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# The Spartanburg Racial Equity Index: Has the Needle Moved?

(An update and re-examination of the data comprising the 2018 Spartanburg Racial Equity Index)



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# Spartanburg's Racial Equity Index: Has the Needle Moved?

*(An update and re-examination of the data comprising the 2018 Spartanburg Racial Equity Index)*

Immediately upon the 2018 release of the Spartanburg Racial Equity Index (REI) by the Spartanburg Community Indicators partnership, local leaders, anchor and nonprofit institutions, faith groups, funders, and the community at large took notice of the findings and committed to improving race equity in the City of Spartanburg and across Spartanburg County.

Much of the data in the original REI reflected the effects of historic practices that have marginalized Black residents and Communities of Color within Spartanburg County. The REI demonstrated clear and often extreme inequities in the predictors of wellbeing and in outcomes between Black and White residents – large “equity gaps”. These findings stood as a call to action to address inequities through education, dialogue, response to community voice, targeted funding, and other focused efforts. The purpose of this study is to determine if positive changes have been realized since the release of the REI in the equity gaps across these indicators of wellbeing for residents of the City of Spartanburg and residents of Spartanburg County.

## Notes on Interpretation and Methodology

Much of the data in the original REI was from 2016. Most of these data have been updated to 2019 or 2020, and many new metrics and data points have been added, as they were not available in 2016. Comparison data and trend data are provided throughout to lend context.

Some data are not available disaggregated by race (e.g., housing affordability and severe housing problems), but since People of Color bear a disproportionate burden on these indicators, they are included to determine if there has been positive aggregate change .

Although overall measures are reported here, this study focuses on changes in equity gaps between Black and White residents of the City of Spartanburg and Spartanburg County based on changes between data reported in the initial REI and current data. Note that many of the data are not available at the sub-county level or do not have sufficient reliability when disaggregated at the sub-county level, so findings for the City of Spartanburg are limited.

Obviously, movement in the data may or may not be attributable to local interventions. Narrowing or widening of equity gaps may be attributable to intervening factors, inflow of residents from other areas, larger social or economic changes, etc. However, where the data show positive or negative changes, these can be instructive and can be attended to as Spartanburg moves forward in its equity work.

Use this report to identify equity wins, protective factors, emerging issues, and continuing challenges.

*Special thanks are extended to Live Healthy Spartanburg for commissioning this study and for supporting this work.*

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## Executive Summary

The following table provides summary data as to whether the Black-White race equity gap has gotten better in Spartanburg since 2016. Note that although overall improvements in indicators may exist, even for both races, there may not be improvement in equity gaps. Note also that some indicator data are not available for the City of Spartanburg. The gray shaded indicators do not yield data by race but have inferential value.

Have Black-White Equity Gaps Improved from 2016 to 2019?*				
Indicator	Spartanburg County		City of Spartanburg	
	Better	Worse / Unimproved	Better	Worse / Unimproved
<b>Indicator Area 1: Income and Poverty</b>				
Per Capita Income	√		√	
Median Household Income	√		√	
Median Earnings (both genders)	√		√	
• Males		√	√	
• Females	√			√
All Resident Poverty Rate		√	√	
Children in Poverty Rate		√	√	
Families in Poverty Rate		√		√
Deep Poverty Rate		√	√	
Child Opportunity				
<b>Indicator Area 2: Employment</b>				
Labor Force Participation Rate	√		√	
Labor Force Unemployment Rate	√		√	
Employment to Population Ratio (Employment Rate)	√		√	
<b>Indicator Area 3: Health</b>				
Overall Health	√		NA	
• Poor Physical Health Days		√		
• Poor Mental Health Days		√		
Infant Mortality Rate		√	NA	
Inadequate Prenatal Care		√	NA	
Low Birth Weight		√	NA	
Adult Overweight and Obesity (Upstate Region)		√	NA	
Child Overweight and Obesity	√			
• Child Overweight	√			
• Child Obesity		√		
Cancer: Diagnosed Incidence		√	NA	
Cancer: Mortality	√		NA	
Deaths of Despair				
Teen Birth Rate		√	NA	
Uninsured Rates	√		√	
• Uninsured Rates, Working Age	√		√	
Life Expectancy		√	NA	

Indicator Area 4: Housing				
Home Ownership		√		√
Affordability: Housing Burden		√	NA	
Affordability: Severe Housing Burden	√			
Severe Housing Problems				
Residential Segregation	√			NA
Areas of Concentrated Poverty: All Residents	√			NA
Areas of Concentrated Poverty: Children	√			NA
Indicator Area 5: Education				
Education Attainment	√		√	
School Readiness (aggregated across districts)	√		√	
Third Grade Reading	√		√	
Third Grade Math		√		√
Eighth Grade Reading		√		√
Eighth Grade Math		√		√
Households with Computers	√			√
Households with Broadband Internet Subscription	√		√	
On-Time Graduation Rate by School District		√		√
Dropout / Teen Idleness	√			NA
Social Mobility of Four-Year Institutions				
Indicator Area 6: Democracy and Inclusion				
Voting				
Family Composition	√			√
Indicator Area 7: Criminal Justice				
School-to-Prison Pipeline		√		√
Arrests and Detention		√		
Incarceration and Corrections				
Indicator Area 8: Environment				
Food Environment Index (overall score)	√		NA	
• Limited Access to Healthy Food		√		
• Food Insecurity	√			
Lead Exposure				

\* Some years vary

## Demographics

Racial and cultural diversity create thriving and prosperous communities. Diversity equates to richness and variety, boosting innovation and workforce competitiveness which leads to economic growth. Diverse communities are culturally vibrant, and early exposure to social and ethnic diversity prepares children and students for a multicultural world.

Spartanburg County and the City of Spartanburg continue, along with the U.S. as a whole, to become increasingly multiracial and multicultural, although the racial demographics of South Carolina are not shifting as dramatically as those of the U.S. The proportions of Black and White residents declined between 2016 and 2019 in the city and the county, and the proportion of Hispanic residents increased during the same period. In fact, the proportion of Hispanic residents in the City of Spartanburg grew by 27% from 2016 to 2019, and the proportion of Hispanic residents in the county grew by 7.9%.

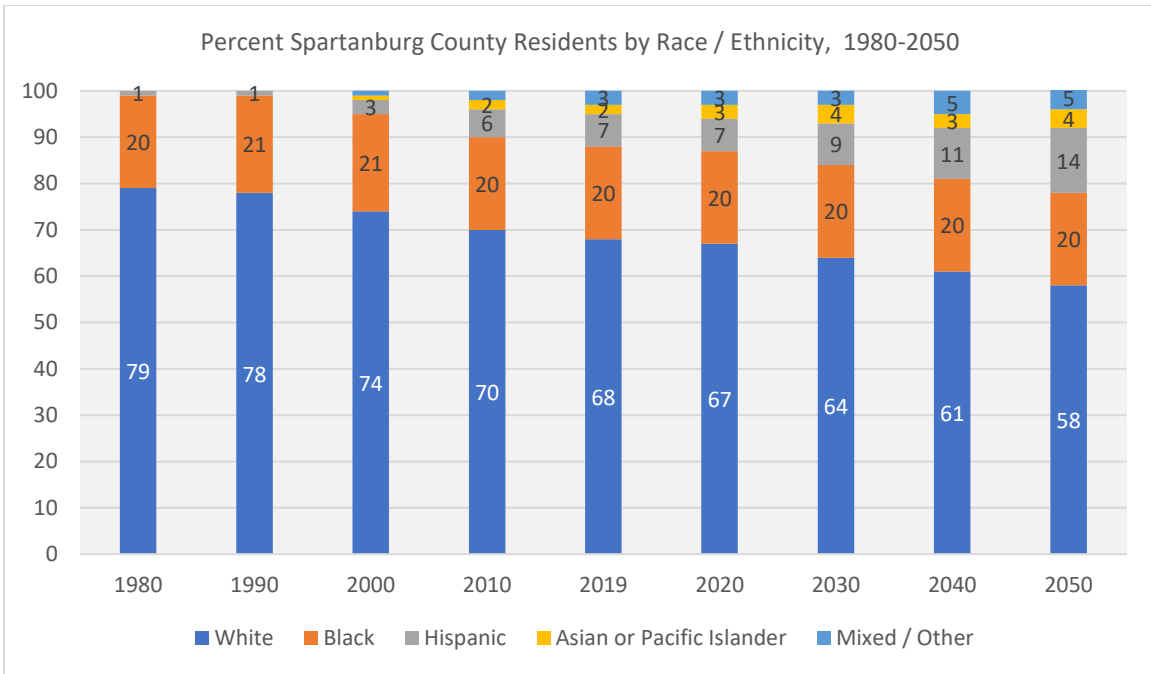
<b>Population by Race and Hispanic Ethnicity, 2016 and 2019 (5-year averages)</b>						
	<b>Black, Non-Hispanic</b>		<b>White, Non-Hispanic</b>		<b>Hispanic of any Race</b>	
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2019</b>
Spartanburg County	20.5%	20.2%	69.1%	68.3%	6.3%	6.8%
Spartanburg City	48.1%	47.2%	44.8%	43.6%	3.7%	4.7%
SC	27.1%	26.6%	63.9%	63.7%	5.3%	5.7%
US	12.3%	12.3%	62.0%	60.7%	17.3%	18.0%

Source: U.S. Census DP05

The National Equity Atlas<sup>1</sup> projects that this trend will continue in Spartanburg County through 2050, with the White population declining, the Black population holding steady at approximately 20%, and the Hispanic and other / mixed race populations increasing.

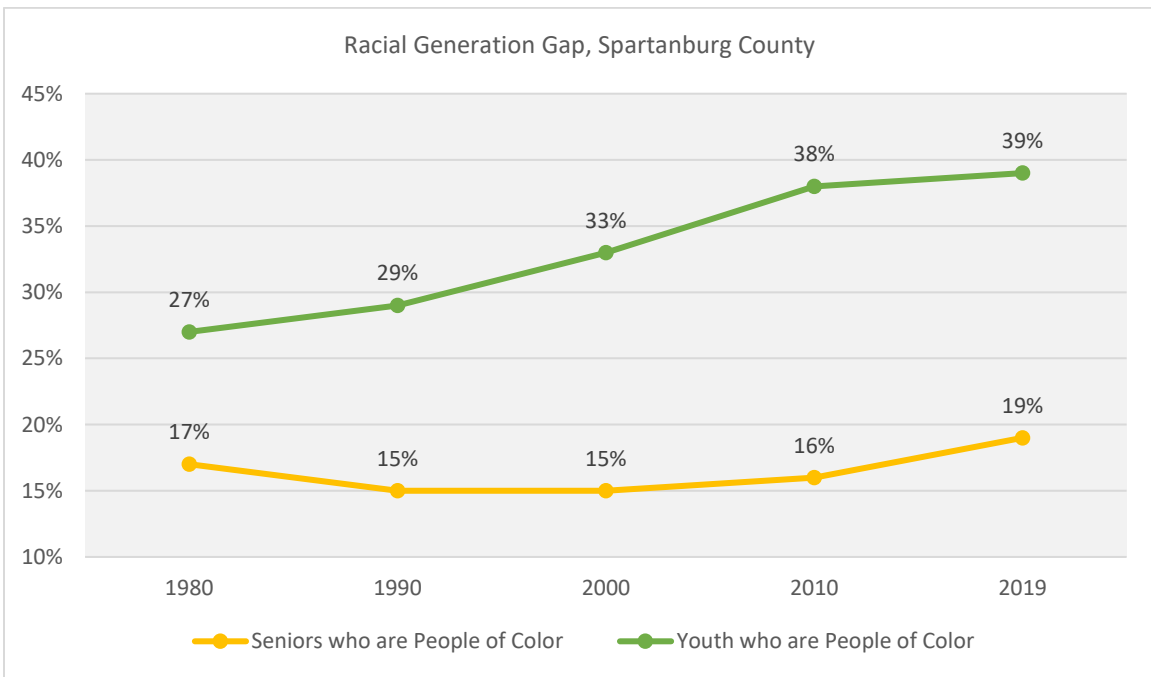
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<sup>1</sup> National Equity Atlas: <https://nationalequityatlas.org/>



Source: National Equity Atlas

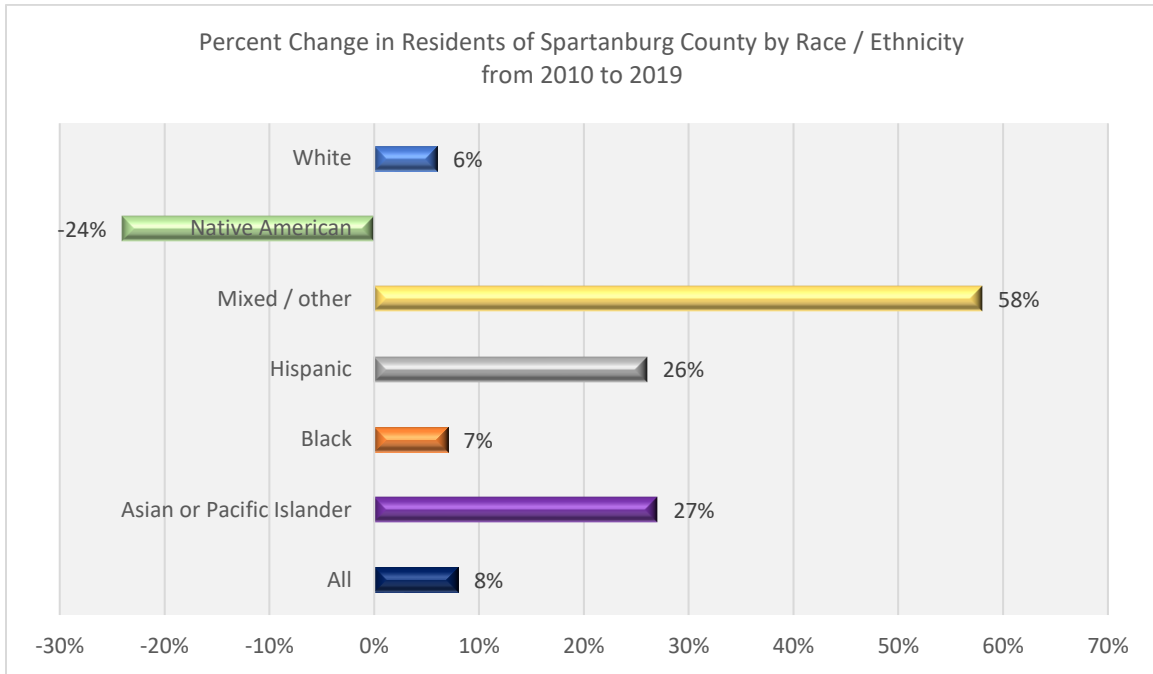
Clearly, younger residents of Spartanburg County are increasingly People of Color compared to older residents, demonstrating that the population is becoming more diverse over time. In 1980, there was a racial generation gap (the percent of seniors who are People of Color compared to the percent of youth who are People of Color) of 10 percentage points, compared to 20 percentage points in 2019.



Source: National Equity Atlas



From 2010 to 2019, the population of Spartanburg County increased by 8%. White residents increased by 6% while Blacks, Hispanics and other residents of color increased by higher percentages (except for Native Americans).

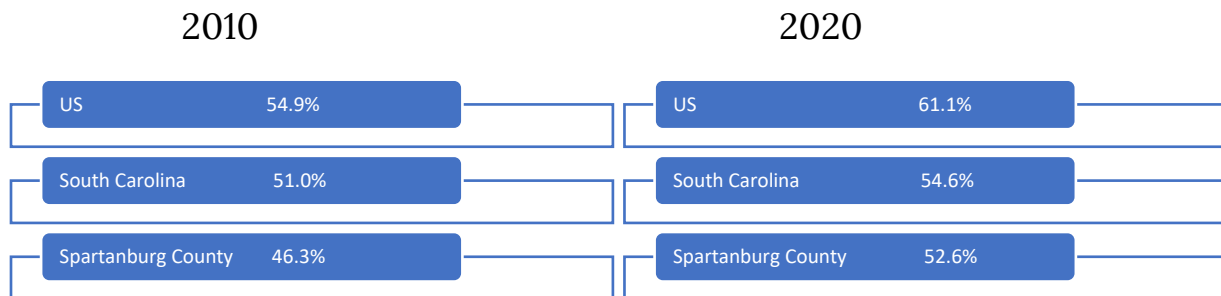


Source: National Equity Atlas

The U.S. Census uses the Diversity Index (DI) to measure the probability that two people chosen at random in an identified geography will be from different racial and ethnic groups. The DI is bounded between 0 and 1. A value of 0 indicates that everyone in the population has the same racial and ethnic characteristics. A value close to 1 indicates that almost everyone in the population has different racial and ethnic characteristics. The DI is converted to a percentage, indicating the chance of a diverse choice.

Nationally, the chance that two people chosen at random will be from different racial or ethnic groups has increased to 61.1% in 2020 from 54.9% in 2010. In Spartanburg County and in South Carolina, the chance that two people chosen at random will be from different racial or ethnic groups has also increased as indicated below.

### Diversity Index Scores, Spartanburg County, SC and US



Source: US Census

## Indicator Area 1: Income and Poverty

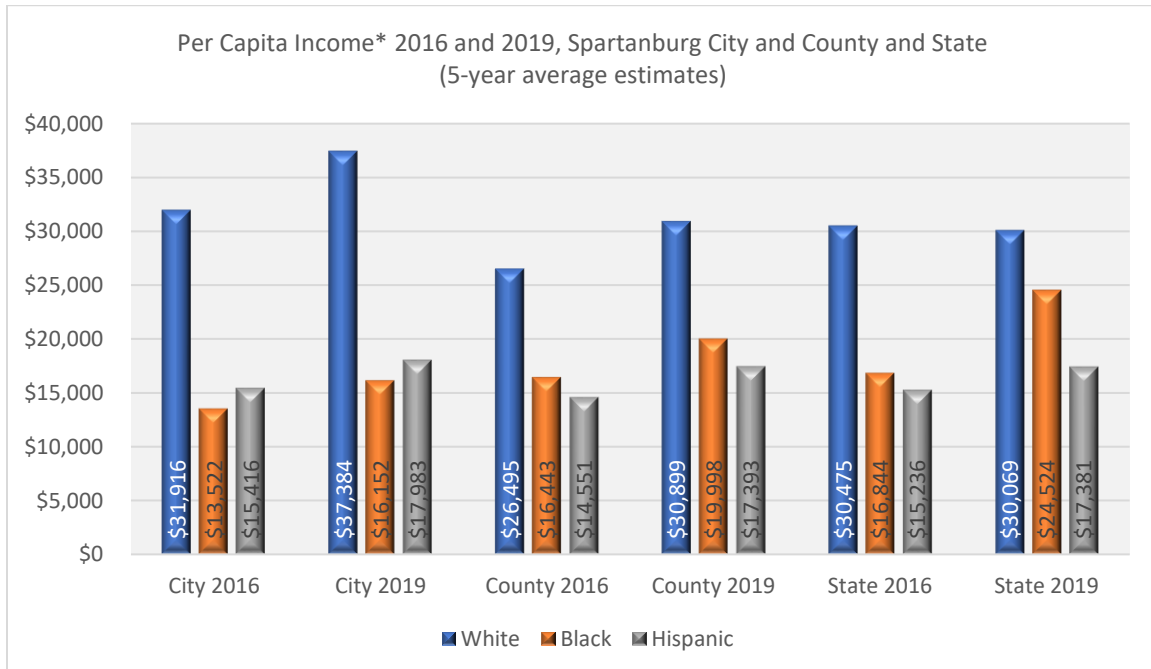
Extensive data show that cities and regions that offer greater equality of opportunity maximize the potential of their human capital and minimize the fiscal costs of exclusion. Correcting inequities is increasingly important to foster economic growth and wellbeing for all everyone. Eliminating inequities in income strengthens families and communities and improves local economies. If there had been no racial gaps in income in the U.S., Gross Domestic Product (GDP) would have been about \$1.8 billion larger in 2019.<sup>2</sup>

### Per Capita Income

Per capita income has risen for White, Black, and Hispanic residents in the City of Spartanburg and in Spartanburg County from 2016 to 2019. (Note that the state average per capita income decreased for Whites, increased substantially for Blacks, and increased for Hispanics).

*In 2016 in the City of Spartanburg, per capita income for Black residents was 42% of White resident income. In 2019, the gap narrowed, with Black resident income increasing to just over 43% of White resident income. In the City of Spartanburg, income for Whites increased by 17% during this period, and income for Blacks increased by 19%.*

*In 2016 in Spartanburg County, income for Black residents was 62% of White resident income. In 2019, the gap narrowed, with Black resident income increasing to 65% of White resident income. During this period, Black per capita income increased by 22% and White per capita income increased by 17%.*



\* Per Capita income is the mean (average) income computed for every man, woman, and child in a particular group  
Source: US Census S1902

<sup>2</sup> National Equity Atlas <https://nationalequityatlas.org/>

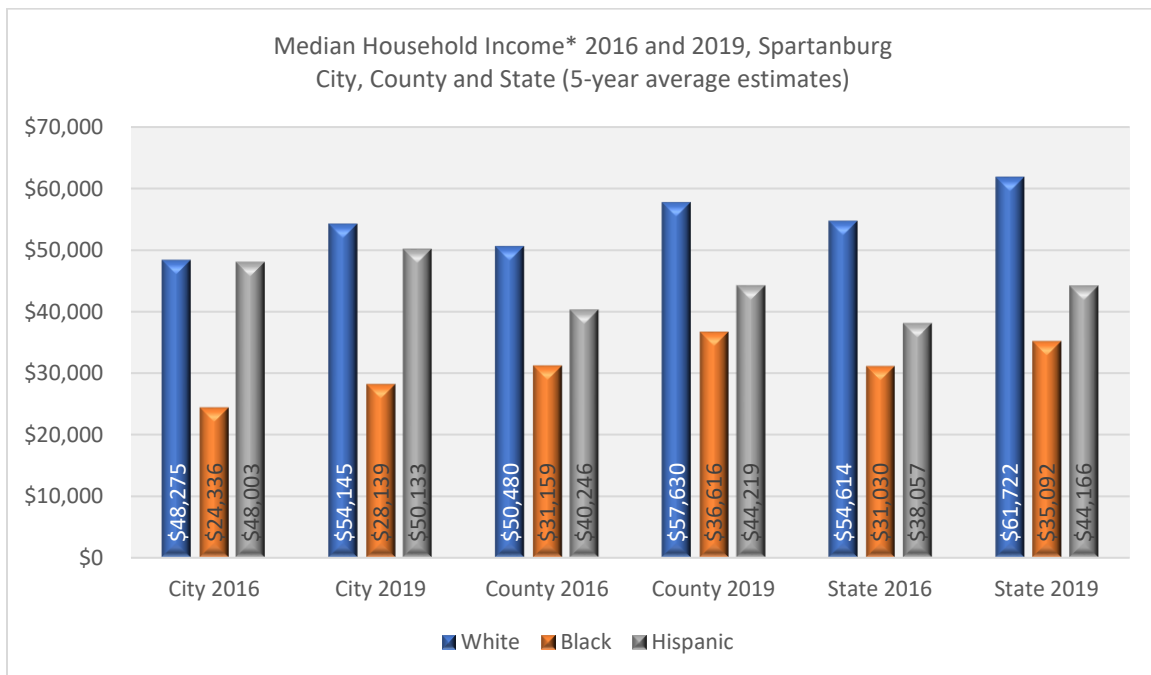
## Median Household Income

Household income is a basic measure of the extent to which a household can provide for itself and build wealth. It is also a measure of overall economic wellbeing in a community, including tax base and potential support for local business.

The gap between White and Black household income persists and is larger than the gap between White and Hispanic household income. However, progress narrowing the equity gap is being made in both the City of Spartanburg and in Spartanburg County.

*In the City of Spartanburg, the gap has narrowed between 2016 and 2019 with Black household income just over 50% of White household income in 2016 and almost 52% of White household income in 2019. In the City of Spartanburg, household income for Whites increased by 12% during this period, and income for Blacks increased by almost 16%.*

*In Spartanburg County, household income for Black residents was 62% of White residents in 2016. In 2019, the gap narrowed, with Black household income increasing to 64% of White household income. During this period, Black household income increased by 18% and White household income increased by 14%.*



\*Household income includes income of the householder and all other people 15 years and older living under one roof, whether or not they are related to the householder.

Source: US Census B19013B, B19013A, B19013I

## Wages and Earnings

Large wage gaps by race and gender continue across the U.S., even though they have narrowed in some cases over the years. Over the past few decades, gains in income and wages have gone largely to the very top earners, while wages and incomes of working- and middle-class workers have declined or stagnated, disproportionately affecting workers of color who are concentrated in low-wage jobs – jobs that provide few opportunities for economic security or upward mobility.

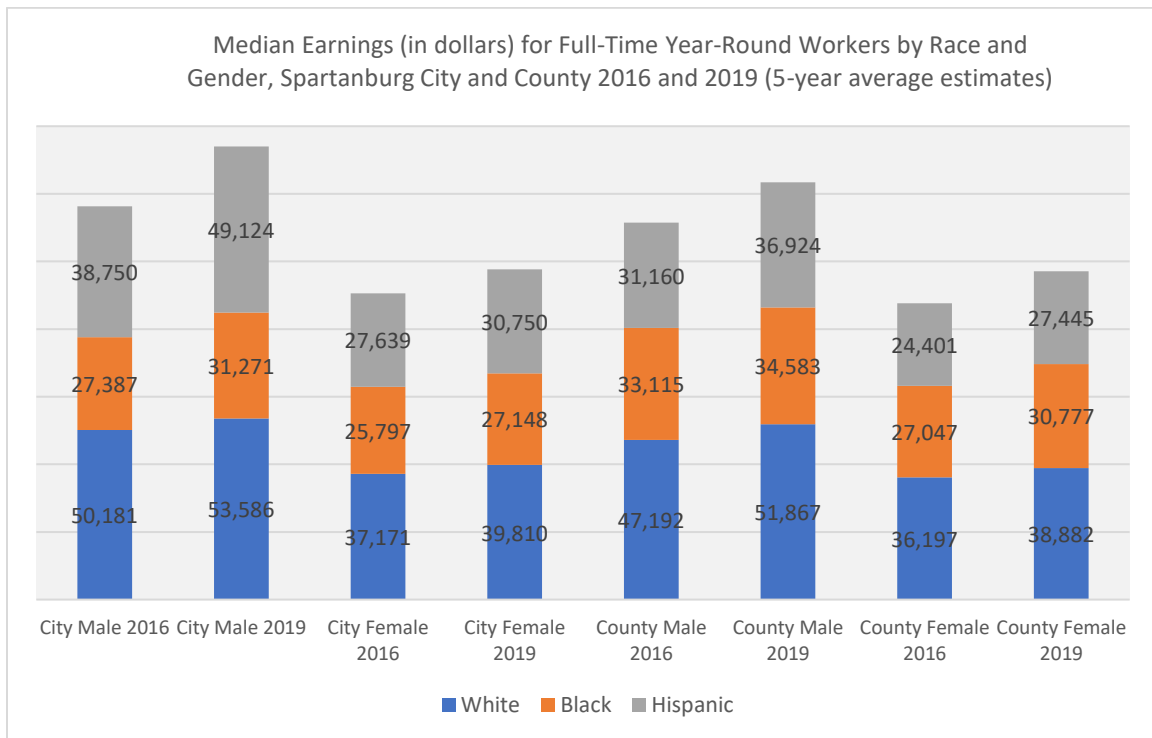
Wages for full-time year-round workers in the City of Spartanburg increased for Blacks, Whites, Hispanics, and both genders from 2016 to 2019. Overall earnings for all Black workers residing in the City of Spartanburg in 2016 were 71% of White worker earnings. In 2019, the gap narrowed, with Black worker earnings increasing to 73% of White worker earnings. Overall earnings for all Black workers residing in Spartanburg County in 2016 were 71% of White worker earnings. In 2019, the gap narrowed slightly, with Black worker earnings increasing to 72% of White worker earnings.

There is still a significant wage gap between male and female workers. In the City of Spartanburg for year-round full-time workers:

- Black males earned 55% of White male earnings in 2016. In 2019, Black males earned 58% of White male earnings. Thus, the wage gap narrowed.
- Black females earned 69% of White female earnings in 2016. In 2019, Black females earned 68% of White female earnings. Thus, the wage gap widened.

In Spartanburg County:

- Black males earned 70% of White male earnings in 2016. In 2019, Black males earned 67% of White males earnings. Thus, the wage gap grew.
- Black females earned 75% of White females in 2016. In 2019, Black females earned 79% of White female earnings. Thus, the wage gap narrowed.



