



Legislative Working Group on Disparities, Follow-up from Susan Brower

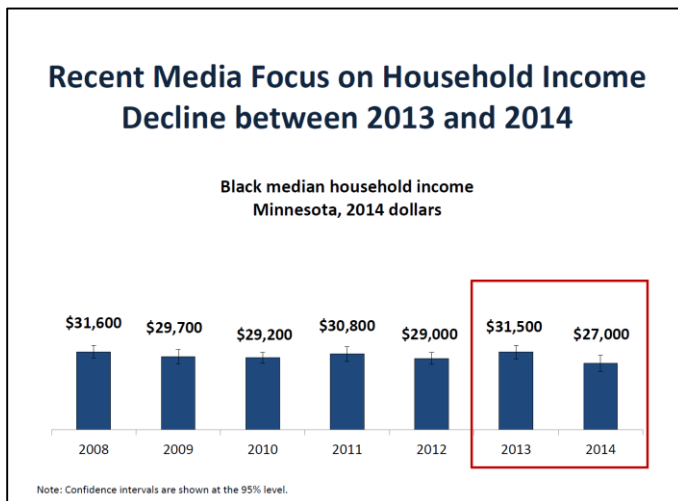
January 13, 2016

Below are responses to previously unanswered questions posed by the joint House-Senate Legislative Working Group on Disparities at its first meeting on January 7, 2016, at which Susan Brower, Minnesota State Demographer, presented data regarding economic disparities.

1. A question was posed about the trends in birth rates by race

For a detailed discussion, see our Nov. 2014 Population Note titled “Minnesota Births Yet to Rebound To Pre-recession Level”: <http://mn.gov/admin/images/mn-births-yet-to-rebound-to-prerecession-level-popnotes-nov2014.pdf>

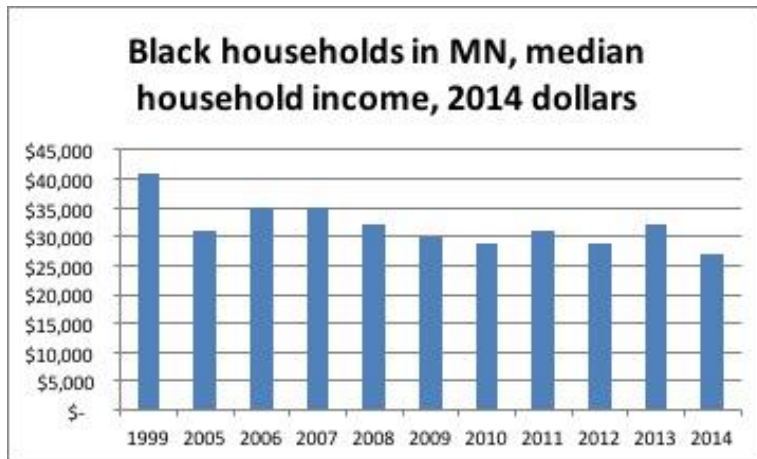
2. A question was posed about whether additional data points (earlier years) could be added to the trend for median household income for Minnesota’s Black households. (In response to the slide below).



Here are additional data points, all available since the 2000 Census (which asks about income in 1999, the first data point). Margins of error exist around all of these data. Rounded to the 1,000.

Real median household income	1999	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Black	\$ 41,000	\$ 31,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 32,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 31,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 32,000	\$ 27,000

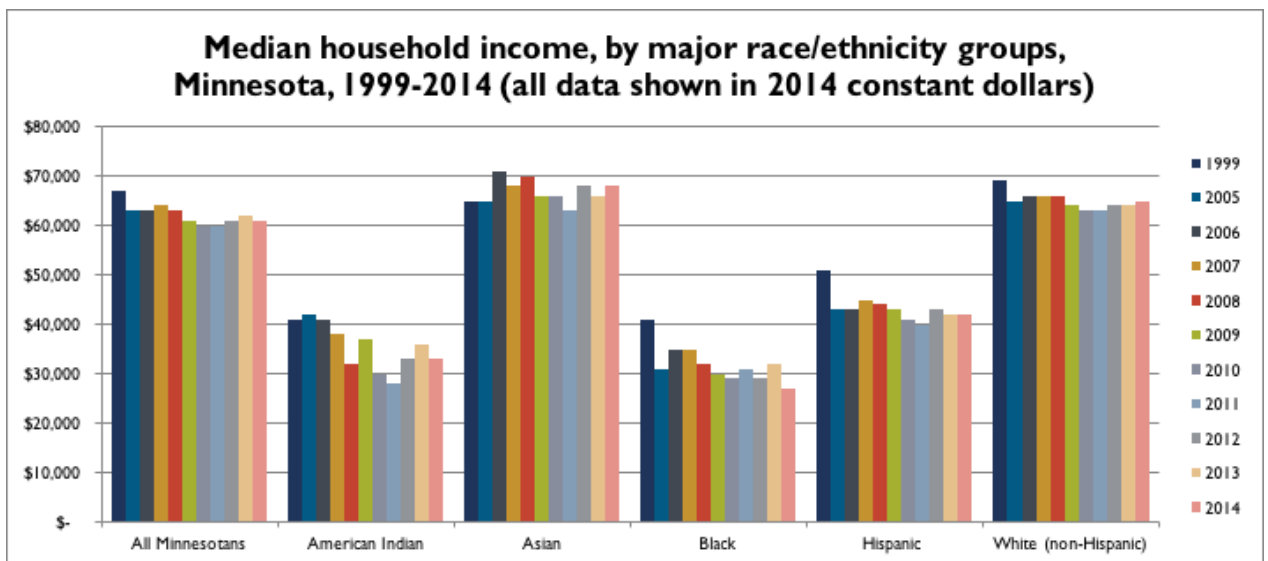
Here are those same data points graphed.



