racism and oppression in the United States.

The 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution provides that “Neither slavery nor Involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction” (The Senate Passes the Thirteenth Amendment, 2019) (Constitute,1992) The key words in the constitution were to be no slavery nor involuntary servitude **“except as a punishment for crime.”**

After 1865, the southern states in the U.S. passed the Black Codes. The Black Codes were a series of laws restricting and controlling the newly freed slaves' right to be from bondage as humans. After the American Civil War, The South lost free labor from the enslaved kept in bondage. The plantation owners looked to the local and state officials from the government to make a law or decree for ordinances and legislations that would

repeat in chaining Blacks to plantation life. (Weatherspoon, 2014) If Blacks could not pay the fine, working on a plantation to pay the fines off was the punishment. Newly freed enslaved Black people had no constraints to restrict laws set on them, commonly in southern U.S. states. Curfews, along with vagrancy laws, were passed for homelessness, roaming, and traveling, which also limited blacks from leaving the plantations. Violating these laws resulted in fines because they were considered fines. (Weatherspoon, 2014) If Blacks could not pay the fine, they would be forced to work on plantations to pay the fines off. The Black Codes denied African Americans equal education and freedom to travel leisurely. Furthermore, Blacks were treated badly by state sentencing laws, lynched, and faced racist judges and prosecutors. Even today, African Americans experience racial profiling by authorities, which can lead to incarcerations and arrests, especially with African American males. (Weatherspoon, 2014)

In 1971, Richard Nixon declared a “war on drugs,” and the incarceration in U.S. prisons and jails rose from 300,000 to 2.3 million. At the time, people of color represented two-thirds of half of those in federal prison jailed because of drug offenses. Convictions, sentencings, and arrests for drug offenses at a disproportionate rate have devastated black communities in the United States. Between 1980 and 2011, African Americans were far more likely to be arrested for selling or possessing drugs than Whites, even though Whites use drugs at the same rate and are more likely to sell drugs, the Washington Post reported (Equal Justice Initiative, 2016) The way that America dealt with drugs was not as of a health issue it is considered a crime issue. People could be sent to jail for low-level offenses, even possessing small amounts of marijuana. President Richard Nixon's plot to criminalize Black people by using the establishment of the war on drugs magnified the

presumption of guilt against Black people. Nixon used political fear and anger to be tough on crime which meant being tough on Black folks and brought in a new political environment for every elected official afterward. (Equal Justice Initiative, 2016) One primary strategy for Nixon's success was his Southern Strategy Plan. The plan was that President Nixon recruited Southern States White Democrats to become part of the Republican Party using racial fear. (Maxwell, 2019)

President Nixon's Chief Domestic Advisor, John Enrilichman, admitted that the "War on Drugs" campaign was a plan to imprison Black people. Enrilichman said, "The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the antiwar left and Black people. You understand what I'm saying. We knew we couldn't make it illegal to be either against the war or Black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and Blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course, we did." (Drug Policy Alliance, 2016, p. 1) Using segregation, economic inequality, and poverty to put Blacks in dire situations was and is indeed a tactic of systematic racism. To get fellow White

Americans on board with criminalizing Blacks by using different terms was a tactic used by the campaign. President Nixon did this by using non-racial terms, crimes, and or portraying certain Civil Rights Movements strategies as crimes against America. Ronald Reagan use some of these criminalization schemes with his war on drugs tactics. The criminalization of Blacks was amplified even more with Bill Clinton's 1994 Crime Bill, which was responsible for sending many Black people to jail especially Black men which

help destroy Black communities. (Chung, Pearl, Hunter, 2019) Even Ronald Reagan's Campaign Strategist, Lee Atwater, on a tape recorded in an interview explained their Southern Strategy on how to recruit other racists without sounding like a racist themselves but more political. "You start out in 1954 by saying, "Nigger, nigger, nigger." By 1968, you can't say "nigger"—that hurts you, backfires. So, you say stuff like, uh, forced busing, states' rights, and all that stuff, and you're getting so abstract. Now, you're talking about cutting taxes, and all these things you're talking about are totally economic things, and a byproduct of them is, Blacks get hurt worse than Whites. "We want to cut this," is much more abstract than even the busing thing, uh, and a hell of a lot more abstract than "Nigger, nigger." (Perlstein, 2018, p. 1)

Black men raised in the top 1 percent by millionaires were as likely to be incarcerated as White men raised in households earning about \$36,000, explained a New York Times article. (Barnum, 2018, pg. 2) In 1968, Black incarceration was 604 per 100,000. In 2018, Black incarceration was 1,730 per 100,000, which shows that Black incarceration has nearly tripled in numbers. The unemployment rate for Blacks was 6.7% in 1968, and in 2018 it was 7.4%, an increase. (Jan 2018) So, one must ask, as cities in the U.S. urbanize and sprawl, why did Black unemployment increase from 1968 to 2018? Lack of unemployment leads to poverty and contributes to people turning to a life of crime to be able to support themselves. Even if a Black person commits minor crimes to land themselves in jail, Blacks are finding it hard to be released from prison even if they are projecting good behavior.

2.13.3 Creation of Criminals in America: In the early years of America, people considered White were citizens who migrated from England, Scandinavian countries,

Germany, and the Netherlands. When the Italian, Irish, Jewish, and Polish immigrants migrated to the U.S. in masses in the late 1800s and early 1900s they were not considered part of the racially classified “White” race. (Starkey, 2017) These immigrants were known to have a racial classification below Whites but above Blacks, according to White Supremacy Logic. Until years later, due to political strategy, racist reasoning, and being that whites are the minority in numbers globally compared to non-white people, they were later adopted into the White race. By observation, one can tell the difference between Caucazoid and Negroid skin pigmentation, so this became an easy transition for the immigrants. (Starkey, 2017) Some arguments continue about whether the Irish were considered White or not from the moment they migrated to the U.S. However, many early negative statements about the Irish say they were not considered White. Moreover, city authorities in the 1900s had looked at the Irish immigrants as the source of a serious crime problem. They were labeled by White American citizens as dirty, drunken, cruel, bloody, to be feared, blasphemers, swears, rapists, and child murderers. (Harriot, 2018) (Starkey, 2017) (Gershon, 2017)

The Italian, Irish, Jewish, and Polish immigrants began to make up the early 20th-Century urban ghettos. Because of poverty, no benefits, and low-income earnings, these people began forming crime syndicates and street gangs. They would become involved with extortion, running numbers, illicit schemes, counterfeiting, bootlegging, and drug dealing. Furthermore, we see the rise of the Italian, Jewish, and Irish Mobs. Hence the creation of American-made criminals due to their poor living situations. New immigrants in many cities were more segregated than Black people were in the early 20th-Century. In the 1950s, there was a change in new immigrants’ segregation.

In 1911, Henry Pratt Fairchild, an influential American sociologist, made this statement regarding to new immigrants., “If he proves himself a man, and.....acquires wealth and cleans himself up-very, well we might receive him in a generation or two. But at present, he is far beneath us, and the burden of proof rests with him.” (Starkey, 2017, p.1) After the 1940s, these immigrants’ situation started to change. Once their transition into White status began, the immigrants were given gateways out of poverty and avenues to build wealth. These Irish immigrants migrated to the Police force, Fire Department, and other service jobs. They commonly hired family members and countrymen once they could make hiring decisions. The Irish’s history is commonly associated with St. Patrick. Police vehicles in the early 1900s were called “Paddy Wagons” because they often contain Irishmen in route to jail. Ironically, now the formerly known people that were considered criminals would dominate the New York Police Department. (Bedard, M. T. n.d.)

The Jews became included fully in the American mainstream and became part of mutual-aid societies. In the political arena, Jews serve a healthy population at every level and branch of the U.S. government, especially the U.S. Supreme Court (Bedard, M. T. (n.d.) The Polish, who was once thought of the butt of American jokes with thoughts of being backward and uneducated simpletons, rose to White-collar labor market careers, forming labor unions, and benefited from the church. (Jones, S. n.d.) (Bedard, M. T. (n.d.)

Americans generally proclaimed that Italians were less skilled than the Jews and were more like the Irish. They were likely to be illiterate, had little urban experience, and became heavily involved with organized crime. Once accepted into the White family, Italians had access to American public schools and like the Irish, were given a stake in the police and fire departments. Italians also joined Jews in the labor unions. (Burby, 2016)

(Bedard, n.d.) These immigrants' melanin-less skin allowed them an opportunity to blend into the American White family, where Black people will never get, according to White Racist Logic. (Harriot, 2018, p.1) These immigrants would observe how whites mistreated Black people and then copy the behavior toward Blacks. (Starkey, 2017)

Understanding the mistreatment, poverty, and low wages led to a life of crime for the new immigrants in the late 1800s and early 1900s before becoming classified as White leads one to think how 500 years of slavery, racism, rape, abuse, miseducation, Jim Crow Laws, unemployment, underemployment, police brutality, purposely diseased (Tuskegee Experiment), unfair housing practices and more effected **African Americans under the U.S. Political System.**

2.13.4 African American Incarceration in Louisiana: There is a disproportionate incarceration rate for African Americans/Blacks vs. Whites in the State of Louisiana and Caddo Parish Louisiana. Between the years of 2003 through 2012, researchers inspected data prosecuted by the Caddo Parish District Attorneys from more than 300 felony trials. They found that some individual prosecutors struck Black prospective jurors at rates 4.5 and 5 times the rate they struck those who are not Black. (Equal Justice Initiative, 2020, p. 1) Prosecutors in Caddo Parish, on an overall basis, struck jurors of other races out at 15% and abruptly struck out Black jurors at 46%. (Equal Justice Initiative, 2020) With Caddo Parish being around 48% Black, the researchers found that there were less than four African American members in a standard 12-member jury trial. Per capita, Caddo Parish sentenced to death more people than any other county/parish in the U.S. Jury members assisted this with two or fewer Black jurors was more than double what a neutral race jury selection

produced in Caddo. Currently, in Caddo Parish, most White juries are sentenced to death, mostly 83% Black defendants in the study. (Equal Justice Initiative, 2020)

The State of Louisiana is known for its lengthy history of using captive labor or the labor of convicts to sell to private companies. Even the constitution outlawed this convict lease system in 1898 Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola use of prison labor without paying them well into the 20th Century. The convict lease system incentivizes the arrests of people for many insignificant offenses. In Louisiana, prison laborers typically work in cotton fields, sugar product companies, shrimp suppliers, oil and gas jobs, often, dangerous task. The jobs pay from .86 cents to some offshore jobs that might pay up to \$11.12 an hour. (Berlin, 2020) (Arresting Inequalities, 2015) Louisiana Sheriff Steve Prator of Caddo Parish unwittingly admitted to modern-day slavery in October of 2017 when he objected to the releasing of a certain number of nonviolent prisoners because of a new law. The sheriff was not against releasing prisoners because he thought they would be repeat offenders. However, he wanted those good-behavior prisoners to stay in jail to maintain vehicles, cook in the kitchen, and detail cars for free which presents modern-day slavery. (Bromwich, 2017)

2.13.4.1 Existing Jim Crow Laws in Louisiana: After the American Civil War and the abolishment of slavery, there were still laws that exist to oppress Black people in America. These laws were the Jim Crow laws. These laws were an assembly of the local and state governments' legalized segregation statutes. These laws existed for a hundred years, However, there are some Jim Crow Laws that are still in existence in Louisiana. From the post-Civil War era through 1968, these particular collections of laws intended to marginalize African Americans by refusing their rights to education, hold jobs, right to

vote, and other opportunities. People would face stiff penalties if they attempted to break these Jim Crow Laws. The lawbreakers would face violence, arrest, jail sentencing, fines, and possibly death. (History.com editors, 2018) In 2019, Louisiana moved to change the Jim Crow Law that allowed a jury to convict a person with split verdicts decision. In 2020, the United States Supreme court deemed this particular law unconstitutional. (Simerman, 2020) A person in Louisiana could receive a life-without-the-possibility-of-parole sentence with a verdict of 10-2 or 11-1 from a 12-person jury. Louisiana was the only state in the nation with this law which put a stop to the 138 Jim Crow procedure. A unanimous decision is required for a conviction now, and this could help change mass incarceration rates in Louisiana, especially for African Americans. (Drouaillet, 2019) Black inmates are 4 in 5 of the 1500 plus inmates serving time under the Jim Crow split decision law in Louisiana. Black inmates are more than 1 in 4 that served at least 20 years in prison already, and the longest serving person under this same law has been incarcerated since 1967. (Simerman, 2020) There have been 1543 verified split verdicts through appeals, court files, and transcripts, with the possibility of others joining the pile. There was a six-year research of jury trial data by The Advocate in 2018. The research was performed across Louisiana parishes. The newspaper found that Black inmates were convicted by split juries 80% at a more significant number than 67.5% of the wider Black population. Furthermore, The Advocate found that Black defendants were convicted by split juries 30% more likely than White defendants and that 12-member juries with divided with guilty verdicts 40% of the time. (Simerman, 2020) In Louisiana, Jim Crow jury convictions are responsible for 80% of Black men and Black women still in prison, with 62% of these Black men and Black women serving life sentences without parole possibilities. (Allen, 2021) One factor that

assisted the Jim Crow Laws in the courtroom was illegal racial discrimination in jury selection that has been documented and has plagued the Caddo Parish, Louisiana courtrooms. (Equal Justice Initiative, 2020) Listed below are the incarceration statistics for the United States, Louisiana, and Caddo Parish compared to Bossier Parish.



Figure 31: U.S. Incarceration 1968-2018

Source: Jones (2018)

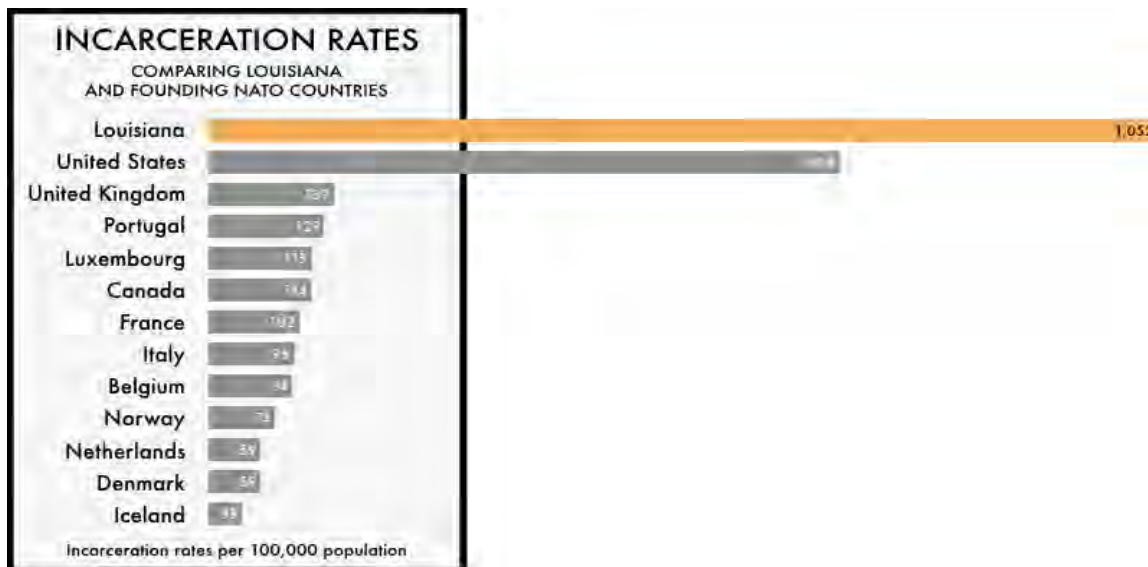


Figure 32: Incarceration in Louisiana vs. other Countries

Source: Prison Policy Initiative (2018)



Figure 33: Louisiana Incarceration Rates by Race 2010

Source: Prison Policy Initiative (2018)

Caddo Parish
2000 and 2010
Incarceration Population
African American vs White

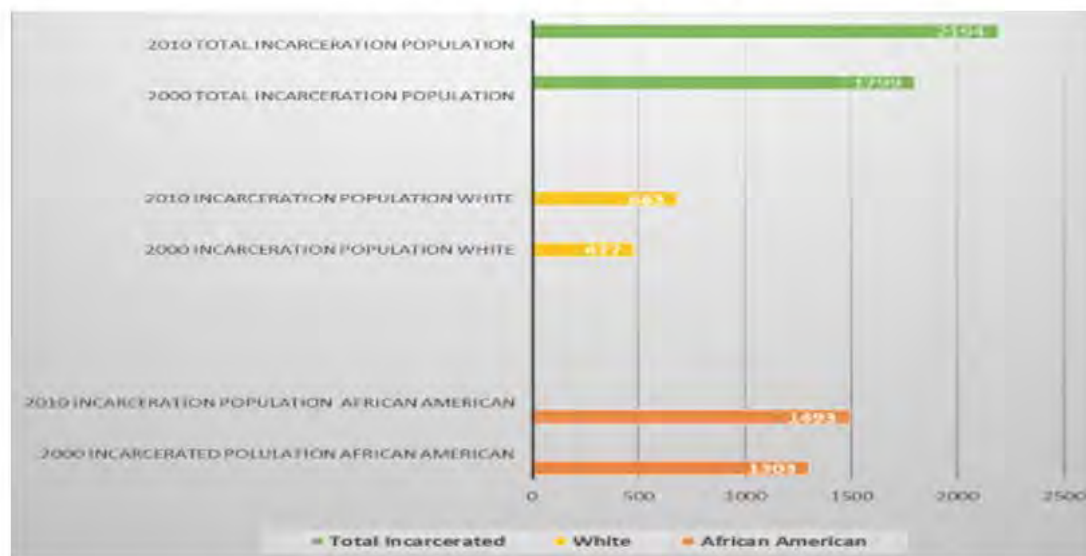


Figure 34: 2000 and 2010 Caddo Parish Incarceration Black vs White

Source: Prison Policy Initiative (2018)

2.14 IRS Inequalities

The researcher will present information about the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) on how the tax system burdens Black taxpayers and benefits White taxpayers. The researcher will show how this system intends to preserve wealth inequality and racial disparities.

There are a few other insights to focus on besides income alone when referring to income inequalities. For one, it is crucial to focus on wealth because it presents long-term systematic dynamics. Tax expenditures are skillful deception financial tactics for government benefits. Secondly, the receivers of such advantages generally do not perceive themselves as receiving benefits. It is essential to recognize and label advantages, whereby

it is socially common to name disadvantages when race is involved. (Strand & Mirkay, 2020)

Third, the federal tax code is not the only contributor to inequality. While federal tax receipts were 65% of total tax revenues in 2016, states accounted for 20%, and local governmental units accounted for the remaining 15%. Furthermore, local and state governments pay a large share of education which is a critical factor in the inequality equation. As with the federal tax system, state and local tax systems have exhibited a distinct and systemic shift away from income tax and progressivity towards consumption-based taxes. (Strand & Mirkay, 2020, p. 280)

There have been links to taxes and inequality to race. There is a history of racism in the U.S. and how it connects to wealth. There has been research to support the IRC (Internal Revenue Code) and more notable corroboration in a survey of state tax systems. Many state tax codes' along with the IRC, perform candidly to intensify prior historically based racial wealth imbalance and expand wealth inequality. The Jobs Act of 2017 and recent tax cuts help inflate these effects. (Strand & Mirkay, 2020) Author Richard Reeves references to the inequalities between the 20% wealthy in the U.S. and the rest of the population. In this case, the top percentile benefits unequally from many policies from the federal government. These policies helped the top percentile build wealth and pass it on through generations of their families. The wealth passing works with pensions that alleviate offspring of costs associated with caring for parents as they enter senior status, such as tax-preferred 401(k) pensions. Not only do these pensions relieve children of costs associated with caring for aging parents, but they can also use the 529 college tax-deferred accounts to subsidize investment of the human capital of those same offspring. All the while, those

able to purchase houses in high-class communities with good schools are supported with home interest mortgage deductions purchased with tax-subsidized local property taxes. (Strand & Mirkay, 2020) Tax Policy affects the amount of wealth higher-income earners can stockpile yearly and add to their wealth which causes overall wealth inequality. High-income taxpayers benefit from earning potential disparities, the income adds up over time, and this conclusively affects their accumulation of wealth. For example, with private income such as dividends, earnings, and other incomes, the top 10% of households increased their income from 1963 to 2016 by 90%. (Strand & Mirkay, 2020) The families in the bottom 10% increased their income by less than 10% during the same period. The mass of income among wealthy taxpayers is evident across every state in the U.S. The top 5% of households' average income exceeds the bottom 20% of households at least ten times. These numbers give an advantage to high-income taxpayers. According to the U.S. Census Bureau data, Blacks are the only people encountering a median income decrease since 2000. The other races, including Hispanics, Asians, and Whites, experience income gains. Tax breaks or tax expenditures value grows as household income increases. (Strand & Mirkay, 2020) Higher-income taxpayers are usually not likely to need tax incentives or tax expenditures; however, they are considerably more available to high-income households. These incentives help promote retirement savings, homeownership, and funds for college. On the other spectrum, low-income and moderate-income households receive significantly smaller benefits from tax expenditures for engaging in the same activities. The *IRC* creates a realized-based system for wealth and income disparities at a greater level. The income gained from higher-income taxpayers enables them to make certain financial investments such as stocks, bonds, second homes, artwork, and other assets that

increase value. These types of capital gains or unrealized gains assist with making contributions to the wealth gap. More than \$584 billion (69 percent) of these unrealized capital gains from investment properties, investment funds, stocks, and businesses were owned by the top 1% of income earners in 2018. (Strand & Mirkay, 2020) Such assets can be held on to by the wealthy if they wish, and the assets increase in value while being protected from taxation. Some commentators have noted: “America’s tax code no longer adheres to the core principle of ability to pay—the idea that taxes should be based on a person’s capacity to pay taxes. Instead, today’s tax code turns that principle on its head by letting the wealthiest of the wealthy pay virtually nothing on their gains.” (Strand & Mirkay, 2020, p. 283)

Recent studies have shown that the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA)* has assisted with continuing the increase of the racial wealth divide and inequality. The TCJA was supposed to reduce tax bills and promote economic stimulus for middle-income taxpayers but has provided little benefit instead. However, the TCJA has yielded more considerable tax benefits for the wealthy. Numerous vital state taxes were administered in the early 20th century when Blacks in the South were banned from casting votes and urban regions were not represented well in various state legislatures. State codes still consequentially affect middle- and low-income households paying a sizeable share of their income taxes compared to wealthy households. (Strand & Mirkay, 2020)

States rely heavily on consumption taxes, especially sales tax. Consumption taxes are a significant reason for the inequality in states, which disproportionately affects low-income families because they spend most of their income on consumables instead of investments or savings. Since 1970 states have doubled their sales tax, strengthening the

inequality and property taxes, disproportionately affecting middle- and low-income families versus high-income families. (Strand & Mirkay, 2020)

2.14.1 Blacks/Minority and Social Security in the U.S.: African Americans/Blacks and other minorities fare differently under Social Security versus Whites. Blacks and other minorities have fewer retirement resources, such as assets and pensions, than Whites. Although Blacks have lower income earnings and shorter life span, some benefit from a progressive formula through disability and survivor's benefits enough to stay above the poverty line. (Hendley and Bilimoria,1999) Black citizens' retirement income is mainly received from Social Security because they lack income-producing assets and other income sources, unlike their White counterparts. Workers that earn lower wages have a difficult time creating sufficient savings. Compared to African American families in 2016, White families average about six times more liquid retirement savings. Over a lifetime, the average Black man earns \$1.8 million, while the average White man averages \$2.7 million. (NCPSSM, 2020)

2.14.1.1 Free Labor of Enslaved and Enslaved Life Insurance Policies: The American slave trade gave White Americans over a 400-year jump start on obtaining riches and generational wealth for themselves, creating policies to create generational wealth from the deaths of the enslaved Blacks in which White American laws against Blacks made it all possible. There is no cost for services when there is free labor, so Whites built America off of the free labor of Blacks and passed the earnings through generations.

Research indicates that at least 60 other companies were involved in the business at the time. Nearly all of those companies went out of business and/or do not have records detailing their history. n the earliest stage of New York Life's (named Nautalis insurance

at the time) history, the company sold policies on enslaved persons' lives between 1846 - 1848. Two policies were sold in 1849 after the trustees' vote, possibly due to challenges in communicating the decision nationwide. (New York Life, 2022, p. 1) According to Howard Dodson, director of Schomburg Center, some other companies were in this type of business for a much more extended period. (Morian, 2002)

“In their archives, Aetna researchers found four such policies dating to the 1850s, as well as a reference to the practice in the company history compiled in 1956. "They were insurance policies that were purchased by owners of slaves. If something happened to those slaves, the owner was reimbursed," Laberge said. "We're not defending this in any way, please understand, but it was legal at the time." (Slevin, 2000, p. 1)” AIG, Ace USA, Manhattan Life and Ace USA. One report shows more than 400 slave owners insuring their enslaved people, and the report detailed an enslaved person being worth \$20,000 in the year 1850. (Morian, 2002) Slave owners were known to torture, mutilate, and kill enslaved people for various reasons to intimate other enslaved people. This information shows slave owners could collect insurance from the death of the enslaved that they murdered.

2.14.2 Progressive Benefit Formula: Social Security is critical to African Americans/Blacks, its importance presents itself through percentages of poverty rates. The number of African Americans without Social Security living in poverty is 50.5%, which is reduced by 18.8%. African Americans earn lower incomes than Whites over a lifetime on average. The current progressive formula benefits lower-income earnings but only a little. (NCPSSM, 2020)

2.14.3 Disability: African Americans/Blacks usually receive Social Security Disability Insurance (DI) benefits because they have a higher rate of disability. The higher

benefits-received-to-taxes-paid ratio is received by workers with a higher probability of becoming disabled. Social Security Disability Insurance (DI) beneficiary contributions to payroll taxes terminate at an age before workers who are not receiving DI benefits. DI beneficiaries begin to receive benefits before workers who are not disabled. Social Security Disability Insurance benefits can be paid to both disabled workers and families as well. (NCPSSM, 2020)

2.14.4 Life Expectancy: Since African Americans/Blacks have shorter life expectancies, they receive benefits for fewer years than whites, with regards to workers who live to the age of retirement. African American families are more likely to receive survivor benefits for Social Security because African Americans have a higher chance of living fewer years after retiring and dying before retirement. However, the benefits are not enough to create wealth. African American males receive reduced benefits compared to White males because they are more likely to take early retirement at age 62. (NCPSSM, 2020)

2.14.5 Health in Louisiana and Caddo Parish: According to the United Health Foundation, “America’s Health: State Health Rankings for 2004,” Louisiana was ranked as the least healthy state in the nation for a combined measure of identified health outcomes and risk factors—a ranking Louisiana has held for 14 of the last 15 years. (Caddo Parish Health Profiles, 2005, p. 122)

The inequities in health care include many barriers that hinder access to such care. The included barriers are in the categories of Financial, Organizational, and Sociocultural. Affordability and cost of health care are financial barriers to equity and access. These barriers are prevalent for the unemployed as well as for the employed and the uninsured,

and the insured. (Caddo Parish Health Profiles, 2005) Being “insured” is not equivalent to being “adequately insured” and does not ensure that an individual will receive “adequate health care.” (Caddo Parish Health Profiles, 2005, p. 123) Medicare, Medicaid, and LaCHIP are government-sponsored insurance programs that target a specific population segment with certain eligibility requirements. Eligible families, adults, and most importantly, children are commonly not enrolled since they cannot get to a health care provider or find one or properly navigate the health care system, so services become unused. The health issues that people have might start as low-cost preventative care have the possibility of becoming profoundly serious and expensive before they can access insurance. The most vulnerable are the children dependent on their parents or guardians. In Louisiana, including Caddo Parish, African Americans, and their children are the most vulnerable because of poverty, lower income, education, and lack of ready transportation. (Caddo Parish Health Profiles, 2005)

A 2005 survey in Louisiana identified that 21.6% of Louisiana's population was uninsured, including 29.4% African Americans and 18.1% White. Employed citizens were the most uninsured because of the high cost of health insurance. (Caddo Parish Health Profiles, 2005) In 2003, Louisiana had an estimated 11.1% (135,400) uninsured children under 19 years of age. For Region 7, including Caddo Parish, 15.2 percent (22,700) are uninsured children, and 21.6 percent (65,300) are uninsured adults. An estimated 14.6 percent (10,396) of children in Caddo Parish alone were uninsured. In Region 7, 18,600 of 22,700 children were 200% below the federal poverty level. These estimates signify that these children are likely to qualify for either LaCHIP or Medicaid. By facilitating and identifying children’s enrollment in the appropriate program, access to health care for these

children could increase. For adults in Region 7, 50,000 of 65,000 were below the 200% federal poverty level. This group cannot afford private company insurance or employee-sponsored insurance. (Caddo Parish Health Profiles, 2005) In Louisiana's rural residences, for every 4,187 persons, there was only one physician. (Caddo Parish Health Profiles, 2005)

Organizational issues include a shortage of primary care providers, inadequate capacity, medical specialists, or other health care professionals. Other issues also include facilities such as nursing homes, assisted living centers, and hospitals. Other barriers include transportation and child-care. *Transportation* can act as a barrier linked to poverty status and income level. Child-care is included because of affordability and availability to bring children to medical appointments. (Caddo Parish Health Profiles, 2005)

The inequities that can lead to health care disparities are Social-cultural issues constituted by the problem of "equity." Barriers that causes confusion can lead to not being treated for a medical condition. Examples of confusion are when to seek care, where to go, not understanding what to do, and ignorance of the healthcare system. Other barriers that are associated with social-cultural are discrimination and confidentiality. (Caddo Parish Health Profiles, 2005) Such barriers exist due to race, occupation, spiritual and cultural differences, income disparities, and miscommunication because of language barriers among staff and providers. Moving constantly, lack adequate transportation, not having a phone, having many children, disabilities, pregnancy, and having multiple jobs to where it is difficult to seek preventive medical attention on time. (Caddo Parish Health Profiles, 2005)

2.14.6 Birth Numbers in Caddo Parish: Families make up a community, and depending on how healthy the family is will be due to the community's health. Family is a major factor in the social unity of a community, so it is viable that families are kept healthy. To ensure that the communities and families are healthy, they must achieve the goal of preventing low birth rates, infant death, and preterm birth. A mother's poor health or high-risk pregnancy can negatively affect the weight of a baby. Population growth is a component measured by the birth rate. Planners in communities use birth rates to measure present and future needs of health, childcare, and education. (Caddo Parish Health Profiles, 2005)

In Louisiana, the low birth rate percentage for African American infants is twice that of White infants, which also impacts the infant mortality rates in those populations. From 2000-2002, 12.2 percent of babies born in Caddo Parish were of low birth weight, compared to 10.5 percent in the state and 7.7 percent nationally. (Caddo Parish Health Profiles, 2005, p. 130) African American births in Caddo Parish were relatively high compared to Whites. After the 3043 African American births in 2010, in 2011, African American births dropped more than half the year before, and White birth numbers rose. In the following years, African American births in Caddo Parish never reached numbers in the 3000s nor the 2000s, and White births remained steady. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020) These figures are below.

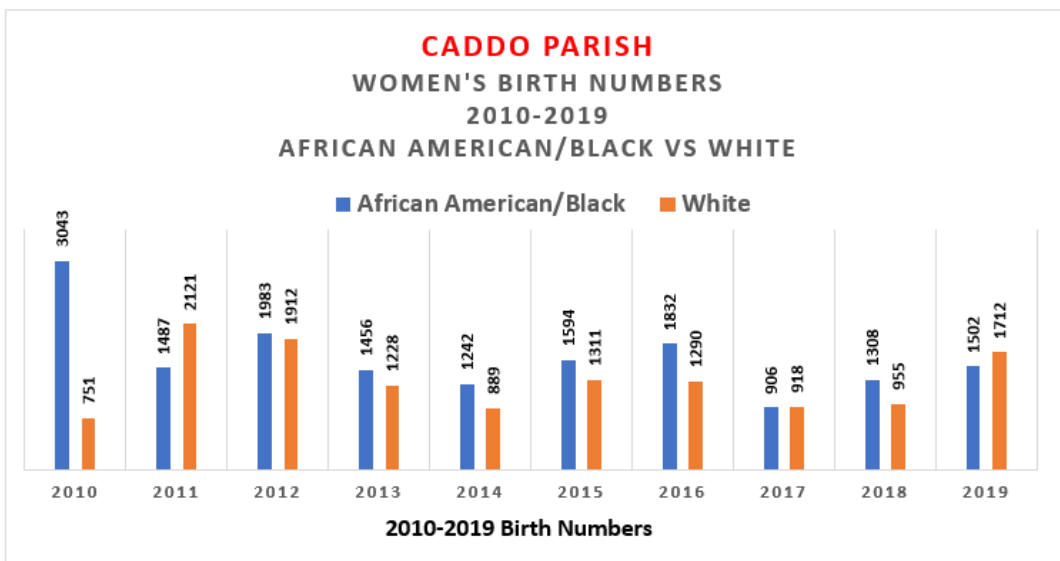


Figure 35: Caddo Parish Women's Numbers Black vs. White 2010-2019

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2020)

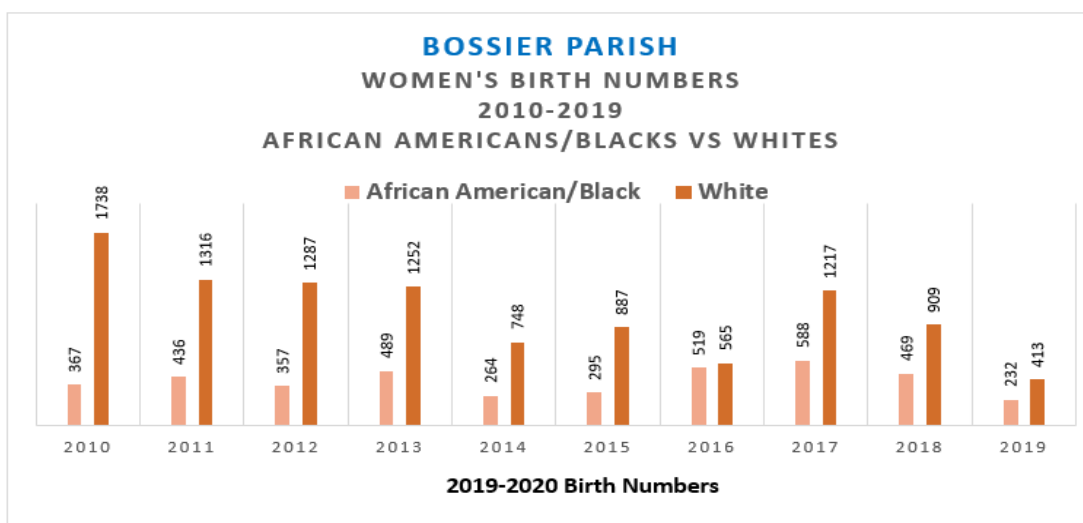


Figure 36: Bossier Parish Women's Birth Black vs. White 2010-2019

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2020)

2.14.7 Infant Mortality Rate in Caddo Parish: The measurement of deaths within the first year of each 1000 infants being born in a single year is the Infant Mortality Rate. A clear indicator of the well-being and health of mothers and children is the mortality rate of infants. In Louisiana, in 2002, the infant mortality rate was 10.2 per 1,000 live births. In Caddo Parish, the rate was 13.5 per 1,000 live births. Infant mortality rates differ by race. In Louisiana, in 2002, the Black infant mortality rate was just over two times the rate for White infants. (Caddo Parish Health Profiles, 2005, p. 130) Between the years of 2015-2017(on average), the infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births) in Louisiana was highest for Black infants at 11.0, followed by Asian or Pacific Islanders at 5.3 and Whites at 5.2. During the first year of life between 2015-2017, Black infants were two times as likely to die. (March of Dimes, Louisiana, 2020)

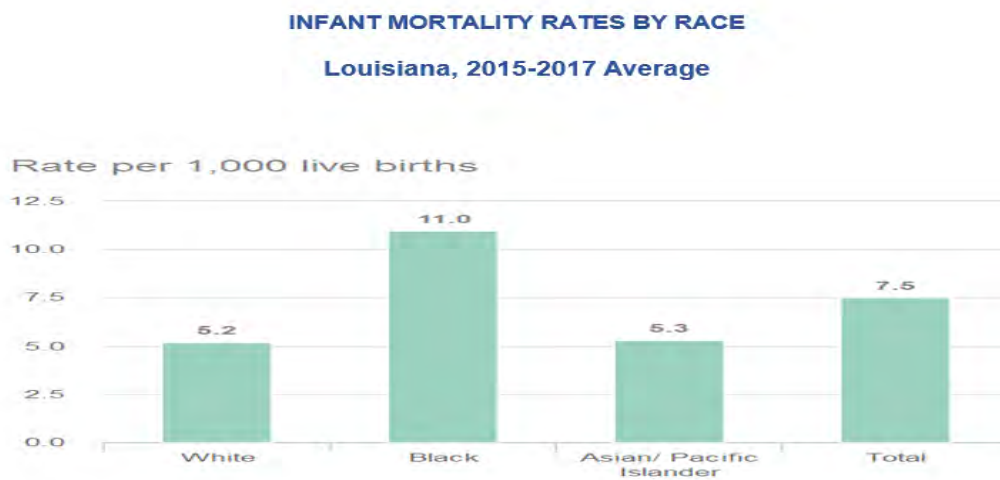


Figure 37: Louisiana Infant Mortality Rate by Race Average 2015-2017

Source: March of Dimes, Louisiana (2020)

2.15 The Black Education Experience in the U.S. and Louisiana

Race, not just poverty, shapes who graduates in America, is an article by Matt Barnun. Barnun's studies showed that poverty is not a proxy for race when it comes to academic outcomes. (Barnun, 2018) Research shows that White men earn significantly more than Black men, even when Black men come from families that make the same income. Black males who come from wealth are most likely to become poor adults than to stay wealthy and Black males who start out as poor are more likely to remain in a poor status. (Barnun, 2018) There was a study performed in the U.S. using data on millions of U.S. citizens that were born between the years of 1978 and 1983 called the *Equality of Opportunity Project*. The project looked at the educational and economic outcomes of the people, and it showed the impact of racism on Black males was apparent. The outcome of the study presented that schools and education policy data toward Black students were much less likely to attend college and less likely to graduate high school than White students with the same family earnings. The studies highlighted that 78% of White males that were poor graduated high school, and 70% of Black males graduated whose families had the same income as the Whites graduates. There were differences in the women too, but not as great as the men. (Barnun, 2018)

According to a 2017 article that presented data from a survey from WalletHub, Louisiana has the worst public education system in the United States. It is ranked 51st in state rankings for school safety. (McElfresh, 2017) For Reading and Math scores, Louisiana was ranked 48th in the nation and 43rd for the highest percentage of injured or threatened high school students. (McElfresh, 2017) Rankings include several factors. The factors were graduation rates, reading test scores, math test scores, dropout rates, schools'

inclusion in the U.S. News and World Report list, pupil-teacher ratios, number of certified teachers, Advanced Placement scores, and ACT and SAT scores. The researchers also pulled data on students' access to illegal drugs, discipline, youth incarcerations, high school students not attending school because of safety concerns, being threatened, or injured, and participation in violence.

