2019 Equality Index:

State of Black Kansas City

Developed for

The Urban League of Greater Kansas City

by

University of Missouri - Kansas City

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OVERVIEW

The Equality Index

The 2019 Kansas City Equality Index is the fifth expansion of research comparing black and white Kansas City residents, which began with the *2006 State of Black Kansas City Equality Index.*

The index follows a methodology used by the National Urban League in its most recent Equality Index publication.[1] This method compares the value of indicators in several categories for black residents of the Kansas City Metro Region with the value of the same indicators for white residents of Kansas City. The index uses data from the five most populous counties of the Kansas City Metro Area (Clay, Jackson and Platte in Missouri, and Johnson and Wyandotte in Kansas).

The basic idea for the index is to examine variables that indicate the conditions of minority populations relative to the values of their white counterparts. If the numbers for minority residents are the same as those for their white counterparts, then the Equality Index equals 100. When minority residents fare worse than white residents do, the Equality Index is less than 100, and when minority residents fare better than white residents do, the index is greater than 100.

There are five major categories of indicators, each of which is assigned a relative importance to be used in calculating the overall Index of Equality. The relative importance is reflected in a weight. The five major categories and their respective weights are displayed in Figure 1.

For each of these major categories, a sub-index is calculated. The same method is used to calculate each sub-index, with a value of 100 meaning that the minority population is faring the same as the white population.


Figure 1. Components of the Equality Index
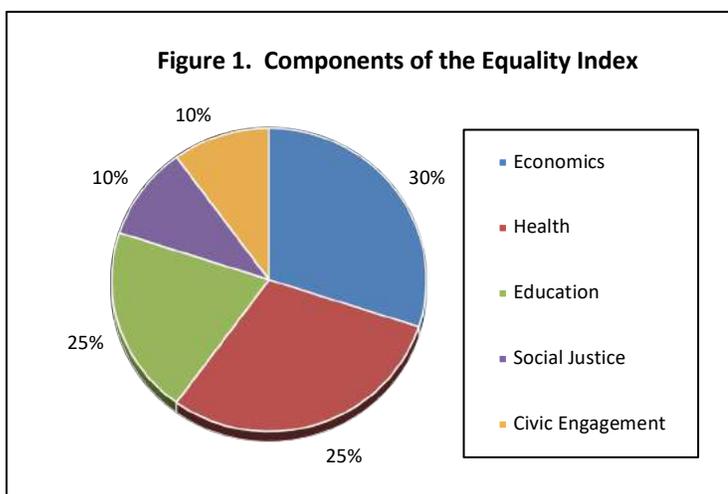
Each of the five sub-indices is in turn based on several sub-categories. For example, there are six sub-categories used to arrive at the Economics Sub-index (Median Income, Poverty, Employment Issues, Housing and Wealth, the Digital Divide, and Transportation). Finally, each of these sub-categories is based on one or more individual variables. An overview of the components of the Equality Index is displayed in Figure 2.

Several changes occurred over time in the design of the national index. Weights given to some categories were changed, and some variables were added and subtracted. These adjustments have not seemed to

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[1] National Urban League. (2018). *State of Black America 2018© Save our Cities: Powering the Digital Revolution.* Author. http://soba.iamempowered.com/sites/soba.iamempowered.com/files/SOBA2019-Black-White%20Index.pdf

change the result in the national index. Corresponding changes were also made to the Kansas City Equality Index.

Figure 2. Overview of the Components of the Equality Index

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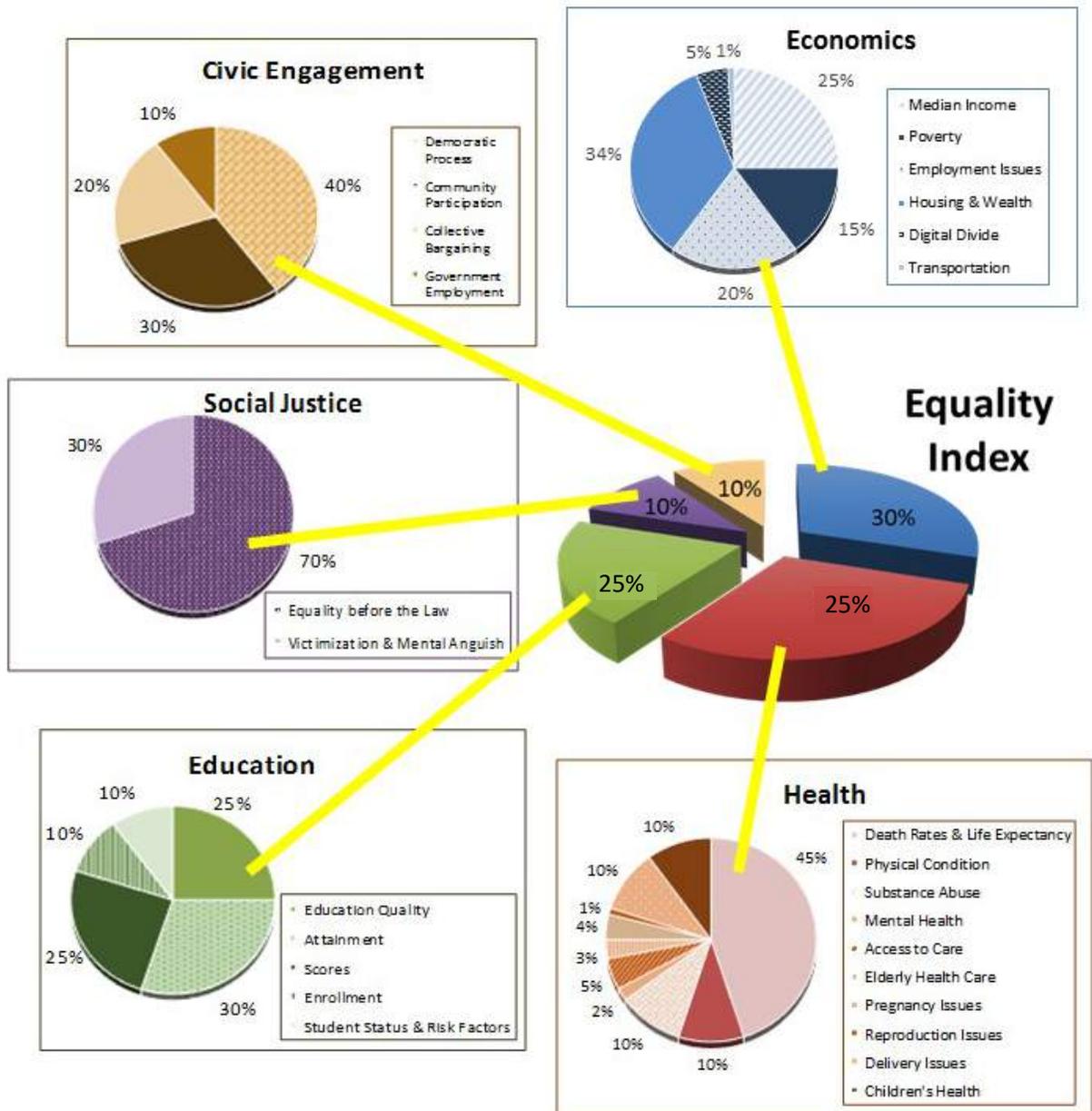
The Data Collection Area

The geographic coverage of the Kansas City Equality Index has expanded in 2019. The first index (2006) used data from only Jackson County, Missouri and Wyandotte County, Kansas. The current index uses data from the five most populous counties of the Kansas City Metropolitan Area: Clay, Jackson and Platte in Missouri, and Johnson and Wyandotte in Kansas. The county population numbers are used to calculate a weighted average for each indicator used in the analysis, with the weights consisting of the percentage of the black population living in each county.