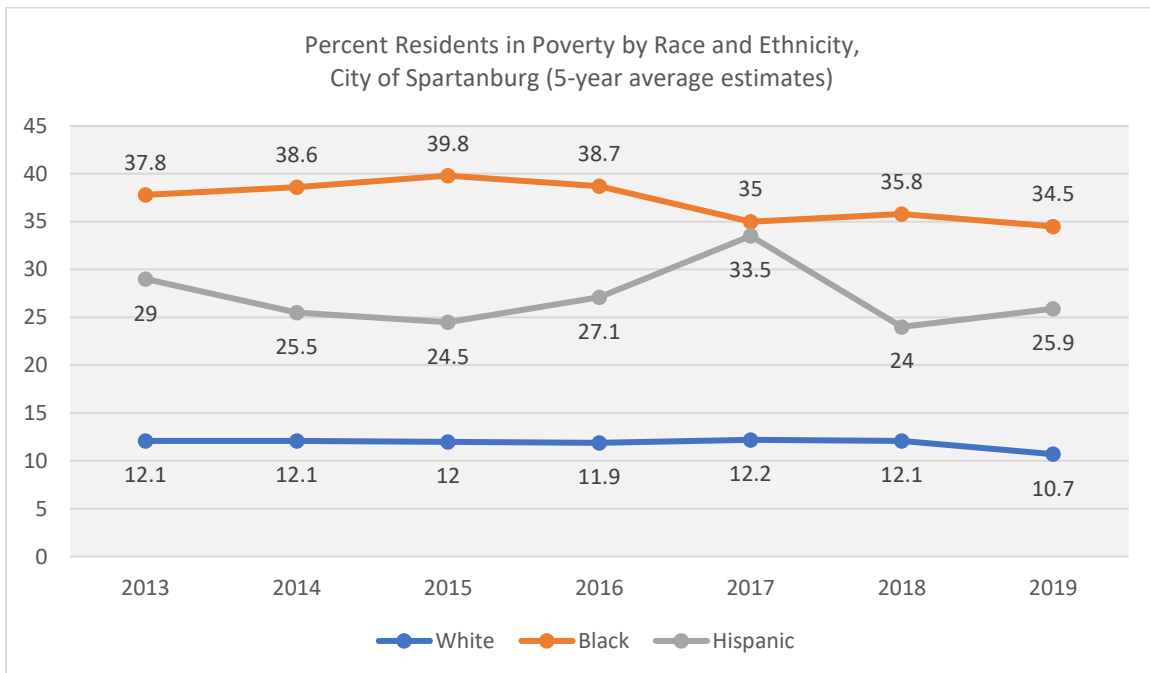
\*In 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars

Source: US Census B20017H, B20017B, B20017I

## All Resident Poverty

Poverty is a multifaceted concept which may also include social, economic, and political elements. Besides scarcity or lack of material possessions or money, poverty often includes inability to access and build wealth resources such as homeownership, savings, stocks, and business assets. In this case, assets are unavailable to support basic needs in cases of emergency and are unavailable to pass on to children for intergenerational wealth-building.

Poverty rates have declined slightly for White and Black residents in the City of Spartanburg since 2013. However, the equity gap persists. The 2019 poverty rate for Blacks in the city is more than three times the rate of Whites. The poverty rate for Blacks is consistently higher than for Hispanics in the city.



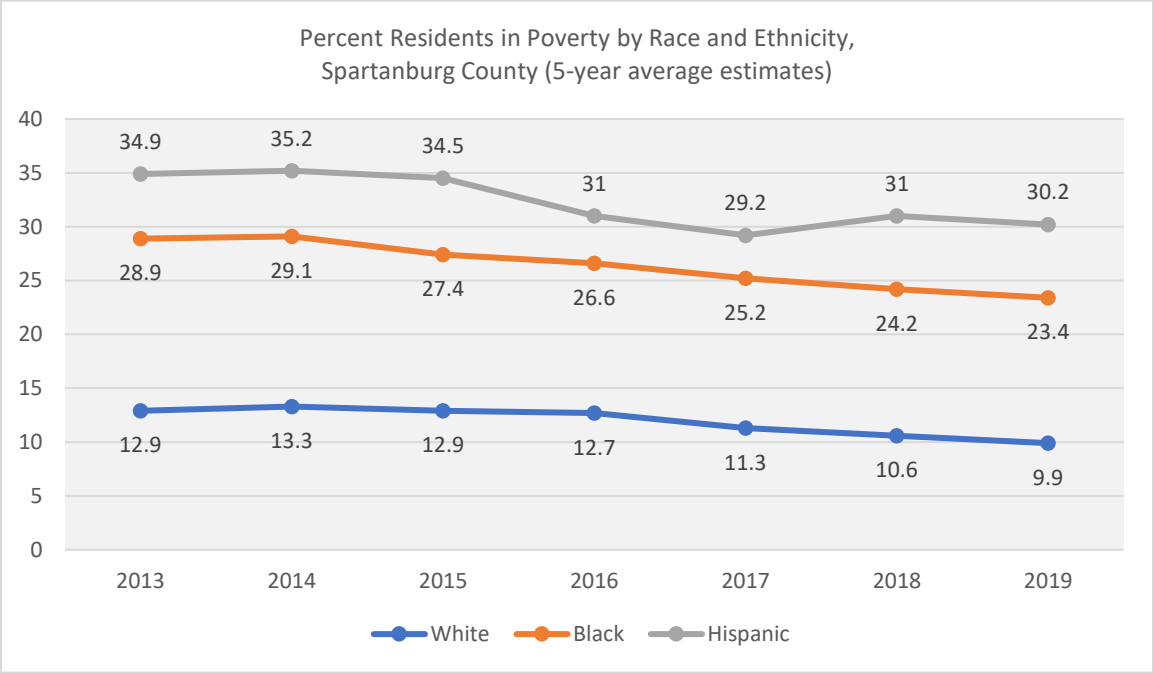
Source: US Census S1701

Numbers of residents in poverty in the City of Spartanburg decreased by almost 14% between 2016 and 2019. *In the City of Spartanburg from 2016 to 2019, the percentage of residents in poverty decreased by 10% for Whites and decreased for Blacks by 11%. This constitutes a slight narrowing of the equity gap.*

Residents Below Federal Poverty Level, City of Spartanburg 2016 and 2019 (5-year average estimates)						
	Total Residents		Residents below FPL		Percent below FPL	
	2016	2019	2016	2019	2016	2019
Total	35,293	35,125	9,377	8,172	26.6%	23.3%
White	15,119	14,676	1,804	1,572	11.9%	10.7%
Black	17,735	17,262	6,868	5,947	38.7%	34.5%
Hispanic	1,345	1,624	365	420	27.1%	25.9%
Two or more races	515	734	312	205	60.6%	27.9%

Source: US Census S1701

Poverty rates in Spartanburg County have declined for Black and White residents since 2013. As in the City of Spartanburg, equity gaps in Spartanburg County persist. Poverty rates are highest for Hispanics.



Source: US Census S1701

Numbers of residents in poverty in Spartanburg County decreased by almost 15% between 2016 and 2019. Poverty did not decrease at comparable rates for White and Black residents, however. *In Spartanburg County from 2016 to 2019, the percentage of residents in poverty decreased for Whites by 22% but decreased for Blacks by 12%. Thus, the equity gap in the county has widened for this measure.*

Residents Below Federal Poverty Level, Spartanburg County, 2016 and 2019 (5-year average estimates)						
	Total Residents		Residents below FPL		Percent below FPL	
	2016	2019	2016	2019	2016	2019
Total	286,108	299,116	48,747	41,995	17%	14.0%
White	198,260	205,402	25,110	20,269	12.7%	9.9%
Black	58,279	59,915	15,482	13,992	26.6%	23.4%
Hispanic	18,209	20,558	5,648	6,209	31.0%	30.2%
Two or more races	5,145	6,539	1,836	1,239	35.7%	18.9%

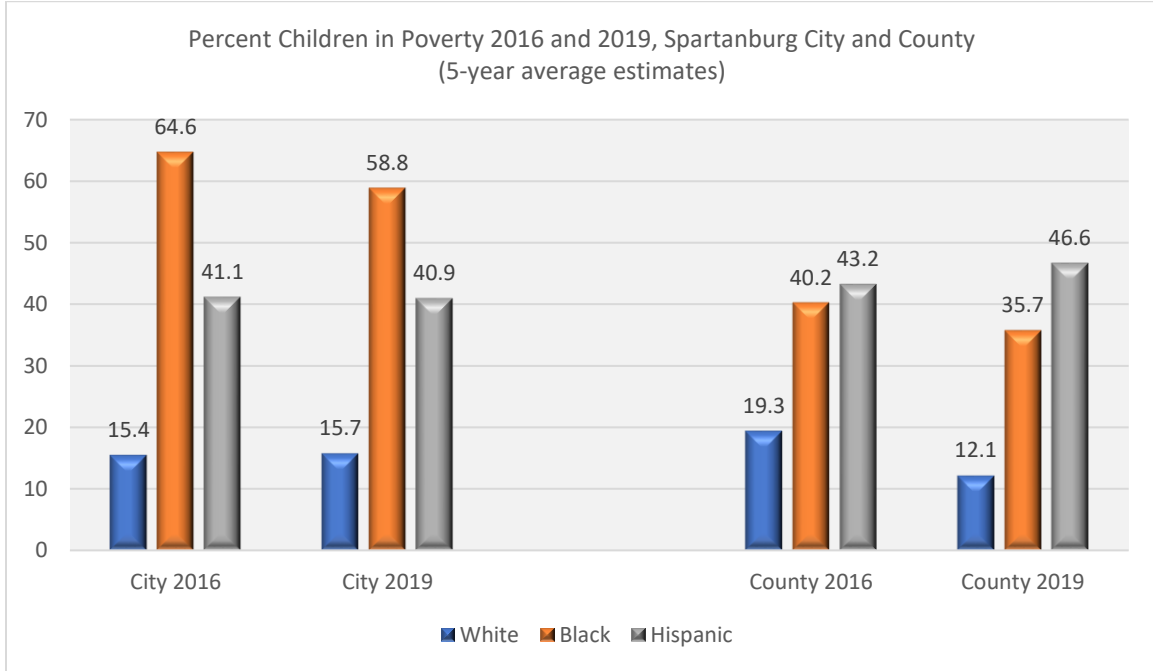
Source: US Census S1701

Children in Poverty

The percentage of Black children living below Federal Poverty Level (FPL) has decreased from 2016 to 2019 in both the City of Spartanburg and in Spartanburg County. The percentages of White and Hispanic children living below FPL in the city have remained essentially stable from 2016 to 2019. In the county, the percentage of White Children living below FPL has decreased, while the percentage of Hispanic children living below FPL has increased.

*In the City of Spartanburg, the poverty rate for Black children decreased by 9% from 2016 to 2019 while the poverty rate for White children increased by 2%, indicating that the equity gap is narrowing in the city.*

*In Spartanburg County, the poverty rate for Black children decreased by 11% from 2016 to 2019, and the poverty rate for White children decreased by 37%, indicating that the equity gap is increasing in the county.*



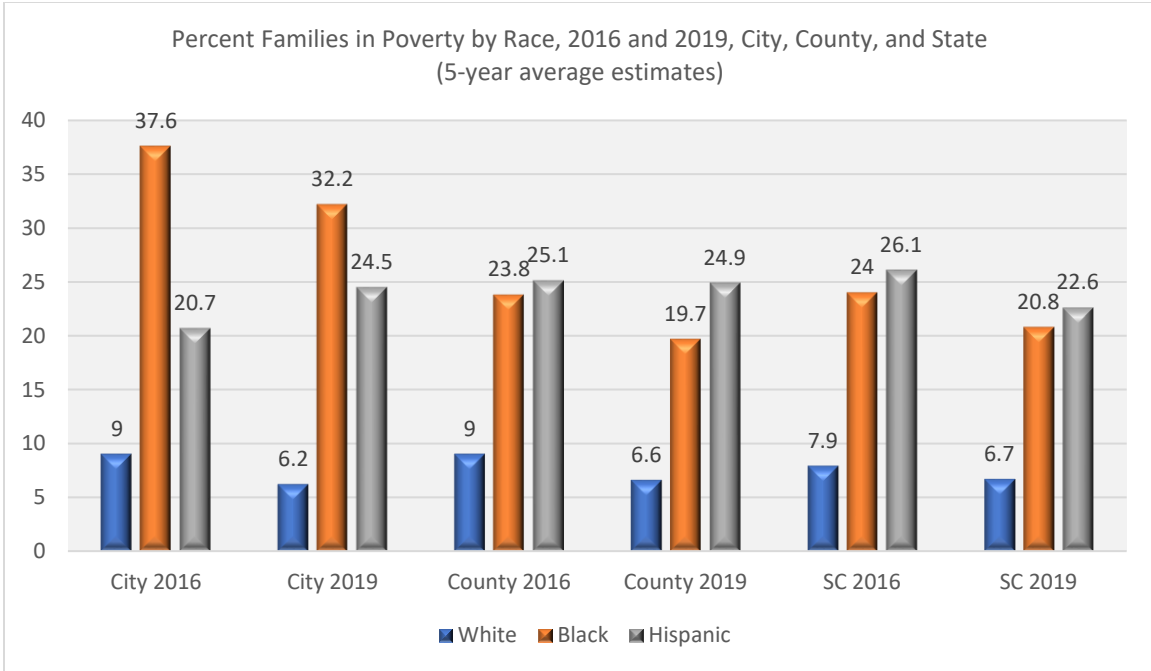
Source: US Census B17020I, B17020H, B17020B

### Families in Poverty by Family Composition

Family poverty rates have improved (decreased) from 2016 to 2019 for families headed by White householders and families headed by Black householders in the City of Spartanburg and in Spartanburg County. Poverty rates for Hispanics have increased (city) or remained the same (county). Poverty rates are substantially lower for Black residents of the county compared to Black residents of the city, even though poverty rates are about the same for White residents in both geographies. Poverty rates for Black residents of the city are substantially higher than the state average for Blacks.

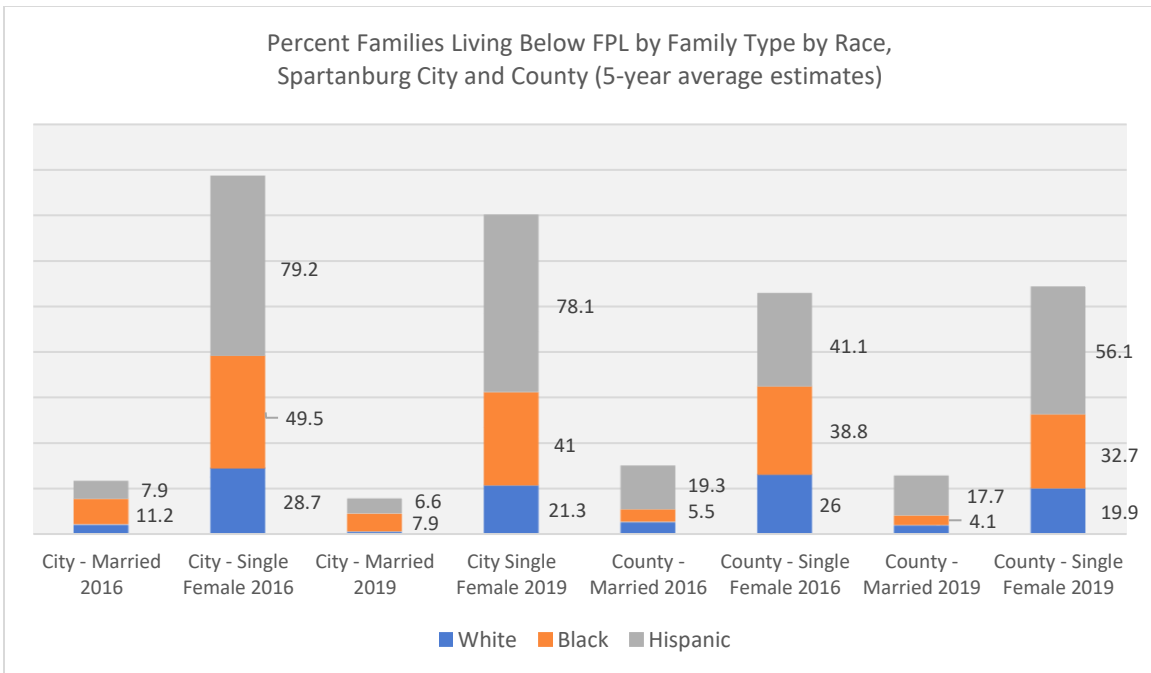
*From 2016 to 2019 in the City of Spartanburg, the poverty rate for Black families decreased by 14%, and the poverty rate for White families decreased by 31%, indicating a widening of the equity gap.*

*From 2016 to 2019 in Spartanburg County, the poverty rate for Black families decreased by 17%, and the poverty rate for White families decreased by 27%, indicating a widening of the equity gap.*



Source: US Census S1702

Family composition is a determinant of poverty. Regardless of race and ethnicity, married-couple families are at much lower risk of poverty than families headed by single females. Regardless of family composition, Black families have higher poverty rates compared to White families. Hispanic families headed by single females have extremely high poverty rates. Poverty rates have decreased since 2016 for all of these family subsets, except for Hispanic families in the County headed by single females.



Source: US Census S1702



## Deep Poverty

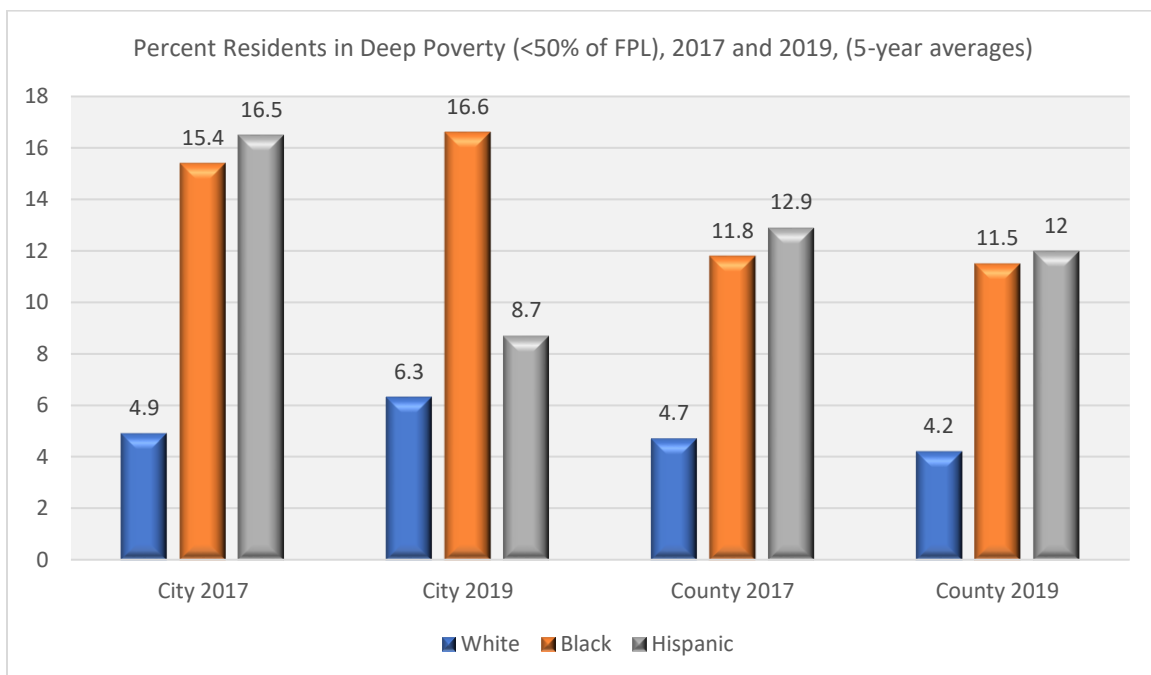
Although the preceding data describe people living at 100% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or below, it is instructive to examine the composition of people living at various levels of poverty, since individuals who live at 125%, 140%, and even 200% of FPL are often also considered to be living in poverty, or at least having low income. These individuals and families qualify for various public and nonprofit assistance programs at these levels of poverty.

The U.S. Census Bureau defines “deep poverty” or “extreme poverty” as total household cash income below 50% of the federal poverty threshold. In 2019, according to Census data, 17.6 million people in the U.S. lived in deep poverty, representing 5.5% of the total population and 44.7% of those in poverty. While poverty thresholds vary by household size, for a single individual, deep poverty would be an income below \$6,440 in 2021. For a family of four, it would be \$13,250. Blacks and Hispanics are most likely to be in deep poverty, at 2019 U.S. rates of 9.6% and 7.1%, respectively. Non-Hispanic Whites and Asians are least likely to live in deep poverty, at 2019 U.S. rates of 4.1% and 4.8%, respectively.

There is extreme racial inequity in the City of Spartanburg and in Spartanburg County for residents in deep poverty. Deep poverty increased in the City of Spartanburg but decreased in Spartanburg County from 2017 to 2019.

*From 2017 to 2019 in the City of Spartanburg, the percentage of Black residents in deep poverty increased by 8% and increased by 29% for White residents, indicating a narrowing of this very wide equity gap.*

*From 2017 to 2019 in Spartanburg County, the percentage of Black residents in deep poverty decreased by 3% and decreased for White residents by 11%, indicating that the equity gap has increased for this measure.*

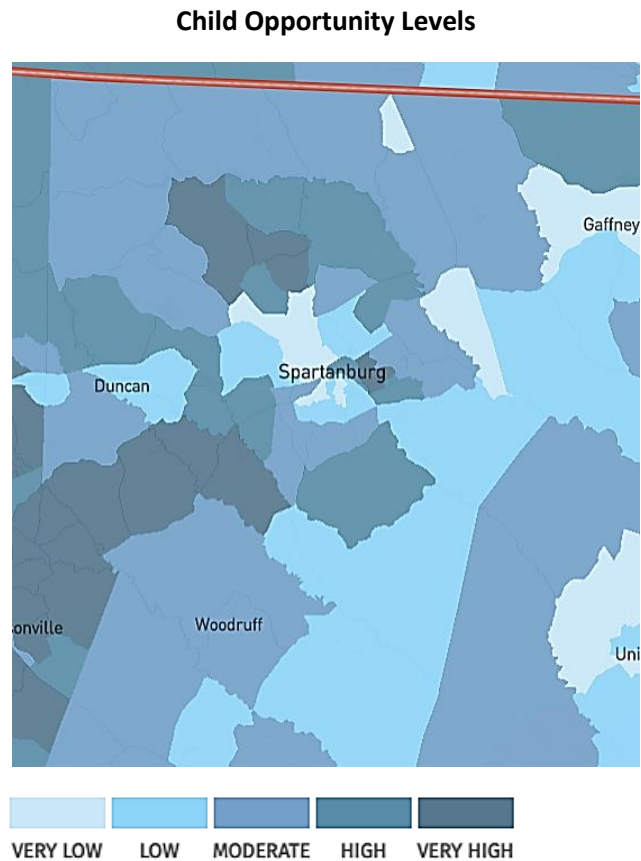


Source: US Census S1703

## Child Opportunity

Economic mobility has significant relevance for communities of color since they tend to have the lowest income and fewest opportunities to move up on the economic ladder. Some areas provide significantly more opportunity for children to move out of poverty, and other areas offer children few opportunities for escape.

By census tract, there is great range in child opportunity in Spartanburg County as demonstrated in the following graphic.<sup>3</sup>

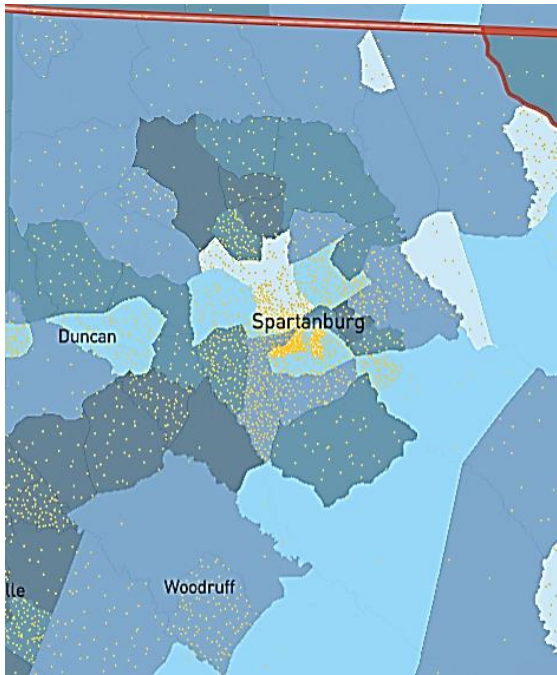


The same graphic, overlaid with population of Black children (in yellow) and White children (in green), shows that Black children live in areas of less opportunity.

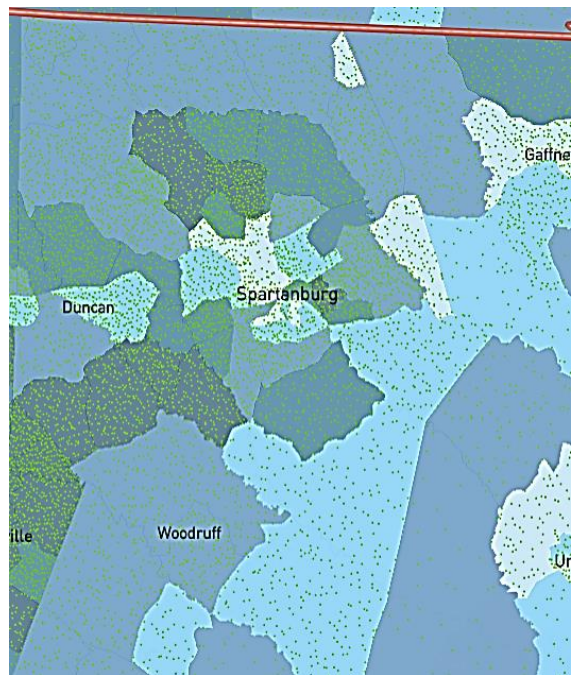
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<sup>3</sup> Diversitydatakids.org. Mapping Child Opportunity. <https://www.diversitydatakids.org/research-library/blog/mapping-child-opportunity>

**Where Black Children Live**



**Where White Children Live**



Source: [diversitydata kids.org](http://diversitydatakids.org)

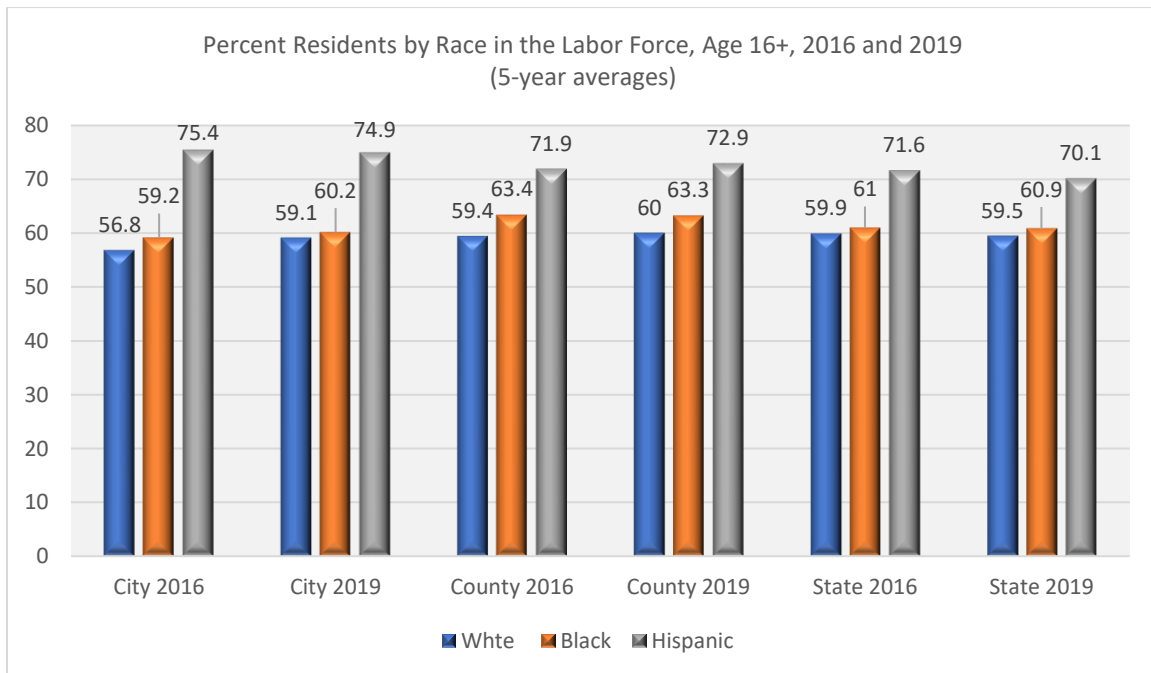
## Indicator Area 2: Employment

Employment provides income and benefits that can support economic wellbeing and healthy lifestyle choices. Unemployment and underemployment limit these choices and negatively affect quality of life in many ways. The economic conditions in a community, the distribution of structural supports for employment, and an individual's level of education attainment play important roles in shaping employment opportunities. However, there is continuing widespread discrimination in employment in numerous forms. To obtain a true picture of employment in a community, multiple measures must be examined, primarily the labor force participation rate, the labor force unemployment rate, and the employment to population ratio.

