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## SECTION 4.

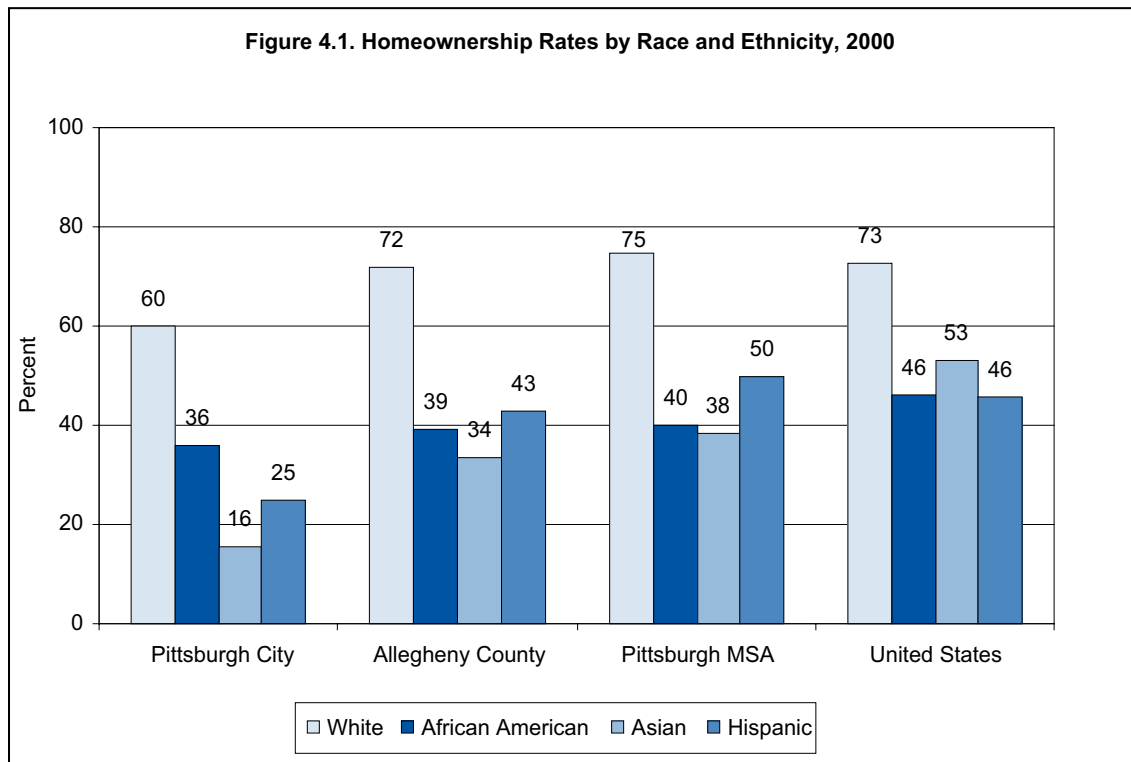
# ECONOMIC DISPARITIES

Employment, income, and the accumulation of wealth are critical for quality of life. Substantial racial disparities in key economic indicators and predictors of life quality continue to be a serious problem for the Pittsburgh area and the nation. This section summarizes recent data on:

- Homeownership
- Unemployment
- Occupations
- Income
- Poverty
- Transportation

**HOMEOWNERSHIP**

Homeownership is an essential part of the “American Dream”. Homeownership provides many benefits to families, children, and communities. These benefits include wealth building, tax reductions, a source of equity for education and other major expenses, a stable residential population, and greater neighborhood safety. Although the number of minorities owning homes has increased over the years, the nation is still far from achieving racial parity in homeownership.