The Kansas City Metropolitan Statistical Area (KCMSA) consists of 14 counties. According to the Census Bureau's 5-year Estimates for the period 2013–2017, the total population was 2,088,380. Overall, 84% of the KCMSA population is concentrated in the five largest counties (Clay, Jackson and Platte in Missouri, and Johnson and Wyandotte in Kansas).

Because the vast majority of minority populations live in the five most populous counties, we have restricted ourselves to data from these counties in the calculation of the Black Equality Index. Table 1 presents a tabulation of the Kansas City population by county and by racial/ethnic combinations. The shaded cells signify the populations that are included in the calculation of most of the Equality Indices, sub-indices, and components.

| Table 1: Fifteen-County Kansas City Population by Race/Ethnicity						
COUNTY	White Non-Hispanic	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	5-County Area	Other*	All Races / Ethnicities
Jackson (MO)	431,411	161,236	60,846	653,493	35,061	688,554
Clay (MO)	193,763	13,210	15,590	222,563	13,505	236,068
Platte (MO)	79,450	6,347	5,601	91,398	5,501	96,899
Wyandotte (KS)	67,848	37,030	45,791	150,669	12,558	163,227
Johnson (KS)	466,059	26,035	43,057	535,151	43,646	578,797
5-County Area	1,238,531	243,858	170,885	1,653,274	110,271	1,763,545
Other 9 KCMSA Counties*	287,650	12,665	13,293	313,608	11,677	325,285
14-County Area*	1,526,181	256,523	184,178	1,966,882	121,948	2,088,830
* NOTE: In February 2013, the MSA changed from a 15-county area to 14 after Franklin County, KS was dropped.						
Source: ACS 2017 5-Year Estimates						
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5-County Area	1,238,531	243,858	170,885	1,653,274	110,271	1,763,545
Other 10 KCMSA Counties**	310,939	13,053	14,337	338,329	12,555	350,884
15-County Area**	1,549,470	256,911	185,222	1,991,603	122,826	2,114,429
** NOTE: In February 2013, the MSA changed from a 15-county area to 14 after Franklin County, KS was dropped. This table however includes the population estimate of Franklin County to compare directly with Table 1 of the "2015 Equality Index: State of Black Kansas City."						
Source: ACS 2017 5-Year Estimates						

Comparisons of Kansas City and National Equality Indices

The Black Equality Index for Kansas City can be compared to the National Equality Indices. The Black Equality Index in the left columns of Figure 3 depict the 2019 State of Black Kansas City and the 2018 State of Black

America. According to the Equality Index, the black population of Kansas City and the United States are not faring as well as their white (or non-Hispanic white) counterparts in Kansas City.

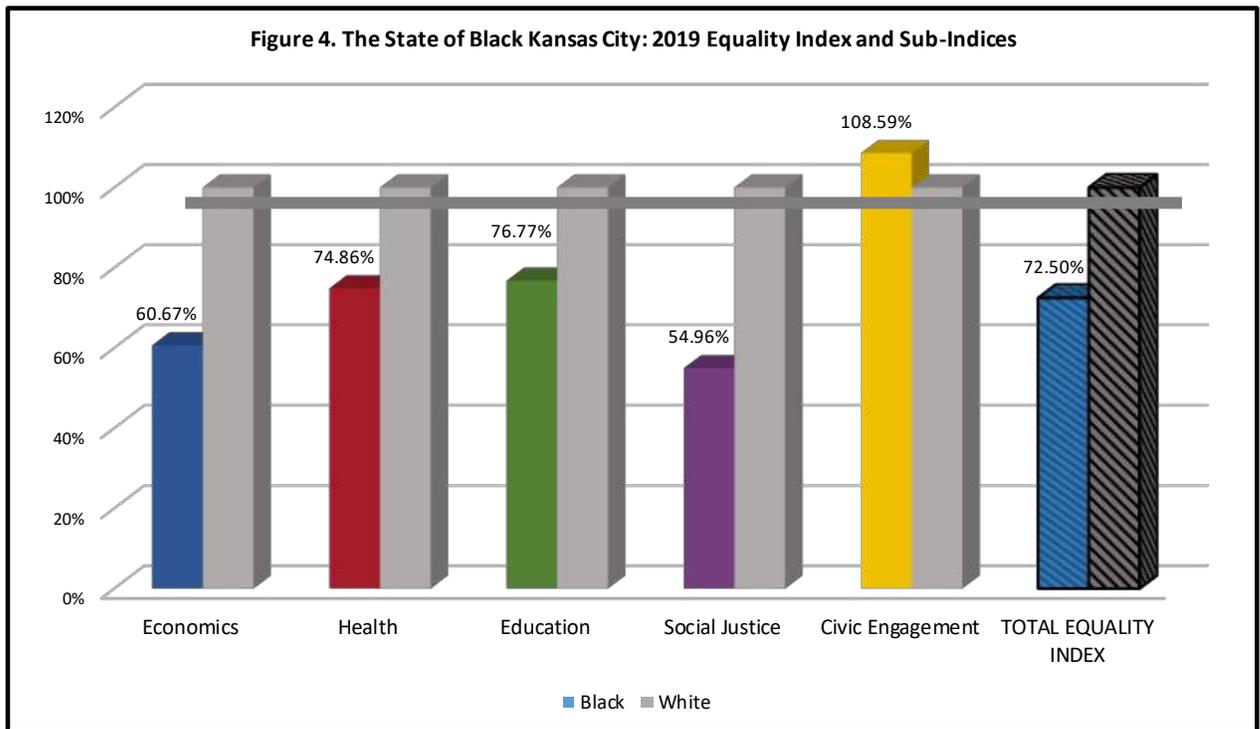**Figure 3. 2019 Kansas City Black Equality Index and 2018 National Equality Index**
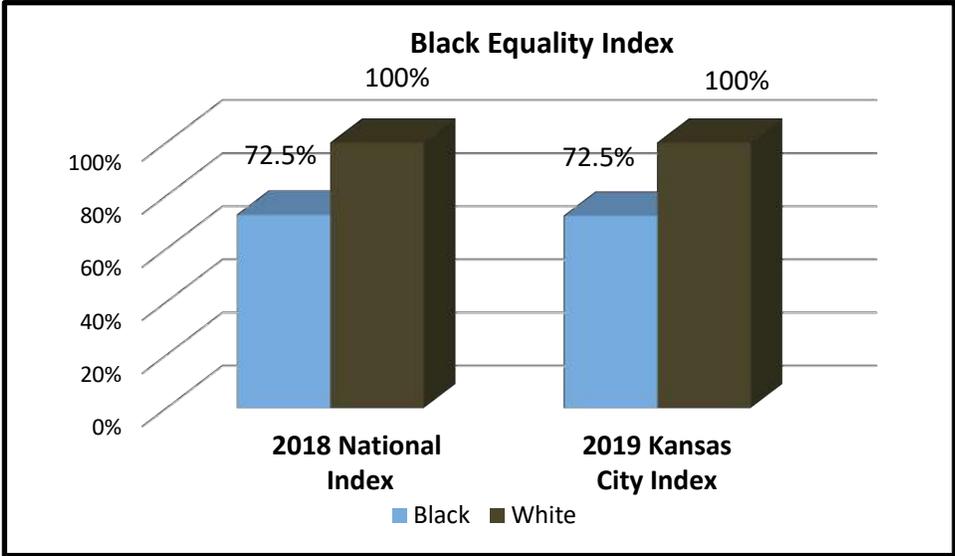
The Black Equality Indices have **decreased slightly since 2006.** The National Black Equality Index value was **73.0%** in 2005 and is **72.5%** in 2019. The Kansas City Black Equality Index value was **73.0%** in 2006 and is **72.5%** in 2019. **The inequality gaps between black people and white people in the Kansas City Metro Area has remained the same over the past 12 years**.