### Labor Force Participation Rate

The labor force participation rate is the percentage of working age individuals who are employed or are looking for work. In the City of Spartanburg and in Spartanburg County, larger proportions of Blacks, compared to Whites, are in the labor force, and even larger proportions of Hispanics are in the labor force.

*In both the City of Spartanburg and in Spartanburg County from 2016 to 2019, the gap in percentage of Whites and Blacks participating in the labor force narrowed.*

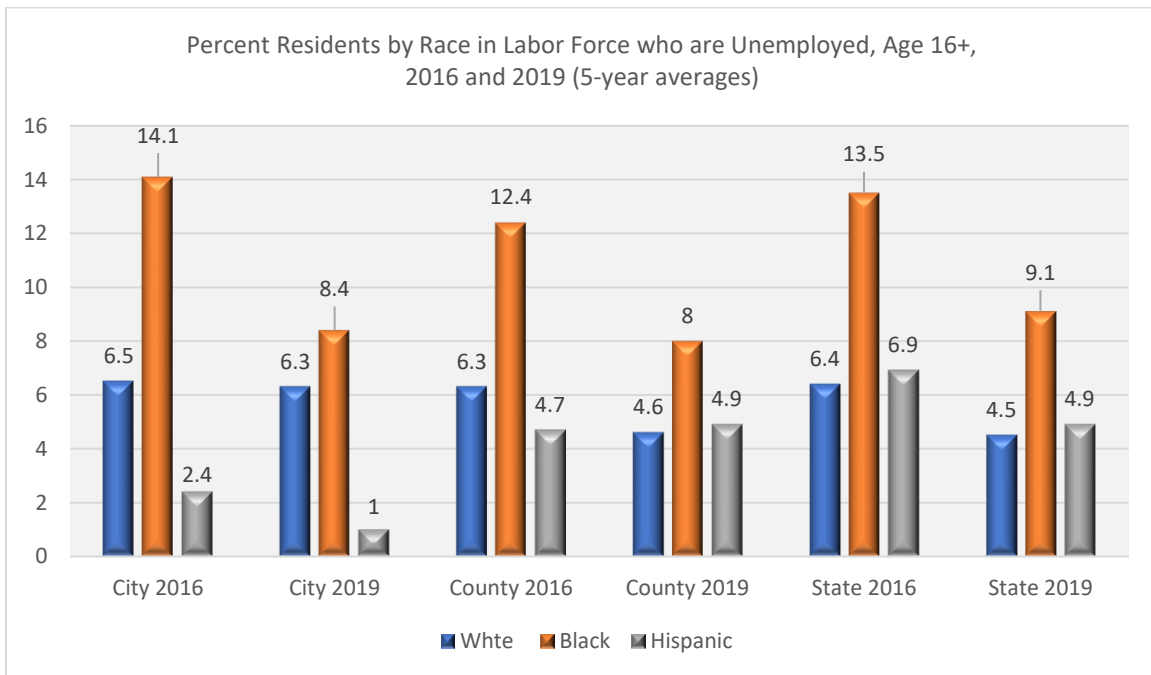


Source: US Census S2301

### Labor Force Unemployment Rate

The labor force unemployment rate is that portion of the labor force that is unemployed. One drawback of this measure is that it does not include “discouraged workers” – people who have removed themselves from the labor force but still need work. Although Whites are generally the least likely to be in the labor force proportionately, they have significantly lower unemployment rates, compared to Blacks.

*In both the City of Spartanburg and in Spartanburg County from 2016 to 2019, the gap in percentage of Whites and Blacks who are unemployed (and in the labor force) narrowed.*

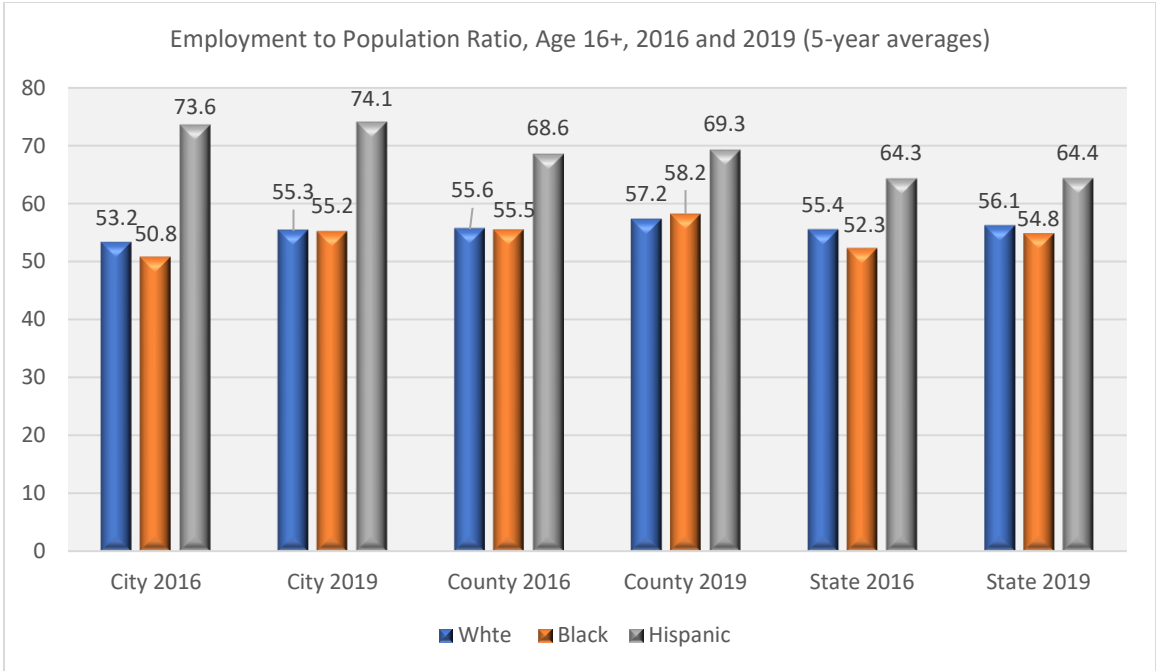


Source: US Census S2301

### Employment to Population Ratio

The employment to population ratio is a measure derived by dividing the total working age population by the number in that population who are working for pay. It is also known as the “employment rate.” The employment rate is considered to be a more representative measure of labor market conditions than the unemployment rate. However, the employment rate does not include unpaid family workers. Hispanics have a higher employment rate compared to non-Hispanic Whites and Blacks.

*In both the City of Spartanburg and in Spartanburg County from 2016 to 2019, the gap in the employment rate between Whites and Blacks narrowed. In fact, in the county, the employment rate is now higher for Blacks than for Whites.*



Source: US Census S2301

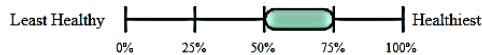
## Indicator Area 3: Health

Many health outcomes and predictors – including infant mortality, life expectancy, obesity, and access to care – are linked to economic health and mobility. Where health-promoting factors do not exist, the costs to the individual and the community are high. Social and economic factors are the strongest determinants of health outcomes. If people do not have access to safe places to live and be active, to healthy food, to clean air and water, and to preventive care and treatment, they will not be healthy. When community conditions are not health-promoting, there is a lower quality of life for everyone. The Kellogg Foundation and the Altarium Institute<sup>4</sup> estimate that racial disparities account for \$93 billion in excess medical care costs in the U.S. Inequities based on race and ethnicity are, however, the most persistent and difficult to address<sup>5</sup> since systems play a critical role in increasing or maintaining inequities resulting from discriminatory practices and policies.

### Overall Health, Physical Health and Mental Health

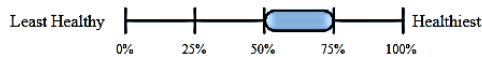
The County Health Rankings, a widely held model that includes and weights numerous factors that influence how long and how well people in communities live, ranked Spartanburg County as 15<sup>th</sup> best of the state's 46 counties in 2016 and in 2021. Spartanburg County improved on the factors that influence health in 2021, moving to the highest quartile of counties in the state on this measure.

#### 2016



#### **Health Outcomes**

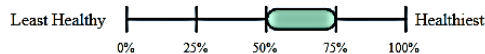
Spartanburg (SP) is ranked in the higher middle range of counties in South Carolina (Higher 50%-75%)



#### **Health Factors**

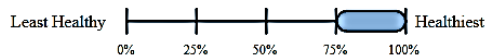
Spartanburg (SP) is ranked in the higher middle range of counties in South Carolina (Higher 50%-75%)

#### 2021



#### **Health Outcomes**

Spartanburg (SP) is ranked in the higher middle range of counties in South Carolina (Higher 50%-75%)



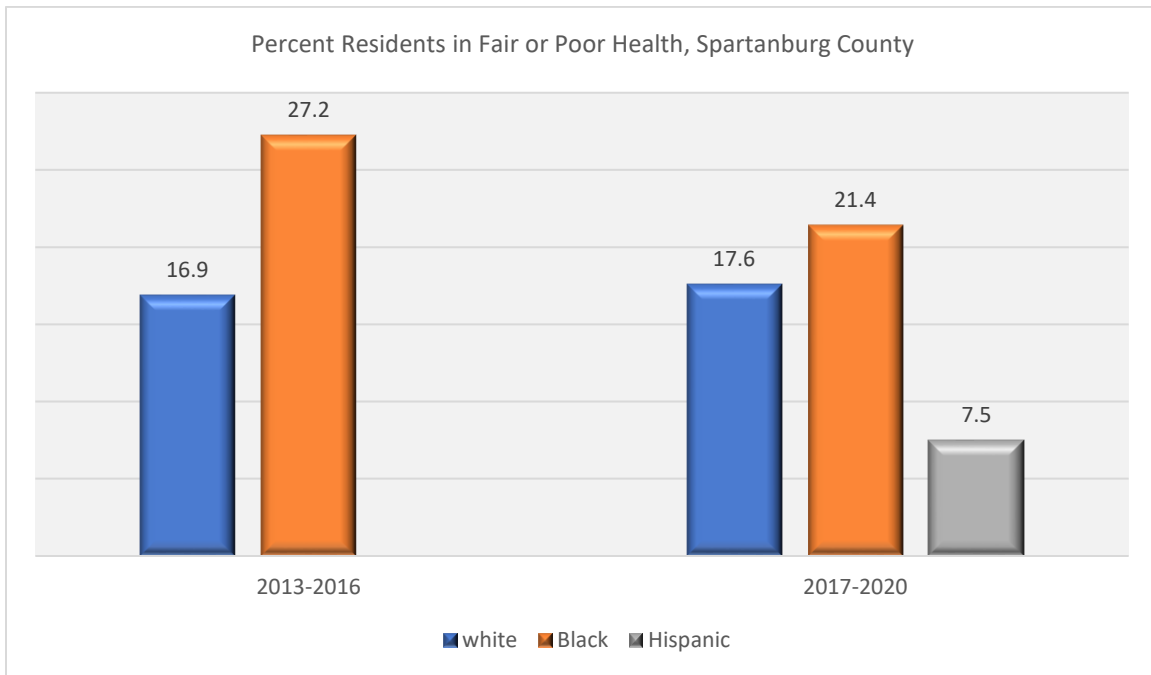
#### **Health Factors**

Spartanburg (SP) is ranked among the healthiest counties in South Carolina (Highest 75%-100%)

<sup>4</sup> Altarium. The Business Case for Racial Equity: A Strategy for Growth: <https://altarum.org/publications/the-business-case-for-racial-equity-a-strategy-for-growth>

<sup>5</sup> Gee, G. C., & Ford, C. L. (2011). STRUCTURAL RACISM AND HEALTH INEQUITIES: Old Issues, New Directions. *Du Bois review : social science research on race*, 8(1), 115–132. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1742058X11000130>

*The percentage of Spartanburg County residents who report that their general health is “fair or poor” decreased substantially for Black residents but increased slightly for White residents from 2016 to 2020, indicating that the equity gap is narrowing for this measure.*

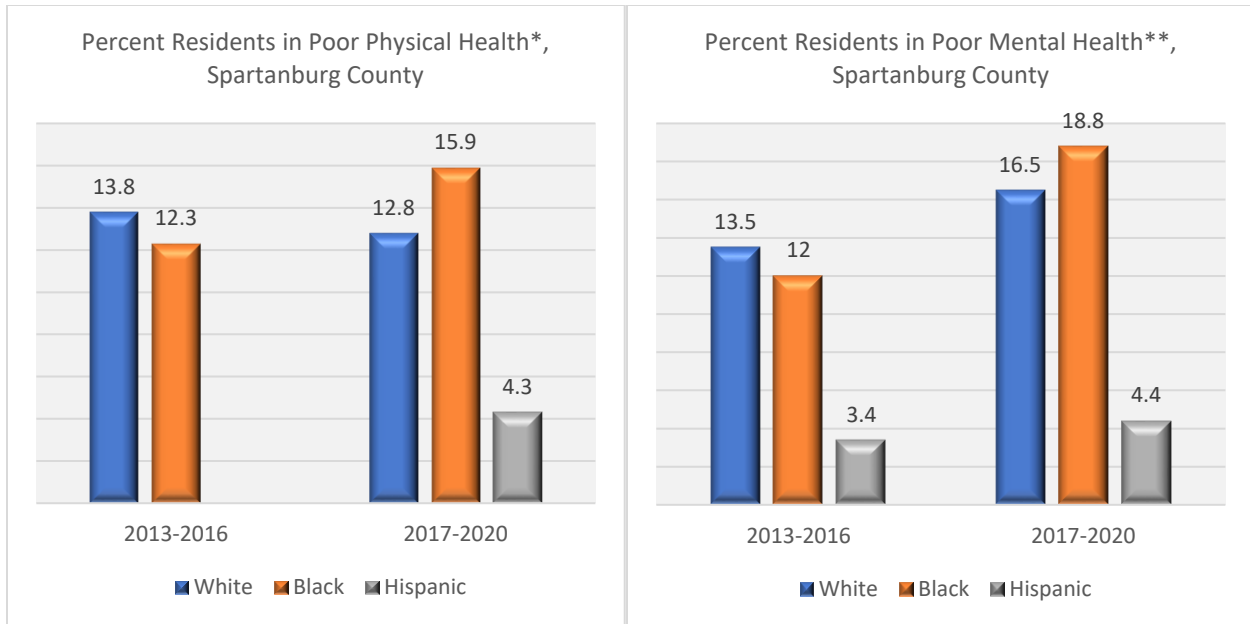


Source: SC DHEC BRFS

*However, when asked specifically, Spartanburg County White residents reported fewer poor physical health days from 2016 to 2020, while Black residents reported more poor physical health days, indicating a widening equity gap for poor physical health.*

*Residents, both Black and White, reported worse mental health from 2016 to 2020. Black residents reported a 57% increase in poor mental health days, while White residents reported a 22% increase, indicating a widening equity gap for poor mental health.*





\*reporting >13 poor physical health days in the last 30 days

\*\*reporting >13 poor mental health days in the last 30 days

Source: SC DHEC BRFSS

### Infant Mortality

Infant mortality is a good measure of population health since it reflects the economic and social conditions that impact health in a community. The U.S. has the highest maternal and infant mortality rates among comparable developed countries.<sup>6</sup> Black infants in the U.S. are more than twice as likely to die as White infants – 10.8 per 1,000 Black babies, compared to 4.6 per 1,000 White babies.<sup>7</sup> This racial inequity is wider than in 1850 and in one year constitutes 4,000 inequitable deaths of Black babies. Education and income do not mitigate this inequity – a Black woman with an advanced degree is more likely to lose her baby in its first year of life than a White woman with less than an eighth-grade education. South Carolina is among the U.S. states with the highest infant mortality rates.

Even though the infant mortality rate in Spartanburg County is below the state average for Black and White babies, the Spartanburg County rate continues to be more than twice as high for Black babies compared to White babies, as demonstrated in the following table. *The infant mortality rate for Black babies in Spartanburg County increased from 2014-2016 to 2017-2019 while it decreased for White babies during the same period. Thus, the equity gap widened on this measure.*

<sup>6</sup> Jamila Taylor, Cristina Novoa, Katie Hamm, and Shilpa Phadke (May 2, 2019). Center for American Progress. Eliminating Racial Disparities in Maternal and Infant Mortality: A Comprehensive Policy Blueprint

<sup>7</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Infant Mortality <https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/infantmortality.htm>

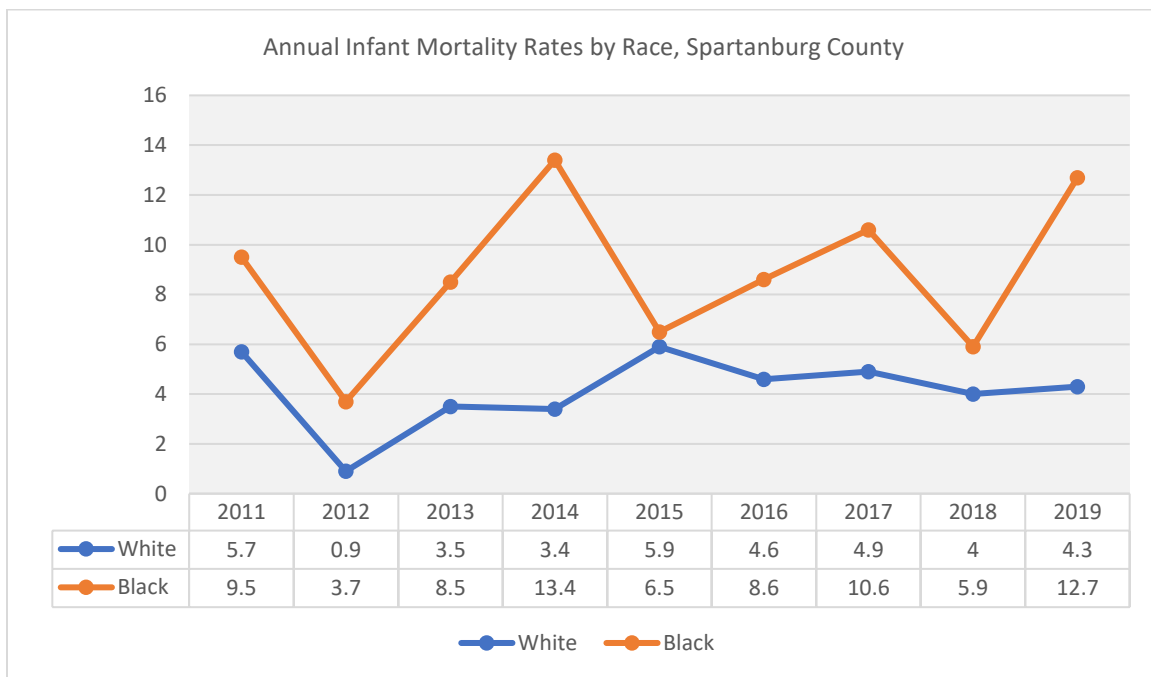
Infant Mortality Rate* and Numbers, Spartanburg County and SC Aggregate					
			2011-2013	2014-2016	2017-2019
Spartanburg County	Black	Number	18	23	25
		Rate	7.3	9.5	9.7
	White	Number	23	33	33
		Rate	3.3	4.6	4.4
All S.C. Counties	Black	Number	622	581	599
		Rate	11.4	11.0	11.5
	White	Number	507	487	460
		Rate	5.1	4.8	4.7

\*Rates per 1,000 live births

Note: combined years are used due to low frequencies. Race of baby is Black Alone (non-Hispanic) or White alone (non-Hispanic)

Source: SC DHEC SCAN

Even annual infant mortality rates demonstrate the continuous race equity gap in Spartanburg County on this measure. (Note: annual measures are extremely variable since frequencies are low for infant mortality. Interpret the following graph with caution).



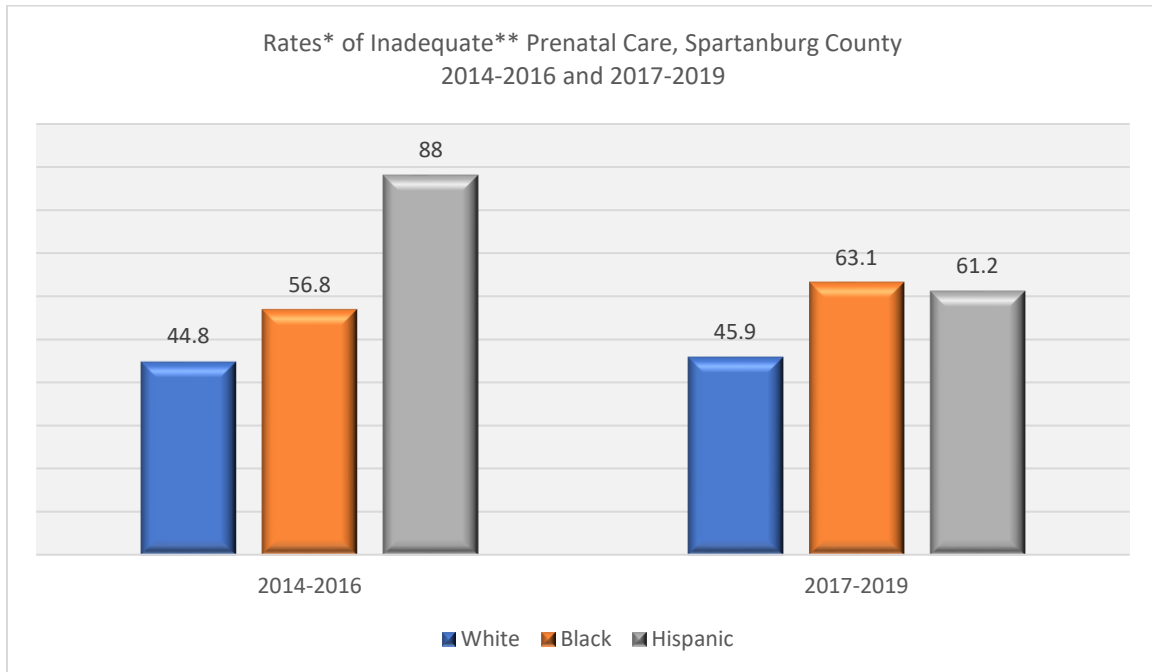
\*Rates per 1,000 live births

Note: Race of baby is Black Alone (non-Hispanic) or White alone (non-Hispanic)

Source: SC DHEC SCAN

## Prenatal Care

Nationally, Black mothers receive inadequate prenatal care at twice the rates of White mothers, with 4.5% of White mothers receiving inadequate prenatal care, and 9.9% of Black mothers receiving inadequate prenatal care in 2018.<sup>8</sup> In Spartanburg County, as demonstrated by the following graph, there is significant disparity in rates of prenatal care between White and Black mothers, rising for both populations from 2014-2016 to 2017-2019. *However, rates for Black mothers rose 11.1%, while rates for White mothers rose 2.5%, indicating an increased equity gap.*



\*Rates per 1,000 live births

\*\*Five or fewer prenatal visits

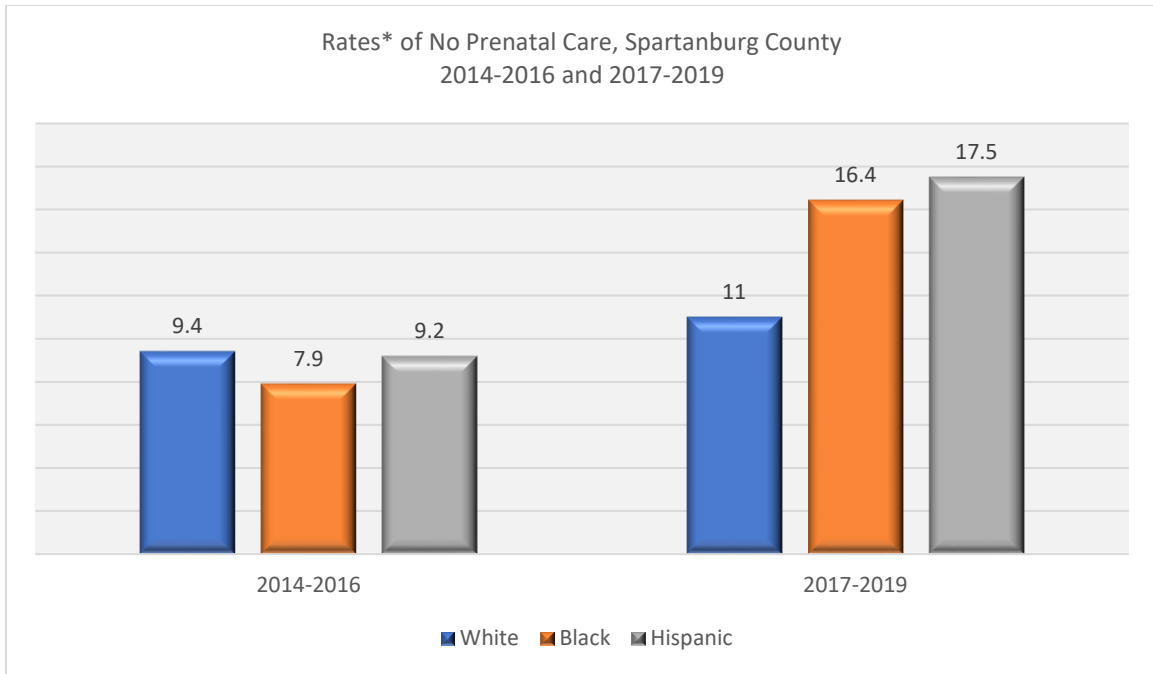
Note: combined years are used due to low frequencies.

Source: SC DHEC SCAN

Although numbers of women who received no prenatal care are small relative to number of births, there is disparity when converted to rates. In Spartanburg County:

- In 2014-2016, 67 White mothers received no prenatal care at all. In 2017-2019, 83 White mothers received no prenatal care at all.
- In 2014-2016, 19 Black mothers received no prenatal care at all. In 2017-2019, 42 Black mothers received no prenatal care at all.
- In 2014-2016, 9 Hispanic mothers received no prenatal care at all. In 2017-2019, 20 Hispanic mothers received no prenatal care at all.

<sup>8</sup> US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health  
<https://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=4&lvlid=23>



\*Rates per 1,000 live births

Note: combined years are used due to low frequencies

Source: SC DHEC SCAN

### Low Birth Weight

When mothers do not receive adequate prenatal care, their babies are often born at low weight. Low birth weight, in turn, puts infants at greater risk of death. The following table presents geographic comparisons for low birth weight by race. Currently, in Spartanburg County, 9.2% of newborns have low birth weight, lower than the state average.