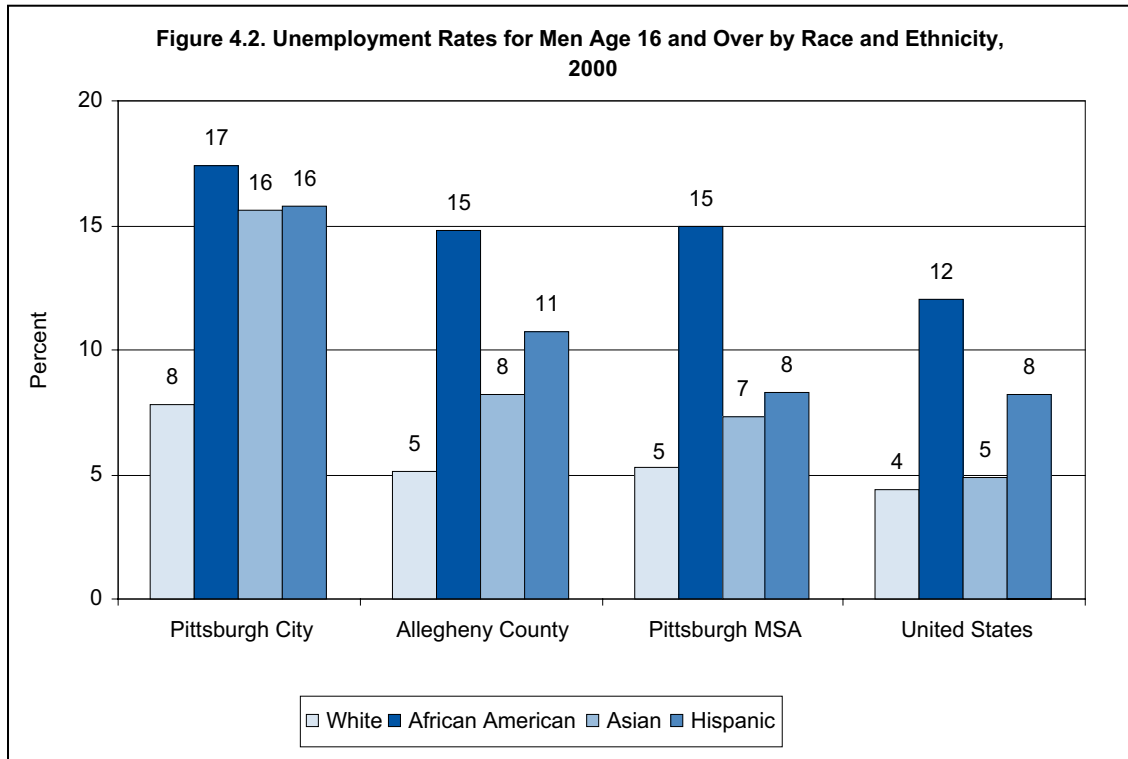


Source: Appendix 4.1

- Homeownership is lower in the city of Pittsburgh than in the other geographic areas for all of the racial and ethnic groups.
- Whites are significantly more likely than African Americans, Asians, or Hispanics to own their homes across all of the geographic areas.
- In the Pittsburgh region, Asians have the lowest homeownership rates in the city, county, and the Pittsburgh MSA. Only in the U.S. does the percentage of Asians owning homes exceed that of African Americans and Hispanics.

UNEMPLOYMENT

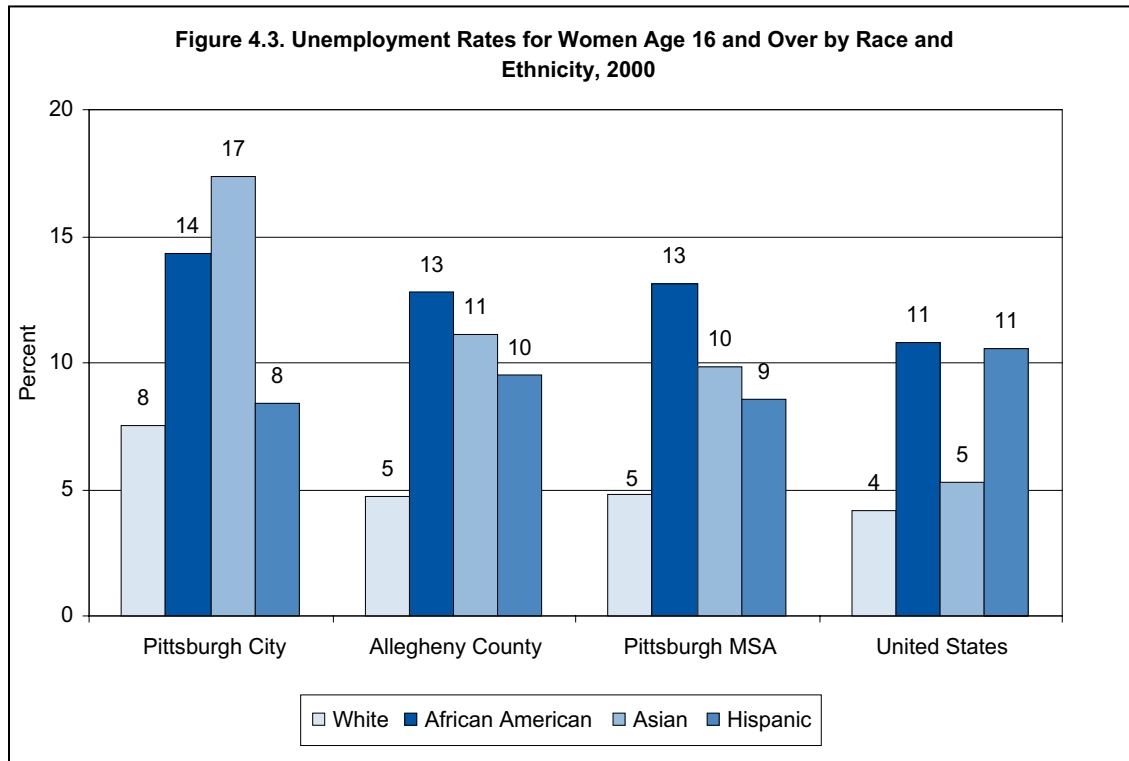
Employment typically provides income, health and retirement benefits, and a sense of stability, satisfaction, and purpose. A lack of employment can result in serious financial, physical, and mental strain on individuals, families, and communities. Unemployment rates show the extent to which adults who are seeking work are not able to find it. In the Pittsburgh region and in the nation as a whole there are striking racial disparities in rates of unemployment.



Source: Appendix 4.2

- Within each of the racial/ethnic groups, male unemployment rates are higher in the city of Pittsburgh than in the county, the MSA, and the nation.
- In the city of Pittsburgh, African American, Asian, and Hispanic men are twice as likely as White men to be unemployed.
- African American men have higher unemployment rates than men in the other major racial and ethnic groups. In fact, in the Pittsburgh area and the nation the African American male unemployment rate is two to three times the White male unemployment rate.