Stereotypes and or attitudes are implicit biases that can affect people's decisions, understanding, and actions unconsciously. Understanding how institutional racism is strengthened by implicit racial bias and other biases determines outcomes in educational experiences of students in implicit racial bias can help us to better understand how institutional racism and other forms of bias affect the educational experiences of students from disparaged communities. White flight and privatized education have been contributing to the students of color taking over as the majority in the public school system since 2014, and these demographic trends will continue. Currently, schools are now more segregated. Racial achievement gaps continue, and after high school, students of color graduate at a lower percentage from college than White students (Johns, 2016)

When crimes are broadcasted and reported, the media uses positive photos of the White suspects and incriminating and negative photos of Black citizens. Representation in an unequal manner affects how the masses of society view African American/Black adolescents. There is a terrible underrepresentation of students in academic programs of rigor by African Americans. Only 9% of African American students are in gifted and talented programs, but 16% of African Americans are in the public-school system. A third of high schools with the largest percentage of Black and Latinos do not offer chemistry courses, and a quarter does not offer Algebra II. These students obviously will find

themselves at a great disadvantage in succeeding in academia. Disciplinary actions in schools get disproportionately placed upon students of color. Disciplinary actions result in In-school detention, suspension, and expulsion, causing students to miss classroom time and fall further behind in their studies. Black children represent 18% of preschool enrollment, and 48% receive more than just one suspension out of school. Through grades K-12, African American/Black students are nearly twice as likely to be expelled from school and four times as likely to be put through suspension than White students. White boys received out-of-school suspensions of 6%, while Black boys received a rate of out-of-school suspension at 20%, which is three times that much as White boys. White girls received out-of-school suspension at 2% while Black girls received out-of-school suspension at 12%, six times as much as White girls. (Johns, 2016)

Researchers have found that there are physiological effects of racism on African American/Black students. The development and learning of Black students get impeded by implicit and explicit bias, as well as open and observable racism. The gaps in academic performance of Black students compared to White peers can also explain the stress of racial discrimination. Perceived Discrimination and Stereotype Threats are two sources of race-based stressors of physiological responses that researchers found to lead the body to pump out more stress hormones. Researchers have found that these stressors pump out more into Black and Latino students. Perceived Discrimination: The perception that one will be treated differently or unfairly because of race. Stereotype Threat: The stress of confirming negative expectations about one's racial or ethnic group. (Johns, 2016) Coping mechanisms or psychological responses are biological reactions of students who get impeded by race-based stress. These responses tend to lessen the stress of Black students when undergoing

race-based stress. Even though these strategies help reduce race-based stress, these strategies have consequences for academic success. Students tend to cope by devaluing the importance of performing well in school and or the significance as part of their make-up or identity, which then affects academic performance. (Johns, 2016) These same hindrances affect students in Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

Representation of Black teachers for Black students is an issue in the education system. Also, the underrepresentation of Black male teachers is very low in the public-school system. Females are the majority of teachers in the public-school system in the U.S. To be more specific, 76% of public-school teachers were female, and only 24% were male from 2017-2018. Furthermore, only 11% of elementary school teachers in the public-school system were male. Regarding race-specific, from 2017-2018 79% of teachers in the public-school system were White, which was down from 1999-2000 when 86% of teachers were White. From 1999-2000 the percentage of Black teachers was 8%, and from 2017-2018, was 7%. The Hispanic percentage slightly rose from 6% in 1999-2000 to 9% from 2017-2018. (NCES, 2021)

Researchers discovered that Black and Hispanic students show remarkable results that were positive when having teachers that match their ethnicity and race. In this situation, Black and Hispanic students showed more positive attitudes, higher test scores, college attendance, greater graduation rates, and better attendance. These minority teachers also fueled other gains by students of color because teachers of color held their students to expectations of a higher standard. “Representation absolutely matters, and it matters for almost every educational outcome you can think of,” said Seth Gershenson, a public policy professor at American University. (Meckler, L., & Rabinowitz, K., 2019, p.1)

According to federal data, there are high turnover rates among Black teachers in the U.S. Federal data further showed that 85% of White teachers return to the school they were in the year before, but in the case of Blacks, the numbers were 78% and Hispanics 79%. Experts say that retention among Black and Hispanic teachers is lower because they usually work in urban area schools. Typically, these students are more in need, and teachers become burnt out. (Meckler, L., & Rabinowitz, K., 2019, p. 1) However, the researcher suggests that the high turnover rate of Black teachers is more than just being burnt out due to needy students.

2.15.1 The Black Education Experience in Caddo Parish, Louisiana: To keep a certain group of people in an institutionalized system of racism, Whites must make sure they are not educated properly or miseducated. Education is a key element in controlling someone's mind and thought process. Education can be a process of learning something constructive or non-constructive, and depending on who is teaching a person, it can mean a great deal to someone's thought process. In Caddo Parish, there is a racial divide in the education system. AP courses and gifted programs are a less likely option for Black Students versus their White Peers. Blacks are more likely to be expelled or suspended from school. In Caddo Parish, 43% of students in AP courses are Black, and 53% are White. Of students selected for Gifted and Talented Composition, 20% are Black, and 67% are White. Of students who receive Out-of-School Suspension, 80% are Black students, and 16% are White students. Of students who receive Expulsion, 82% are Black, and 15% are White. (Groeger, Waldman, & Eads, 2018) Black students are also known to be denied certain schools because of their race in Caddo/Bossier Parishes. A case in point was *Lemon v. Bossier Parish School Board* in Shreveport City Court. The case consisted of Black/African

American children who were stationed at Barksdale Air Force Base. The Children attended all-black schools in Bossier Parish and were eligible to attend Bossier Parish public schools. The students lived closer to the predominantly all-White schools and claimed they were denied admittance to White schools because of race and had to attend school further away. They allege their applications were denied solely because of their race and the policy, *712 custom and practice of defendants in maintaining segregated schools. (Lemon v. Bossier Parish School Board, 1965, p. 1) Out of all the students in the United States school system, the students who rank the highest for suspensions, expulsions, being kicked out of school, choosing to leave school, having low GPAs, scoring poorly on tests, and having high rates of referral and placement in special education is Black males. (Wyatt, 2019) Such instances can lead Black students to be unsuccessful, turning toward a life of crime and poverty in their immediate or near future.

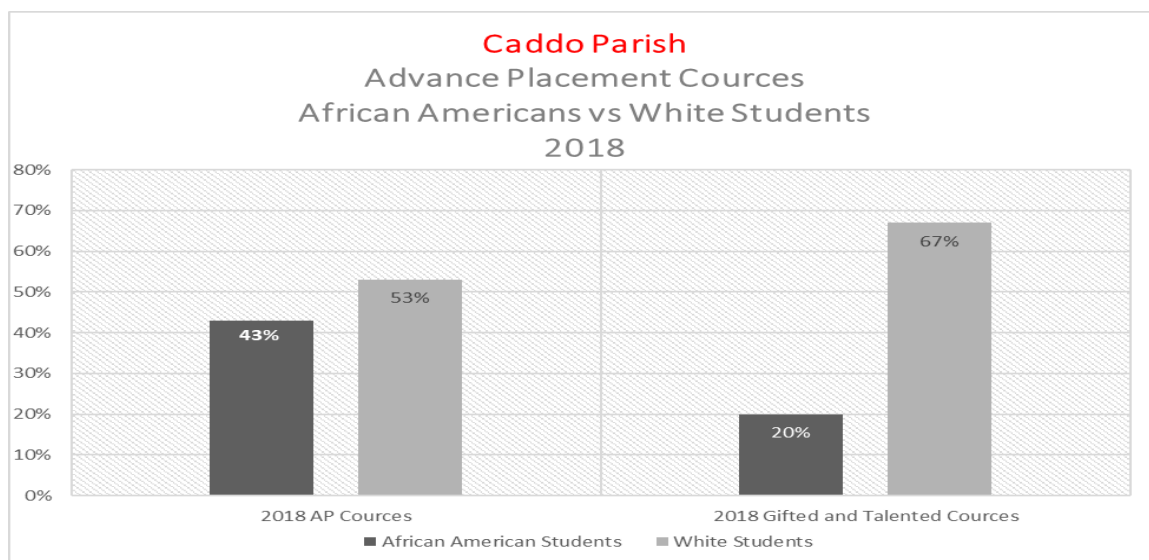


Figure 38: Caddo Parish Advanced Placement African American vs. White

Source: Groeger, Waldman, & Eads, (2018)

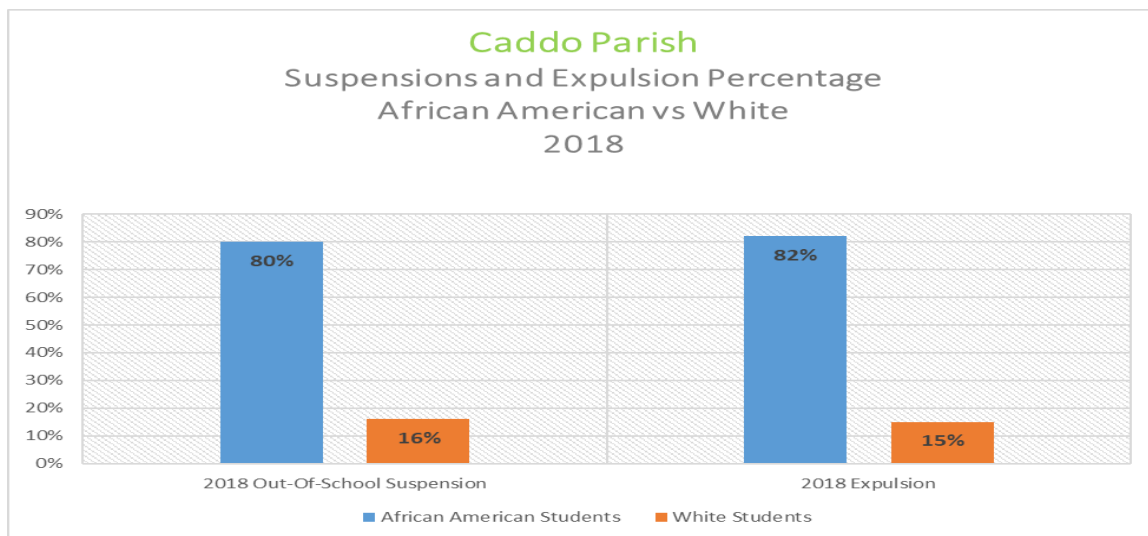


Figure 39: Caddo Parish Suspensions and Expulsions African American vs. White

Source: Groeger, Waldman, & Eads, (2018)

2.15.2 Education Levels in Caddo Parish: Education levels are important factors depending on what kind of job opportunities and industries will be attracted to a certain area. The proportion of adults with post-secondary degrees, increasingly recognized as the key to obtaining living wage jobs, is below the national average. (Goody Clancy, 2017) The proportion of adults with post-secondary degrees, which are increasingly recognized as the key to obtaining living wage jobs, is below the national average. Disparities between African Americans, 15% of whom hold a post-secondary degree, and Whites, 27.1%, are significant in 2017. (Goody Clancy, 2017 p.11) In 2019, the disparity was even more significant, with Blacks at 15.4% and Whites at 31.6%. Below are charts showing Caddo and Bossier Parish's 2010-2019 Education Attainment Estimates and 2015 and 2018 5-Year Education Estimates of African American/Black vs. White. The 2015 ACS 5-Year Estimate of Education Attainment in Caddo Parish African American High Schools or Higher was 59,538, Whites 80,338, and African American Bachelor's Degree or Higher

was 10,906, while Whites were 27,465. According to the 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimate of Education Attainment in Caddo Parish, African American High School or Higher was 61,543, Whites 77,608, and African American Bachelor's Degree or Higher was 10,692, while whites were 26,684.

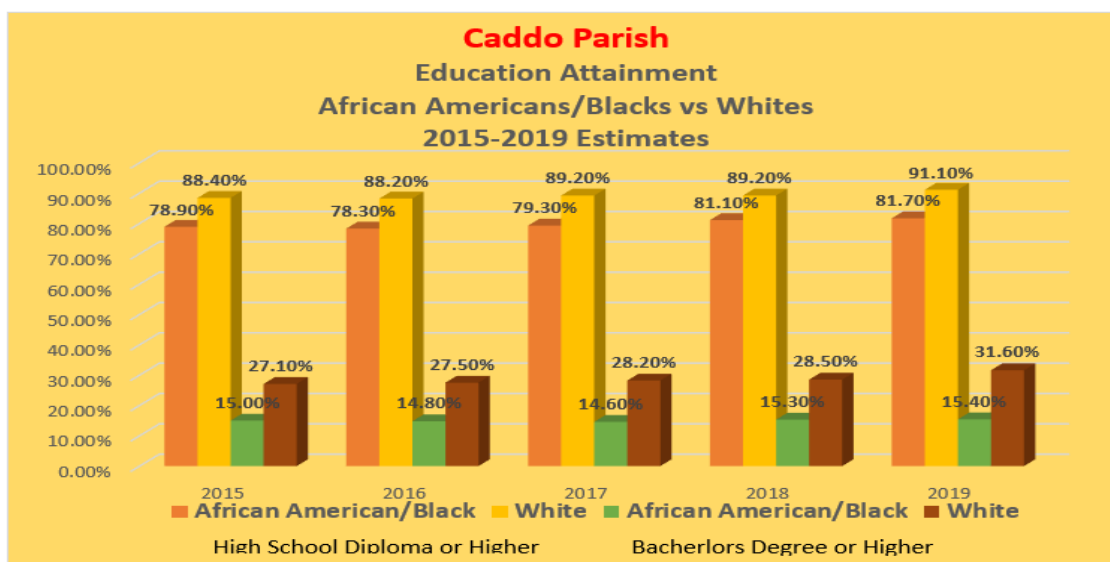


Figure 40: Caddo Parish Education Attainment Black vs. White 2015-2019

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2020)

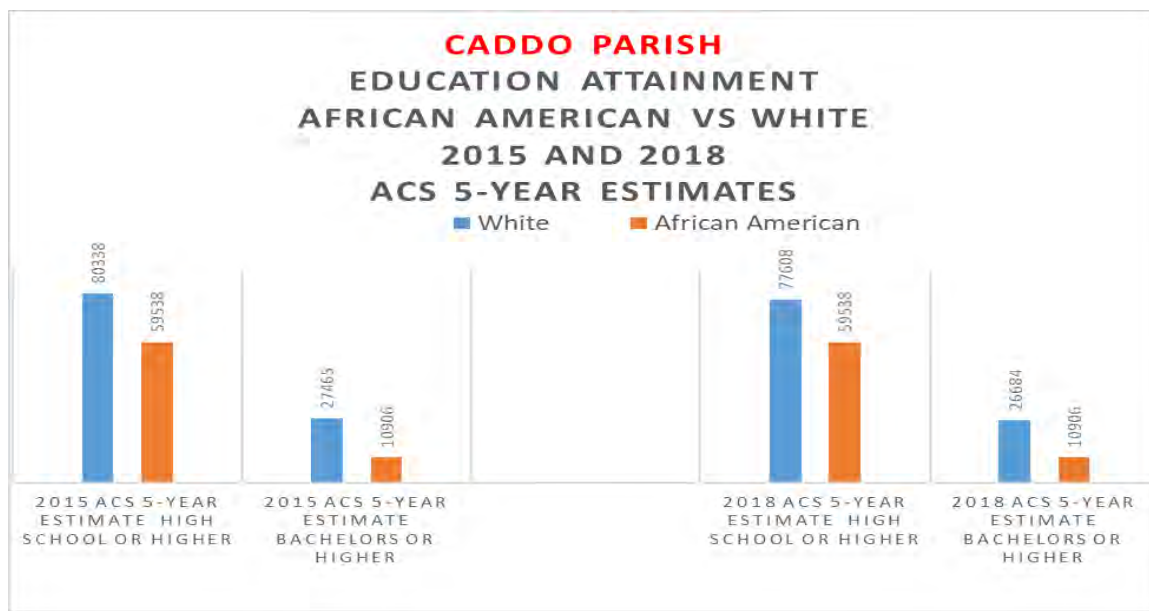


Figure 41: 2015 and 2018 5-Year Estimates Caddo Parish Education Attainment

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, (2020)

To have a comparison, the researcher compares Caddo Parish data to Bossier Parish data from 2010-2019 Education Attainment Estimates and ACS 5-Year Education Attainment Estimates. According to the 2015 ACS 5-Year Estimate of Education Attainment in Caddo Parish, African American High School or Higher was 12,749 and Whites 55,036 and African American Bachelor's Degree or Higher was 2,746 while Whites were 16,804. According to the 2018 ACS 5-Year Estimate of Education Attainment in Caddo Parish, African American High School or Higher was 14,271, Whites 56,595, and African American Bachelor's Degree or Higher was 3,343, while Whites were 16,095.

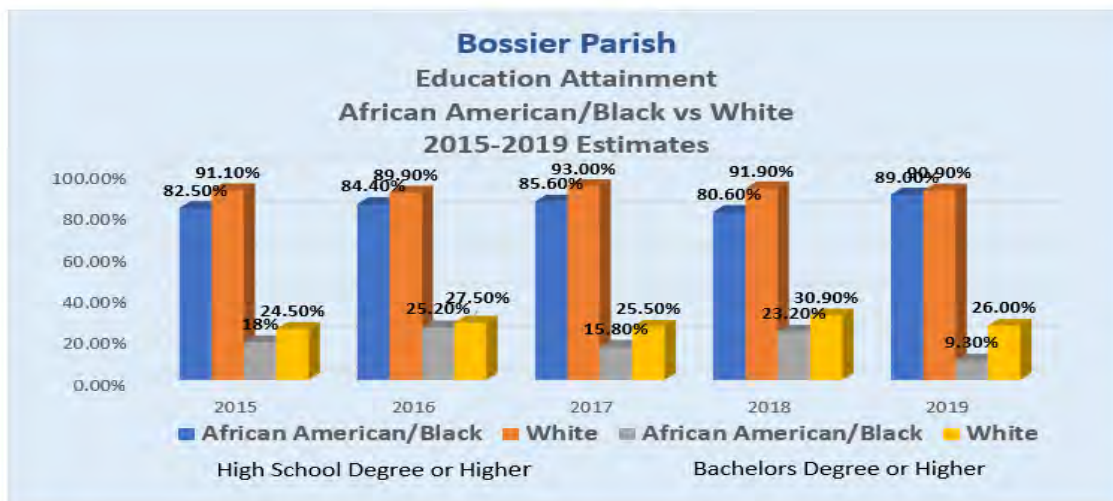


Figure 42: Bossier Parish Education Attainment Black vs. White 2015-2019

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2020)

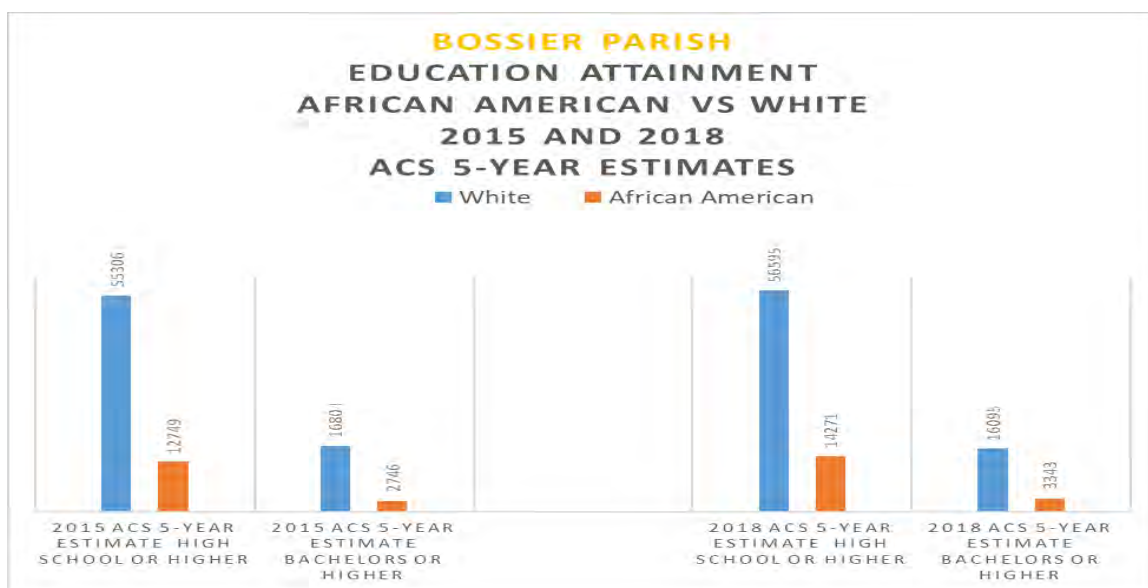


Figure 43: 2015 and 2018 5-Year Estimates Bossier Parish Education Attainment

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2020)

CHAPTER 3:

METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH DESIGN

3.1 Research Methodology

Poverty is an unacceptably low-standard way of life that is a complex human phenomenon. It has multiple causes, manifestations, and dimensions. (Odhiambo, Omiti, Muthaka, 2005) This chapter outlines the methodology implemented in my study of Caddo Parish. The researcher will investigate the spatial relationships with the factors affecting African American/Black Poverty in Caddo Parish and compare those relationships with neighboring Bossier Parish. Analyzing poverty from many disciplines results in a steady pattern of forming questions regarding this issue. Sometimes the questions asked are out of curiosity and being puzzled, but quite frequently, questions are to find solutions to the poverty issue. Qualitative research is good for gathering social science data/research and physical observation of the study area. That is why the researcher wanted to use this method. Qualitative methods can pose as complementary and or alternatives to quantitative methods or approaches. Although this is a qualitative study, quantitative data will be in the secondary data findings provided. The Quantitative method data will provide geographical visualizations, descriptive statistics, and the use of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) for spatial and statistical analysis. Quantitative methods help present answers only to certain questions regarding poverty and will only provide partial information about poverty. The researcher thinks that a single approach to appraising poverty can capture all the necessary aspects of the poverty phenomenon. (Odhiambo, Omiti, Muthaka, 2005) Providing quantitative data in this qualitative research method through data analysis would

help strengthen a useful comprehension and firmer understanding of poverty, particularly in Caddo Parish. This chapter will detail the research methods of the researcher's choice and the rationale behind them. It will explain using spatial analysis data for the research and the researcher's quantitative methods. Both methods will help the researcher and readers comprehend, relate, and reliability and validate the study.

3.2 Study Area

The Parish of Caddo (French: *Paroisse de Caddo*) is in the northwest area of the state of Louisiana with the coordinates Latitude of 32°34'48.00" N and Longitude - 93°52'48.00" W. (Caddo Parish, 2020, p. 1) Caddo Parish received its name from the Caddo American Indians who once populated the area. However, most of them experienced removal from the area in the 1830s. The Parish was established on January 18, 1838, carved from Natchitoches Parish. (Caddo Parish Genealogy, 2020, p. 2) The researcher will compare variables in Caddo Parish to Bossier Parish, the neighboring parish with African Americans and White Americans in these parishes. Shreveport City and Bossier City are the two largest cities in both parishes, referred to as the "Twin Cities" because they are two cities in neighboring parishes separated by the Red River but connected by numerous bridges. The data will be gathered from Census tracts and downloaded from the Share File from the Census Bureau that will concentrate on Caddo and Bossier Parish. There are 64 census tracts in the parishes highlighted in GIS Mapping. Caddo Parish is the fourth largest populated Parish in Louisiana. The core of Caddo Parish, developed by planters of cotton plantations with thousands of African American enslaved people who labored them, borders Texas and Arkansas. During the American Civil War, Shreveport was the capital of Louisiana from 1863 to 1865. (World Population Review Caddo, 2018) Caddo Parish's

population in 1990 was 248,253 and has shrunk to 240,204 population. (1990 U.S. Census Louisiana Population, 1992) (Surbanstats.com, 2020) According to the Census Bureau of the United States, Caddo Parish has a total area of 937 square miles (2,430 km²), of which 978 square miles (2,530 km²) is land and 58 square miles (150 km²) (6.2%) is water. The Parish of Caddo covers 852 square miles, with its borders being Arkansas to the north, the Red River to the east, Texas to the west, and DeSoto Parish to the south in the Northwest area of Louisiana. Part of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge is in this parish. (E-Reference Desk Caddo Parish, 2019)

In Caddo Parish, the most common sectors of employment are Health Care & Social Assistance, mining (oil and gas) Retail, Casino entertainment, and Accommodations & Food Services. Some residents that live in Caddo Parish may work in another city because Caddo Parish sits on the border of Texas and Arkansas. Shreveport's greatest economic strengths are education, professional and technical services, and education, all considered knowledge-intensive industries. As the region's central city, it attracts economic activities that benefit from a central location and direct interactions, such as health care, media, professional services, finance, culture and entertainment, education, and in some cases, retail. (NLEP, 019) (Shaw's Environmental & Infrastructure Group, 2012)

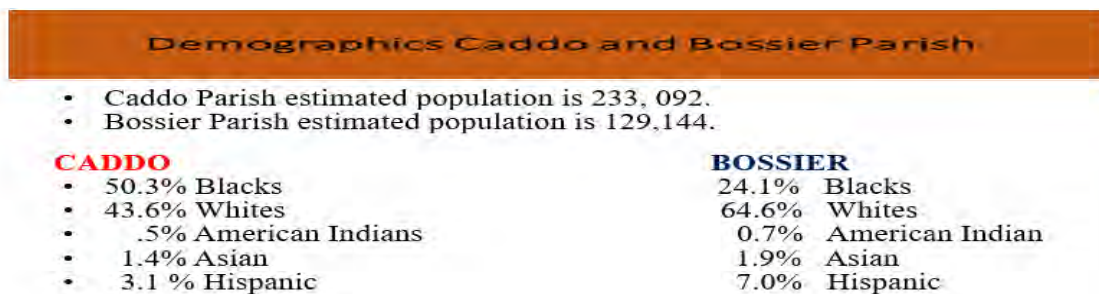


Figure 44: 2021 Demographics Caddo and Bossier Parish

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2021)

Demographics			
	2010 Census	2019 Estimate	2024 Estimate
Population	254,969	243,505	239,627
Households	102,139	99,201	98,185
Median Age (2019)	37.6		
5-Year Population Growth Projection (2024)	(1.59%)		
Race (2019 Estimate)			
White	45.54%		
African American	49.71%		
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.45%		
Asian	1.35%		
Other	2.95%		
Income (2019 Estimate)			
Median Household Income	\$39,177		
Average Household Income	\$61,399		
Educational Attainment (2019 Estimate)			
Some High School, No Diploma	9.80%		
High School Graduate	34.20%		
Some College or Associate Degree	29.37%		
Bachelor's Degree	13.99%		
Master's, Professional or Doctorate	8.57%		
Average Weekly Wage (Q1 2019)			
Average Weekly Wage	\$859		

Figure 45: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Caddo Parish

Source: NLEP (2019)

Caddo Parish, LA Detailed Education Attainment Breakout by Race (Age 25+)						
Education	White	Black	American Indian	Asian	Native Hawaiian	Hispanic
Bachelor's degree or higher	31.3%	14.2%	19.2%	49.7%	9.6%	22.0%
High school graduate or GED	29.0%	39.2%	39.1%	15.6%	16.4%	29.0%
Less than high school diploma	8.9%	18.2%	8.2%	17.1%	50.7%	25.7%
Some college or associate's degree	30.8%	28.4%	33.6%	17.6%	23.3%	23.2%

Figure 46: Education Attainment by Race

Source: (Town Charts, n.d.)

3.2.1 Analysis of Caddo Parish: Caddo Parish Communities consist of Belcher, Blanchard, Dixie, Gilliam, Greenwood, Hosston, Ida, Mooringsport, Oil City, Rodessa, Shreveport-Parish Seat, and Vivian. (NLEP, 2019) Caddo Parish is connected globally by air service, interstates, rails, a multi-modal transportation system of ports, and U.S. highways. Major Interstates are I-20, I-49, I-220, and Planned I-69. Major Highways are US 71, US 79, US 80, US 171, LA 1, and LA 2. The ports consist of the Port of Shreveport-Bossier (5 miles), Red River Port (48 miles), Natchitoches Port (70 miles), and Ouachita Terminals (99 miles). Caddo's Class 1 Railroads are Kansas City Railroad (KCS), Union Parish (UP), Burlington Northern and Santa Fe (BNSF) (Uses UP tracks), and its air service Shreveport Regional Airport (8.2 miles) (NLEP, 2019)

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) conducts. The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) for each parish (county) and state in the country. The number of retail businesses in Caddo Parish consisted of 1,197. (TMG Consulting, 2014) The total number of restaurants is 384. Supermarkets and other grocery stores have 35. Caddo and Bossier combined had 53 **multi-tenant retail centers in 2015, which include Regional Malls, Community Shopping Centers, Neighborhood Shopping Centers,**

Specialty Shopping Centers, Strip and Convenience Shopping Centers, and a total of 57 in 2018. (Stirling Properties, 2017) (Stirling Properties, 2018) In the Shreveport area, which includes the Bossier City area, there are 40 different banks, three dozen credit unions, and various financial institutions. Some of the most notable banks are Regions Bank, Farmers Bank & Trust, Guaranty Bank & Trust, Barksdale Federal Credit Union, JP Morgan Chase Bank, Citizens National Bank, Sabine State Bank, and Trust Company. In the Shreveport Area, which includes Bossier City, there are approximately 520 branches from 45 credit unions and 90 banks, including various financial institutions. One of the longest-standing banks in Caddo Parish is the Texas Heritage National Bank, established in 1892. (Shreveport Area Banking, 2021) Shreveport City has 69 bank branches. The most popular is Regions Bank, with ten banks. JP Morgan Chase, National Association, and Capital One have 9. (Shreveport Area Banking, 2021)

In Caddo Parish, the most common sectors of employment are Health Care & Social Assistance, mining (oil and gas) Retail, Casino entertainment, and Accommodations & Food Services. Some residents that live in Caddo Parish may work in another city because Caddo Parish sits on the border of Texas and Arkansas. Shreveport's greatest economic strengths are education, professional and technical services, and education, all considered knowledge-intensive industries. As the region's central city, it attracts economic activities that benefit from a central location and direct interactions, such as health care, media, professional services, finance, culture and entertainment, education, and in some cases, retail. (Shreveport/Caddo MPC, 2016) Caddo Parish Public Schools is the largest employer, Willis-Knighton Health System is the 2nd highest rank employer with 6,732 employees, Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport Academic Medical Center is the 3rd with

2,673, and LSU Health Service Centers is the 4th highest with 2,762 employees in the Shreveport-Bossier Metropolitan Area. (NLEP, 2019) Sam's Town Casino and Eldorado Resort Casino are the 10th and 11th top employers; however, they are Amusement, Gambling & Recreation for locals and tourists. (NLEP, 2019) Caddo Parish has 64 schools with 38,199 students. Caddo Parish has 40 elementary schools, 16 middle schools, and 15 high schools. (News & World Report, 2021)

Shreveport City universities and colleges are Centenary College, Southern University-Shreveport, and LSU-Shreveport Medical School. Caddo Parish's neighboring parishes have universities and colleges in and near Northwest Louisiana. Bossier Colleges consist of Bossier Parish Community College. In Grambling, Louisiana, there is Grambling State University. The universities in Monroe are the University of Louisiana at Monroe and Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine. Close to Monroe is Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana. Northwestern State University is also in Natchitoches, Louisiana, and Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College is a public technical college in Minden, Louisiana. (NLEP, 2019)

Shreveport, Louisiana is currently the third largest city in Louisiana, and Lafayette, Louisiana, is the fifth largest city in Louisiana with almost 50,000 less population. However, Lafayette has 95 banks compared to 69 bank branches in Shreveport, La. (Lafayette Banks, 2021) (Shreveport Area Banking, 2021)

3.2.2 Analysis of Bossier Parish: Bossier Parish Communities consist of Bossier City, Benton, Haughton, and Plain Dealing. Bossier Parish neighbors Caddo Parish and connects to the same air service, interstates, rails, a multi-modal transportation system of ports, and U.S. highways as Caddo Parish. A large section of the Bossier Area population

commutes to Shreveport daily. Bossier parish has a total area of 867 square miles (2,250 km²), of which 840 square miles (2,200 km²) is land and 27 square miles (70 km²) (3.1%) is water. Several bridges crossing the Red River from the Shreveport Area to Bossier City are critical to this community's livelihood. The closest bridges to the Central Business District are the Texas St Bridge, the I-20 Red River Bridge, then slightly south of the west Gate/Shreveport Barksdale Highway Bridge and slightly north of the Interstate 220 Bridge. (Bossier City Comprehensive Plan, 2013) (About Bossier Parish Experience Bossier Parish, 2021)

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) conducts the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) for each parish (county) and state in the country. The number of retail businesses in Bossier Parish consisted of 577. (TMG Consulting, 2014) The total number of restaurants is 199. Supermarkets and other grocery stores are 19. (TMG Consulting, 2014) The Bossier City labor force primarily consists of Management, Professional & Related occupations, and Sales & Office occupations. The major employers of Bossier Parish are Barksdale Air Force Base, Bossier Parish School Board, Horseshoe Bossier Casino, Diamond Jack Casino and Resort, State of Louisiana Civil Service, Margaritaville Resort Casino, and Boomtown Bossier City. (About Bossier Parish Experience Bossier Parish, 2021) Bossier Parish has 23 elementary schools, 13 middle schools, and 7 high schools with 22,589 students. U.S. (News & World Report, 2021) Bossier Colleges consist of Bossier Parish Community College. Bossier Parish's neighboring parishes have universities and colleges in and near Northwest Louisiana. Shreveport City universities and colleges are Centenary College, Southern University-Shreveport, and LSU-Shreveport Medical School. In Grambling, Louisiana, there is

Grambling State University. The universities in Monroe are the University of Louisiana at Monroe and the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine. Close to Monroe is Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana. Northwestern State University is also in Natchitoches, Louisiana, and Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College is a public technical college in Minden, Louisiana. (NLEP, 2019) (About Bossier Parish Experience Bossier Parish, 2021) As mentioned before, in the Shreveport Area, which includes Bossier, there are approximately 520 branches from 45 credit unions and 90 banks, including various financial institutions. There are 34 total banks in the city of Bossier. (Bossier Banking, 2021)

3.3 Rationale for Selecting Qualitative Method

The researcher preferred using the qualitative research method to make meaningful and sound decisions to inform audiences regarding gathered data through research. In academia and other platforms, research can be indispensable or invaluable if one prefers to contribute to informed decision-making that will assist in making strategic goals and creating policy. Qualitative research is more about capturing people's emotions and options and not so much about number crunching. (Vaughan, 2019) In the qualitative research method, the researcher will use the data collection methods of observation, interviews, and secondary data.