Disaggregated by race, the inequity is stark: *currently 7% of White newborns in Spartanburg County have low birth weight, but 15.3% of Black newborns in Spartanburg County have low birth weight. This measure decreased for Whites but increased for Blacks from 2016 to 2019, constituting a wider equity gap.*

Percent Babies Born with Low Birth Weight, Trend, Richland and Lexington Counties and SC											
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Spartanburg County	Total	10.6	9.7	9.3	8.6	9.5	8.2	9.0	9.4	8.9	9.2
	White	9.2	7.5	8.0	7.1	8.1	7.1	7.9	7.6	7.2	7.0
	Black	15.3	16.8	13.3	12.8	13.7	11.8	12.7	15.7	14.2	15.3
S.C.	Total	9.9	9.9	9.5	9.7	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.7	9.6	9.9
	White	7.4	7.5	7.2	7.5	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.0	7.2
	Black	14.9	14.7	14.4	14.3	14.3	14.6	14.6	15.1	15.0	15.4

Source: SC Kids Count

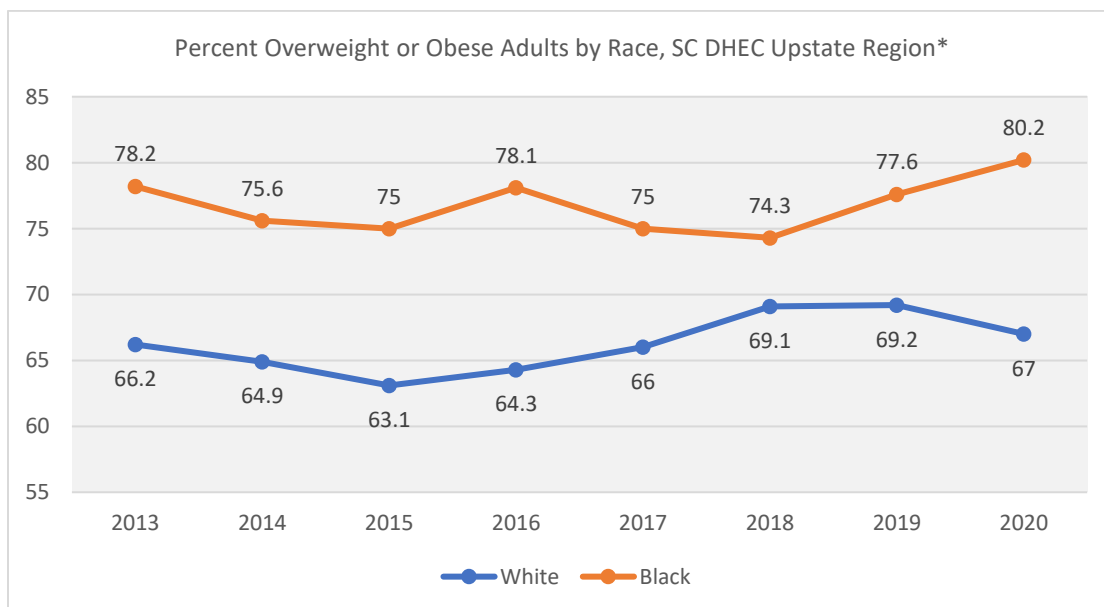
Babies with low birth weight are often pre-term. In South Carolina in 2019:<sup>9</sup>

- 9.9% of White babies were pre-term (U.S. = 9.3%)
- 15.1% of Black babies were pre-term (U.S. = 14.4%)
- 9.8% of Hispanic babies were pre-term (U.S. = 10.0%)

### Overweight and Obesity

Obesity is a leading cause of chronic health problems. It is considered a “double burden” of ill health since it is typically a coexistence of under-nutrition and overweight. Obesity is highly correlated with socioeconomic status. The CDC reports that the prevalence of obesity decreases with increasing level of education,<sup>10</sup> and low-income neighborhoods are generally associated with higher obesity rates.<sup>11</sup> The relationship between obesity and race is even stronger—there is a higher correlation between race and obesity than income and obesity.<sup>12</sup>

In 2019, South Carolina ranked 10<sup>th</sup> among the 50 states for obesity prevalence<sup>13</sup> at 35.4%. In 2019, obesity prevalence was 45.6% for Blacks, 32.2% for Whites, and 30.4% for Hispanics of any race.<sup>14</sup> By self-report, there is significant and persistent inequity by race in obesity / overweight for adult residents of SC DHEC’s Upstate region (these data are suppressed at the county level). *The equity gap in 2020 on this measure is essentially as wide as it was in 2016*, although some years in the interim the gap narrowed.



Source: SC DHEC BRFS

\*Spartanburg, Greenville, Pickens, Oconee, Cherokee, Union, Laurens, Anderson, Abbeville, Greenwood, McCormick Counties

<sup>9</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation. Preterm Births as Percent of All Births by Race/Ethnicity. <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/preterm-births-by-raceethnicity/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

<sup>10</sup> Centers for Disease Control, Childhood Obesity: <https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/childhood.html>

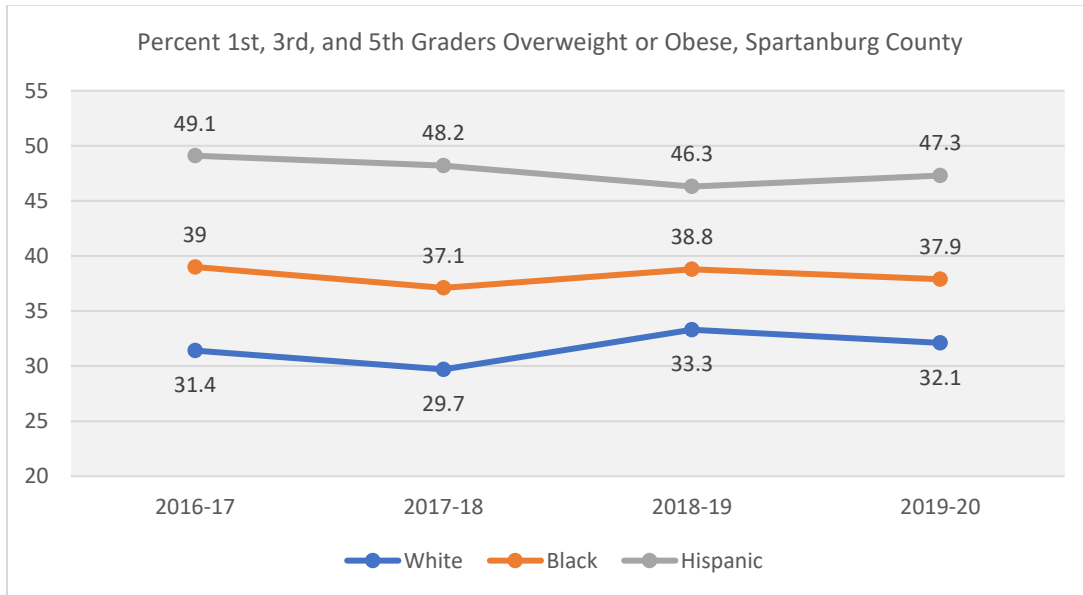
<sup>11</sup> Science Daily, February 10, 2008. Lower-income Neighborhoods Associated With Higher Obesity Rates. Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

<sup>12</sup> Mahapatra, L. International Business Times. Here’s How Obesity Relates To Gender, Race And Income In The US. November 13, 2013. <https://www.ibtimes.com/heres-how-obesity-relates-gender-race-income-us-charts-14690566>

<sup>13</sup> Trust for America’s Health. The State of Obesity, 2018. <https://www.tfah.org/state-details/south-carolina/>

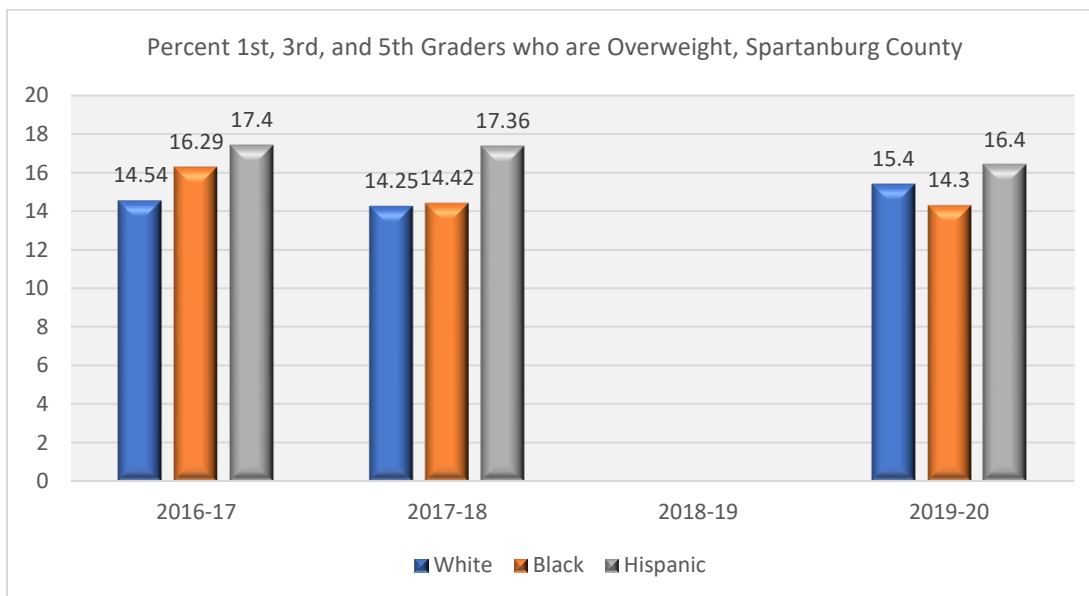
<sup>14</sup> America’s Health Rankings. <https://www.americashealthrankings.org/learn/reports/2020-annual-report/state-summaries-south-carolina>

The Spartanburg County Body Mass Index Project, a partnership between Spartanburg DHEC and Partners for Active Living, shows that Black elementary students (first, third and fifth grade grade) in Spartanburg County have persistently higher combined overweight and obesity rates compared to White students. Hispanic students have even higher overweight and obesity rates. *The equity gap between Black and White students has narrowed on this measure since 2016-2017 (using single year data).*



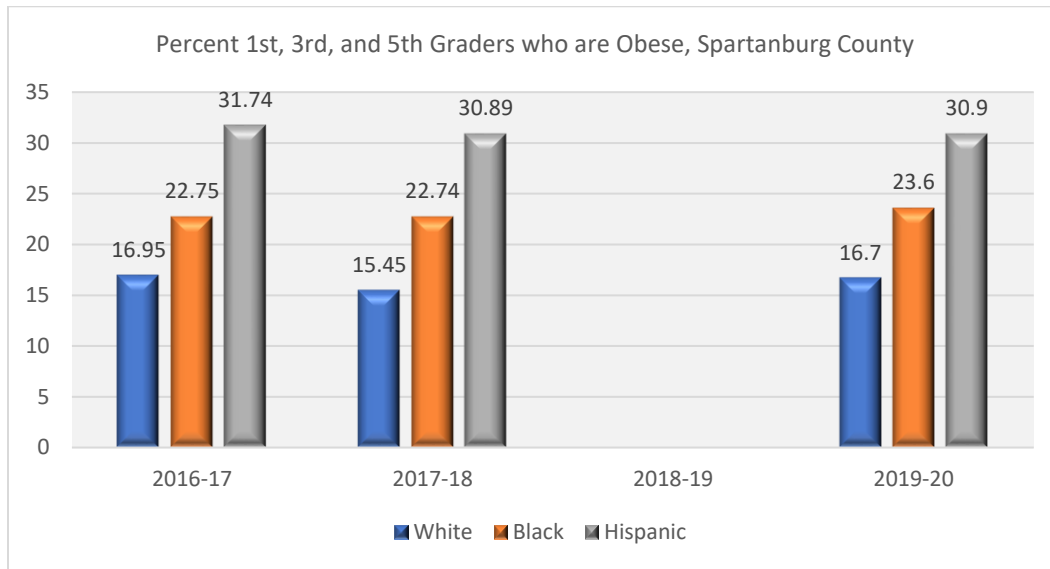
Source: Spartanburg DHEC

When these data are considered separately for overweight and obesity, the gap has narrowed significantly for overweight students. *In fact, in 2019-2020, the percentage of Black students who were overweight dropped below the percentage of White students who were overweight, constituting a narrowing of the equity gap on childhood overweight.*



Source: Spartanburg DHEC

However, the equity gap for obese (alone) children grew from 2016-2017 to 2019-2020.



Source: Spartanburg DHEC

### Cancer

According to the SC DHEC’s Central Cancer Registry, in South Carolina, an estimated 33,030 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in 2021, or over 90 new cancer cases diagnosed each day, while an estimated 10,940 South Carolinians will die from cancer in 2021. The four most common cancers in the state are cancers of the lung, breast (female), prostate, and colon/rectum. The four leading cancer causes of death in the state are lung, colon/rectum, breast (female), and pancreas.

*In Spartanburg County, rates of cancer incidence for Blacks decreased from 2013 to 2018, while rates for Whites increased, widening the equity gap (with Whites experiencing the higher burden of diagnosed cancer incidence). Cancer mortality for Blacks in Spartanburg County improved substantially from 2013 to 2018 and improved somewhat for Whites, narrowing the mortality rate equity gap.*

All Cancer Incidence 2009-2013 5-year Averages					All Cancer Mortality 2009-2013 5-year Averages				
	S.C.		Spartanburg County			S.C.		Spartanburg County	
	Rate**	Rate**	New Cases	SC Rank		Rate**	Rate**	Deaths	SC Rank
All*	460	467	1,515	19	All*	179	181	578	28
White	458	471	1,240	17	White	171	174	459	25
Black	464	464	253	24	Black	207	227	113	8
All Cancer Incidence 2014-2018 5-year Averages					All Cancer Mortality 2014-2018 5-year Averages				
	S.C.		Spartanburg County			S.C.		Spartanburg County	
	Rate**	Rate**	New Cases	SC Rank		Rate**	Rate**	Deaths	SC Rank
All*	450	472	1,714	10	All*	165	172	625	24
White	452	480	1,401	8	White	160	171	507	21
Black	441	456	289	19	Black	185	154	111	28

Source: SC DHEC, SC Central Cancer Registry<sup>15</sup>

\*Includes other races and unknown races

\*\*per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the US 2000 standard population

Statistics do not include in situ cancers, except for bladder

## Deaths of Despair

Beginning in 2014, life expectancy in the US began to decrease for the first time since 1979 due to “deaths of despair”,<sup>16</sup> deaths attributed to suicide, drug or alcohol overdose, and alcoholic liver disease. Mortality associated with these causes has steadily increased and is correlated with poverty and the collapse of a strong middle class. The following table provides overall deaths of despair data for Spartanburg County, peer counties, and the state average, along with suicide and overdose data. Notably, the overall rate for deaths of despair is highest for all of these geographies.

Deaths of Despair*, Spartanburg County, Peer Counties, and SC				
	2018 Deaths of Despair Rate	2019 Non-Specific Drug Overdose Rate	2019 Opioid-Specific Drug Overdose Rate	Suicide Rate 2016-2018
Spartanburg	61.2	23.90	17.52	18.8
Richland	37.37	16.75	12.77	12.9
Greenville	53.85	27.02	20.31	15.9
Charleston	47.61	28.20	24.84	14.2
South Carolina	49.54	22.72	17.83	15.8

Sources: WIN Network<sup>17</sup>, SC Institute of Medicine and Public Health

\*Age-adjusted, per 100,000 population

During the Coronavirus pandemic, suicidal ideation and symptoms associated with anxiety and depression increased across the U.S. Survey results published in the journal *Progress in Neuro-Psychopharmacology and Biological Psychiatry* in 2020 showed significant differences in the mental and behavioral health outcomes by race during the pandemic<sup>11</sup> as illustrated in the following graph. Note that comparable data, disaggregated by race, are not immediately available for 2016 for Spartanburg County.

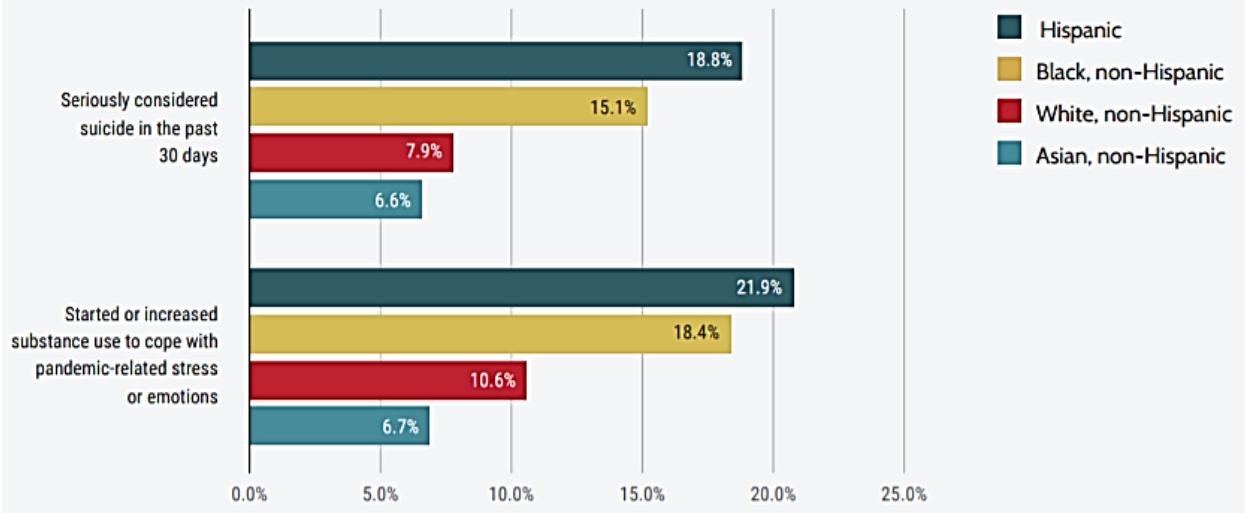
<sup>15</sup> SC DHEC, SC Central Cancer Registry. <https://scdhec.gov/CancerRegistry/Data>

<sup>16</sup> South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health (May 2021). South Carolina Behavioral Health 2021 Progress Report: Successes and Opportunities in Transforming Behavioral Health Care Systems Across South Carolina. [https://imph.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/IMPH\\_SCBHC\\_Behavioral-Health-Progress-Report-May\\_2021.pdf](https://imph.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/IMPH_SCBHC_Behavioral-Health-Progress-Report-May_2021.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> Health in South Carolina: <https://www.winmeasures.org/statistics/winmeasures/south-carolina/health>



### Adult Mental and Behavioral Health Outcomes during COVID-19 by Race/Ethnicity, the United States, June 24-30, 2020<sup>72</sup>



Source: Institute of Medicine and Public Health

### Births to Teens

Births to teens have substantial implications for educational and socioeconomic outcomes for the teen mother. Parenthood is the leading reason that teen girls drop out of school. More than 50% of teen mothers never graduate from high school, whereas approximately 90% of women who do not give birth during their teenage years will graduate from high school. Additionally, less than 2% of teen moms earn a college degree by age 30.

According to Fact Forward (formerly the SC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy),<sup>18</sup> more than two decades of investments in prevention programs and services have led to significant declines in unplanned pregnancies and birth rates among teens in South Carolina and across the nation. The state’s teen birth rate has declined by 70% since peaking in 1991. Still, South Carolina is in the fourth (highest) quartile for teen birth rates among U.S. states<sup>19</sup> at greater than 30 births per 1,000 females age 15-19.

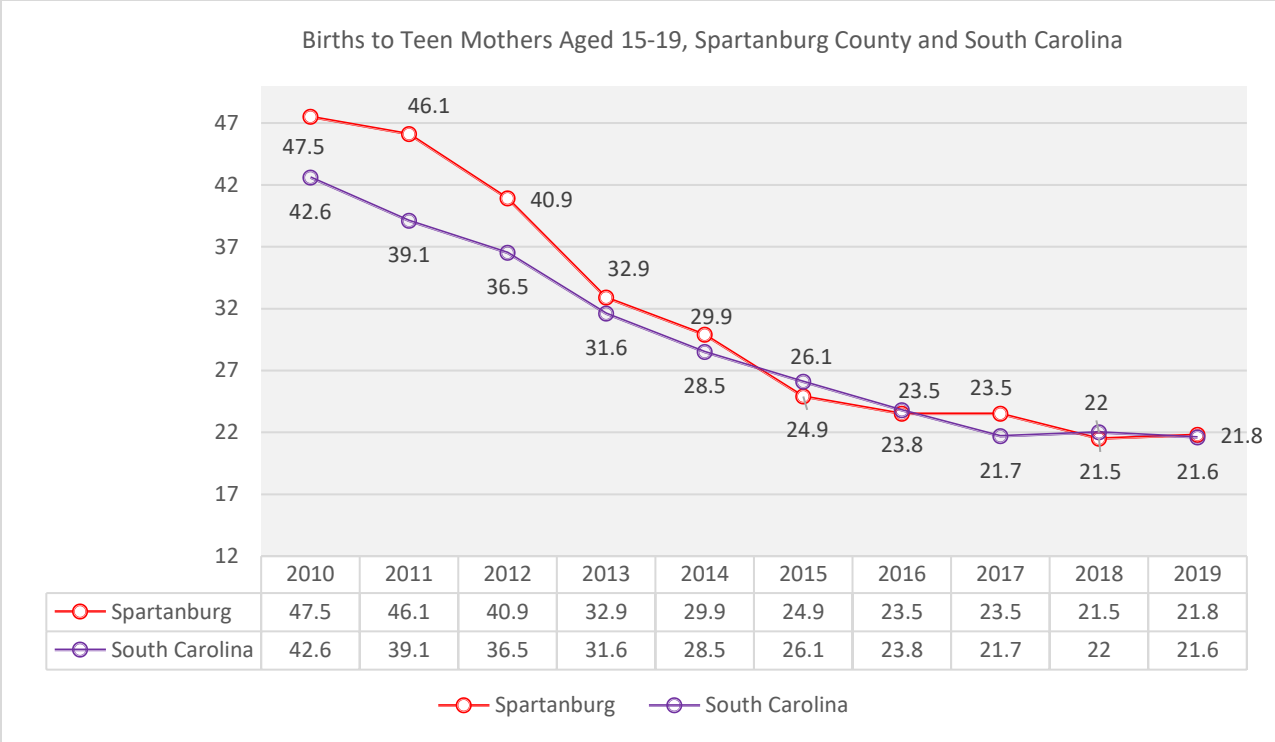
The following graph demonstrates the consistent decrease in teen births in Spartanburg County and in the state on average, using single year data.<sup>20</sup> In 2016, the teen birth rate in Spartanburg County (23.5) dropped below the state average (23.8) for the first time since rates have been recorded. As of 2019, Spartanburg County remained essentially at the state average for teen births, equating to 229 births to teens that year.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Fact Forward <https://www.factforward.org/>

<sup>19</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. United States map with state teen birth rates by quartile. <https://www.cdc.gov/teenpregnancy/about/alt-text/map-state-text.htm>

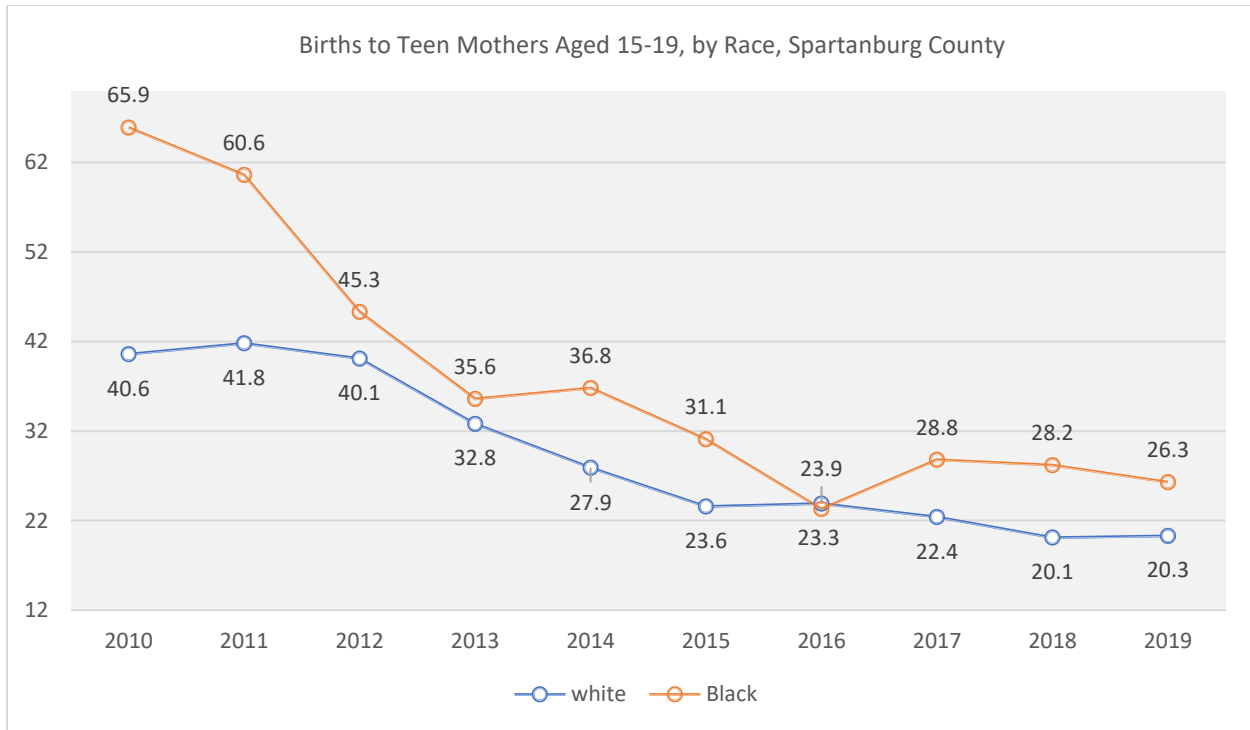
<sup>20</sup> Kids Count Data Center: <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

<sup>21</sup> Fact Forward: <https://www.factforward.org/statistics/spartanburg-county>



\* Rate per 1,000 Females aged 15-19  
 Source: Kids Count Data Center

By race, teen births in Spartanburg County fell by 52% for White teens and 96% for Black teens from 2010 to 2016. In fact, by 2016, Black teens had a slightly lower teen birth rate than White teens in Spartanburg County. However, since 2016, the teen birth rate has increased for Blacks while the teen birth rate continued to decrease for White teens, indicating that the equity gap has once again widened, as evidenced by a six-percentage point difference in 2019.

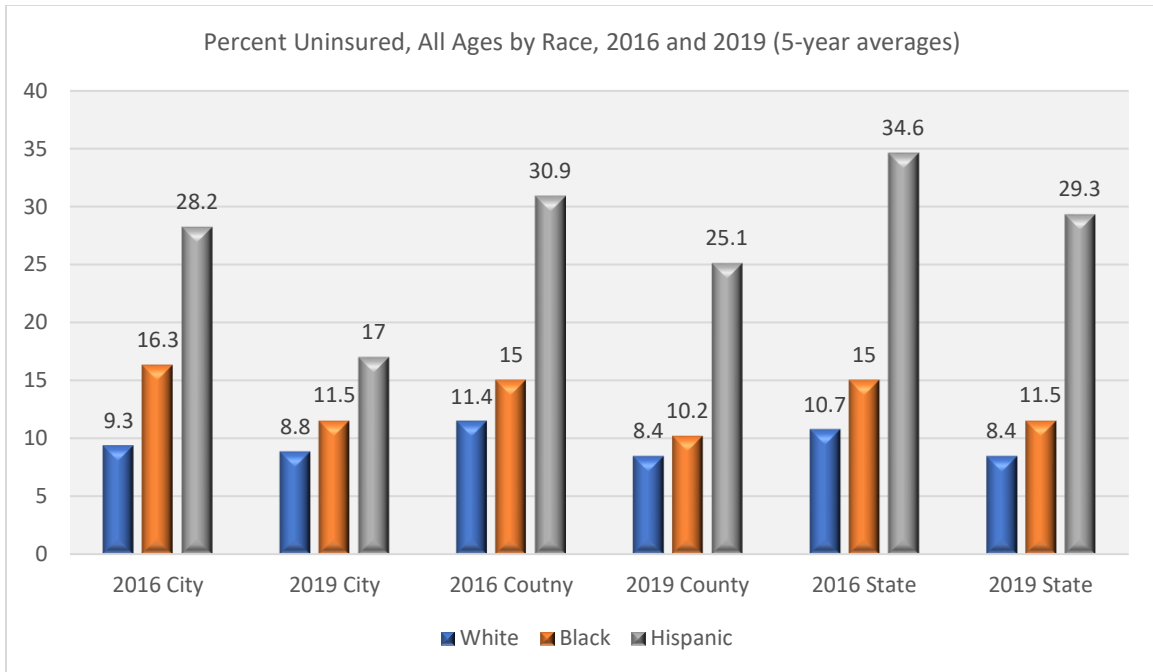


\* Rate per 1,000 Females aged 15-19  
 Source: Kids Count Data Center

### Health Insurance Coverage

Health insurance coverage is a strong indicator of access to health care and the likelihood of receiving quality care. Rates of health insurance coverage in a community speak not only to the health status of that community, but also to the economic status of the community and the distribution of well-paying jobs. Further, when health insurance coverage is low, costs to society are often high since the uninsured frequently seek treatment in emergency departments for non-emergent conditions and often do not get timely treatment for chronic illnesses, resulting in higher costs and lost worker productivity. Hispanics and Blacks have higher uninsured rates, compared to Whites.