The sub-indices provide more information about the areas that increase and decrease the Equality Index. Table 2 displays the sub-index values for both the black and Hispanic populations of Kansas City and the nation. For the black populations of both Kansas City and the United States, the Economic and Social Justice Sub-indices are lowest (60.7% and 55.0%). The Civic Engagement Sub-index is above 100%, which suggests that black people are more engaged in the political process than their white counterparts are.

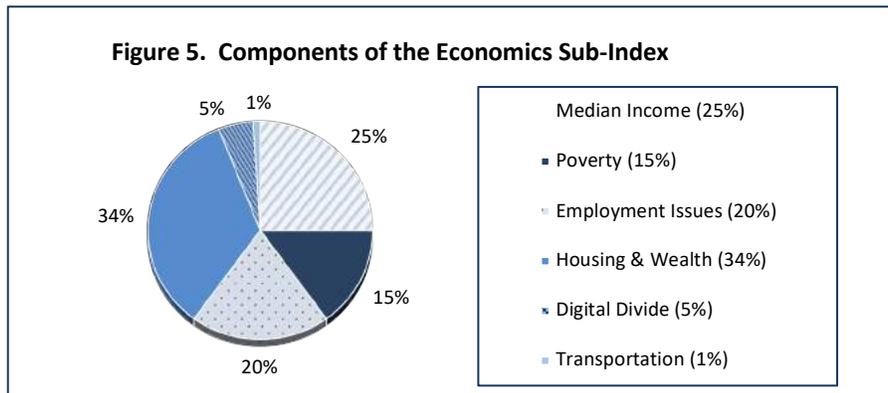| Table 2. Comparison of 2019 State of Black Kansas City Equality Index and 2018 National Urban League Equality Index		
	Black Equality Index	
Sub-Index	**2019 Kansas City**	**2018 United States**
Economics	60.7%	58.0%
Health	74.9%	79.3%
Education	76.8%	78.5%
Social Justice	55.0%	55.9%
Civic Engagement	108.6%	99.7%
TOTAL EQUALITY INDEX	**72.5%**	**72.5%**

THE 2019 KANSAS CITY BLACK EQUALITY INDEX

The Equality Index was developed as a compilation of information in five areas, as discussed in the Overview to this report. The importance and weight of each area was established by the National Urban League in their calculation of the National 2018 Equality Index, which we employed to calculate the 2019 Equality Index for the black Kansas City population. These are the areas of the sub-indices and their weights: Economics (30%), Health (25%), Education (25%), Social Justice (10%), and Civic Engagement (10%). The 2019 Equality Index and five sub-indices are presented for the Black Kansas City population in Figure 4, based on information from the five most populous counties (Jackson, Clay and Platte Counties in Missouri, and Wyandotte and Johnson in Kansas). As shown in the figure, the black population in Kansas City is performing much more poorly than the white population in the Kansas City Metro Region, with the exception of the Civic Engagement Sub-index. Note that the bar for the white population is 100% for each index, with the white population in the region serving as the control to which the black population is compared.

Figure 4. The State of Black Kansas City: 2019 Equality Index and Sub-Indices

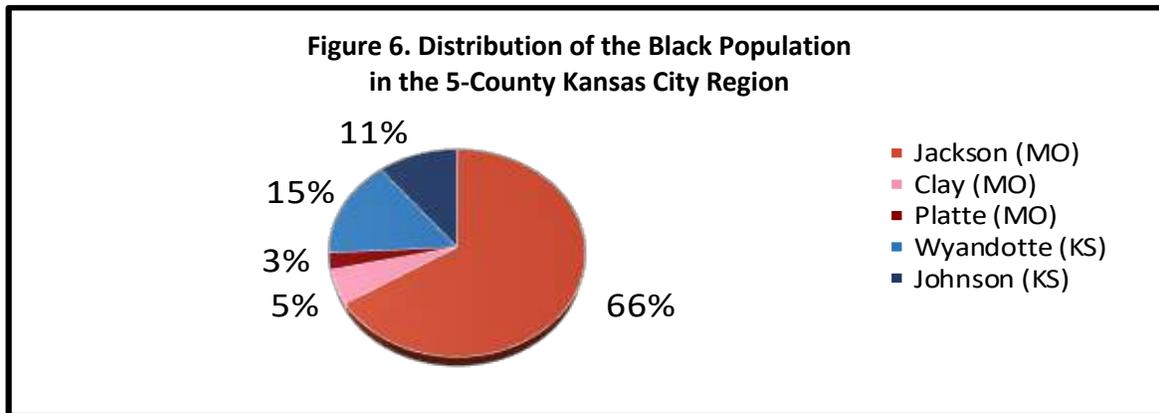| Category	Black	White
Economics	60.67%	100%
Health	74.86%	100%
Education	76.77%	100%
Social Justice	54.96%	100%
Civic Engagement	108.59%	100%
TOTAL EQUALITY INDEX	72.50%	100%

The sub-index for each of the areas is composed of multiple components. We use the weights utilized by the National Urban League in their 2018 Equality Index applied to the Kansas City Metro region. The following analysis presents descriptive information about each sub-index of the 2019 Kansas City Black Equality Index and its contribution to the Equality Index.

ECONOMICS – 30% OF THE EQUALITY INDEX

The economics portion of the Equality Index has six components. Each component has a different weight used for the calculation of the overall Economics Sub-index. Figure 5 displays the components of the Economics Sub-index and their respective weights.

Figure 5. Components of the Economics Sub-Index

- Median Income (25%)
- Poverty (15%)
- Employment Issues (20%)
- Housing & Wealth (34%)
- Digital Divide (5%)
- Transportation (1%)

It is also important to remember that the black population of Kansas City is concentrated in Jackson County (see the distribution of the black population in Figure 6. When calculating regional values for the various indices, the county value is given the weight of the proportion of the black population in that particular county.

Figure 6. Distribution of the Black Population in the 5-County Kansas City Region

- Jackson (MO)
- Clay (MO)
- Platte (MO)
- Wyandotte (KS)
- Johnson (KS)

In the Kansas City region, the Economics Sub-index of the Black Equality Index for **2019 is 60.7%.** The Economic Sub-index in 2015 was **57.3%.** However, Figure 7 illustrates the fact that black economic conditions are worse than the economic conditions of whites across all the contributing factors, particularly with regard to the Housing & Wealth and Poverty measures.