The researcher will use the systematic observation research method to look at the typical environment of the study area and subjects. Applying the observation provides details that participants may deem important or not disclosed during interviews. (Vaughan, 2019) (Tashakkori and Creswell, 2007)

Interviews provide information from participants through conversation-based inquiries where questions get asked, and responses follow. Interviews tend to be structured to adhere to the researcher's purpose.

Secondary data or existing documents is a qualitative data collection method. It involves extracting significant and meaningful data from existing documents. The collector will be using a method called content analysis or qualitative analysis method for the analysis. Existing documents include books, government records, personal sources, journals, websites, newspapers, and exedra. (Vaughan, 2019) (Ostlund, Kidd, Wengström, & Rowa-Dewar, 2011)

Document analysis is a part of qualitative research. Its implementation is a crucial part of this study. The document analysis will require electronic (Internet-transmitted and computer-based) and printed material. Document analysis as a research method is significant in qualitative case studies and or intensive studies constructing plentiful descriptions of a single event, program, organization, or phenomenon. Documents provide ways of tracking development and change. Background information, historical insight, and data drawn from documents during interviews can bring follow-up or new interview questions. (Bowen, 2009)

3.3.0.1 Rational for Secondary Data-Quantitative Research Method Spatial

Analysis: In poverty research, quantitative appraisals are one of the many specialized fields. The poverty phenomenon is complex and requires specialized, complex methods to research it. The quantitative approach is useful for collecting numerical data, which is analyzed using statistics more often and other mathematical practices. (Aliaga and Gunderson, 2002) (Wyse, 2011) The Quantitative method will provide geographical

visualizations, descriptive statistics, and the use of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) for spatial and statistical analysis. Two types of mixing suggestions get mentioned when it comes to poverty appraisals: simultaneous and sequential. The researcher will be using simultaneous mixing because many researchers have considered a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods to be extremely effective than other methods of poverty analysis. (Odhiambo, Omiti, Muthaka, 2005) (Kanbur, 2001) (Hughes, 2016)

3.3.1 Qualitative Research Method: Advantages and Disadvantages:

Qualitative research is good for gathering social science data/research and physical observation of the study area. That is why the researcher wanted to use this method. Qualitative methods pose complementary alternatives to quantitative methods or approaches. The qualitative method is a research method that gains comprehension of the “human” aspect of a phenomenon and the underlying beliefs, opinions, emotions, and motivations of a person in an exploratory manner. Furthermore, this tactic is good for developing research questions with various hypotheses and ideas. (Family Health International, 2005)

In Qualitative research, the structure can be based on available or incoming data and can be fluid. Qualitative research can adapt to the quality of data/information being collected rather than following a specific data collection process, information reporting, and patterns of question. The research can quickly switch gears and pursue other data in a different direction if the current data does not supply the results wanted. This system provides more key clues collection in this process regarding any subject, and the researcher will not be limited to a confined and frequently self-fulfilling point of view. (Gaille, 2019)

In the qualitative method, the researcher will focus more on observation as a systematic research method and use existing documents, which are called secondary data. The researcher looks at their subject's activity in their particular environment. Using observation supplies direct information regarding your research. The observation technique participants can bring forth information that participants may not look at as important during focus groups/interviews or not think to reveal. (Vaughan, 2019)

Using secondary data is extracting existing documents from relevant data. The process of using secondary is analyzing the collected data using qualitative data analysis is called content analysis. The content analysis uses information extracted from existing documents, including journals, various published or unpublished data, emails, historical and statistical documents, magazines, newspapers, books, and exedra. (Vaughan, 2019)

There are disadvantages to using qualitative research. One clear disadvantage is that there needs to be more statistical representation, meaning responses are not measured because they are perspective-based.

The influence of the researcher during the collection of the data can have a negative effect on the research. The observations and skills of the researcher in the qualitative method will determine the quality of the research collected. The information collected could be high quality or subpar. If the researcher has a biased perspective, then their point of view will be present in the influence of the data collected and the outcome. The researcher could make any affirmation and then use their partiality through qualitative research to prove their point. So, there must be controls in place to prevent such possible issues, biases, and integrity concerns. (Gaille, 2019)

3.4 Geographical Information Systems

Geographic Information System (GIS) is a framework for analyzing, managing, and gathering data. GIS integrates many types of data and can do so because it is a system that is rooted in the science of geography. A picture tells a thousand words, and a map tells a thousand pictures. GIS organizes and analyzes spatial location layers using 3D scenes and maps to relate the information to visualizations. GIS reveals deeper insights into data, such as relationships, situations, and patterns helping users make intelligent decisions using these unique capabilities. (ESRI, 2020) Individuals can use GIS to illuminate issues driven by geography. GIS can forecast traffic and transportation patterns based on land use. GIS can set spatial analysis priorities by identifying problem areas in a geographical location. GIS assists with providing insight into data that spreadsheets might look over. The GIS maps can measure employment losses or growth in different industries and quantify local competitive advantage. (ESRI, 2020) Governments and other organizations are beginning to use the GIS system to investigate and combat the effects of poverty. Creating ways to combat social problems, aid operations, maximize agriculture yields, distribute resources, and present the effects of natural disasters on poverty is major.

Furthermore, GIS can highlight geographical areas to show the population of races, education attainment, income levels, homelessness, and poverty, zooming in on census block groups and census tracts. Implementing policy informedly using the visual appeal of creating maps to show understandable data is very tangible. It also allows users to perform sensitivity analyses, where parameters can easily be changed and quickly get results. (Jarret, 2001)

3.5 Spatial Analysis

Spatial analytical tools identify the correlations among factors influencing rural poverty, the spatial relationship of poverty, and the possible use of such numerical techniques as suggestions to improve the poverty alleviation program. (Thonddara, Ranamukhaarachchi, & Shrestha, 2012, p. 2) In GIS, spatial statistical techniques can quantify notable spatial patterns, for example, concentrated poverty rates and spatial outliers. Spatial Analysis can reveal stark and significant patterns of poverty. Spatial Analysis can reveal stark and significant patterns of poverty. It can show distinctions between the south and the north demarcation of high versus low poverty concentrations. It can further show isolated pockets and low to high poverty within locations in which predominant rates of poverty are opposite. These insights are extremely useful. They explain in detail the essential process of creating such spatial patterns that result in concentrated poverty and wealth. (Holt, 2007)

3.6 Spatial Autocorrelation

Spatial autocorrelation refers to the degree to which attributes or values at some place on the earth's surface have similar attributes or values of nearby locations. (Holt, 2007) Accounting for the spatial locations of each data observation in conjunction with the observation data value at each location is essential. Spatial autocorrelation or Spatial structure is a complementary method for exploring the spatial values of the research data set. (Holt, 2007) The researcher is considering using statistical analysis combining autocorrelation in targeting the geographical poverty areas in Caddo Parish, where the methods are explainable and transparent. The researcher will also combine methods with

GIS to identify factors in Caddo Parish associated with poverty and how they are spatially related. (Thonddara, Ranamukhaarachchi, Shrestha,2012)

3.7 Statistical Analysis

Statistical analysis is the science of exploring, collecting, and presenting large amounts of data to uncover and discover underlying trends and patterns. To become more scientific regarding options and decisions in research, government, and industry statistics are applied daily for optimal results. (SAS, 2020) The purpose of statistical analysis is to determine objectively the directions of the relationships between variables researched, whether positive or negative in the outcome, to know if the relationships are significant and the degree of the relationship. Observed with GIS, the outcomes are significant in the study to support the validity of the conclusion. (SAS, 2020)

3.8 Direct Observation

There are commonly new dimensions of understanding that can add to a case study by direct observation. Direct observation is a source that has value when collecting data. Direct observation gives a researcher real-time event placement in which activities and events can be observed systematically. (Yin, 2003) The researcher can drive from a suburb or rural area to a Central Business District to see how long a route could take. The researcher can call or visit a public transportation venue to see if the researcher can get good service, obtain correct information, and see where the provided public transportation routes are traveled.

3.9 Interviews

The researcher will interview ten individuals who live in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish, Louisiana, who can provide insight into the impact of systemic racism in the area. The researcher has a key informant who will provide him with the names of these individuals. Snowball sampling will provide additional individuals for interviews for the research project. Snowball sampling is “a nonprobability sampling method often employed in field research whereby each person interviewed may be used or asked to suggest additional people for interviewing.” (Babbie, 2004, p. 184)

There are advantages to conducting interviews and disadvantages to conducting interviews. In most reference sources, the authors say, “strengths vs. weaknesses instead of advantages vs. disadvantages.”

The strengths that interviews provide are detailed oriented and sharing a rich new perspective or insights. An interview allows in-depth exploration; they also minimize errors of misrepresentation and misinterpretation due to the possibility of rephrasing, emphasizing, and repeating due to their greater flexibility. Some interviews can be convenient if done over the phone or via zoom. In-person interviews allow the interviewer to observe nonverbal responses, probe for more questions, and ask for other sources. (Hofisi, C, Hofisi, M., & Mago, S., 2014) (Babbie, 2004)

Weaknesses of interviews can come from the actual interviewer by becoming biased, subjective, and lacking interviewing skills. Therefore, the interviewer must work carefully to ensure the reliability and validity of the interview data is fair. Interviews require financial resources and consume time, so highly skilled interviewers are needed. Interviews are flexible and sometimes can also be unreliable. If the interviews are in person, the

interviewer has to hustle to meet the interviewee when time permits. (Hofisi, C, Hofisi, M., & Mago, S., 2014) (Babbie, 2004)

3.10 Data Collection Method (Secondary Data)

The researcher will be using observational methods and document analysis. Combining two or more data collection methods enhances the credibility of the study. The researcher will collect lots of literature as part of the study to incorporate the data into the dissertation. The researcher will rely heavily on previous studies for sources of data for the description and interpretation of data. The analytic procedure entails selecting findings, appraising, and synthesizing data contained in documents. Document analysis yields data excerpts, entire passages, or quotations, then organized into categories, case examples, and major themes, specifically through content analysis. (Bowen, 2009, p. 28) Documents that may be used for systematic evaluation as part of a study take a variety of forms. These documents include journals, background papers, agendas, attendance registers, minutes of meetings, manuals, books and brochures, journals, maps, charts; newspapers; press releases; program proposals, and summaries. Organizational or institutional reports, survey data, and various public records. (Bowen, 2009, p. 28)

CHAPTER 4

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Introduction

The objective of this study is to determine if African Americans are being marginalized by certain factors in a systemic and unjust situation that keeps them in a vulnerable situation of poverty in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish, Louisiana. Then the researcher compared African American/Black to White data to present the difference in each group. The researcher performed the data collection by secondary data, observation, and interviews. The major factors in this study are educational attainment (i.e., high school or higher, bachelor's or higher, and professional degrees), unemployment (hourly jobs versus salary jobs), income, homeownership, renter, cost of living, transportation, and incarceration. Furthermore, the researcher wanted to understand the relationship between poverty and the harmful effects of urbanization and politics in the study area. The purpose of this chapter is to examine and analyze the use of the research methodology of qualitative research presented in earlier chapters. To get answers to the researcher's theory, the researcher asked the following research questions.

Research Question #1: Is there a relationship between Poverty due to the negative effects of Urbanization and Politics?

Research Question #2: Is there a relationship between systematic racism and Poverty Urbanization, Politics, and its effect on African Americans' lack of wealth in the Caddo Parish?

- Research Question #3:** Is there a comparison between African American vs. Whites poverty in Caddo Parish and African American Poverty vs. Whites in neighboring Bossier Parish?
African American Poverty is greater. Why?
- Research Question #4:** Is there a relationship between population trends and job opportunities in Caddo Parish?

4.1 Research Question One

Is a relationship between Poverty due to the negative effects of Urbanization and Politics?

First, understanding that urbanization is caused when there are mass movements of populations from rural to urban settings in which this movement can trigger unplanned urban growth. The unplanned growth generates poor infrastructures such as housing, transportation, subpar water and sanitation, and health care services. Urbanization can lead to significant inequalities and health problems, marginalizing impoverished people. Greater poverty can be a result of intense urban growth or urbanization. (Kuddus, Tynan, & McBryde, E. 2020)

Caddo Parish is unique when it comes to urbanization. Caddo Parish has 80.7% of its population migrated to Shreveport, the largest city. There has been a migration of the young population out of Shreveport for various reasons, but even with the population decline, Caddo's largest populous is in Shreveport. (U.S. Census, 2021) African Americans comprise 57.09% of the population and Whites 37.2% in **Shreveport**. (U.S. Census, 2021) According to the U.S. Census, **Caddo Parish** Poverty among African Americans is 34.01% and 12.19% among Whites. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020) Most recent data shows Black

poverty in **Shreveport City** is 35.19% for African Americans and 11.62% for Whites. (World Population Review, 2022) With the majority of Caddo Parish's population living in Shreveport, the researcher will analyze the negative effects of urbanization occurring there. Bossier City, populated with 48.6% of Bossier Parish's population, is nearly half of Bossier Parish's population. In Bossier City, African Americans represent 28.2% of the residents, and Whites represent 57.8%. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020) In Bossier Parish, the White population outnumbers the Black population. However, Black poverty is 33.05%, much higher than White poverty at 11.06%. Black Poverty in Bossier Parish has been at a higher percentage than Whites in the double digits for at least the past ten years. In 2011, Black poverty was greater than 29% of White poverty. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020)

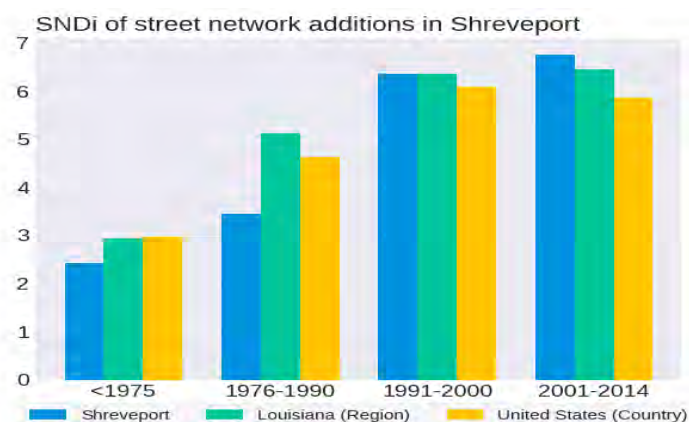
Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish, which include the Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan, have poverty, infrastructure, affordable housing, inadequate housing, higher-paying jobs, health problems, and crime issues. The accumulation of these problems associated with urbanization leads the researcher to believe that urban growth in this area assisted in creating such disparities. Furthermore, these factors affect the African American community more than Whites. Knowing that Caddo Parish's and Bossier Parish's two largest cities are connected, they share some of the same infrastructure issues. The researcher will retouch on the findings that brought him to this conclusion that Urbanization and Politics have assisted in producing and are keeping Blacks in poverty in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish.

The researcher established that urbanization could be a major factor in producing poverty. Also, the researcher has established that the Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan area contains most of both parishes' populations. When there is a lack of jobs and resources

in urban areas crime will follow. “The violent crime rate in the Shreveport-Bossier City, Louisiana, metro area stands at 683 per 100,000 — higher than in the vast majority of U.S. metropolitan areas.” (Stebbins, 2021, p. 1) The groups affected the most, both parishes and in the metropolitan area, are the African American/Black residents, and the researcher will explain his reasoning.

This section covers Infrastructure and Transportation Effects. Observing Shreveport from a researcher’s lens suggests some infrastructure needs. Such infrastructure work needed in the area was recognized in the Caddo Parish 2030 Master Plan. One area of concern is Street-network Sprawl. Street-network sprawl is a way to measure urban sprawl worldwide through the connectedness of the streets. Less sprawl means more connected, more walkable streets. (SNDi Trends, 2015, p.1) New York City’s grid is an example of a well-connected streets system due to being more walkable and able to be served by public transit. Street Network Disconnectedness Index or SNDi measures street-network sprawl or disconnectedness. SNDi quantifies how connected the street network is. SNDi captures nodal degree, dendricity (the tree-likeness of the street network, circuitry (the ratio of the distance by road to the straight-line distance of two locations on the street network), sinuosity (the curviness of a street). (SNDi Trends, 2015) A higher SDNi means fewer connected streets or more sprawl. Out of 10,137 cities measured, half of the cities fall between 1.08 to 3.25, and the average is 2.25. (SNDi Trends, 2015) The permanency of street network connectivity affects the environmental footprint and the livability of cities in the future. The more connected the streets, residents tend to walk more and drive less. Well-connected street networks are related to a better environment, outcomes for health, social integration, sustainable consumption, and equity. For development practices of street

construction from 2001 to 2014 in Louisiana, Shreveport ranked 2nd out of the six most street-network disconnected cities and has held that same ranking since 1975. (SNDi Trends, 2015) As of 2015, out of 315 U.S. cities, Shreveport is ranked 205th most disconnected. In 2014, the most disconnected street network in the United was Roswell, GA, with an SDNi of 8.19 (highly disconnected), the most connected was San Angelo, TX, with an SDNi of 0.49, and Shreveport scored 2.62 in the overall level of street-network sprawl. This score placed Shreveport in the 40th to 60th percentile of disconnectedness. (SNDi Trends, 2015)



Shreveport and Louisiana follow the same trend in the disconnectivity of their street network constructions. The SNDi for both of these rose steadily.

Figure 47: Shreveport SNDi of Street Network Additions vs. Louisiana and the U.S.

Source: SNDi Trends (2015)

Shreveport and **Louisiana** have trended the same in the disconnectivity of their street network constructions. Both of these rose steadily in SNDi.

Shreveport and the **United States** do not trend the same in the disconnectivity of their street network constructions. The United States SNDi peaked in 1991-2000, and Shreveport steadily rose. (SNDi Trends, 2015)

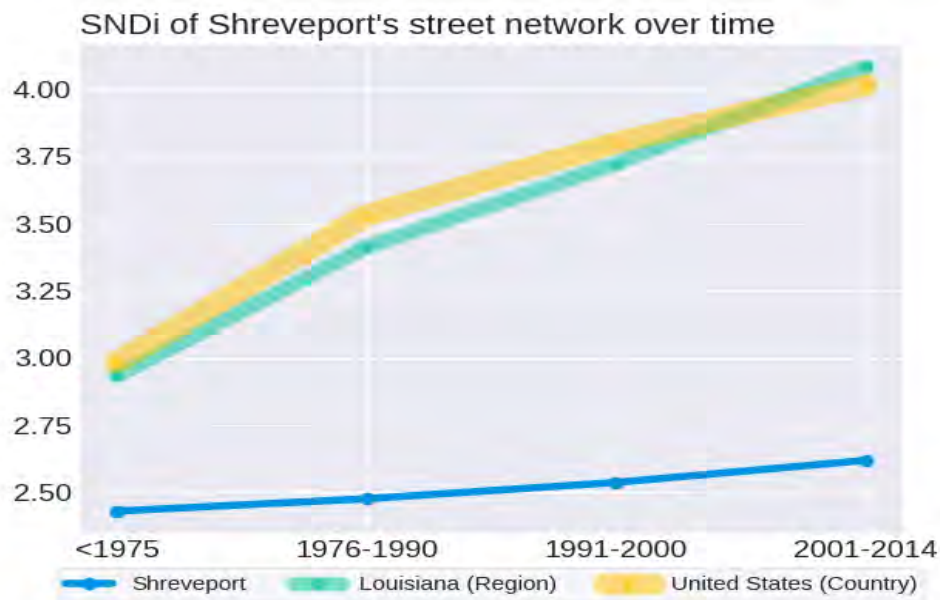


Figure 48: Shreveport Street Network vs. Louisiana and the U.S. Over Time

(SNDi Trends, 2015)

Shreveport and Louisiana have trended the same in disconnectivity of their aggregated street networks. Both of these rose steadily in SNDi. Shreveport and the United States do trend the same in the disconnectivity of their **aggregated** street network. (SNDi Trends, 2015)

With the sprawl, there is a disconnect in the street network that hurts the African American community in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish. As mentioned before, there is a “spatial mismatch” between jobs and the labor force in the Shreveport-Bossier Metropolitan area. Studies analyzed and presented data collected on jobs and people in metropolitan areas. Included in the data were job-sprawl measures of employment decentralization for metropolitan areas. The findings revealed that Black residents living in metropolitan areas with higher levels of employment decentralization were at a greater spatial mismatch between them and job locations. The association of greater job-sprawl is

a higher spatial mismatch is not an issue for Whites but for Blacks. The results firmly imply that job sprawl magnifies particular dimensions of inequalities racial in the U.S. (Stoll, 2005, p.1)

Sprawl or Urban Sprawl creates a situation where citizens need their own automobiles because of the scattered developments. These developments create a situation where citizens need automobiles to access the areas for jobs, adequate food, medical care, schools, and other public services. The citizens are affected by sprawl by way of urban decline, racial polarization, lack of affordable housing, and suburban/city disparities in public education. (Bullard, Johnson, Torres, 2000) The African American community in the Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan area is experiencing these disparities. U.S. Census 2019 shows that transportation ownership of African Americans is 39.7% and Whites 56.6% in Caddo Parish. The disadvantage of personal transportation has been consistent from 2010 to 2019. (U.S. Census Caddo, 2021) Bossier Parish shows a higher disparity in 2019, with African Americans 27% vs. Whites 67.10% having their own transportation. (U.S. Census Bossier, 2021) Having a high percentage of African Americans in urban areas in Caddo Parish with less access to their own transportation and public transportation (in rural areas and at night in urban areas) will put them at a greater risk of poverty. In Caddo Parish, citizens using public transit typically experience greater travel times than the average commuters due to funding not allowing frequent service. There are few bike lanes in the Shreveport-Bossier Metropolitan area to make biking a safe option. Sidewalk infrastructure outside of the CBD/Downtown conditions is poor. SporTran (public bus) services a fixed route bus and paratransit for residents with disabilities, which is a demand response service. There used to be a hub-and-spoke system

design centered downtown. There are limited routes that service crosstown access, which causes longer trips that call for riders to travel downtown, travel at the hub, then ride from the hub to their final destination. Goody Clancy. (n.d.)

This section covers *Observation of Public Transportation*. The researcher commuted on the SporTran public transportation bus inbound to the Central Business District (CBD) across the street from the old South Park Mall location at 8932 Jewella Ave, Shreveport, LA 71118. The stop is called Jewella Avenue and Southside Inbound stop on the Southern Hills Route. The researcher first took a 10-minute walk from 9029 Avalon Dr. to the bus stop location. The researcher took the bus to the CBD, which is downtown Shreveport. The specific destination location was the Caddo Parish Courthouse which sits in the heart of downtown Shreveport at 501 Texas St Shreveport, LA 71101. From the old South Park location, the distance to the Central Business District is about 9 to 11 miles, depending on the route. The bus fare was free, and the driver was friendly. Per the response to Covid-19, the Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan is assists riders with FREE fares effective as of January 2, 2022, for the next two years applied by a federal grant. The researcher caught the 7:40 a.m. bus headed to the CBD or downtown. The bus was a few minutes early and clean. There were eight riders, 7 Black and 1 White, riding at this point including myself. The bus took us to the Southwest Transfer Hub, approximately 4.2 miles away at the corner of West 70th street and St. Vincent Avenue. Here riders could take multiple smaller transits to other parts of the city, which was a new procedure. There was only a short wait until the researcher rode a smaller transit near the CBD. There were only about five riders, including myself, and they were all Black. This transit was also clean, and the driver was friendly. The transit arrived at the Intermodal Terminal Hub on the

corner of Murphy St. and Winston St. This terminal included SporTran and Grey Hound Buses. The Intermodal Terminal Hub was 4.6 miles away from the Southwest Transfer Hub. There was at least a five-minute wait until a larger bus took us to the CBD. Around 28 Black people and 2 White totaling 30 people on this bus. The bus was clean. The bus arrived at the edge of the CBD in 37 minutes total, and it took 40 minutes total to get to Caddo Parish Courthouse, which was the destination address. Then the bus traveled to the Bossier Transfer Stop in Bossier City at the corner of Traffic St. and Broadway St., located on the northeast edge of the Bossier City Board Walk. More than half of the riders got off here. The bus driver was nice, and she kindly asked where the researcher was going since it was the last stop. The researcher informed the driver he was riding back to the previous location. From here, the researcher rode the SporTran back to the old South Park Mall location, where he began.

The overall experience of the trip was good. The trip was quicker since no one had to pay to get on the bus. The bus driver kept a tally of the riders with a device. Looking for most routes on the SporTran website was easy. However, a rider must be familiar with technology, especially if they want to ride a route toward the suburbs. Extra steps are needed to see routes around 9-10 miles out of the CBD. The website would be complex for older people to understand. Listed below are the fairs before the grant.

Table 9: Shreveport-Bossier City SporTran Public Bus Transportation Fare Cost

SporTran Fare Cost	
2022	
Fare Type	Fare
Single Ride	\$1.25
Discount Single Ride	
Child (under 37")	Free
Transfer Charge	\$0.25
Special Event Shuttle (Round-Trip Ticket)	\$2.50
Downtown Circulator Single Ride	\$1.00
Downtown Circulator Discount Single Ride	\$0.50
Downtown Circulator Monthly Pass*	\$15.00
Day Pass	\$3.00
Weekly Pass*	\$15.00
Monthly Pass*	\$40.00
Discount Monthly Pass*	\$20.00
Paratransit (lift line) Single Ride	\$2.50
Paratransit (lift line) 20-Ride Pass*	\$40.00
City of Shreveport Employees (with ID)	FREE
*Only available to Touch Pass card holder or Touch Pass mobile app users	

Source: SporTran, (2022)

This section covers *Observation of Personal Vehicle*. The researcher drove a personal vehicle from the same beginning address where he rode the SporTran public transportation to the CBD. The researcher left from 8932 Jewella Ave, Shreveport, LA, 71118 at 9:45 a.m. to 501 Texas St Shreveport, LA 71101. The researcher drove the 3132 Inner Loop Express Way to I-49, then I-20 to the CBD. This route was an 11-mile trip that took around 15 minutes. On the return trip, the researcher drove through a few neighborhoods leaving from the CBD. Leaving the CBD, quite a few buildings that looked abandoned or not in use heading south on Texas St. to Murphy St., but it seems to be a bit cleaner and some renovated buildings within the last few years. Heading down Murphy St. passing Pierre Avenue to Hearne Ave., the researcher would see some identical rundown houses, uncut lawns, and none working vehicles in front of homes. Many Black communities have these

same conditions in Shreveport, including the Lakeside, Allendale, Cedar Grove, Sunset Acre, Mooretown, and the Martin Luther King Area neighborhoods.

The average U.S. citizen spends around 13% of their household income on transportation, and lower-income people tend to spend a larger amount of their income on transportation. As these lower-income people move up in class, they pay a smaller portion of their income on transportation. (Transport Matters, 2019) People with the lowest income are burdened the most with paying transportation costs. In 2016, U.S. citizens in the lowest earning 20% (\$11,933) spent 29% of their income on transportation. (Transport Matters, 2019) As stated, the U.S. Census 2019 shows transportation ownership of African Americans (the majority population in Caddo Parish) is 39.7% and Whites 56.6%. The disadvantage of personal transportation has been consistent from 2010 to 2019. (U.S. Census Caddo, 2021) Bossier Parish shows a higher disparity in 2019, with African Americans 27% vs. Whites 67.10% having their own transportation. (U.S. Census Bossier, 2021) With the data of renters showing less transportation than homeowners, the renters in the suburbs and rural areas are at a higher disadvantage in getting to work, hospitals, medical facilities, and shopping. A high percentage of African Americans in rural areas and suburbs in Caddo Parish with less access to their own and public transportation will put them at a greater risk of poverty.

With a lack of vehicles, long public transport times, few biking lanes, and street connectivity problems, African Americans are at a high disadvantage compared to Whites in obtaining and keeping a job but getting to school, adequate food, medical care, schools, and schools other public services.

This section covers *Healthcare Services and Infrastructure*. Urbanization has affected access to medical care and hinders the population's health, especially African Americans. According to the United Health Foundation, "America's Health: State Health Rankings for 2004," Louisiana was ranked as the least healthy state in the nation for a combined measure of identified health outcomes and risk factors—a ranking Louisiana has held for 14 of the last 15 years. (Caddo Parish Health Profiles, 2005 p. 122) Health Rankings assist us with comprehending what factors influence how well and how long we live. The United States Health Outcome Ranking data measures consist of access to nutritious foods, high school graduation rates, and percent of children living in poverty, all of which impact the future health of communities (health factors). Health outcomes represent how healthy a specific county is currently. The four health factor areas in the model include Health Behaviors, Clinical Care, Social & Economic Factors, and Physical Environment. (Blomberg, Gennuso, Givens, Johnson, Muganda, and Olsen-Williams, 2022, p. 1) The figure below details Health Outcomes and Health Factors.

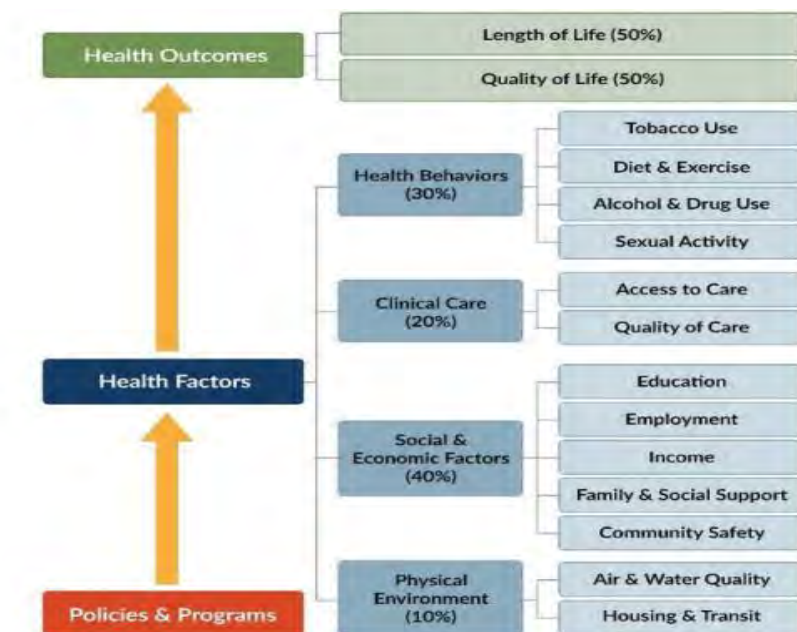


Figure 49: Health Outcomes and Health Factors

Source: Blomberg, Gennuso, Givens, Johnson, Muganda, and Olsen-Williams, (2022)

As of 2022, Louisiana is the 5th to last place rated for Unhealthiest State in the U.S. In Louisiana, Caddo Parish ranked 48th out of 64 parishes for Health Outcomes and 22nd for Health Factors, and Bossier is ranked 6th in both categories. Health Outcomes consist of Length of Life (potential life lost before age 75) and Quality of Life (Self-reported health status and Percent of low birthrate newborns). Health Factors have numerous categories, but when considering urbanization, the categories that matter are Access to Healthcare, Quality of Healthcare, Income, Housing and Transit, and Diet and Exercise. (Blomberg, Genius, Givens, Johnson, Muganda, and Olsen-Williams, 2022)

Health factors represent things that, if modified, can improve length and quality of life. They are predictors of how healthy our communities can be in the future. Health outcomes represent how healthy a county is right now. They reflect the physical and mental well-being of residents through measures representing the length and quality of life

typically experienced in the community. (Blomberg, Gennuso, Givens, Johnson, Muganda, and Olsen-Williams, 2022)

Table 10: Ten Worst States for Health Care in the U.S.

The 10 Worst States for Health Care

State	Overall Score
1. West Virginia	1
2. Mississippi	33.4
3. Alaska	33.7
4. Tennessee	38.3
5. Louisiana*	44.7
6. Oklahoma	45.6
7. New Mexico	47.2
8. Kentucky	48.9
9. Missouri	49.9
10. Arizona & Maine (Tie)	52.7

Source: Cohen, Bhatt, and Gawuga, (2022)

Table 11: Parishes (Counties) in Louisiana Health Rankings

2022 County Health Rankings for the 64 Ranked Parishes in Louisiana

Parish	Health Outcomes	Health Factors	Parish	Health Outcomes	Health Factors	Parish	Health Outcomes	Health Factors	Parish	Health Outcomes	Health Factors
Acadia	33	38	East Baton Rouge	20	8	Madison	62	63	St. Landry	57	47
Allen	22	36	East Carroll	63	64	Morehouse	61	57	St. Martin	19	31
Ascension	2	2	East Feliciana	45	28	Natchitoches	47	34	St. Mary	37	41
Assumption	38	46	Evangeline	53	55	Orleans	29	23	St. Tammany	1	1
Avoyelles	50	52	Franklin	52	60	Ouachita	44	19	Tangipahoa	28	39
Beauregard	14	15	Grant	16	30	Plaquemines	10	12	Tensas	59	62
Bienville	64	51	Iberia	43	40	Pointe Coupee	27	44	Terrebonne	23	26
Bossier	6	6	Iberville	39	45	Rapides	46	16	Union	24	37
Caddo	48	22	Jackson	41	29	Red River	54	58	Vermillion	15	18
Calcasieu	21	14	Jefferson	9	13	Richland	55	50	Vernon	11	21
Caldwell	42	54	Jefferson Davis	36	24	Sabine	31	32	Washington	60	53
Cameron	3	4	La Salle	17	25	St. Bernard	40	42	Webster	56	43
Catahoula	26	49	Lafayette	4	5	St. Charles	5	3	West Baton Rouge	12	7
Claiborne	51	59	Lafourche	13	17	St. Helena	49	61	West Carroll	30	48
Concordia	58	56	Lincoln	18	11	St. James	25	20	West Feliciana	8	9
De Soto	32	33	Livingston	7	10	St. John the Baptist	34	27	Winn	35	35

Source: Blomberg, Gennuso, Givens, Johnson, Muganda, and Olsen-Williams, (2022)

Lacking proper access to jobs and medical care due to not having ready-to-no transportation can lead to subpar healthcare or no healthcare. Also, proper transportation allows access to better food and nutrients and affordable housing as well does income. Moving constantly, lacking adequate transportation, not having a phone, having many children, disabilities, pregnancy, and having multiple jobs to where it is difficult to seek preventive medical attention promptly. (Caddo Parish Health Profiles, 2005)

In Louisiana, in 2002, the Black infant mortality rate was just over twice that of White infants. (Caddo Parish Health Profiles, 2005, p. 17)

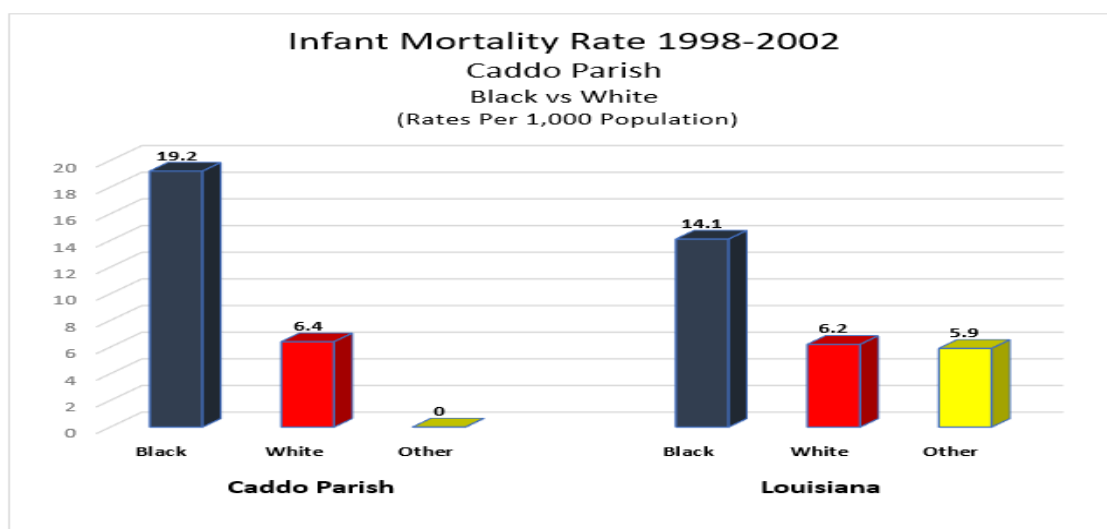


Figure 50: Infant Mortality Rate Caddo Parish Black vs. White 1998-2002

Caddo Parish Health Profiles (2005)

Between 2015-2017 (on average), Louisiana's infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births) was highest for Black infants at 11.0, followed by Asian or Pacific Islanders at 5.3 and Whites at 5.2. During the first year of life between 2015-2017, Black infants were two times as likely to die. (March of Dimes, Louisiana, 2020) From 2014-2018 Caddo Parish's

infant mortality rate was 10.4 deaths per 1,000 live births, greater than Louisiana's rate of 7.7. Bossier Parish 6.95 per 100 live births. (Louisiana Department of Health, 2020) From 2015-2017 Caddo Parish Black Fetal Mortality rate was 11.4, White's 3.9, and all of Louisiana's was 5.8.