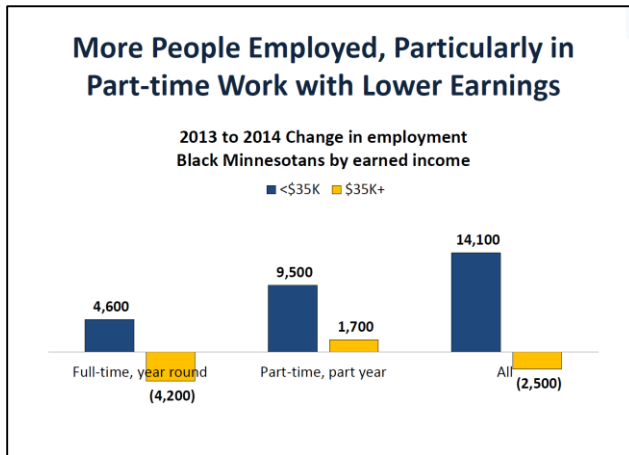
3. A question was posed about the trend in Minnesota’s median household income for all races, not just Black households

The following graph and table shows the longer term trend in median household income by broad race groups. All estimates are given in inflation-adjusted, 2014 dollars.

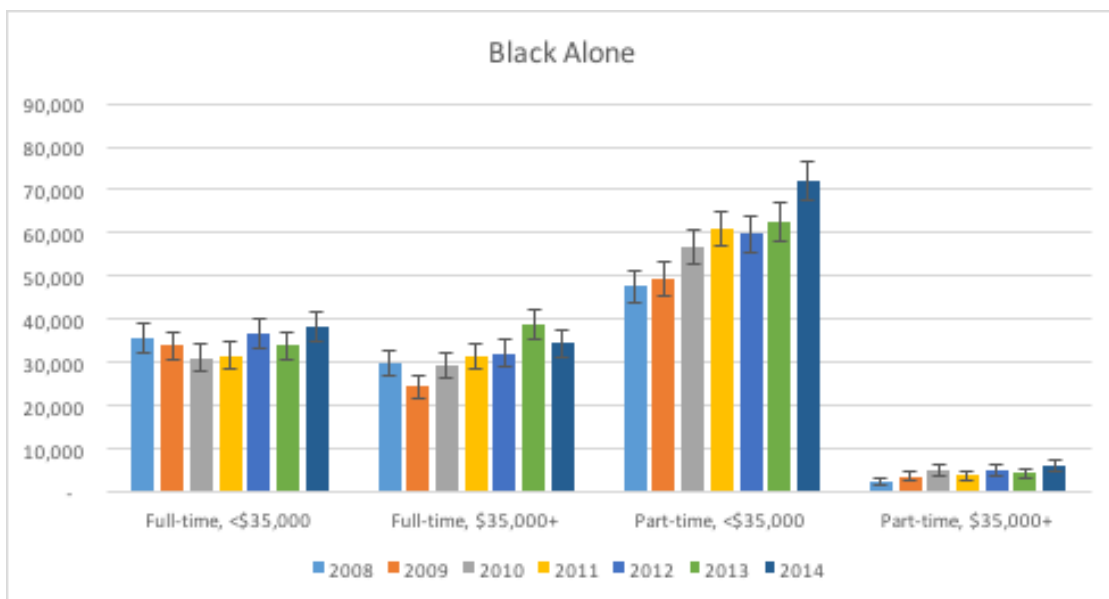
Real median household income	1999	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
All Minnesotans	\$ 67,000	\$ 63,000	\$ 63,000	\$ 64,000	\$ 63,000	\$ 61,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 61,000	\$ 62,000	\$ 61,000
American Indian	\$ 41,000	\$ 42,000	\$ 41,000	\$ 38,000	\$ 32,000	\$ 37,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 33,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 33,000
Asian	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 71,000	\$ 68,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 66,000	\$ 66,000	\$ 63,000	\$ 68,000	\$ 66,000	\$ 68,000
Black	\$ 41,000	\$ 31,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 32,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 31,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 32,000	\$ 27,000
Hispanic	\$ 51,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 44,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 41,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 42,000	\$ 42,000
White (non-Hispanic)	\$ 69,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 66,000	\$ 66,000	\$ 66,000	\$ 64,000	\$ 63,000	\$ 63,000	\$ 64,000	\$ 64,000	\$ 65,000



