

Conference Summary
Race, Ethnicity, and Poverty Summit 2015
June 11-12, 2015
Washington, DC

The Summit began with a working dinner at the *St. Gregory Luxury Hotel and Suites* to initiate an ongoing, collaborative working relationship between centers that prioritize the same issues. A report-out session for this work was held the next morning.

On the second day of the meeting, there were five panel discussions on the following topics: (1) Racial, Ethnic, and Demographic Change (2) Early Childhood, K-12, and Higher Education Access (3) Economic and Social Mobility and Inequity (4) Racial Profiling, Criminal Justice, and Mass Incarceration, and (5) Health. A description of each panel is provided below.

Racial, Ethnic, and Demographic Change

Nicholas Jones from the U.S. Census Bureau presented on the 2015 National Content Test that represents the Census Bureau's primary mid-decade opportunity to compare different design options for race and ethnicity prior to making final decisions about the content for the 2020 Census. This research will examine key dimensions for the questions on race and ethnicity. *Rolf Pendall* from the Urban Institute revealed in his presentation that the U.S. will grow by nearly 50 million people between 2010 and 2030; most of the growth will be in the nonwhite population, and geographically, most of it will concentrate in the nation's most diverse metropolitan areas. *Kantahyanee Murray* from the Annie E. Casey Foundation emphasized the growth in racial and ethnic diversity. This underscored the need to increase evaluation diversity in order to fully assess efforts to improve social impacts.

Early Childhood, K-12, and Higher Education Access

Peggy Carr's presentation discussed the National Center for Education Statistics' role and responsibility in ensuring data quality through fairness and equity for a range of data collection efforts. Particular attention was given to challenges in measuring socioeconomic status, the collection of race/ethnicity data, and reporting on interactions between race/ethnicity and gender. *Holly Delany Cole* shared the Fund for Social Policy Education and Practice's mission, vision and emerging priorities and engaged the group in a conversation about how best to: 1) make mutually beneficial connections between schools of social work and policy organizations; and 2) strengthen the ability of social work researchers to more effectively inform and influence policy that redresses systemic and structural contributors to poverty and inequality.

Economic and Social Mobility and Inequity

Darrick Hamilton from The New School highlighted that education alone, does little to explain differences in wealth, across race. It is more likely that wealth differences across races explain racial educational attainment differences. Wealth remains a major determinant of one's life chances -- improving access to higher education has intrinsic value, but alone, will do little to address the massive wealth gap. **Signe-Mary Mckernan** from the Urban Institute discussed nine charts about wealth inequality in America. The charts illustrated how income inequality, earnings gaps, homeownership rates, retirement savings, student loan debt, and lopsided asset-building tax subsidies have contributed to growing disparities. **Erin Currier** from The Pew Charitable Trusts provided an overview of economic mobility in the United States, and the factors that influence movement up and down the economic ladder across generations. It focused specifically on the relationship between race, neighborhood poverty, and economic mobility.

Racial Profiling, Criminal Justice, and Mass Incarceration

Jocelyn Fontaine and **Ryan King** highlighted the Urban Institute Justice Policy Center's work on two pressing issues critically important to communities of color: reducing mass incarceration and improving police-community relations. **Kirsten Levingston** from the Ford Foundation presented on the link between poverty, race, and incarceration, and suggested ways in which additional research might push forward a criminal justice reform agenda that helps communities and families.

Health

Lisa Clemans-Cope from the Urban Institute presented the first state-level projection of Affordable Care Act (ACA) coverage gains for racial/ethnic groups. If all states were to expand their Medicaid programs, uninsurance rates would fall further for all racial/ethnic groups, with blacks experiencing a marked reduction. **Darrell Gaskin** from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health gave an overview of health and healthcare inequities, their determinants, and offered solutions to reduce disparities. Particular emphasis was placed on the importance of geographic and contextual factors and how policymakers could address them. **Maya Rockey Moore** from the Center of Global Policy Solutions presented a new socio-ecologic model that emphasizes how an individual's biological development is shaped in the context of their familial and neighborhood environment.