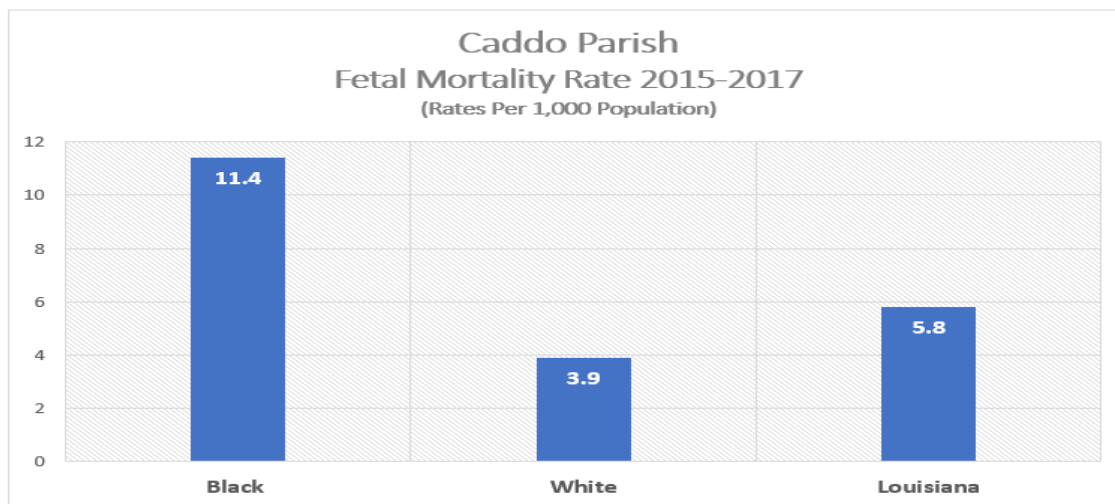


Figure 51: Caddo Parish Fetal Mortality Rate 2015-2017

Source: Louisiana Department of Health (2020)

From 2015-17 Caddo Parish Black Infant Mortality rate was 14.8, Whites 5.8, and all of Louisiana was 7.7. (LDH Caddo Parish, 2018) From 2014-2016 Bossier Parish Black Fetal Mortality rate was 10.3, Whites 4.7, and all of Louisiana was 5.8. From 2014-16 Bossier Parish Black Infant Mortality rate was 19.3, Whites 4.1, and all of Louisiana was 7.5. (LDH Bossier Parish, 2017)

In 2010, African American births in Caddo Parish boomed to 3043, and White births were 751. The following year in 2011, African American births dropped more than half as the year before, and to 1487 Black births and White births numbers rose from 751

to 2121 shown in Chapter 2.14.6 **Figure 43**. Black births haven't been over 2000 since 2010, and White births have been consistently over 800 since 2010, reaching their highest of 2121 in 2011. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020)

This section covers *Housing and Infrastructure*. Having adequate and affordable housing is an issue in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish, including the majority-populated Shreveport-Bossier City Metro area. Households with the lowest income earners have the least housing unit options to choose from and need more safe housing, which does not meet community needs. (Shreveport Department of Community Development, 2018) Those households earning below the 30% median-income options are limited to rental properties. Also, with limited housing stock, the lower earnings tend to spend more on higher-priced rental housing. Nearly 60% of the renters in the city of Shreveport-Bossier cannot afford to live there. (Bayliss, 2020) Some families must double-up households together in one housing unit. (Consolidated Plan Bossier City 2020-2024, 2020) (J-Quad Planning Group, 2013) There is a tremendous unmet demand or wait list for Section 8 and public housing for The Shreveport Housing Authority with extraordinary demand for two- and three-bedroom housing. (J-Quad Planning Group, 2013) (Shreveport Department of Community Development, 2018) (Consolidated Plan Bossier City 2020-2024, 2020)

A significant number of households in the Shreveport area are categorized under extremely low-income (under 30% median income). This number exceeds 13,500. Nearly 3,000 extremely low-income households have one or more children six years of age and younger, and over 3,000 are elderly. (Shreveport Department of Community Development, 2018) Data extracted from the American Community Survey estimates that 31.5% of

homeowners with a mortgage, 10.8% percent with no mortgage, and 58.3% of renters are cost burdens. (Shreveport Department of Community Development, 2018)

Analyzing the poverty data from Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish presents that African Americans in these parishes are the most poverty-stricken. White residents with higher incomes and less poverty have greater options for housing in the Shreveport area, plus the economy is segregated heavily, especially in home values. The researcher can conclude that the negative effects of urbanization are hindering African Americans in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish, especially in the Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan area, by not being provided proper affordable housing.

The Shreveport-Bossier Metropolitan Area has a severe cost burden issue regarding the lack of affordable housing for extremely low-income households. The cost-burdened homeowner households greater than 50% are 1,630, and the cost-burdened renters above 50% are 5,715. (Shreveport Department of Community Development, 2018) Also, there are over 2,900 extremely low-income households with one or more children over six or younger. These numbers place cost-burdened and extremely low-income families at the approaching risk of becoming homeless. (Shreveport Department of Community Development, 2018)

Housing conditions are also an issue in the Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan Area. For a housing unit to be considered a problem unit, it has to be four reported housing problems. In Bossier City, someone reported that 30.79 percent of renter-occupied units had no housing problems, which means 69.21 of renter-occupied units had at least four reported issues with their housing. Owner-occupied units that reported no issues were 48.55%, meaning that someone reported at least four issues in 51.45% of owner-occupied

units. The conditions of housing units are highly associated with the income level of households that are residing in those housing units. (Consolidated Plan Bossier City 2020-2024, 2020)

In Shreveport, the cost-burdened households are the main housing problem. Other issues are standard housing (examples: complete plumbing or kitchen facilities) and overcrowding. According to the 2015 CHAS data, there were 7,310 renters and 3,620 homeowners in the 0% to 100% AMI range spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs (100% AMI is the area median income). However, the bigger picture is worse because these figures only include households that earn 100% of the median income. The data showed that in Shreveport, the lower the household income, the greater the factor of severe housing problems. (Consolidated Plan Shreveport 2019-2023, 2018, 26) Data has shown that African Americans have the city's lowest income and highest poverty rates. Furthermore, 70% of all housing and 68% of rental housing built prior to 1980 in Shreveport had potential lead-based paint hazard issues. With some exceptions, the oldest neighborhoods in larger cities house the poorest people. In this case, the African American/Black Community is Shreveport's most impoverished community. Bossier City had 36% or 9383 out of 25,535 households with cost-burdened, of which 12% were in the extreme cost-burdened category. When analyzed by race, African American/Black households disproportionately experienced a 14% cost burden.

The researcher suggests that because of the urban growth in Shreveport, LA resulted in negative effects in urbanization assisted with creating poverty with a high percentage of Black residents in Caddo Parish versus the White residents. A heavy population of Bossier Parish residents in Bossier City, along with the negative effects of

urbanization, has created poverty with a high percentage of Black residents in Bossier Parish versus the White residents, even though the Black population is much smaller than the White population.

This section covers *Politics, Law, and Poverty in the Study Area*. The U.S. political system has not been favorable to Blacks in the U.S. including the study area. The political system in the U.S. determines policy, sways voters, uses words to influence even with propaganda, determines where to distribute resources and utilize them, and dictates laws. In reference to laws, there are still Jim Crow laws present in the study area, and even with the elimination of some of the Jim Crow laws, there are Black inmates in prison due to those past laws. As the researcher presented earlier, the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution states that “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction” (The Senate Passes the Thirteenth Amendment, 2019) (Constitute, 1992, p. 1) The key words in the constitution were to be no slavery nor involuntary servitude **“except as a punishment for crime.”** Richard Nixon’s “war on drugs” and his war propaganda on Blacks boosted incarceration in U.S. prisons and jails. The numbers grew from 300,000 to 2.3 million. At that time, people of color represented two-thirds of half of the people in federal prison jailed because of drug offenses disproportionate even though Whites use drugs at the same rate and are more likely to sell drugs, the Washington Post reported (Equal Justice Initiative, 2016) President Ronald Reagan’s Campaign Strategist Lee Atwater, on tape recorded interview explained their Southern Strategy on how to recruit other racists without sounding like a racist themselves (propaganda) but more political by substituting words in political

speeches that insulted or worked against Black people for other terms. Bill Clinton's 1994 Crime Bill was responsible for sending many Black people to jail, especially Black men, which helped destroy Black communities. (Chung, Pearl, & Hunter, 2019)

There is a disproportionate incarceration rate for African Americans/Blacks vs. Whites in the State of Louisiana and Caddo Parish Louisiana. One reason for this is the School to Prison Pipeline system in Louisiana. The Southern Poverty Law Center's School to Prison Project revealed stark information that presented a significant percentage of children in Louisiana referred by the school system to the juvenile system. The Southern Poverty Law Center's School launched a first-class action administrative complaint against the Louisiana State Department of Education. (Louisiana Public Defender Board, n.d.) The investigation was performed for a year and revealed that mostly poor African American children were systematically violating the rights of emotionally disturbed students in Caddo Parish, East Baton Rouge Parish, and Calcasieu Parish school districts. The number reached thousands each year. In 2006 a settlement agreement was reached with East Baton Rouge Parish, and in 2007 reached with Caddo Parish and Calcasieu Parish school systems. Also, "the Southern Poverty Law Center filed a federal civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Education for discriminatory policies of the Jefferson Parish Public School System in Louisiana have pushed a disproportionate number of Black students and students with disabilities into alternative schools, where they often languish for months or even years before returning to school." (Southern Poverty Law Center, 2012, p. 1) These school districts played on these students' disabilities by routinely expelling or suspending these students for minor offenses that were related to the students disabilities. (Louisiana Public Defender Board, n.d.), (Southern Poverty Law Center, 2012) (KSLA News 12, 2017) In

violation of state and federal regulations, Jefferson Parish further segregated these students in self-contained classrooms or trailers. All school districts involved did not arrange for the appropriate levels of related services (counseling, psychological services, and social work) and vocational training for emotionally disturbed children. (Louisiana Public Defender Board, n.d.) The impacts on the students from such practices were substantial and pervasive. The tactics led to alarmingly high drop-out rates, abysmal graduation rates, and grade failures starting from their elementary school years. (Louisiana Public Defender Board, n.d.) Students have found themselves arrested for small incidents in Caddo Parish. Isaiah Heath was a star basketball player at Byrd High School in 2014 when he learned this lesson the hard way after a heated argument with his teacher. Several students witnessed the argument." She said shut up, he said shut up back to her," Austin Gomez told KSLA News 12 in April 2014. The argument was enough to land Heath in jail at the Caddo Correctional Center, charged with assault on a schoolteacher and disturbing the peace. "I feel like it was really unnecessary to put him in jail for something so little," student Antoinette Van said in a 2014 interview. (KSLA News 12. 2017, p. 1)

In Caddo Parish, thirteen specific offenses are in the district handbook that students can do to get themselves criminally charged if the evidence is present.

- Using profanity toward school personnel
- Possession or using fireworks
- Participating in a fight
- Loitering on any school campus, bus, or school-sponsored events while suspended
- Cyberbullying
- Bullying, threatening, or hazing students

- Defacing, stealing, or destroying school property
- Sexual harassment
- Possessing weapons
- The battery of teachers or other school personnel
- Possessing or using any controlled substance or alcohol
- Initiating any false alarms and/or bomb threats
- Threatening teachers or other school personnel (*KSLA News 12, 2017*)

Caddo Parish Juvenile Detention Center and Rutherford House (Alternative School) keep track of arrest records for students under 17, but Caddo Parish School Board does not keep track, says a spokesperson in an interview. They reported 282 arrests for the 2014-2015 school year. In the 2015-2016 school year, they reported 253 arrests. Bossier Parish reported 192 arrests for the 2014-2015 school year and 162 for the 2015-2016 school year. (*KSLA News 12, 2017*)

The “school-to-prison pipeline” leads Black youth disproportionately to prisons, where they will again experience disadvantages. Between the years of 2003 through 2012, researchers inspected data prosecuted by the Caddo Parish District Attorneys from more than 300 felony trials. They found that some individual prosecutors struck Black prospective jurors at 4.5 and 5 times the rate they struck those who are not Black. (Equal Justice Initiative, 2020 p.1) Prosecutors in Caddo Parish, on an overall basis, struck jurors of other races out at 15% and abruptly struck out Black jurors at 46%. (Equal Justice Initiative, 2020) With Caddo Parish being around 48% Black, the researchers found less than four African American members in a standard 12-member jury trial. Per capita, Caddo Parish sentenced to death more people than any other county/parish in the U.S. Jury

members assisted this with two or fewer Black jurors was more than double what a neutral race jury selection produced in Caddo. Today in Caddo Parish, most White juries are sentenced to death, mostly 83% Black defendants in the study. (Equal Justice Initiative, 2020) Also, The State of Louisiana is known for its lengthy history of using captive labor or the labor of convicts to sell to private companies. The data and the history of laws in the U.S., Louisiana, Caddo Parish, and Bossier Parish disproportionately affect Black people more than Whites. The data appears in Chapter 2.13.4.1 Figure 42 Caddo Parish 2000 and 2010 Incarceration African Americans vs. Whites. Through the political system, the judicial system is using laws to incarcerate disproportionate amounts of Black people to use as inmates as resources to produce more resources with cheaper labor.

Total incarcerated, prison and jail: 62,534
 Prison population: 31,584
 Prison incarceration rate per 100,000: 680 (#1 highest among all states)
 Jail population (2013): 30,950
 Jail incarceration rate per 100,000 (2013): 870 (#1 highest among all states)
 Private prison population: 0
 Probation population: 33,741
 Parole population: 28,283
 Life sentences (2020): 4,624
 Life without parole (2020): 4,377
 Juvenile life without parole (2020): 150
White imprisonment rate per 100,000: 381 (#11 highest among all states)
Black imprisonment rate per 100,000: 1,411 (#24 highest among all states)
Black to white ratio: 3.7
 Hispanic imprisonment rate per 100,000: 28 (#46 highest among all states)
 Hispanic to white ratio: 0.1
 Corrections expenditures: \$868 million

Figure 52: Louisiana Incarceration Demographics

Source: Stacker (2022)

To add insult to injury, studies such as The New York City Hiring Discrimination Study presented data detailing that White male felons are more likely to receive callbacks for jobs over Black males with the same record and or over Black males with no records at

all. (Pager, Western, & Sugie, 2009) Situations like this will help uplift Whites out of poverty versus Blacks who will struggle to find employment, leading them to poverty and a life of crime.

This section covers *Politics with IRS Create Poverty*. The researcher presented information about the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) using the tax system could as a strategy to burden Black taxpayers and benefit White taxpayers. The researcher presented information to show how this system intends to preserve wealth inequality and racial disparities. The Jobs Act of 2017 and recent tax cuts help inflate these effects. This system works with pensions to alleviate costs associated with caring for parents as they enter senior status, such as tax-preferred 401(k) pensions. Not only do these pensions relieve children of costs associated with caring for aging parents, but they can also use the 529 college tax-deferred accounts to subsidize investment of the human capital of those same offspring. All the while, those able to purchase houses in high-class communities with good schools have been supported with home interest mortgage deductions purchased with tax-subsidized local property taxes. (Strand & Mirkay, 2020) These benefits suggest inequalities between the 20% wealthy in the U.S. and the rest of the population. (Strand & Mirkay, 2020) Tax Policy affects the amount of wealth higher-income earners can stockpile yearly and add to their wealth which causes overall wealth inequality. With private income such as dividends, earnings, and other incomes, the top 10% of households increased their income from 1963 to 2016 by 90%, for example. The families in the bottom 10% increased their income by less than 10% during the same period. According to the U.S. Census Bureau data, Blacks are the only people encountering a median income decrease since 2000. The other races, including Hispanics, Asians, and Whites, experience income gains.

The IRC creates a realized-based system for wealth and income disparities at a greater level. Tax incentives or expenditures are more available to high-income households than low income and moderate-income households get significantly smaller benefits. The income gained from higher-income taxpayers enables them to make certain financial investments to increase their value significantly. Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) has assisted with continuing the increase of the racial wealth divide and inequality. Today, state codes still affect middle- and low-income households paying a sizeable share of their income taxes compared to wealthy households. (Strand & Mirkay, 2020)

Combining all state and local income, property, sales, and excise taxes that Americans pay, the average effective state and local tax rate nationally is 11.4% for the poorest 20% of non-elderly residents, 9.9% for the middle 20%; and 7.4% for the top 1% (Strand & Mirkay, 2020, pg. 286) (ITEP, 2018)

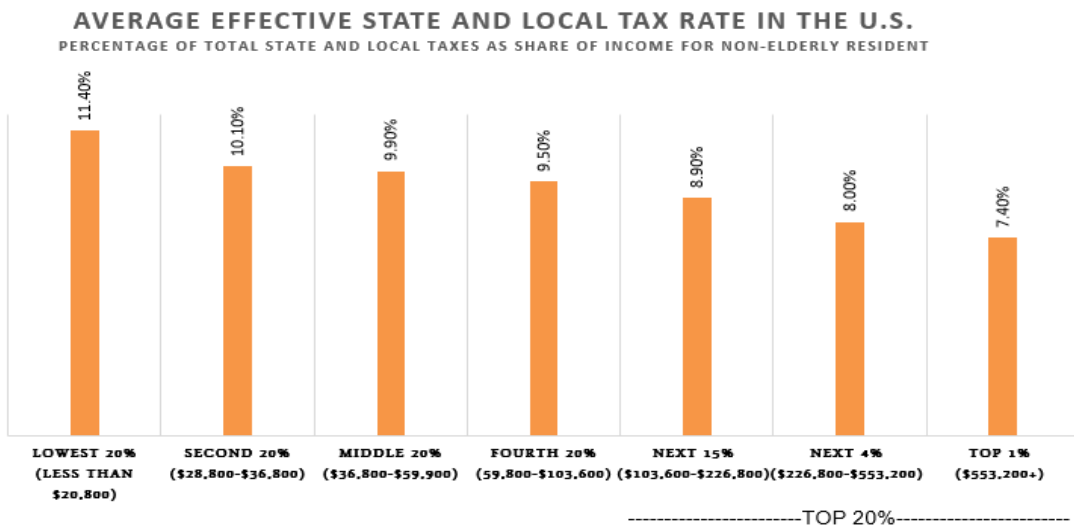


Figure 53: Average Effective State and Local Tax Rate in the U.S.

Source: ITEP (2018)

States rely heavily on consumption taxes, especially sales tax. Consumption tax is a significant reason for inequality because it disproportionately affects low-income families. After all, they spend most of their income on consumables and cannot save or invest. Forty-five states in the U.S. have regressive tax systems that exacerbate income inequality, with Louisiana being included. (ITEP, 2018) (ITEP, 2018) Black people in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish have many low-income and high-poverty residents, so this would affect them significantly compared to White residents.

This section covers Social Security and Disability and Politics. Blacks and other minorities have fewer retirement resources, such as assets and pensions, than Whites. Blacks lack income-producing assets and other income sources, unlike their White counterparts. Workers that earn lower wages have a difficult time creating sufficient savings. In 2016, White families had about six times more average liquid retirement savings than Black American families. In 2017, among Black Americans receiving Social Security, 35 percent of elderly married couples and 58 percent of unmarried elderly persons relied on Social Security for 90 percent or more of their income. (NCPSSM, 2020, p. 1) Over a lifetime, the average Black man earns \$1.8 million, while the average White man averages \$2.7 million. (NCPSSM, 2020)

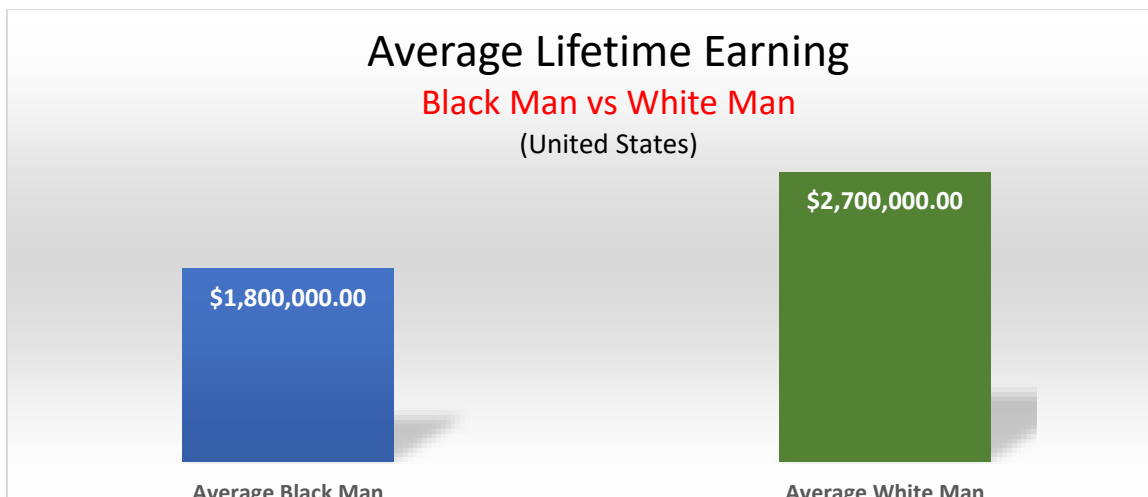


Figure 54: Lifetime Earning Average Black man vs. White Man in the U.S.

Source: NCPSSM (2020)

African Americans/Blacks usually receive Social Security Disability Insurance (DI) benefits because they have a higher rate of disability. The higher benefits-received-to-taxes-paid ratio is received by workers with a higher probability of becoming disabled. However, DI benefits are not enough to create wealth.

Politics in the U.S., Louisiana, Caddo Parish, and Bossier Parish disproportionately affect African Americans versus Whites Politics in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish destroys Black families with National Laws and State laws by disproportionately arresting Black people and giving them longer sentencing in jail, which creates poverty for inmates and their abilities to make income for their families. The IRS and Social Security drive the wealth gap between Blacks and Whites and cost Blacks more money, driving them into poverty.

4.2 Research Question Two

The second research question asks, is there a relationship between systematic racism and Poverty, Urbanization, Politics, and its effect on African Americans' lack of wealth in the Caddo Parish?

Racism is the systematic oppression of one race over another; specifically, this network is a White race-operated system. Racism consist of “Nine Areas of Human Activity.” The researcher only used the areas of **Economics, Education, Labor, Law, Politics, and War** in this dissertation. Economics, Education, Labor, Law, Politics, and War are linked together as parts of the Nine Areas of Human activity. The researcher presents how all nine areas link together in Chapter 2.4, Caddo Parish Poverty Links between Institutional Racism and Focus Areas.

Economics, which includes how people use resources such as land, water, plant life, and food to produce valuable commodities and distribute them among people, fits with Urbanization, Sprawl, and Housing. The researcher has covered how disproportionate distribution of resources to Whites versus Blacks where Blacks get fewer resources and benefits. Blacks in Louisiana experience disproportionate stationed in areas of toxic environments, including polluted land, water, and or air. Dr. Robert Bullard would call it the “wrong zip code” to receive protection. (Bullard, 2018) Also, sometimes, the wrong community or subdivision is for protection. In Caddo and Bossier Parish, Blacks are in areas with food and banking deserts but then supplied with Pay Day loan companies. In Chapter 4.6, Figure 84 shows 78 payday loan companies, Figure 81 shows 22 actual supermarket/grocery stores (Versus Snap Figure 80), and Figure 83 shows the number of bank branches in the area.

Education delivers or facilitates different learning of values, beliefs, habits, knowledge, and skills. (Fuller, 2010) Under the system of racism, education miseducates African Americans/Blacks in the U.S., including Blacks in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish. The miseducation of Blacks in the study area has resulted in Black unemployment, underemployment, lack of knowledge of politics, and financial literacy, which keeps them in poverty. Disciplinary actions in schools get disproportionately placed upon students of color. Disciplinary actions such as in-school detention, suspension, and expulsion result in students missing classroom time and falling further behind in their studies. Institutional racism is strengthened by implicit racial bias and other biases that determine outcomes in the educational experiences of Black students. The gaps in academic performance of Black students compared to White peers can also explain the stress and other psychological effects of racial discrimination. (Johns, 2016) In Caddo Parish, there is a racial divide in the education system. Such gaps show in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish in Chapter 2.15.2 Figures 48, 49, 50, and 51. As presented before, AP courses and gifted programs are less likely options for Black Students versus their White Peers. Blacks are more likely to be expelled or suspended from school. In Caddo Parish, 43% of students in AP courses are Black, and 53% are White. Of students selected for Gifted and Talented Composition, 20% are Black, and 67% are White. Of students who receive Out-of-School Suspension, 80% are Black, and 16% are White. Of students who receive Expulsion, 82% are Black, and 15% are White. (Groeger, Waldman, & Eads, 2018) Black students are also known to be denied certain schools because of their race in Caddo/Bossier Parishes, for example, in the *Lemon v. Bossier Parish School Board* case in Shreveport City Court. The racial divide in the Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish education system is shown in the number of Black

students versus White to graduate high school and or receive higher degrees which is a significant determinant of what type of employment a person can gain.

Labor can be considered the amount of social, physical, and mental strive used to produce goods and services in an economy. (Amadeo, 2020) To produce goods and services, individuals must accomplish these goals by way of employees, supervisors or managers, owners, and producers. The history of the United States is grounded in White racism. The nation was founded on the principles of “free land” (stolen land), “free labor” (cruelly extracted from African enslaved people), and “free men” (white men with property). (Bullard, 1993, p. 16) Some of the tactics have changed in racism. However, ultimately the motto, model, and goal have remained the same, with White being deemed supreme and other races being underneath Whites, emphasizing the Black race being at the bottom. The State of Louisiana is known for its lengthy history of using captive labor or labor of convicts to sell to private companies which produce goods and services. Even the constitution outlawed this convict lease system in 1898. Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola used prison labor without paying them well into the 20th Century. In Louisiana, the jobs pay from .86 cents an hour, from picking cotton to offshore jobs that might pay up to \$11.12 an hour, which are meager wages for the type of work performed. (Berlin, 2020) (Arresting Inequalities, 2015) The fact that this specific Black population was being disproportionately arrested, wrongly arrested, giving longer sentences to work as free laborers from Reconstruction to the 20th Century took away possibilities from these Black citizens and their families from gaining generational wealth but instead putting them in positions for generational poverty. Labor is also associated with employment, unemployment, and underemployment. Factors that can be included with not being

gainfully employed are discrimination based on race, lack of education, and having a criminal record. In the United States, there has been a long history of employment discrimination to keep Blacks unemployed. Unemployment can result in negative behaviors. These behaviors are physical inactivity, unhealthy diet, alcohol use, and smoking among unemployed people. Those factors mentioned are vital to sustaining good health. Unemployed people usually lack a steady income stream, health care insurance, access to health services, or even delay health care problems due to financial concerns. Premature deaths, a faster aging process, hopelessness, and intergenerational poverty result from financially insecure and unemployed people. (WIN Network, n.d.) Unemployment can also lead to a life of crime. Chapter 2.10.2 Figure 22 shows the Caddo Parish unemployment rate. Caddo Parish's unemployment average from 2010-2019 was Blacks 9.51 versus Whites 5.25, with Blacks unemployment nearly doubling that of Whites. In Figure 23, Bossier Parish's unemployment rate average from 2010-2019 was Blacks 10.01 and Whites 4.24, with the Black unemployment rate more than double that of Whites. In 2019 the United States unemployment rate of 3.5, with Blacks in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish nearly tripling the rate of unemployment in the U.S. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020) As discussed before, the data from 2017 shows that Caddo Parish has 3,761 White employer firms and 142 African American/Black employer firms. The White firms have a total of 42,745 employees with an annual payroll of \$1,654,794, and the African American firms have a total of 2,317 employees and an annual payroll of \$38,757. Neighboring Bossier Parish, as of 2017, has 1,460 White employer firms and 46 African American/Black employer firms. The White firms total of 21,860 employees with an annual payroll of \$768,426, and the African American firms total of 1,643 employees and an annual payroll

of \$24,235. African Americans have fewer chances of hiring their people than Whites in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish. The number of African American-owned businesses does not reflect the population versus the Whites in Caddo Parish. Education is a factor when getting hired for a higher-paying job, but companies in the U.S. have a long history of not hiring Blacks that are just as qualified and or more qualified than Whites. A recent notable example was when the United States Department of Labor FedEx reached a \$3 settlement in 2012 for discrimination. FedEx faced allegations of discriminating against 21,635 job seekers in 15 states at 24 FedEx facilities. Discriminatory hiring practices had to change within FedEx as part of the settlement. Another example was when Bank of America Corporation was investigated for their hiring practices which resulted in the corporation being ordered to pay 1,147 Black job applicants \$2.18 million back in 2013. (Insureon Staff, 2014) Racial biases still exist in favor of Whites versus Black with gaining employment.

“Law is a rule of civil conduct prescribed by the supreme power in a state, commanding what is right and forbidding what is wrong.” (Columbia Law Review, 1905) Some U.S. Government laws have been made and used to oppress Black people and keep them in poverty since the existence of America, both written and unwritten. Laws maintain control in all areas of human activity. These laws are to keep Racism White Supremacy intact. (Fuller, 2010, p. 150) *As* discussed, Whites people used laws to put insurance policies on enslaved Black people during American Slavery which assisted Whites in creating generational wealth. Research indicated that at least 60 other companies were involved in the business at the time, including New York Life, AIG, Aetna, and Manhattan Life. As stated in the Labor section above, Louisiana has used laws to give Blacks lengthy

prison sentences and used captive labor or labor of convicts to sell to private companies which produce goods and services. Jim Crow Laws oppressed Black people, and some of these laws still exist in Louisiana today. There are inmates in prison that are still under the old Jim Crow laws that were changed. Black inmates serving lengthy sentences cannot escape poverty and gain wealth. Politics is also a way to manipulate and use laws against Blacks.

Politics is considered the way we interact with people and is greater defined as the set of activities that are associated with making decisions in groups, or other forms of power relations between individuals, such as the distribution of resources. (Fuller, 2010) Law is supposed to produce justice; however, the law produces and maintains injustice under racism. (Fuller, 2010) In the United States, the law has been used to produce and maintain White Supremacy at any given moment. Politics can play a role in using humans as resources because if someone has power or control over a person, then that person in power can use a person through politics or force. (Groeger, L., Waldman, A., & Eads, D. 2018) There have always been political agendas in the United States to use laws and policies to oppress Blacks. For example, the U.S. Constitution at one time legalized slavery (Slave Laws), then the “Black Codes,” to Jim Crow laws, President Nixon’s Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 or the “War on Drugs,” President Clinton’s Crime Bill, and IRS policies. The researcher has covered these laws and policies in the literature. These laws and policies imprison Blacks unjustly and or keep them in poverty.

War is “a state of usually open and declared hostile armed conflict between states or nations.” (Long, n.d. p. 1) The results and/or actions of War can be slavery and or

oppression. Racism White Supremacy is war on Black people. The researcher concludes that Blacks are being oppressed in the focus areas presented and in all areas of human activities by Racism White Supremacy. War reparations are payments by one state or country to another at the end of a conflict, intended to compensate for the damage and injury inflicted during the war. (Blank, 2022, p.1) The losers of the war or conflict would pay compensation for economic loss. The term has become more inclusive, where payments get made to smaller groups or individuals. Currently, we are witnessing the term reparations include one group who tries to remedy a wrong done to another group. Typically, this is done by paying money or giving the injured party something else of monetary value. However, reparations have also been used throughout history to punish a group or country for its role in a war or atrocity. (Schottman, 202, p. 1) The U.S. paid reparations to Japanese Americans in 1990, the Ottawas of Michigan in 1986, the Chippewas of Wisconsin in 1985, the Seminoles of Florida Sioux in 1985, of South Dakota in 1985, Klamaths of Oregon in 1980 and Alaska Natives for land settlement in 1971. Payments of reparations are made when a War is over. No reparations have been paid to African Americans from 1865 to the present for American Slavery and the Jim Crow era. (Davis, 2022) The researcher is not presenting this information about war reparations because he thinks African Americans are owed reparations from slavery and the Jim Crow Era. The researcher argues that White supremacists are still at war with African Americans, resulting in no reparations to this group. Even with reparations payments to African Americans with just money or land, the system of racism will still exist. Reparations for Black natives and or the descendants of enslaved Africans brought here through the Trans-

Atlantic Slave Trade would have to include equity and equality in every human area of activity to begin to repair the African American community.

A reparations bill was introduced by U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee, Texas's 18th congressional district, on January 3, 2019, to the House of Representatives for H.R. 40 Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act. The bill presents verbatim, “This bill establishes the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans. The commission shall examine slavery and discrimination in the colonies and the United States from 1619 to the present and recommend appropriate remedies. Among other requirements, the commission shall identify (1) the role of the federal and state governments in supporting the institution of slavery, (2) forms of discrimination in the public and private sectors against freed slaves and their descendants, and (3) lingering negative effects of slavery on living African Americans and society.” (Congress.gov, 2022, p. 1) The lingering effects of slavery have been tremendous against African Americans.

One common war tactic that White supremacists have done is to turn other races against African Americans, including African Americans and or African Diaspora (other Black Nationalities). Non-White people cannot be White supremacists because they are not White and are subjected to Racism themselves at any time. These people (or race soldiers) can carry out orders of White Supremacy and obtain given special privileges from White supremacists. Differentiating other races from Blacks can be easily done by seeing skin color and other distinct features. However, it is sometimes difficult to determine if another Black person is a race soldier for Racism White Supremacy because of their non-White appearance. This divide and conquer tactic is considered part psychological warfare

the researcher discussed in chapter 2.4.2.6.2 Psychological Warfare on Black People. It is a divide and conquers tactic that White supremacist has used to establish Racism. Physical racist warfare is easier to see, such as when Dylan Storm Roof shot and killed nine people in a Charleston, South Carolina, Church on June 17, 2015. Dylan Roof admitted killing those Black because of the color of their skin and further proclaimed that he “didn’t regret it.” (Zapotosky, 2017, p. 1) A scenario that is difficult to recognize is a young elementary-aged Black student purposely targeted for their failure in school by a suspected White racist female or male teacher. Researchers work to figure out why young Black students are failing, dropping out, being suspended more frequently, placed into special education more, and or not allowed into advanced placement classes in schools. This tactic of war against Black people is critical in maintaining the system, which assists in keeping Blacks in poverty within the focus areas.