The following graph shows that uninsured rates have decreased for Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics in both the City of Spartanburg and in Spartanburg County from 2016 to 2019. *In the City of Spartanburg, uninsured rates decreased by 5% for Whites and by 29% for Blacks, constituting a narrowed equity gap. In Spartanburg County, uninsured rates decreased by 26% for Whites and by 32% for Blacks, also constituting a narrowed equity gap.*

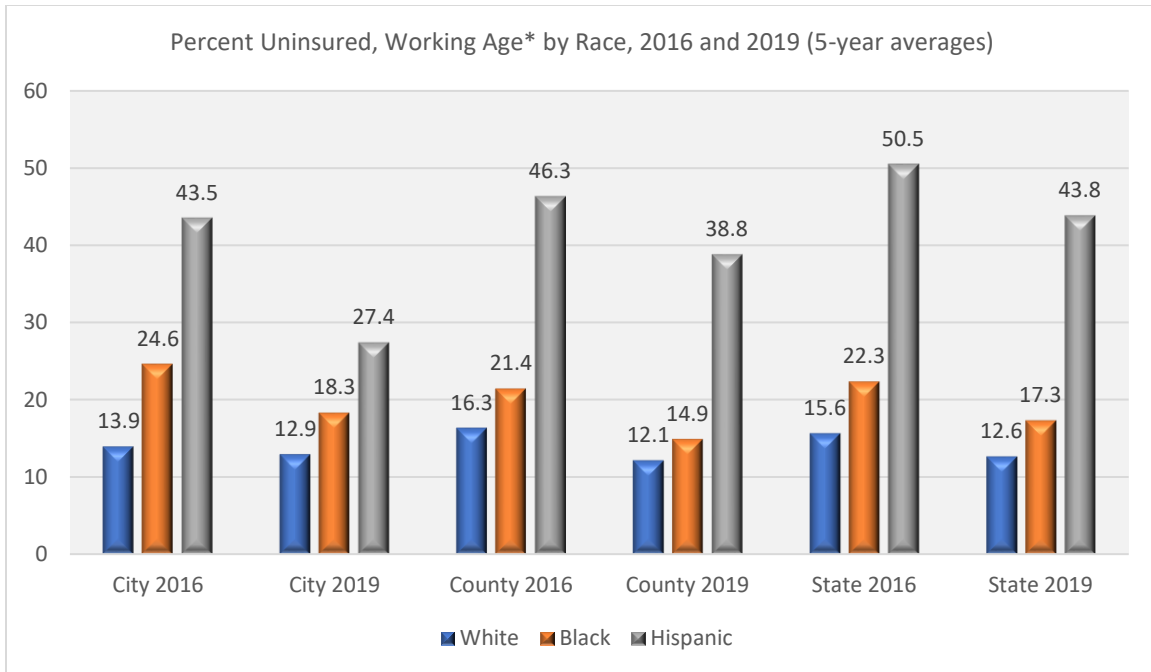


Source: U.S. Census S2701

In the aggregate in 2019,

- In the City of Spartanburg, there are 3,815 uninsured residents, constituting 10.3% of the population
- In Spartanburg County there are 30,271 uninsured residents, constituting 10.0% of the population

Children living in poverty and individuals of Social Security age are eligible for publicly funded health insurance through Medicaid and Medicare. Thus, adults of working age (19-64) are at higher risk of being uninsured. As demonstrated in the following graph, uninsured rates for working age residents have decreased for Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics in both the City of Spartanburg and in Spartanburg County from 2016 to 2019. *In the City of Spartanburg, uninsured rates for working age residents decreased by 7% for Whites and by 26% for Blacks, constituting a narrowed equity gap. In Spartanburg County, uninsured rates for working age residents decreased by 26% for Whites and by 30% for Blacks, also constituting a narrowed equity gap.*



\* Age 19-64 for 2019. Age 18-64 for 2016  
 Source: US Census C27001H, C27001B, C27001I

### Life Expectancy

The premature death rate, sometimes termed Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL), quantifies premature mortality, rather than overall mortality, focusing attention on deaths that could have been prevented. This rate is calculated as every death in a given geography occurring before age 75. So, a person dying at age 25 contributes 50 years of life lost, whereas a person who dies at age 65 contributes 10 years of life lost. The YPLL measure is presented as a rate per 100,000 population. YPLL was disaggregated by race for the first time in 2018, demonstrating significant inequities between Whites and Blacks.

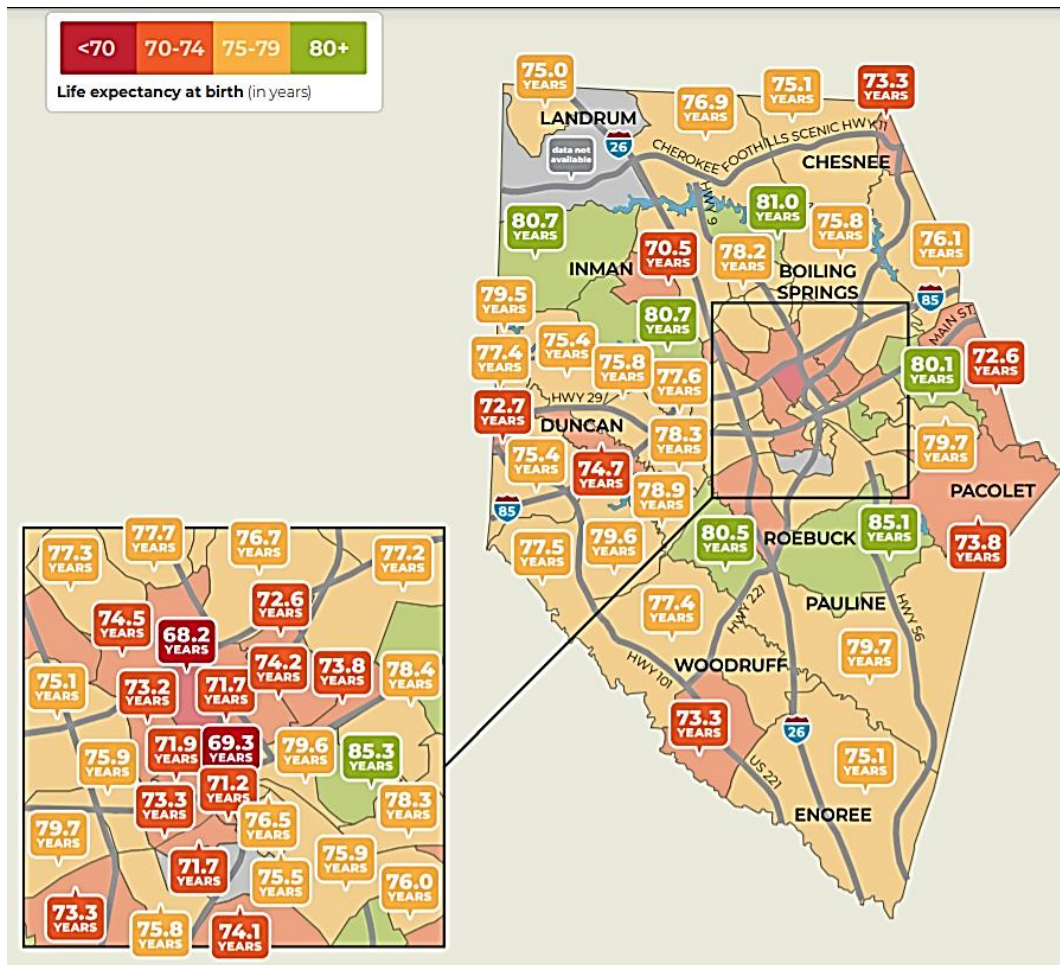
For 2018, Spartanburg County ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in South Carolina with an overall 8,900 years of potential life lost (1 is best). For 2017-2019, Spartanburg County ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in South Carolina with an overall 9,300 years of potential life lost. The following table disaggregates YPLL by race. Although Spartanburg County improved in in-state ranking on this measure, more potential years of life were lost for both Whites and Blacks from 2018 to 2021. *YPLL increased for Whites by 4.4%, and YPLL increased for Blacks by 8.8%, indicating a growing equity gap.*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spartanburg County 2018 3-year average:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ White YPLL = 9,100</li> <li>○ Black YPLL = 10,200</li> <li>○ Hispanic YPLL = 4,500</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spartanburg County 2021 3-year average:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ White YPLL = 9,500</li> <li>○ Black YPLL = 11,100</li> <li>○ Hispanic YPLL = 3,400</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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Source: County Health Rankings

In 2018, the National Center for Health Statistics and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation released first-of-its-kind neighborhood-level data on life expectancy at birth, demonstrating extreme variation even at the census tract, or neighborhood level. These data show that life expectancy is 77.0 years for South

Carolina and 75.9 years for Spartanburg County.<sup>22</sup> When examined at the census tract level, people in Spartanburg County (like many other geographies across the nation) have vastly different opportunities for long life according to where they live. The range (highest minus lowest) of life expectancy at birth (2010-2015) for Spartanburg County census tracts is 17.1 years; lowest life expectancy is 68.2 years, and the highest is 85.3 years.<sup>23</sup> Although life expectancy is not reported by race, the correlation with racial demographics for these census tracts is clear. In fact, across the country, of the tracts with the lowest life expectancy, about half have mostly Black populations, 57% have low education, and 61% have low income.



Source: Live Healthy South Carolina<sup>24</sup>

<sup>22</sup> Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. <https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/interactives/whereyouliveaffectsshowlongyoulive.html>

<sup>23</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Life Expectancy Index. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data-visualization/life-expectancy/index.html>

<sup>24</sup> Live Healthy South Carolina. <https://livehealthy.sc.gov/community>

## Indicator Area 4: Housing

Housing is the single largest expense for households. Housing has been shown to be as important as education and labor force readiness to economic mobility, especially as it addresses issues of concentrated poverty. Housing conditions impact the wellbeing of the homes' occupants, as well as the wellbeing of the surrounding neighborhood. Housing stock, affordability, and quality seem to be equally important considerations. Homeownership can be an important means of achieving residential stability and has been shown to be related to improved psychological health and greater participation in social and political activities.

### Home Ownership

Homeowners fare markedly better than renters in terms of proportion of income spent on housing costs. Homeowners spend a much lower proportion of income on housing costs, even at lower levels of income. For both owners and renters, the higher the income, the proportionately less is spent on housing costs. High housing costs put undue stress on household budgets and leave few resources for other expenses, savings, long-term investments, financial cushions for emergencies, and transgenerational wealth-building. People of Color are disproportionately low income, and low-income people spend disproportionately more on housing costs.

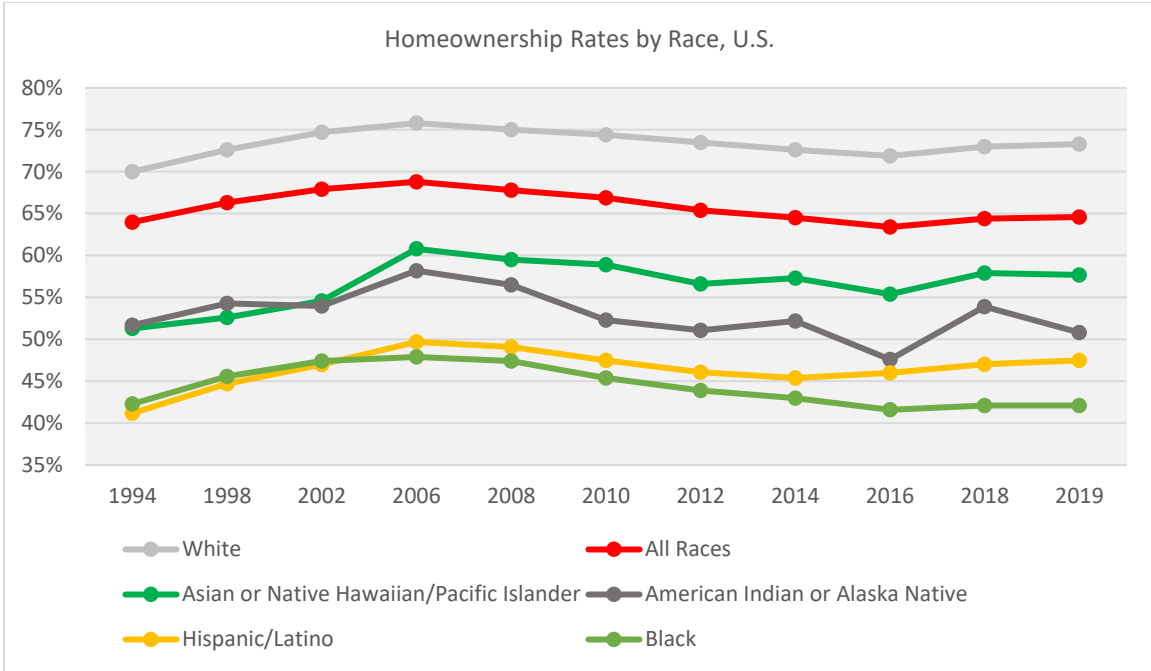
Current data show that there are still deep racial inequities in the housing market.<sup>25</sup> Homeownership rates show that Black Americans are currently the least likely demographic group to own homes. In fact, in 2019, the overall US homeownership rate was 64.4%, but among Black Americans it was 42.1%, while it was 73.3% for White Americans.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Market Watch. For Black History Month, a Look at African-American Home Ownership (February 14, 2018).

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/for-black-history-month-a-look-at-african-american-home-ownership-2018-02-09>

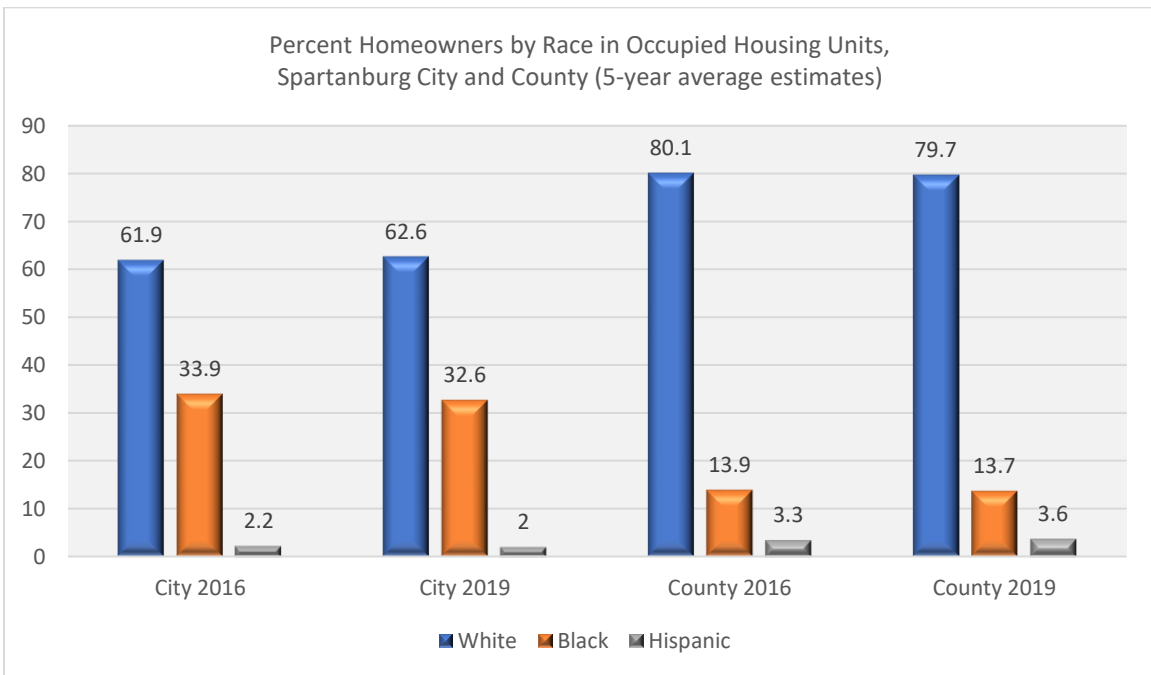
<sup>26</sup> USA Facts. October 16, 2020. <https://usafacts.org/articles/homeownership-rates-by-race/#:~:text=Homeownership%20rates%20show%20that%20Black%20Americans%20are%20currently,wat%2064.6%25.%20Among%20Black%20Americans%20it%20was%2042.1%25.>



Sources: USA Facts, US Census

Homeownership for Black residents of the City of Spartanburg is slightly lower in 2019 compared to 2016, while it is slightly higher for White residents, indicating a slightly wider equity gap.

Homeownership for both White and Black residents in Spartanburg County declined slightly from 2016 to 2019, indicating that the equity gap has not improved.

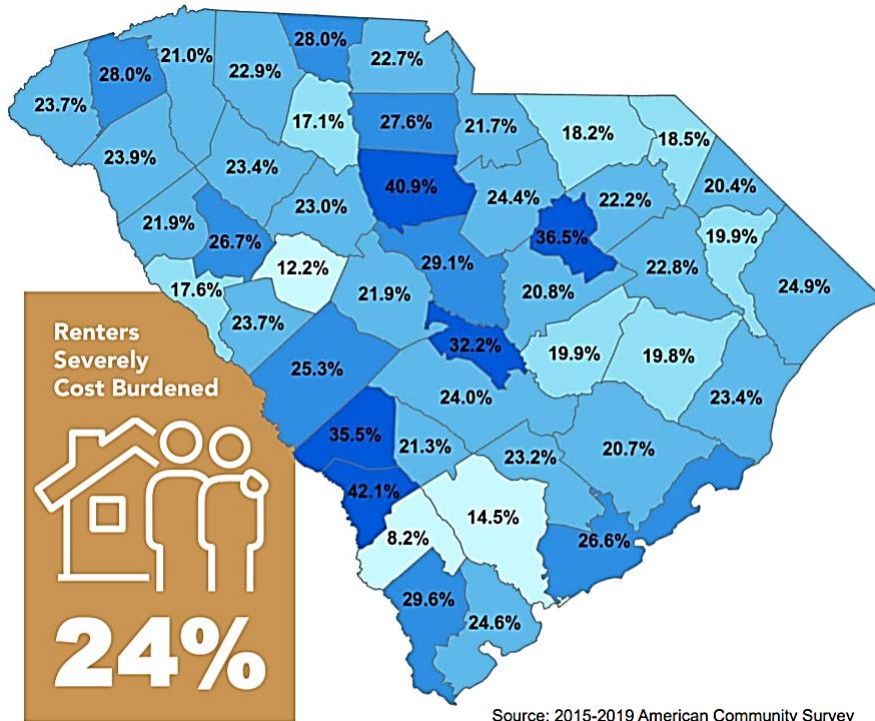


Source: US Census S2502



Homeowners fare markedly better than renters in terms of proportion of income spent on housing costs. Homeowners spend a much lower proportion of income on housing costs, even at lower levels of income. Over 140,000 renters in South Carolina experience severe cost burden, meaning that they spend more than half their gross income on rent or have no income at all. This represents 24% of all renters in the state. In Spartanburg County, there are 7,837 severely burdened renter households.<sup>27</sup>

**Percent Renters Severely Cost Burdened, South Carolina and Counties, 2019**

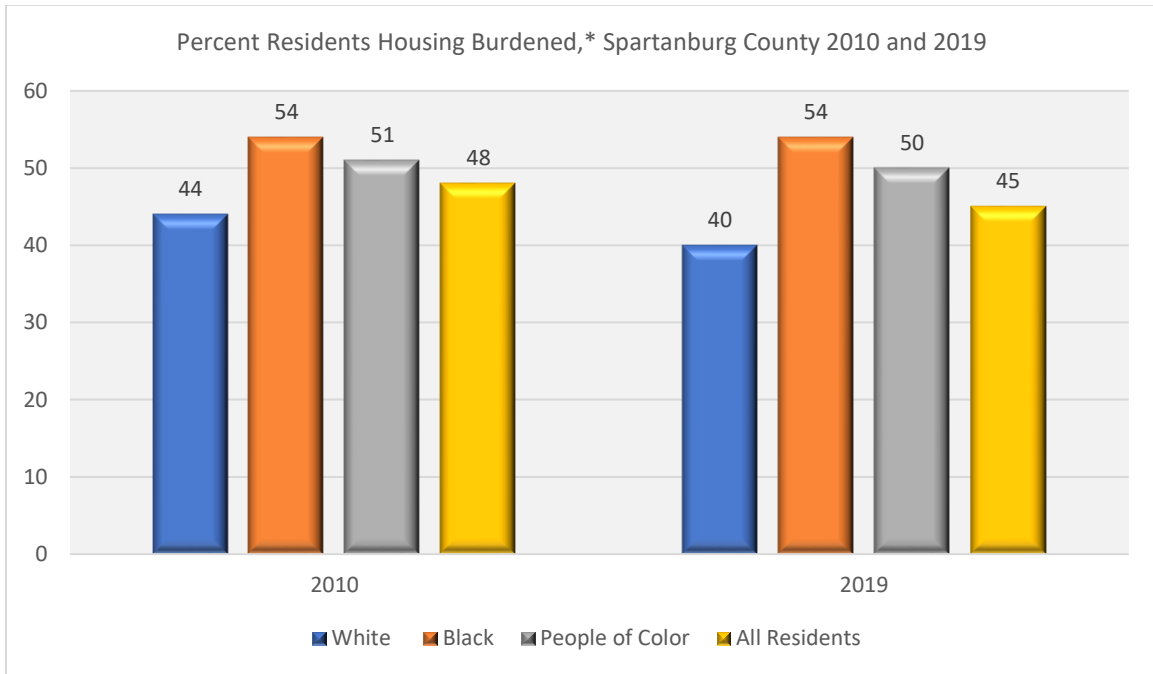


Housing Affordability

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD),<sup>27</sup> the generally accepted definition of affordable housing is that for which the occupants are paying no more than 30% of gross income for housing costs, including utilities. According to this definition, one in three U.S. households are paying too much for housing, the preponderance of those being low-income households and households of Color.

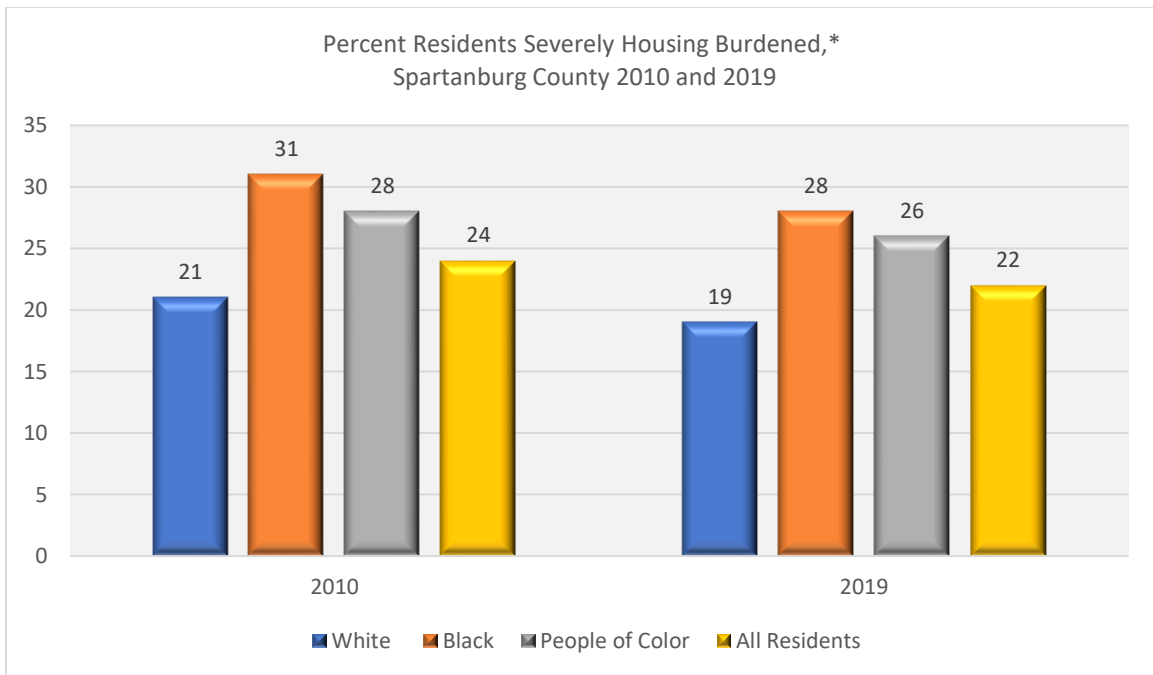
In Spartanburg County Black residents are disproportionately housing burdened, or paying more than 30% of income on housing costs. *The percentage of Black residents who are housing burdened did not change from 2010 to 2019, but the percentage of White residents who are housing burdened declined, widening the equity gap.*

<sup>27</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: <https://www.hud.gov/>



Source: National Equity Atlas

However, the equity gap in severe housing burden, or paying more than 50% of income on housing declined slightly from 2010 to 2019. *Severe housing burden declined for Black residents slightly more (97%) than for White residents (9.5%), constituting a slight narrowing of the equity gap from 2010 to 2019.*



Source: National Equity Atlas

The 2020 South Carolina State of Homeless Report and 2021 update<sup>28</sup> provide data from the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) comparing the wages earned by various types of renters to HUD fair market rents (FMRs), calculated at the county or metropolitan area level to estimate the monthly cost of a basic apartment plus utilities. The 2020 data reflect pre-pandemic housing conditions and do not take into account resultant reduced incomes, so these data are likely to have worsened substantially in the interim. On average in South Carolina, someone must earn \$17.30 per hour, working full-time, to comfortably afford a two-bedroom apartment at FMR, paying no more than 30% of income on rent and utilities. However, the average renter in South Carolina earns \$13.52 per hour, leaving a \$3.78 “wage gap”. In only six counties statewide can the average renter afford that basic two-bedroom apartment. The largest wage gap is in Dorchester County, where there is a \$10.42 per hour disparity between what renters earn and what they need to afford housing. The smallest of the wage gaps is in Greenwood County, where it is \$0.19.

The 2020 wage gap is \$1.66 in Spartanburg County, less than in Lexington (\$5.43) and Charleston (\$7.01) peer counties, but more than in Greenville County (\$1.31). In fact, for residents whose total income is from Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability payments, 78% of their SSI check would be required for housing expenses for a basic apartment in Spartanburg County. For minimum wage workers, residents would have to work 65 hours per week to render the apartment affordable.

In South Carolina, almost 20% of residents are not in affordable housing situations, spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs. Spartanburg County residents fare better, with 16% not in affordable housing situations. Trend data show that housing affordability is improving in Spartanburg County and in the state on average.

Percent of Housing Units Where Householders Spend at Least 30% of Income on Housing									
	2007-11	2008-12	2009-13	2010-14	2011-15	2012-16	2013-17	2014-18	2015-19
Spartanburg	21.6	22.0	21.6	21.0	19.5	18.9	18.1	17.3	16.4
S.C.	25.5	25.1	24.8	24.2	23.1	21.9	21.1	20.4	19.6

Source: Kids Count Data Center

In South Carolina in 2019, 41% of Black children live in households with a high housing cost burden, compared to 17% of non-Hispanic White children.<sup>29</sup>

### Severe Housing Problems

Not all housing meets standards for habitability, primarily because of overcrowding, high cost, lack of kitchen facilities, or lack of plumbing facilities. The 2021 County Health Rankings reports that 14% of Spartanburg County households have at least one of these four “severe housing problems,” including

<sup>28</sup> South Carolina Interagency Council on Homelessness. SC 2020 Housing Needs Assessment and 2021 Update. <https://www.shomeless.org/resources/reports/sc-housing-needs-assessment-2021-update-state-overview/>

<sup>29</sup> Kids Count Data Center. <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

11% with severe housing cost burden, 3% with overcrowding, and 1% with inadequate facilities. The overall value of 14% has not changed since 2016 for Spartanburg County.

Low income and minority households experience a greater burden of severe housing problems. For other comparable geographies:

- 15% of all South Carolina households have at least one of these four housing problems
- The counties within the state range from 9% to 18% on this measure
- 12% of Lexington County households have at least one of these four housing problems
- 13% of Greenville County households have at least one of these four housing problems
- 18% of Charleston County households have at least one of these four housing problems
- The top U.S. County performers are at 9% on this measure

### Residential Segregation by Race

The racial composition of cities is highly predictive of the ability of residents to break the cycle of poverty. Specifically, where there is less racial segregation, poor residents have a greater chance of moving up the economic ladder without affecting the economic potential of wealthy residents. That is, communities that are better for the poor are not worse for the rich. Residential segregation, which affects Black households to a greater extent than other minorities,<sup>30</sup> perpetuates poverty patterns by isolating Blacks in areas that lack employment opportunities and services. These areas also have higher crime and poverty rates.

