

# Income Inequality

- [Misconceptions About People in Poverty – Additional Information](#)- This is an expanded version of the essay, "False Stereotypes Harm People in Poverty" that appeared in the Rochester Beacon, containing additional information relating to the five largest upstate metropolitan areas.

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- [Misconceptions About People in Poverty: The Push for Work Requirements](#)- Misconceptions about people in poverty appear to drive proposed changes in social welfare policy, particularly the work requirements either being promoted by the Trump Administration and discussed or implemented in several states. A fuller understanding of factors underlying the problem of poverty suggests that these policies will be counterproductive, neither...
- [The Income Gap between Men and Women: 2015 vs. 1970](#)- Since 1970, inflation adjusted wage income growth has been almost nonexistent - only five percent over the 45 year period ending in 2015. Income change in metropolitan areas in New York State has differed little from the nation. Rochester and Buffalo were two exceptions - both had lower median real wage...
- [The Persistent Gap Between White and Black Incomes in New York](#)- There has long been a substantial gap between the incomes of white Americans and those who describe themselves as African/American or black. As early as 1964, with the enactment of the Civil Rights Act, the Federal and state Governments began passing laws aimed at preventing discrimination in the workplace. Has New

York seen...

- [Education, Age and Declines in Real Income Since 1970](#)- The economic malaise that has affected small and medium sized rust belt cities since 2000 has been widely noted. Most have seen little or no real household income growth since then. Much of the weak performance has been associated with the long-term decline of manufacturing employment in the region -...
- [Poverty in Upstate Metropolitan Areas – Characteristics and Change: 1999-2013](#)- A paper, based, in part, on data previously presented on this blog site. This paper examines the incidence of poverty in upstate New York cities, compared to the surrounding suburbs. The data shows that while residents of upstate suburbs enjoy incomes that are substantially higher than the national average, and...
- [New York's Ineffective Business Tax Incentives](#)- In 1987, New York State enacted legislation to create an Economic Development Zones Program, modelled after the enterprise zones concept, championed by Congressman Jack Kemp. Proponents argued that by reducing taxes in specific geographic areas with high concentrations of poverty and unemployment, existing firms would be more likely to create...
- [The Shrinking Middle Class in New York State – Cities and Suburbs](#)- Pew Research has been releasing a series of studies showing that the percentage of Americans who have middle class incomes has been declining. The most recent of these is America's Shrinking Middle Class: A Close Look at Changes Within Metropolitan Areas. The report received extensive coverage in many newspapers, including the New...
- [More on Race, Income and Student Achievement](#)- A few months ago, I wrote about the link between economic disadvantage and poor student performance. I looked at the performance of students on the State's annual student assessment for grades 3 to 8, and found that the

percentage of economically disadvantaged students in schools and school districts accounted for...

- [Racial Divisions in Upstate Metropolitan Neighborhoods](#) - In my last posting I described income differences in 800 upstate metropolitan neighborhoods in Albany, Erie, Monroe, Oneida, Onondaga, Rensselaer and Schenectady Counties. The data comes from the United States Census Bureau which divides the nation into census tracts, the most detailed level publically tabulated. Overall, there are 73,000 census tracts...
- [Income Divisions in Upstate Metropolitan Neighborhoods](#) - In earlier posts, I wrote about income and racial separation between the residents of upstate cities and suburbs. The data showed that residents of upstate cities saw sharp increases in poverty levels between 2000 and 2013, while city populations became increasingly diverse, primarily because of the loss of white residents. ...
- [The Minimum Wage Debate – Part II](#) - The Albany Times Union carried an article on March 24 detailing the connections between researchers who produced the reports for and against a minimum wage increase that I discussed in my post "A \$15 Minimum Wage for New York - Benefits and Risks." The article points out that one of...
- [A \\$15 Minimum Wage for New York: Benefits and Risks](#) - Recently, a friend and colleague from the time when I worked at Empire State Development suggested that I take a look at Governor Cuomo's proposal to raise New York's minimum wage to \$15 from \$9.00. Like others, I'm sure that he wanted to cut through the competing claims about the...
- [Failing Schools – Bill Hammond's follow up discussion](#) - Bill Hammond's piece may be found here: <https://www.the74million.org/article/bill-hammond-why-new-yorks-failing-schools-fail-and-how-we-can-turn-the-tide>
- [Income Inequality and Minority Group Status in Upstate](#)

[Metropolitan Areas](#)- In an earlier post, I pointed out that residents of upstate metropolitan areas actually have incomes that are somewhat higher than the average for other cities in the so called “rust belt” – cities located in the old manufacturing regions of the Northeast and Midwest. But, the largest upstate cities...

- [Single Parents and Child and Family Poverty in Upstate Cities](#)- In an earlier post, I showed that very high percentages of people with children under 18 lived in poverty in upstate cities, and that the percentage increased significantly between 1999 and 2013. While a few rust belt cities, like Flint and Detroit, Michigan had higher levels of poverty among people...
- [Can Charter Schools break the Poverty-Poor Student Performance Link?](#)- In an earlier post, I argued that school based solutions to the problem of the poor performance of students in central city schools were not likely to succeed because they ignored the impact of the concentration of disadvantaged students on student achievement. The data showed that 79% of the variation...
- [New York’s “Failing Schools” – The Wrong Diagnosis and a Misguided Solution](#)- For the past several years, Governor Cuomo's office has issued a report, "The State of New York's Failing Schools." The 2015 report contends that “Despite the fact that districts with failing schools receive more state funding than other districts, these schools are delivering unacceptable results...The statistics and facts contained in...
- [What Critics of Central City School Performance Ignore](#)- Students attending central city schools perform very poorly on statewide tests. For example, in Upstate New York, less than 20% of city students received passing grades on the 2015 Grades 3-8 New York State Statewide Assessment. In Syracuse, only 8.7% of students passed, while in Rochester, only 6.1% passed. In...
- [Why the Poor in Upstate Cities find it Difficult to get Good Jobs](#)- With almost one third of upstate city

residents and one half of upstate city families with children under 18 living in poverty, compared with less than 10% of suburban residents and families, it is helpful to understand how their demographic, social and educational characteristics, and how they differ from more...