4.3 Research Question Three

Is there a comparison between African American vs. Whites poverty in Caddo Parish and African American Poverty vs. Whites in neighboring Bossier Parish?

The researcher analyzed the data regarding poverty in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish and compared it to the Black population versus the White population. The researcher advised his audience that he would present information regarding the last 30 years of his study areas’ poverty issues. The researcher presented information in the literature that detailed how Blacks have been in poverty since the Trans-Atlantic Slave trade and up to the past 30 years. However, the U.S. Census Bureau gives the details of yearly data for the past 11 years.

As stated before, Louisiana has one of the widest gaps between its richest and poorest residents, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Center on Budget and Policy Priorities analysis released in December 2016. (Crisp, 2016) Second, in the nation in child poverty is the state of Louisiana.

How Louisiana compares to the country	
Poverty rate	3rd Highest
Child poverty rate	3rd Highest
Income inequality	4th Highest
Median household income	7th Lowest

Figure 55: 2015 Louisiana vs. Country (U.S.) in Poverty and Income

Source: Albares, (2016)

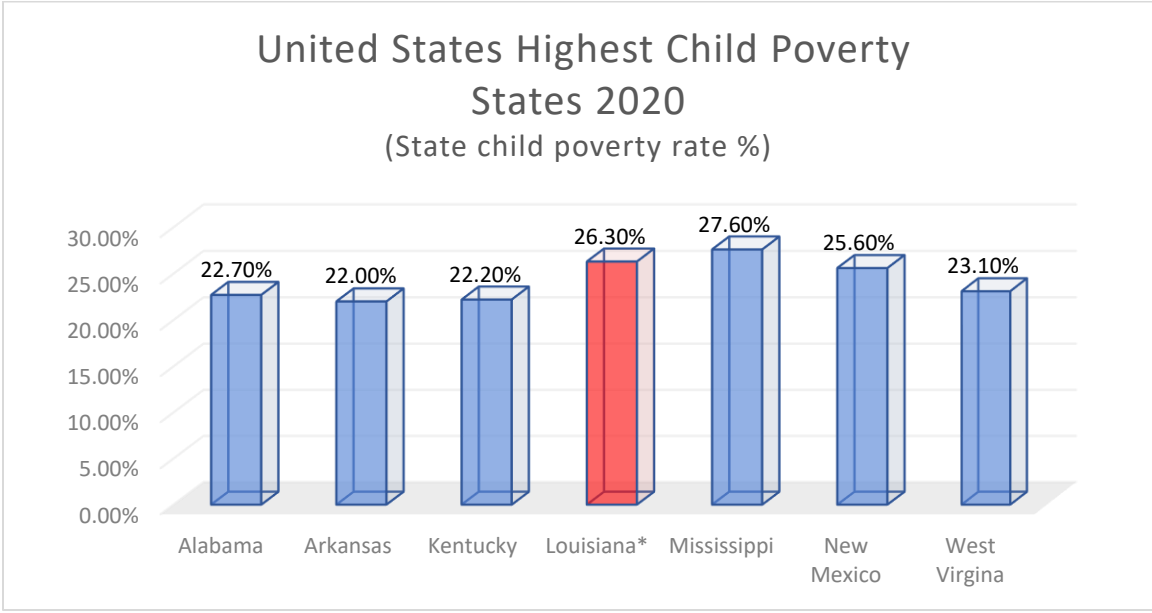


Figure 56: 2020 States with Highest Child Poverty in the U.S.

Source: Stebbins (2022)

Comparing the two parishes' Black versus White poverty shows that Black poverty in both parishes is significantly higher than that of Whites. Caddo Parish Black poverty has averaged 34%, and Whites averaged 11.9% from 2010-2020. Black poverty in Caddo Parish is significantly higher than in the Whites. Black poverty from 2010-2020 has nearly tripled the average tripled the White population. In Bossier Parish, Black poverty has averaged 30.4%, and Whites have averaged 11.4% from 2010 to 2020. In both parishes, Black poverty is significantly higher than Whites. Black poverty in Caddo Parish has an average of 34%, and Black poverty in neighboring Bossier Parish with 30.4% from 2010 to 2020. White poverty in Caddo Parish has averaged 11.9%, and White poverty in neighboring Bossier Parish has averaged 11.4% from 2010 to 2020, almost identical. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019) (World Population Review 2021 for 2020)

4.4 Research Question Four

Is there a relationship between population trends and job opportunities in Caddo Parish?

The researcher wanted to see if there is a relationship between job opportunities and population trends in Caddo Parish. The researcher examined the population and job data from the past 30 years in Caddo Parish and the Shreveport metro area. The researcher presented census data in Figure 8, which provided population numbers from 1990 to 2020 in Caddo Parish. In 1990, Caddo Parish's population was 248,253 with Whites 59% and Blacks 40% of the population. (1990 U.S. Census Louisiana Population Characteristics, 1992) (1990 U.S. Census Louisiana Population and Housing, 1992) By 2020, Blacks were 50.3% and Whites 43.6%. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020) After reviewing the census data, the researcher found that the population decreased from 248,253 to 237,848, a 4.2%

decrease from 1990 to 2020. The White population has decreased by 15.4%, and Blacks have increased by around 7.3%.

Bossier Parish's 30-year population has been trending upwards. Bossier Parish's 1990 total population was 86,088. In the year 2000 the total population was 98,310. In the year 2010 the total population was 117,522, and in the year 2020 the total population was 128,746. Reviewing Bossier Parish's population-based on White alone non-Hispanic, in 1990, Whites were 76.4% and African American 20.2%. (1990 U.S. Census Louisiana Population and Housing, 1992) The following 2000 Census White population was 72.9% and African American 21.3%. (2000 U.S. Census Louisiana Population and Housing, 2001) In 2010, the White population was 69.2% Whites and African Americans 23.1%. (2010 U.S. Census, 2020) In the recent 2020 count, the population of Whites was 66.3% and African Americans were 23.3%. The White population is a large majority in Bossier Parish. (2010 U.S. Census, 2020) However, the White alone non-Hispanic population base decreased by 10.1% from 1990 to 2020. The total population has increased by 33%. Due to recent activities of job loss, increase in crime in Shreveport, and building of affordable housing, the researcher suggests more Whites have moved to Bossier Parish along with the 3.3% Black resident increase from 2010 to 2020. As mentioned before, Bossier Parish grew more in the early 2000s because of a \$70 million bond to build three schools in 2004. Furthermore, production of the schools led to the construction of the Louisiana Boardwalk (featuring Bass Pro Shops, several restaurants, outlet shopping, a bowling complex, and a 14-screen movie theater), Haynesville Shale, Stage Works, several casinos, Cyber Innovation Center, Millennium Studios, Stageworks, and natural gas play perhaps has made the Bossier area more attractive. Even though Bossier Parish has seen some

population gain since the 1990's Caddo Parish still has more population. (Shaw's Environmental & Infrastructure Group, 2012)

The affordable housing trend in Bossier Parish has assisted with an average net immigration of 300 residents yearly, migrating across the Red River from the Caddo submarket during the 2000s. (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2012) Texas is the closest state with a better economy than Louisiana and other neighboring states. A 2015 American Community Survey (updated 2019) shows that 31,044 Louisianians have moved to Texas. (Larino, 2019)

The researcher gathered information and presented a timeline below from the past 40 years of major employers' trends in Caddo Parish and Shreveport-Bossier Metropolitan.

4.4.1 Historical Timeline of Employment Trends Shreveport-Bossier

Metropolitan Statistical Area:

1980's (Losses/Gains)

- In the 1980s, a depression in Louisiana resulted from a global crash in the oil industry.
- The drop in tax revenues was due to a drop in oil prices.
- These drops caused job losses because of suspensions in the government-funded activity that created jobs.
- Both Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish were affected. Caddo Parish was affected the most by its visible population decline.
- 1981 General Motors Plant opened.

1985-1989 (Losses):

- During the 1985 to 1989 period, the Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan Area

endured a prolonged and extensive.

- The Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan Statistical Area includes Caddo Parish, Bossier Parish, and Desoto Parish.
- There were multiple reasons for the decline. One reason was due to a declining exploration industry.
- The Downsizing of AT&T. Starting in 1985, AT&T laid off nearly 900 employees.
- The downsizing assisted in causing a lengthy recession in the metro area. AT&T downsized its Shreveport phone equipment manufacturing facility from 7,450 employees to close to 1,100 employees.

1994 (Gains):

- In 1994, the addition of riverboat casinos with large hotel construction added an average of 4,600 jobs to the Shreveport-Bossier City MSA.

2000 (Losses):

- AT&T Plant closes for good.

2001-2003 (Losses):

- Between the years 2001 to 2003, the Shreveport-Bossier City MSA experienced a loss of 4,300 jobs over the period, the worst decrease of jobs in Louisiana in both length and percentage terms.
- There were layoffs at Beaird, Frymasters, Exide Technologies, and some large manufacturing facilities. Also, the casinos had a decline in business due to the recession.
- The Beaird company alone went from employing 700 people to 30 people.

2004-2008 (Gains):

- Frymaster, GM (General Motors), and Beaird halt job losses by growing for five consecutive years.
- GM went from 2,400 employees to 3,600 employees,
- The Beaird Company was bought out by Eakin Company and went from 30 employees to 570.
- Fry Master's employment level went over 600 people.
- Haynesville Shale exploration added funds.
- Barksdale Airforce Base in Bossier City added 700 positions.

2009-2010 (Losses):

- GM drops 2800 jobs.
- Verizon closed a call center that employed 300 people, and Capital one closed its call center that employed 150 people.
- The total Black incarceration population in Caddo Parish increased by 21.95% from 2000 to 2010.
- According to the 2010 U.S. census, Shreveport lost an estimated 8,848 residents, a 4.4% decline.

2012 (Losses):

- GM closes, and 800 high-paying jobs are lost.
- Haynesville Shale activity drops 84%.
- Barksdale Airforce Base drops from its troops from 8,655 to 6,609.

2014 (Losses):

- Shreveport-Bossier City MSA gaming sector, which includes a casino and the

racetrack job losses of 1,378. Primarily due to competitions from Indian casinos in Oklahoma.

- The area's gross revenues from gaming fell by \$67.2 Million.
- Data collected by 24/7 Wall St. from June 2014 to June 2019 put Shreveport-Bossier City on the list of cities losing the most jobs with a -3.6% employment change (183,363 to 176,850).

2016 (Losses, Gain):

- ProActive Technologies at Barksdale Airforce Base laid off 51 employees.
- ExpressJet announced in November 2016 the closing of its Shreveport Regional Airport maintenance facility, laying off 286 jobs by June 2017. The closure is due to the consolidation of ExpressJet's heavy aircraft maintenance work.
- ARKLATEX Energy Services laid off 78 employees.
- An estimated 2,359 population decline occurred in Shreveport from July 2016 to July 2017, a 1.21% decline from 194,394 to 192,036. The reason for the population decline is the result of the loss of higher-paying jobs.
- **GLOVIS America-** located a logistics processing center in Shreveport with 150 new jobs and generating \$1 million in capital investment.

2017 (Losses):

- Blue Cliff College laid off 40 employees in February 2017.
- Lifecare Specialty Hospital of North Louisiana closed in Ruston in June 2017, laying off 167 employees.
- ExpressJet Airlines closed its maintenance facility at Shreveport Regional Airport, laying off the remaining 53 workers still on staff.

2018 (Losses):

- FTS International, an oil and natural gas well stimulation services provider, will close its Shreveport operations due to declining market demand, displacing 89 employees.
- Monster Moto, a motorbike manufacturer, closed its Ruston assembly plant, laying off 30 workers in May 2018.

2019 (Losses):

- WestRock, a corrugated packaging manufacturer, closed its Monroe operations in June 2019, displacing 83 employees.
- CenturyLink closed its Shreveport call center in October 2019, its focus on "operational efficiency and business transformation. The Shreveport call center employed 145 people. Individuals were given the option to relocate to the CenturyLink headquarters in Monroe, use a company-provided daily shuttle, work from home, or leave with a severance package. According to the Warn Notice filed with La. Workforce Commission, 54 employees were laid off.

2020 (Losses)

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a multitude of local companies has laid off employees, hopefully only temporarily. Those are not listed here. The 2020 Closings listed below are those companies that have announced permanent closings/reductions.
- Dolet Hills Lignite, a lignite-fired coal plant in De Soto Parish, announced in March 2020 that it would be closing its operations resulting in the displacement of 100 employees.

- Graphic Packaging International permanently shut down the operation of one of its paper machines in its West Monroe location resulting in the permanent layoff of 56 employees.
- Libbey, Inc., a glass tableware manufacturer, announced in July 2020 its plans to close its glass manufacturing facility in Shreveport. The closure would displace approximately 400 employees. The company cited its decision to close the facility as part of its effort to reduce costs and match manufacturing capacity with new lower levels of projected demand.

(Shaw Environmental and Infrastructure Inc, 2021), (Scott, 2020) (Bayliss, 2019) (Prison Policy Initiative, 2018) (UPI, 1985) (Wendling, 2016) (NLEP, 2022)

In the 1980s, a depression in Louisiana resulted from a global crash in the oil industry. General Motors and AT&T/BellSouth closed in the 2000s in Shreveport, LA. AT&T/BellSouth closed in the early 2000s, which led to the loss of around 7000 jobs. General Motors was closed in August 2012. (Listing Bidder, 2021) (Wendling, 2016) According to an analysis done by 24/7 Wall St., between 2010 and 2018, the Shreveport-Bossier City area had the highest net migration decline among the metro areas in Louisiana. (The Center Square, 2020)

According to the 2010 U.S. census, Shreveport lost an estimated 8,848 residents, a 4.4% decline. An estimated 2,359 population decline occurred in Shreveport from July 2016 to July 2017, a 1.21% decline from 194,394 to 192,036. (Bayliss, 2019, pg. 1) The reason for the population decline is the result of the loss of higher-paying jobs. Data collected by 24/7 Wall St. from June 2014 to June 2019 put Shreveport-Bossier City on the list of cities losing the most jobs, with a 3.6% employment change (183,363 to 176,850).

(Bayliss, 2019, p. 1) The data suggest that the major employers left the Shreveport-Bossier City Metro area. A large percentage of White residents and a smaller percentage of Blacks left.

4.5 Interviews

The researcher interviewed nine former General Motors (GM) employees from the Shreveport, La, location. There was a schedule of 10 interviews, but one declined. Their positions at the plant ranged from Regional Civil Rights Delegate, Union Stewart, EAP Representative, UAW Organizer, Quality Inspector, General Technician, Team Leader, Material Department Worker, Coordinator, Line Worker, Well Checker, Skilled Trade Carpenter, Paint Department Worker, Women's Committee Chairperson, and Skill Tradesman/Electrician. Some employees held different positions during their tenure at GM. Interviewee #2 has been employed with GM for 40 years. Interviewee #2 started at GM in 1982 with the second wave of hires and transferred when the Shreveport plant began to lay off employees. To the best of their recollection, the interviewees provided me with an average of over 4,000 workers employed at GM while they were there. The racial demographic the interviewees gave for employees were Black 31%, White 62%, Hispanic 4%, and other 4%. To the best of their recollection, the interviewees provided me with racial demographics of the percentage of managers that worked at GM during their employment years. The racial demographics of managers were Black 16%, White 80%, Hispanic 2%, and other 2%. After GM closed its plant, employees relocated. The interviewees stated the estimations of the population and demographics of GM employees and management were presented on a seniority board, in team meetings, department meetings, safety meetings, union meetings, and employee boards. Management shared

information with the workers regarding GM employee breakdowns as well. Many employees retired or found other means of work just to stay close to their families. An estimated 70% of the employees transferred, 28% retired, and 2% quit. The employees' options were given 40 GM locations to transfer. Most employees chose to go to Arlington, TX, right outside of Dallas, TX, which is a 208-mile drive from Shreveport and takes around 3 hours and 45 minutes of travel time. Others went to plants like Wentzville, MO, because this plant was seniority friendly, meaning an employee could get more flexibility with job bidding. After all, plant rules favored the seniors. A very small number of employees transferred to other plants close to their families. Every interviewee mentioned experiencing racism, seeing it happen, and hearing stories within GM the plant.

Examples of racist incidents mentioned by the interviewees at GM.

1. When I started in 1983, many workers felt comfortable wearing their KKK t-shirts to work.
{Interviewee #1}
2. "Yeah, it was a noose. When they were finding nooses hung in the plant at different places. And near the trucks." {Interviewee #2}
3. "I personally had a white lady call me a Black nigger bitch. Of course, I punched her in her mouth and head [not proud of that]. I did not get disciplined for fighting [neither did she] simply because they did not want to deal with the core of the issue-racism in the plant."
{Interviewee #1}
4. "Went to Supervisor/Manager class and got highest scores but did not get the job. Had a White Superintendent tell me that as long as he was in a Management Position that I would never get a management position; regardless of the score." {Interview #7}

5. “When they asked a question, one of the White guys said that he did have a problem with a Black guy being a Superintendent because he said that was a job for a White man to have.” {Interviewee #3}
6. “They prevented upward mobility. I remember a White girl who had a degree in engineering and a Black guy did too. Management put the Black guy on the line and the White Lady in management. The White lady was much younger.” {Interviewee #4}
7. “Overtime was supposed to be offered according to a scale of who is low on overtime hours. Many times, grievances were filed because White men were allowed to work Saturday and Sunday despite not being eligible. This was a common practice that was watched on the regular. We would let them work and just file and get paid.” {Interviewee #8}
8. “When I passed the test for Skilled Trades, they still did not want me to get the job position. That position was given, even though they said you had to pass tests, on buddy buddy system. Some people that I think flunked tests were given the position because of who they were.” {Interviewee #5}
9. “I can tell you what I faced. Some Whites were in cahoots with White Supervisors. They would go back and tell certain things and then you would start being watched. Click up. {Interviewee #9}
10. “Those in power want to stay in power and nonprogressive. When bidding on a job and qualified with top seniority, they would come up with a disqualifier for that person. The Union did not help sometimes because they had someone else in mind also. The buddy system.” {Interviewee #1}
11. “The usual racism like on most jobs. The UAW helped curtail a lot of things.”

{Interviewee #6}

12. “White females would go after certain Blacks if situations wasn’t going right for them.”

{Interviewee #9}

13. “Management trying to pin people against each other. They do that all day long. They do that in Texas.” {Interviewee #2}

Most former employees stated they were thankful and grateful for having a well-paying job with benefits that they could retire from. The workers stated they also had good workdays when everything went well. However, Black workers were uncomfortable knowing that their White coworkers, especially the ones who treated Blacks cruelly and less than Whites, mingled with White management outside of work, including hunting and fishing with one another. {Interviewee #9} Every interviewee experienced and or heard about racism in the GM plant. The nooses hanging in the GM plant, White co-workers wearing Ku Klux Klan t-shirts, being called “nigger”, and having management tell them they would not have a chance of receiving a promotion and or a better position because they were Black signified the systematic racism and the intimidation that coincides with racism existed in the culture at the GM plant in Shreveport. Furthermore, working at the GM plant, workers enduring short-term and long-term injuries due to repetitive motions required in some positions, Blacks being passed up for qualifiable positions, and Blacks receiving harsh treatment by White management and White fellow employees made some workdays worse than others.

Three Take Aways:

1. When Blacks were hired with certain qualifications or gained qualifications after employment to become managers, they were frequently turned down for management jobs. (Shown with the racial demographics of managers from interviews)
2. The overt racism that Blacks encountered from fellow White employees and White management.
3. The Blacks were thankful to receive benefits and good pay, so they stayed working for General Motors.

4.6 GIS Maps and Community Maps

The researcher analyzed the study area using census data, GIS, Google Earth, and Google Maps to provide visual information for this study. Figures 57 through 62 provide the spatial distribution of Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish African American/Black versus White in variables of Poverty, Unemployment, High School Education, Bachelor's Degree, Homeownership, and Renters. The GIS maps are self-explanatory, showing the percentages of Black and White distributions in census tracts according to the variables. Figure 63 presents local neighborhoods, and Figure 64 shows Hospitals and Urgent Care Facilities. The hospitals are close to the inner city, not far from the CBD and suburban south. There are no hospitals and urgent cares on the west side of Shreveport, and there are a significant number of African Americans in the Northwest, including the Martin Luther King Jr. area, and the west, which includes the Pines Road area Lakeside community and Greenwood, Louisiana. Greenwood, LA population demographics are 38% of Blacks and 57% Whites residents. (World Population Review, 2022) Figures 65 through 67 shows supermarket and grocery stores in the study area. Figure 65 shows the SNAP grocery

overlay; however, this snapshot is very misleading because it gives the impression that all the yellow dots represent regular groceries stores and or a place where residents can shop for a variety of fresh groceries. In Figure 65, some yellow dots are convenience stores, gas stations, and liquor stores with little to no fruits and vegetables, but some of the stores include the word “groceries” in their names. Let us take Figure 67, for example. King’s Grocery on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. RD has some cooked food such as spaghetti, fried foods, meatloaf, a few cooked vegetables and liquor, canned goods, candy, sodas, other snacks, and petroleum gas. There is no fresh produce, such as various fruits, vegetables, and other healthy foods. One block away, there is Hy-Lo Grocery and Liquor, which is the same concept as King’s Grocery but with an added refrigerated meat and cheese selection and no petroleum gas. Directly across the street, there is a Dollar General store. Exactly one mile west is Quick Pack Groceries which has the same selection food-wise as King’s Grocery and Hy-Lo Grocery. Figure 66 gives a better snapshot of actual supermarkets and grocery stores in Shreveport, LA. However, Figure 67 shows King’s Grocery as an actual grocery store. Best case scenario, a resident looking for fresh produce in this area might find a small basket of fruit in one of these convenient stores near the cash register and hope the fruit is fresh. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food deserts as low-income census tracts with low access to healthy food, meaning residences more than 1 mile away from a grocery store or supermarket in urban areas (or 10 or 20 miles in rural areas) (Liu, Han, and Cohen, 2015, p. 1) Observing the google map there is not a grocery store/supermarket in the entire Martin Luther King Jr. area until you get to Shoppers Value Foods located at 1867 Nelson St. 1 # 1, Shreveport, LA 71107. Traveling south of these store locations a residence will not encounter an actual grocery store for 5 miles until they

get to Cotten's Grocery & Market, 3656 Lakeshore Dr, Shreveport, LA 71109, and Piggly Wiggly across the intersection located at 3723 Lakeshore Dr, Shreveport, LA 71109. This would make the Martin Luther King Jr. area a food desert. The researcher sees this pattern in the Hollywood Heights area, Moortown, and parts of the Sunset Acres, Morningside, Garden Valley, and Northern Cedar Grove area, all predominantly black neighborhoods.

Figure 68 provides locations of bank branches, and Figure 69 shows payday loan lenders in the Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan Area. As explained in Chapter 2.12, a community or neighborhood without financial services or banking institutions is deemed a “Banking Desert.” When banking deserts occur, the replacements are with “payday loan” companies which charge high-interest rates and more frequently generate a cycle of high-interest loans that are a struggle to pay off borrowers of the loans. These borrowers continue to borrow even more funds to cope with overlapping debt and continue a cycle of poverty. (Smith, 2019) (MacNeil, 2019) “Banking Deserts” or areas without banks or financial institute branches exacerbate maintaining banking relationships, cost and or inconvenience of cashing checks, establishing deposit accounts, and obtaining loans. Figure 68 shows “banking deserts” areas such as the MLK Jr. area, Allendale-Lakeside, Hollywood Heights, Mooretown, Sunset Acre, Garden Valley, and Morningside, all predominately African American/Black communities. Figure 69 details the 78 payday loan lenders in the Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan area, which outnumber banks in the African American communities.

Figures 70 through 83 present details from the Central Business District/Downtown and Community neighborhood conditions. These figures present a lack of biking lanes in the largest city in Caddo Parish. Even outside of the CBD, there are no biking lanes. Figure

71 shows abandoned, unmaintained, slightly maintained, spray-painted, and graffitied buildings in downtown Shreveport. Figures 72 through 75 show the eye soar neighborhoods less than 1 mile to 1.6 miles away from downtown Shreveport of abandoned buildings, rundown homes occupied and unoccupied (which include signs of bad roofs, makeshift fences, boarded windows, etc.) slightly maintained to unkept sidewalks, lawns not manicured, broken down vehicles in the drive or lawns, plus weeds and vines growing up on street poles. The researcher grew up in the Allendale and Lakeside community.

Figures 73 through 75 are one of the streets where the researcher lived, and Figure 76 is three blocks from another address where the researcher lived. Figures 77 through 80 represent Sunset Acre, Cedar Grove, and the beginning of the Lynbrook Community. These figures show no bike lanes, no sidewalks, and other not-so-pleasant conditions until a person travel to the Lynbrook community, represented in Figures 81 and 82. Lastly, Figure 83 shows the Greenbrook Subdivision, a 97% White community in the Cedar Grove area.

Figure 77 representing Sunset Acres shows Linwood Junior High School with the demographics of 94.7% African American/Black, 0.3% White, 3.9% Hispanic/Latino, 0.9% Two or more races, and 0.1% Asian or Asian /Pacific Islander. (U.S. News Education, 2022) The Lynbrook Community neighborhood is predominantly Black at 87% and Whites AT 9%. The Greenbrook subdivision is predominately White at 97%. (City Data Lynbrook, 2022) (Spokeo, 2022) There is a small neighborhood in the Janet Ln area THAT is 43.5% Black and 50.5% White. (Neighborwho, 2022) Cedar Grove area, Sunset Acre, Garden Valley, Morning Side, Lynbrook Communities, and Greenbrook subdivision share part of the same 71106 zip code, but there is a difference once you cross the railroad tracks traveling south of Linwood Ave. passing West 84th St. to Janet Ln and Greenbrook

subdivision. The houses are older but well-maintained. The figure shows manicured lawns with landscaping, no weeds or vines up the light poles, no broken-down cars in driveways or lawns, and no makeshift fences. At 409 Janet Lane, there is Brown E. Moore Head Start Center School which is 1.3 miles away or a 3-minute drive from Linwood Junior High School. Brown E. Moore Head Start Center School demographics are 45% African American/Black, 47% White, 2% Latino, and 1% Asian. (Donors Choose, 2022)

When comparing the demographics of the residences, the demographics of the schools in this zip code, and the demographics in the subdivisions of the predominantly Black section of the 71106 zip code are less maintained, and the predominant White sections are well maintained. Below are the maps of the study area.

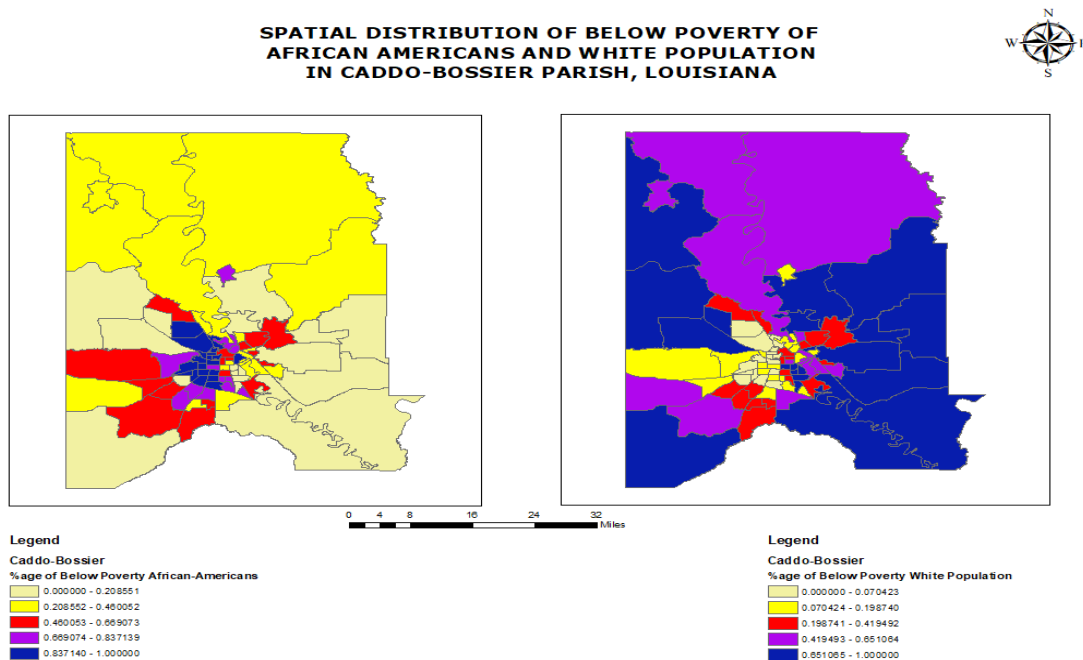


Figure 57: Spatial Distribution of Poverty Black vs White in Study Area

**SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT OF
AFRICAN AMERICANS AND WHITE POPULATION
IN CADDO-BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA**

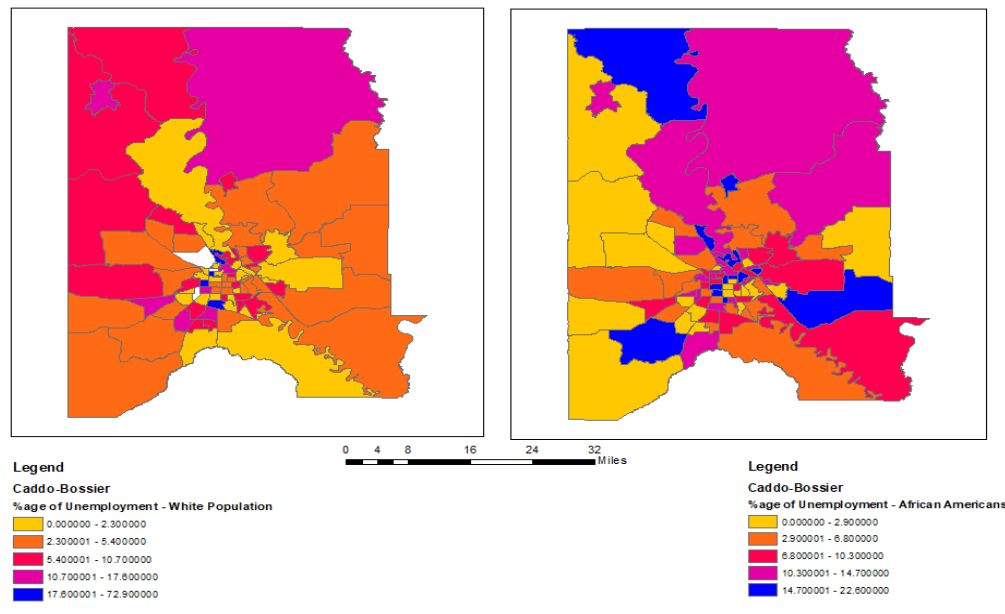


Figure 58: Spatial Distribution of Unemployed Black vs White in Study Area

**SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION OF
AFRICAN AMERICANS AND WHITE POPULATION
IN CADDO-BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA**

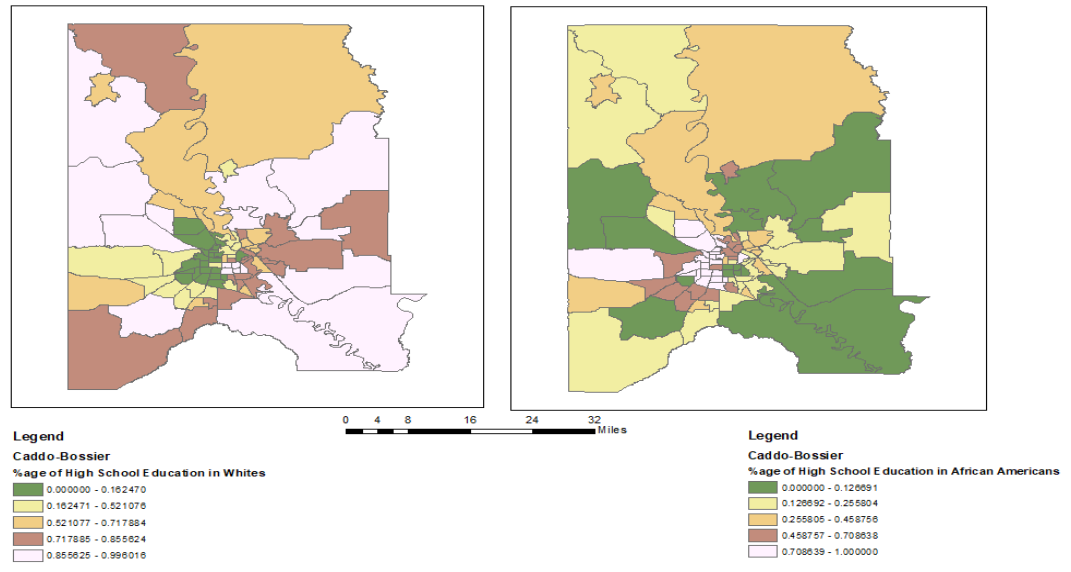


Figure 59: Spatial Distribution of High School Education Black vs White in Study Area

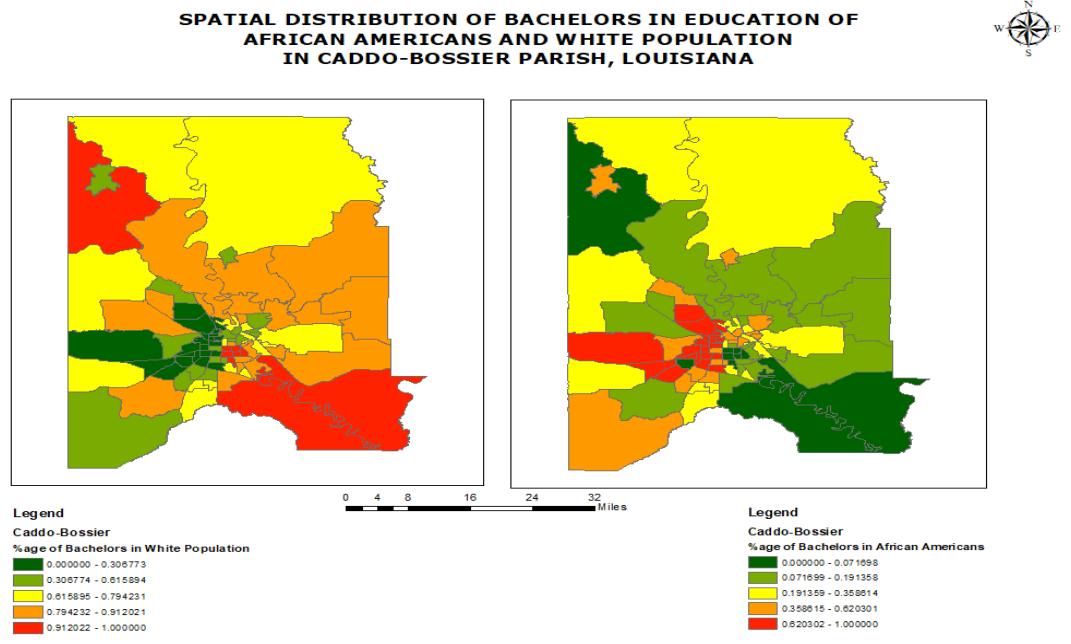


Figure 60: Spatial Distribution of Bachelor's Degree African American vs White is Study Area