Figure 7. Contributing Factors to the Black Economics Sub-Index
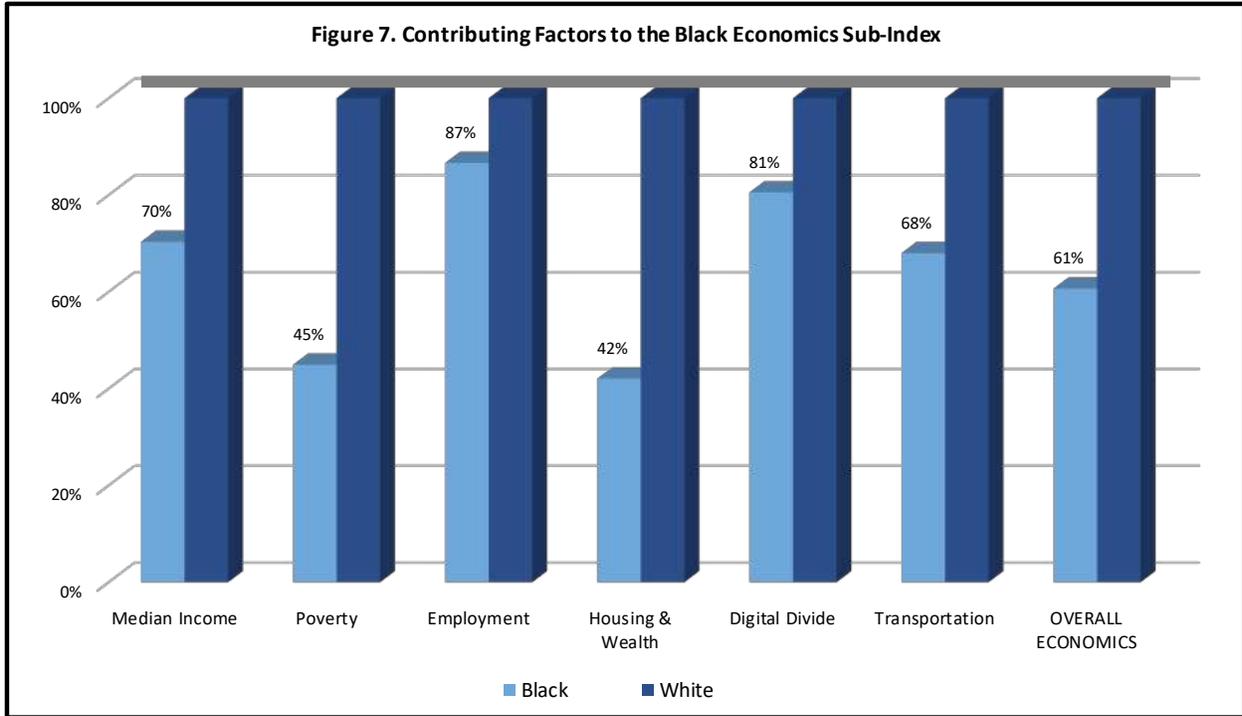
The value of the Economics Sub-index has not changed substantively between 2006 and 2019. Table 3 shows the values for this sub-index in past iterations for both the Kansas City region and nationally in the years that Kansas City results were published. The Economics Sub-index for Black Kansas City had remained constant from 2006 to 2015 at 57% but increased to 61% in 2019. Table 3 shows the values for this sub-index in past iterations for both the Kansas City region and nationally in the years that Kansas City results were published. It is abundantly clear that the Economics Sub-index for Black Kansas City showed **no progress** from 2006 to 2015. From 2015 to 2019, the Economics Sub-index increased from 57% to 61%, but it shows that blacks are still far below their white counterparts in 2019.

Table 3. Black Economics Sub-Index Value over Time		
Index Year	**Kansas City**	**National**
2006	57%	56%
2007	57%	57%
2008	57%	57%
2010	53%	57%
2014		56%
2015	57%	
2018		58%
2019	61%	

Key Economics Variables

There are a number of key variables in the Economic Sub-index that highlight the little progress black people have made economically. There are four key weights in the Economic Sub-index that highlight the poor economic conditions of the black community. They are (1) Median Household Income, (2) Median Net Worth of Households, (3) Poverty Rate, and (4) Rate of Home Ownership.

Figure 8 displays a comparison between the black and white populations of the five-county Kansas City area for these variables. Black median household income is only 54% compared to whites in 2019, a decrease of 1% from 2015.

Median Net Worth of Black Households in 2019 is only 10% compared to their white counterparts. The poverty rate for black people is 200% more compared to their white counterparts. The home ownership rate of black people is only 56% compared to their

Figure 8. Key Variables of the Black Economics Sub-index

white counterparts. This is a drop of 9% from 2015 levels. The Kansas City real estate market has expanded from 2015 to 2019. Yet, black people have not been the beneficiary of a booming real estate market in the region. Black home ownership increased only 4.8% during that period, while white home ownership rates have increased 21.3%.
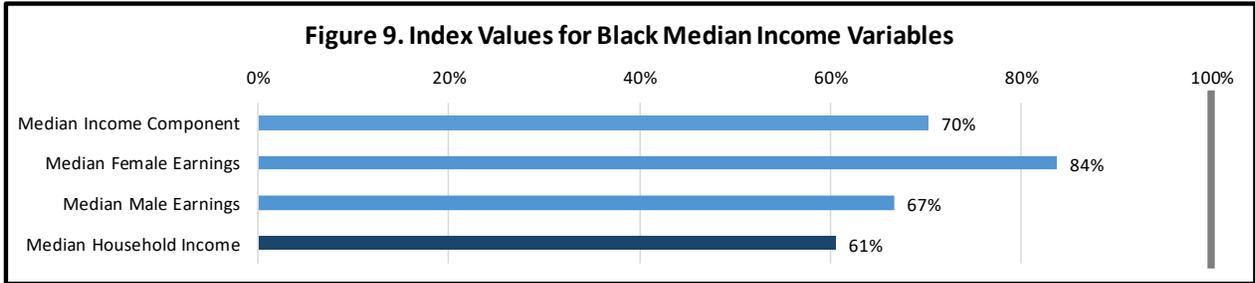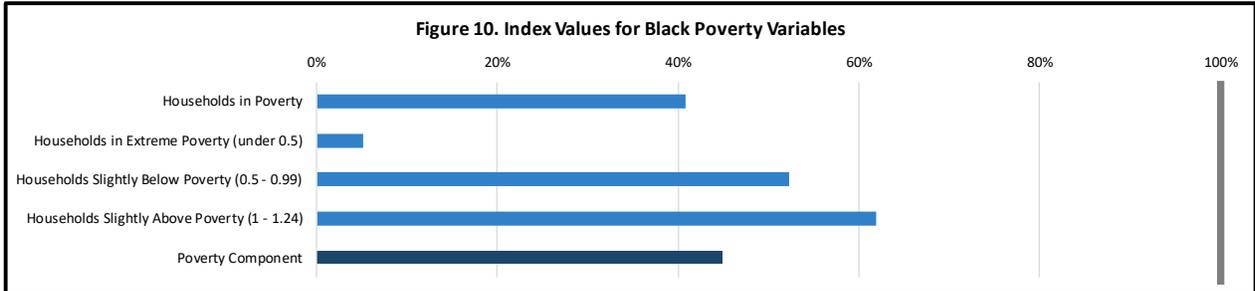
Components of the Economics Sub-index

The following sections examine each of the six components of the Economics Sub-index in more detail. The Index Tables contained in Appendix A display the county-by-county distribution of these variables.

Median Income (25% of the Economics Sub-index). There are three variables that are equally weighted in calculating the Median Income component of the Economics Sub-index: Median Household Income, Median Male Earnings, and Median Female Earnings. For black men, the Median Earnings are 67% compared to their white counterparts, a decrease of 10% from 2015. For black women, the Median Earnings were 84% compared to their white counterparts, an increase of 4% compared to 2015. The Median Income Index was 70%, a decrease of 1% compared to 2015. Median Household Income was 61%, an increase of 6% compared to 2015. The overall value for the Median Income Index in the Economics Sub-index is **70.0%**. Figure 9 shows the index values for Black Median Income.

