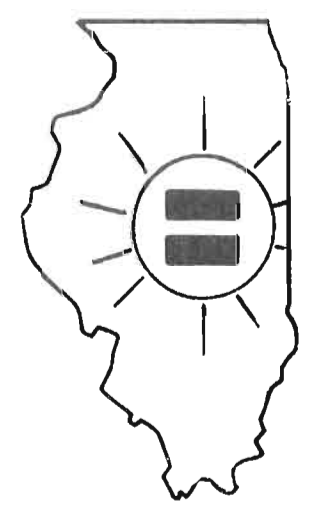


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THE STATE OF BLACK

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**THE STATE OF
BLACK CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
1984**

John H. McClendon
Editor and Principal Investigator

and

Mary Blackstone
Demographer and Assistant to the
Principal Investigator

Published by The Urban League of Champaign County
February, 1984

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INTRODUCTION

This document represents the initial effort of the Urban League of Champaign County to chronicle the life's chances condition of Black people in Champaign County. To be sure, this effort will fall short of the expectations of some individuals because such a piece cannot attend to every situation deserving attention. What we have done here is to draw a profile of the Black condition in Champaign County and have several authors write essays around certain themes.

In that vein, we are grateful to Taylor Thomas who has provided us an historical sketch of Black life from his point of view. Violet Malone has provided insight to a certain educational concern - illiteracy. Earl Jones takes a systematic look into housing conditions in North Champaign. Paul E. Parker lends insight into the possibilities of high technology and future Black employment. James Anderson focuses on the plight of primary and secondary education and their interrelationships to national trends. Willie Nesbitt observes education at the community college level from a Black educator's perspective, and Robert Washington examines human services countywide and their utility for those designated "population at risk." Anna Merritt deserves our appreciation for her editorial advice; however, final responsibility for any errors in editing remains with the editor. Finally, we owe special notes of thanks to demographic consultant, Mary Blackstone and Urban League program planner, John McClendon for the profile and organization of the full report.

As this introduction is being written we have been blessed with a respite from the bitter February freeze and are currently enjoying near 60° weather. That is all it has taken to draw the masses of 16 to 25, 30 and 40 year old Black males onto 1st Street, 4th Street and Poplar Street and the dirt lawns of the Village and the Manor and awake us to the reality that Black unemployment is rampant in this academic and technological community.

As one reads our profile it will become apparent that unemployment is only one of several major problems facing the most beleaguered people of this community. What one will not find herein, however, is the traditional style of "States" wherein essays are written, findings are cited and recommendations are made - and promptly ignored. We plan to issue our document and follow up with community forums and/or

retreats wherein people from the Black community can extract, clarify, and add to our findings and propose solutions of their choosing. It is not sufficient, in our view - as competent as our essayists and consultant and staff are - for a few people to declare a course of action for a depressed people.

Given this position it is our hope that we may serve as the catalyst to rally a broad spectrum of Black community input in the development of recommendations. Unabashedly, some of our staff and many of our constituents are beginning to question old methods of hand to mouth programs which serve only as partial stop-gaps to basic and recurring needs of the disadvantaged. We repeatedly see the most daring proposals (Domestic Marshall Plans, guaranteed annual income, welfare reform, etc...) of "responsible" organizations being repeatedly proposed and ignored.

Perhaps there are other proposals that ought to be entertained. We hope that this "State" is a beginning.

Vernon L. Barkstall
February, 1984

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to acknowledge the assistance I have received from Mary Blackstone for the extensive research she conducted in preparing the demographic data. She has been a virtual one person research staff and without her contribution this report would have not been possible. She authored the demographic section.

Special thanks goes to our distinguished panel of contributors. Each took vital time from their demanding schedules to provide top quality essays to this report.

The editorial aid of Anna Merritt made my job an easier one. The typing of this entire manuscript by Judy Conerly under the pressure of a pressing deadline is deeply appreciated. The information provided by Fanny Patterson of Planned Parenthood should not go unnoticed, and the data provided by Linda Moberly of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission has enhanced the empirical strength of this document.

Special recognition should be given to the Executive Director, Vernon Barkstall, not only for his editorial assistance but as well his intellectual input and continual prodding to insure the completion of this report.

Franklin Archey's suggestion for the cover design and his willingness to listen to my concerns during the writing of this document is most appreciated. I would like to thank Nora Stewart and Holly Longfellow for helping to complete the final draft at a moment's notice.

The research, writing and thought required in this endeavor often leaves the confines of the office and travels home. I want to thank my family for showing the utmost patience when I often lacked it. Final responsibility for the limits of this report rest with this writer.

John H. McClendon
February, 1984

METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

Structure and Design

The structure and design of this report is the culmination of reviewing several similar documents by other Urban League affiliates and the National Urban League's The State of Black America. The decision was made to have essentially three sections:

First, a profile of the demographic and empirical data that would highlight key data and give a summation of general trends and findings. Secondly, the demographic/empirical section which gives a comprehensive compilation of the vital statistics on the Black community. Finally, the third part of this report is a collection of essays by researchers/scholars in their specific areas of expertise. The State of Black Columbus, 1980 by our fellow affiliate in Ohio was very useful in providing a conceptual framework for the demographic section. The State of Black Oklahoma was of benefit in our efforts to organize the scholarly collection of essays.

Purposes

Some purposes of this study are to:

1. Make analyses of the socio-economic status of Black Champaign County residents in comparison with their white counterparts.
2. Recognize and analyze salient trends in vital areas such as: population, fertility rates, occupational status, poverty status, housing conditions, employment/unemployment, and labor force characteristics.
3. Publicly disseminate empirical findings with the view toward initiating public forums and workshops designed to generate broad-based Black participation in formulating recommendations.

Major Research Questions

The major research questions addressed in this report are:

1. What are the essential socio-economic conditions of the Black community and how do these compare with whites' county and national trends?
2. What are the proximate causes that give rise to identified socio-economic conditions.

Methodology

This report relies heavily upon 1980 census data to make a comparative analysis of the life's chances conditions of Black and white Champaign Countians. Limited

resources of time and money precluded our carrying out primary research to gain our data. Secondary analysis of census data, and the invaluable assistance of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission were primary means of compiling statistical data.

Difficulties in gathering essential data on a countywide basis were numerous. A number of our contributors were severely hampered by the unavailability of racially-based data. Unemployment figures on the basis of race are not available beyond the census count year (1979). Consequently, quarterly reports on unemployment exclude any discussion of Black unemployment.

The limitation of space required Dr. Jones' focus on North Champaign as a representative sample of housing in predominantly Black neighborhoods. Ms. Blackstone does provide an overview of housing characteristics for Black residents in the county although without the neighborhood contextual framework. Thus, this report provides two levels of analysis for a more adequate comprehension of the complexity surrounding housing in Black Champaign County.

SECTION ONE: PROFILE OF KEY DATA

This profile is a summary of the demographic and empirical data of the first section of this report. It is an effort to highlight some of our key findings and additionally to give an analysis of current trends and developments.

Population Growth and Distribution

The Black population has had a steady growth rate in the county since the 1850 Census. The one exception was the decade from 1880 to 1890 when there was an 11% decline in population. That decade and the depression decade (1930-1940) were the only periods when the percentage increase of the Black population was less than that for the white population. During the World War II and postwar period (1940-1950), for example, the percentage increase was 130% for Black people compared to 48% for whites. In part, this increase is attributable to employment opportunities opening for Black people (primarily in Champaign/Urbana) in railroad and service occupations.

From 1970 to 1980, the Black population grew 37% compared to a decline of 12.6% for whites. Black folks constituted 8.7% of the county's population, whites were 88.2% with a 10:1 ratio. The current Black population is 14,661.

Sex and Age Composition

Nationally, among Black people, females outnumber males by over one million and the sex ratio (the number of males per 100 females) is approximately 95:100; in Champaign County the ratio is 99:100. Black females in the county only outnumber males by 69, thus females comprise 50.2% of the Black population. For the county and for white residents males outnumber females. Among whites the ratio is 105:100. Hence, in the Black community women tend to slightly outnumber men and for white residents men are more numerous than women. With regard to the age of the population, the Black community is younger than its white counterpart. The median age for both white females and males is greater than the countywide median of 23.7 for males and 25.6 for females. On the other hand, Black females and males are below that median. White females have the highest median (26.0) followed by white males (23.9), Black females (22.5) and Black males (21.1). Even a smaller percentage of Black residents are over 64 years of age, 5% compared to 7.6% for whites.

While 35% of the Black population is under 18 years of age, the majority of those are under 15 years of age. Those under fifteen constitute 30% of the Black population.

On the other end of the spectrum, 5% of the Black population is over 65 years of age. These are below the countywide percentages of 6.8 and 7.6 for whites.

It is significant that the age for potential labor force participants is the 15-64 age group. Thus, over 40% of the Black population falls within the ranks of the dependent population (those under 15 or over 64). Such a large percentage has considerable impact on the potential numbers available to join the labor force. Thus the potential number of wage earners per dependent is lower for Black people.

Fertility/Mortality Rate

The sign of the dependent population can be explained in part by the fertility and mortality rates. Fertility rates (number of live births per year divided by the number of women aged 15 to 44) was considerably higher for Black women, 86% compared to 49% for white women. Yet the percentage of women in this child-bearing category was nearly equal (28% black women and 28.5% white women). The mortality rate for Blacks was actually less than for whites. Consequently, the smaller percentage of Black people (64 and over) is the result of a younger population.

Family Patterns

The great majority (68%) of Black households in the county are classified as families. There is a greater tendency for Black households to be family units than is the case for white households--of which 63% are families.

The greater family/household ratio in the Black community can perhaps be explained by two variables: first, the average and median incomes of Black families are lower than their white counterparts. Low incomes restrict the mobility of family members (especially those under 25 years of age). Secondly, kinship bonds have historically been strong in the Black community between parents and children. Hence, Black parents, despite greater economic barriers and income limitations, show a strong commitment to provide material support for their adult children. On the other hand, 38% of Black families are married couples, while 55% of white families are headed by married couples. Among white families, 6% are female-headed compared to 26% of Black families. For Black males and females, the percentage of those separated and divorced exceeds that of their white counterparts by 3 1/2 times for males and 5 1/2 times for females. In regard to divorce, both Black males and females are slightly more than 1 1/2 times as likely to be divorced than are their white counterparts. The rise of divorce and separation may in part be the by-products of low incomes. The pressure of financial strain, in our view, takes a high toll on Black marital stability.

Income

In terms of both the average and median incomes, Black people face a disparity of some \$9,000 to \$10,000 annually. More than 70% of the Black population is under the \$21,300 median income for the county. Champaign County has the lowest wage structure in the State of Illinois. Consequently, the Black population in this county is at the bottom of the economic ladder in both relative and absolute terms.

Poverty

The extent to which Black folks are at the bottom of the economic ladder can be measured by their poverty status. While the level of poverty declined (7.2% to 6.9%) for families in the county during the last decade, Black families experienced a slight increase from 24.4% to 24.5%.

In the ranks of impoverished individuals, the Black population exceeded their proportion of the county population (8.7%) by almost three times, thus constituting twenty-five percent, while only 5.1% of white families were in poverty. The weight of poverty was grossly disproportionate for Black female-headed households. Of the Black families in poverty, 74.1% were female-headed. This was an increase from the 48% in 1970. This 74.1% figure is grossly above the 41.2% for all female-headed families countywide and for the 33.4% for white female-headed households. It should be noted that the 41.2% of all female-headed families in poverty was up from 26.9% in 1970. For white female-headed families the figure was 23.6% in 1970. This disproportionate number of female-headed families in poverty may be due to the disparity of male - female income (i.e., sexism). There is little doubt that the extreme plight experienced by Black women is directly related to the additional factor of racism.

Employment/Occupational Categories

The generally low income of the Black community is directly related to the preponderance of the Black labor force being employed in low paying occupational categories. The greater percentage of Black employed workers has been in the service sector; some 28% for Black workers contrasted to 15% for whites. The service sector has played a particular historical role in the political economy of Black labor in the county. The availability of empirical verification is limited but many in the service sector are employed in personal/household services both privately and publicly. The largest public employer of Black household service workers is the University of Illinois. The percentages for Black labor in other sectors are 25% technical (32% for whites), 20% blue collar (12% for whites), with the lowest percentage of Black workers being

17% in the professional category (25% for whites). Many of the Black professionals are not indigenous but are attracted to the county because of employment opportunities primarily at the University of Illinois, Chanute Air Force Base, public schools and social service institutions.

Employment/Unemployment

Only 77% of the Black labor force is employed. The jobless rate is 9.8% for Black workers while for whites it is 4%. Thus, the unemployment ratio for the county's Black/white workers is greater than 2:1--a ratio consistent with national trends since World War II.* Military employment claims a disproportionate percentage of the Black male labor force. Some 21% of Black versus 10% for white males are non-civilian employees. The presence of Rantoul Air Force Base is to a great extent responsible for military employment for Black males. Rantoul has the third largest Black population in the county, ranking behind Champaign and Urbana.

Conclusion

The demographic section of this report provides tables, charts and statistics to support the claims made in this profile. We have not attempted to summarize all of the data in the demographic portion.

The scenario is most dire for a great number in Black Champaign County. Of those on Public Aid, 55% were Black people and the great majority of this group were families receiving Aid For Dependent Children (AFDC). Black workers faced with low paying jobs or unemployment are forced onto the welfare rolls. This report does not attempt to give an analysis of the structural character of the conditions of Black workers, i.e., the political economic context in which Black labor is exploited. YET, the empirical outcome is obvious. In a county where wages are the lowest in the state, Black people have the lowest income. Hence, a disproportion are in poverty, low paying jobs, on public aid, unemployed, divorced, separated, and widowed. While the county experienced a trend of declining poverty, Black families had increased impoverishment. As the population has declined and become less urban, the Black populace has increased

*The determination of unemployment rates by the federal government does not include those in the labor force who stop searching for work, i.e., discouraged workers. Furthermore, part-time workers are excluded from those designated unemployed. Persons on sick leave but without pay are still considered employed. This hidden unemployment distorts the real picture of unemployment. Consequently 77% Black employment does not officially result in 23% unemployment.

and become more urban. Thus, many of the national trends epitomizing the disparity between Black and white life's chances remains true here. The conditions faced by Black people in Champaign County differs from an East St. Louis, Chicago, Decatur or Peoria only in terms of quantity not quality, and in some instances (wage scale for example) it is worse.

This report on the State of Black Champaign County is a first step toward providing a comprehensive analysis of the material conditions of the Black community. Hopefully, other studies will follow that will fill the gaps in both the empirical and analytical framework. What we have attempted is to pave the way for mass input and movement.

THE DEMOGRAPHY OF BLACK CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

Population Growth and Distribution

Blacks were first listed in the United States Census for both Champaign County and the State of Illinois in 1850. At that time, the population was less than one percent Black and 99% white. Since, that time, the County's Black population has grown by 8.6 percent (an increase from 2 to 14,661) or 8.7% of the total population for the county. The corresponding figure for the state is 14.8%. This represents a slight increase over a one hundred and thirty year period. In general, however, the rate of growth of the Black population was faster than that of the white population in the state and county. A notable exception is the period 1880-1890 where both areas lost Blacks. The rate of growth of the Black population dropped from 4.8% between 1870 and 1880 to 2.0% between 1880 and 1890. On the County level this change was more pronounced, dropping on the average of 1.2% per year, down from an average increase of 7.1% per year in the preceding decade. This loss of the Black population for both the state and county totaled approximately 7,000 Black residents.

The greatest growth rate for the Black population occurred between 1950 and 1980. In the last decade, the Black population grew 37%, from 10,677 to 14,661. On the other hand the white population decreased 12.6% from 150,338 to 148,445. Yet white residents far outnumbered the Black population by a ratio of 10:1 with a white majority of 88.2% of the total county population (See table 1).

Within the County, the Black population is distributed among 13 of 30 townships, with the highest concentration of Black residents living in Champaign City Township (51%), Cunningham Township (25%), and Rantoul at 13%, followed by Champaign Township (5%), Ludlow (3%), and Urbana (2%). Together, the remaining townships (Hensley, Scott, Ayres, Somer, Harwood, and St. Joseph) contain approximately 2% of the County's Black population. These townships are among the rural areas of the county, each having less than a dozen Black persons with the exception of Hensley (223) and Somer (54) (Appendix A).

Though the county population showed a decline in the share of urban dwellers, 77.2% in 1970 to 76.9% in 1980, the Black sector is predominantly urban with over 90% of Black people residing in Champaign, Urbana and Rantoul. (Appendix A)

Table 1

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
Population and Percent Change 1850-1980

Year	Total Population		Black		White	
	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change
1850	2649		2		2647	
1860	14629	452	48	2300	14581	451
1870	32737	391	233	385	32504	123
1880	40863	25	462	98	40397	24
1890	42157	3	411	-11	41746	3
1900	47618	13	551	34	47067	13
1910	51807	9	950	72	50857	8
1920	56959	10	1620	71	55323	9
1930	64273	13	2040	26	62198	12
1940	70578	10	2135	5	68410	10
1950	106100	50	4905	130	101195	48
1960	132436	25	6770	38	124600	17
1970	163281	23	10677	58	150338	21
1980	168392	3	14661	37	148445	-12.6
					Absolute Change	Absolute Change
					46	11934
					185	17923
					229	7893
					-51	1349
					140	5321
					399	3790
					670	4466
					420	6875
					95	6212
					2770	32785
					1865	18500
					3907	25738
					3984	-1893

Source: Bureau of Census. 1980. Census of Population, Illinois.