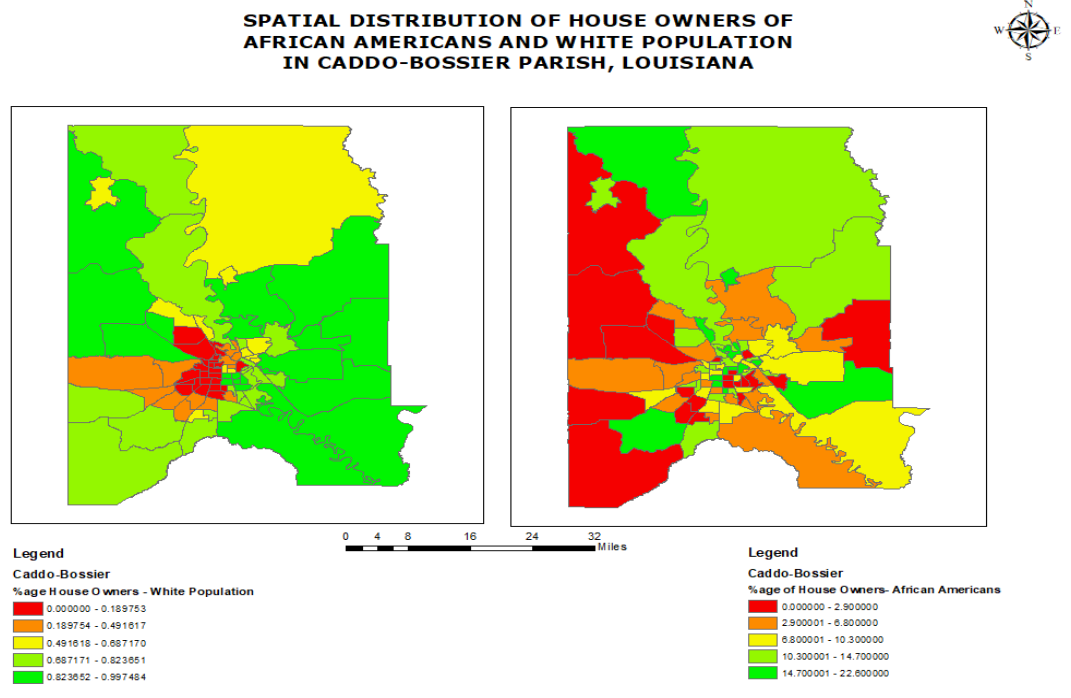


Figure 61: Spatial Distribution of Homeowner Black vs White in Caddo and Bossier Parish

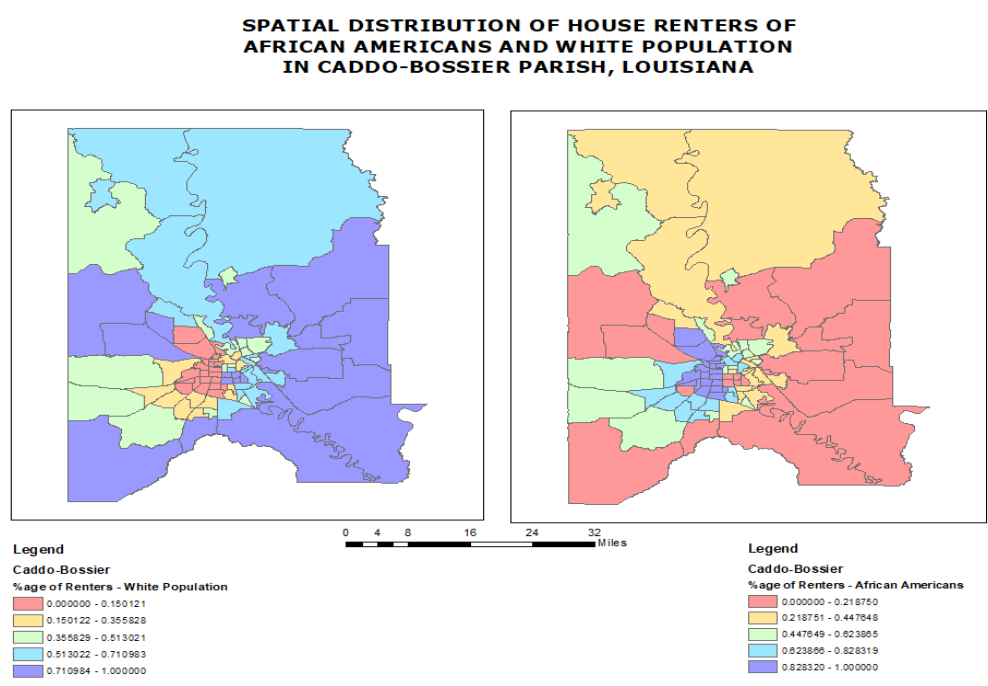


Figure 62: Spatial Distribution of Renters Black vs White in Caddo and Bossier Parish



Figure 63: Neighborhoods/Community in Shreveport, LA

Source: FEMA Maps (2022)

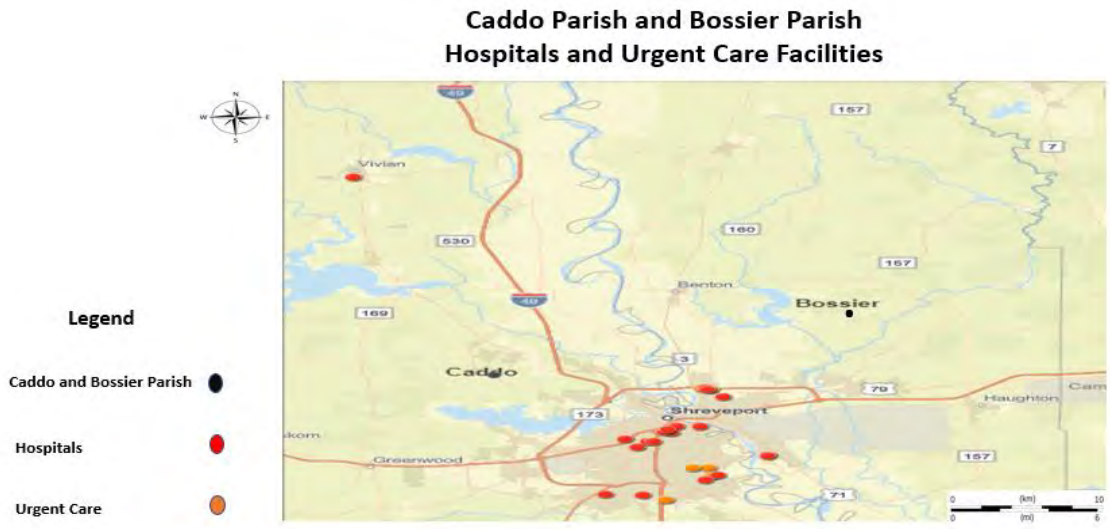


Figure 64: Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish Hospitals and Urgent Care Facilities

Source: FEMA Maps (2022)

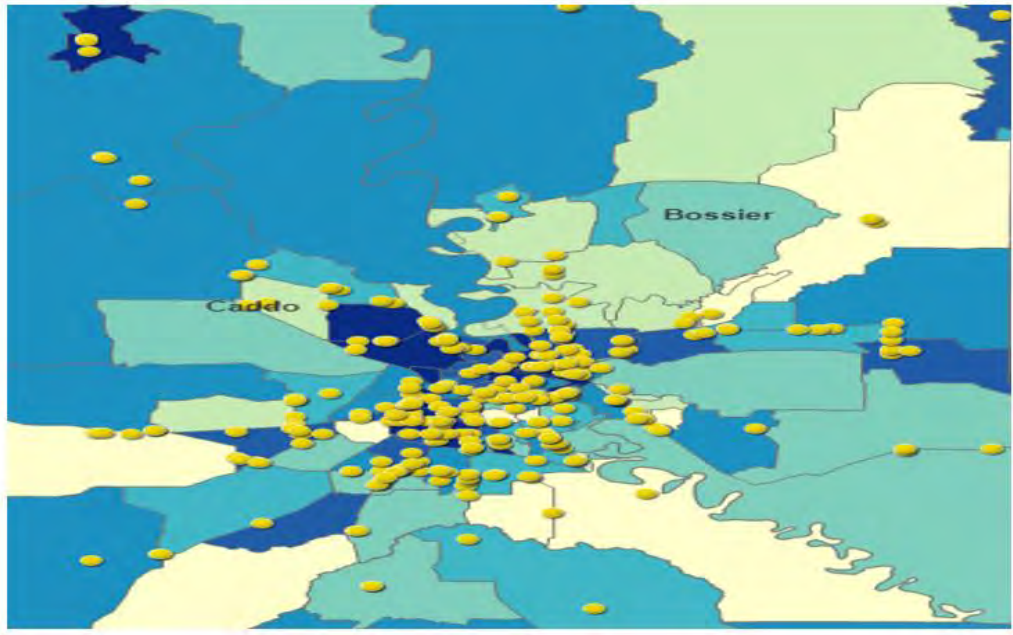


Figure 65: FEMA Map Snap grocery overlay with % below poverty

Source: FEMA (2022)

Shreveport Supermarkets and Groceries

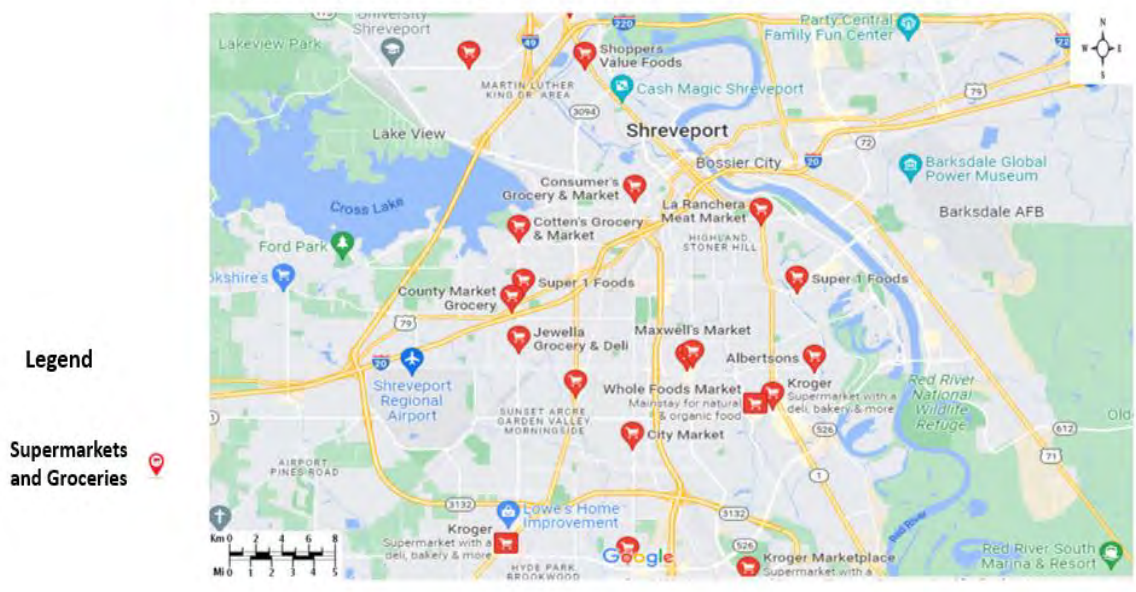


Figure 66: Shreveport City Supermarkets and Grocery Stores

Source: Google Maps (2022)

Martin Luther King Dr. Area Dr. Martin Luther King Dr. and David Rankin Rd. Supermarket Label (Liquor Stores/Convenient Stores/Gas Stations)



Figure 67: Dr. Martin Luther King Drive Supermarket Label

Source: Google Maps (2022)



Figure 68: Shreveport/Bossier Bank branches, low-income areas, and minority population

Source: Abello, (2018)

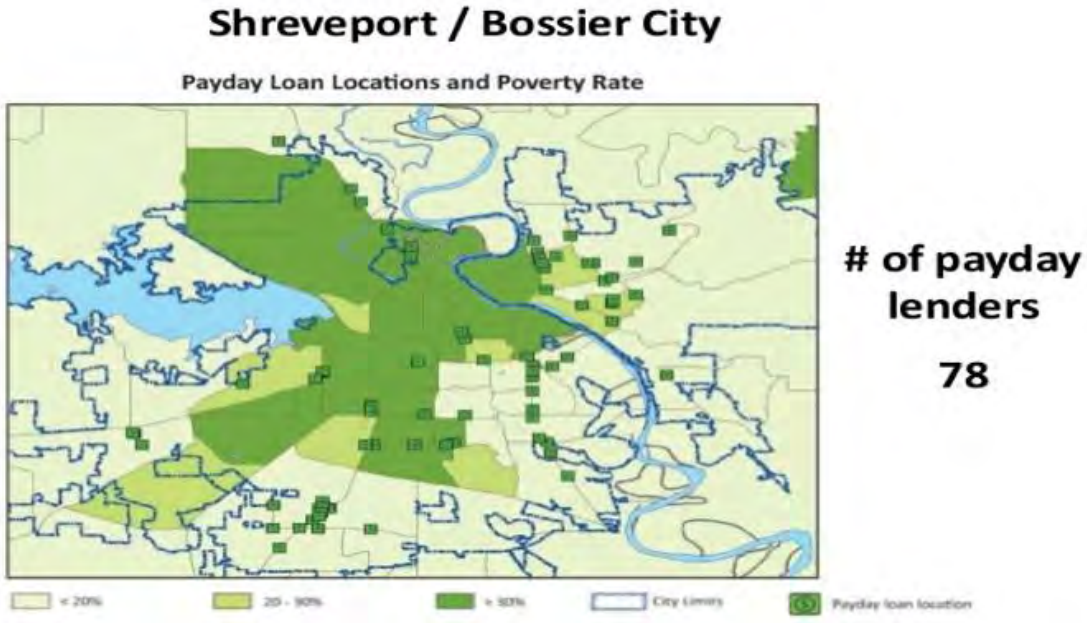


Figure 69: Shreveport/Bossier City Area Pay Day Lenders

Source: News & Politics (2014), Louisiana Budget Project (2016)

Downtown Central Business District
501 Texas Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71101



Figure 70: Caddo Parish Court House CDB (No Biking Lanes)

Source: Google Earth (2022)

Downtown Central Business District
869 Texas Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71101
0.4 Miles From Caddo Parish Clerk Court



Figure 71: Downtown Central Business District

Source: Google Earth (2022)

Highland Area
1815 Texas Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71103
1.6 Miles From Caddo Parish Clerk of Court



Figure 72: South of Downtown Central Business District

Source: Google Earth (2022)

Allendale or Allendale Lakeside Community
1443 Buena Vista St.
1.1 Miles Away From Caddo Parish Clerk of Court CBD



Figure 73: Allendale Community West of Downtown Central Business District

Source: Google Earth (2022)

Allendale or Allendale Lakeside Community
1416 Buena Vista St.
1.1 Miles Away From Caddo Parish Clerk of Court CBD



Figure 74: Allendale Community West of Downtown Central Business District

Source: Google Earth (2022)

Allendale or Allendale Lakeside Community
1452 Buena Vista
1.1 Miles Away From Caddo Parish Clerk of Court CBD



Figure 75: Allendale Community West of Downtown Central Business District

Source: Google Earth (2022)

Lakeside or Allendale-Lakeside
Murphy St. and Hearne Ave



Figure 76: Lakeside Community West of Downtown Central Business District

Source: Google Earth (2022)

Sunset Acres
401 W. 70TH St. Linwood Junior High School



Figure 77: Linwood Junior High Sunset Acres (No bike lanes, scattered to no sidewalks)

Source: Google Earth (2022)

Sunset Acres
526 W. 69th St.



Figure 78: Sunset Acres (No bike lanes, scattered to no sidewalks)

Source: Google Earth, (2022)

Cedar Grove Community
7455 Linwood Ave

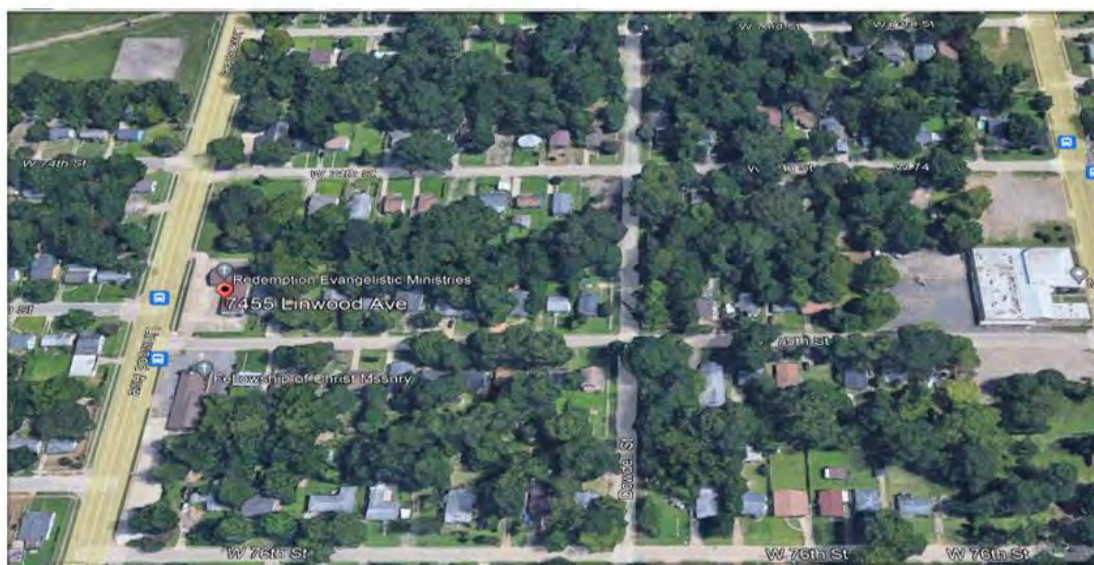


Figure 79: Cedar Grove (No bike lanes and no sidewalks)

Source: Google Earth (2022)

**Sunset Acre Community
Cedar Grove Community
Lynbrook Community**

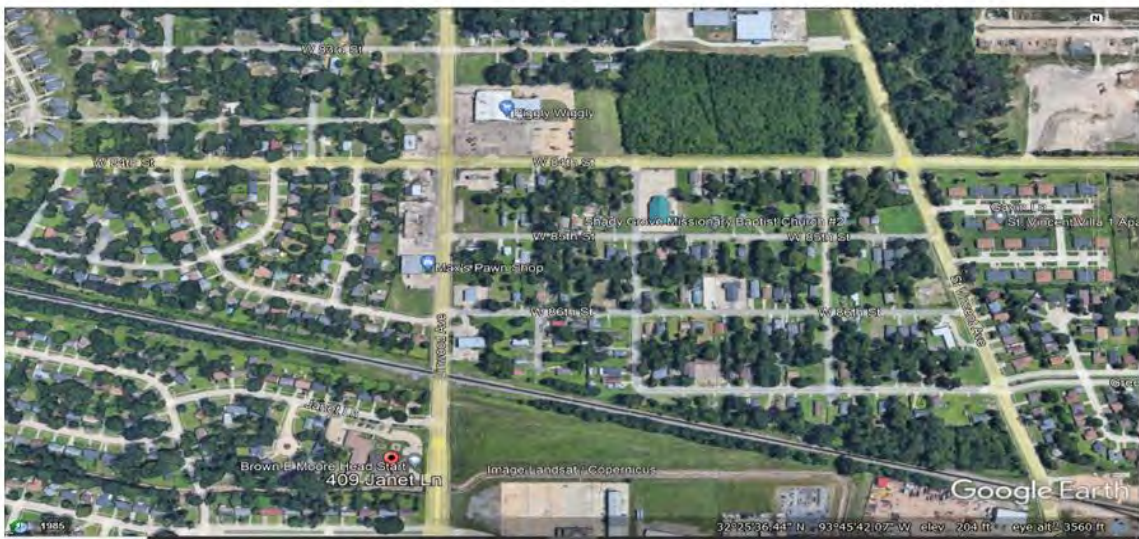


Figure 80: Sunset Acres to Lynbrook (No bike lanes, sidewalks at Lynbrook Community)

Source: Google Earth, (2022)

**Lynbrook Community
(400 Block of Janet Ln)**

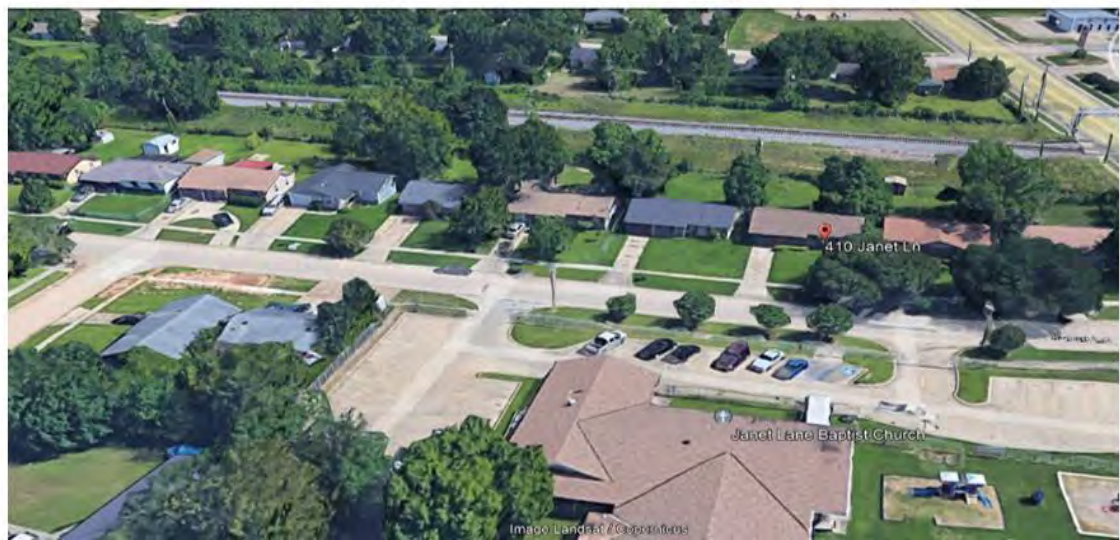


Figure 81: Janet Ln. Lynbrook Community (Well-kept community)

Source: Google Earth (2022)

400 Block Janet Ln, Shreveport LA 71106
Brown E. Moore Head Start and Janet Lane Baptist Church



Figure 82: Lynbrook Community 400 Block of Janet Ln.

Source: Google Earth, (2022)

Greenbrook Subdivision
100 Block of Green Brook BLVD and 8700 Block of S. Emerald Loop



Figure 83: Greenbrook Subdivision

Source: Google Earth (2022)

CHAPTER 5:

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

Urbanization and Sprawl in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish, Louisiana, contribute more to African American population poverty versus the White population in this area. The major factors that immensely impact African American poverty in the Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish area are educational attainment (i.e., bachelor's, master's, doctorate, and professional degrees); unemployment/underemployment (hourly jobs versus salary jobs), homeownership, bank deserts, food deserts, payday loan companies, Jim Crow Laws, incarceration, transportation, IRS inequalities, healthcare inequalities, bad politics, and miseducation.

This chapter summarizes findings and data on poverty, birth rates, mortality rates, population trends, incarceration rates, homeownership, renters, cost-burden homes, transportation, occupation and wages, income, incarceration, education attainment, and historical timeline of employment trends in the study area.

The previous chapters highlight the history of systemic racism, findings, data, interviews, graphs, and analysis of how the factors contribute to high African American poverty in the study area versus the White population. This chapter summarizes findings on incorporating equity, equality, and social and racial justice to minimize African American poverty in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish, Louisiana. The chapter also includes

concluding thoughts and policy implications. Furthermore, the chapter highlights limitations, delimitations, and future research recommendations.

5.1 Conclusion

This dissertation builds on prior studies regarding the understanding and application of poverty reduction theories and methods. Poverty categories include Housing Poverty, Transportation Poverty, Food Insecurity Poverty, and Energy Poverty.

The measurement process has to include a multi-component method, which has to consider the quality of housing, the standard of living, electricity, access to clean water, sanitation, and education that each of these factors contributes to the foundations of providing individuals and families to lead to an adequate lifestyle. (Habitat for Humanity, 2021) One of the nation's leaders in child poverty is the state of Louisiana. The state of Louisiana has the second largest proportion of children living in poverty (26.9%) in the United States, following the state of Mississippi. (27.7%) (Benson, 2022) Many poor children live in single-parent households in Louisiana, and with the growing number of single women birth rates, the amount will grow. (Benson, 2022) (Council for A Better Louisiana, n.d., p.1)

This section covers *How to Address the Issue of Urbanization and Poverty*. In many instances, there has been a negative effect of urbanization that has ushered in new sources of poverty. Negative effects of urbanization can be a lack of resources, poverty, unemployment, and overcrowding. Furthermore, the migration from rural areas to metropolitan areas causes congestion that impedes growth and bolsters the negative issues from geographically concentrated poverty, such as crime and violence in Shreveport, La. As the crime rate in urban areas increases, it creates a barrier to urban development. A

larger share of the poor appears indeed to be living in urban areas nowadays, coined the “urbanization of poverty,” as you see in the Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan Area. (Bhasin, 2020) (Christiaensen, Weerdt, & Todo, 2013) So, to remedy Black poverty due to the urbanization in the study area, there has to be more investment into Black business owners (with a focus on Foundational Black Americans or FBA) that can hire dozens of to the thousands of Black employees, more job opportunities with higher wages, a good education system with Black student support, a better public healthcare system, and ready plus affordable transportation.

Other strategies to remedy this issue should include funding for expensive children’s sports, such as baseball, volleyball, tennis, and swimming, as well as adult sports and recreation. (Bhasin, 2020) The researcher suggests generating market potential by developing shopping complexes, malls, food, and cultural activities. The study area needs more affordable and adequate housing to accommodate the Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan Area population. The Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan Area should become more highly tech-savvy with sophisticated communication, infrastructure, social amenities, and medical facilities.

Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish should have better urban planning, institutional reforms, and financing. The local and state government should show more initiative in managing urban lifestyles. Land utilization and governmental transfers should consider in line with a sizeable number of workers migrating into cities. An environmentally friendly and sustainable way of living should be in place in the study area. Conserving natural ecosystem techniques needs more development. Campaigns and counseling for active health clinics and family planning need to be provided by stakeholders in the parishes.

Tourism promotion and sustainable use of natural resources should be a foundation for job creation, public governance, and social management. (Bhasin, 2020)

This section covers *How to address Sprawl (Urban Sprawl and Job Sprawl) and its effect on Poverty*: Sprawl is random, unplanned growth characterized by inadequate access to essential land uses such as housing, jobs, and public services like schools, hospitals, and mass transit.” (Bullard, Johnson, and Torres, 2000) The citizens are affected by sprawl by way of urban decline, racial polarization, lack of affordable housing, and suburban/city disparities in public education. (Bullard, Johnson, Torres, 2000) Sprawl-driven development has “literally sucked the population of jobs, investment capital, and tax base from the urban core.” (Bullard, Johnson, Torres, 2000, p. 936) Equality in neighborhoods, communities, and or residential areas does not exist. Apartheid-type development policies, housing, and employment, have caused decreased residential choices, reduced neighborhood options, mobility limitations, and declining job opportunities for African Americans/Blacks. (Bullard, Johnson, Torres, 2000) The African American/Black community in the Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan area is experiencing these disparities caused by sprawl, racism, and discrimination.

This section covers *Smart Growth*. We can avoid sprawl or urban sprawl by providing a way of urban planning and transportation theory in which we can concentrate growth in compact centers that are walkable, which are considered Smart Growth. (Smart growth, 2022) Smart growth is a unique thought of place and community in ways that promote public health, enhance, and preserve natural and cultural resources, housing, and employment, and expand the range of transportation with its sustainable development goals. Smart growth also advocates various housing choices by having mixed-use

development, neighborhood schools, walkable communities, and transit-oriented and bicycle-friendly land use in a compact area. (Smart growth, 2022) “Smart development can reduce sprawl. There are benefits and advantages to Smart Development because it contributes to job creation, house affordability, and provides health for communities. African Americans and other minority communities’ recipients of the benefits from Smart Development. (Smart growth, 2022, p. 1)

Job Sprawl is the spatial mismatch between populations and jobs. The Black population is associated with a higher spatial mismatch in metropolitan areas, but not for whites. (Stoll, 2005)

Southern metropolitan areas rank low on spatial mismatch and job sprawl for blacks. Job sprawl in metropolitan areas is nearly twice as paramount as a factor affecting spatial mismatch for Blacks and Latinos overall.

As mentioned before, in the Shreveport-Bossier Metropolitan area, there is a “spatial mismatch” between jobs and the labor force including two of the top employers in the area, the LSU Health Services Center and the Willis-Knighton Health System. However, these systems are not the only employers in town. The researcher argues that this is an important factor in high unemployment and poverty in Caddo Parish and the Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan Area for Blacks. To improve the Black population’s unemployment and poverty scenario, the researcher suggests linking job growth with existing residence patterns and creating policies to promote balance in metropolitan development to help narrow the spatial mismatch between Blacks and jobs. (Stoll, 2005)

This section covers Green Design. Green design should be an option for all people and not just for folks that can afford to live in such places, which is a part of Green Design

within a smart growth development. Urban decline, polluted water, worsening air, disappearing wildlife habitat and farmland, racial polarization, increased health and safety risk, city and suburban disparities in public education and lack of affordable housing, and erosion of community are the factors that U.S. citizens are paying for sprawl. (Bullard, Johnson, and Torres, 2000) “Smart growth with Green design can assist African Americans and other minorities that live and work within constructions and buildings while safeguarding the air and water in our communities.” (Freilich & Popowitz, 2010, p. 4)

Green Design is environmentally friendly and should include biodegradable products, use of recyclable products, and green architecture. Eco-design is an example of sustainability, making the lowest possible impact and using biodegradable products and recyclables use by expanding a product’s lifecycle. Many consumer goods are from Eco-Design, such as biodegradable furniture and recycled tableware. Other products include bamboo sunglasses, toothbrushes, edible coffee cups, and ecological gold jewelry. Clothes and shoes made with plastic recovered from the ocean exist too. “Sustainable development is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” (Iberdrola Corporativa, 2022, p. 1)

Green architecture, which is part of Green Design, is an approach to building for the purpose of protecting human health and the environment by minimizing the harmful effects of construction projects. The green architect or designer’s goal is to safeguard the earth, water, and air by optioning eco-friendly construction practices and building materials. (Craven, 2019) Green architecture and design may include:

- Adaptive reuse of older buildings
- Efficient use of space

- Alternative renewable energy power sources such as solar power or wind power
- Landscaping with native vegetation and planned to maximize passive solar energy
- Use of recycled architectural salvage
- Locally obtained wood and stone, eliminating long-haul transportation
- Optimal location on the land, maximizing sunlight, winds, and natural sheltering
- Non-synthetic, non-toxic materials used inside and out
- Ventilation systems designed for efficient heating and cooling
- Energy-efficient lighting and appliances (e.g., ENERGY STAR[®] products)
- Water-saving plumbing fixtures
- Minimal harm to the natural habitat
- Rainwater harvesting and greywater reuse
- Responsibly harvested woods (Craven, 2019, p. 2)

This section covers *Sustainable Community Development*. A sustainable community makes use of resources in the present while simultaneously guaranteeing that adequate resources are available for future generations to come. Sustainable communities' goal is for their residents to have a good quality of life at the same time preserving nature's ability to function over time by preventing pollution, minimizing waste, developing local resources to revitalize the economy locally, and promoting efficiency. A sustainable community should mirror a living system in which the human race, nature, and economic elements draw strength from one another and are interdependent. There should be shared information among community members, and decision-making would come from a rich communal life. (Simon Fraser University, 2022)

Environmental technology, improved and redesigned infrastructure, knowledge-based services, improved natural resources and management, and tourism are all great areas for supportive government policies, expanded training, and private sector investments for the Caddo Parish, Bossier Parish, and specifically the Shreveport-Bossier Metro Area include:

- Designing energy-efficient and people-friendly
- Upgrading the efficiency of energy use in buildings, products, and transportation systems
- Developing, manufacturing, and marketing products, services, and technologies that reduce environmental burdens
- Expanded delivery and use of information technologies
- Recycling and remanufacturing of solid and hazardous waste into marketable products
- Adopting and implementing sustainable forestry, fisheries, soil, and watershed management practices
- Adding value to fish, agricultural, and forest products
- Sustainable tourism activities centered around areas of environmental, cultural, and historical significance (Simon Fraser University, 2022)

Researchers argue that the strategy for fair wealth distribution (i.e., for conflict resolution) will help grow the economy so that the study area will have more redistribution. Likewise, to improve environmental (i.e., conflict resolution) quality in the study area, researchers suggest expanding the economy, thereby having sufficient funds to buy

environmental protection. This strategy will ensure fair distribution to the poor community to protect and restore their environment. (Campbell, 2016)

Reputable planners' inclusion is critical in the process. Urban Planners will have essential knowledge of how economies, ecologies, and cities interact, and they should put forth farsighted, specific designs that promote sustainable cities and communities. Planners will have the challenge of dealing with the conflict between competing interests by discovering and implementing complementary users. With concise planning, planners are likely to have the best results for conflict resolution. (Campbell, 2016)

5.2 Public Policy Implication

Urban planners must work diligently to bring forth change to overcome and subdue obstacles to create Smart Growth and Cleaner and Greener Communities while simultaneously promoting equality and eliminating inequities. The researcher looks to reduce poverty by comprehending the factors that cause this phenomenon and implementing innovative strategies that reduce it. This research will shed light on laws and policies that should be reexamined and amended at the state and local levels.

To promote and increase homeownership in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, the researcher suggest providing advanced policy solutions at the local level.

- A. Since Caddo Parish has a large Black renter population, we could expand the policy so blacks can have access to small-dollar mortgage loans. New Policies assist Black households in gaining access to sustainable and affordable homeownership. Also, this will help existing homeowners with repair and renovation financing. (McCargo, A., Choi, J., & Golding, E. 2019) (Consolidated Plan Shreveport, 2018)
- B. Through the use of tax incentive programs and trust funds, there could be a policy

for additional programs to address neighborhood-level issues which include new local products, placed-based initiatives, and policies that reduce racial homeownership gaps. (McCargo, A., Choi, J., & Golding, E. 2019)

Example

For example, tax incentive programs can be part of the first-time home buyers program offered in each state. (Hal and Bundrick, 2020) (McCargo, A., Choi, J., & Golding, E. 2019) *The researcher's first home was with FHA.* The FHA was through Wells Fargo as a tax incentive program. In addition to tax credits, these programs often offer zero-interest loans and grant money for a down payment. (Hal and Bundrick, 2020) Louisiana offers first-time homebuyers, low to moderate-income buyers, and veterans purchasing a home in designated areas. It is called the MCC (Mortgage Credit Certified Program and the buyers who use the program can obtain a federal tax credit of up to 40% of their annual mortgage interest payments for the life of their loan. (Louisiana Housing Corporation, 2020)

Some states allow buyers to use mortgage tax certificates. Tax certificates offer home buyers the chance to deduct a significant amount of the mortgage interest buyers pay on their annual federal tax return. Furthermore, buyers might even be able to combine that tax break with closing cost assistance and a down payment. Some Participants are Loan Depot, Home Bridge, and Fairway. (Hal and Bundrick, 2020) In Caddo Parish, there is a homestead exemption. It is a tax exemption on the first \$75,000 of the value of a person's home. This exemption applies to all homeowners. The home's value is exempt up to \$75,000 from parish property taxes and state taxes. (Caddo Parish, LA, 2020)

The DSDC (Downtown Shreveport Development Corporation) wants to help with the revitalization of downtown Shreveport. One of the ways we can help is through the low-interest loan program. This financial incentive provides rehabilitation funds for residential development, property owners, and small businesses interested in renovating downtown's older buildings. (Downtown Shreveport Development Corporation, 2020)

- C. Building costs are increasing, and a greater portion of construction occurs at the higher end of the market. Reform land-use regulations and zoning are options. (McCargo, A., Choi, J., & Golding, E. 2019)

Example

Local jurisdictions can help increase the units of housing in parishes or counties, towns, and cities by modifying zoning policies which will also help with residential growth, higher density residential uses, and local jurisdictions. Other reform uses can be considered revising occupancy codes that restrict the number of unrelated people permitted to live together in a unit. Shared housing allows lower-income households to split the costs of utilities and rent. Shared housing can reduce individual housing costs. (Zoning Changes, 2020)

- D. To increase homeownership supply and affordability, we need a policy for more factory-built housing production, such as manufactured and modular housing. Research shows that these homes appreciate as well. (McCargo, A., Choi, J., & Golding, E. 2019)
- E. New credit scoring also needs to address the racial biases embedded in the existing

system. African American credit scores have been an issue in their community. Due to historical structural barriers to accessing banking and credit products, mortgage credit has become more difficult to obtain for Black households. (McCargo, A., Choi, J., & Golding, E. 2019)

Example

There are racial biases embedded in the existing system, and new credit scoring also needs to be addressed. African American/Black loan borrowers are more likely to be given higher-cost mortgages than whites in similar households amid of housing market booms, recent studies have shown (Bayer, Ferreira, and Ross 2017) Compared to financial records similar to those of white households, African Americans are charged higher rates by traditional lenders and financial technology. (Bayer, Ferreira, and Ross 2017)

- F. Make more Accelerate Outreach and Counseling to Renters and “Mortgage-Ready” Millennials available. These programs include implementing and designing saving programs and down payment programs. Enhancing awareness of the available county, city, state, and federal programs would help African Americans in Caddo Parish. This strategy will focus on engaging local stakeholders. (McCargo, A., Choi, J., & Golding, E. 2019) (Consolidated Plan Shreveport, 2018)

Example

About 33% of millennials are ready for mortgages based on a recent study by Freddie Mac based on debt-to-income ratios and credit scores. Where the house prices for the market are considered above 90% of millennials can afford homes in the metropolitan area where they reside. However, 20% of Black millennials are

mortgage ready. (McCargo, A., Choi, J., & Golding, E. 2019) In metropolitan areas, more than 1.7 million Blacks have ownership potential. We have to reach out to them. This high-potential group is the target of Accelerate Outreach. Counseling to Renters is providing access to young Black renters by teaching them homeownership tools in which we deliver incentives of significant down payment assistance, and first-time homebuyer tax credits can provide young African American households a better chance to build future wealth through home purchasing. (McCargo, A., Choi, J., & Golding, E. 2019) Furthermore, we need other counseling resources such as reserve and saving strategies, credit building, maintaining a home, and a guide through the home-buying process. (McCargo, A., Choi, J., & Golding, E. 2019)

Who are the stakeholders in Caddo Parish that need to be engaged?