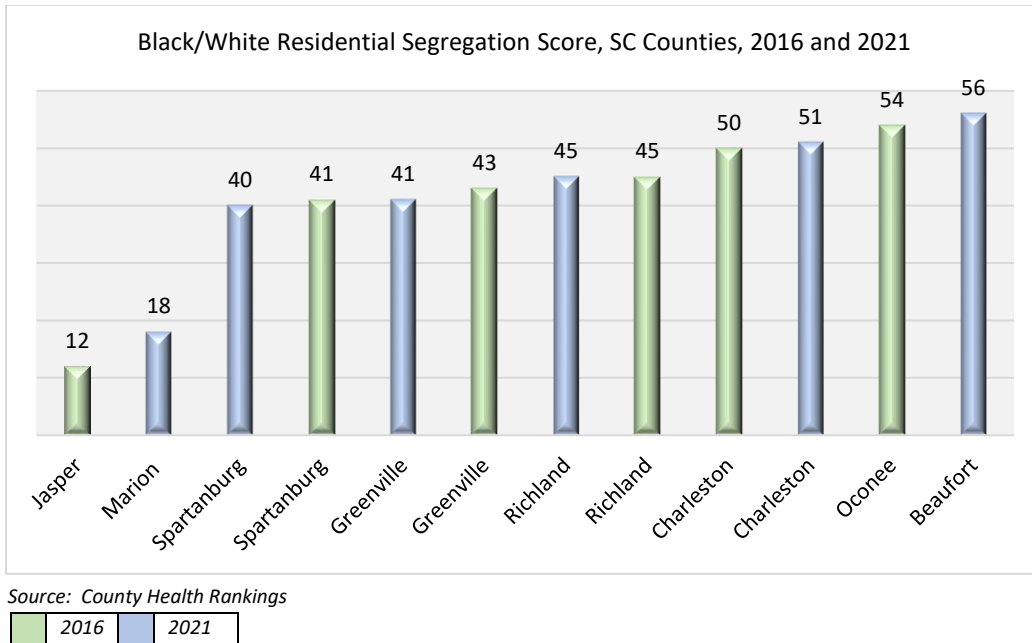
A residential segregation index, ranging from 0 (complete integration) to 100 (complete segregation) measures the evenness with which Black and White residents are distributed across the census tracts that make up counties. Currently, Spartanburg County is 36<sup>th</sup> most integrated (or the 11<sup>th</sup> most segregated) county in the state with a score of 40. Marion County is the least segregated with a score of 18, and Beaufort County is the most segregated with a score of 56.<sup>31</sup> The index scores can be interpreted as the percentage of either Black or White residents that would have to move to different census tracts within the counties to even out the population.

Spartanburg County is compared to peer counties in the following graph for 2016 and 2021, along with the least and most segregated counties in South Carolina. *Spartanburg's residential segregation index score decreased from 2016 (41) to 2021 (40), indicating that the equity gap is narrowing on this measure.*

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<sup>30</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: <https://www.hud.gov/>

<sup>31</sup> County Health Rankings. <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

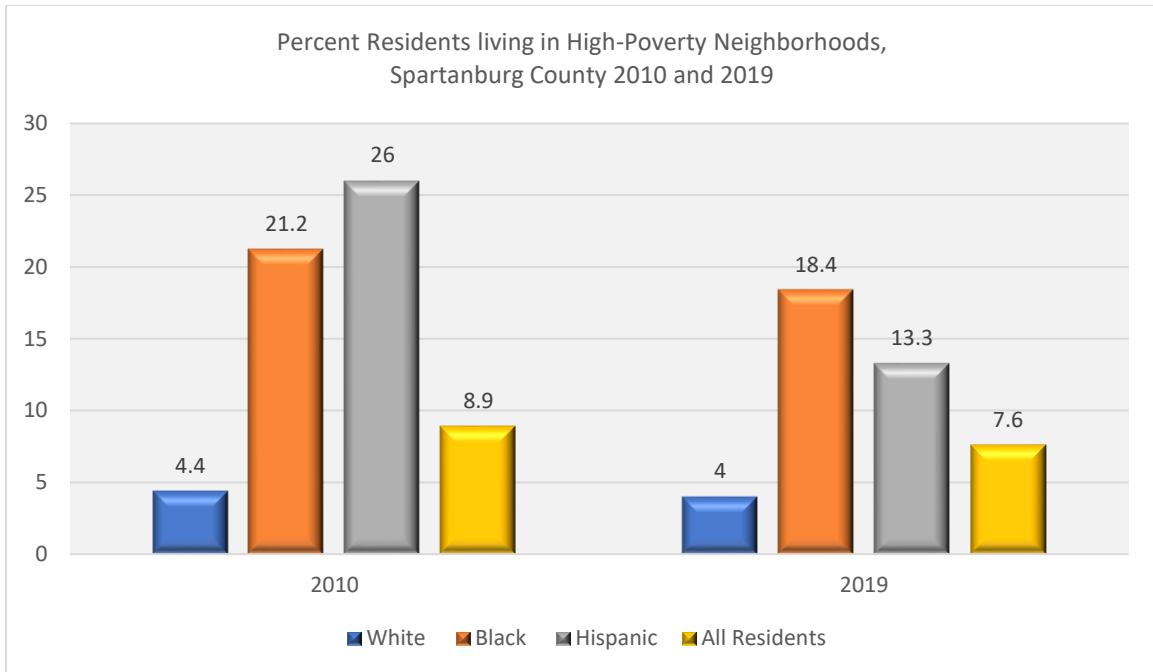


### Areas of Concentrated Poverty

Aggregated poverty data do not show how poverty is distributed across geographies. In the report *The Enduring Challenge of Concentrated Poverty in America*,<sup>32</sup> the Federal Reserve and the Brookings Institution studied communities where poverty is geographically concentrated at rates of 40% and above, finding that concentrated poverty is nuanced from place to place, and that place matters. People who live in high-poverty neighborhoods have less access to jobs, services, high-quality education, parks, safe streets and other factors essential to wellbeing.

*The percentage of Spartanburg County residents living in high-poverty neighborhoods decreased from 2010 to 2019 generally and by 0.4 percentage points for Whites, by 2.8 percentage points for Blacks, and by 12.7 percentage points for Hispanics. The equity gap has narrowed on this measure.*

<sup>32</sup> Federal Reserve and the Brookings Institution. "The Enduring Challenge of Concentrated Poverty in America: Case Studies from Communities Across the U.S." (2008). <http://www.frbsf.org/cpreport/>



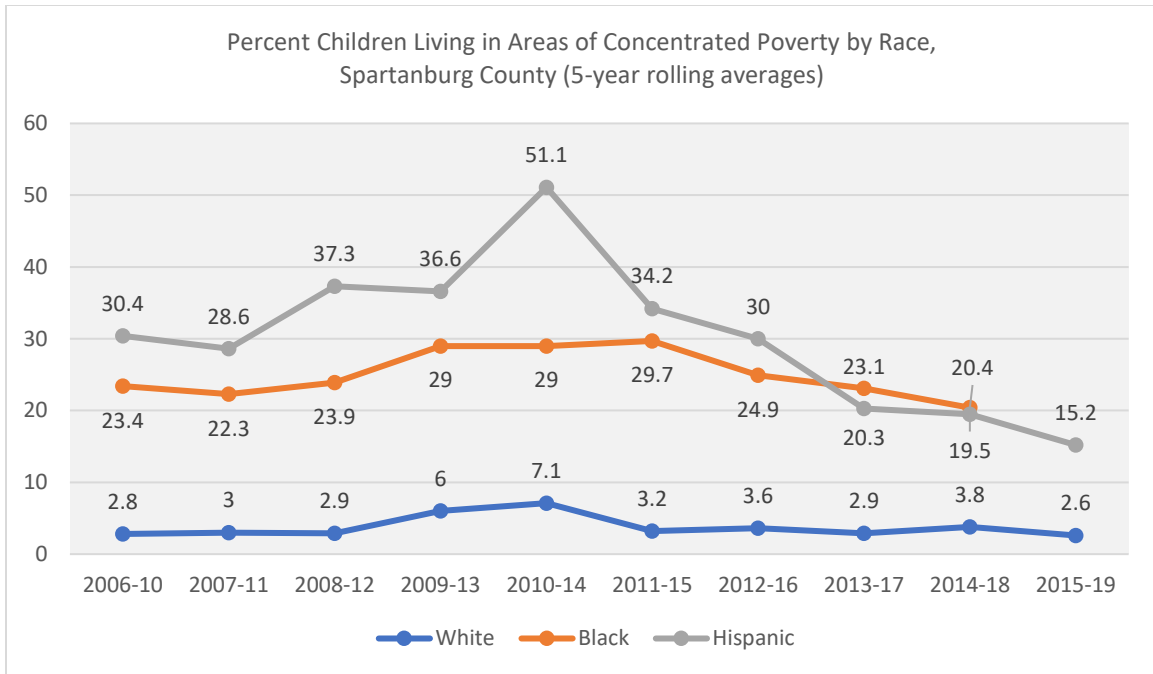
Source: National Equity Atlas

A large middle class is one of the five predictors of communities with good social and economic mobility. When children live to adulthood in communities with income inequality, lifetime earnings potential is low, and the cycle of poverty endures. Conversely, the literature shows that multiple benefits derive from mixed income housing developments and income-diverse neighborhoods,<sup>33</sup> including safer environments, access to more and improved services, good quality housing, and neighborhood amenities. In addition, as low-income neighborhoods become more economically diverse, poverty is alleviated, property values increase, and residents demonstrate an increased tolerance of diversity for neighbors of all incomes.

The data reported in the following graph show that in Spartanburg County, as in most other geographies, Black and Hispanic children are significantly more likely to live in areas of concentrated poverty, compared to White children. This trend is consistent over time, although concentrated poverty rates are more variable for Black and Hispanic children.

*From 2016 to 2018, the percentage of Black children living in concentrated poverty in Spartanburg County decreased by 18%, and the percentage of White children living in concentrated poverty decreased by 6%. Thus, the equity gap narrowed on this measure.*

<sup>33</sup> Levy, D, McDade, Z, Dumalo, K. Urban Institute. Effects From Living in Mixed Income Communities for Low Income Families; A Review of the Literature. (November, 2010). <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/27116/412292-Effects-from-Living-in-Mixed-Income-Communities-for-Low-Income-Families.PDF>



Source: Kids Count Data Center  
 {note 2015-2019 data for Black children unavailable}

The Equality of Opportunity Project<sup>34</sup> has demonstrated that the younger a child is when he or she moves to a neighborhood with more opportunity, the greater the boost in their chance of economic success as an adult. This dosage effect means that, with every year of exposure to a better environment, out of concentrated poverty, a child’s chance of economic success as an adult improves. Simply put, children who move to better communities at earlier ages are less likely to become single parents, more likely to go to college and more likely to earn more as adults.

<sup>34</sup> Chetty, R., Hendren, N. and Katz, L. (2015). The Equality of Opportunity Project: <http://www.equality-of-opportunity.org/>

## Indicator Area 5: Education

Education attainment is highly correlated with income, prosperity, and good health. The preponderance of empirical findings conclude that education is the key to economic mobility and inter-generational wealth-building, simultaneously increasing mobility in this generation and the next. In fact, MDC<sup>35</sup> frames their “Infrastructure of Opportunity” around education attainment, illustrating the fact that chances of moving up the income ladder are significantly different depending on education attainment. America’s future jobs will require ever-higher levels of skills and education, but education and job training systems are not adequately preparing Blacks, Hispanics, and other workers of color to succeed in the knowledge-driven economy. Moreover, the increasing cost of education is creating a block to potential students who are starting out in low-income families and is a form of structural inequality.

### Education Attainment

According to the Center on Education and the Workforce,<sup>36</sup> 35% of job openings in 2020 required at least a bachelor’s degree, and 30% required some college or an associate degree. Projections are clear: the future demands higher education attainment of the local workforce if our cities and counties are to be economically competitive. Obtaining a post-secondary credential of some kind is critical to opportunity and positive life outcomes.

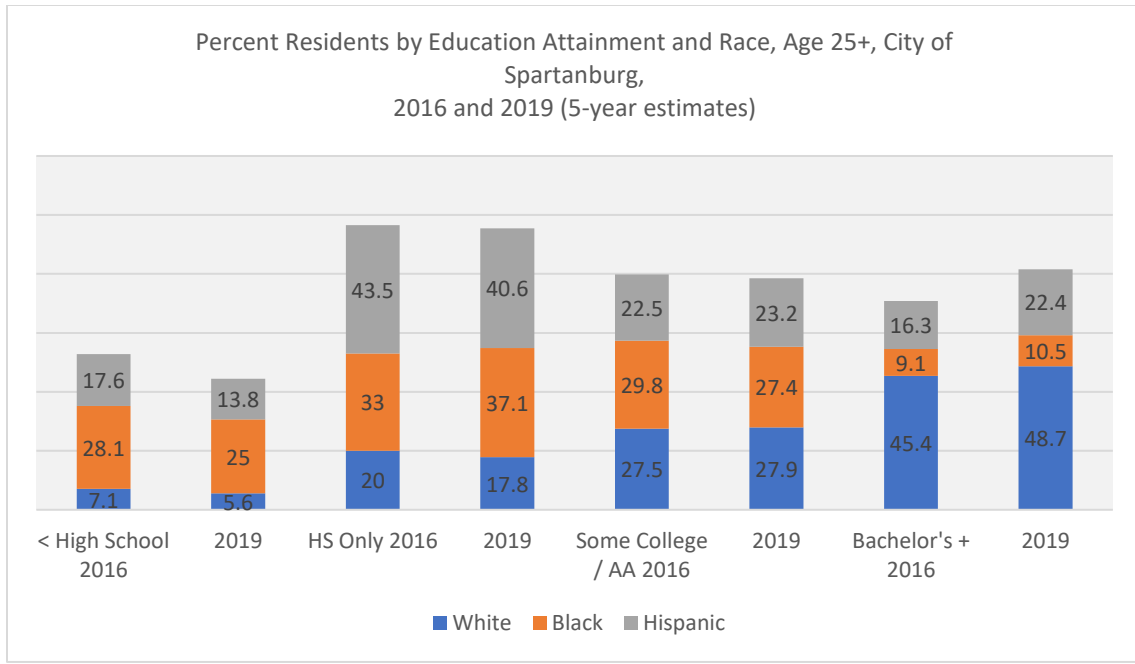
From 2016 to 2019 in the City of Spartanburg, the percentage of adults who had dropped out of high school decreased for Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics. *The percentage of adults with some college or an associate degree decreased somewhat for Blacks; however, the percentage of Blacks with bachelor’s degrees or higher increased by 15%. The percentage of Whites with bachelor’s degrees increased by 7%. Thus, the education attainment gap in the City of Spartanburg narrowed from 2016 to 2019.*

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<sup>35</sup> MDC: <https://www.mdcinc.org/>

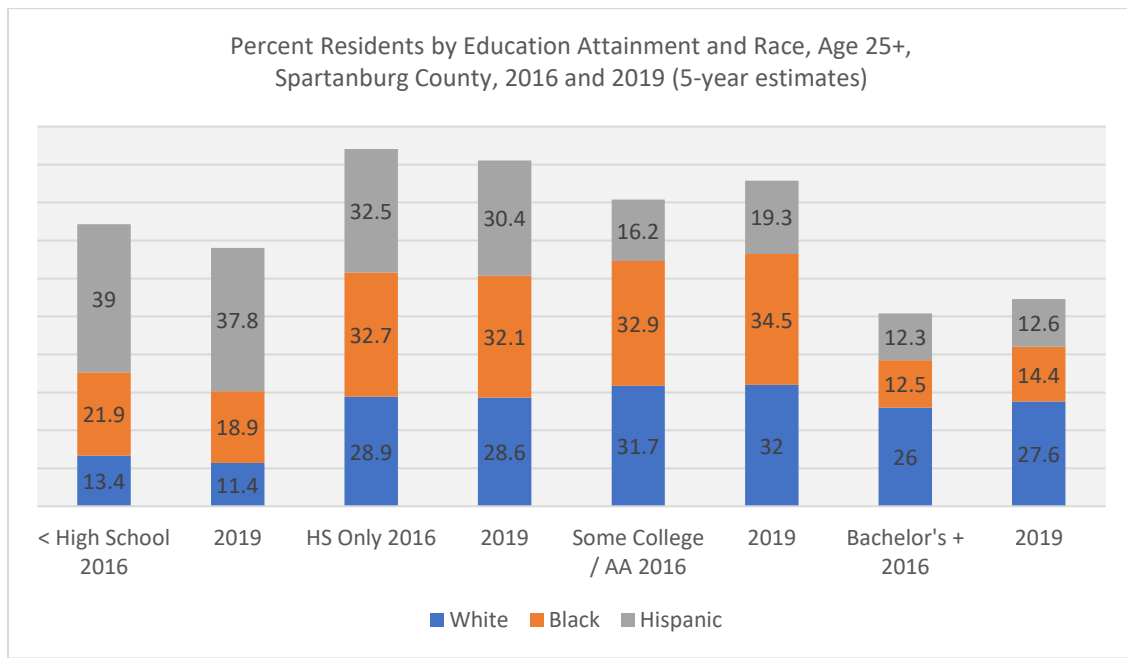
<sup>36</sup> Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. Recovery: Job Growth and Education Requirements Through 2020. <https://cew.georgetown.edu/cew-reports/recovery-job-growth-and-education-requirements-through-2020/>





Source: US Census C15002H, C15002B, C15002I

From 2016 to 2019 in Spartanburg County, the percentage of adults who had dropped out of high school decreased for Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics. The percentage of adults with some college or an associate degree also increased for all three populations, as did the percentage of adults with bachelor’s degrees. *The percentage of Blacks with bachelor’s degrees or higher increased by 15%. The percentage of Whites with bachelor’s degrees increased by 6%. Thus, the education attainment gap in Spartanburg County narrowed from 2016 to 2019.*



Source: US Census C15002H, C15002B, C15002I

## School Readiness

School readiness is a comprehensive connection between children’s readiness to learn, families’ readiness to support their children’s learning, and schools’ readiness for children. Children are ready for school when they possess the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for success as they enter school and for later learning. This requires age-appropriate physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development. Children's School Readiness is affected by the early care and learning experiences they receive. Research in brain development emphasizes that early learning (especially from birth to five) directly influences a child's ability to succeed in school.

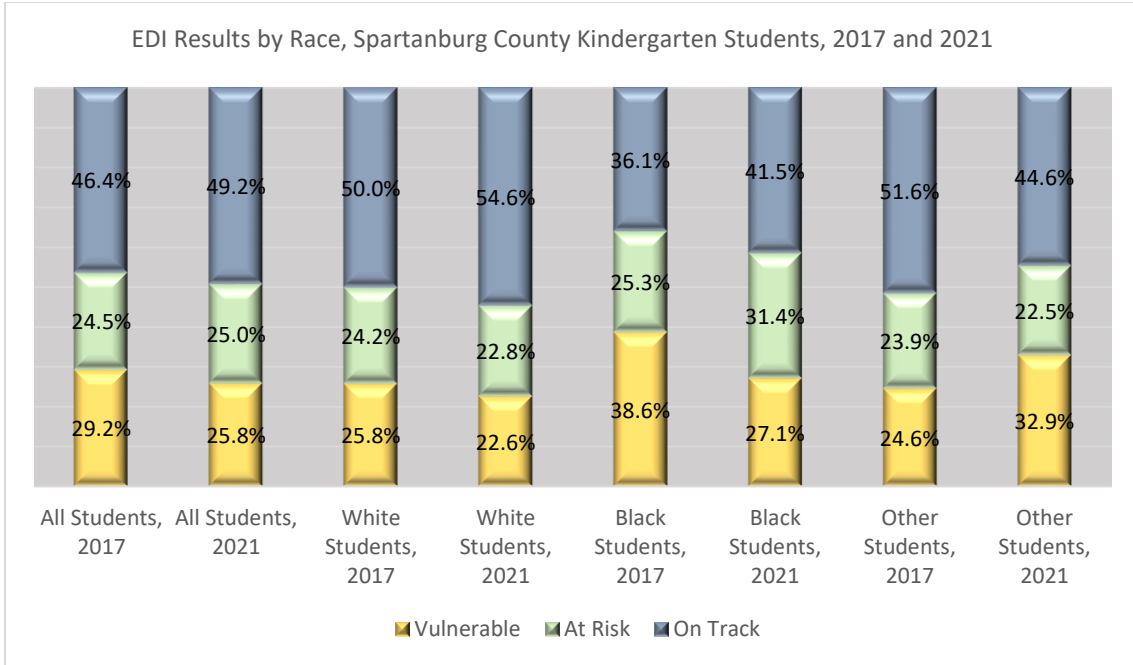
Spartanburg Academic Movement (SAM)<sup>37</sup> released the first comprehensive study of kindergarten readiness for Spartanburg County students in 2017 using the Early Development Instrument (EDI) to assess vulnerability across five developmental domains and multiple sub-domains critical to success in kindergarten. Updated EDI data were released in 2021.

The resulting data, geo-mapped by census tract, predicts kindergarteners’ success in transitioning to first grade. The “vulnerable” designation means the student scored below the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile from the nationally normed data set; that is “vulnerable” for school failure by not being ready for kindergarten. The “at risk” designation means they are at risk of being vulnerable, scoring below the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile but above the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile. The “on track” designation means on track for school success by being ready for kindergarten, scoring above the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile. “On track” is the designation considered “ready for school”. The other two – “at risk” and “vulnerable” are considered “not ready” for school.

The 2017 EDI data showed significant inequities in school readiness between White children and Black children, with 50% of white children “on track” for first grade, but only 36% of black children on track. *The 2021 EDI data show that the percentage of children “on track” has increased for both White and Black children to 54.6% and 41.5%, respectively. Moreover, the equity gap between Black and White children for kindergarten readiness has narrowed, since readiness among White children has grown by 9.2%, and readiness among Black children has grown by 15%.*

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<sup>37</sup> Spartanburg Academic Movement: <https://www.learnwithsam.org/>



Source: Spartanburg Academic Movement

### Third Grade Reading and Math Achievement

South Carolina assesses academic achievement annually for students in most grades. Achievement data can be found in the SC DOE’s state assessments portal.<sup>38</sup> Students who are not on grade level for reading at the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are at a higher risk of not graduating high school, which has long-term impacts on their future social and economic success. Reading proficiency by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is a strong predictor of a child’s educational development and a make-or-break benchmark.

*In 2016, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading proficiency by school district ranged from 48.1% to 58.5% for White students and from 13% to 40% for Black students. In 2021, reading proficiency ranged from 37.8% to 77% for White students and from 15.6% to 40.6% for Black students. Although extreme racial differences persist, this can be considered a narrowing of the equity gap on this measure.*

	All		White		Black		Hispanic	
	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021
Spartanburg 1	50.0	49.7	54.3	53.6	26.9	21.4	16.7	-----
Spartanburg 2	46.4	49.2	52.8	53.3	35.9	38.8	33.7	30.4
Spartanburg 3	48.0	47.6	51.4	51.4	40.0	40.6	27.3	-----
Spartanburg 4	42.5	32.9	48.1	37.8	13.0	15.6	39.1	25.0
Spartanburg 5	45.1	45.4	51.5	53.5	28.6	33.0	38.6	33.7
Spartanburg 6	35.6	35.5	48.7	54.5	19.2	16.8	24.2	24.1
Spartanburg 7	33.2	40.7	58.5	77.0	17.6	20.6	34.4	34.1

Source: SC Department of Education

<sup>38</sup> SC Department of Education State Assessments Portal: <https://ed.sc.gov/data/test-scores/state-assessments/sc-ready/>

In 2016, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade math proficiency by school district ranged from 47.2% to 67.7% for White students and from 22.7% to 44.6% for Black students. In 2021, math proficiency ranged from 50% to 75.5% for White students and from 14.3% to 43.8% for Black students. Extreme racial differences persist, and this can be considered a widening of the equity gap on this measure.

Grade 3, Mathematics, Percent “Meeting or Exceeding Expectations”, 2021 by District								
	All		White		Black		Hispanic	
	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021
Spartanburg 1	63.7	59.7	67.3	65.1	42.3	14.3	50.0	-----
Spartanburg 2	61.5	58.7	67.7	63.4	44.6	43.5	49.5	39.3
Spartanburg 3	45.5	50.6	47.2	50.0	34.3	43.8	36.4	-----
Spartanburg 4	59.4	45.4	65.6	53.8	30.4	21.9	52.2	33.3
Spartanburg 5	59.1	55.0	66.5	65.4	41.2	40.0	48.6	39.8
Spartanburg 6	44.4	39.7	61.0	60.6	22.7	17.8	34.6	28.8
Spartanburg 7	40.1	48.2	61.9	75.5	26.8	29.5	34.4	60.5

Source: SC Department of Education

#### Eighth Grade Reading and Math Achievement

In 2016, 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading proficiency by school district ranged from 45.1% to 64.6% for White students and from 16.7% to 45.5% for Black students. In 2021, reading proficiency ranged from 39.7% to 55.6% for White students and from 13.8% to 40.5% for Black students. Extreme racial differences in 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading achievement persist, and both White and Black students decreased in achievement scores from 2016 and 2018; thus, there is no evidence that the equity gap has narrowed on this measure.

Grade 8, English Language Arts, Percent “Meeting or Exceeding Expectations”, 2021 by District								
	All		White		Black		Hispanic	
	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021
Spartanburg 1	61.4	43.1	62.8	46.0	33.3	13.8	68.4	34.6
Spartanburg 2	54.0	48.3	60.8	52.7	32.9	40.5	32.9	42.3
Spartanburg 3	44.0	41.6	46.7	42.8	16.7	26.9	52.4	-----
Spartanburg 4	59.0	36.6	61.3	39.7	45.5	-----	66.7	30.8
Spartanburg 5	46.7	43.5	54.3	49.8	30.0	30.6	27.1	42.2
Spartanburg 6	34.9	37.1	45.1	50.9	20.1	22.4	28.1	29.6
Spartanburg 7	37.3	30.8	64.6	55.6	19.4	14.3	30.3	40.5

Source: SC Department of Education

Math proficiency in high school is highly correlated with graduation, and advanced mathematics courses are considered gatekeeping courses for enrollment in and completion of college. These courses emphasize higher order thinking and complex problem-solving skills, both of which are important beyond the academic realm. Individuals who transition into the workforce with limited mathematic skills are more likely to have limited professional success.

In 2016, 8<sup>th</sup> grade math proficiency by school district ranged from 35.9% to 59.9% for White students and from 4.2% to 33.3% for Black students. In 2021, math proficiency ranged from 30.1% to 49.2% for White students and from 9.9% to 23.0% for Black students. Extreme racial differences in 8<sup>th</sup> grade math

achievement persist, and both White and Black students decreased in achievement scores from 2016 and 2018; thus, there is no evidence that the equity gap has narrowed on this measure.

Grade 8, Mathematics, Percent "Meeting or Exceeding Expectations", 2021 by District								
	All		White		Black		Hispanic	
	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021
Spartanburg 1	43.0	36.0	44.1	36.4	33.3	17.9	42.1	29.6
Spartanburg 2	36.1	37.7	42.6	40.1	15.3	23.0	16.2	45.1
Spartanburg 3	36.4	27.4	36.1	30.1	4.2	15.4	71.4	-----
Spartanburg 4	52.9	40.0	59.9	45.6	30.3	-----	38.5	25.9
Spartanburg 5	45.6	37.9	52.8	45.3	21.7	21.4	35.4	35.3
Spartanburg 6	27.7	26.6	35.9	37.8	11.6	14.9	28.1	19.6
Spartanburg 7	25.4	24.2	49.1	49.2	10.3	9.9	18.2	21.4

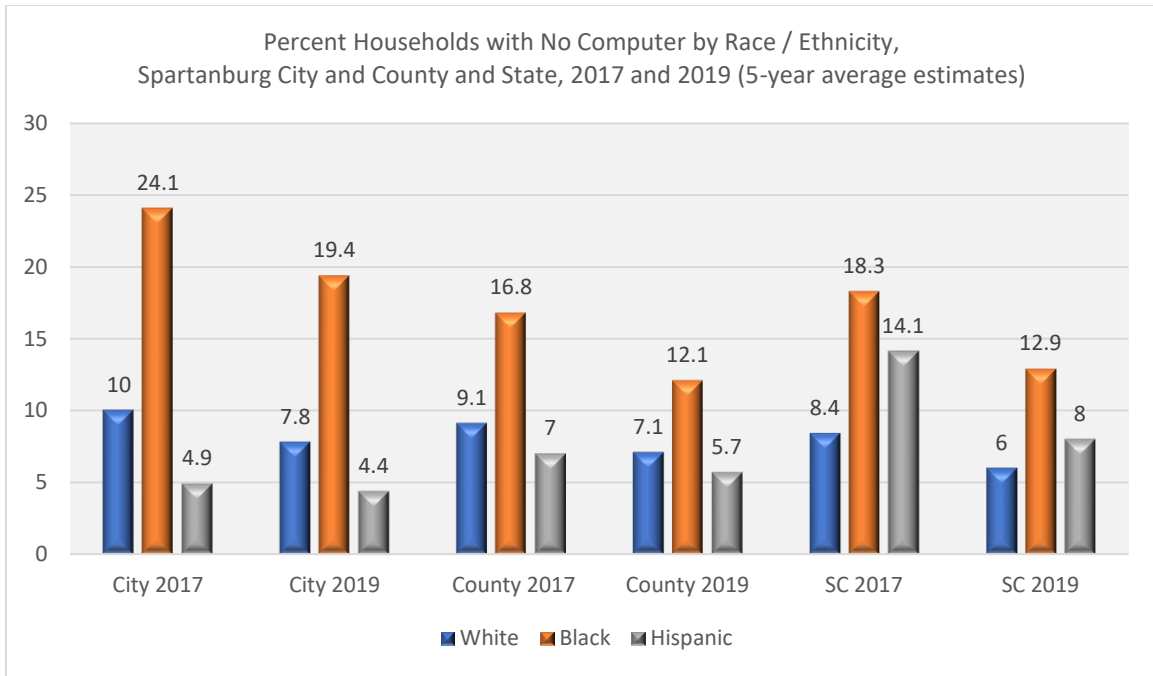
Source: SC Department of Education

### Households Computer and Broadband Internet Access

In the information age, computer and Internet access have become arguably indispensable for academic support and for larger communication and access to information. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, most schools moved to virtual classrooms for instruction, and many continue to offer, or even require, that option. Students who do not have access to reliable computer devices or the Internet are at academic disadvantage. The following graph shows that Black households, especially in the City of Spartanburg, have lower access to computers compared to White and Hispanic households.