4. A question was posed about whether the decline in full-time, year-round work with earnings about \$35,000 annually for Black Minnesotans observed between 2013 and 2014 was part of a longer trend. (In response to the slide below)

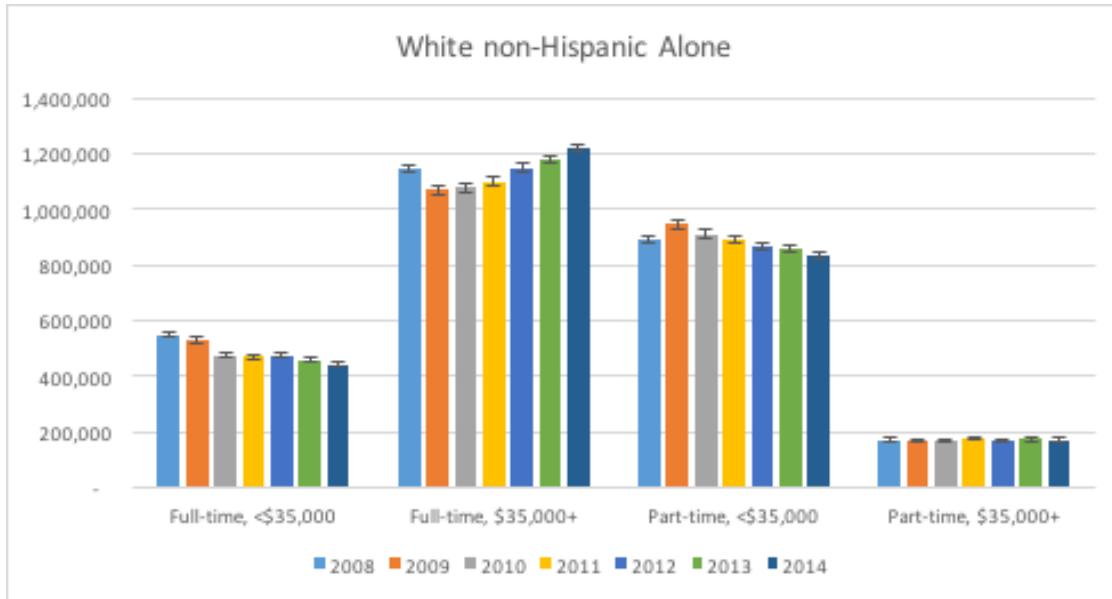


When we extend the trend back to 2008—the first year with comparable data—we see that the decline in full-time, year-round work does not appear to be part of a longer term trend. The number of Black Minnesotans working full-time, year-round has risen slightly since the end of the Great Recession. However, the rapid rise in part-time and/or part-year work for Black Minnesotans *does* appear to be part of a longer-term trend.



Note: 90% confidence intervals are shown.

In contrast, since 2009 White non-Hispanic Minnesotans have experienced a decline in part-time employment and an increase in full-time work (with earnings > \$35,000).



Note: 90% confidence intervals are shown.

5. A question was posed about how Obamacare/the Affordable Care Act affects businesses and whether it may have resulted in more part-time work.

A few researchers have examined the early evidence; however, their conclusions are tentative, given the coincidence of the ACA implementation with the recovery from the Great Recession, and the relatively short time period (and data evidence available) since the ACA provisions went into effect.

Some examples:

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/35/1/119.abstract>

<http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/health360/posts/2015/03/20-aca-five-years-employment-impact-burtless>

6. For additional background on these issues, please consult our longer report.

Our full report on the Economic Status of Minnesotans is available here: <http://mn.gov/admin/images/the-economic-status-of-minnesotans-chartbook-msdc-jan2016-post.pdf>

The corresponding Data Supplement for the report can be found here: <http://mn.gov/admin/images/data-supplement-the-economic-status-of-minnesotans-chartbook-msdc-jan2016-post.xlsx>

Thank you for your attention to these issues and the opportunity to address the working group. Please contact me if you have additional questions.

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