Involving local stakeholders such as housing counselors, financial institutions, schools, real estate agents, and faith-based organizations, *(McCargo, A., Choi, J., & Golding, E. 2019).*

- G. Enforcing existing fair housing and fair lending would help. Fair housing and fair lending goals must be included in policies, initiatives programs, and implemented at the national, state, and local levels. Supporting fair housing also includes equipping local fair housing organizations with the resources to work with stakeholders to enforce and ensure equitable housing markets. (McCargo, A., Choi, J., & Golding, E. 2019)

Example

Promote an equitable and accessible housing finance system by using technology to expand responsible credit in all communities and incorporate alternative data in credit history, such as rental payments and phone bills. Modernize the FHA insurance program (e.g., technology, operations) and expand FHA lending to black communities and responsibly expand small-dollar mortgages for purchase and renovation. (McCargo, A., Choi, J., & Golding, E. 2019, Page 4)

- H. We need new policies to produce fair and nondiscriminatory outcomes with our technological and data science methods uses in housing and finance. Discriminatory technology can have serious fair housing implications. (McCargo, A., Choi, J., & Golding, E. 2019)

Example

By speaking of a “discriminatory technology” we must mean a way of getting something done which produces a discriminatory effect. In this effect, there must be first discrimination in the moral sense of drawing distinctions in this particular case which is between persons or races. Pervasive discriminatory practices in technology hurt folk who do not speak or look like the people creating the technology. (Whitkower, 2018) So, if someone wants to discriminate against black folk trying to get approved for loans and buy homes, white folk can use program technology to do so.

- I. Support a public facility project in the CDBG-targeted areas of Shreveport or an underdeveloped area. (Consolidated Plan Shreveport, 2018)

Example

The City of Shreveport Department of Community Development Annual Action Plan, contains a range of objectives, goals, and calculated outcomes formulated to address needs identified for affordable housing, non-housing community development, and homelessness. (Consolidated Plan Shreveport, 2018)

The specific objectives included are to support permanent supportive housing units available to homeless populations, increase the viability for potential homeownership opportunities, increase the number of newly constructed homes available, Improve the condition of housing for low-moderate income homeowners, support public facility projects in CDBG targeted neighborhoods or an under-developed area, expand job creation opportunities by supporting businesses and individuals engaged in economic development activities, Revitalize housing conditions in low-income neighborhoods and strengthen the capacity of non-profits and faith-based housing developers to build affordable housing. (Consolidated Plan Shreveport, 2018)

- J. Alleviate the dangerous eyesores in the neighborhood, and make the vacant properties more attractive, safer, and secure. (Consolidated Plan Shreveport, 2018)

Example

Caddo Parish/Shreveport areas that are eyesore neighborhoods consist of neighborhoods/communities with rundown homes and buildings, abandoned homes and buildings, properties, and yards not manicured and polluted areas. These

eyesores lower the property value, are a health and safety risk, and are hard to sell homes and establish businesses in.

- K. Policies to expand job creation opportunities by supporting businesses and individuals engaged in economic development activities will promote an increase in homeownership because African Americans could make higher incomes to afford homeownership. We should create increased access financing for small businesses and Small Business Technical Assistance Programs. (Consolidated Plan Shreveport, 2018)

Example

Expansion of job creation is to get Caddo Parish to bring back major Corporations such as General Motors, General Electric, and Boots Pharmaceuticals or any Pharmaceutical company. Also, Caddo Parish can solicit other companies, such as Amazon and any other up-and-coming companies. Caddo Parish can also expand on existing companies such as Libby Glass Company. Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish should also solicit African American/ Black-owned (**specifically Foundational Black American**) corporations such as Dai Technologies, Derek Automotive, MIMS Motor Corporation, Aurora Solar, WeSolar, and Uncharted Power.

- L. Help restore the quality of life and housing conditions in low-income neighborhoods. Increase the livability of the citizens by becoming a healthy and active community. (Consolidated Plan Shreveport, 2018)

Policies produce fair and nondiscriminatory outcomes with our technological and data science methods in housing and finance.

M. Discriminatory technology can have serious effects on fair housing methods. There has been much growth in the technology and data science methods in the housing and financing arena. There has been an effort to improve the use of technology to improve systems, create better efficiencies, gauge consumer behavior, and expand product delivery. (Whitkower, 2018) Such as data used in algorithm-based systems, artificial intelligence, and the development of automated methods. Both technical and data science methods have ways that produce adverse outcomes in housing and finance. We must ensure these improvements are not being used for discrimination in the housing and finance process to discriminate towards minorities. We must ensure that new technology, data science methods, and developments do not continue rollover to exacerbate disparate and inequities outcomes. (Whitkower, 2018)

We should create increased access to financing for small businesses, especially for African American/Black-owned businesses and African American/Black-owned corporations. Expanding Small Business Technical Assistance Programs is recommended. Recommendation:

N. The DSDC (Downtown Shreveport Development Corporation) wants to help with the revitalization of downtown Shreveport. One of the ways we can help is through our low-interest loan program. This financial incentive design provides rehabilitation funds for small businesses, property owners, and interested in renovating downtown's older buildings. (Downtown Shreveport Development Corporation, 2020)

Having a good K-12 education experience is a crucial element to having a successful adulthood. The researcher thinks African Americans in Caddo Parish can benefit from improved education policies. Below are suggestions to improve education services in Caddo Parish.

- O. Effective tutoring models through national service programs, volunteers, fellowships, and high-quality virtual tutoring. Every low-performing student needs high-quality tutoring. Funding should come from federal funds and existing state and local funds. (Partelow, Brown, Shapiro, & Johnson, 2018)
- P. Since childhood hunger is still a major issue, free breakfast, and lunch should be offered to all students regardless of income. Free healthy food will help all students' nutritional health and save some embarrassment to the lower-income students. (Partelow, Brown, Shapiro, & Johnson, 2018)
- Q. Provide technical training and work-place experience combined with college preparatory academics. Students should be able to earn college credits and or professional certifications to prepare them for college and their careers. (Partelow, Brown, Shapiro, & Johnson, 2018) (Wyatt, 2019)
- R. Provide training and support, and pay higher wages to teachers, and recruit higher quality teachers. (Partelow, Brown, Shapiro, & Johnson, 2018)
- S. Ensure a healthy and safe school environment by providing enough security, school social workers, school psychologists, and school counselors. (Partelow, Brown, Shapiro, & Johnson, 2018)

Examples

- T. Reforming No Child Left Behind

The plan relieves states from the most onerous requirements in NCLB for states moving forward on critical reforms for students and educators. Obama released a blueprint for reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the legislation NCLB had reauthorized in March 2010 and called on Congress repeatedly to fulfill its obligation to repair the law and offer needed relief to state and local leaders, teachers, parents, and students. (Giving Every Child in America a Fair Shot at a Great Education, 2016)

U. Adopting World-Class Standards and Aligned, High-Quality Assessments

This plan involves adopting high academic standards that prepare all students for success in college and careers. This plan also involves implementing college- and career-ready standards and aligned assessments for their students. (Giving Every Child in America a Fair Shot at a Great Education, 2016)

V. Connecting America's Classrooms

In June 2013, President Obama unveiled a bold, new initiative called ConnectED to connect 99 percent of America's students to the Internet through high-speed wireless and broadband Internet. (Giving Every Child in America a Fair Shot at a Great Education, 2016)

Nearly all high-achieving public-school districts are part of a united, thriving community of economically secure middle-class families. (Hanauer, 2019) These middle-class families also have the sufficient political power to demand great schools, resources, and the time to participate in those schools, along with the tax money to steadily fund them. In other words, a thriving middle class produces great public schools and pays people

enough to secure dignified middle-class lives to have high-quality public schools and not be in poverty. (Hanauer, 2019)

Another factor that can reduce poverty is comprehending the single greatest driver of student achievement: household income. (Hanauer, 2019) Nearly all high-achieving public-school districts are part of a thriving community of economically secure middle-class families. These middle-class families also have the sufficient political power to demand great schools, resources, the time to participate in those schools, and the tax money to fund them steadily. In other words, a thriving middle class produces excellent public schools and pays people enough to secure dignified middle-class lives to have high-quality public schools without poverty. (Hanauer, 2019)

This section covers *Reparations*. Reparations for African Americans or Foundational Black Americans due to the Transatlantic Trade can be a factor in helping reduce poverty. Reparations should come in the form of Monetary Compensation (Forty Acres and a Mule, Special Field Orders 15), free College Education, accurate world history implemented in Education, better school funding in predominately African American schools K-12, more funding for our HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) academics and athletics, job opportunity specifically for the African American Community (with a guaranteed hiring percentage of HBCU graduates), funding and unique criteria for African Americans to purchase affordable homes in non-environmental hazardous areas and investing and funding for Black-owned businesses. Free College Education would attract more African Americans to attend college so they could have a better chance at gaining higher-paying jobs, which would get them out of poverty and unemployment. In Chapter 4.2 Research Question Two, the researcher also mentions the reparations bill introduced

by U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee, Texas's 18th congressional district, on January 3, 2019, to the House of Representatives for H.R. 40 Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act

This section covers *The Green New Deal*. The Green New Deal is a plan created by two congressional Democrats to overcome climate change. Representatives Ocasio-Cortez of New York and Markey of Massachusetts propose this plan to slowly move the U.S. from using fossil fuels and start using cleaner energy sources. (Friedman, 2019) Caddo Parish has particularly strong concentrations of employment in mining (oil and gas). However, this plan would not be enforced by law. Steering the U.S. from using fossil fuels and reducing global warming greenhouse gas emissions has not been popular. One major initiative of the plan is to guarantee high-paying careers in the clean energy industries. (Friedman, 2019)

Natural Gas Technician, Green Construction Scheduler, Environmental Field Technician, Hazardous Waste Technician, and Safety Coordinator are five environmental green jobs that are open to workers **who do not have a college degree**. (King, 2012)

A. **Natural Gas Technician**

Technical institutes usually offer one-year certificate programs that provide technical training in installing field equipment, conducting scientific tests, and monitoring drilling activities. (King, 2012, p. 1)

B. **Construction Scheduler**

Community colleges offer certificate programs that teach people how to use contractor software, contract law and blueprints, and technical specifications.

People should have some background in a construction-related field. (King, 2012, p. 1)

C. **Environmental Field Technician**

Technical institutes offer non-degree training on how to collect samples of water, soil, and air; erect equipment to monitor pollution levels; and prepare reports that explain test results. Some entry-level jobs in this field only require a high school diploma or GED. (King, 2012, p. 1)

D. **Hazardous Waste Technician**

Many organizations, companies, and agencies offer training programs approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Many workers complete training programs that employers sponsor and meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards. Nuclear decontamination requires a license obtained by completing 40 hours of training in compliance with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. (King, 2012, p. 1)

E. **Safety Coordinator**

Community and technical colleges offer one-year certificate programs in occupational safety. Some companies accept entry-level job seekers who do not have formal education in the field. They simply receive on-the-job training to ensure that employees comply with workplace safety standards. (King, 2012, p. 1)

Also, for people living in poverty, the objective of the Green New Deal is to have clean water, clean air, and healthier foods and to save the U.S. from damages caused by climate changes such as stronger and more damaging storms. (Friedman, 2019)

5.3 Research In A Broad Context

This study is essential to understanding in a broader context which includes structural inequality in jobs, wages, and sustainable careers for Blacks to raise their families, systemic redlining in Louisiana from 1939 to 2023, and incorporates President Joe Biden's Justice 40 Initiative, The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (BIF), to improve the quality of life for Blacks in Bossier Parish and Caddo Parish Louisiana.

5.3.1 Caddo Parish Labor Area Percentages: Caddo Parish employment percentages in Retail Trade is 12.9% and Government/Public Administration 7.2%. People receiving Retirement Income is 25%, and people receiving social security is 33%. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021) Shreveport employment percentages in Retail Trade is 7.2% and Government/Public Services 4.9%. (Louisiana Workforce Information Review 2021) For people in Caddo Parish who commute to work, 78% drove alone, 10.5% Carpooled, 0.8% took Public Transportation (No Taxi), 1.2% Walked, 2.7%, other and 6.6% worked from home.

Table 12: Caddo Parish and Shreveport Labor Force Participation by Age

Caddo Parish and Shreveport		
Labor Force Participation Rates by Age		
<u>2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates</u>		
	Shreveport	Caddo Parish
Age 16-19	29.6%	28.5%
Age 20-24	67.0%	67.8%
Age 25-29	79.8%	79.6%
Age 30-34	77.9%	78.3%
Age 35-44	79.8%	78.7%
Age 45-54	74.6%	74.5%
Age 55-59	63.7%	65.0%
Age 60-64	48.5%	50.0%
Age 65-74	28.2%	27.2%
Age 75+	6.9%	7.0%

Source: Louisiana Department of Labor in Shreveport, Louisiana - County Office (n.d.)

5.3.2 Relocations of Louisiana Locals: A study from the 2015 American Community Survey (updated 2019) showed which states people from Louisiana are moving to when they leave Louisiana. The top 10 states listed with the number of Louisiana migrants are below.

- 1. Texas 31,044, 2. Mississippi-8,678, 3. Florida-6,560, 4. California-6,324,**
- 5. Virginia-3,993, 6. Arkansas-3,601, 7. Georgia-3,277, 8. Colorado-3007,**
- 9. Tennessee-2,784, 10. North Carolina-2,632 (Larino, J. 2019)**

Texas is the closest state with a better economy than Louisiana and other neighboring states. Many of the researcher's friends and family have moved to Texas, with most living in Dallas, Houston, Austin, and San Antonio, Texas. The researcher moved from Caddo Parish and did not consider living elsewhere in Northwest Louisiana. The researcher moved to southern Louisiana and Houston, TX, because of limited employment opportunities in Caddo Parish and Southern Louisiana.

In terms of domestic migration, Louisiana is one of the least diverse states. In Louisiana, 4 out of 5 residents were born locally in the state, which shows there is little migration to the state. (Aisch, Gebeloff, & Quealy, 2014)

5.3.3 Shreveport, LA, Redlining: The Shreveport Redlining map was created in the year 1939. The map redlining Shreveport assisted local banks and lenders in ensuring that particular neighborhoods continued to be White and increasing in value. At the same time, the other communities experienced suppressed and retained minority residents in homes that were deteriorating. (United Way NWLA, 2021) To specify each area, The Shreveport Area Description Real Estate Report described the redlining map classifications of each neighborhood. Explicit racism turned into structural racism incorporated by the process of redlining. The results of the redlining maps still exist today, shown geographically and in wealth gaps. Black residents are nearly five times more likely to own a home in a formerly redlined area. Redlining has resulted in not only a decrease in home equity but also overall economic inequality of Black families. The effects of this type of structural racism are still felt in Caddo and Bossier Parish today. (United Way NWLA, 2021) Shreveport Redline Map below:

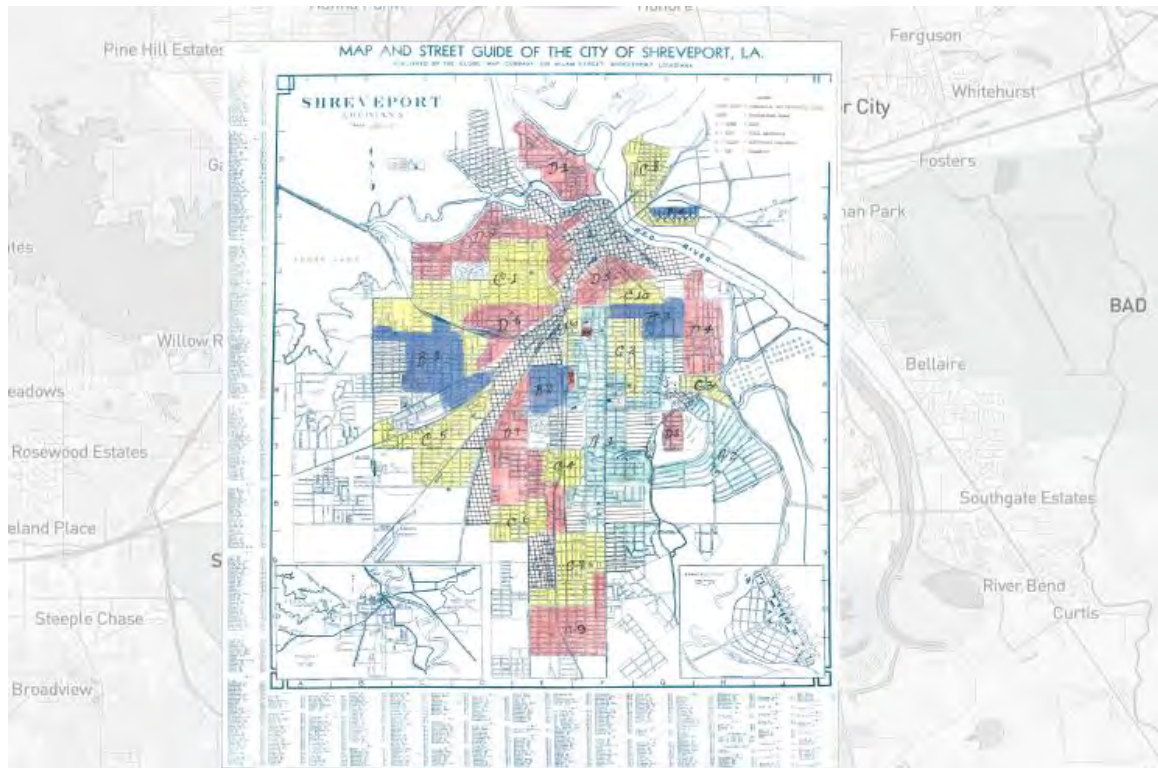


Figure 84: 1940 Shreveport, LA Redline Map

Source: United Way NWLA (2021)

Shreveport, La Area's by grade are labeled as Green 23% "Grade A Best", "Blue 11% B Still Desirable," "Yellow 34% C Definitely Declining", and "Red D Hazardous." (United Way NWLA. 2021) The Real Estate Redline Descriptive map describes the Green "A" Area Sections A1 and A2 have a 100% White population in the higher bracket of business professionals, moderately wealthy to wealthy residents. Blue "B" Still Desirable Area Sections describe Sections B1 to B4 as 100% White population medium to higher class salaried workers such as mechanics. Tradesmen, business executives, and merchants. (B4 located in Bossier City) (United Way NWLA. 2021)

Yellow "C" Area Definitely Declining Section C1 80% African American, 15% Foreign White, 5% Native Born White. Section C3 is 50% White and 50% African

American. The White population consists of a “good” (as described in the map key) class of salaried workers, and African Americans are domestic workers employed adjacent to White areas. Sections C2, C4, and C5 are 100% White population, with C2 having better class workers and C4 and C5 with middle-class salaried workers. Section C6 is 70% African American and 30% White composed of laborers, mechanics, and tradesmen. Section C7 is 90% and 10% Black, composed of middle-class salaried workers. Sections C8, C9, and C10 are 100% White in population. Section C8 is in Bossier City, made up of lower-bracket salary workers. Sections C9 and C10 are middle-class salaried workers with some business and professional workers. (United Way NWLA. 2021) Section D1 is 60% White and 40% Black low-income class of laborers and mechanics. Section D2 is 80% Black population, 10% native-born White, and 10% foreign-born Whites. These areas are composed of Black laborers and low-income workers. (United Way NWLA. 2021)

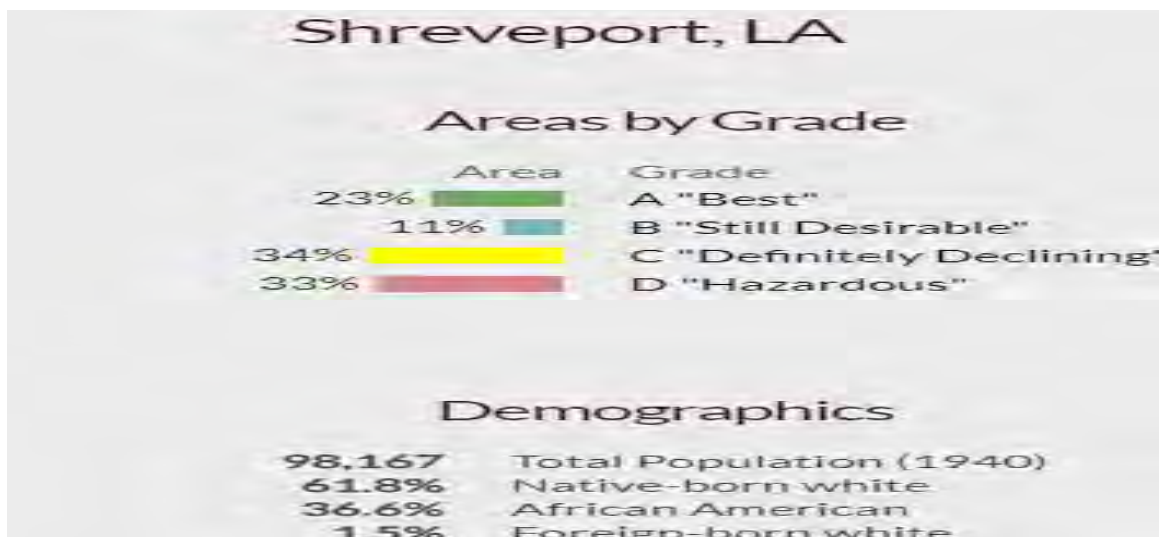


Figure 85: 1940 Descriptions of Areas by Grade and Demographics Shreveport, LA

Source: United Way NWLA (2021)

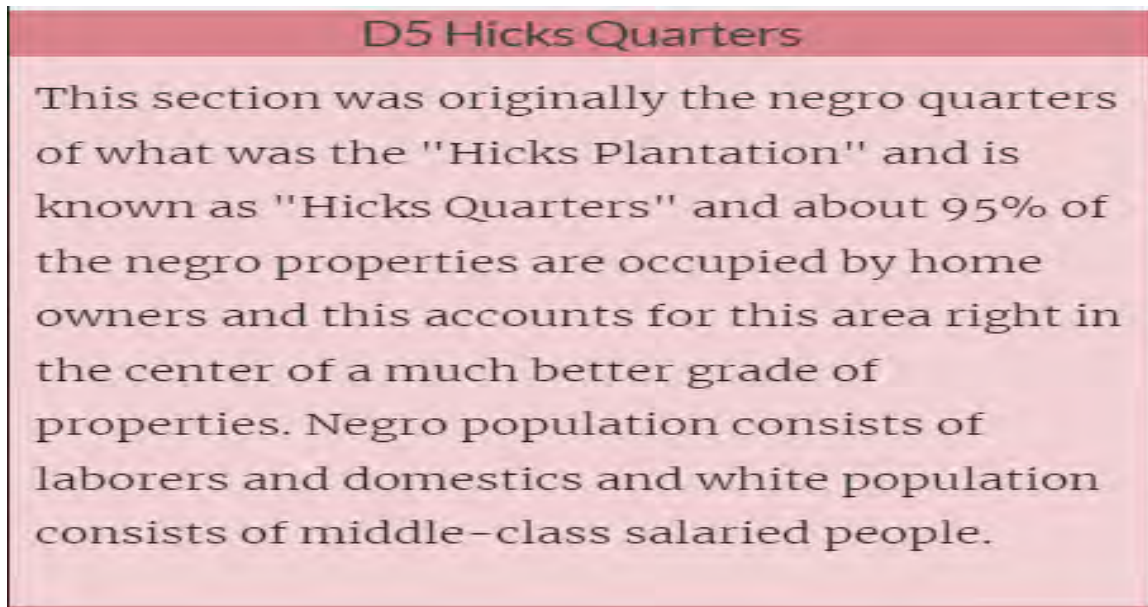


Figure 86: Description of Grade D Hazardous Area D5

Source: United Way NWLA (2021)

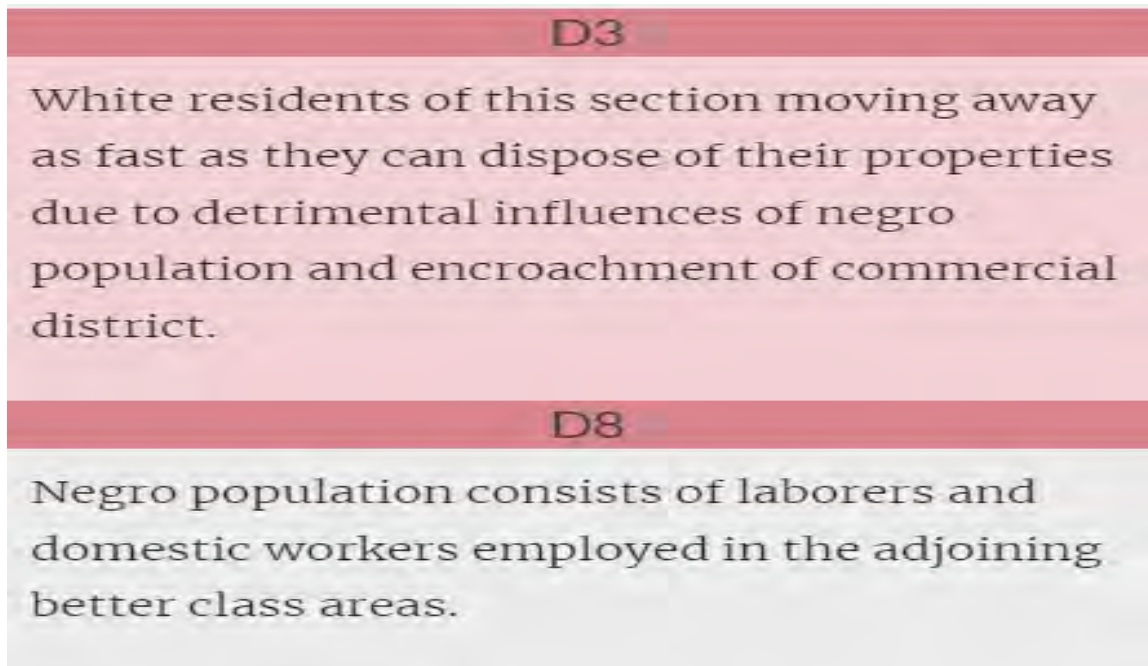


Figure 87: Description of Grade D Hazardous Area D3 and D8

Source: United Way NWLA (2021)

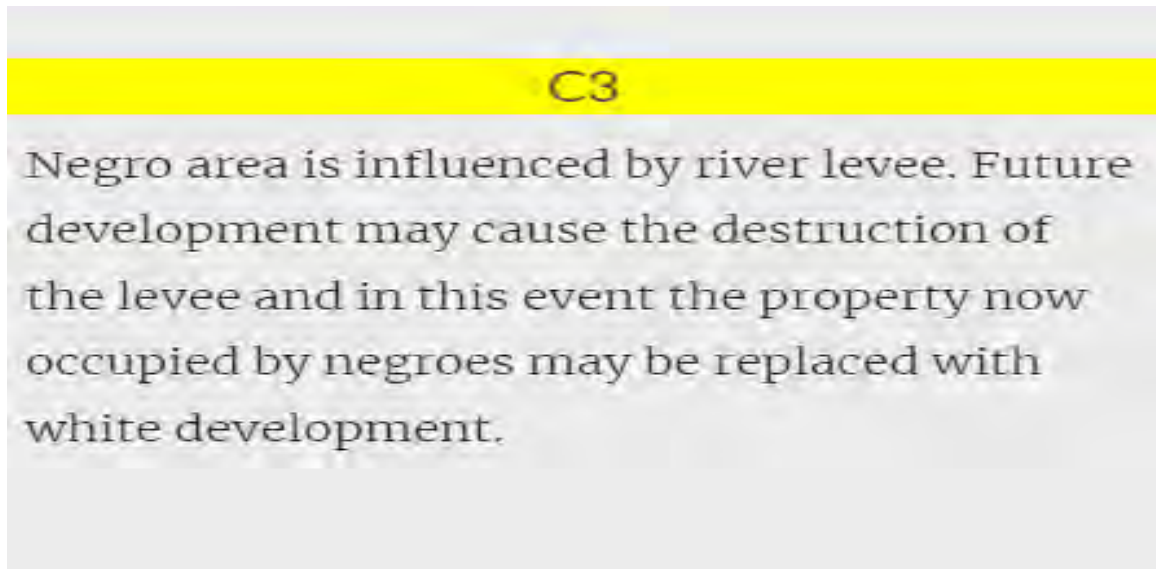


Figure 88: Description of Grade C Definitely Declining Area C3

Source: United Way NWLA (2021)

5.3.4 HBCUs and other University and Colleges in Northwest Louisiana: There are two Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in Northwest Louisiana: Southern University of Shreveport in Shreveport, LA, and Grambling State University in Grambling, Louisiana. HBCUs are 80% African American, with over 300,000 students in the United States. For more than 150 years, HBCUs have provided a nurturing environment and stability for students in danger of not completing college or most at risk of not entering college. For students and faculty, HBCUs provide diverse learning environments making sure every student has the opportunity to succeed. HBCUs provide chances for first-generation and low-income college students, with more than 70% qualifying for federal Pell Grants and 80% receiving federal loans. (Lomax, 2020)

This section covers *Southern University of Shreveport-HBCU*. Southern University of Shreveport, Louisiana, or SUSLA junior college, is an HBCU in Shreveport located in the Martin Luther King Area. SUSLSA opened for instruction on September

19, 1967. SUSLA offers a selection of associate degrees, certificates, and technical diplomas. The student population enrolled at SUSLA is Black/African American 89.9%, White 5.54%, Hispanic or Latino 1.79%, Two or More Races 1.19%, Asians 0.299%, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Island 0.166%, and American Indian or Alaskan Native 0.133. (*Southern University at Shreveport. Data USA, 2021*) There were a total of 225 degrees awarded in undergraduate and graduate programs in 2020. African Americans were the most common ethnicity population\race with 12 times more degrees with 212 degrees. White students were the next closest group to obtain 17 degrees. Also, in 2020, women were awarded 73.3% of the degrees, and men 26.7% of the degrees. (*Southern University at Shreveport. Data USA, 2021*)

Total enrolment is 3013 students, full-time 1325 (44%) and part-time 1,688 (56%). Full-time undergraduate students at SUSLA are Black/African Females 61.9%, Black Males 28.1%, and White Females 3.62%. There are no graduate students. (*Southern University at Shreveport. Data USA, 2021*)

The nursing program is very popular at SUSLA. The most common job that degreed SUSLA graduates have is nursing, one of the five most specialized majors at SUSLA. The top specialized major is Registered Nurses (1,383,731 people).

The next most specialized group is Accountants & Auditors (1,063,938), Other Managers (782,751 people), Software developers (546,831 people), and Finance Managers (470,619). The most specialized majors are Health (132 Degrees), Liberal Arts & Humanities (45 Degrees), Business (41 Degrees), Protective Services (21 Degrees Awarded), and Computer and Information Sciences and Supportive Services (10 Degrees).

The highest paying jobs for SUSLA Degree holders are Surgeons, Physicians, Skincare specialists, Radio Disc jockeys, Broadcast announcers, and magnetic resonance imaging technologists. Men are 17 times more than one female to be an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT Paramedic), and females are 9.75 times more than four males to be Registered Nurses. (Southern University at Shreveport. Data USA, 2021, p. 1)

This section covers *Grambling State University-HBCU*. Grambling State University, or GSU, also an HBCU, is a higher learning education institution located 64.6 miles from Shreveport, LA, in Grambling, LA. African American is the most common race to receive degrees, with 663 degrees in 2020. There were 768 degrees awarded across all of the undergraduates and graduates in 2020. There were 5,438 students enrolled, of which 4,269 (78.5%) were full-time and 1,169 (21.5%). The student demographics are 90.5% Black/African American, 1.97% Two or more races, 0.754% White, 0.147% American Indian or Alaska Native, 0.129% Asian, and 0% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. (*Grambling State University*. Data USA, 2021) The largest number of full-time undergraduate students are Black/African American Females at 57.3%, followed by African American Male 32.5%. The largest graduate group is Black/African American Females at 57.9%, followed by African American Male 28.1%. (Grambling State University Data USA, 2021)

The most popular career out of GSU's five most specialized majors is Social worker, all others (165,935 people). Next is Other Managers (143,670 people), Police Officers (137,612 people), Elementary & middle school teachers (133,672 people), and Judge, & Lawyers, magistrates, & other judicial workers (130,235 people). (Grambling State University Data USA. 2021, p. 1)

GSU's most specialized majors are Protected Services (199 Degrees), Parks, Recreation, & Leisure (74 Degrees), Public Administration and Social Services (75 Degrees), Engineering Technologies (46 Degrees), and History (14 Degrees). (Grambling State University. Data USA. 2021, p. 1)

Physicians, Cardiovascular technologists and technicians, Surgeons, Computer hardware engineers, and Clinical and counseling psychologists are the highest paying jobs for those with degrees in those most specialized majors. (Grambling State University Data USA, 2021)

This section covers *Centenary College of Louisiana*. Centenary College of Louisiana, located in Shreveport, LA, has 563 enrolled students, of which 548 (97.3%) are full-time, and 17 (2.7%) are part-time. For undergraduate and graduate students 63.6% are White, 17.2 Black/African American, 9.59% Hispanic or Latino, 3.55% Two or more races, and 1.07% Asian. Students enrolled in full-time graduate programs are White Males 100%. In 2020, 84 Degree holders were White, and 18 were Black/African American. (Centenary College of Louisiana Data USA, 2021) There was no breakdown in degrees in racial demographics.

This section covers *Louisiana Tech University*. Louisiana Tech University, or LA Tech, is a higher institution of learning located 67.4 miles outside of Shreveport, in Ruston, La, in Lincoln Parish. In 2020, there were 11,126 students enrolled at LA Tech. Full-time students numbered 8570 (77%) and 2556 (23%) part-time. Undergraduate and graduate students represent 71.3% White and 11.1% Black/African American, 3.9% Hispanic or Latino, 2.98% Two or More Races, 1.38% Asian, 0.422% American Indian or Alaska

Native, and 0.0629% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders. (Louisiana Tech University Data USA, 2021) There was no breakdown in degrees in racial demographics.

This section covers *Louisiana State University-Shreveport*. Louisiana State University-Shreveport, or LSUS, is located in Shreveport, LA. The most common Bachelor's Degree is in General Business Administration & Management. In 2020, the total student enrollment was 9,955. LSUS has a full-time enrollment of 3,507 (35.2%) students and a part-time enrollment of 6,448 (64.8) students. Undergraduate and graduate students enrollment is 46.8% White, 19.9% Black/African American, 6.63% Hispanic or Latino, 3.72% Two or More Races, 2.7% Asian, 0.382% American Indian or Alaska Native, and 0.211% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders. The most common graduate students enrolled are White Females (25.6%), White Males (18.6%), and Black/African American Females (15.2%). (Louisiana State University-Shreveport Data USA, 2021) There was no breakdown in degrees in racial demographics.