Composition

The population pyramid (Fig. 2) depicts the Black population by sex and age structure. It shows that the ratio of males to females is about equal (99:100), there being 99 males per 100 females. (Among white residents, these figures are 105:100). Sixty-five percent of all Black residents in Champaign County are over eighteen years of age. However, males tend to be younger than females (median ages for each are 21.1 and 22.5 respectively) and are outnumbered by females in all age groups between 25 and 85. Five percent of all Black residents are age 65 and above and 30% are under 15. These are considered the dependent population or those not in the labor force. The Age Dependency Ratio (ADR) shows the number of persons in the dependent ages for every 100 persons in the working ages (15-64). The ADR for Blacks in Champaign was 51.3 in 1980, meaning that there were two people in the working ages for each person not in the labor force. For white residents this figure was lower, 33.1, indicating that there were three persons in the labor force for each dependent person. The dependency ratio, however, does not take into account actual labor force participation rates or unemployment rates. Thus it is an indication of the potential ability of a group to meet the needs of its dependent population based on that groups age structure. It is not a measure of actual support.

Fertility and Mortality

The fertility rate (the number of live births in a given year divided by the number of women aged 15 to 44) was significantly higher for Black women than for white women (86% versus 49%) although there were about the same percentage of Black and white women in the child bearing ages (28% and 28.5% respectively). This indicates a high birth rate among Blacks and is borne out by the crude birth rates in 1979. The crude birth rate specifies the number of births per 1000 women in a given year. Among Black women there were 47 births per 1000 and 27 per 1000 among white women. Further, the number of births to unmarried women was 48% among Blacks and 4% among whites. In other words, there were twelve Black children born to each white child born to unwed mothers.

Mortality rates (the number of deaths per 1000 persons) were lower for Blacks than for whites, 6.1 to 7.5 in 1980. However, the leading causes of death were the same for both races; major cardiovascular diseases. In general, deaths among Blacks in all

*General fertility rates and mortality rates for both races for 1980 are estimated, based on actual birth figures for 1978 (the most recent U.S. vital statistics by race and county) and actual 1980 population figures. The derived estimate varies from the true figures by a few percentage points as there was less than a three percent change (2.5) between 1978 and 1980 population figures.

age categories were fewer than those among whites. (Appendix A.3)

Family Patterns

Champaign County has a total of 58,405 households, 4,592 (7.9%) are Black. Seventy-one percent (3,277) are family households in which the head of household and its members are related by birth, adoption or marriage. Of all Black families, 42% (1,925) are married couple families, 26% (1,191) are female-headed households with no husband present and 3% (130) are the major wage earners within a family household. Among nonfamily householders, defined as a householder living alone or with nonrelatives, 14% (636) are male and 15% (710) are female (Table 2).

Table 2. Black Householders by Sex and Family Status

	<u>Family</u>	<u>Nonfamily</u>	<u>Total</u>
Male	1925	636	2561
Female	1321	710	2031
Total Households	3246	1346	4592

Source: Bureau of the Census.

Children 18 and under number 5,757, which is 39% of the total Black population. Sixty-three percent of married couple families have children under 18, and 33% have children under six years of age. Seventy-nine percent of Black female based households have children under 18, and 39% have children under six years of age. This is a considerably high number of children within the Black population. These age categories are not mutually exclusive for some families are likely to have children in both categories. Despite this high percentage of children, the average size of Black families and households is only four and three persons respectively.

Table 3. Married Couple and Female-Headed Families by Race and Presence of Children

Family Type	Black Families	White Families	Total Families
All Families	3132	33120	37105
Married Couple	1747	28996	31489
Married Couple With Children under 18	1096	14119	15699
Married Couple With Children under 6	585	6897	7804
Female-Headed	1191	3195	4453
Female-Headed With Children under 18	946	2047	3041
Female-Headed With Children under 6	462	692	1176

Source: Bureau of the Census. PC80-1-B-15 Table 49
P 15-412 Illinois

White households make up about 90% of the county's total households; 63% being family households and 37% nonfamily. Fifty-four percent are married couple families and 60% female-headed. Of nonfamily householders, about half are male and half are female.

These figures indicate that married couple families are more numerous in the white community and that there is a higher incidence of female-headed households within the Black community. The high number of female-headed households is not surprising as Black women rank first among those separated, divorced and widowed (Table 4).

Among nonfamily households, Black males exceed the number of Black females as heads of households. This fact coupled with the number of married couple families contradicts the commonly held belief that most Black households are female-headed.

Income and Economic Status

The average family income among Blacks in Champaign County is \$15,721 compared to \$25,397 for whites. The median income (the point at which half the population lies above an income level and half below), however, is \$13,045 for Blacks and \$22,046 for whites. This means that Black families make 9-10,000 dollars less than their white counterparts. The family median income for Champaign County is \$21,303, one of the lowest in the State. Only Kankakee and East St. Louis among the SMSA's in the state had lower medians. Yet for Black families in the county greater than 70% had less

Table 4

Marital Status by Race for Those 15 and Over
(Number and Percent)

Status	Total Males 15 and over	Total Females 15 and over	Black Males 15 and over	Black Females 15 and over	White Males 15 and over	White Females 15 and over
Single	32838 (46.7%)	23633 (46.7%)	2514 (49.5%)	2175 (41.3%)	28955 (46.0%)	20727 (34.6%)
Now Married (except separated)	32734 (36.5)	32349 (46.5)	1939 (38.1)	1743 (33.1)	29903 (47.5)	29569 (49.4)
Separated	674 (1.0)	902 (1.0)	180 (3.5)	302 (5.7)	481 (0.8)	580 (1.0)
Widowed	945 (1.3)	5512 (1.3)	101 (2.0)	461 (8.7)	840 (1.5)	5001 (8.4)
Divorced	3139 (4.5)	4648 (4.5)	350 (6.9)	588 (11.2)	2741 (4.4)	4002 (6.6)
Total	70330 (100%)	67044 (100%)	5084 (100%)	5269 (100%)	62920 (100%)	59879 (100%)

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Source: Bureau of the Census

than the county median income. Figure 3 shows the income distribution of Black and white families in 1980. It indicates where Black families stand, economically, relative to all other families in the county. The incomes of white residents exceeded that of Black residents in all categories. Although there were more whites in the lower income groups (less than \$5,000 and \$5,000-\$9,999) a disproportionate number of Black families were also in these groups (39% of all Black families versus 14% of all white families). Further, in the past ten years Blacks have made minor economic advances compared to whites. In 1970, 6099 white families had incomes of \$5,000 or less. By 1980 that number had decreased by 77.18% to 1,392 families. During the same period, Black families showed a percentage decrease of 20.7 percent. This is a numerical decrease of only 165 families (from 796 to 631). As a result, most of the people who were poor in 1970, were still poor in 1980. This is also true of the \$5,000-\$9,999 income group. One hundred seventy-four families showed an increase in income, leaving the majority behind. Thus, in 1980 40% of Black families had incomes of \$9,999 or less and 24% (3,570) identified by the Census Bureau as being below the poverty level. Greater income gains were made by families in the \$15,000-\$50,000 income groups. The number of families in these groups rose three times the amount of all the other income categories combined (Table 5). Families in these groups are probably Black professionals moving into the area and are not representative of the indigenous population.

Table 5. Black and White Family Income Distribution 1970 and 1980

Income	Black		White	
	1970	1980	1970	1980
\$5,000	796 (2.052%)	631 (1.73%)	6099 (15.7%)	1392 (3.81%)
5,000-9,999	814 (2.10)	640 (1.75)	11848 (30.55)	3312 (9.071)
10,000-14,999	411 (1.06)	538 (1.47)	10002 (25.78)	4451 (12.191)
15,000-24,000	174 (0.448)	804 (2.2)	6529 (16.8)	10191 (27.91)
25,000-29,000	8 (0.020)	648 (1.77)	1890 (4.87)	11550 (31.636)
50,000 and above	0 -	16 (0.044)	214 (0.552)	2335 (6.395)

Total Families 1970 - 38785

Total Families 1980 - 36508

Source: Bureau of the Census

The income discrepancies between Black and white residents can be explained in part, by the types of jobs held. In 1980, the majority of Black workers were employed in service positions (28%), technical (25%) or blue collar jobs (20%). These jobs

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Family Income by Race
(As a Percent of All Families)

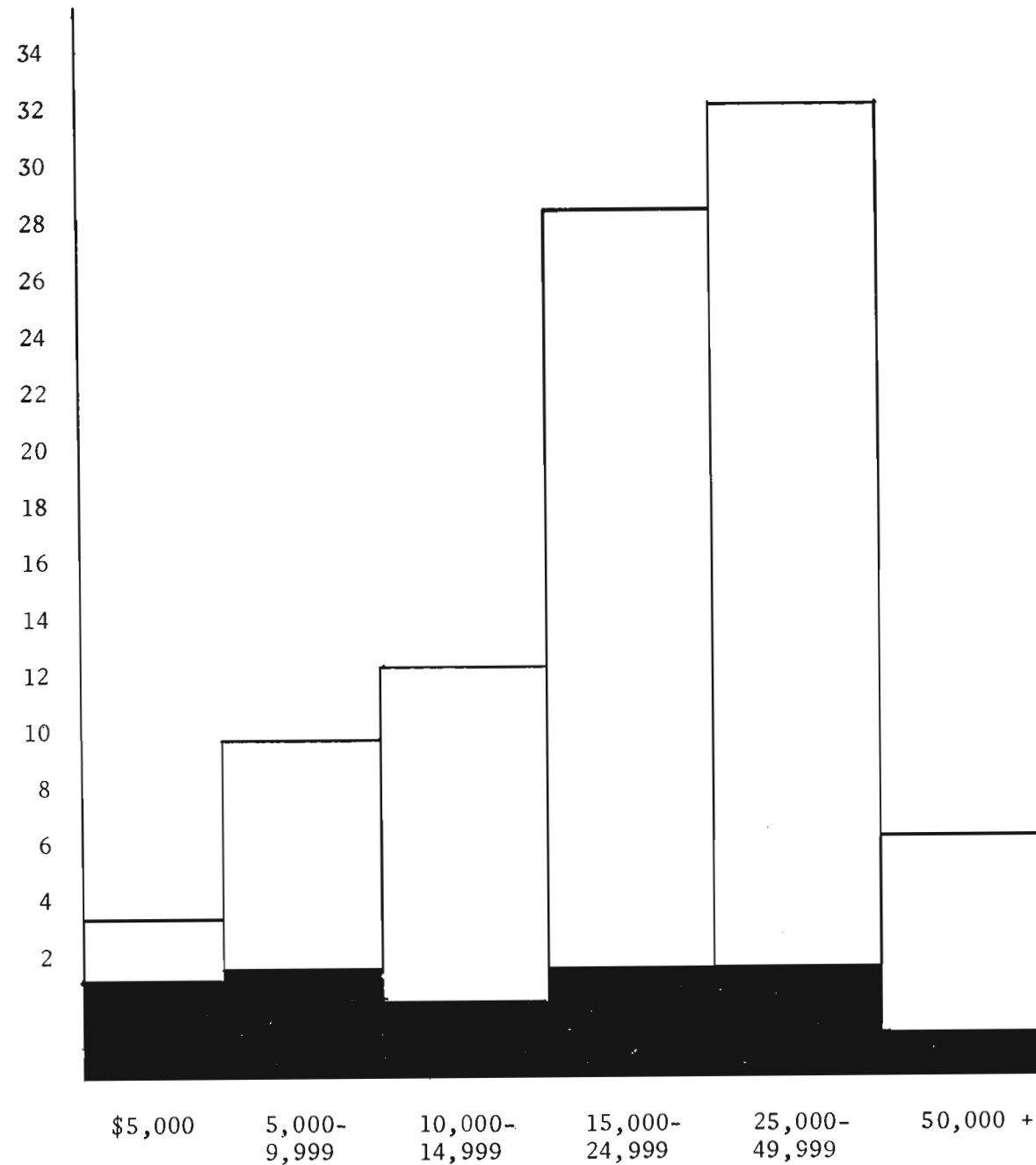


Fig. 3

include household and protective services, sales, administrative support jobs (including clerical), laborers, machine operators and assemblers. Seventeen percent held professional and technical positions (28% and 32% respectively), 15% service jobs and 12% blue collar jobs. In 1970, Black residents were employed in virtually the same areas as service workers, clerical and related workers, professional/technical workers, operators (except transport) and private household workers.

Other Black residents rely upon public aid to support their families. According to the Department of Public Aid, as of June 1983, 5,286 persons were receiving aid; 2,906 (55%) were Black and 44% white. The aid is channeled largely through the Aid to Families with Dependent Children element, the largest county aid. By household, the major recipients of AFDC were households with one or more parents present. Of these 25% (1310) were female-headed and 4% (219) had a male head of house. Most often (23%) receivers of aid were between the ages of 21-34, followed by those 35-49. Less than 5% went to adults under 21.

Poverty Status

The level of poverty for the general population of Champaign County declined from 1970 to 1980, from 7.2% to 6.9% for families and 41.1% to 36.8% for unrelated individuals. However, while Black unrelated individuals declined from 55.4% to 40.9%, the status of Black families in poverty slightly increased from 24.4% (539 families) to 24.5% (672 families).

The percentage of white families below the poverty threshold is 5.1% (1,705), correspondingly for Black families it is 25% (672), almost three times their proportion of the general population (8.7%). Additionally, the percentage of white families in poverty is 5.1% compared to 24.4% for Black families, a disproportion of over four and a half times.

Labor Force Characteristics

There were 10,007 Black persons in Champaign County aged 16 and over in 1980. Six thousand eight hundred and eighty were in the labor force but only 5,317 (77%) were actually employed. Six hundred and seventy-eight persons were unemployed resulting in a 9.8% unemployment rate among Blacks as a whole--5.7% for Black males and 4.2% for Black females. Unemployment rates for whites at that time were 4.4%; males, 5% and 3.7% for females.

As of August, 1983, countywide unemployment numbered 5,818 at a rate of 6.9%. These figures were not available by race or age at the county level.

Women 16 and over make up 45% of the Black labor force and 3.5% of the total work-force. Eighty-eight percent were employed in 1980 including 37% of those with children and 64% of those married with husbands present. Table 6 gives a detailed breakdown of the labor force by race and sex.

Table 6. Labor Force by Race and Sex for Persons 16 and Over

	Black		White		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
In Labor Force	3771	3113	46228	33992	51402	38058
Armed Forces	790	99	4824	814	5869	988
Civilian Labor Force	2981	3014	41404	33178	45533	37070
Employed	2590	2727	39331	31950	43020	35514
Unemployed	391	287	2073	1228	2513	1556
Not in Labor Force	1140	1983	16093	25169	17926	28050

Source: Bureau of the Census

Ninety percent of the County's labor force was white and 7.6% Black; white males making up the largest group followed by white females, Black males and Black females. There are more Black males than females in the labor force, with 21% of those being in the military compared to 10% of his white counterparts. Black males make up the greater percentage of those unemployed followed by Black females, white females and lastly, white males. Forty-five percent of Black workers were not in the labor force due, in part, to work or public transportation disability.

Educational Characteristics

In comparing the educational levels among Blacks in Champaign County, it was found that those currently enrolled in high school exceeds the number of those twenty-five and over having completed 1-4 years of high school (2,798 vs. 1110). However, 2,039 of those 25 and over completed 1-4 years of college while only 1,790 Blacks are currently enrolled. This takes into account only those students enrolled in colleges within Champaign County. It may also indicate that fewer Black residents are entering college; or when taking into account attrition rates, the number of young Blacks not currently enrolled were not counted.

Housing Characteristics

There are 58,405 occupied year-round housing units in Champaign County. The majority

(67%) are single family units; 54% are owner-occupied. Black residents occupy 4,583 or 7.8% of the year-round housing. Thirty-five percent (1592) are owner occupied and 65% (2991) are rented.

The housing stock is relatively new, being 11-20 years old; 34% having been built between 1960 and 1969. Only 14% of the housing occupied by Blacks was built in 1939 or earlier. Housing units with a Black householder tend to be newer than those occupied by whites, however, they are more likely to be rental stock.

Table 7. Housing Stock by Year Structure Built and Race of Householder

Year Built	Percent of housing with a Black householder	Percent of housing with a white householder
1970-1980	23%	29%
1960-1969	34	24
1940-1959	29	25
1939 or before	14	22

Source: Bureau of the Census

About half of all housing occupied by Blacks is multi-family compared to 38% among whites. Ninety-six (8.3) had 1.01 or more persons per room, which is the standard for determining overcrowding. One point seven percent (82) lacked complete kitchen facilities and 2.8% (129) have no bathrooms or only a half bath.

Median gross rent for both Black and white renters is \$241.00. Yet income levels differ by \$2,633; \$10,925 for whites and \$8,292 for Blacks. As a result, Black renters are spending more for housing than whites. In addition, 10.3% (164) of Black owner-occupants and 38.2% (1144) of Black renters were below the poverty level in 1980. Table 8 shows crowding and structural conditions of housing for Black and white householders below the poverty level.

In some instances more than one condition prevails. Of the 164 Black owner-occupied units 159 had complete plumbing but 22 were overcrowded. Five lacked complete plumbing but none of these were overcrowded. Among Black renters, 96 units were overcrowded. Thirty-six lacked complete plumbing of which 4 were overcrowded. Again, whites fared better than Blacks. The high number of whites living in overcrowded conditions and without plumbing for exclusive use can probably be attributed to the high number of students in the area and the sharing of houses and apartments.