Figure 9. Index Values for Black Median Income Variables

Median Income Component	70%
Median Female Earnings	84%
Median Male Earnings	67%
Median Household Income	61%

Poverty (15% of the Economics Sub-index). There are four variables that enter into the calculation of the Poverty component of the Economics Sub-index. The Overall Poverty Rate (percentage of households below the poverty line) of white households relative to that of black households accounts for 60% of the value of the Poverty element. The remaining 40% comes from the ratio of percentage of white to percentage of black households in the three lowest categories of income relative to the poverty line.

Because higher poverty numbers reflect a worse economic condition, we look at the percentage of white households in poverty divided by the percentage of black households in poverty to get a number that grows when things become more equal. Figure 10 shows the results of the poverty calculations. The Poverty Index is **44.9% in 2019**. In comparing this to the Median Income component of **70.5%**, the negative contribution of the poverty component becomes clear. The Poverty Index brings the Economics Sub-index down. Especially alarming is the index value of 52.0% for the Households Slightly Below Poverty component and the index value of 5.0% for Households in Extreme Poverty component. This means that the percentage of Black households in poverty and extreme poverty is substantially higher than the percentage of white households in those two categories.

Figure 10. Index Values for Black Poverty Variables

Households in Poverty	
Households in Extreme Poverty (under 0.5)	
Households Slightly Below Poverty (0.5 - 0.99)	
Households Slightly Above Poverty (1 - 1.24)	
Poverty Component	

Employment Issues (20% of the Economics Sub-index). Five variables enter into the calculation of the Employment Issues element of the Economics Sub-index, each one designed to capture a specific

employment issue. The first two speak to availability of jobs, and so they capture both macroeconomic effects and the suitability of the skill set of black workers relative to the skill set of whites. Labor Force Participation speaks to engagement in the economy. A person who is either working or looking for work is a labor force participant. The Percentage of the Population Not in the Workforce speaks to the health and the age distribution of the Black population over 16, relative to the white population over 16. The Employment to Population Ratio measures the proportion of the working age population that is employed within black versus white populations. For the first three of these variables, higher numbers imply worse economic conditions, so the variables enter as the ratio of white to black. For the last two variables, higher numbers imply better economic conditions (higher engagement or lower dependence), so the variables enter as the ratio of black to white.
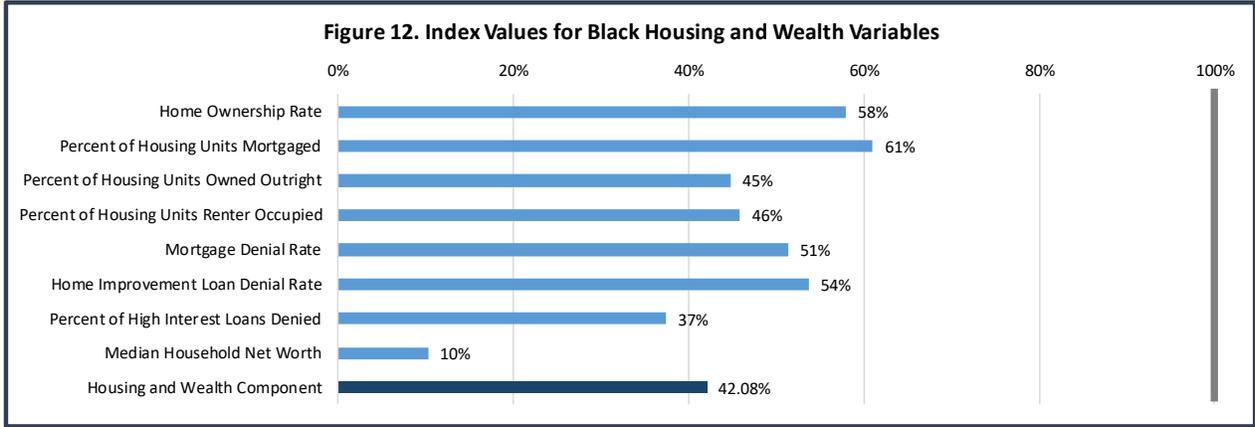
Figure 11 summarizes the results for employment issues. There are substantial differences between the values for the different variables that enter into the overall Employment Issues component index of **86.6% in 2019 compared to 72.2% in 2015**. For both black men and women, the Civilian Unemployment Rates for black people are substantially higher that the rate for whites. However, the Labor Force Participation rate for black people increased from **96%** of the Labor Force Participation rate for whites **in 2015 to 123.6% in 2019**. The Employment to Population component increased from **89% in 2015 to 123.7% in 2019.** Clearly, the major difference between employment issues of whites and blacks is the high unemployment rate of Blacks.

Figure 11. Index Values for Black Employment Issues Variables
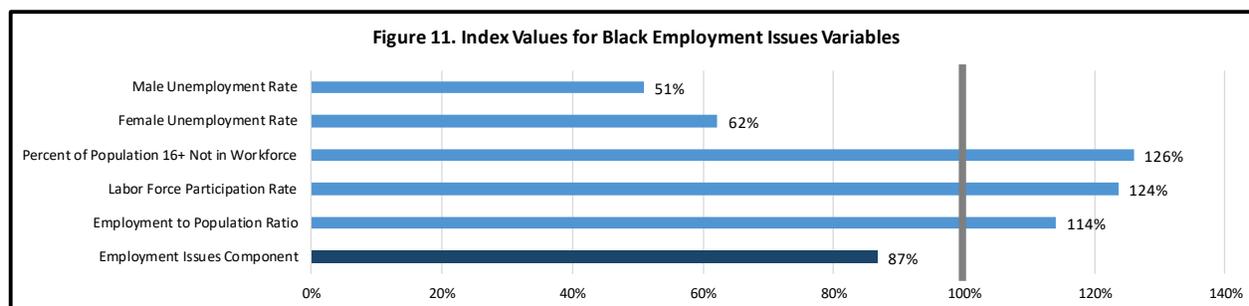
Housing and Wealth (34% of the Economics Sub-index). Each of eight variables in the Housing and Wealth element is designed to capture a specific housing or wealth issue. Since the single most important source of wealth is the value of the home, housing and wealth are combined into one element of the Economics Sub-index. Four variables are deemed less important, with a total weight of approximately 8%, whereas the other four are each accorded a weight of over 20%. The overall value for the Housing and Wealth component is **42.1% in 2019** compared to **41.3% in 2015.** With respect to the six components of the Economics Sub-index, the Housing and Wealth Sub-index has the lowest value. In addition, this index has the highest weight of all six components at 34%. The Housing and Wealth indicator is the largest contributor to the dismal outcomes in the Economics Sub-index for Black residents of Kansas City.

Of note is the fact that the home ownership rate in 2019 remained unchanged from 2015 at 58%. In addition, the Mortgage Denial Rate index was 51% and the Home Improvement Denial Rate index was 54%. A critical component is the Median Net Worth variable, which has an index value of only **10.29%.** This is far smaller than any other variable in the Economic Index. The primary reason for this value is that the main source of consumer wealth is a function of one's home value. The median black household does not own a home (only 58% own their home), and therefore, there is zero wealth from the home for the

median black household. Almost 70% of white households own their home in the Kansas City region, and therefore, have wealth from the home in the form of home equity.

