

Poverty and Inequality in Dayton Compared to the Surrounding Areas

Eric Handorf

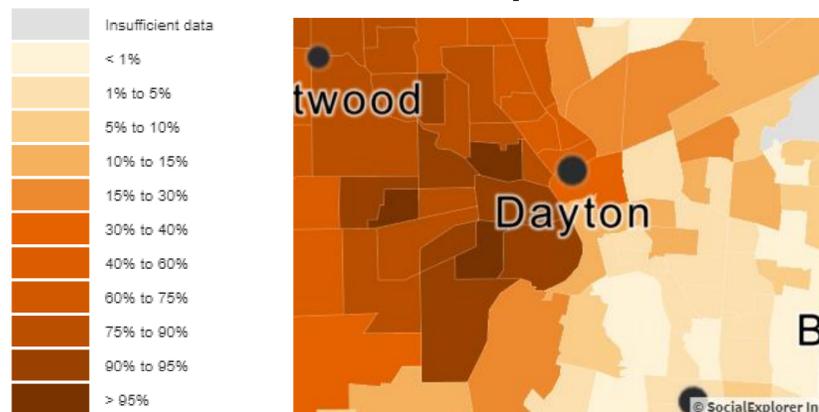
Advisor: Danielle Rhubarb, Ph.D., Social Inequality

Main Idea: There are severe disparities in overall economic well-being between the city of Dayton and the surrounding areas such as Oakwood, Kettering, Centerville, and Beavercreek.

Historical Context

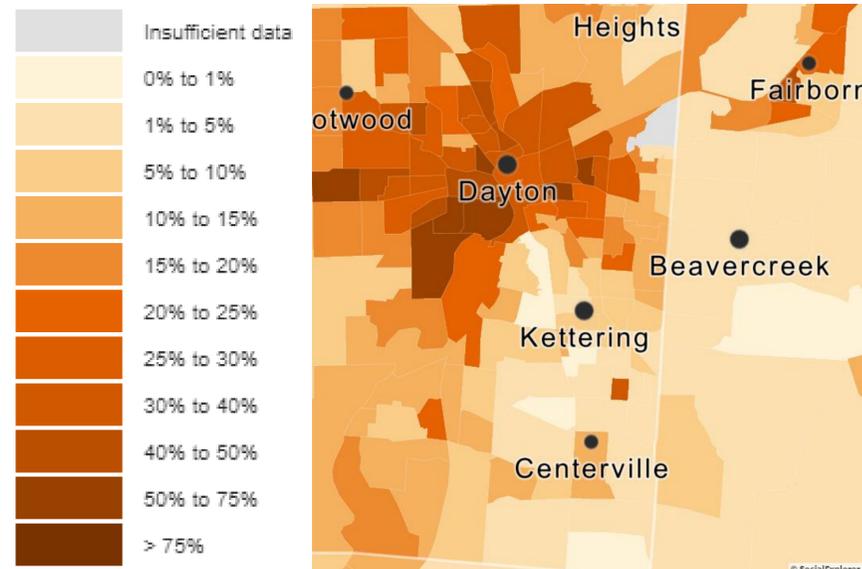
- In the early 1900s, Dayton was a beacon of manufacturing and economic success, housing many Fortune 500 companies like NCR and GM.
- When WWII hit, Dayton received nearly \$1.7 billion in government defense contracts, bolstering the economy.
- However, from the 1970s to today, the Dayton economy has plummeted for a number of reasons.
- Dayton also has a history of segregation that has limited the African American population.

African American Population



Current Economic Situation

Income Below Poverty Level



- Unemployment is improving, but wages are declining, leading to declines in overall income.
- Poverty is worse in Dayton today than it was at the beginning of the Great Recession.
- In Montgomery County, nearly one in five people are living below the poverty line.
- The economy needs to expand to create more jobs

Current Efforts

- Community engagement projects such as Rebuilding Together Dayton to brighten up the poor neighborhoods.



- Catholic Social Services and Montgomery County Job and Family Services offer job training and coaching, as well as financial assistance.
- Easier access to early childhood education for poor families.
- East End Community Services.
- Tax and regulation reform to help small businesses get started.

Facing Project Narratives

- “My appreciation of the importance of home ownership came from my experience in 1966, when I tried to build my first house in the West Wood Neighborhood. Loan services were not attainable based on my skin color and choice of neighborhood...” (Bill Johnson).
- “During this time, employment and housing was not equal. Black people lived on the west side, and the white people would be elsewhere” (Emma Trent).

References

- East End Community Services. (2013). About us. [Web]
- Hulsey, L. (2015, Oct. 2). In Montgomery County, 1 in 5 live in poverty. *Dayton Daily News*.
- New Geography. (2017, Apr. 9). Dayton, Ohio: The rise, fall, and stagnation of a former industrial juggernaut. [Web].
- Rebuilding Together Dayton. (2005). Focus areas. [Web].
- Social Explorer (2016). [African American Population and Income Below Poverty Level]. *Poverty and Inequality in Dayton Compare to the Surrounding Areas*.
- Stewart, C. (2017, May 5). Report: Key economic measures improve for Dayton-area blacks, but income inequality still high. *Dayton Daily News*.