Table 8. Characteristics of Units with Householders Below the Poverty Level

Tenure	Percent Below Poverty Level	Number with 1.01 Persons/Room	Lacking Complete Plumbing for exclusive use
Black owner/occupant	10.3%	22	5
Black renter	38.2	96	36
White owner/occupant	4.2	5	18
White renter	21.6	186*	178

*179 overcrowded with complete plumbing plus 7 overcrowded and without complete plumbing.

Urban/Rural Distribution of Owner-Occupied Housing

Twenty-three (1.5%) of the housing units owned by Blacks in urban areas lack complete plumbing for exclusive use. This was not a problem at all in rural homes owned by Blacks. However, 61 rural white and 233 urban white households lack some plumbing. Homes owned by Blacks in rural areas tend to be smaller than those owned by their urban counterparts and by both urban and rural whites. Black and white households, both urban and rural surpass the 1.01 crowding factor measure; the least overcrowded group being rural Black households (3) and rural white households (162). Median house value differs by race and location, urban Blacks having the lowest.

Table 9. Urban/Rural Distribution of Owner-Occupied Housing

Characteristics	Black		White	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Percent lacking plumbing for exclusive use	1.5	0	1.2	0.6
Median Number of Rooms	4.7	4.5	4.9	5.8
Percent with more 1.01 persons per room	8.5	8.1	1.6	1.6
Median number of persons	2.58	2.58	2.08	2.58
Median house value	\$36,200	\$46,300	\$50,700	\$48,900
Total Owner	1538	40	19,440	10,129

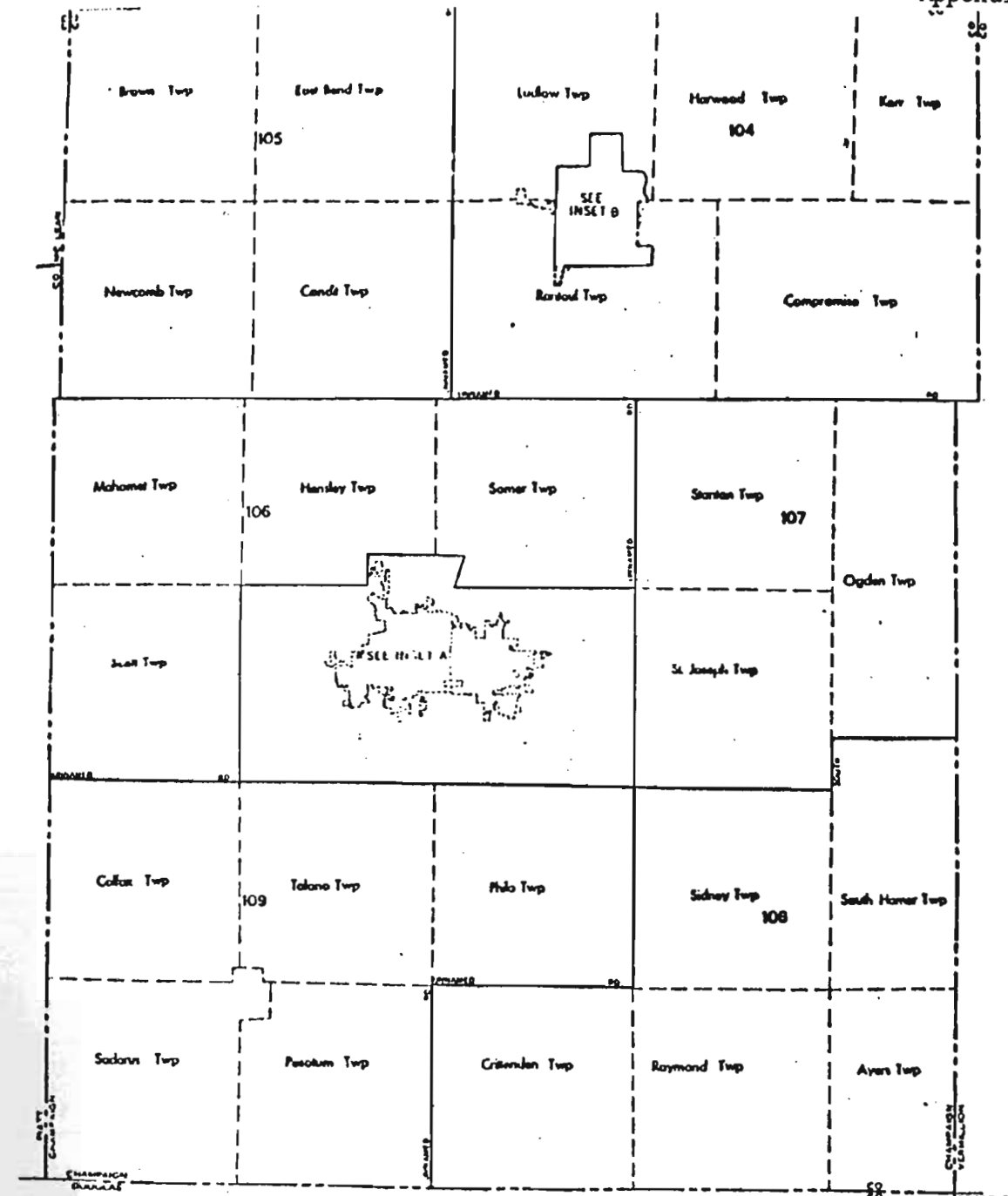
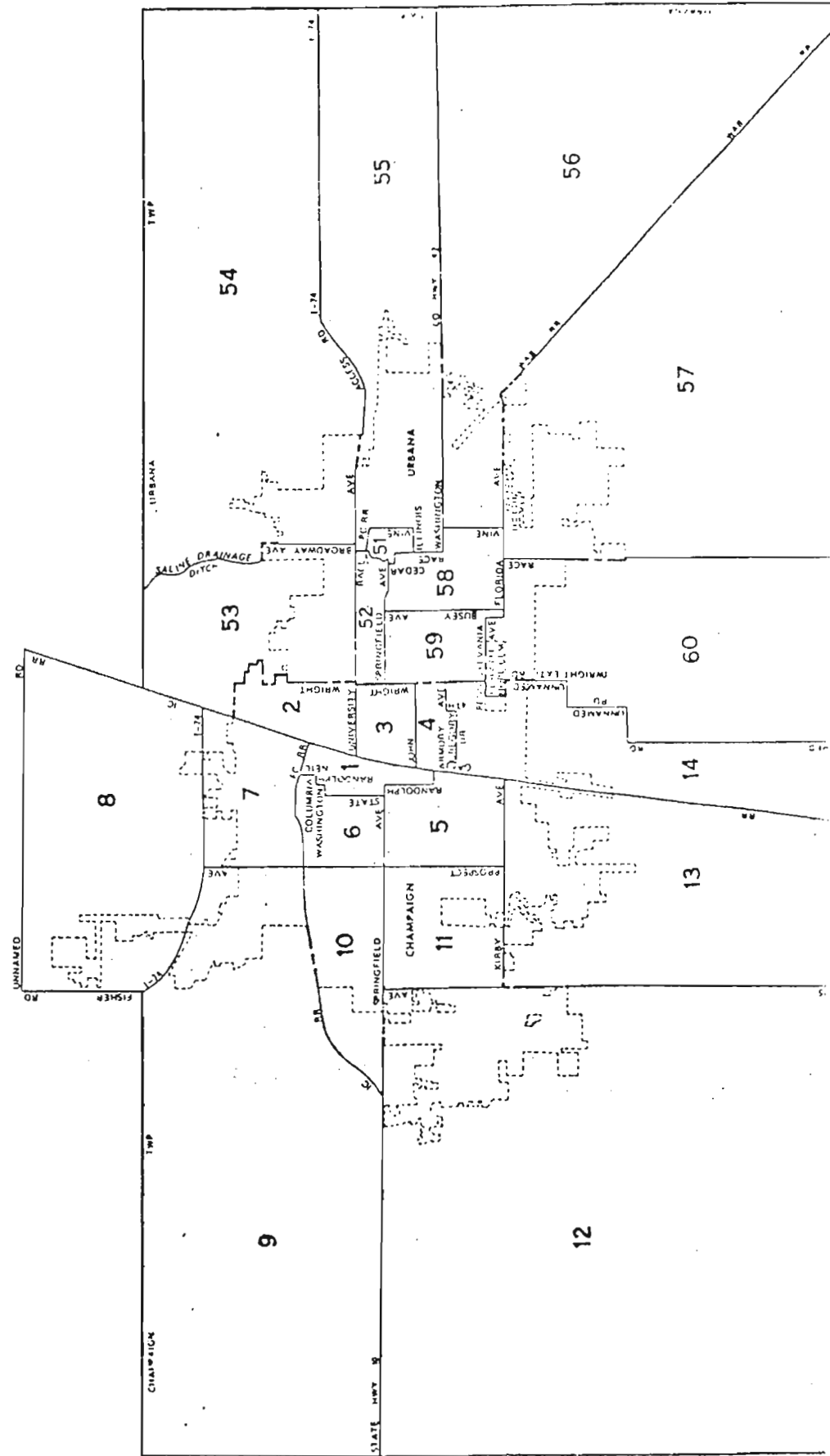
Source: Bureau of the Census

Distribution of Black Population by Township 1980

Township	Champaign County		
	Black	White	Total
Ayers	11	492	503
Champaign	697	7307	8184
Champaign City	7407	49133	58133
Cunningham	3596	30250	35978
Harwood	5	617	625
Hensley	223	1020	1254
Ludlow	482	4472	5114
Mahomet	3	6883	6909
Rantoul	1830	18139	15479
St. Joseph	1	3599	3612
Scott	2	1088	1094
Somer	54	1172	1238
Urbana	350	8202	8795

Source: Bureau of Census. 1980. Census of Population, Illinois Table 44 p. 15-340.

CENSUS TRACTS IN THE CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, ILL. SMSA



BOUNDARY SYMBOLS

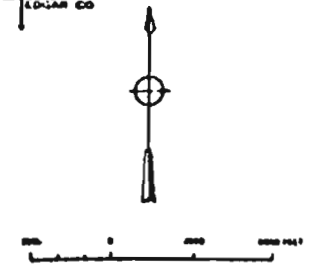
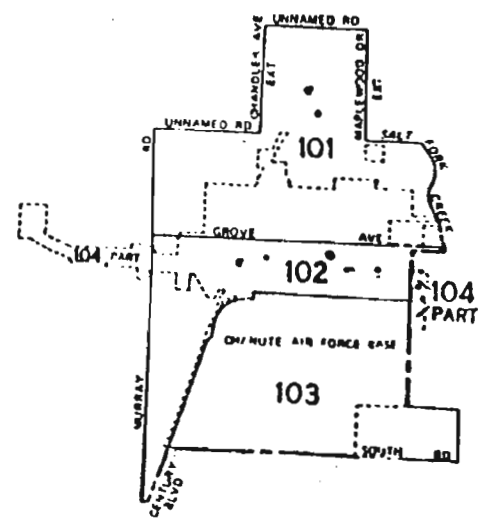
Census Tract Boundaries:

- County
- Corporate Limit
- Municipal Council Division
- Other Tracts

Boundaries Which Are Not Tracts:

- Corporate Limit
- Municipal Council Division

INSET B-RANTOUL AND VICINITY



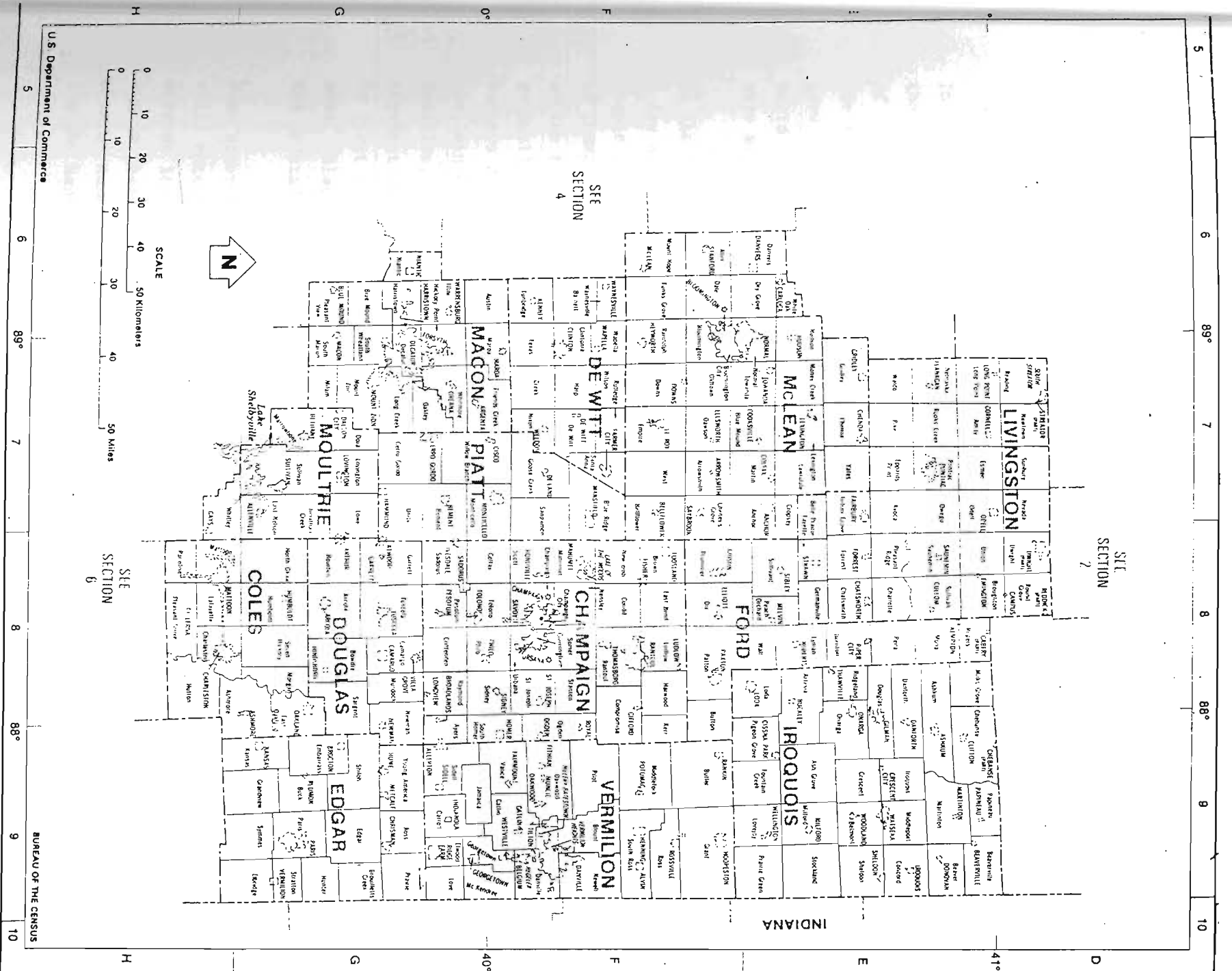
1970 Census of Population and Housing
 Census Tracts

Deaths by Age, Color and Sex for the Champaign-Urbana-Rantoul SMSA

	Total	1	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
	856	24	4	3	27	23	25	56	129	203	188	174
Male	466	13	2	2	19	17	18	36	81	131	83	64
Female	490	11	2	1	8	6	7	20	48	72	105	110
White	772	19	3	1	22	19	20	49	115	186	178	160
Male	424	10	2	-	15	13	16	32	75	123	78	60
Female	348	9	1	1	7	6	4	17	40	63	100	100
All Other*	84	5	1	2	5	4	5	7	14	17	10	14
Male	42	3	-	2	4	4	2	4	6	8	5	4
Female	42	2	1	-	1	-	3	3	8	9	5	10

*All Other includes Blacks

Source: U.S. Vital Statistics



SECTION III

ESSAYS ON BLACK CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

IT SEEMS TO ME

by

Taylor Thomas

During the last seventy years (1913-1983) we find no distinction between Urbana and Champaign when discussing the Afro-American Community. You may have another name for this community. God knows, we have been called many different names by others and by ourselves, so do not expect this article to change this practice now.

In the late 1800s a few Afro-American, Negro, Colored, Black families moved from the southern states and settled in the northern part of Urbana-Champaign. Many of these people were headed toward larger urban industrial areas, but for whatever the reason some settled in the northern part of the Twin-Cities. This population grew slowly at first. However, the migrations during the post-war periods of World War I and World War II caused this population to grow in spurts. These people were migrating North to find work.

In the 1920s we find one Negro family farming in Champaign County, and there were a few Negro families living in different parts of the Twin-Cities; but most of the people settled along either side of the Illinois Central Railroad in the north end of Champaign and eventually, as more relatives came, the community expanded south of the Big Four and Wabash railroad lines. As the Negro population grew the area gradually changed from predominantly white to predominantly Black. Realtors and bankers discouraged Negroes from buying property outside of the northern part of the Twin-Cities, and they also discouraged land developers from selling to Negro families. Hence, the railroad track area became the Black community. This defacto segregation made it relatively easy to locate almost any Negro in the Twin-Cities by first locating the railroad tracks and then following the tracks to the Negro area. Black people did not move into the large community in great numbers until the federal government passed laws which made it possible.

Even after laws were passed it was difficult to get around the color barrier. We still encountered white people who were paternalistic and others whose actions were more or less benevolent but not seriously interested in improving their understanding of their own problem. White people did not seem to understand that no majority, however numerous and powerful, can insure its own continuous happiness by restricting the happiness of others.