UNEMPLOYMENT continued

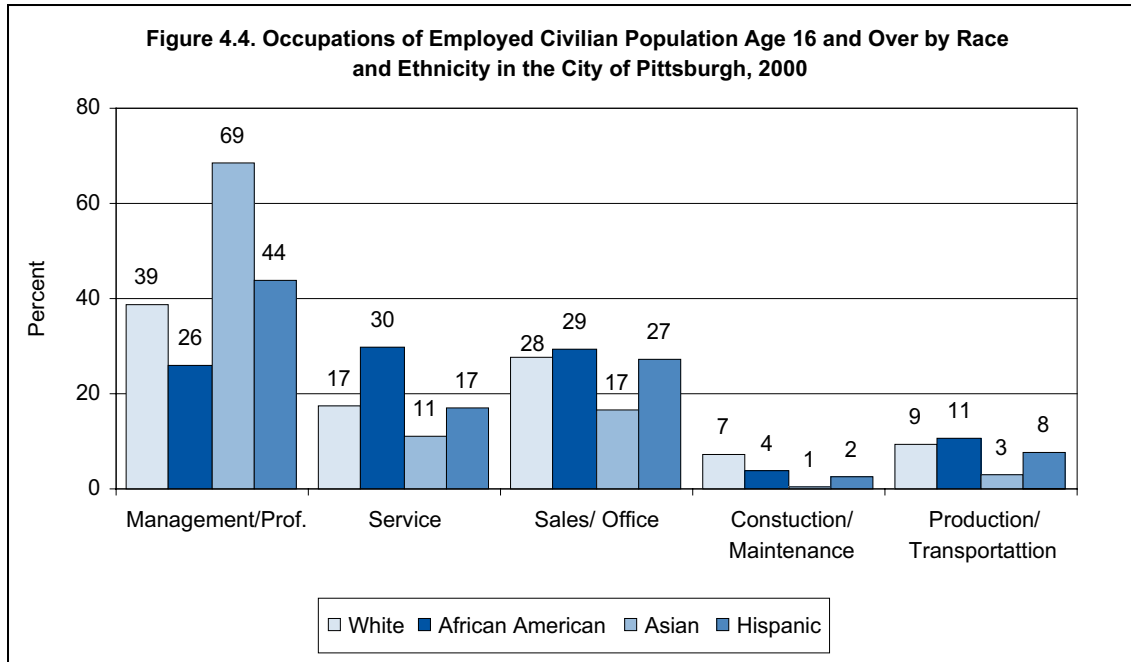


Source: Appendix 4.3

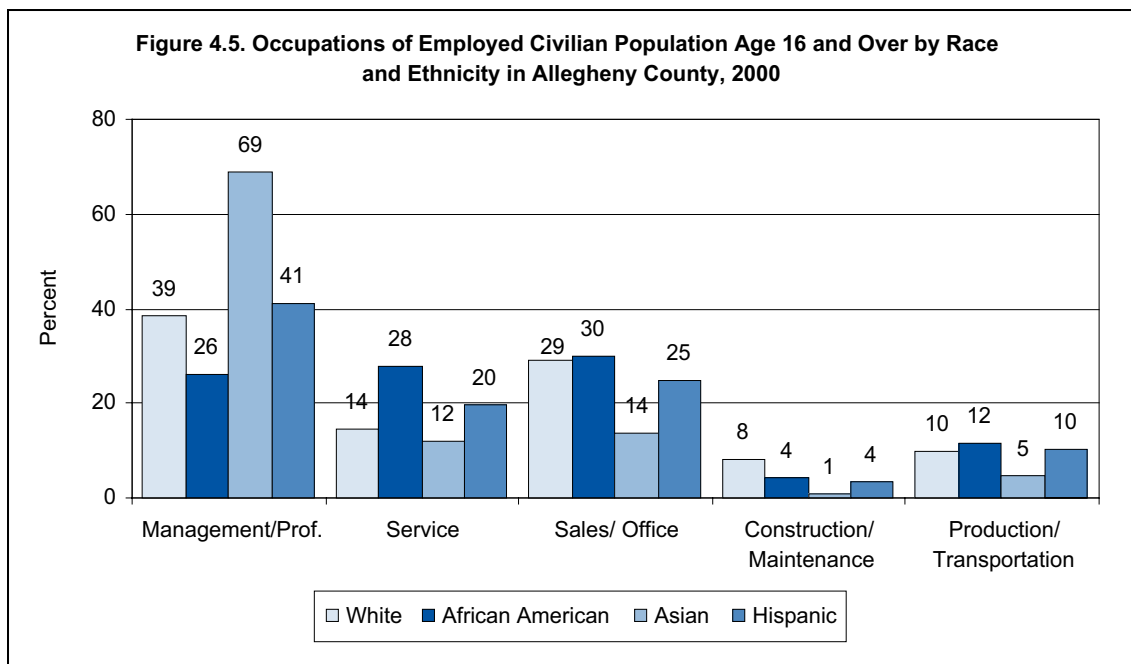
- Unemployment rates for White, African American, and Asian women are higher in the city of Pittsburgh than in the county, MSA, or nation.
- Across the four geographic areas, White female unemployment rates are lower than those of other women. African American and Asian women have higher unemployment rates than White and Hispanic women in the city, county and the Pittsburgh MSA. In fact, African American female unemployment rates are often more than twice White female rates.
- Unlike the rates for women in the other racial groups, unemployment rates for Hispanic women in the Pittsburgh region are below the national average.