Figure 12. Index Values for Black Housing and Wealth Variables

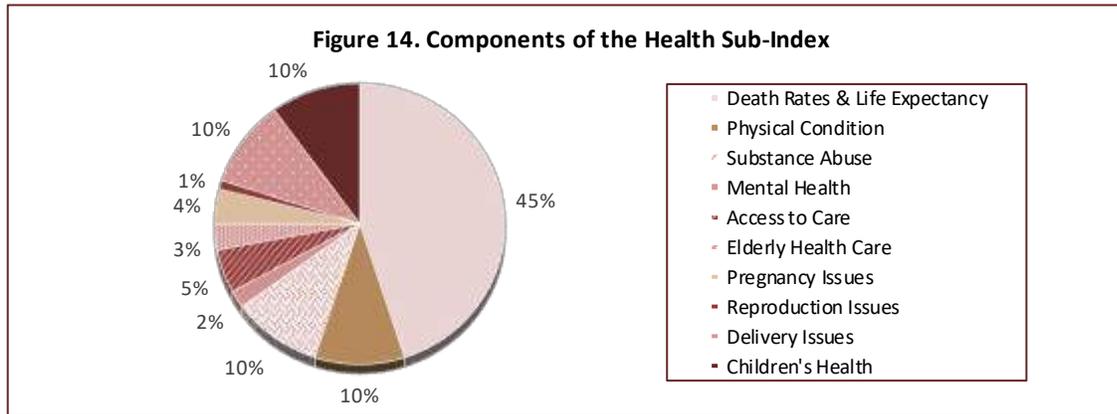| Variable	Value
Home Ownership Rate	58%
Percent of Housing Units Mortgaged	61%
Percent of Housing Units Owned Outright	45%
Percent of Housing Units Renter Occupied	46%
Mortgage Denial Rate	51%
Home Improvement Loan Denial Rate	54%
Percent of High Interest Loans Denied	37%
Median Household Net Worth	10%
Housing and Wealth Component	42.08%

The Digital Divide (5% of the Economics Sub-index). The Digital Divide Index is based on a single variable. The digital divide variable is the ratio of the percentage of individuals living in black households with access to the Internet to the percentage of individuals in white households with access to the Internet. Because data for the Kansas City region was not available, we used the national value as a proxy. The national value of the Digital Divide Index is **80.5% in 2019** compared to **81.3% in 2015.**

Transportation (1% of the Economics Sub-index). The three variables that enter into the calculation of the Transportation element of the Economics Sub-index are shown in Figure 13. Use of public transport for work is viewed as a negative transportation variable in the Economics Sub-index; riding alone to work is a positive transportation variable. The index value of the Transportation component is **68.4% in 2019** compared to **69.0% in 2015**.

Figure 13. Index Values for Black Transportation Component Variables

Variable	Value
Car Ownership Rate	89%
Percent Transportation to Work Driving Alone	94%
Percent Transportation to Work Using Public Transportation	24%
Transportation Component	69%
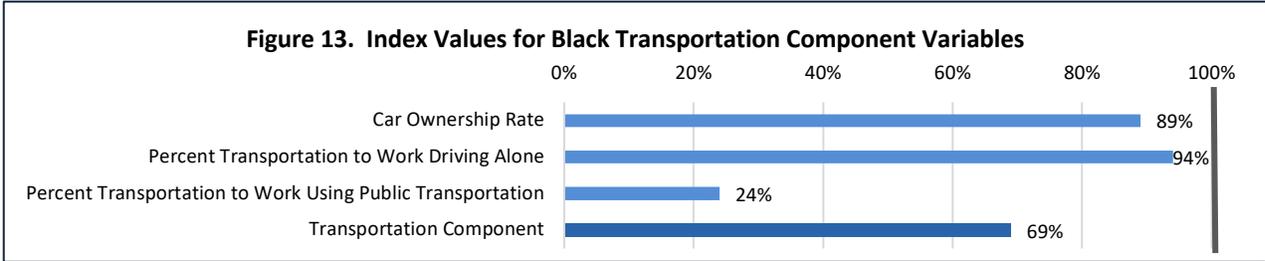
HEALTH – 25% OF THE EQUALITY INDEX

The health portion of the Equality Index has ten components. Each component has a different weight used for the calculation of the overall Equality Index. Figure 14 displays the components of the Health Sub-index and their respective weights.

Figure 14. Components of the Health Sub-Index

Legend
Death Rates & Life Expectancy
Physical Condition
Substance Abuse
Mental Health
Access to Care
Elderly Health Care
Pregnancy Issues
Reproduction Issues
Delivery Issues
Children's Health

Pie chart values: 45%, 10%, 10%, 2%, 5%, 3%, 4%, 1%, 10%, 10%

In the Kansas City region, the Health Sub-index for the Black Equality Index for **2019 is 74.9%** compared to **77.4%** in **2015.** Figure 15 displays the index values of the components of the 2015 Black Health Sub-index. This represents a decrease in the Health Sub-index for black people of **2.5%.** A driving factor in this Sub-index is the fact that Missouri and Kansas are two of 14 states that **have not expanded Medicaid Coverage.**

Figure 15. Contributing Factors to the Black Health Sub-Index

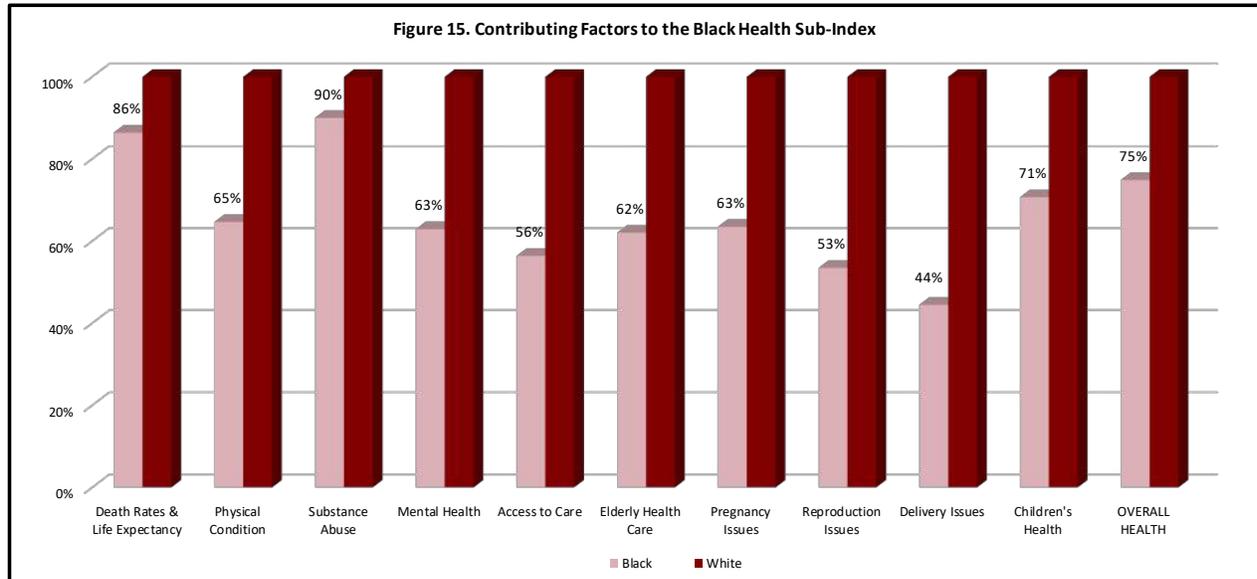| Component	Black	White
Death Rates & Life Expectancy	86%	100%
Physical Condition	65%	100%
Substance Abuse	90%	100%
Mental Health	63%	100%
Access to Care	56%	100%
Elderly Health Care	62%	100%
Pregnancy Issues	63%	100%
Reproduction Issues	53%	100%
Delivery Issues	44%	100%
Children's Health	71%	100%
OVERALL HEALTH	75%	100%

Table 4 shows the values for this sub-index in past years for both the Kansas City region and nationally. The Health Index reached 83% in 2008 but has continued to deteriorate since then. The Health Sub-index has decreased 8% in the last decade and is 4% below the 2019 national level.

