

BEYOND OUR REACH

**“All those years we failed to realize
that opportunity was being relentlessly
relocated beyond our reach.”**

--- Rochester Mayor William Johnson

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The 1990s: a good decade for cities?

**Good news: most “inelastic” cities
no longer plummeting
in population and income**

**Bad news: growing city-suburb
disparities for
most “inelastic” cities
in Age of Sprawl
with more economically segregated
metropolitan housing markets**

**Remember:
Census 2000
counted income and poverty data
for 1999,
the absolute peak
of the 1990s boom,
and best possible moment
for economic snapshot of cities**

Gamaliel affiliates in 35 metropolitan areas

Metropolitan poverty rate

- **down in 19**
- **stable in 14**
- **up in 2**

San Diego: 11.3% to 12.4%

Syracuse: 10.4% to 12.1%

**In 35 metro areas overall
poverty rate dropped
from 11.0% to 10.0%**

Gamaliel affiliates in 41 cities

City poverty rate

- **down in 24**
- **stable in 9**
- **up in 8**

Baltimore: 21.9% to 22.9%

Buffalo: 25.6% to 26.6%

Wheeling: 16.9% to 18.0%

San Diego: 13.4% to 14.6%

Newark: 26.3% to 28.4%

Hartford: 27.5% to 30.6%

Albany NY: 18.3% to 21.7%

Syracuse: 22.4% to 27.3%

**In 41 cities overall
poverty rate dropped
from 20.4% to 19.2%**

City-suburb disparities

- **increased for 27 cities**
- **stabilized for 7 cities**
- **decreased for 7 cities**

**as measured by
“fair share of poverty index”**

**definition:
city poverty rate
divided by
metro poverty rate**

100 = fair share

200 = twice fair share

300 = three times fair share

Fair share of poverty index increased

<u>City</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>change</u>
<i>Minneapolis</i>	228	252	+24
<i>Saginaw</i>	214	246	+32
St Louis	228	246	+18
Baltimore	217	234	+17
<i>St Paul</i>	206	233	+27
Albany NY	210	231	+21
<i>East Chicago</i>	210	226	+16
<i>Cincinnati</i>	213	226	+13
Syracuse	218	226	+8
<i>Joliet</i>	213	220	+7
Buffalo	210	218	+8
<i>Youngstown</i>	210	216	+6
<i>Kalamazoo</i>	194	203	+9
Milwaukee	191	201	+10
<i>Lorain</i>	172	190	+18
<i>Pittsburgh</i>	175	187	+12
Norfolk	168	183	+15
<i>Racine</i>	156	165	+9

Erie	150	157	+7
Rockford	137	156	+19
<i>Sharon</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>153</i>	<i>+6</i>
<i>Green Bay</i>	<i>146</i>	<i>152</i>	<i>+6</i>
<i>Davenport</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>+11</i>
Hammond	111	131	+20
<i>Elyria</i>	<i>119</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>+11</i>
Wheeling	103	117	+14
<i>Appleton</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>+8</i>

Italics indicate that city-suburb disparities widened even though city poverty rate fell.

Fair share of poverty index was stable

<u>City</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>change</u>
Detroit	251	249	-2
Gary	241	239	-2
Oakland	202	200	-2
St Cloud	178	179	+1
Kenosha	125	127	+2
San Diego	119	118	-1
Waukesha	53	51	-2

Fair share of poverty index decreased

<u>City</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>change</u>
Hartford	367	364	-3
East St Louis	406	351	-55
Newark	296	293	-3
Cleveland	243	239	-4
Chicago	174	166	-8
Jersey City	128	120	-8
Aurora IL	162	114	-48*

*Aurora annexed 5 sq mi of wealthy suburbs

For 41 cities overall
fair share of poverty index
increased from 188 to 194

**To attack city-suburban disparities,
faith-based coalitions must win
“Outside Game”
as well as “Inside Game.”**

Outside Game:

- * to reverse suburban sprawl and urban disinvestment: anti-sprawl, regional growth management;**
- * to reverse growing economic segregation: regional “fair share” low-income housing; and**
- * to offset fiscal disparities: regional tax-base sharing.**

**In “little boxes” states, regionalism
can only be achieved through
new “rules of the game”
from state legislatures**