OCCUPATIONS

The occupations of employed workers affect the quality of their jobs, particularly wages, salary, and fringe benefits. Most Americans are employed in five categories: management/professional, service, sales/office, construction/maintenance, and production/transportation. In general, management and professional positions offer higher salaries, better benefits, less physically strenuous work, and more favorable work environments than other jobs.

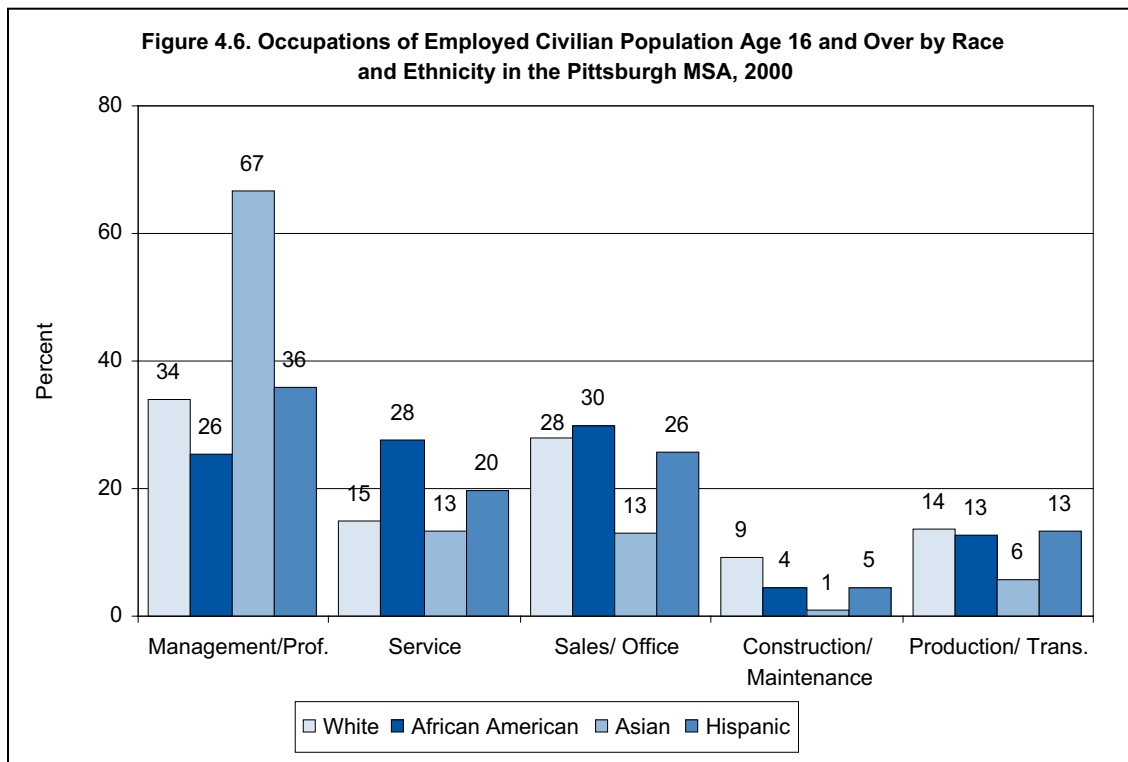


Source: Appendix 4.4

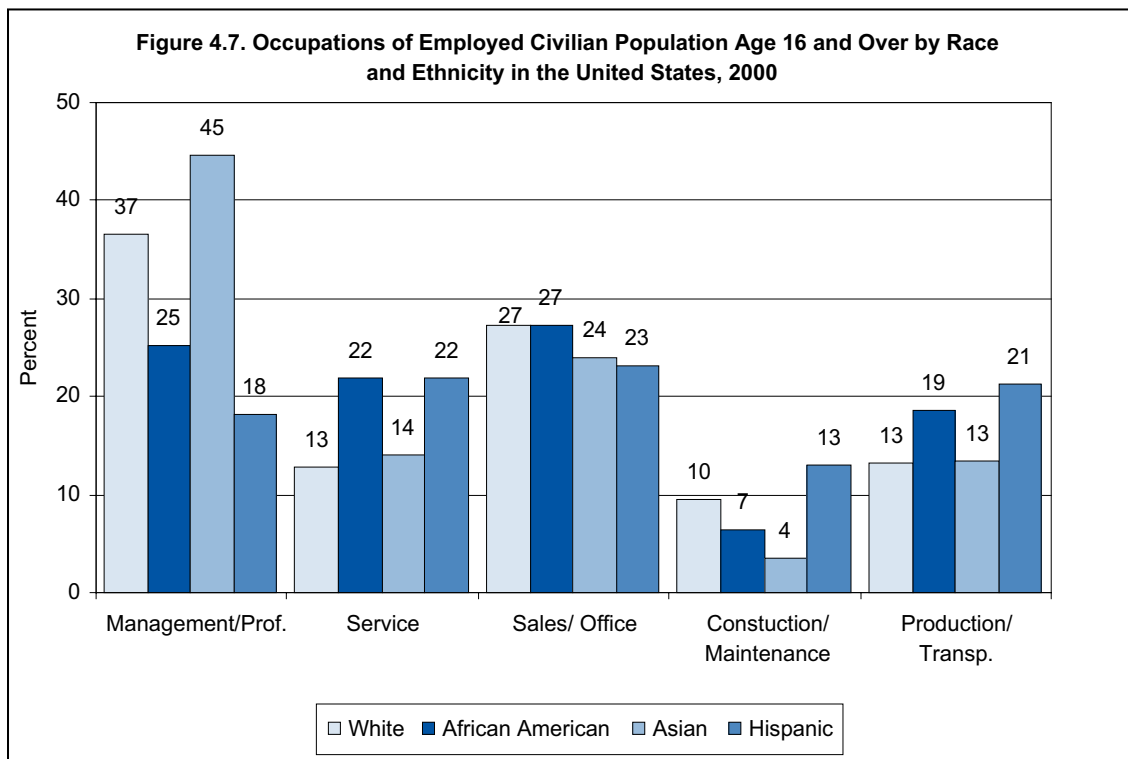


Source: Appendix 4.4

## Section 4. Economic Disparities



Source: Appendix 4.4



Source: Appendix 4.4

- The largest proportions of White, Asian, and Hispanic workers are employed in management and professional positions in the city, county, and the Pittsburgh MSA, and African Americans are distributed almost equally across management and professional, service, and sales/office positions.

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## Section 4. Economic Disparities

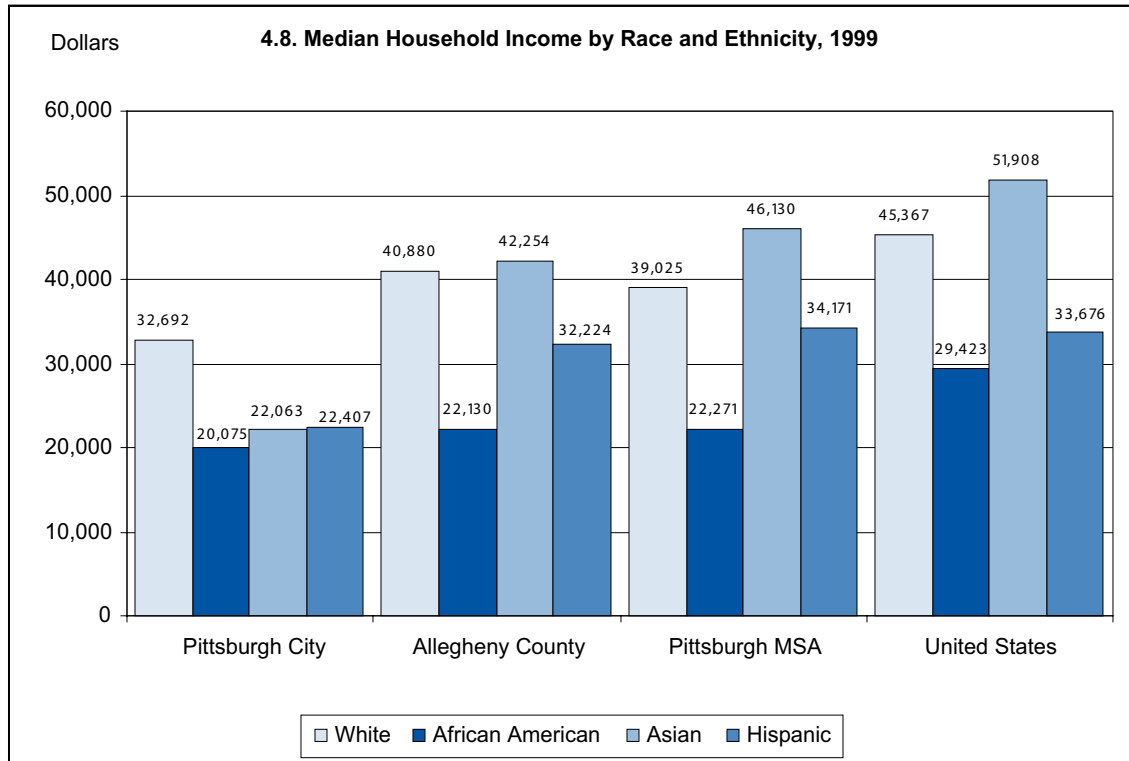
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- Asians, much more than the other racial/ethnic groups, are concentrated in management and professional positions in all of the geographic areas.
- Construction/maintenance and production/transportation positions are a relatively small proportion of the jobs in the city, county, and the Pittsburgh MSA and are largely filled by Whites, African Americans, and Hispanics.
- African Americans in the nation are employed most in service, sales/office occupations, management/professional, and production/transportation occupations and least in construction/maintenance occupations.

INCOME

Income largely determines the standard of living in the Pittsburgh area where the cost of living is similar to that of most urban areas in the U.S. In the region and nation, there are striking racial disparities in income.



Source: Appendix 4.5

- In the city of Pittsburgh the median income of White households exceeds that of African Americans, Asians, and Hispanics by more than \$10,000.
- Asians have the highest median household income in the county, Pittsburgh MSA, and U.S.
- Asians have about twice the median household income of African Americans in the county, MSA and nation.
- African Americans have the lowest household income in each geographic area, and African Americans in the city of Pittsburgh have lower median household incomes than African Americans in the other geographic areas.
- Whites in Allegheny County have a higher median household income than Whites in the city or region.
- Whites, African Americans, and Asians in the Pittsburgh area have lower median household incomes than the same racial/ethnic groups in the nation.