Table 4. Black Health Sub-Index Value over Time		
Index Year	**Kansas City**	**National**
2006	80%	76%
2007	82%	78%
2008	83%	76%
2010	78%	77%
2014		77%
2015	77%	
2018		79%
2019	75%	

Key Health Variables

Before examining the components of the Health Sub-index in detail, it is helpful to note four individual variables measured in the Health Sub-index that contributed the most to the Health Sub-index value: Age-Adjusted Death Rate, Life Expectancy at Birth, Percentage of Adults Who Are Overweight or Obese, and Fetal Deaths. Figure 16 displays the comparisons of black and white populations in the five-county Kansas City area for these variables.

The Age Adjusted Death Rate for black people has deteriorated substantially since 2015. The Index value in **2019 is 74% while the rate in 2015 was 86%.** The Life Expectancy at Birth Index was **94% in 2019 compared to 99% in 2015.** The Fetal Death Rate for black people per 1,000 deteriorated substantially in 2019 as well. The Fetal Death Rate Index was **24% in 2019** compared to an index rate **of 39% in 2015**. Fetal Death Rates were more than triple the Fetal Death Rate of whites. The Incidence of Obesity (BMI>=30) deteriorated from 2015 levels as well. The Incidence of Obesity is almost one-third higher for Black people than for whites, with a **2019 index value of 68%** compared to an index value for obesity of **71% in 2015.** All four variables decreased from 2015 levels.

**Figure 16. Key Variables of the Black Health Sub-Index**
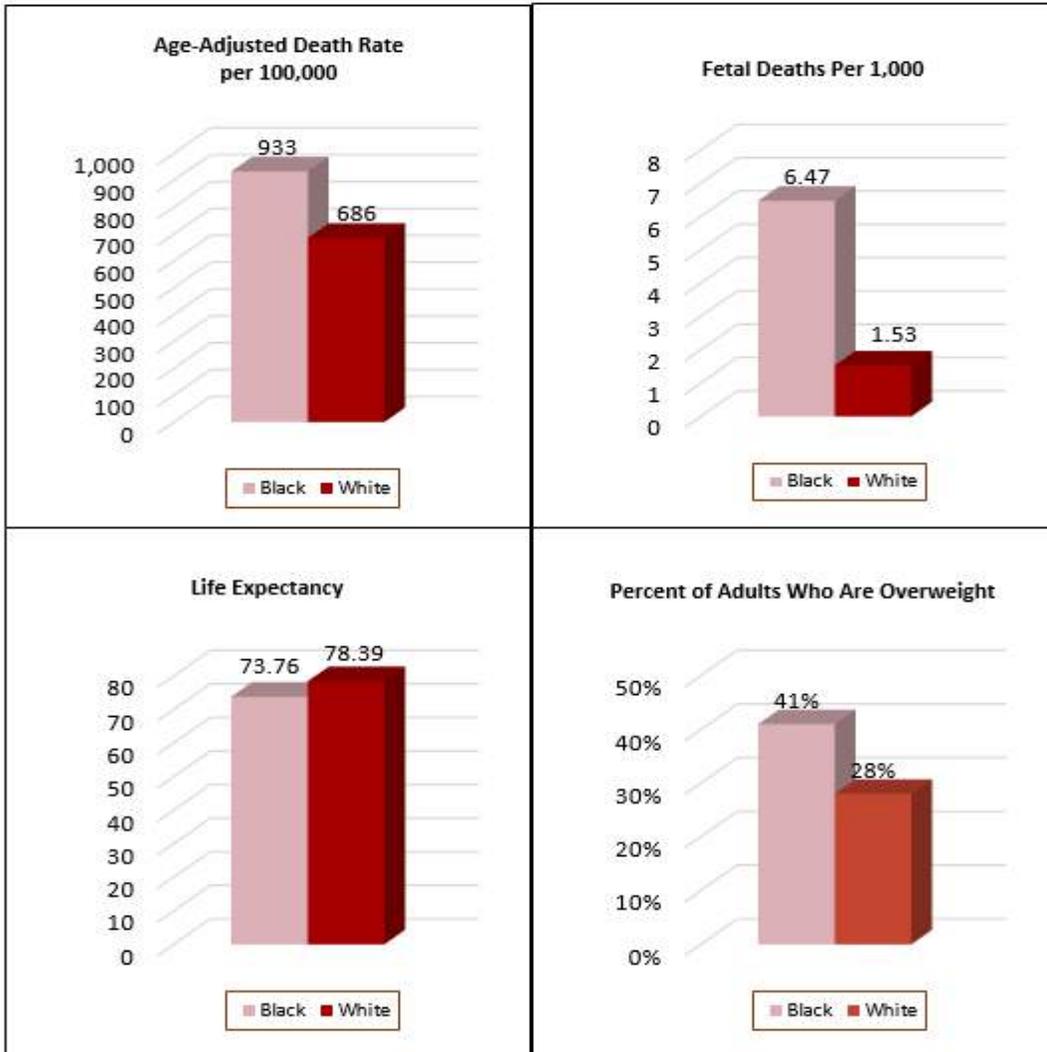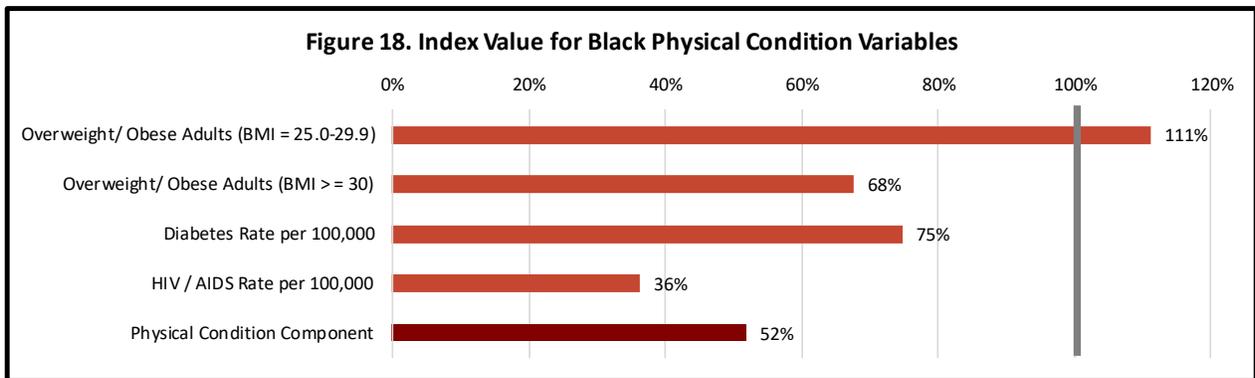

Components of the Health Sub-index

The following sections examine each of the components of the Health Sub-index in more detail.