*From 2017 to 2019, there was a 20% decrease in Black households in the City of Spartanburg without a computer. During the same period, there was a 22% decrease in White households without a computer. This demonstrates widening of the equity gap.*

*From 2017 to 2019, there was a 28% decrease in Black households in Spartanburg County without a computer. During the same period, there was a 22% decrease in White households without a computer. This demonstrates narrowing of the equity gap.*

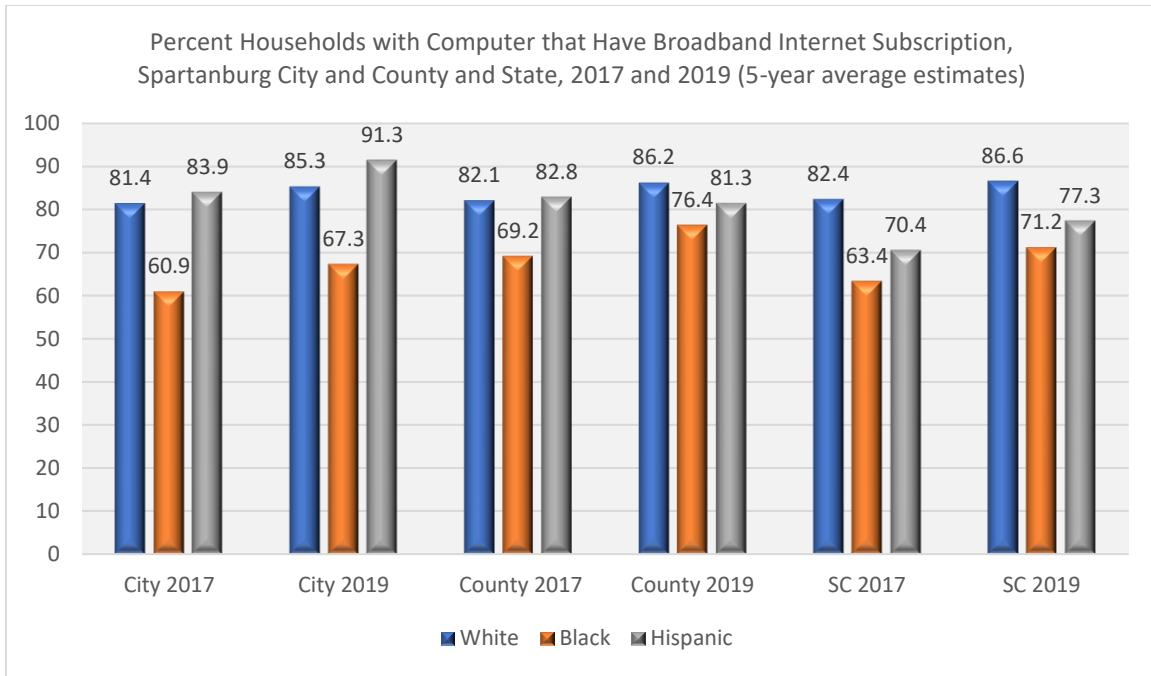


Source: US Census S2802

For households with a computer, Internet access through broadband is important. Broadband provides access to the highest quality internet services such as videoconferencing for telehealth, that require large amounts of data transmission. The following graph shows that Black households have lower broadband access to the Internet compared to White and Hispanic households.

*From 2017 to 2019, there was a 10.5% increase in broadband access for Black households in the City of Spartanburg. During the same period, there was a 5% increase in broadband access for White households. This demonstrates narrowing of the equity gap.*

*From 2017 to 2019, there was a 10% increase in broadband access for Black households in Spartanburg County. During the same period, there was a 5% increase in broadband access for White households. This demonstrates narrowing of the equity gap.*



Source: US Census S2802

### On-Time Graduation Rate

The SC Department of Education publicly reports “on-time” graduation rates, disaggregated by race and other factors, since the 2017-2018 school year via the district report card portal. In 2018 and 2021, five of the seven county school districts had higher graduation rates for White students, compared to Black students. *Graduation rates for Black students improved in two of the seven county school districts from 2018 to 2021. Graduation rates for White students improved in five of the seven county school districts from 2018 to 2021. Thus, the equity gap in on-time graduation did not narrow from 2018 to 2020.*

On-Time Graduation Rate by District								
	All		White		Black		Hispanic	
	2018	2021	2018	2021	2018	2021	2018	2021
Spartanburg 1	90.6	92.4	91.1	92.9	86.8	85	85	93.8
Spartanburg 2	86.7	92.9	86.8	92.6	86.6	92.7	87.3	96.8
Spartanburg 3	84.1	91.9	85.2	90.5	83.8	97.2	80	90
Spartanburg 4	82.9	83.2	81.6	83.5	86.2	80.5	92.3	84.6
Spartanburg 5	86.9	87.3	85.7	89.5	89.9	87.5	91.1	78.5
Spartanburg 6	88.7	86.3	89.5	88.1	88.9	85.3	85	81.3
Spartanburg 7	86.3	83.6	89.9	87.6	84.6	79.4	78.1	82.6
South Carolina	81	83.3	83.6	86.9	76.9	78.1	80.5	81.2

Source: SC DOE

## Dropout Rate

In South Carolina, a “dropout” is defined as a student who leaves school for any reason, other than death, before graduation or completion of a program of studies and does not transfer to another school or institution. The S.C. Department of Education provides data<sup>39</sup> that show that males drop out at higher rates than females, and non-Whites drop out at the higher rates than Whites; non-White females drop out at the lowest rates.

In 2019-2020, for the state overall, the White non-Hispanic dropout rate was 1.4% of White non-Hispanic enrollment. The Black non-Hispanic dropout rate was 1.9% of Black non-Hispanic enrollment. The Hispanic dropout rate was 2.6% of Hispanic enrollment. The following table reports these data for the last three available years by race by Spartanburg County school district. In 2017, three of the seven school districts had higher non-White dropout rates compare to White dropout rates. In 2020, four of the seven school districts had higher non-White dropout rates compared to White dropout rates. *However, these differences are very small, and data are not disaggregated for Blacks and Hispanics, so characteristics of an equity gap cannot be easily ascertained.*

Dropouts by Race as Percentage of Enrollment by Race, Grades 9-12, by School District								
	2016-2017		2017-2018		2018-2019		2019-2020	
	White	Non-White	White	Non-White	White	Non-White	White	Non-White
Spartanburg 1	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.4	1	0.4	1.2	0.6
Spartanburg 2	1.8	1.5	1.8	2	0.9	1.2	0.8	0.8
Spartanburg 3	3.1	2.4	1.8	1.4	3.1	0.9	1.5	1.7
Spartanburg 4	2.5	1.9	3.0	1.4	1.1	1.8	3.6	3.9
Spartanburg 5	1.7	1.0	1.5	1	1.1	1.2	0.8	1.0
Spartanburg 6	1.4	2.0	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.0
Spartanburg 7	2.3	2.4	3.5	4.3	2.8	3.9	2.2	3.0

Source: SC Department of Education

## Teen Idleness

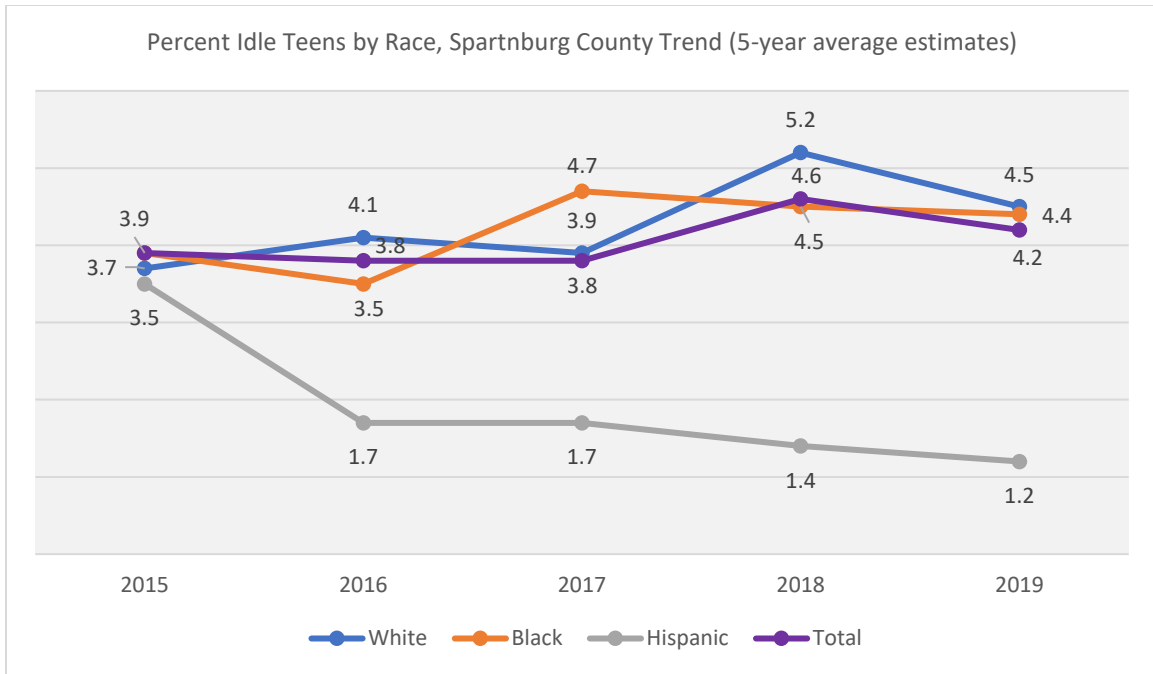
Teen idleness is a measure related to dropout. Because capturing dropouts is often difficult at the school and district levels, the U.S. Census “idleness” measure for teenagers – by definition, residents aged 15-19 who are not enrolled in school and not in the labor force – is often used as a proxy for school dropout.

Currently (2019) there are approximately 690 residents of Spartanburg County aged 15-19 who are not in school and not in the labor force. This includes approximately 453 White teens, 166 Black teens, and 19 Hispanic teens.

*Although the idleness rate was slightly lower for White and Black teens in 2016 compared to 2019, the equity gap narrowed in 2019.* However, these are small percentages and small differences with some variability, so caution should be used in interpretation. (Note that this measure is not available for the City of Spartanburg).

<sup>39</sup> SC Department of Education Dropout Data: <https://www.ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/school-safety/discipline-related-reports/dropout-data/>





Source: U.S. Census S0902

### Social Mobility Ranking for Colleges and Universities

The Social Mobility Index (SMI) produced by CollegeNet<sup>40</sup> measures the extent to which a college or university educates more economically disadvantaged students (with family incomes below the national median) at lower tuition, so they can graduate and obtain well-paying jobs. CollegeNET predicates the SMI on the belief that a primary driver of high college costs, and thereby restricted access, is pursuit of traditional institutional rankings and that “one way to stimulate change in higher education is to recast the competition for "prestige" around factors that improve access, affordability, and graduation, and that advance economic mobility for students”.

Changes in rankings from 2017 to 2020 for the four-year institutions in South Carolina are noted in the following table. Several of the state’s institutions moved up in the national rankings. Eight institutions are in the highest quartile, nationally, for social mobility for their graduates in 2020, compared to four in 2017. USC Upstate continues to be the local institution in the highest quartile, and it has moved from ranking 304<sup>th</sup> nationally to 164<sup>th</sup>.

<sup>40</sup> CollegeNet: <https://socialmobilityindex.org/>

2017	2020 Social Mobility Index Rankings for SC Four Year Colleges and Universities						
2017 Rank*	2020 Rank**	University / College	City	Tuition	% Low Income	Grad Score	Median early career salary
1305	102	Clafin University	Orangeburg	\$17,192	94.7	110.6	\$28,500
304	164	USC Upstate	Spartanburg	\$11,558	47.5	66.1	\$36,900
239	166	SC State University	Orangeburg	\$11,060	65.9	76	\$29,800
427	199	Vorhees College	Denmark	\$12,630	77.9	115.3	\$24,500
189	227	Francis Marion Univ	Florence	\$11,160	50.8	67.1	\$33,100
646	298	USC Aiken	Aiken	\$10,760	37.4	60.9	\$37,100
361	311	Lander University	Greenwood	\$11,700	41.1	64.5	\$34,200
366	340	Winthrop University	Rockhill	\$15,806	34.8	83.2	\$35,900
675	439	College of Charleston	Charleston	\$12,939	18.1	84.1	\$40,700
1137	438	Columbia College	Columbia	\$19,890	77.9	77.9	\$34,600
533	504	Citadel	Charleston	\$12,620	13.1	83.6	\$56,800
929	637	Coastal Carolina Univ	Conway	\$11,640	19.7	55.2	\$38,500
313	668	Newberry College	Newberry	\$27,400	42.1	67.1	\$36,900
763	680	University of SC	Columbia	\$12,688	14.1	84	\$44,900
559	693	Southern Wesleyan	Central	\$25,516	41.6	61	\$39,200
	698	North Greenville Univ	Tigerville	\$21,120	30.1	79.5	\$34,400
660	704	Converse College	Spartanburg	\$19,890	33.8	78.5	\$33,900
965	717	Benedict College	Columbia	\$16,600	81.4	42.8	\$25,400
474	727	Morris College	Sumter	\$14,326	89.4	42.9	\$23,600
449	783	Erskine College	Due West	\$36,510	42.1	81.6	\$37,400
607	851	Limestone College	Gaffney	\$26,300	44.1	47.3	\$37,400
1088	874	Coker University	Hartsville	\$30,196	44.9	72.8	\$32,800
1015	880	Columbia International	Columbia	\$24,400	37.9	99.3	\$29,900
1077	918	Charleston Southern	Charleston	\$26,000	35.2	52	\$36,900
723	922	Presbyterian College	Clinton	\$39,460	26.8	81.5	\$44,500
790	1049	Clemson University	Clemson	\$15,558	8.4	88.3	\$52,400
	1189	Allen University	Columbia	\$13,340	82.7	22	\$23,300
907	1252	Wofford College	Spartanburg	\$45,710	13.2	88.8	\$51,500
1321	1310	Anderson University	Anderson	\$29,230	17	64.5	\$35,200
1297	1374	Furman University	Greenville	\$50,844	11.1	92.2	\$51,200
First quartile			Second quartile			Third quartile	

\*rank of 1,363 U.S. 4-year institutions

\*\* rank of 1,449 U.S. 4-year institutions

Source: CollegeNet

## Indicator Area 6: Democracy and Inclusion

Inclusive communities fare much better across measures of wellbeing as all members are able to contribute their skills and perspectives in a meaningful way. Access to, and interaction with, key institutions are shaped by power balances in the social, political, and economic spheres. Limited access of one group over another, in terms of democratic and social voice, often leads to social exclusion and unequal opportunity to advance economically. As patterns of inequality reinforce each other through intergenerational transmission and formal and informal entrenchment, inequalities between groups and geographical regions become stark.

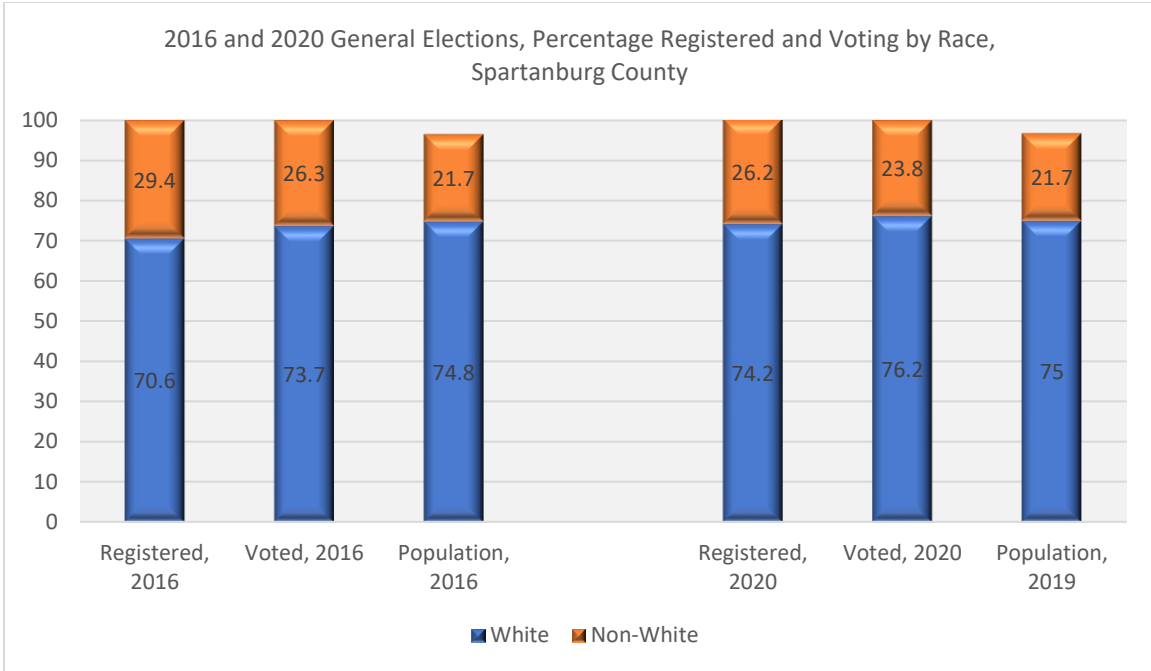
### Voting

Participation in the democratic process has long been more difficult for Blacks who have been thwarted by registration and voting restrictions, redistricting, and historic poll taxes, literacy tests, and Whites-only primaries. Voting policies that impact equity remain at the forefront of the national discourse today.

Voting patterns across the nation show that significantly larger percentages of registered voters turn out to vote in national election years. Data from the S.C. Election Commission<sup>41</sup> show that in the 2016 election in Spartanburg County, the non-White proportions of registered voters and actual voters were higher than the non-White portion of the county population. The opposite was true for the White population. In the 2020 election, although the proportions of Black registered voters and Black voters again exceeded the proportion of Black residents, the proportions had diminished while the proportions of White registered voters and voters had increased. *Still, broadly interpreted, there is no equity gap in Spartanburg County in voter registration or in voting (in national elections) when compared to population demographics.*

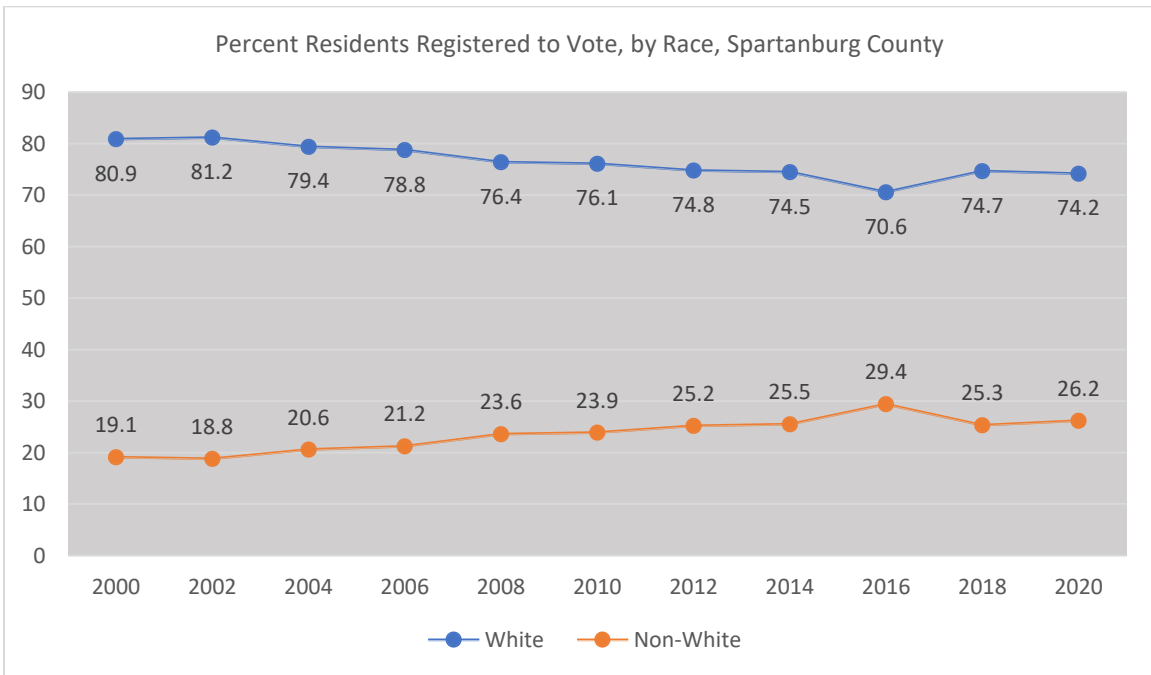
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<sup>41</sup> South Carolina Election Commission: <https://scvotes.gov/>



Source: SC Election Commission

The trend in voter registration has been positive over the last 20 years in terms of equity. Since 2016, the composition of residents registered to vote has decreased for Blacks and increased for Whites. Still, compared to the county population demographics, Blacks are slightly over represented and Whites are slightly underrepresented on this measure

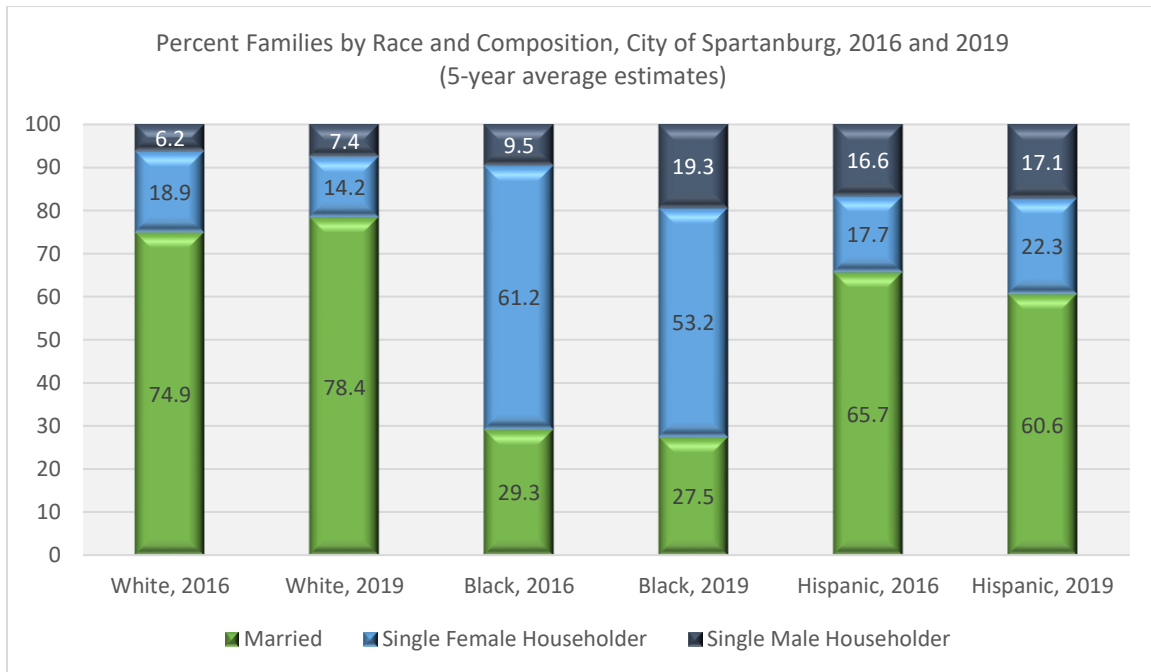


Source: SC Election Commission

## Family Composition

Family composition is a determinant of poverty and other social inequities. Regardless of race and ethnicity, married-couple families are at much lower risk of poverty than families headed by single females (see page 14 – Families in Poverty by Family Composition). Single female heads of household experience persistent gender-based wealth gaps, and families headed by single females are less resilient to unexpected financial shocks, less prepared for retirement and less able to help children achieve upward economic and social mobility.<sup>42</sup> In Spartanburg County, the City of Spartanburg, and in South Carolina on average, there are significant racial inequities in family composition. White families are much more likely to be headed by a married couple, compared to Black families.

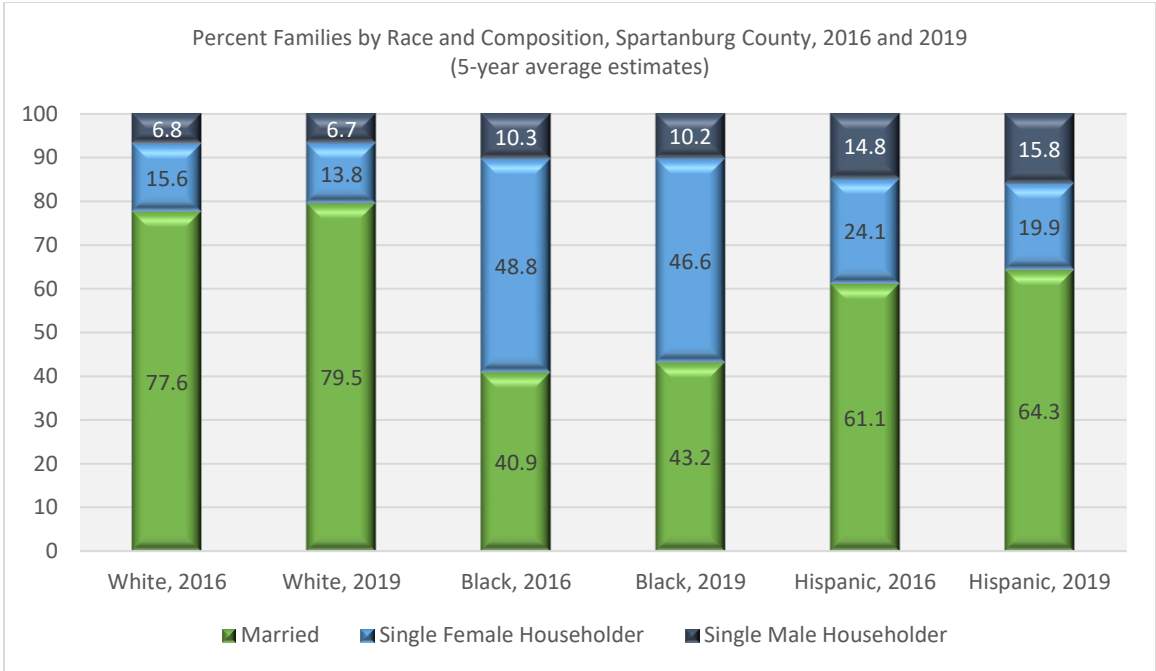
*In the City of Spartanburg from 2016 to 2019, the percentage of families headed by married couples increased for White families but decreased for Black families, indicating an increase in the equity gap for this measure. However, the percentage of families headed by single females also decreased for Black and White families.*



Source: US Census S1702

In Spartanburg County, the percentage of families headed by a married couple increased for both White and Black families. *There was a 2.4% increase in married couple families for White residents and a 5.6% increase in married couple families for Black residents, indicating a narrowing of the equity gap on this measure.*

<sup>42</sup> Ana Hernandez Kent and Lowell Ricketts (January 12, 2021). Gender Wealth Gap: Families Headed by Women Have Lower Wealth. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. <https://www.stlouisfed.org/publications/in-the-balance/2021/gender-wealth-gap-families-women-lower-wealth>



Source: US Census S1702

## Indicator Area 7: Criminal Justice

Criminal justice policy and social and economic mobility are inextricably tied. Nationally, Blacks experience disproportionate interactions with the criminal justice system at every level – arrests, detention, sentencing, and corrections. Reforming the criminal justice system by promoting positive learning environments helps ex-offenders reenter public life with skills to lead successful lives and to provide better opportunity for their children and families. Initiatives such as records expungement and helping offenders find stable housing reduces recidivism through reintegration and second chances to become productive citizens. Growing up in safe neighborhoods directly influences children’s future educational attainment, income, and contribution to society. Comprehensive school safety initiatives that forge partnerships between educators, law enforcement, and mental health providers ensure that students can learn in secure and positive environments that are gateways to opportunity — not pipelines to prison.