**INCOME continued**

Total buying power for a racial or ethnic group can affect a group’s economic impact, political power, and amount of attention received from businesses, such as the types of products and services provided and advertising and marketing to the group. Aggregate income of each racial/ethnic group is used below to measure buying power. Aggregate income is the sum of the income of all individuals age 15 and over in a given geographic area.

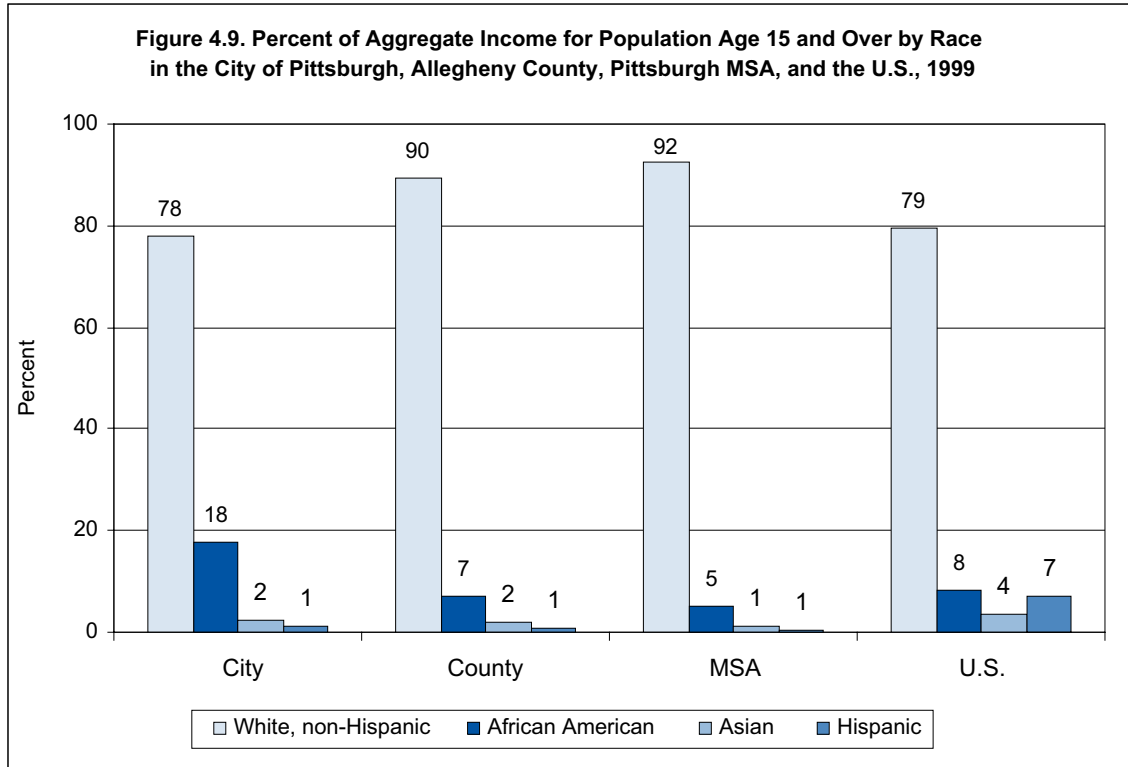
**Table 4.1. Aggregate Income for the Population Age 15 and Over in 1999**

<b>Aggregate Income in 1999 (Dollars)</b>	<b>Pittsburgh City</b>	<b>Allegheny County</b>	<b>Pittsburgh MSA</b>	<b>United States</b>
Total	6,295,100,300	28,826,174,900	49,379,003,400	6,074,932,742,500
White, non-Hispanic	4,901,516,300	25,813,110,600	45,637,126,900	4,827,736,924,300
African American	1,106,099,500	2,068,733,700	2,483,359,900	496,091,715,700
Asian	143,721,400	547,335,100	669,228,200	221,976,262,700
Hispanic	76,006,000	194,716,500	285,327,100	426,780,479,600

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2000). Summary File 3, P158: Aggregate Income in 1999 (Dollars) for Population 15 Years and Over.*

- Whites have more buying power than African Americans, Asians, and Hispanics combined in the Pittsburgh area and the U.S.
- Whites in 1999 had buying power of about \$5 billion in the city, \$26 billion in the county, \$46 billion in the region, and \$4.8 trillion in the nation.
- African Americans, after Whites, in 1999 had the next largest amount of buying power: \$1.1 billion in the city, \$2.1 billion in the county, \$2.5 billion in the region, and \$500 billion in the nation.
- Asians and Hispanics have buying power of hundreds of millions of dollars in the Pittsburgh area and hundreds of billions in the nation.