During the 1920s there were a few Negro-owned businesses—grocery stores, barber shops, cleaning pressing establishments, caterers—but these all depended on white trade. There were a few businesses that catered only to Negroes, such as some barbershops, beauticians, restaurants, insurance agencies, and morticians. Most of the jobs open to Colored people were railroad laborers, table waiters, cooks, maids, custodians, and a myriad of jobs in private families. Some jobs were also found in fraternities and sororities on the University of Illinois campus. The non-traditional jobs on the campus were two mailcarriers who sorted, carried, and collected all mail on the campus, and one person who was employed in the University of Illinois president's office (he was often referred to as dean of the Negro students).

Elementary school students all attended the school located in the area where they lived. High school students could not participate fully in all of the activities that the high school sponsored. As for the University of Illinois, Negro students could not live or eat on the campus, so they lived with Negro families or in the one sorority or two fraternities located off the edge of the campus. During this period the Negro's education was that he was merely being informed about things which he was not permitted to do. The Negro during the 1920s was trained to think what was desired of him. There were no hotels where Negroes could stay, no restaurants where he could eat, and only a very few of the worst seats in the movie theaters where he could sit.

The religious and social worlds of the Negro community were entwined. People attended church for spiritual guidance, and to meet and socialize. Students from the University of Illinois attended church on Sunday and also on Friday evening when they would have a program that let them display their talents as speakers, singers, actors, and comedians. The church played an important part in Negro life and tried to satisfy a need that was denied them in our segregated society.

Most entertaining was done in the home, but there was an occasional dance or play that was put on at one of the Negro lodge halls.

As for politics during the 1920s we find a high percentage of Negro votes were bought very cheap—for a few dollars, or some food, or in some cases a bottle of spirits.

During the 1930s and 1940s a number of changes began to surface, as a result of the depression, of World War II, and of a little more aggressive action by Black people and some white people who through their actions showed their sincerity. Black and

white people picketed eating establishments on the University of Illinois campus in the 1930s. During the thirties and forties we had one Negro policeman, two morticians, one shoe-cobbler and one Black newspaper in Champaign. The elementary schools hired a custodian and Black teachers when the student body became all Black.

We began to recognize more and more that the Colored folk were the last hired and the first fired. Also, as a result of the depression, we found that what we thought had been traditional Negro jobs were no longer Negro jobs; they had been given to poor and not-so-poor whites and to some foreigners who were also moving into the Twin-Cities.

In the 1940s a small group of serious white people and a smaller group of Black, came together and worked as best they could to improve employment and housing for Negroes. As a result, some Negroes were hired as clerks in some stores. Another group of Black people and a few white people worked together with the City of Champaign to build Douglass Center in northeast Champaign. This multi-purpose building was used for more than recreation; it served as a social agency and an employment agency, was used by the U.S.O., and for state lodge meetings, and state church meetings, grade school programs, kindergarten, and club meetings. During the mid-1940s we began to get a little movement, a little more upward mobility as a result of Negroes beginning to see the subtle and not so subtle ways in which white people kept Negroes from positions of authority and decision making. Also, World War II servicemen returning home after fighting for freedom and democracy abroad, felt that it was time to fight for themselves at home.

A Black was nominated for city commissioner and ten years later a Black was elected city councilman. Crystal Lake swimming pool in Urbana, which had been in use for twenty years, was opened to all its residents and visitors as a result of two individuals who met with the states attorney a few times and insisted that the pool be open to Negroes; then a group of youths tested their sincerity by going swimming.

More students began to attend the University of Illinois and to participate in the activities that were open to them. In a slow process housing and eating establishments began to open on the campus after the University of Illinois completed its Union Building (1942) and university dormitories were opened to Negro students.

In Urbana-Champaign, you might say, we had reached puberty in our development but we were now struggling through those difficult teen-age years.

By the 1950s a Black was elected to the school board in Champaign, and a few years later a Black was elected in Urbana. Also the first Black was elected homecoming queen at the University of Illinois. In the field of politics, the Negro began to demand and get jobs for his vote. We also began to vote together on issues that appeared to affect us directly. More nontraditional jobs began to open up. Federal and state jobs opened, clerks were hired in some stores and clerical workers were hired on the University of Illinois campus. Negro teachers were hired to teach all children regardless of their color or ethnic heritage, and the University of Illinois began to place a few Negroes on the faculty. In fact, more jobs opened up in all areas on the campus. As a result we find that the Negroes who were employed were able to raise their standard of living. However, in this transient community we still had a high percentage of Blacks living below the poverty level.

The 1960s and 1970s were periods of frustration for Blacks. We find that the older and younger people in the Black community did not always see eye to eye, and each group began to take on some of the worst habits of the white community. Older Blacks were seeing changes that had come about during the 1940s and 1950s as a result of decades of very hard work. Young Blacks could only see that their parents and grandparents had fought all over the world (in World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam) to save the world for democracy; yet they experienced more discrimination at home than some of the prisoners of war brought here from foreign countries. The young Blacks seemed to feel that when Blacks finished their education they were prepared to begin the life of an Americanized or Europeanized white person. Then they must go back to their own people to play their part in life. So they had to be both social and bi-social at the same time. While serving their country they had to serve within a special group. These youth did not wish to wait for decades—they wanted democracy now. In a way that so many people did not understand, they were saying give me liberty or give me death. During this period some of our Black youth began to experiment with drugs, and young gangs began to operate in the northern part of the Twin-Cities. Some lives were lost. Then we experienced the confrontation with the local police which came down to a Black-white lack of understanding.

At this time there was a great deal of rhetoric but not much serious movement to improve economic conditions for those who were experiencing serious need. Some Black people fought in various ways for improvement in the police force, housing, education, economic conditions, and some tried to work with youth gangs. Local schools and the University of Illinois began to hire Black administrators to help with discipline. A Black alderman was elected in Urbana.

Finally, some progress had been made in some areas, but the white population was finding it difficult to adjust to the change that made it possible for Black people to enjoy some of the freedom that had been reserved for whites only. The NAACP had been around for a few decades with little success, and then in the 1960s the Urban League came to Champaign County. It has worked to improve economic conditions for all those in need.

Champaign-Urbana in the 1980s finds that Blacks have gained in education in political representation, and in white collar employment, but not in overall jobs or income. Champaign-Urbana has usually been affected by the national picture, and now in the 1980s it appears that the Twin-Cities are being affected by the national picture again. But this time the thinking and actions have been to try to turn the clock back to the era of racial repression.

Most white people in the Twin-Cities are still very naive when it comes to understanding Black people. Whites do not seem to know that racial prejudice is acquired through contact with the attitude of prejudice itself and not through contact with the groups that are the objects of prejudice. This is so evident in our news coverage by all of the news media—whether it is radio, television, or newspaper.

A number of local Black youth have overcome and found employment in their chosen field. It is regrettable that over the years so many of these youths have found it necessary to leave the Twin-Cities in order to find employment.

We hope that white citizens of the Twin-Cities will understand that when we talk of freedom of opportunity for all nations, the mocking paradoxes in our own society become so clear that they can no longer be ignored. As for the future, a pessimistic-optimist might say, white citizens of Champaign-Urbana will overcome.

BLACK FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS
AND LITERACY IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

by

Violet M. Malone

Black female headed households in Champaign County are in a state of crisis. Findings from national studies of Black female headed households indicate that, even though their numbers are increasing as participants in the labor force, the reality of the situation is that such families are increasing in the poverty ranks. These studies suggest that Black women who head these families are often victims of a social system that excludes them from economic, occupational and educational opportunities and the related resources because they are invisible entities in the system (2)

In Champaign County, many agencies recognize the need to provide support services for such women, but they have not taken a pro-active role to identify these women as clients. However, Black female heads of households have not moved, assertively, to utilize the existing resources. For Black women, in this community, the problem of access to services is not only one of availability of services but one in which the female and her family face barriers which inhibit them from functioning as a self sufficient and supportive group for the purpose of improving the quality of life for all members of the household.

In this report of Black female heads of households in Champaign County, we have looked at some current demographic data related to economic conditions, occupations, health and education which may act as barriers for Black female heads of households. Emphasis is placed on functional illiteracy as one major barrier to strengthening the quality of life for Black women and their households in this area. (1)

Demographic Data - Champaign-Urbana

Of the 4,592 Black households in Champaign County, 1,321 are Black female headed in a family unit (9); seven hundred and ten are Black heads of non-family households. Of the 1,321 female headed households of family units, 1,191 are Black female headed with no husband present. In summary, there are 2,031 female headed households, or some 44% of the Black households in Champaign County. Of the 1,191 female headed households with no husband present, almost 80% have children under 18 years of age. The total number of children in these households is 2,097. It is this group of women whose families are faced with most of the issues presented in this report.

1. The economic condition of Black female heads of households in Champaign County appears to be as bleak as the one at the national level. Nationally, Black female heads of households are the group most likely to be living below the poverty level and least likely to earn wages above a poverty level even when fully employed. In Champaign County, 750 Black females, heading households were receiving public assistance as of May, 1983. According to the last census data for the County, some 562 of these households had income below poverty level and 290 of these households remained below the poverty level even though the female head of household was fully employed. In that same census data, the mean family income of these families (with no husband present) was \$8,678 (9). For those households with children under 18, their income dropped to \$7,960. This income was earned at a time when the county data on earnings was listed as shown in the following figure.

Median Earnings of Fully Employed Persons,
16 years or older and Poverty Data - CU (12)

	All	Blacks	Black Female (no husband) Heads of Household
1. Total Households with earnings	52,522	3,907	1,191
2. Median earnings	\$19,131	\$14,460	\$8,678
Note: Population Below Poverty Level - CU	13.2%	26.9%	47.1%

2. Occupational opportunities was another barrier to economic uplift for Black female heads of households in the county. Of the six major categories of occupations listed in the census data, the one employing most Blacks was the Services category (1,517 persons). This category includes work in private households, protection and all other services. Of that number, 1,350 Blacks were employed in "all other services" with 65 employed in private households. Little data were available to determine if Black female householders were workers in this category but national studies show that this is the category where they are most likely to be found. (11). Technical Sales and Support was the second highest category of employment for Blacks in Champaign County (1,388 persons); however, the educational level assumed to be needed for employment in these positions would preclude the employment of the Champaign County Black women who head households with no husband present.

3. The following data provide an overview of the educational levels of Champaign County citizens. The last column includes the statistics of all Black females over 25 years of age. (18). These data are not separated to indicate the educational

level of Black female heads of households with no husband.

Grade Levels	Educational Level		
	All	All Blacks	Black Females
Total Population	73,927	6,026	3,221
0 - 4	543	365	142
5 - 7	1,597	460	276
8th grade	4,637	364	258
1 - 3	6,394	1,017	597
4 years H.S.	25,669	1,781	929
1 - 3	12,740	1,060	604
4 years or more college	22,347	979	415

To determine if the barriers included access to educational opportunities for Black females, particularly those women receiving public assistance, a study of the recent statistics were examined from the Title 20 programs (Public Aid Funded) offered at Parkland Community College, Rantoul Educational Service Center and the Urbana Adult Education Center. Of the 275 Black women enrolled in all program categories only 126 were enrolled in the Title 20 program. (20). The majority (75%) were 21-44 years of age, less than 3% were over 45 years of age and only 22% were in the 16-20 year of age category. In general, the educational statistics on Black women enrollment in all categories of funded programs at the three institutions show that a majority of Black women enrolled in these programs are in the age category of 21-44. The women enrolled in the Title 20 programs were in the Adult Basic Education and GED Classes. All three program areas had space for additional enrollees. In one program, free transportation is available. (21).

4. Another category of concern about "Black female heads of households" is the one related to health. Some national studies show that Black women as a group are more likely to have health problems related "to hypertension, obesity, heart and kidney disease, diabetes, nutritional deficiencies, arthritis and digestive problems....In addition, for Black disadvantaged women, the probability rates for cervical and breast cancer are higher than among other groups" (5). Locally, it was found that little data are collected or are retrievable for the study of health issues related to Black females and more specially, Black female heads of households. Therefore, the information in this section is based on insights and observations of health care knowledgeable in various Champaign County agencies.

Maternal mortality appears to be less of a health issue, however the infant mortality rate is a concern. The following figure is provided based on statistical data provided by the Health Systems Agency of East Central Illinois (19).

	<u>Infant Birth and Mortality Levels</u>					
	<u>All County</u>	<u>M**</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Blacks</u>	<u>M</u>
1979 (LB)* Mortality (M)	2425	28	1980	20	445	8
1980 (LB) Mortality (M)	2548	23	2104	16	439	7
1981 (LB) Mortality (M)	2598	24	3155	15	443	9

*LB - Live Birth No.

**M - No. of Infant Deaths

Each year, some 18% of all Black babies born in Champaign County die (based on 1,000 live births). The numbers, 8, 7, 9 are small but the percentage represents a crisis state of affairs.

It was learned that many of the Black babies born in the county have mothers under 18 years of age. Many of these young women are represented in the data as members of families and not heads of household. Therefore, far less data are collected on these women particularly as they are related to health issues. The local mental health office staff does work with a group of adolescent and teenage girls identified as "Parents too Soon" (17). In a seven year period over 250 Black girls have received services from this agency. The program focused on the reduction of the drop out rate for the young women. The program director indicated when no such program was available in a community, the drop out rate for these girls was as high as 60%. With such a program, the rate is reduced to 40%. In Champaign County the rate is a low 35% even though the overall drop out rate for downstate is a very low 3-4%.

The Executive Director of Frances Nelson Health Center felt that the national data on health concerns for Black female heads of households was reflected here in Champaign County. Comparatively, few of these households utilize the Center as their primary source of health care services. Hospital emergency room service remains a primary source of care (14).

Few women utilize mental health resources to aid in the reduction of depression and related concerns. Self medication or "over the counter" drugs provide a source of relief for these women. However, the major concern with this treatment is related

to the issue of functional illiteracy which can and does result in problems of over medication and drug dependency. Many of these women become alcohol and drug dependent but are unable to utilize local resources because of their literacy levels. Access to these agency services are a provider and user barrier. In addition, cultural and social factors may act as barriers to these women who might utilize mental health services (16, 5).

Single parenthood is closely linked to an increased incidence of hypertension and stress. Such women are less likely to seek assistance because of self image. Few, if any, are able to recognize the need for preventive health care. These women appear to "age" more quickly than the general population of women. The question of insurance coverage was raised as an issue as well as the use of medicaid for the low income family.

Nutritional issues related to health were discussed (15). It was learned that less than 100 Black, female headed households were reached or took advantage of a nutritional educational program made available through the local Cooperative Extension Service Office even though paraprofessionals were available to work with families in the home. Households receiving food stamps and living at or below the poverty level are a target population for this program. An outreach office of the program has been located in the Frances Nelson Health Center.

Some Questions and Conclusions

This report began with a statement that households, headed by Black females, are in a state of crisis here in Champaign. The households facing the crisis more than others are those headed by Black females with no husband present. These women are faced with problems that come with the dissolution of their marriages or with their unwed motherhood status. Such women are more likely to become heads of households and live at or below the poverty level in this community. Their marital status is a major issue. However, for Black women, remarriage is not the panacea envisioned by white women. Consequently, the lifestyle faced by Black women includes barriers to employment, health services and education. The latter barrier, often described as functional illiteracy*, is a pervasive one. It is viewed as a major issue which prevents women from moving out of their poverty level conditions. (10).

*Functional Illiteracy is described on the basis of a national study of Adult Performance Levels (APL) funded by NIE in 1974...a series of educational skills applied to everyday life requirements.

1. To what extent can improved employment opportunities help women to raise their economic status above the poverty level? Sex stereotyping and literacy levels as well as cultural views of feminism remain barriers to changes in employment practice. The willingness to train for and work in male dominated jobs is a problem. Racism with sexism remains an issue among labor union-based occupations as well as in technical and academic positions. Even when these women are fully employed, their income does not provide enough resources to improve their current status. Subsidized workfare programs have not proven to be successful for these households particularly when such income is not enough to pay for child care services and medicine needs. (10, 8).

2. In a community that has one of the highest educational levels in the state and one that has a multitude of educational resources available within a 40 mile radius, why are the majority of Black female heads of households in Champaign County still functionally illiterate? To take advantage of the many resources in this community, an individual must be able to read, write and use mathematical functions at the 6th grade level, at least (13). The completion of forms in an inappropriate manner can result in a denial of services. Agency staff are seldom trained to be sensitive to needs of people who have learned to make their illiteracy invisible (3). Consequently, potential clients reject services rather than have "their problem exposed." (7).

Little attention is paid to the need for ancillary services such as child care, career counselling or health screening (vision, hearing, learning disability). (4).

3. To what extent are the health services of the community accessible to the poor? How effective are medicaid and other health care subsidies in the promotion of preventive health care for the audience of this report?

Some preliminary findings from a local task force on the impact of substance abuse programs suggests that if one has a literacy problem, he or she is less likely to receive assistance. Also, Black female heads of households are less likely to seek help from health agencies because of cultural experiences. Home remedies are utilized first until emergency attention is needed. This behavior may be related to a long history of health care facilities being viewed as "unsympathetic to Black people's needs."

Locally, few Black women appear to be suicide cases and few leave the family situation (abandonment). These women appear to have a strong belief in "the family unit." However, the question of child abuse may be an issue but it is seldom reported.

Again, health and literacy are linked to the extent that a literate woman may become more aware of the options available to her to make decisions about "family cures, preventive and primary health care and emergency hospital services."

In summary, the Black female heads of households, without husbands, in Champaign County are in a state of crisis. This crisis state of affairs exists because these households live at or below the poverty level in this community. Such a condition makes the barriers to employment, education and health care even more insurmountable when linked to the functional illiteracy.