This section covers *Bossier Parish Community College*. Bossier Parish Community College, or BPCC, is a higher education institution 13 miles outside of Shreveport, La, located in Bossier City. In 2020, The most common degree recipients were Whites with 1,182, degrees and Black/African Americans with 568 degrees. BPCC has a total student enrollment of 6,090. Full-time student enrollment is 2,892 (47.5%), and part-time enrollment is 3,198 (5.25%) students. (Bossier Parish Community College Data USA, 2021)

BPCC enrolled student population for undergraduate, and graduate is 45.8% White, 38.4% Black/African American, 5.17% Hispanic or Latino, 4.42% Two or More Races,

2.64% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, 0.837% Asian, and 0.624% American Indian or Alaska Native.

Most common students enrolled in full-time undergraduate programs are White Females (30.1%), Black/African Females (27.6%), and White Males (17%). There are no graduate programs. (Bossier Parish Community College Data USA, 2021) There was no breakdown in degrees in racial demographics. (Bossier Parish Community College Data USA, 2021)

This section covers *Northwestern State University*. Northwestern State University is a higher education institution located in Natchitoches, LA, 75.2 miles from Shreveport, LA. The most popular degrees in 2020 were Registered Nursing with 258 degrees, General Studies with 126 degrees, and General Business Administration & Management with 123 degrees. There were 6,396 (55.9%) full-time students and 5,051 (44.1%) part-time students. Student demographics for both undergraduate and graduate are White 57.2%, Black/African American 26.9%, Hispanic or Latino 6.13%, Two or more races 4.53%, American Indian or Native Alaskan 1.31%, Asian 1.11%, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander 0.0961%. The most common undergraduate program students are White Females 36.1%, Black/African American Females 22.3%, and White Males 14.9%. The most common Graduate students are White Females 40.8%, White Males 18.9%, and Black/African American Females 18%. (Northwestern State University of Louisiana Data USA, 2023)

5.3.5 Louisiana Black Farmers: There were nearly a million Black farmers in 1920, and today there are just 45,000. In 1920, the number of Black farmers in the U.S. peaked at 949,889. Today, American farmers total 3.4 million, and only 45,508, or 1.3%,

are Black, according to recent data from the US Department of Agriculture released in April 2019. They own a small portion of U.S. farmland at 0.52%. To compare, 95% of America's farmers are White. (Sewell, 2019) White farmers tend to make \$190,000 annually, and Black farmers make less than \$40,000 annually, and this is probably due to the average acreage of the White farmers a much larger. Black Farmers experience denied loans for their businesses. John Boyd Jr., a Black Farmer in Baskerville, Virginia, filed six complaints against a loan officer for discriminatory practices and treatment. After the USDA Civil Rights Office of Virginia investigated the officer, Boyd filed and won the first-ever discrimination lawsuit against the USDA. The lawsuit encouraged other Black farmers to do the same since they were experiencing the same mistreatment. (Sewell, 2019) Boyd founded the National Black Farmers Association in 1995 after meeting with other Black farmers. John Boyd Jr. and 400 other Black farmers sued the USDA in 1997. The lawsuit was Pigford vs. Glickman, which alleged that from 1981 to 1997, complaints from ignored Black farmers of their loans denied and other support because of rampant discrimination by USDA officials. The government settled in 1999 and awarded over 16,000 Black farmers \$50,000 each, equaling \$1bn. Still, more Black farmers were unaware of the lawsuit and left out. Boyd became an advocate for over 80,000 late claimants. In December 2010, President Obama signed a bill authorizing \$1.25bn in compensation for the late settling of the Pigford II lawsuit. (Sewell, 2019) Some of those farmers were from Louisiana, such as Jerry Lee Amerson from Shreveport, who was discriminated against by the UDSA. (Childers, 2010)

Boyd's National Black Farmers Association (NBFA) met in Shreveport, LA, for its 28th Annual Conference in November 2018. The free annual two-day conference is a

chance for Black farmers to form a network support system and outline the USDA resources that are available for their use. (Sewell, 2019)

Louisiana farmers are upset about the last several decades of shrinking land they are able to lease because of their claims of racist politics. (Chatlani, 2021) Farmers say they “continue to lose land leases with White property owners who prefer to work with new, often White farmers who have better equipment and resources.” (Chatlani, 2021, p. 1) Also, when Black farmers go to the USDA and apply for a million-dollar loan, they receive only \$200,000. They start losing land, and yields go down. Multiple Louisiana Black farmers said they could barely get resources. (Chatlani, 2021)

5.3.6 Black Heir Property in The U.S. and Northwest Louisiana: In the U.S., the leading cause of Black “involuntary land loss” has been the loss of heirs’ property. From the years 1910 to 1997, 90% of the loss of Black-owned farmland nationwide has been due to Black involuntary land loss, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. There are many complications with heirs’ property. When a landowner or property owner dies and does not have estate planning in place or a will for the transfer of ownership of land to another party before death, heirs’ property is created. In the case of first-generation Black landowners/property owners, it is common for them not to have access to the legal system. The land/property gets informally passed to the heirs of the owner who is died. As each generation changes hands many times, the original owner’s name is listed on the deed, proving ownership becomes increasingly challenging. Heirs’ wanting to farm the land run into complications, such as being unable to participate in USDA programs because one must provide proof of ownership to obtain a farm number. (Fahy, 2022) Farm numbers make owners to be eligible for USDA programs, including lending, participation in county

committees, and disaster relief programs. Recently the 2018 Farm Bill was passed because of the long hard fight of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives (Born out of the Civil Rights Era to save Black-owned farms and land) for heirs to obtain a farm number and qualify for USDA programs. (Fahy, 2022)

There are more complications when there is more than one heir, and they have different interests in the property. All the heirs own a proportional stake in the land/property, so all heirs must agree on decisions regarding the property, and with each death, the number of heirs increases. In some cases, some heirs' want to sell their stake of interests, so they bring a lawsuit to force the sale to resolve their heirship. Furthermore, there are instances where one heir has sold their stake without the other heirs knowing these developers exploit families. Developers use this lack of cooperation and clarity to their advantage to purchase one heir's stake and force land sales in court. (Fahy, 2022)

Northwest Louisiana is no stranger to the heirs' property debacles. In a particular instance, a man named Fred Wardlaw, heirs' property from his grandparents, was being forced into Sheriff Sale/land auction. The mortgage was paid off, there were no taxes owed, and no other heirs' or family members wanted to sell the property. The court was involved. A system of centuries-old laws took land from families, especially Black families. Wardlaw is a descendant and one of the heirs of a formerly enslaved man named Jacob Loud, who acquired 160 acres of land in the mid-1850s. According to legal papers in 1999, a white man named W.G. Dowden was not a member of the family nor related to the family and brought a partition action in the court. The issue arose on June 30th, 1980, when Mr. Wardlaw's great uncle John sold his one-twenty-fifth share of ownership to two white men,

who then sold it to W.G. Dowden, who later sold it to Timberland Services in 1992. (NPR, 2021)

Uncle John's stake was 4%. Once brought into court, the Judge had multiple options to resolve the matter. One option was to have parties agree on what 4% to give to Timberland services. Instead, the Judge's verdict was to have every party sell the land and split the proceeds among everyone who jointly owned the land. The sheriff put the notice in the local paper ,and the auction to sell the land went up. So, a party can have one heir sell one-twenty-fifth of their stake and lose 100% of the land/property. (NPR, 2021) This process has happened to many Black heirs' family members in the U.S., not just in Northwest Louisiana. To add insult to injury, a lawyer named Thomas Mitchell discovered that this law was not in a single property law casebook or treatise. From 1910-2000 this practice was performed against Black families. Black families were frozen out by the banks and government programs until being foreclosed on or just run off by violence. If a local or a developer sees this, it is easy pickings because it is a courthouse auction listed in the local paper, so not many people know. Then no one is allowed to inspect the land ahead of time. Lastly, anyone who wants to purchase has to do so with 100%, cash making it difficult for the losing families to come up with the cash to repurchase the property. (NPR, 2021)

Thomas Mitchell, who later became a law professor, stated, "a lot of people conceded that it was unjust - but they said the law exists the way it exists because African Americans - heirs' property owners - fundamentally lack economic and political power, and the law is going to serve the interests of those who are more powerful, including those who want to take the land from these African Americans." (NPR, 2021, p. 1) Mr. Mitchell fought to change the heirs' property unjust law system. In 2011, Mitchell began to succeed,

and the legal languages his team wrote up to fix the heirs' property system was changed in Nevada, and then Georgia changed a law in 2012. Seventeen states adopted Mitchell's law. Eight of the seventeen Southern states adopted the laws, but Louisiana did not. Eventually, Louisiana only changed that if an heir owns less than 20% of the property, the court cannot force the sale of all the property. The timberland company eventually purchased all of the Wardslaw's property. (NPR, 2021)

5.3.7 Black Homeownership gap and devaluation in Shreveport: Black homeownership in Shreveport, La, is widening between Blacks vs. Whites. According to the National Community Reinvestment Coalition Home Mortgage Report, Private mortgage lending companies are struggling to meet Black households' needs, contributing to the significant homeownership gap. The NCRC Report also indicates that the laws intended to increase access to credit, and the private mortgage market have not helped achieve the Black community's homeownership rates. (Stacker, 2022) Many people of color living in credit deserts, including African Americans in Shreveport, La, which are affected by compounding the issue of the homeownership gap. It is challenging to obtain homes with little access to mainstream credit, which results in absence or low credit scores. Shreveport's Black homeownership gap is 22.1%, 76 lowest among all metro areas. (Stacker, 2022)

Owner-occupied homes equal home appreciation, contributing to higher home values, and owners create wealth. The Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan area Black communities experience devaluation of owner-occupied housing. Acquiring homes is more accessible due to devaluation, but once purchased, the buyer is at a clear disadvantage if the home, does not appreciate. The owner, who usually can benefit from selling at a higher

value, refinancing, or borrowing against the home can't when the home is experiencing devaluation. Devaluation also affects rental property owners and how much they can charge renters. (Perry, Rothwell, & Harshbarger, 2022) In comparing home values in majority neighborhoods with those where less than 1% of the residents are Black, there is a -9.6 percent difference in the Shreveport-Bossier City area and an absolute price difference of -\$15,308. (Perry, Rothwell, & Harshbarger, 2022)

5.3.8 Justice 40 Initiative: Under the Justice 40 Initiative, the U.S. Federal Government's goal is to contribute 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal Investments circulated to disadvantaged communities that are underserved, marginalized, and overburdened by pollution. President Biden signed Executive Order 14008 quickly after taking office. Certain Federal Investments fall under categories such as remediation and reduction of legacy pollution, clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transit, climate change, affordable housing, sustainable housing, critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure development, and training and workforce development. All categories can benefit Caddo and Bossier Parish and also all of Louisiana. (The White House, 2022) Every program covered under Justice 40 is mandated to engage in stakeholder consultation. Furthermore, community stakeholders are required to be involved in deciding program benefits, and those programs covered must have a data report on how the benefits get to disadvantaged communities. The program should include the disadvantaged communities in Caddo and Bossier Parish, which require addressing decades of underinvestment and environmental justice needs. Justice 40 benefits can address Caddo and Bossier Parish's critical needs of affordable and sustainable housing, infrastructure, sprawl, and training and workforce development. To advance Environmental Justice, Federal agencies are making

investments in President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act, and American Rescue Plan. (The White House, 2022)

5.3.9 The Inflation Reduction Act: The Inflation Reduction Act is a promise that President Biden delivered on building an economy that works for working-class families, which include communities that have been underserved and underinvested for years. This act includes major investments in environmental justice and establishing certain new environmental justice grant programs. The Inflation Reduction Act is to beat back special interest backed by President Biden and Congressional Democrats to advance environmental justice while building a cleaner future, lowering energy costs, and growing from the bottom up and middle out. (The White House, 2022) The Inflation Reduction Act will benefit Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish’s disadvantaged community’s cost of living disparities. The economic growth will help generate jobs for producing goods and services in the study area.

5.3.10 Bipartisan Infrastructure: President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (Public Law 117-58, also known as the “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law”) into law, which will assist with Federal investment in infrastructure. The ACT will include resilience, mass transit, roads, bridges, water infrastructure, and broadband. The law provides \$550 billion over fiscal years 2022 through 2026. These funds could bring better infrastructure, lower emissions from trucks, remedy the street dysconnectivity issues, and more jobs (Green jobs) to the Caddo and Bossier Parish area. The Bipartisan Infrastructure will also address legacy pollution matter, extreme weather resiliency concerns, water infrastructure and eliminate lead service piping, and climate change in the study area (U.S. Department of Federal Highway Administration, 2023)

5.3.11 Green Banks: Green Banks or Green Investment Banks are financial firms whose mission is to transition to clean and sustainable energy technologies by using innovative financing techniques and other tools to combat climate change. (Gary, 2022) The job of the Green Banks is to invest in renewable energy sources, smart power networks, and electric automobiles. Green Banks stop financing fossil fuels and scale up low-carbon technology to attract eco-conscious investors and government agencies. These types of funding help Green Banks go after greater national and global climate goals. (Gary, 2022)

Green Bank's goals are to combat the effects of climate change. The effect of climate change and polluting industries have been detrimental to the Black community and has affected them disproportionately in Louisiana and nationwide. Green Banks can benefit Black people because "African Americans need clean air, clean water, healthy food, high-quality jobs, clean energy, green and affordable transportation, and access to safe, natural environments." (Bullard, 2018, p. 1) Green Banks contributing to "The Green New Deal Resolution is a positive step that presents climate solutions to move the United States in the right direction toward a just, clean energy economy for all—solutions that eliminate greenhouse gases, create millions of high-wage American jobs (especially African Americans), build green and accessible public transportation, reduce poverty and inequality, promote equal protection of workers, frontline communities and vulnerable populations, and provide safeguards against climate and related environmental health threats." (Bullard, 2018, p. 1) These positive outcomes from the transitions would have huge and positive impacts on African Americans. Green banking will attract eco-conscious investors to Caddo and Bossier Parish. Green Banks invest in renewable energy systems, smart power networks, and electric automobiles. (Gary, 2022) These investments also

equal more jobs, and notable can bring electric automobile manufacturing jobs to replace the loss of General Motors jobs. Investment in sustainable low-carbon businesses will attract middle-class society to the study area.

5.3.12 Gaming in the Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan Area: In a 2019 interview with Professor David Hoass of Centenary College, he provided important information regarding the gaming industry in Shreveport-Bossier City. He explained that “the gaming industry in Shreveport-Bossier City had been stable with the opening of Margaritaville’s arrival. However, the market has not expanded, and that ultimately affects jobs. When casinos came 25 years ago, there was a real boom in unskilled labor. People began working for casinos that did not have advanced degrees and who previously worked more physical labor jobs. (Ferrell, 2019) During the interview, he continued to explain that he did not think things had gotten worse for unskilled laborers in the metropolitan area. However, he didn’t think there were ongoing impacts in an instance where things continued to improve every year. Professor Hoass explained that the local government gets its fair share of money produced from the casinos, and when the casinos started paying better other jobs had to increase their pay. Bossier City's Casino revenues financed Bossier City’s CenturyLink building (a multi-event center). Furthermore, it was supposed to be a boon for education, but he had not seen a lot of dollars go toward the education movement, and if it had, then it had to be a very subtle movement. He could not see bad money use but hadn’t seen what gaming has done for the area. (Ferrell, 2019)

According to the Louisiana Casino Association, state gaming taxes that generated from riverboat casinos fund essential state services, including teacher salaries, elementary and secondary schools, police and fire protection, and highway construction. Louisiana

State Police receives 40% of its annual budget from riverboat gaming taxes. Louisiana would have higher taxes if the riverboat gaming tax revenue did not help fund many essential government services. (Louisiana Casino Association, n.d.) Most of the gaming taxes collected by Louisiana get deposited into the state general fund then monies are dispersed at the preference of the Louisiana Legislature each year. Once any business, including casinos in Louisiana, gives taxes over, they have no control over fund spending. (Louisiana Casino Association, n.d.)

There was a dissertation study in 1997 that performed linear multiple regression models with a single quantitative dependent variable used to evaluate the empirical relationship between independent variables and teachers' salaries. Data were collected for a five-year period before and after Louisiana began the lottery. One model attempts to evaluate the impact of the lottery on elementary and secondary teachers' salaries. A second model attempted to measure any differences in university salaries before and since the adoption of the lottery. The impact of the lottery on teachers' salaries is analyzed using 1986-1995 data collected from 66 school systems within the state. A second data set collected from 16 public universities in Louisiana analyzed the lottery's impact on the salaries of university teachers during the same periods. The two periods studied are 1986-1990 and 1991-1995. (Melancon, 1997, p. 59) A sample of 2,160 observations was collected for the elementary and secondary teachers. The university teachers' model includes 6,338 observations. (Melancon, 1997, p. 59) The study revealed that the Louisiana lottery revenues **did not** affect teachers' salaries among elementary and secondary teachers. In contrast, **empirical findings rejected the second hypothesis**. The lottery **did affect** the university teachers but slightly. There was **no significant** difference

in university teachers' salaries before and after Louisiana adopted the lottery. The dollar impact of this variable on university teachers' salaries is \$2.49 per year or about \$.20 a month. Inferences should reflect whether the variable's contribution is relevant. Lottery revenues do not appear to be relevant to university salaries. The rejection of the null may be attributable to model misspecification. (Melancon, 1997, p. 138) **Education and experience** positively correlate with salaries in both models. An added dimension to university teachers' salaries was the rank of the teacher. Education and experience positively correlate with salaries in both models. (Melancon, 1997, p. 140 & 141)

The last 25 years have seen increased competition, which meant there was a limit to growth. With the Indian tribe casinos in Oklahoma and casinos in Mississippi, the gaming industry in Shreveport-Bossier City Area has seen much decline in business. There has been a loss of 1,378 jobs to the area's gaming industry, with no foreseeable gains of any more jobs. (Ferrell, 2019) In the Louisiana Outlook for 2020 and 2021, LSU economist Loren Scott wrote, "no hope that there will be an arresting of the downward employment trend in this industry." (Ferrell, 2019, p. 1) Job loss is not the only concern. Harrah's Louisiana Downs and the six casinos' gross revenue fell \$67.2 million at the time, or a 9.1% decline. In 2022 the local market declined about 13% compared to 2021. (Ferrell, 2019) (Lofton, 2022)

5.3.13 Civil Rights Era to benefit Blacks in Shreveport and the rest of

Louisiana: It took more than 100 years and not just laws after the America Civil War to make rights real for Blacks in the U.S. Civil rights activist in the 1950s, 1960s, and through the 1970s inherited fearlessness, courage, and resilience and passed it on during the years. The Civil rights activist trail went through Louisiana, and these activists heroically

strategized, marched, boycotted, sat down, stood up, preached, and sang for change. They dedicated their lives to making real change possible and making rights real for themselves and future generations in Louisiana and the rest of the U.S. To make these changes possible, it took the nation's first sit-ins in New Orleans on Canal Street, the bus boycott in Baton Rouge, and Bogalusa's 105-mile march to the state capital in Louisiana to spearhead the Modern Civil Rights Movement. In the 1950s and 1960s, Black commercials thrived in Louisiana, like on Texas avenue in Shreveport, LA, and were rich in culture and opportunity. (Louisiana Civil Rights Trail, n.d.) Being home to many Black businesses in the 1950s and 1960s, including several restaurants, bakeries, haberdashers, drug stores, the Star Theatre, and the Shreveport Star. In 1979 Texas Avenue was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. In Shreveport, restaurants weren't just places to dine, churches didn't just serve as places of worship and fellowship, and beauty salons weren't just for servicing one's look. However, these establishments acted as organizing places for civil rights meetings. Civil rights activists held their primary meetings at Little Union Baptist Church (the church the researcher attended) and The Old Galilee Baptist Church in Shreveport. Little Union Baptiste Church was a central ground for civil rights activists in the 1960s. Under the leadership of Rev. Claude Clifford McLain, who served for 32 years, he made his church a site for mass civil rights meetings to boycott hiring practices by downtown stores. The famous Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. made his last public appearance at Little Union Baptist Church, delivering his speech from the pulpit at a voter registration rally. (Louisiana Civil Rights Trail, n.d.) Dr. King also spoke in Galilee Baptist Church in Shreveport, LA, in 1958, discussed in a film documentary "Beyond Galilee" by The North Louisiana Civil Rights Coalition and co-producer T.D. Antoine and written by co-producer

Joey Kent. (Pointer, 2018) Anne Brewster and Mamie Love Wallace were civil rights leaders, along with owners and beauticians of The Modern Beauty Shop, who hosted voter registration workshops and political forums. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette in Lafayette, LA, formerly known as Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute and The University of Southwest Louisiana (USL) (where the researcher graduated ungraduated school), was previously an all-Whites school and state-supported College in the South. The university peacefully desegregated after winning a lawsuit allowing Black students to attend in 1954 and then play sports. Four older students spearheaded this movement. (Louisiana Civil Rights Trail, n.d.) These types of movements helped put in place The Civil Rights Act of 1964. The movements led to the legal end to the Jim Crow Era (even though some remanence still exists in Louisiana), and it allowed African Americans equal access to restaurants, jobs, public facilities, and transportation. The Civil Rights Act of 1968, along with The Voting Right Act of 1965, expanded the protections of housing and voting. (Leffler, 2014)

5.3.14 North Louisiana Racism vs. South Louisiana Racism: The Republican Party controlled the Louisiana Congress five years after the American Civil War, aiming to push strong civil rights legislation to secure Blacks' political rights. After the abolishment of American Slavery, the Fourteenth Amendment was to guarantee Blacks the same rights of citizenship and equal protection under the law. The federal government assisted Blacks by establishing nearly 4,000 schools for Blacks in the South. Furthermore, over 1500 Black Americans ran for state and national office representatives. (Brown, 2022) Many White Louisianans worked to reverse the progress of Blacks made during Reconstruction in the late 1800s. The Jim Crow era gradually institutionalized before 1880

during Reconstruction. The Louisiana legislature began implanting the “Black Codes Law” in 1865 to form the foundation for racial segregation. Black Codes regulated and restricted the movement of enslaved people. They restored the southern social order of Whites and Blacks before the American Civil War, where Whites occupied a higher status over Blacks. Black Codes were in every parish of Louisiana but aggressively enforced in the Northern and Eastern parishes of Louisiana. Black Code Laws put limits on Blacks, such as the type of businesses Blacks could own, times they could travel downtown, no more than three Blacks could gather in one place and gave regular White citizens authority over Blacks when police were not on duty.

The freedom was mainly due to the large racial demographics in Southern Louisiana and particularly New Orleans. (Brown, 2022) New Orleans had three identifiable racial groups, Whites, free people of color, and enslaved people of African descent. Free people of color in New Orleans were usually of mixed-race heritage. They commonly enjoyed measures of freedom in their social interactions and business not found in the rest of Louisiana. (Brown, 2022)

Louisiana sent several Black politicians to the House of representatives at the start of Reconstruction. P.B.S. Pinchback was a Black governor who served from 1872 to 1873. However, upon the federal troop removal from Louisiana, all Black politicians were defeated, and federal intervention on behalf of Blacks also seemed to disappear. Black men were strong supporters of the Republican Party, so the Democratic formed a plan to completely remove the Republican Party from the South by 1890. Despite the rights Blacks gained by the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, the Democratic party put in requirements and clauses that prevented Black people from registering to vote. The

political process was systematically taken away from Blacks and then Social segregation. Louisiana passed one of the first laws preventing rights to Black men from voting registration rights. Now Louisiana segregated schools, restaurants, nightclubs, public facilities for adults, cemeteries, amusement parks, playgrounds, trains, jails, hospitals, armed forces, jury duty, churches, and institutions (some institutions excluded Blacks altogether). White people received priority over Black people in every instance. (Brown, 2022)

In Northern Louisiana, lynchings dramatically increased after the 1900s, especially in Caddo, Quachita, and Morehouse Parishes. More than half of the lynchings in Louisiana happened north of Alexandria between 1900 and 1930. Most statistical details were a bit skewed due to the fact northern parish police officials did not consider lynchings a homicide. These lynchings helped to enforce Jim Crow. (Brown, 2022)

The Civil Rights Movement led to the Jim Crow Era's demise even though some Jim Crow laws were in effect in Northwest Louisiana. Along with World War II, the Civil Rights Movement ushered in key successes over racial segregation that continued in Louisiana and other southern states. 1950s and 1960s. The Civil Rights act outlawed discrimination based on race and segregation in restaurants, hotels, schools, and universities. Louisiana didn't fully integrate public schools until the 1970s. The Jim Crow era effect has had a staying power that has left Blacks in extreme poverty in Louisiana, especially in north Louisiana. (Brown, 2022)

5.3.15 Cost of Living in Shreveport, Bossier, and Baton Rouge (2.5.4): Refer back to Figure 12 (Chapter 2.5.4): Cost of Living in Largest Cities of Study Area Parishes.

5.3.16 Poverty Gaps in Caddo and Bossier Parish: From Figure 4 in Chapter 2.3 Past 30 Years Poverty in Caddo Parish vs. Bossier Parish Black vs. White. Looking at Caddo Poverty from 2010-2020, one can see that the Poverty gap increased between Blacks vs. Whites over this period. In 2010, the poverty percentage gap was 19.3%, with Black poverty being 29.40% and Whites Poverty at 10.10%. The lowest percentage of poverty gap from 2010-2020 was 16.9% in 2011, and the largest gap was in 2017, with a 27% poverty gap between Blacks and Whites. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020) (World Population Review, 2021)

From Figure 5 in Chapter 2.3 Past 30 Years Poverty in Caddo Parish vs. Bossier Parish Black vs. White. Looking at Bossier Parish Poverty from 2010-2020, one can see that the Poverty gap increased between Blacks vs. Whites over this period. In 2010, the poverty percentage gap was 19%, with Black poverty being 28.1% and Whites Poverty at 9.10%. The lowest poverty gap from 2010-2020 was 5.4% in 2019, and the largest gap in 2011 was with a 29.6% poverty gap between Blacks and Whites. After 2019 the poverty gap spiked again in 2020 to 21.99%. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019) (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020) (World Population Review, 2021)

5.4 Limitations

Limitations in this dissertation will be the limited research and studies performed on African American/Black poverty in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish, Louisiana. With General Motors' layoffs, transfers, and retirements beginning over twenty years ago, it's difficult to track down ex-employees. The researcher currently resides in Houston, Texas. The study area is in Northern Louisiana, and there is some distance between the two areas

geographically. Part of the study will call for the researcher to travel, when possible, to the study area for data, interviews, and personal observations.

5.5 Delimitations

Delimitations that exist will be to use similar study areas to compare Caddo Parish. Caddo Parish is unique regarding its population, geographic make-up, the African American population, education system, city infrastructure, and history. Furthermore, specific plans and policies suggest that the area should be specific and unique to the make-up of the Shreveport-Bossier City Metro Area.

5.6 Future Research

The need to solve Black poverty in the U.S., Louisiana, Caddo Parish, and Bossier Parish is a work in progress. The uphill battle will require a group effort of young and elder to establish a network with specific agendas to solve this phenomenon. The researcher's future studies will include research on new greener, and environmentally friendly industries such as production systems. The systems include turning solid waste into recycled and reusable clean water, using solar, water, and wind energy. This study aims to bring such technology to the education systems in the study area and solicit such businesses to come to the study areas for jobs, plus using such knowledge to create smarter, greener, and more sustainable Shreveport-Bossier City Metro Area.

Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan area is in competition with other counties, parishes, cities, and states for young, well-educated 21st-century knowledge job seekers and employees who are more attracted to better surroundings such as better employment opportunities, paying jobs, cultural attractions, urban amenities, walkable environments and access to outdoor recreation, attractive natural environments, and entertainment. The

Shreveport-Bossier City Metro area must make competitive changes to attract these younger job seekers.

The researcher will also connect with the informant used in the General Motors interview study to interview 15-20 more people to perform a 1 to 1-hour 30-minute intensive interview with the interviewees. With longer intensive interviews, the researcher will press the interviewees to express themselves more, how and why they view the subject discussed, their behaviors, reactions, and strategies for dealing with situations discussed in the study. To resolve the study, the researcher will work diligently through factors in the study area, including wealth, employment, health care, education, laws, housing, transportation, and poverty, to produce justice, equality, and equity in Northwest Louisiana and the U.S.

APPENDIX

Appendix A Consent Form

A Case Study on Examining Systematic African American Poverty in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish, Louisiana

You are invited to participate in a research study *A Case Study on Examining Systematic African American Poverty in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish, Louisiana*. This study is being conducted by Stephen Pinkney, a doctoral candidate from Texas Southern University.

Study Purpose/Description: The purpose of this research is to shed light on the history of racism, bad politics, sprawl, spatial mismatch, lack of homeownership, population trends, transportation issues, lack of employment opportunities, high crime, bank deserts, health care, present Jim Crow Laws, and the miseducation of African Americans in Louisiana as these factors play on their social and economic place in Northwest Louisiana. The study will include Statistical Data and GIS mapping to analyzing census tract data from Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish which will detail precisely where the variables are located and exactly the areas that is affected.

The research outcome will provide innovative strategies to reduce poverty by comprehending the factors that causes this phenomenon. The research will shed light on laws and policies that should be reexamined and amended on the state and local level. The study entails analysis and examination of Caddo Parish and comparing it to Bossier Parish using observational methods and document analysis. The researcher will examine the increase and decrease of major industries in the two parishes. There will be a questionnaire survey consisting of 15 questions administered to former General Motors Shreveport employees. The survey is expected to take between ten to thirty minutes.

Risk: This research will not cause greater harm or discomfort to participants other than their time used to respond to the questionnaire and those ordinarily encountered in the daily life. However, should any discomfort occur due to the questions asked and issue raised, the psychological risk can be ameliorated by seeking counseling at an expense to be borne by the participant. For the research, the investigator recommends DeAngela K. Francis-Johnson PMHNP-BC, located at Thriveworks Counseling Shreveport 6560 Youree Dr Suite 1003 Shreveport, LA 71105. For free counseling contact Shreveport Behavior Clinic 1310 North Hearne Avenue Shreveport, LA 71107.

Benefits: This study provide benefits on how to address the historical issues that allow systemic racism in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish Louisiana to exist over the years. The interviews and secondary data will educate policy-makers on ways to address the impact of systemic racism in Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish Louisiana.

Voluntary Participation: Your participation in this study is voluntary. Therefore, you may choose not to participate at all or have the right to discontinue and withdraw from the study at any time. There is no penalty in any manner for not participating in this study.

Confidentiality: Your identity will not be attached to the data; therefore, you will remain anonymous.

Records: All completed questionnaire data gathered for this research will be protected and stored at my home, which has a security surveillance system. The documents will be kept in a locked file cabinet accessible only to the investigator.

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this study. If you have any questions or need to contact me about this research, I can be contacted via email at Steve Pinkney pinkneysj@yahoo.com You may also contact my Faculty Advisor in the Department of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy, Dr. Glenn S. Johnson at (713) 313-4845. If you have questions about your rights as research

participant, call the Texas Southern University Office of Research at 713-313-4301 or visit the Office of Research on the Texas Southern University website (<http://www.tsu.edu>).

By signing this consent form below, I affirm that I have read and understood the above information, my rights as a participant, and the research I agree to participate in.

Participant Signature

Date

Appendix B Interview Questions

A Case Study on Systematic African American Poverty in Caddo Parish/Bossier

Parish, Louisiana

Company: General Motors Shreveport, Louisiana

1. Name:
2. Age:
 - A. 18-24 B. 25-34 C. 35-44 D. 45-64 E. 65+
3. Gender
 - A. Male B. Female
4. Marital Status
 - A. Single B. Married C. Divorced D. Widowed E. Separated
5. Race
 - A. White B. Black or African American C. Asian D. Hispanic
 - D. Native American/American Indian
6. Education
 - A. GED B. High School Education C. Some College D. Bachelor's Degree
 - E. Master's Degree F. Doctorate Degree G. None or No Formal Education
7. Position at General Motors/GM Union.
8. Years of Employment. (Example 1990-2000)
9. Number of employees at General Motors during company's height or while you were employed. (Best of your knowledge)
10. Racial Demographics of (all) General Motors employees to the best of your knowledge.
 - a. Blacks %
 - b. White %
 - c. Hispanic %
 - d. Other %

Appendix C Principles of Environmental Justice

Principles of Environmental Justice

(Printable PDF version)

Delegates to the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit held on October 24-27, 1991, in Washington DC, drafted and adopted 17 principles of Environmental Justice. Since then, *The Principles* have served as a defining document for the growing grassroots movement for environmental justice.

PREAMBLE

WE, THE PEOPLE OF COLOR, gathered together at this multinational People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, to begin to build a national and international movement of all peoples of color to fight the destruction and taking of our lands and communities, do hereby re-establish our spiritual interdependence to the sacredness of our Mother Earth; to respect and celebrate each of our cultures, languages and beliefs about the natural world and our roles in healing ourselves; to ensure environmental justice; to promote economic alternatives which would contribute to the development of environmentally safe livelihoods; and, to secure our political, economic and cultural liberation that has been denied for over 500 years of colonization and oppression, resulting in the poisoning of our communities and land and the genocide of our peoples, do affirm and adopt these Principles of Environmental Justice:

- 1) **Environmental Justice** affirms the sacredness of Mother Earth, ecological unity and the interdependence of all species, and the right to be free from ecological destruction.
- 2) **Environmental Justice** demands that public policy be based on mutual respect and justice for all peoples, free from any form of discrimination or bias.
- 3) **Environmental Justice** mandates the right to ethical, balanced, and responsible uses of land and renewable resources in the interest of a sustainable planet for humans and other living things.
- 4) **Environmental Justice** calls for universal protection from nuclear testing, extraction, production and disposal of toxic/hazardous wastes and poisons and nuclear testing that threaten the fundamental right to clean air, land, water, and food.
- 5) **Environmental Justice** affirms the fundamental right to political, economic, cultural, and environmental self-determination of all peoples.
- 6) **Environmental Justice** demands the cessation of the production of all toxins, hazardous wastes, and radioactive materials, and that all past and current producers be held strictly accountable to the people for detoxification and the containment at the point of production.

- 7) **Environmental Justice** demands the right to participate as equal partners at every level of decision-making, including needs assessment, planning, implementation, enforcement, and evaluation.
 - 8) **Environmental Justice** affirms the right of all workers to a safe and healthy work environment without being forced to choose between an unsafe livelihood and unemployment. It also affirms the right of those who work at home to be free from environmental hazards.
 - 9) **Environmental Justice** protects the right of victims of environmental injustice to receive full compensation and reparations for damages as well as quality health care.
 - 10) **Environmental Justice** considers governmental acts of environmental injustice a violation of international law, the Universal Declaration On Human Rights, and the United Nations Convention on Genocide.
 - 11) **Environmental Justice** must recognize a special legal and natural relationship of Native Peoples to the U.S. government through treaties, agreements, compacts, and covenants affirming sovereignty and self-determination.
 - 12) **Environmental Justice** affirms the need for urban and rural ecological policies to clean up and rebuild our cities and rural areas in balance with nature, honoring the cultural integrity of all our communities, and provided fair access for all to the full range of resources.
 - 13) **Environmental Justice** calls for the strict enforcement of principles of informed consent, and a halt to the testing of experimental reproductive and medical procedures and vaccinations on people of color.
 - 14) **Environmental Justice** opposes the destructive operations of multi-national corporations.
 - 15) **Environmental Justice** opposes military occupation, repression and exploitation of lands, peoples and cultures, and other life forms.
 - 16) **Environmental Justice** calls for the education of present and future generations which emphasizes social and environmental issues, based on our experience and an appreciation of our diverse cultural perspectives.
 - 17) **Environmental Justice** requires that we, as individuals, make personal and consumer choices to consume as little of Mother Earth's resources and to produce as little waste as possible; and make the conscious decision to challenge and reprioritize our lifestyles to ensure the health of the natural world for present and future generations.
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The Proceedings to the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit are available from the **United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice**, 475 Riverside Dr. Suite 1950, New York, NY 10115.

Return to the Environmental Justice / Environmental Racism Homepage

Last modified: 6 April 1996

<http://www.ejnet.org/ej/principles.html>

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