INCOME continued

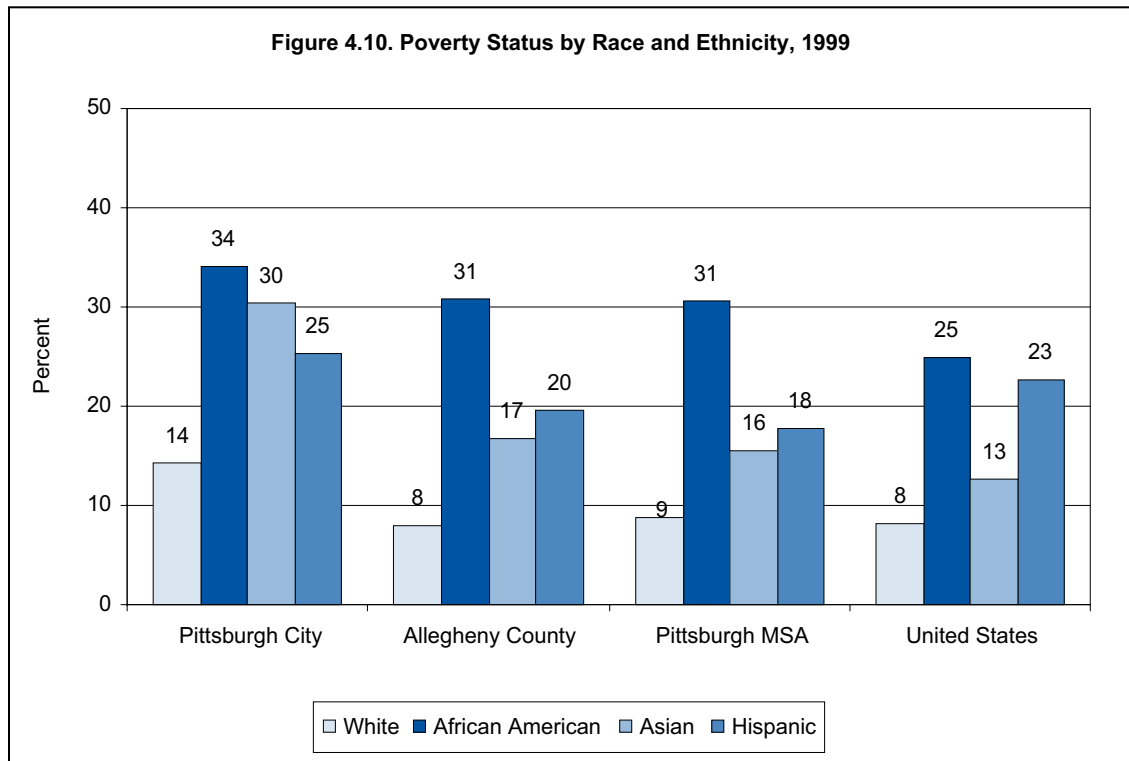


Source: Table 4.1 above.

- In the city of Pittsburgh Whites are 67% of the population and have 78% of the aggregate income while African Americans are 27% of the population and have 18% of the income.
- Whites in the county and Pittsburgh MSA have at least 90% of the aggregate income while all other groups together have 10% or less.
- In the nation Whites have 79% of the aggregate income while all other groups have a total of 21%.

POVERTY

People in poverty often lack income for basic needs, such as a nutritious diet, health care, decent housing, safe neighborhoods, high performing schools, quality child care, and reliable transportation. In spite of America’s prosperity, there are still many people -- particularly people of color -- in poverty.