Black female heads of households in Champaign County tend to be rather strong and stable family units and Champaign County is a strong and resourceful community. Therefore, a solution to the problems of support for such families should become a major concern for people in this community in the months and years ahead.

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by

Earl R. Jones

The Northside (Census Tract Two), located in the northeast section of the city of Champaign, is one of the major Black neighborhoods in the city. Approximately 29% of the Black population of the city lives on the Northside (U.S. Department of Commerce, 1983). As shown in Figure I, the boundaries of the census tract are Bradley Avenue to the north, University Avenue to the south, Wright Street to the east, and First Street and the Illinois Central Railroad tracks to the west.² The Northside contains two Community Development Neighborhood Strategy Areas: The University-Washington area and the northeast area, also shown in Figure I.³ This paper presents first an overview of housing and land-use patterns in the Northside and secondly a more detailed view of these patterns in both the University-Washington and northeast strategy areas.

An Overview of the Northside

In 1979, 97% of the population of Census Tract Two was Black. From 1970 to 1979 the population of the Northside declined by 19% from 2740 to 2214), while the population of the city of Champaign increased by 2.3% (U.S. Department of Commerce, 1980). The decreased population in Census Tract Two is mainly due to the demolition of 95 housing units in the Oak-Ash renewal site. Housing units in standard condition were also moved to other sites within the neighborhood. In addition, some of the loss can be attributed to Black migration to Garden Hills, an area north of Census Tract Two (UPV, 1980).

Land Use

Census Tract Two is mainly residential. Thirty-eight percent of the land area is used for low density residential building (Figure II). Streets comprise 28% of the

¹This paper is an excerpt from "Land Use, Housing and Capital Improvements in The Northend," UP 337 Community Planning Workshop, Department of Urbana and Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Spring 1982.

²A small section north of Bradley Avenue and between Fifth and Wright Streets is also included in Census Tract Two, but because of time limitations was not included in this workshop study.

³Although the University-Washington area extends from University Avenue north to Washington Street, for the purpose of this study, Columbia Avenue was used as the dividing line to create an equal work load for each survey team.

land use, and vacant land amounts to 10%. Commercial and residential use each comprise 7% of the land area. Multi-family and institutional use each comprise 5% of the total land area. Most commercial activity is located along University Avenue and First Street, with some commercial land use scattered within the neighborhood. Residents have access to several recreational areas, including Douglass Park located in the northeastern area of the Census Tract. Douglass Park has a recreation center, which offers after-school programs and a variety of activities. Douglass Annex (a senior citizen center), and Washington Elementary School (a magnet school), are located in the same block as Douglass Park.

Housing

The majority of the housing units in Census Tract Two (45%) were built between 1950 and 1969, 30% before 1939, 1% between 1975 and 1978, and no new housing units were built from 1979 to March 1980 (U.S. Department of Commerce, 1983).

The housing market on the Northside is stable, but weak; 58% of the owners of Black-occupied housing moved into their present residence in 1959 or earlier. Of the 766 occupied units, 55% are renter-occupied and 45% are owner occupied. In addition, the vacancy rate for the area as of 1980 was 12% (108 units) (U.S. Department of Commerce, 1983).

In 1978 the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission conducted a housing condition survey of all 715 dwelling units in Census Tract Two. Their survey indicated that 20% of the dwelling units were in substandard condition. Our visual survey of housing conditions in Census Tract Two indicated that there are 384 single family structures in the area. It is important to recognize that this survey counted only the number of residential structures, not the number of dwelling units. Multi-family housing and public housing were not included in this count. Thus, the difference in the number of housing units between this study and the Regional Planning Commission's is due to our count of residential structures rather than dwelling units and the exclusion of multi-family and public housing.

The results of our survey of housing conditions are shown in Table I. Perhaps the most important finding is that of the 384 residential units surveyed, 67% are in need of either minor, average, or major rehabilitation. This clearly indicates the need to continue to target Community Development Block Grant funds to the Northside.⁴

⁴Median Black household income in Census Tract Two, as of 1979, was 54% of the median white household income for the city of Champaign (U.S. Department of Commerce, 1983).

University-Washington Area

Land Use

The University-Washington area is bounded by University Avenue on the south, First Street on the west, and Wright Street on the east (Figure I). For this study, Columbia Avenue was chosen to be the northern boundary to facilitate division of the survey task. The composition of the land use in the University-Washington area is shown in Figure III.

Low density residential housing, the largest land use in the area, comprises 38% of the total land area. Thirty-two percent of the land use is composed of streets. Vacant land is the next most prevalent land use, taking up 12% of the total area. Sixty percent of the vacant land comprises residential lots. A 2.4 acre parcel of land north of Church Street and west of Fifth Street is also vacant except for one abandoned building.

Commercial uses are mainly located along University Avenue and First Street. The businesses in this area include a car wash, used-car lot, and a truck rental dealer. There are also some scattered commercial uses within the residential area (see Figure IV). Commercial land use comprises 11% of the total land area.

The three remaining categories of land use are institutional, recreational, and high-density residential. Together these categories make up less than 5% of the total land area. Institutional land use in the area includes three churches, the National Guard Armory, and the Champaign County Mental Health Center. All of these institutions are located along Park Avenue.

Recreational land use and high density residential use comprise one-half percent and 1% of total land use, respectively. The only recreational area in University-Washington is a small mini-park located on Park Avenue. It has playground equipment and benches. The high density residential use is an apartment complex located on Park Avenue.

Housing

The University-Washington area is primarily composed of single-family residences. There are, however, four other types of housing located throughout the area. They are:

1. A privately owned apartment complex, composed of brick buildings.
2. A senior citizen public housing complex, also composed of two brick buildings.
3. One scattered-site public housing duplex.
4. Privately owned rooming houses (converted single-family residences), primarily located on Church Street.

Two hundred and thirty single-family structures were surveyed in the University-Washington area. Table II shows the results of the housing condition survey. Over one-third of the housing is in standard condition. Just under a third of the structures are in need of minor rehabilitation, 19% require average rehabilitation. Only 2% of the structures require demolition.

In summary, the majority of housing in the University-Washington area (over 69%) is either in standard condition or in need of minor rehabilitation. However, 62% of the housing is in need of minor, average, or major rehabilitation. Many of the houses have obviously been taken care of, either by the owners alone, or with assistance from the city. Within the past couple of years there have been new residential structures built in the area. They are single family dwelling units and duplexes.

The total cost of rehabilitating structures in the University-Washington area is estimated at \$1,045,300 (Table III). This was calculated using the average rehabilitation costs provided by the Community Development Office as shown below:

Major Rehabilitation - \$15,500
 Average Rehabilitation - \$8,200
 Minor Rehabilitation - \$5,100

It should be emphasized that these are average costs, and some structures will require fewer funds and others a great deal more. Also, administrative costs are not included in these figures.

The Northeast Area

Land Use

The northeast area is bounded by Bradley Avenue to the north and Columbia Avenue on the south, by Wright Street and the Champaign City limits on the east, and by the Illinois Central Railroad tracks on the west (Figure V). The Oak-Ash redevelopment area located south of Eureka Avenue and west of Fourth Street was not included in the land use study of this area because the redevelopment plan for Oak-Ash will

require replatting; thus, specific land use categories could not be determined. The composition of land use in the northeast area is shown in Figure VI. Streets comprise 23% of the land use, and low-density residential use comprises 23% of the total land area. The two other major land uses are high density residential (10%) and recreational (16%). Bradley and Mt. Olive apartment complexes comprise the high density residential uses in the northeast. Both complexes are located between Bradley and Beardsley Avenues in the northwest corner of the northeast area. In 1980 only 12 of the 72 units of Mt. Olive Manor were occupied due to rehabilitation work. The Bradley Park apartment complex contains 62 units.

To the south of the Bradley Park Apartments is Wesley Park, one of the two parks in the northeast area. Wesley Park has an asphalt playground and a grassy area. The larger of the two parks, Douglass Park, has baseball diamonds and other playground facilities. Douglass Park is located between Grove and Eureka Streets, east of Fifth Street. The park serves as a recreational center for the Northside.

Adjoining Douglass Park on the south are two of the area's most important institutions, the Douglass Center and Washington Elementary School. There are also four churches and an American Legion Post in the area. Three of the churches and the Legion Post are within three blocks of Douglass Park. The fourth church, The Church of the Living God, is on the corner of Fourth and Bradley; it has an attached, church-run day care center.

Approximately 7% of total land use in the area is classified as vacant. The vacant lots are scattered throughout most of the northeast area and most are standard residential lots (66' x 132' or 50' x 150'). Vacant lots are either cleared or are currently used as yards and gardens for adjoining lots. Adding the 25 acres of Oak-Ash would make vacant land the most prominent land use in the northeast area. Oak-Ash is vacant except for a few buildings scheduled for demolition.

Commercial land use accounts for only 1% of the total land use in the area and is located along Fourth Street. The businesses on Fourth Street include a convenience store, an auto repair shop, and a funeral parlor.

Housing

The northeast area is dominated by single-family residences, although multi-family structures are also present. A vacant subsidized housing project (Mt. Olive Manor) stands near the northwest section of the community. There are also several duplexes, a two-story multi-family structure (Bradley Park Apartments), and eight scattered

single-family public housing sites.

A total of 154 single-family structures was surveyed (see Table IV). Thirty-four percent of the structures are in need of minor rehabilitation, while a smaller number (21%) are in need of major rehabilitation. Thirty-two structures (21%) are in standard condition, requiring no rehabilitation.

The total cost to rehabilitate structures in the northeast area is estimated at \$1,080,000 (Table V).

Conclusion

Housing and the development of the Oak-Ash renewal site are two of the major problems confronting residents in the Northside. Over the years residents of the Northside have continued to make efforts to improve the quality of the housing stock, increase the quantity of affordable housing, and develop the Oak-Ash renewal area. Given a total estimated cost of \$2,126,400 to rehabilitate all of the single housing in the Northside one cannot deny that housing is a major problem. Housing conditions on the Northside can, perhaps, be significantly improved by the city administration making an aggressive effort to 1) redevelop the Oak-Ash area, 2) utilize effective housing programs such as the Neighborhood Housing Services Program,⁵ which relies on building a partnership among key housing market actors (i.e., local governments), and 3) provide increased technical assistance and Community Development Block Grant Program.

⁵Neighborhood Housing Services Programs have been established in Aurora, Elgin, Kankakee and Peoria, Illinois.

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FIGURE I

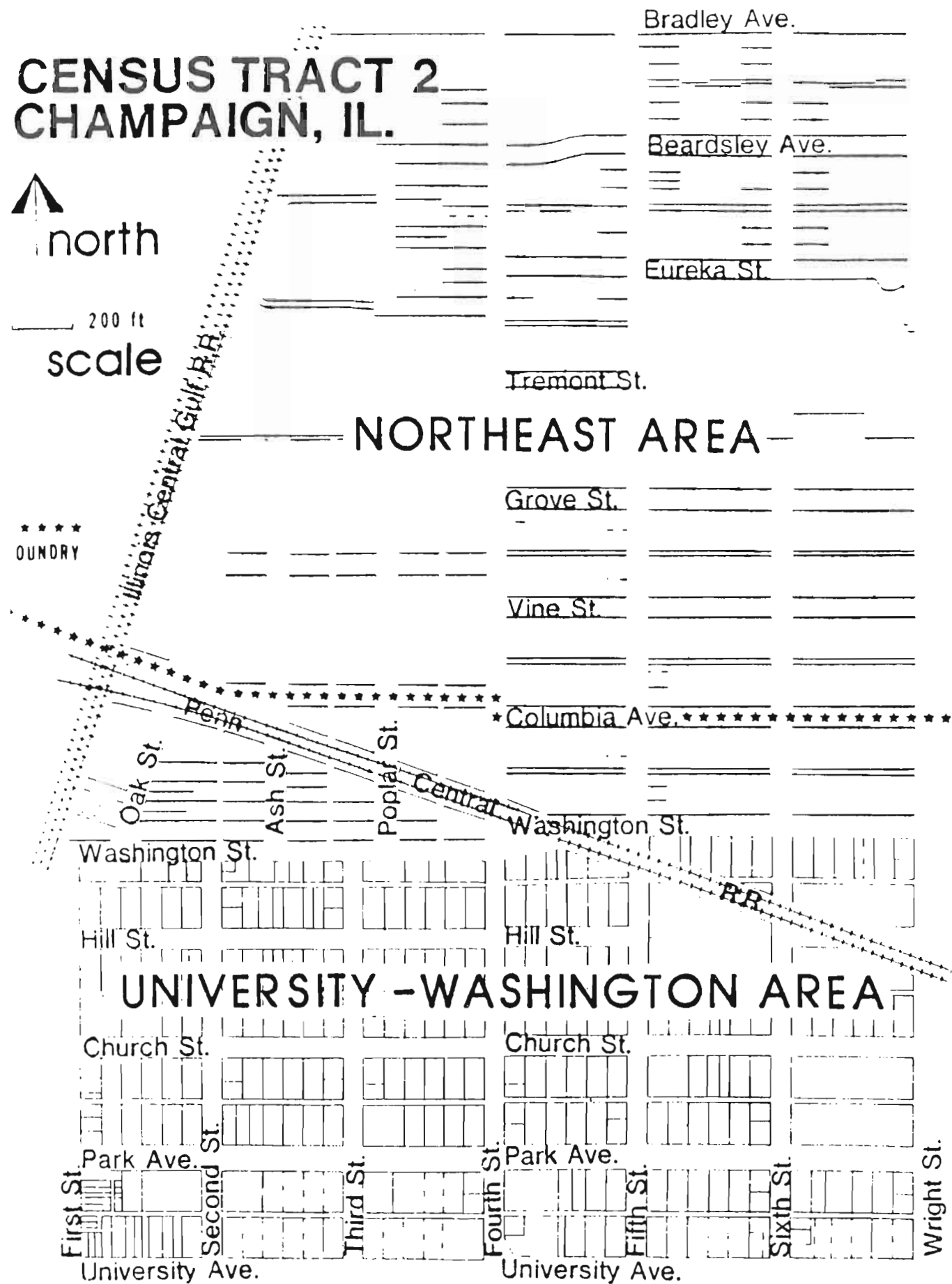


FIGURE II

TOTAL LAND USE

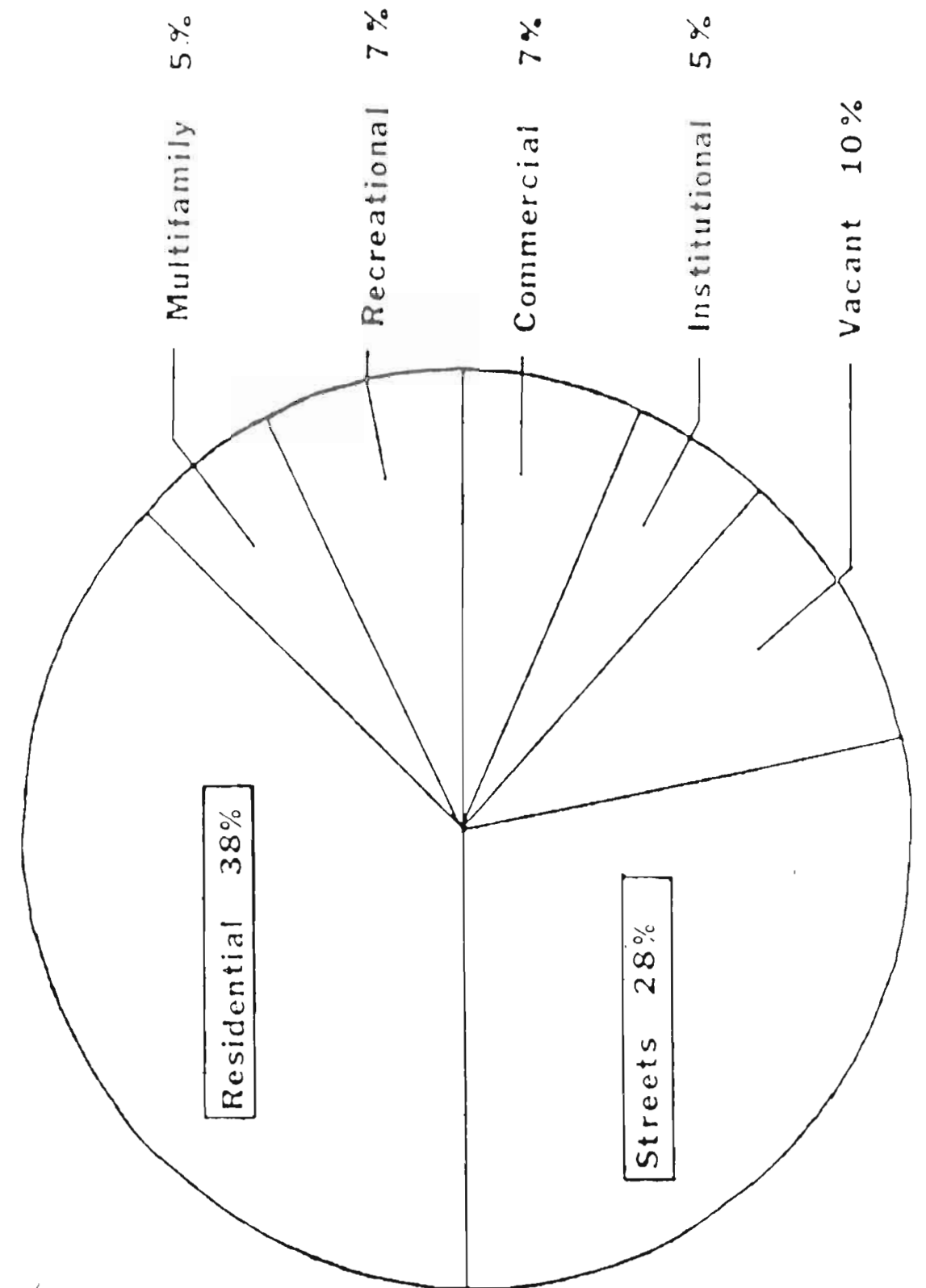


TABLE I

HOUSING CONDITIONS: THE NORTHSIDE

Housing Condition	Number	% of Total
Standard	120	31
Minor Rehabilitation	124	32
Average Rehabilitation	80	21
Major Rehabilitation	54	14
Demolish	4	1
Presently Being Rehabilitated	2	5
Total	384	100 (Rounded)