### School-to-Prison Pipeline

The School to Prison Pipeline refers to the policies and practices that directly and indirectly push students out of school and onto a pathway to prison. Zero tolerance policies that were implemented in the 1980s and 1990s, intended to keep school children safe, often require suspension, expulsion, or referrals to law enforcement as school disciplinary tactics. Over the years, these policies have slowly broadened their scope and now often include minor offenses such as dress code violations, insubordination, tardiness, and cursing. Zero tolerance policies establish a mandatory or predetermined punishment for certain behaviors without taking into consideration the situational context or mitigating factors. Suspensions skyrocketed after the implementation of zero tolerance policies as did referrals to police or the juvenile justice system, with Black students much more likely to be suspended or referred to police than White students.<sup>43</sup> These policies assume that the immediate removal of disruptive students will deter others from similar behavior and improve classroom harmony; however, research shows little evidence that zero tolerance policies improve school climate or discipline.<sup>44</sup> In fact, policies that remove students from the school environment are associated with lower academic performance, failure to graduate on time, increased probability of drop out, and increased probability of incarceration. A high school dropout is eight times more likely to be incarcerated than a high school graduate.<sup>45</sup>

The data reported through the District Report Cards as of school year 2020-2021, show significant numbers of students in Spartanburg County school districts are disciplined through in school suspension

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<sup>43</sup> Giroux, Henry A. Mis/Education and Zero Tolerance: Disposable Youth and the Politics of Domestic Militarization. *Boundary2: an international journal of literature and culture*, Volume 28(3) – Sept 1, 2001

<sup>44</sup> Dismantling the Cradle to Prison Pipeline: Preventing Pushouts in Mississippi Schools. <https://www.childrensdefense.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/dismantling-the-cpp.pdf>

<sup>45</sup> School or the Streets: Crime and America’s Drop Out Crisis: <https://alabamapartnershipforchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/School-or-the-Streets-Crime-and-Americas-Dropout-Crisis.pdf>

and out of school suspension. However, only seven students were expelled that school year, and none were arrested or referred to law enforcement from schools.

School Discipline Data, Spartanburg County School Districts, 2020-2021					
District	Enrollment	Students with in-school suspension	Students with out-of-school suspensions	Students expelled	School-related arrests and referrals to law enforcement
Spartanburg 1	5,047	148	188	3	0
Spartanburg 2	10,459	589	587	0	0
Spartanburg 3	2,629	282	198	0	0
Spartanburg 4	2,718	390	185	0	0
Spartanburg 5	9,028	469	415	2	0
Spartanburg 6	11,254	723	526	0	0
Spartanburg 7	7,052	477	517	2	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48,187</b>	<b>3,078</b>	<b>2,616</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>

Source: SC Department of Education District Report Cards

Data provided from school districts to the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR)<sup>46</sup> provides deeper understanding of school discipline at the district level and at the individual school level.

- Black
- Hispanic
- Other
- White

The most recent data release covers the 2016-2017 school year. The following chart shows significant disparities between enrollment demographics and school discipline by race for the 2016-2017 school year. Although White students (in blue) comprise larger shares of the school population, in almost all cases they comprise a relatively smaller portion of discipline. The opposite is true for Black students (in orange) who experience discipline at higher rates than they constitute in the school population.

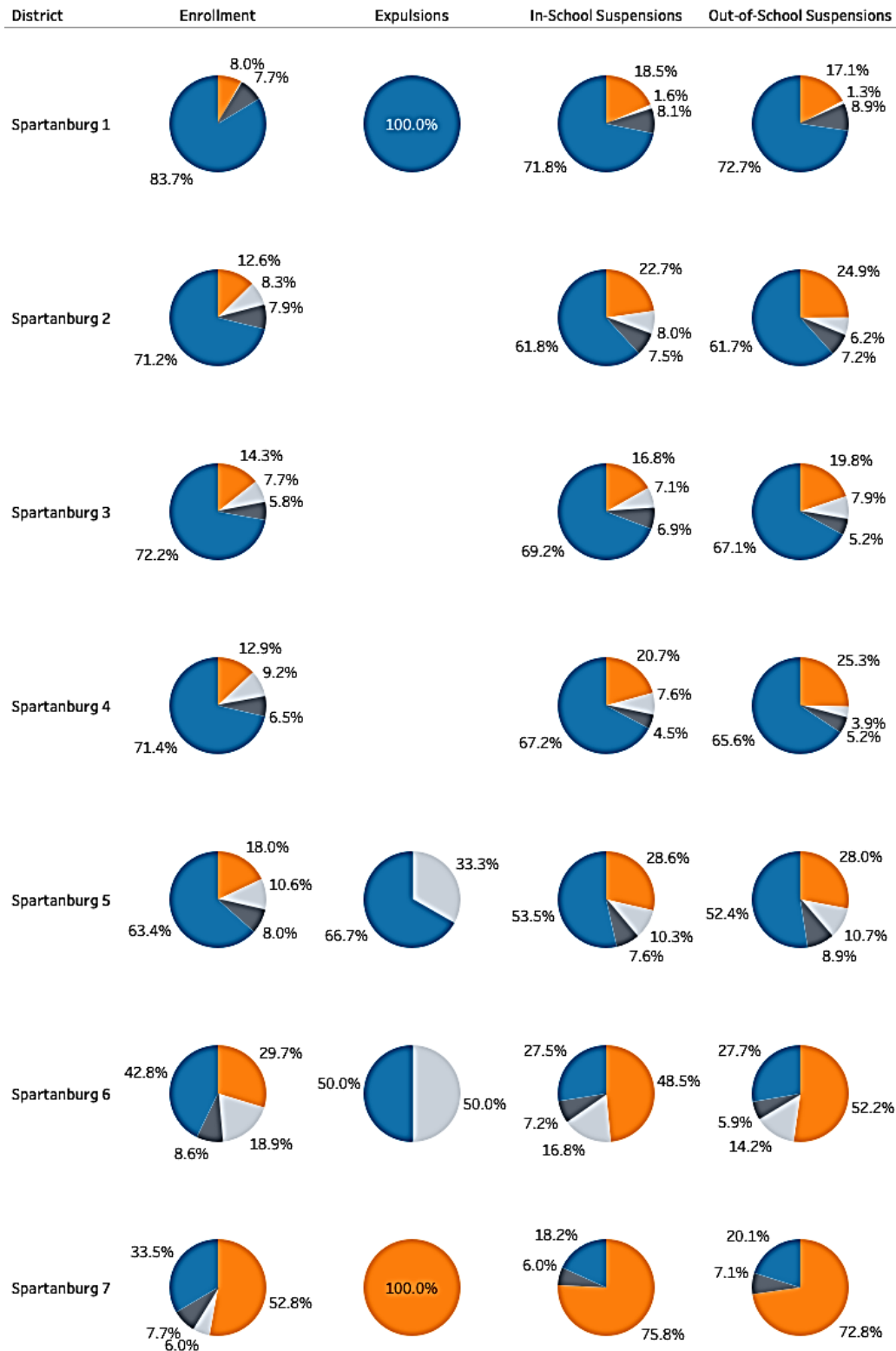
While it is difficult to establish direct causal links between school discipline and admission to correctional institutions, the literature is replete with research that strongly suggests a correlation between school discipline and the likelihood of dropping out, arrests, and incarceration. Thus, in terms of suspensions and expulsions, these district-level data do predict the idea of a school-to-prison pipeline for Spartanburg County.

The same data from 2011 are also provided and also show that Black students bear a disproportionate share of disciplinary actions. *Given the complexity of these data, overall change is an equity gap from 2011 to 2017 on this measure is not evident.*

<sup>46</sup> Civil Rights Data Collection: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/data.html>

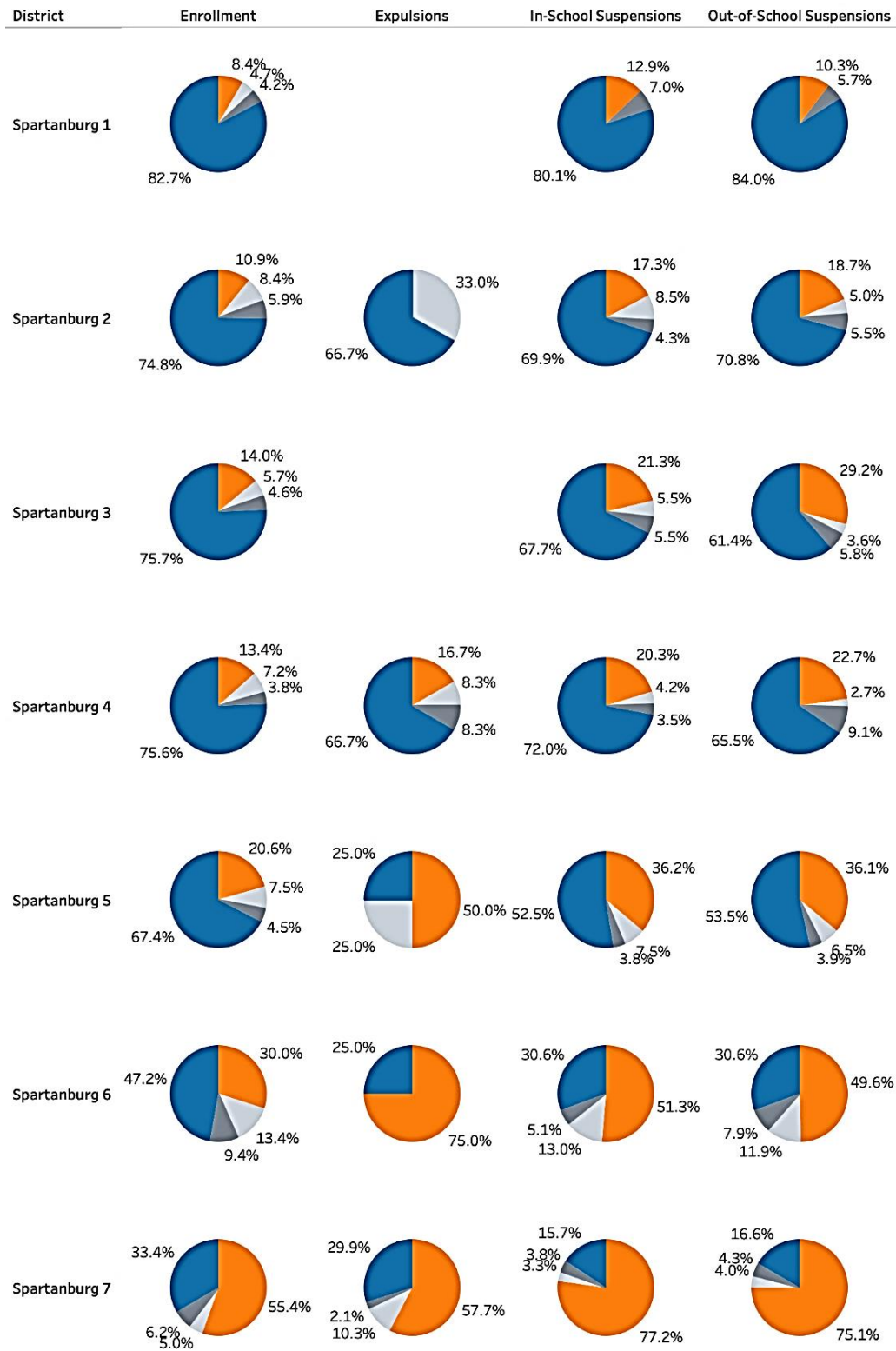


### School Discipline Data by Race, Spartanburg County School Districts, 2017



Data source: US DOE Office of Civil Rights

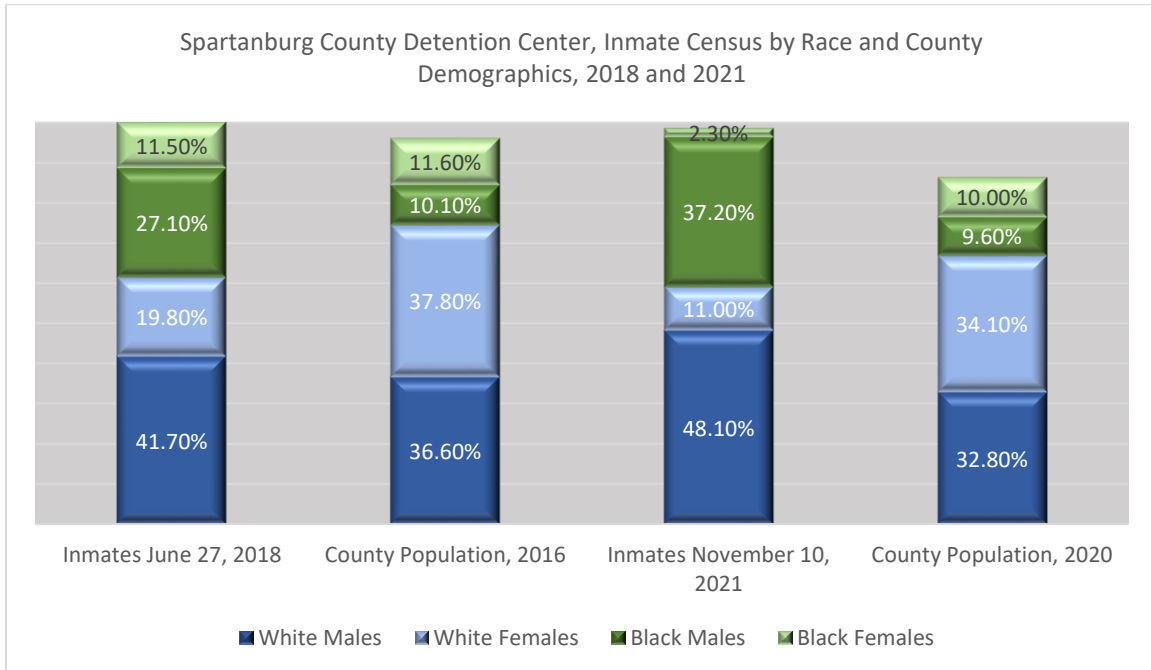
## School Discipline Data by Race, Spartanburg County School Districts, 2011



Data source: US DOE Office of Civil Rights

## Arrests and Detention

Although arrest data by race is not publicly available for Spartanburg County, point-in-time snapshots on two given days (June 27, 2018 and November 10, 2021) of Spartanburg County Detention Center inmate census showed that, in comparison to the county population, White males and Black males are over represented in the inmate population. Although comparisons aren't exact due to numerous factors, *it is clear that the equity gap between Black males and White males in detention in Spartanburg County is not narrowing.*



Source: Spartanburg County Detention Center, US Census 2020 redistricting data P1

## Incarceration and Corrections

Although the U.S. comprises only about 5% of the global population, it has nearly 25% of the world's prison population.<sup>47</sup> Mass incarcerations does not touch all communities equally. Blacks are incarcerated at more than 5 times the rate of Whites,<sup>48</sup> and Black men are 6 times as likely to be incarcerated as White men.

At any given time in 2018, there were approximately 38,000 South Carolina residents confined in various correctional facilities across the state, constituting a rate of 754 inmates per 100,000 population.<sup>49</sup> Of the 19,033 prisoners under state or federal correctional authorities in South Carolina as of December 31,

<sup>47</sup> Giroux, Henry A. Mis/Education and Zero Tolerance: Disposable Youth and the Politics of Domestic Militarization. Boundary2: an international journal of literature and culture, Volume 28(3) – Sept 1, 2001

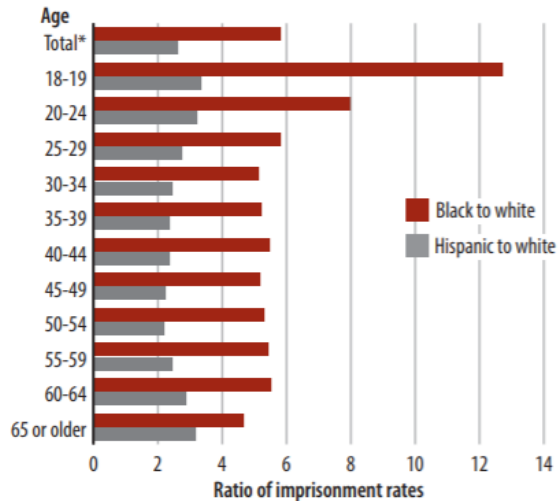
<sup>48</sup> PrisonPolicy.org: <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/>

<sup>49</sup> PrisonPolicy.org: <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/>

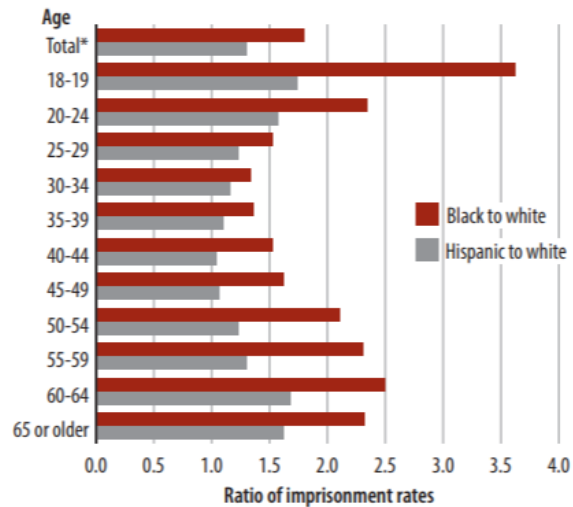
2018, 11.9% were White, 59.6% were Black, and 2.4% were Hispanic,<sup>50</sup> demonstrating extreme disparity by race compared to the state’s population demographics. The following graphics demonstrate these racial disparities by age for males and females in South Carolina.

### Racial Disparities in Imprisonment Rates by Age, South Carolina, 2018

**Ratio of imprisonment rates of black and Hispanic males to white males under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities, by age, 2018**



**Ratio of imprisonment rates of black and Hispanic females to white females under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities, by age, 2018**



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Although Spartanburg County and City residents were not extracted from the South Carolina corrections population for this report, it can be inferred from the data above that a significant equity gap remains in the corrections population for county and city residents.

<sup>50</sup> E. Ann Carson (October 2020). Prisoners in 2019. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. NCJ255115. <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/p19.pdf>

## Indicator Area 8: Environment

A growing body of evidence shows that low-income people and People of Color have borne greater risk to their health and wellbeing because of differential enforcement of environmental rules and regulations and because of the intentional or unintentional targeting of minority communities for the siting of polluting industries and toxic waste disposal. In addition, urban minority communities frequently have fewer or lower quality parks, green spaces, and other safe recreational amenities. Much of this is attributable to historic racism in local policies, formal or informal. Redlining, the systematic denial of various services to residents of specific communities, has resulted in a dearth of necessary services such as banking, health care, and grocery stores. Most communities have a long history of policies that support, or at least fail to address, these forms of environmental racism. These policies have resulted in ongoing marginalizing of low-income neighborhoods and neighborhoods of color.

When environmental conditions inhibit opportunities for physical activity and social cohesion, contribute to disease, or cause further vulnerability for already at-risk populations, social and economic mobility is diminished.

### Food Environment Index

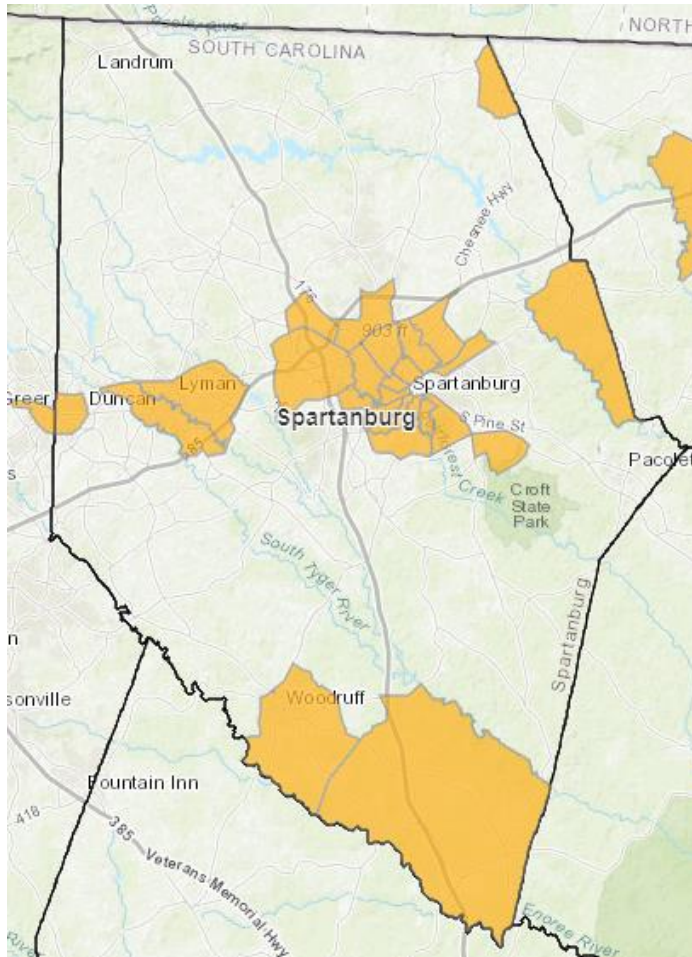
The Food Environment Index, reported annually by the County Health Rankings, ranges from 0 (worst) to 10 (best) and equally weights two indicators of the food environment:

- Limited access to healthy foods: the percentage of the population that is low income and does not live close to a grocery store.
- Food insecurity: the percentage of the population that did not have access to a reliable source of food during the past year.

Although the data are not disaggregated by race, low-income people and People of Color are generally the most at-risk populations for food insecurity and limited access to healthy foods.

Spartanburg County's 2021 Food Environment Index rating is 7.5, an improvement from the 2016 rating of 6.5. In fact, Spartanburg County had a worse Food Environment Index score than the state average of 6.8 in 2016, but now scores better than the 2021 state average of 6.7 in 2021.

Food Environment Index Data, Spartanburg County		
	2016	2021
Food Environment Index Rating	6.5	7.5
• Limited access to food	13%	14%
• Food insecurity	15%	11%



### Food Deserts

Food deserts, a component measure of food insecurity, is defined as at least 500 people and / or at least 33% of a census tract's population residing more than a mile from a supermarket or large grocery store (more than 10 miles for rural census tracts). Out of the 69 census tracts in Spartanburg County, 22 are classified as food deserts.<sup>51</sup>

### Lead Exposure

Childhood lead poisoning is considered the most preventable environmental disease among young children, yet approximately 500,000 U.S. children have blood levels higher than the acceptable standard of 5 micrograms per deciliter (> 5µg/dL). Because their organs and tissues are rapidly developing, and because they tend to have more exposure to potential sources of lead, children are most at risk for lead poisoning. Lead affects the neurological system, and exposure can cause cognitive impairment. Lead poisoning can cause coma, seizures, and death.

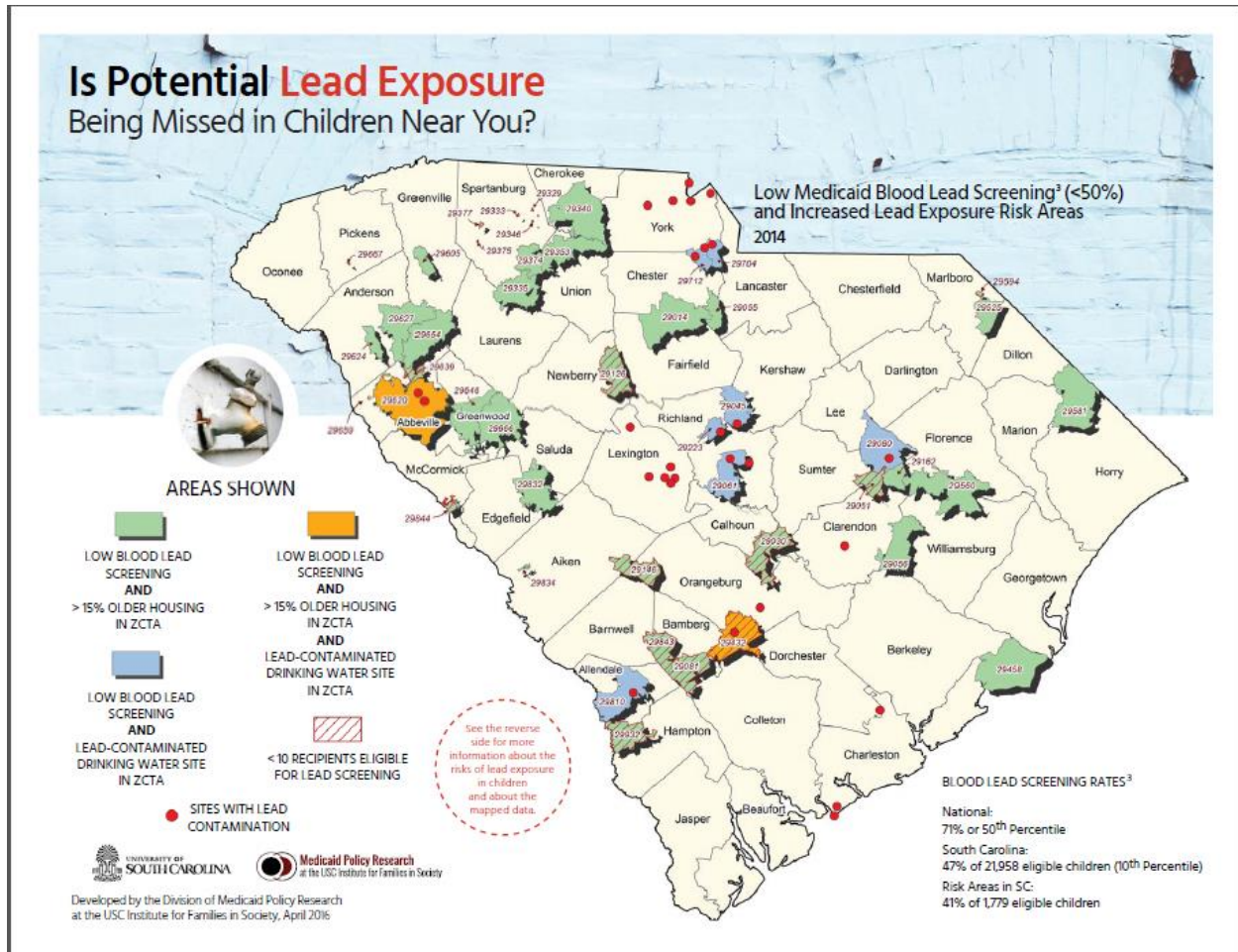
Children who grow up in low income and minority communities are at significantly higher risk for lead exposure since these communities frequently have many older and unsafe homes, often contaminated by

<sup>51</sup> SC DHEC Food Desert Maps: <https://gis.dhec.sc.gov/fooddesert/>



lead paint and other sources of lead. A recent study by SC DHEC<sup>52</sup> confirmed that South Carolina mirrors national findings for elevated pediatric lead levels –Black children and Hispanic children have significantly higher levels.

The following infographic identifies Spartanburg County as a county of concern, given areas of low blood screening and older homes.



Source: SC HealthViz

<sup>52</sup> SC DHEC Demographics and Blood Levels Fact Sheet, SC DHEC: <https://www.scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/Library/CR-011906.pdf>

If you notice a fish floating belly-up on the top of a lake, you wonder what happened to the fish. If you notice 1,000 fish floating belly-up on top of the lake, you wonder what's wrong with the lake.

If you clean the water in the lake and make sure it is healthy, but another 1,000 fish die, you know that there is a groundwater problem – the poisoning is happening from far below. It is a system problem.