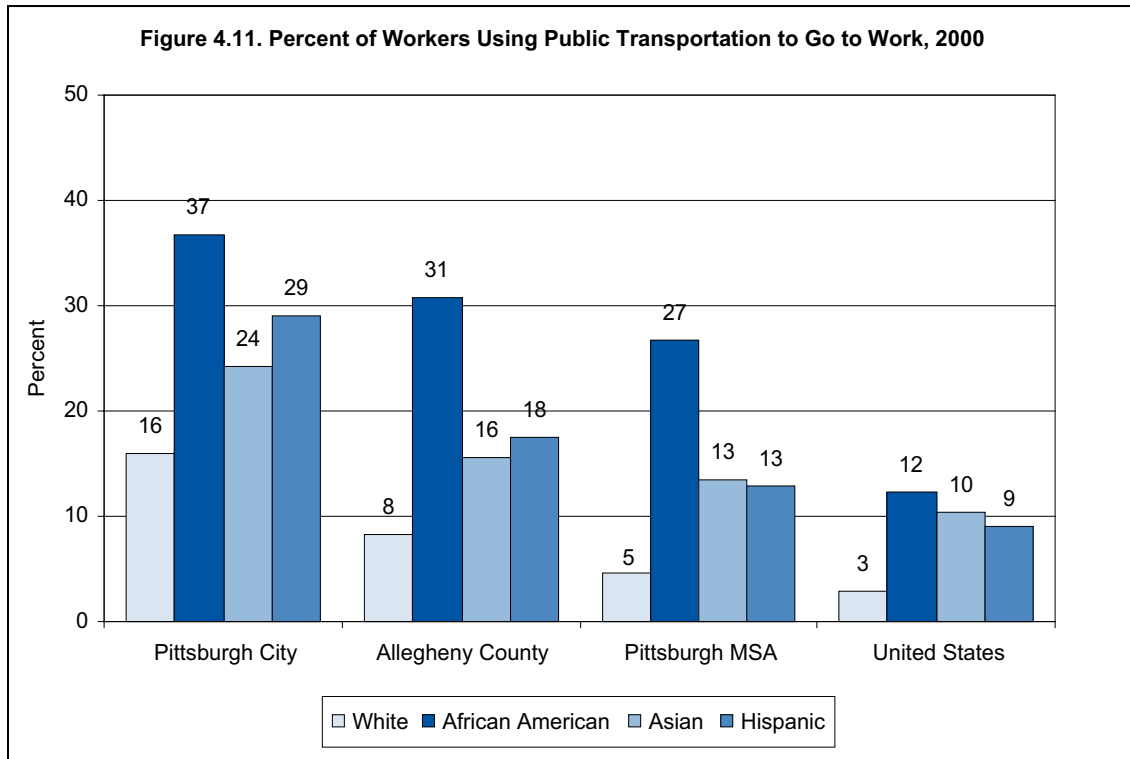


Source: Appendix 4.6

- African Americans, Asians, and Hispanics are much more likely than Whites to be poor.
- African Americans in the Pittsburgh area and the U.S. have the highest poverty rates. In fact, African American poverty rates in the county, region, and nation are more than three times White rates, and the African American rate in the city is more than two times the White rate.
- White poverty rates in the city are noticeably higher than White rates in the nation. White rates in the county and Pittsburgh MSA are comparable to White rates in the nation.
- Asian poverty rates in the Pittsburgh area are higher than national rates.
- Hispanic poverty rates in the city are higher than in the nation while Hispanic rates in the county and Pittsburgh MSA are lower than national rates.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is important for seeking work, working, getting an education, and obtaining food, health care, and child care. Large disparities by race and ethnicity exist in the use of public transportation and ownership of a motor vehicle.

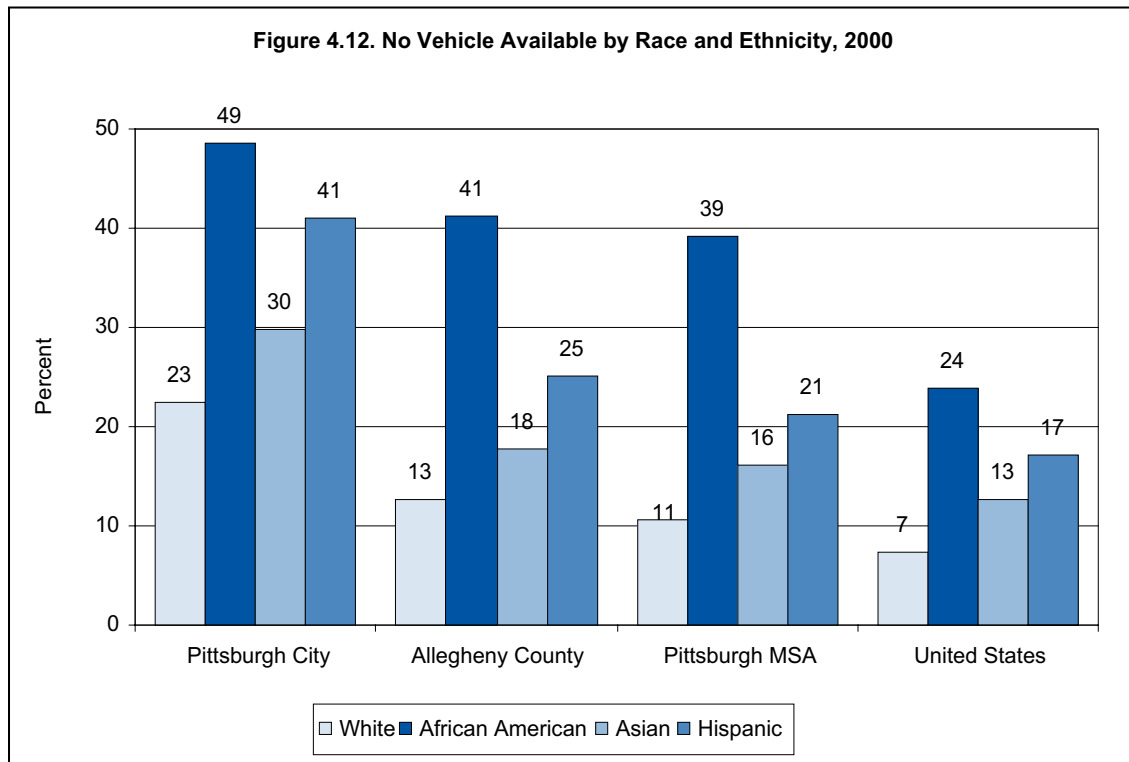


Source: Appendix 4.7

- African American workers in the Pittsburgh area depend on public transportation to go to work much more than White, Asian, and Hispanic workers. In fact, African Americans are 2-5 times as likely as Whites to use public transportation to go to work in the Pittsburgh area.
- Whites use public transportation at much lower rates than the other racial/ethnic groups.
- Whites, African Americans, Asians, and Hispanics in the city use public transportation more than Whites, African Americans, Asians, and Hispanics in the other geographic areas.

TRANSPORTATION continued

Another indicator of dependence on public transportation is the percent of households which do not own a motor vehicle.



Source: Appendix 4.8

- African Americans are more likely to be without a motor vehicle than Whites, Asians, and Hispanics. Whites are the least likely to be without a motor vehicle. In fact, the percent of African American households without a motor vehicle in the Pittsburgh area and the nation is 2-4 times that of Whites.
- Whites, African Americans, Asians, and Hispanics in the city are much more likely not to have a motor vehicle than the same groups in the other geographic areas.
- The county and the Pittsburgh MSA have higher percentages of Whites, African Americans, Asians, and Hispanics who do not own a motor vehicle than the nation.