FIGURE III

Land Use in University-Washington Area

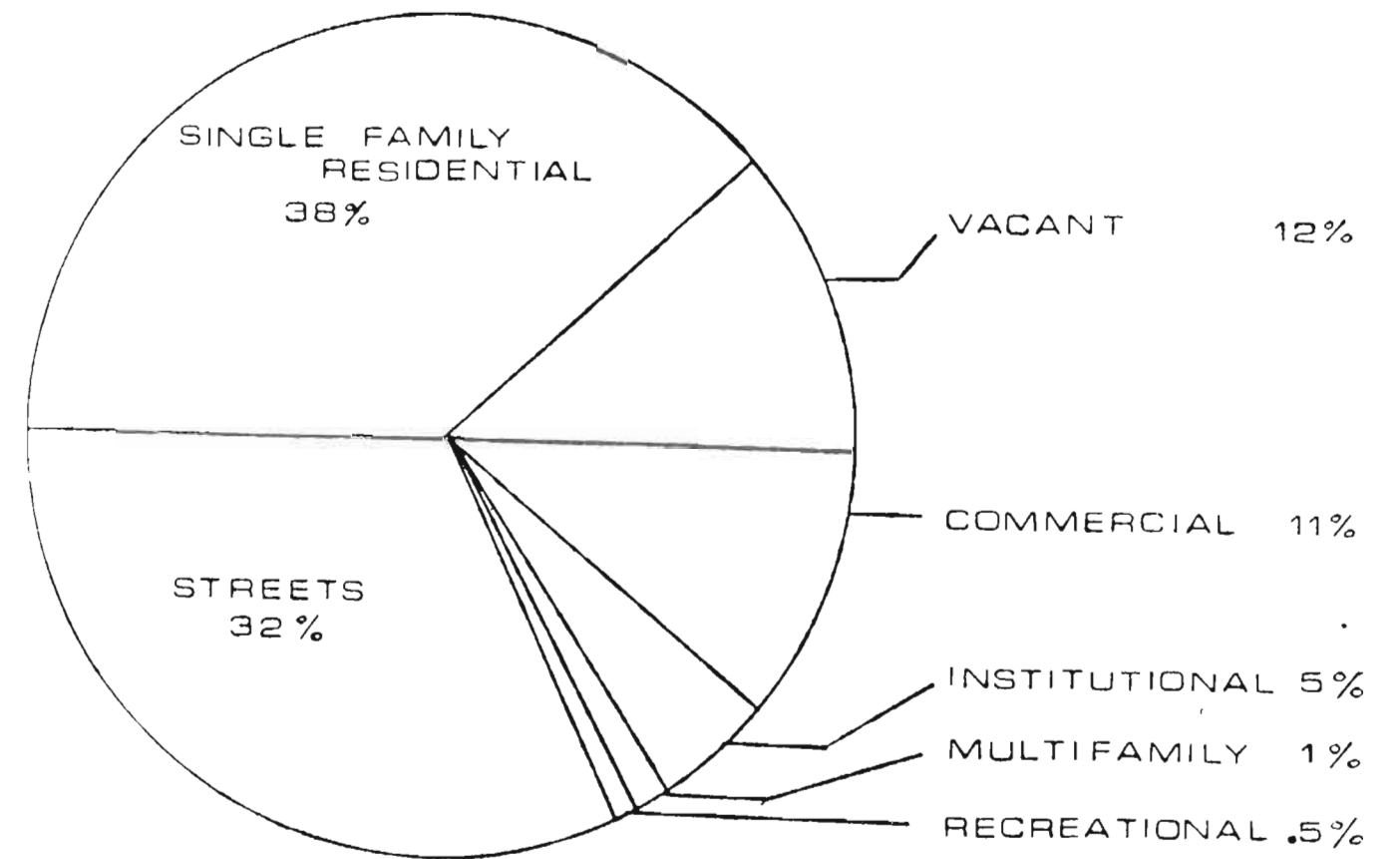


FIGURE IV

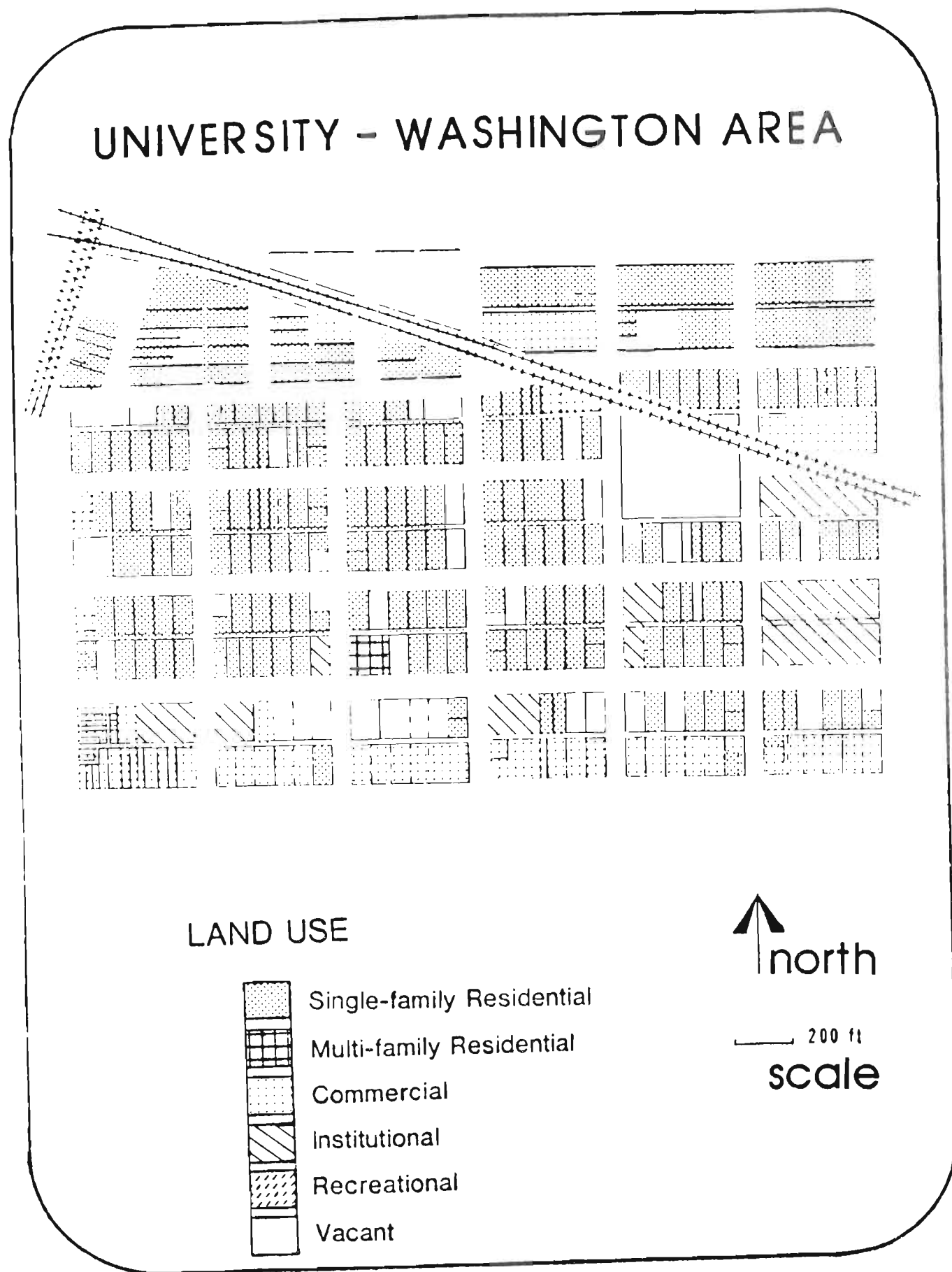


TABLE II .

HOUSING CONDITIONS: UNIVERSITY-WASHINGTON AREA

Housing Condition	Number	% of Total
Standard Condition	88	38%
Minor Rehabilitation	72	31%
Average Rehabilitation	43	19%
Major Rehabilitation	21	9%
Demolish	4	2%
Presently Being Rehabilitated	2	1%
TOTAL	230	100%

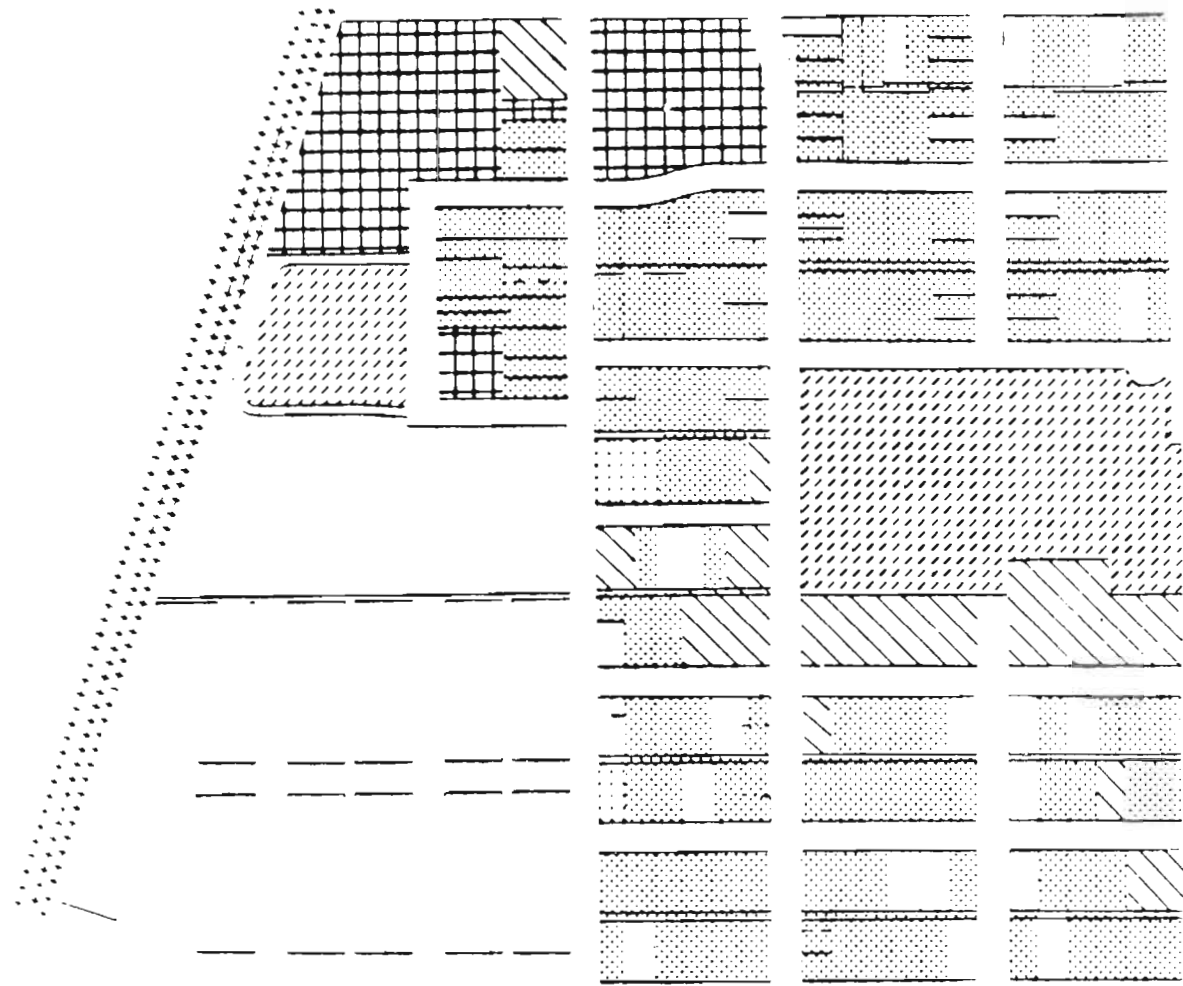
TABLE III

REHABILITATION COSTS: UNIVERSITY-WASHINGTON AREA

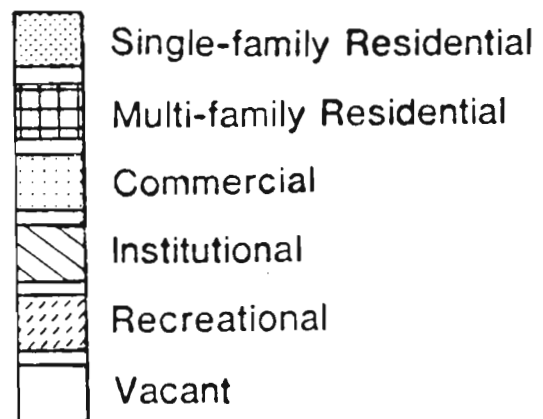
Housing Condition	Total #	Total \$	% of Total \$
Minor Rehabilitation	72	\$367,200	35%
Average Rehabilitation	43	\$352,600	34%
Major Rehabilitation	21	\$325,500	31%
TOTAL	136	\$1,045,300	100%

FIGURE V

NORTHEAST AREA



LAND USE



— 200 ft
scale

FIGURE VI

Land Use in Northeast Area

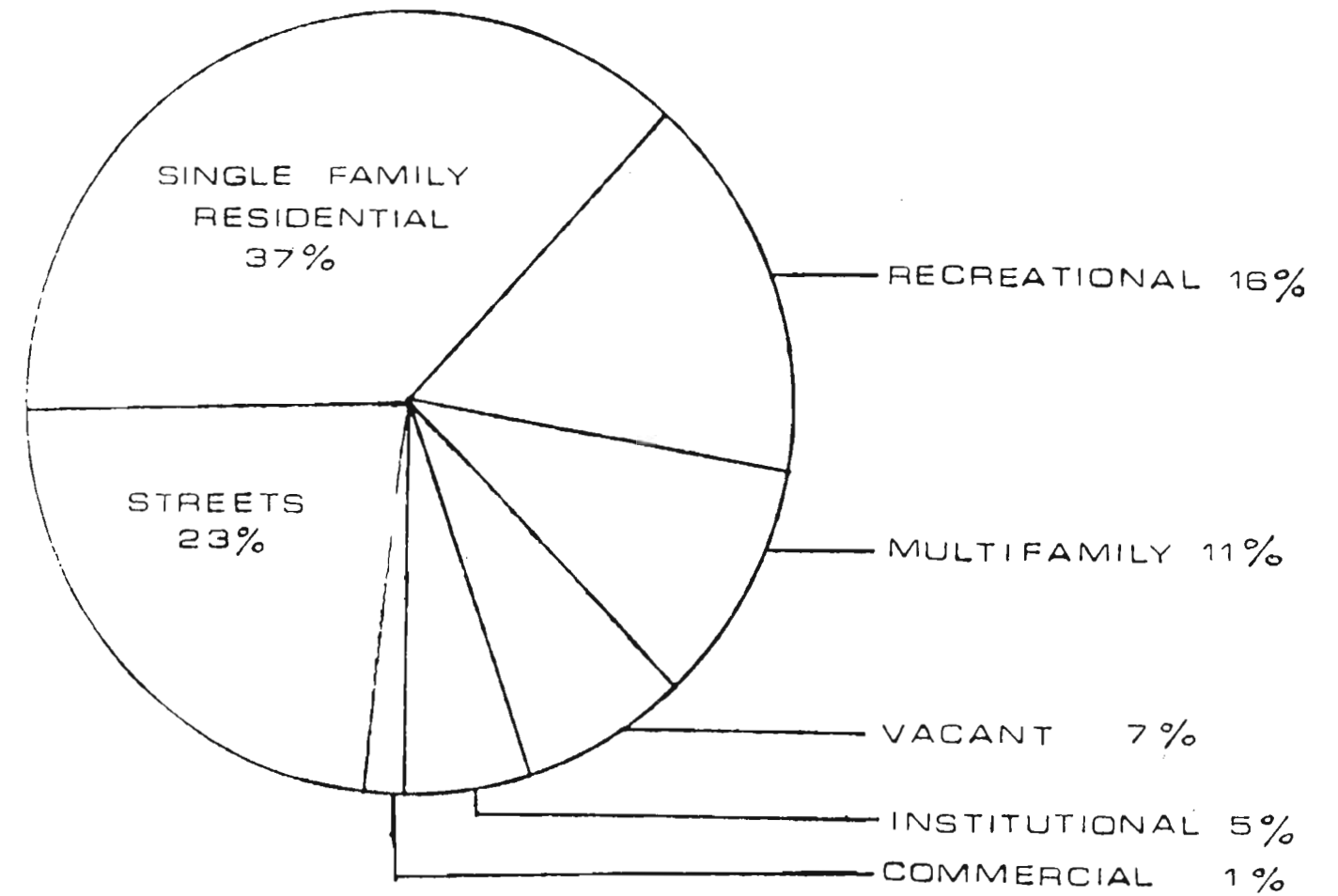


TABLE IV

HOUSING CONDITIONS: NORTHEAST AREA

Housing Condition	Number	% of Total
Standard Condition	32	21%
Minor Rehabilitation	52	34%
Average Rehabilitation	37	24%
Major Rehabilitation	33	21%
Demolish	0	0%
TOTALS	154	100%

TABLE V

REHABILITATION COSTS: NORTHEAST AREA

Housing Condition	Total #	Total \$	% of Total \$
Minor Rehabilitation	52	\$265,200	25%
Average Rehabilitation	37	\$303,400	28%
Major Rehabilitation	33	\$511,500	47%
TOTALS	122	\$1,081,100	100%

BLACKS AND HIGH TECH FOR BLACK CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

by
Paul E. Parker

To understand high technology in Black Champaign County we should first focus on the concept of high technology itself. Quite obviously we can accept the concept, but we will need a good definition and an awareness of high technology. Also, important at this stage will be the links between understading technology, preparing for technology, and implementing technology.

Approximately two decades ago high technology was associated with the push to get man into space.. A number of special devices, important to the Black way of life, emerged. Space exploration required small or light-weight components, fast responding devices, and temperature sensitive units, among other experimental assemblies.

Small component requirements led to rapid and extensive development of the transis-
tor, and, later, small radios. Suddenly, the portable radio was available at a reasonable cost. Smaller televisions, along with lower cost color televisions, became the byproduct of the spaceage search for the future. Faster responding electrical units required more sophisticated manufacturing techniques and new materials.

These early devices led to the electronic computer, stereophonic communications, automatic assembly lines, and space-age medicine. Manufacturing developments became a new interest area. We had to be more effective in our quality control, more aware of quality assurance, and had to develop different interpersonal skills to cope with a highly trained manufacturing employee.

With the reduction in space exploration during the late sixties many specialists began to shift their product development to meet the specifications of the consumer. This changed the emphasis on developing a product for use by a trained specialist to a product that could be utilized by an unskilled or semi-skilled employee. At the same time, the consumer was being conditioned to expect devices for the home that were either electronic or required a specialist to fix. What we now call high technology had arrived.

We tend to simplify the concept of high technology and to relate it to the develop-
ment and use of computers. However, the concept of high tech must be broad enough

to include the skills necessary to produce the computers, and hence specialized manufacturing and new materials.

If we focus on the computer industry for our discussion on high technology, we should begin by noting that Black Champaign County must look forward to producing key entry operators, computer operators, programmers, or systems analysts. If Champaign County employment in these areas was similar to the national statistics, about 17% of the key entry operators would be Black, and 5% of the systems analysts would be Black. Although the county breakdown is not available at this time, I feel certain that the systems analysts percentage has not been reached. This low percentage is linked to the kind of preparation necessary for high technology.

The Black population is unprepared to enter the systems analysts and programmer fields primarily because of the rejection of mathematics at the high school level. This means that Black Champaign County must content itself with entering the fields of key entry operators and computer operators. These two fields are expected to grow at the rate of about 4% per year for key entry and 14% per year for computer operators during the 1980s. Although this sounds good, we must realize that the rate for key entry operators is only about one-half the rate of growth experienced during the 1970s, and, the computer operator group includes clerks who operate word processors and microcomputers.

To compete in the high technology area of computers, Black residents of Champaign County must reach into their storehouse of knowledge and prepare themselves as programmers and systems analysts. These will be the challenging assignments in the 1980s, and the Champaign County population can be prepared to implement high technology as it relates to computers. In contrast to what the news story "Hi-tech burglars find challenge in break-ins," by John Erickson and Mike Howie in the November 20, 1983 issue of the News-Gazette, preparing computer programmers for the future will be the objective of school systems and colleges. Toward this end they will offer mathematics programs as well as moral, ethical, and security awareness.

If Black people in Champaign County are to enter high technology, then not only should they prepare for computer careers but also for manufacturing. The News-Gazette reported in November, 1983 that some high technology firms in the county were having difficulty finding executives and that it was just as difficult to entice prospective officers to move to Champaign. A few companies were even leaving the area. Given this condition for manufacturing experience where will Black Champaign County obtain experience in management? Preparation in manufacturing technology needs to be a

goal. The manufacturing skill might be applied to computers but, more important, it is consistent with upward mobility and community development.

Currently in Champaign County high technology tends to be reflected in research and development at the University of Illinois or in the manufacturing of electronic or electronic-related components by small and growing companies. This kind of employment means assembly line type functions with high emphasis on quality control and reliability. Although the employee can be trained to perform on the assembly line, mobility between industries will be limited because Champaign County is not supporting very many of these types of industries. Not only is mobility a factor for the top level executive, but every employee becomes concerned about job change and promotion.

The predominant employment area in high technology for Black Champaign County, outside of data processing, is manufacturing and repair. The related industries in the area are developing electronic components which require trained employees but, more importantly, trainable employees. There will be a growing tendency to search for college graduates, or at least those with two years of college, for the better jobs as installation and maintenance specialists. Manufacturing specialists will also be trained in college. This means more migration of Blacks to the area or the job positions will resemble the pattern mentioned earlier for systems analysts. Even though the University of Illinois and Parkland College are available for educational development, the number of local students from the Black community pursuing these careers has been small. Those who have selected high technology careers have sought employment outside the county. During the last decade Blacks in careers related to high technology have migrated to the University and a few industries in the research park. However, the numbers are dismally small.

Preparation for high technology begins early in life, and parents must be involved in the development of the child's quest for knowledge. Children can develop if we expand their horizons beyond our own and expect them to exceed the constraints on our own lives. High technology will require the inquisitiveness of mathematicians, chemists, biologists, marketers, and many other specialists. To enter these fields, a solid preparation at the secondary school level is necessary, followed by graduate level study in a specialized area. Black Champaign County can begin to prepare for the expanding industry while realizing that most of the new organizations will be research oriented and will need technicians and higher levels of preparation. This implies that Parkland College should enroll a larger percentage of Blacks in the technician programs and less in the data entry programs. The University of Illinois

should enroll more Blacks in programs like material science, nuclear engineering, and mechanical engineering. Then, as students complete these programs, the community and industry can entice the high technology professionals to remain in Champaign County.

When that happens Black Champaign County will be in a position to implement high technology. Traditionally we have been consumers of advances in science. Very seldom have we been involved in the engineering, design, and manufacturing of those advances. Computer software, which allows for computer-aided-manufacturing (CAM), could permit us to implement technology if we worked in that environment. Within Champaign County there has been little opportunity for Blacks to become involved in this area of progress. Most of the developments in computer-aided-manufacturing occurred where research was being conducted in nearby cities like Decatur and Danville.

When computer-aided-design (CAD) began to enter to county, Blacks were still displaced because, again, the technology was research oriented. Computer-aided-design allows the designer to accomplish tasks rather rapidly and to tie into the computer-aided-manufacturing systems. With the extension of the computer as a major tool in analytical studies as well as design, Black Champaign County can join this phase of technology if they are prepared.

The computer can serve as the link between understanding, preparing for, and implementing high technology. The technical characteristics associated with electronics become clear when we focus our discussion on the computer, but we must always recall that the computer is only a tool. It must be instructed to function. It is fast, dependable, and will repeat itself for as long as the instructions determine. We can use the computer to motivate the young to prepare themselves better academically. Computers are entering the pre-school classroom and homes to assist in that preparation. When we are prepared we can utilize the computer to design and manufacture products for the consumer and for industry.

We will have entered the high technology environment by utilizing the computer as a tool.

EDUCATION

by

James D. Anderson

When considering the status of education for minority school children in Champaign County, or any local community, it is important to recall the fact that education is essentially a state and local function. Many local citizens and public officials have been unwilling to embrace this basic creed of American education when it comes to the schooling of minority children. Indeed, throughout the twentieth century, and especially since the Brown decision, the primary initiatives and means for improving the quality of education for minority school children have come from the federal government. The Brown decision, of course, was the major federal initiative to provide equal educational opportunity for minority school children. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Bilingual Education Act of 1974 represent federal efforts since 1954 to promote equal opportunity for women, racial and ethnic minorities, the handicapped, limited English-speaking students, and the economically disadvantaged. During this same era, actions by state and local governments, have ranged from passive compliance to opposition. Without question, were it not for the federal laws and regulations (and let's not forget the funding) demanding equal educational opportunity for minority school children, the states and localities would not devote even the relatively modest resources they now do to improving the education of minority school children.

The long-standing failure of states and localities to provide equal opportunity and quality education for minority school children constitutes a fundamental weakness in our system of government. Theoretically and legally the states and localities are primarily responsible for providing quality education for all children. In reality, state and local systems of education have been the enemy of minority school children. Their actions over time have been more characteristic of a process of miseducation than one of education. The sheer magnitude of this failure grows with each passing year. Although the number of people in the young adult age group is declining, the percentage of non-white youth in that group is increasing. For instance, Black citizens comprise about 9% of Champaign's general population, but approximately 25% of the school population. By the late 1980s it is projected nationally that approximately 30% of all new labor force entrants will be minorities. Hence, the persistent miseducation or underdevelopment of minority school children precludes their

full participation in our national life and poses increasing problems for a "Nation at Risk" because of its badly flawed educational system.

The local school districts (Unit 4 and 116) are much like those of other localities with significant minority school populations. Their rates of academic failure and miseducation for minority school children are best characterized as catastrophic. In October 1981 the Task Force on the Educational Status and Needs of Black Youth issued its final report on the quality of education for Black youth in Unit 4. Although the report concluded that the "educational status of Black youth in Unit 4 schools is in need of substantial improvement," its overall tone was relatively mild given some of the devastating findings that were recorded in the task force's interim report of September 1981. Such moderation may have been necessary in order to get a decent hearing before a school board that is well known for its indifference toward the education of Black children. On the other hand, the calm may have been due to the fact that the academic failure of Black children has become so commonplace, so accepted as the natural order of things, that it does not cause any great alarm.

The Task Force discovered that 54.5% of all students in special education programs (excluding speech and language programs) were Black students. Black students constituted 47% of Unit 4's Trainable Mentally Handicapped, 57% of Behavior Disorders, and 65% of the Occupational Exploration program at the high schools. The Black students in the Occupational Exploration Program spent little time in the regular academic curriculum. The Task Force concluded that for Black students the Occupational Program constituted a special class rather than a resource program. In fact, it is worse than that. Such programs are "dumping grounds" for Black students and do not lead to either marketable occupational skills or academic achievement. In order to appreciate the calamity of the situation, one has only to imagine what could be the state of local education if whites had the same proportion of school children in the Trainable Mentally Handicapped, Behavior Disorders, and Occupational Exploration programs. The local community would be outraged, the board of education would be preoccupied with educational reforms to correct the situation, and school administrators would either develop viable alternatives or lose their jobs. The apparent contentment with high rates of failure among minority school children is part and parcel of the historic failure of local school systems to provide quality educational programs for them.

The disproportionate numbers of Black students in special education programs represented only one aspect of the overall failure. Even within the special education classes at the high school level, minority students in Unit 4 fail at significantly

higher rates than non-minority students. Moreover, they are disproportionately represented among the discipline referrals, suspensions, and expulsions. They are underrepresented in programs for the gifted, advanced placement classes, and completer courses in vocational education programs. Of the minority students enrolled in vocational education programs, the Task Force found that only 25% take completer courses, which represent the culmination of vocational programs. In other words, their programs are not even designed to lead to significant educational achievements. So, even if they successfully complete such programs, they still fail. This situation constitutes a tragic irony that ought not to be acceptable in any system of education. There is no excuse for failing to provide minority students with quality instructional sequences. The blame for this failure goes directly to public school officials. Those who have public responsibility for such matters have either not cared enough or have not been courageous enough to do what is required to improve the situation.

The findings of the Task Force also pointed to the related failures of Unit 4 to teach minority history and culture in the curriculum and the failure of teachers as a group to understand and appreciate values inherent in minority cultures. Minorities, of course, have been demanding equity in curricular offerings for many decades, and especially since the 1960s. During the late 1960s and early 1970s the local schools made feeble attempts to reform their curricula to reflect the cultural diversity of the nation and community. Some teachers were hired specifically to teach Afro-American history and literature. However, there were no such teachers by the mid-1970s. Since then the local school systems have done very little to assure minority and non-minority students the opportunity to learn about the histories and cultures of minority populations. This low emphasis on instructional programs and materials regarding minority cultures is also reflected in the hiring of many staff members who know very little about the cultural and linguistic backgrounds of minority students. There remains a cultural gap between many teachers and minority students which increases the difficulty of providing quality instruction for about one-fourth of the school population.

None of these problems should exist in our present system of education. It is no longer difficult to incorporate minority culture and history into the curriculum. Ironically, the support for including minority culture and history in the school curriculum has declined among local educational systems during a time when research and program development capabilities have improved significantly. The real problem is that such concerns have become low priority or no priority on the agendas of local school boards. Recently, states and localities have viewed federal provisions pro-

moting equitable educational opportunities as "too much government regulation". Local public officials have called for a return to local control and neighborhood schools. In the past this viewpoint meant that minorities were to be treated as though they were not a part of the local community and certainly not a part of the neighborhood. Little has changed. There are no plans by the local school districts to reform the educational systems to alleviate the disastrous failures of minority school children. In fact, increasing local control at present means less attention and less resources devoted to the educational problems of minority school children. In the recent reduction in force there were no viable affirmative action plans to protect minority teachers and staff in school districts that already have far too few. In short, affirmative action, equity, and educational programs to improve the quality of education for minority school children are not top priorities for the local school districts.

The year 1983 will be remembered in part for the national focus on the declining quality of public education. In April, 1983 the National Commission on Excellence in Education issued its now famous report, A Nation at Risk: The Imperative for Educational Reform. The commission reported that "the educational foundations of our society are presently being eroded by a rising tide of mediocrity that threatens our very future as a nation and a people." Among the commission's many findings were the facts that nearly 40% of our 17 year-olds cannot draw inferences from written material; only one-fifth can write a persuasive essay; and only one-third can solve a mathematics problem requiring several steps. The tone of the report indicates clearly that the commission was shocked and alarmed by its findings. However, those involved in the education of minorities surely were not surprised by such findings. They have known for a very long time that local school districts have been falling down on the job. They are not surprised at the "rising tide of mediocrity." They are surprised, however, that it took the nation so long to recognize it. Further, they are disappointed that many people become seriously concerned about the declining quality of public schooling only when it affects non-minority students.

The year 1984 brings us the 30th anniversary of the Brown vs. Topeka decision. To be sure, there has been some noteworthy progress since 1954. Minorities have increased their average years of school completed, their high school graduation rates, and their rates of college attendance. Still, in virtually all states and localities with significant minority school populations, substantial improvement in the quality of education provided minority school children is needed. Moreover, much of the progress over the past 30 years was made in spite of the indifference and opposition of

local educational systems. Certainly, the local districts in Champaign County made no efforts during this period to develop model programs to reduce the high rate of failure among minority students. The programs to improve minority education such as Headstart and Upward Bound represented federal initiatives. Local school districts tended to embrace such programs as means to obtain increased federal financial assistance. The educational activities connected to these programs began to disappear as soon as President Reagan reduced federal appropriations. Nowhere were there local efforts to sustain programs started by federal dollars. Local school districts are far less committed than are federal agencies to equity goals.

The next decade, as the past three, will witness continued struggle by minorities to improve the quality of education for their children. It would represent a fundamental reform in American education if local school districts would join them in these efforts. However, that is not very likely, without a well-organized and forceful campaign on the part of minority parents, students, and school officials. The past three decades have witnessed heavy reliance on federal agencies to obtain a basic foundation of equal educational opportunity. However, equity provisions and strategies are not likely to become really effective until the initiative and means for improving the quality of education for minority school children shifts from the federal to the state and local level. Education remains essentially a state and local function, and ultimately the war for needed educational reforms will have to be fought at that level. The task for the minority community in Champaign County, as elsewhere, is to put constant pressure on the local school districts to carry out their legal and professional responsibilities to provide a decent system of education for minority school children.

A BLACK PERSPECTIVE OF PARKLAND COLLEGE

by

Willie A. Nesbitt

My position at Parkland College allows me to use my skills and abilities to contribute to the personal and academic lives of many students. It is very rewarding to me in that I am able to see the results of my advice and counsel as students put theory into action. Although I work with all students, my particular concern is with Black students, and especially those who come from Champaign County.

Parkland College proclaims itself an equal opportunity employer, and just as importantly, it is also an equal opportunity educating institution. As the college president has stated, "There is a satisfaction that comes from attending a college where the faculty has an uncommonly deep concern for the welfare and future success of its students." Having worked here for over two years, I agree with that statement. There is that satisfied feeling that the faculty cares and are doing their utmost to satisfy the needs of the students.

Often I have asked myself what I could possibly do to contribute some lasting benefit to this fine institution. I have wondered what things there might be that I could do to add to the forward progress of the educational process. I join the president and other faculty members in my faith in humanity and strive ever to grow in my ability to educate and re-educate the members of this community who find their way to this college.

My contribution obviously must fall within the limits of my abilities and opportunities. Progress is often slowed by overly zealous folks who overestimate their abilities and influence. If such pitfalls are to be avoided, one must have a realistic perception of the situation and one's relationship to it. Therefore, I welcome the opportunity to write this paper. If nothing else, I hope that this paper will encourage an awareness of problems that might otherwise be ignored and treated as non-existent. It is my purpose to offer some constructive criticism, which if heeded will benefit not only Parkland College, but the whole community.

The financial condition of Parkland College is a tribute to the competency of the college leadership. This is even more significant since the financial condition of education nation-wide has been so uncertain over the past six years. But money alone does not guarantee the success of an educational institution.

Parkland's strongest suit may very well be a faculty that can best be assessed by the colleges' reputation throughout the state as a fine educational institution. Transfer courses transfer to four-year institutions with few if any problems. Career program graduates have found that options increase with a certificate or degree from Parkland. Research efforts allow students to review salary ranges they may expect upon graduating. This provides students with a more realistic outlook concerning their start in the working world.

Upon or before entering a program, those students requiring remedial training are provided with a wide range of optional courses from which to choose. This remediation emphasis is a valuable component of Parkland's student retention effort. It is just one way the community's continuing education needs are being served. If a student will only express his or her interests, a program can generally be designed by a counselor or advisor to provide the needed training towards a career or profession. Should the student have difficulty trying to determine a specific area, interest testing is available through student services.

Every effort to educate students is necessary because one of the many dangers to a healthy America is the tragedy of wasted minds, which can be a direct result of unequal opportunity. All students need to understand the nature of the Black experience as an aspect of America's past and present. It requires teaching by people sensitive enough to convey the importance of compatibility of diverse cultures, understand the heightened sensitivity of minorities in majority white situations, and informed enough to relate the highest quality information to all students.

Parkland College has the opportunity to present more emphasis on Black history and Black culture, as well as race relations. Many students will find themselves in markets where knowledge gained from such classes will be invaluable. The opportunity for such classes is becoming more significant since it is becoming increasingly difficult for students to get exposure to this information in area high schools. Lack of funding has caused the deletion of such courses from the curriculum.

Another area of critical concern at Parkland College is the law. Real affirmative action is a commitment to improving educational service for all students. There is much evidence throughout the country that compliance to the letter of the law is just a game being played by many institutions, government agencies, and corporations. Any student of the law knows that unless people believe in a law, it will not be supported, even though the letter of the law is met with compliance.

People in leadership positions must foster a positive attitude towards affirmative action if progress is to be made. Only if these people really believe in the principles of equal opportunity will things begin to change. Parkland's minority hiring record appears to fall woefully short of what might be expected of such an institution in this area. Whatever the reason may be, this is an area requiring improvement.

Blacks make up less than 6% of Parkland's full-time employed staff. At present, fewer than four Black men are permanently employed full-time. There is no full-time Black male instructor. It is very difficult to ascertain a good reason for this, but not hard to understand the difficulty of reaching affirmative action goals with these numbers.

A positive step toward improving this situation would be to have two different people serving as the personnel director and affirmative action officer. The present situation, where one person has both jobs could very easily be viewed as a conflict of interest. Since the hiring practices of the personnel office is one of the most important areas of scrutinizing by the affirmative action to be served.

The total student population at Parkland College, including all part-time students, has increased over the past six years from 6,600 to 9,300 students. The total proportion of Black students has declined over this same period from 6.8% to 5%. There are probably reasons for this decline, but at the moment we do not know what they are. Research is required to allow a better understanding of this phenomenon.

The number of Black students enrolled full-time has remained stable at about 45% of the total Black student enrollment and is approximately 8% of the overall full-time student enrollment. This figure has remained relatively constant throughout the period covered by this paper. I hope the subtle changes do not indicate negative trends for the future.

Parkland has an active Black student association, which generally attracts a small segment of the Black student population. This group has sponsored trips to neighboring community colleges for joint functions with other Black student organizations. The BSA has also participated in other campus functions. Parkland College has afforded this organization all the benefits available to any other campus organization. The responsibility for expanding participation in the organization falls directly on the BSA membership. The organization also faces all the problems that any other campus organization faces at a community college. A two-year program

doesn't allow for much permanency, but those students who have become involved in campus activities and organizations benefit from their participation.

As previously stated, it is my purpose to draw attention to certain needs at Parkland in order to spark efforts to improve these areas. Parkland has in print an affirmative action statement which outlines its efforts to comply with affirmative action guidelines as outlined by law. It is necessary from time to time to review these statements to ensure full compliance, lest we forget and find ourselves falling back into old situations which this writer would rather see remain bad memories. Progress can best be served by continuing to review diligently even the most distasteful topics to guard against the repeat of past problems. We have a beautiful community college with all the potential of being one of the best in this country. The atmosphere is one of friendly and helpful professionalism that is action oriented. As part of that action orientation, I am proud to be considered part of the organization and hope this paper will accomplish its purpose.

The data on student enrollment were gathered from the files used to report official affirmative action compliance. These files are required on a bi-annual basis. Obviously they have limitations but for the purpose of this paper they are adequate. In order to do a more in-depth study, more research will be needed.

HUMAN SERVICES IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

by

Robert O. Washington

According to the 1980 census, approximately 15,000 Blacks live in Champaign County. About 10% are of preschool age; 35% are between the ages of 6 and 19; 40% are between the ages of 20 and 44; 12% are between the ages of 45 and 64; 5% are 65 or older.

Blacks represent about 7% of the civilian labor force in Champaign County. This makes up 1% of the managerial and professional workforce; 1.7% of the technical, sales, and administrative support occupations; more than 3% of the service employees and about 1% of the operators, fabricators, and laborers.

The average Black family in Champaign County includes four persons, with about one-third of those families headed by females. This compares favorably with the 1983 national average in which 41% of all Black families are headed by women with no husband present. Roughly 11% of the Black adults over 25 years of age in Champaign County are high school graduates. (A 1982 Census Bureau report shows that 79% of Blacks aged 25-34 had graduated from high school.) About 14% have college training.

The unemployment rate for the civilian labor force among Blacks in metropolitan Champaign for 1983 is 11.4% compared with a 20% national rate. About 9% of the Black civilian labor force in Champaign County has some form of disability that prevents them from maintaining steady employment.

The median income of Black families in Champaign County is \$13,045. Those receiving public assistance averaged \$2,497 annually, and those receiving social security average \$3,066 annually. Households headed by females with children under the age of 18 have an average income of \$7,960, roughly \$2,000 below the federal poverty level.

What these figures tell us, is that at the end of 1983 about 23% of the Black families in Champaign County were living on incomes below the poverty level. This compares with national figures that show that 36% of Blacks (three times the percentage of whites) lived in poverty. Twenty-seven percent of the Blacks 65 years of age and older living in Champaign had incomes below the poverty level in 1983.

"Population at risk." This is defined as the total current and potential population in Champaign County needing some form of human services because of economic, social, racial, or other situational statuses.

There are at least 6,500 Blacks¹ living in Champaign County who fit a category called Population at Risk. About 3,500 represent the poor; 3,000 represent the near or "marginal" poor who without certain support services, are likely to slip into the category of poor.

In summary, the 6,500 persons identified as population at risk among Blacks in Champaign include 3,000 recipients of income maintenance programs; 2,000 who receive some form of mental health and/or family services, 700 individuals 65 years of age or older living in families whose income is below the poverty level (\$9,862), 150 families in which at least one member has contact with the criminal justice system because of violations of the law, 750 persons identified as either mentally or physically disabled or handicapped, and roughly 1,000 persons receiving counseling, training, and/or other supportive services in order to enter the labor market or to maintain regular employment.

HUMAN SERVICES NETWORK

There are roughly 55 agencies and programs providing services to the poor and disadvantaged in Champaign County. This network of services includes both public and private agencies and can be grouped in the following general categories:

- Training and Employment
- Family and Children Services
- Services for the Elderly
- Income Maintenance and Sustenance
- Information and Referral
- Family Life and Parenting
- Outreach
- Youth and Recreation
- Socialization and Social Development
- Counseling and Advocacy

¹This figure is extrapolated and is calculated to reduce duplicate counts.

Using these as service categories, one can overlay six domains of living in order to assess the social well-being of Blacks in the Champaign Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA). These include sustenance and income maintenance, health, mental health, socialization and social development, housing and employment.

Sustenance

Usually the focus of attention of any analysis of effective human services provision is on the subsistence level of the population in question. Sustenance refers to the necessities of life. They include food and nutrition and basic economic and socio-psychological maintenance. They are sometimes referred to as survival and safety provisions.

Although one can be certain that a few Blacks slipped through the safety net, service data show that most poor Blacks in Champaign County are provided adequate sustenance services and provisions. As noted earlier, there are about 3,000 Blacks who are members of families receiving public aid, SSI, and/or food stamps; more than 27,000 meals are served by meals on wheels programs, of which more than 80 Black elderly receive nutritious meals on a regular basis. For other needy Black poor, services and provisions are made on an emergency basis.

Health

The general state of health and well-being among Black citizens during 1983 appear to have been good. There were no breakouts of communicable diseases nor were there widespread illnesses due to uncontrolled pests, rodents, or unsanitary conditions. Infant mortality rates were below the national average for Blacks.

Health services appear to have been adequate. For example, Frances Nelson Health Center served 3,320 clients in their medical services program and 655 clients in their social program. Many of these clients were from the Black community. Another program in which a large proportion of clientele is from the Black community is Planned Parenthood.

During 1983, 5,800 persons used its medical services program, 2,000 its education program, and 72 clients its pre-natal program. The state Department of Public Health provided its range of mandated services.

The Champaign SMSA is served by four hospitals. Burnham Hospital, which also serves as a regional trauma center, provides complete hospital services; it also offers Tel-Med, a telephone information system. This system includes a collection of tape

recorded health messages that range from three to ten minutes in length and are designed to help individuals by providing preventive information on 200 subjects. Directions for their use are listed in the local telephone directory.

Mercy Hospital and Ambulatory Care Center serves as a regional rehabilitation center. It includes a hospice for the terminally ill and in-patient psychiatric services. It also provides home health services for individuals who wish to be cared for at home.

Carle Foundation Hospital provides an acute full-service emergency department staffed 24 hours a day as does Cole Hospital, a non-profit acute-care facility.

To assist citizens in maximizing health care services in the Champaign area, the Community Information section of the local telephone directory includes a matrix of services and agencies (see Chart 1).

Medicaid is by far the most important health program for poor Blacks. With the Reagan administration's recent retrenchment on Medicaid, food stamps, and other supports for the poor, the health of poor Blacks in Champaign and elsewhere is threatened.

Mental Health

The term mental health is used here to refer to the potential of individuals to solve their own problems in a reality-based way and within society's definition of "normality" and "social competence." It is presumed here that mental health is a community problem requiring community-wide responsibility, community intervention, and community assessment of well-being. The absence of mental health is mental illness, which may be expressed in such terms as individual maladjustment, stress, deviance, delinquency and crime, and anti-social behavior, etc., which in turn affects the individual's level of social competence. Another underlying premise of this paper is that the major culprit of mental illness among Blacks is poverty. Therefore, if we are to reduce mental illness in the Black community, then we must eliminate those conditions which perpetuate poverty.

A wide array of programs and services directed at the Black community in Champaign in 1983 addressed symptoms of mental health. Family Service of Champaign County served almost 1,600 Blacks in seven separate programs which ranged from counseling to information and referral. The Department of Children and Family Services provided foster care, counseling, parenting, and other protective and permanency planning

services to a total of 80 children. The Urban League provided services to almost 5,000 individuals in the area of health care, education, housing, home weatherization, and energy assistance.

Although drug abuse does not appear to be a menace in the Black community, about 1% of its citizens received outpatient treatment, and about 5% required in-patient care in FY 1983. Data regarding the profile of drug abusers show a very high correlation between abuse and unemployment.

Socialization and Social Development

This social index refers to those quality of life factors that influence the individual's social development, i.e., help the individual to improve his/her self concept and relationship with others, to develop new social skills, to learn to assume responsibility, and generally to become a more effective citizen. Goals are geared to transmitting social values and customs, to facilitating learning and self-actualization, and in eliciting and stimulating leadership potentials of participants.

There are several programs in Champaign County that are organized around these goals and serve the Black community. Several are supported by the United Way of Champaign County.

Youth Experience Alternatives
Partners and Vis-a-Vis (Under YMCA)
Community Service Volunteers (Under YWCA)
McKinley YMCA
Don Moyers Boy's Club
Operation Snowball (peer counseling)

Housing

The area in which the municipalities of Champaign County have failed Blacks the worst is housing. This is perhaps true of American society in general.

Blacks occupy roughly 4,575 housing units in Champaign County, of which 1,313 (28.6%) are owner occupied. The median value of these owner-occupied homes is \$36,400 compared to the national median of homes owned by Blacks of \$27,000.

Anyone who has kept up with the news over the past year is familiar with the horror stories reported about the poor conditions of municipally owned apartments rented to

Blacks on the North Side. Reports indicate that many of the rental apartments suffer from flood damage and backed-up sewage in the living quarters.

The sad conclusion is that good housing for Blacks needs to be placed on the front burner of our national agenda. Blacks, in general, are excluded from equal participation in housing markets. They are exploited, forced to pay for inferior housing through a series of tactics, agreements, and social arrangements controlled by the power elite. Discrimination is systematic and pervasive. It is perpetuated by those who profit from the existence of the ghetto, and by those who wish to maintain their privileged position in society. Enough legislation exists to end segregation and poor housing among Blacks, but it is consistently ignored. Federal housing programs often favor the rich and the middle class at the expense of the poor, and reform cannot be really meaningful until there is a new national commitment to adequate housing for the poor and until private profit motivation for perpetuating poor housing ceases to exist.

Employment

Unemployment and underemployment were particularly troublesome for Blacks in 1983. While the deteriorating conditions of the Black poor and particularly the working poor has been dramatized in the last twelve months, the decline in job opportunities for the Black laborer had been coming about for some time. As Bayard Rustin reminds us:

It would be convenient to ascribe all the problems to the persistence of racism. . . .It would . . . be easy to pin the blame for all [of our current economic problems] on the current administration. . . . But while racism continues to exert a baneful influence upon our society, the plight of black Americans today is more and more the consequence of a number of important nonracist, structural features of our economy.

Rustin identifies six factors that have affected the social well-being of Blacks:

1. The decline in labor-intensive industries and the displacement of unskilled and semi-skilled black workers as a consequence of automation and robotization,
2. The elimination, because of unfair foreign competition and a severe recession, of hundreds of thousands of jobs in industries such as steel and autos that have historically provided well-paying jobs for large numbers of black workers.

3. The collapse of black family structures--a result as well as a cause of the black plight--and the alarming increase in the number of unwed black mothers, most of whom live in poverty.
4. The decline in the size of the public sector, which in recent years has employed some 60% of all black college graduates and has been a major factor in the emergence of a black middle class.
5. The shift from heavy industry and manufacturing toward high-technology industries for which many blacks are ill prepared.
6. The continued growth of a black underclass of poor and indigent, which in 1978 stood at 30% but today stands at approximately 36%.²

The effects of these factors can be seen in Champaign County. The primary program established to address these structural problems is the Champaign Consortium of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). This program, which replaced the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA), trained close to 400 blacks in 1983 in more than 14 programs at a cost of slightly over \$350,000.

Blacks in Champaign suffered in 1983 the same disproportionate impact of the economic downturn as other Blacks throughout the United States. With an unemployment rate hovering around 20% nationally, Blacks tended to be much more highly concentrated among the persistently poor in 1983 than any other group.

Poverty creates a high demand for human services but, with the impact of the Reagan administration's cutback policies, most agencies were not equipped to respond to all the demands placed upon them. Despite the opinions of Presidential Counselor Edwin Meese III, the economic downturn has created hunger in this country; and those who queue up for the soup lines are not just freeloaders and bums. Many are families with small children, elderly people, and laid-off workers caught in the web of a trickle-down theory that ignores the poor.

But as the Copley News Service in one of its recent editorials noted, hunger is only one part of being poor. The sense of despair, hopelessness are also bedpartners. The solution, for Blacks and the poor as the editorial notes, is to vote for candi-

²Bayard Rustin, "Civil Rights: 20 Years Later" Newsweek, August 29, 1983.

dates who are sympathetic to their plight. It suggests:

If the millions of adult Americans who are poor voted together, they could swing an election. They wouldn't have to depend on the good graces of the middle class or the platitudes of the politicians. They could demand an upgrading of the public services--schools, libraries, mass transit systems--that have been the traditional escalators in our society, but which have been allowed to decay in American cities and towns.

This doesn't mean income redistribution. It doesn't mean voting bigger welfare payments. The burden of maintaining our self-defeating system of public assistance falls hardest on able-bodied citizens of working age who "benefit" from it by losing their self-reliance. These people need jobs. Real jobs. Not well-intentioned, but ineffective government programs.

Economic justice means thrusting the issue of poverty before the American people and making it a badge of shame for our entire society. It means clearing away the obstacles blocking the path to opportunity. It means revitalizing the libraries and schools and bus systems and getting the escalator to work again. It means reforming our welfare system so that people are not penalized for working. It means retraining laid-off workers for new jobs.

It means fighting poverty the American way, by hard work, ingenuity and practicality--not empty promises, worn-out solutions and unworkable utopias.

SOURCES

Data for the preparation of this section were gathered from the following major sources:

1. Champaign Consortium of J.T.P.A.
2. Champaign County Office of the Illinois Department of Public Aid
3. Editorial, "America Wears Badge of Poverty," Copley News Service
4. Family Service of Champaign County
5. State Department of Children and Family Services
6. Summary of United Way Agencies, United Way of Champaign County, December 1983
7. U.S. 1980 Census of Population and Housing, August 1983
8. U.S. Census Report: "America's Black Population, 1970 to 1982"