Death Rates and Life Expectancy (45% of the Health Sub-index). Two variables contribute to the calculation of the Death Rates and Life Expectancy component of the Health Sub-index: Life Expectancy at Birth and Age-Adjusted Death Rate per 100,000 from All Causes. Life Expectancy accounts for one-third of this component, and Age-Adjusted Death Rate accounts for two-thirds of this component.
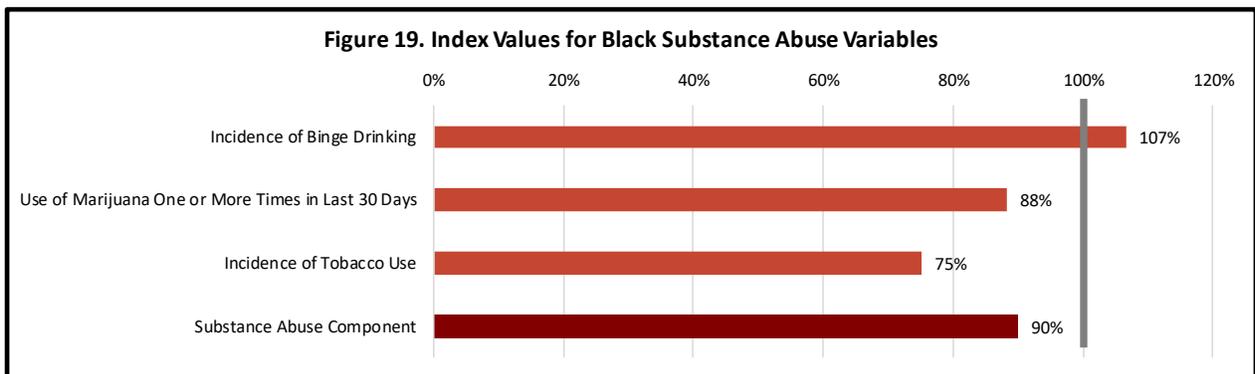
Figure 17 shows that both of the variables in this component of the Health Sub-index are above the total Health Sub-index score, indicating that this set of variables tends to raise the Health Sub-index. The index value of the Death Rates and Life Expectancy component for black residents of Kansas City is **86.4% in 2019** compared to **91.2% in 2015**.
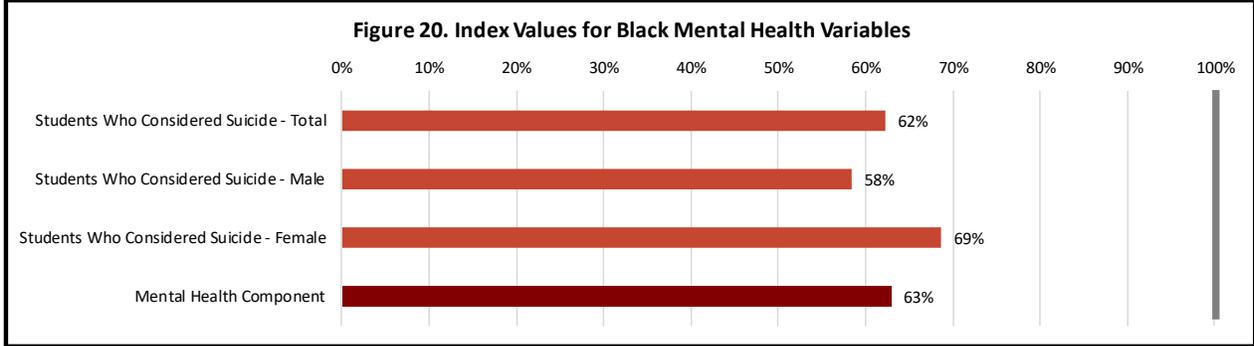
Figure 17. Index Values for Black Death Rates and Life Expectancy Variables

Variable	Value
Life Expectancy at Birth	94%
Age-Adjusted Death Rates per 100,000	78%
Death Rates and Life Expectancy Component	86%
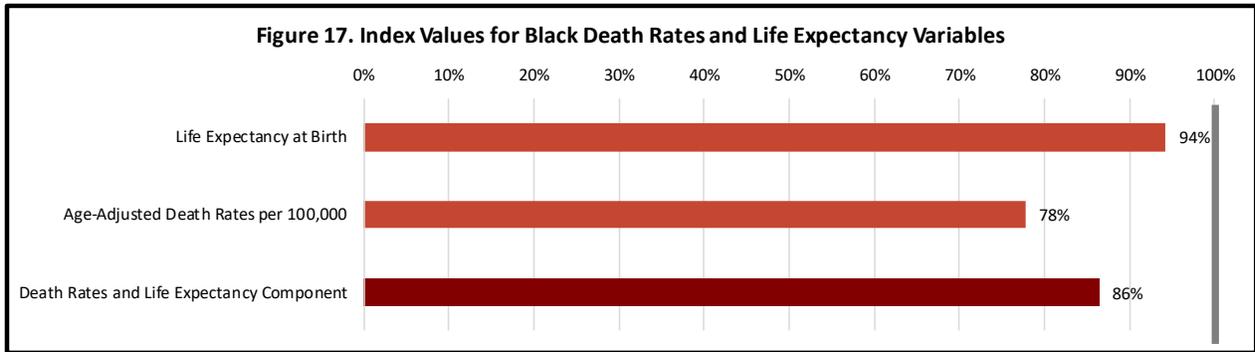
Physical Condition (10% of the Health Sub-index). There are four variables that contribute to the calculation of the Physical Condition component of the Health Sub-index. Figure 18 shows that there is substantial variation in the values for these variables measured for blacks, relative to those measured for whites. The Incidence of HIV/AIDS among black people had an index value of **36% in 2019** compared to an index value of **38% in 2015**, which is over 270% higher than that of whites. The Incidence of Overweight/Obese Adults (BMI>=30) had an index value in **2019 of 68%** while the index value in **2015 was 71%.** The Physical Condition Index for black residents of Kansas City in **2019 is 51.9%** compared to an index value in **2015 of 62.6%.** The Physical Condition component of the index decreased in all areas.
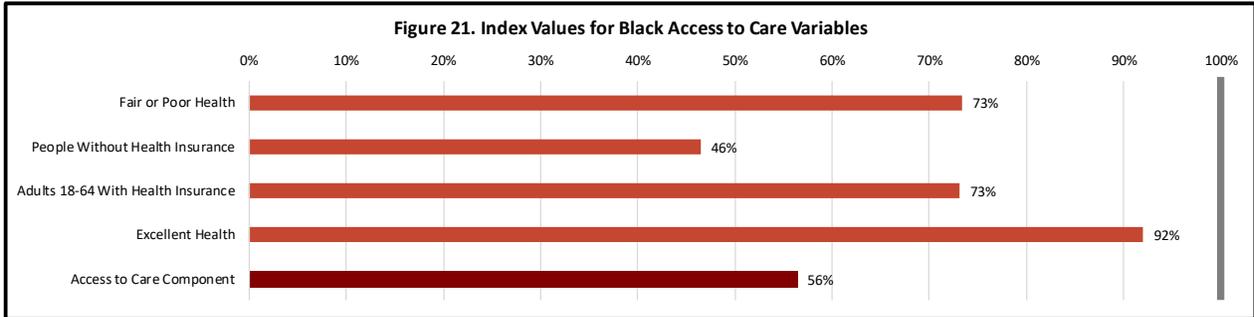
Figure 18. Index Value for Black Physical Condition Variables

Variable	Value
Overweight/ Obese Adults (BMI = 25.0-29.9)	111%
Overweight/ Obese Adults (BMI > = 30)	68%
Diabetes Rate per 100,000	75%
HIV / AIDS Rate per 100,000	36%
Physical Condition Component	52%

Substance Abuse (10% of the Health Sub-index). Three variables contribute to the calculation of the Substance Abuse component of the Health Sub-index. Figure 19 shows the component values for black Substance Abuse Variables in the index. The Substance Abuse Index is **90**% in 2019 compared to an index value of **102.7% in 2015**. The index value for substance abuse in the black community has worsened since 2015. This represents a deepening crisis in the black community. The Incidence of Tobacco Use has an index value of **75% in 2019** compared to an index value of **103% in 2015**.

Figure 19. Index Values for Black Substance Abuse Variables

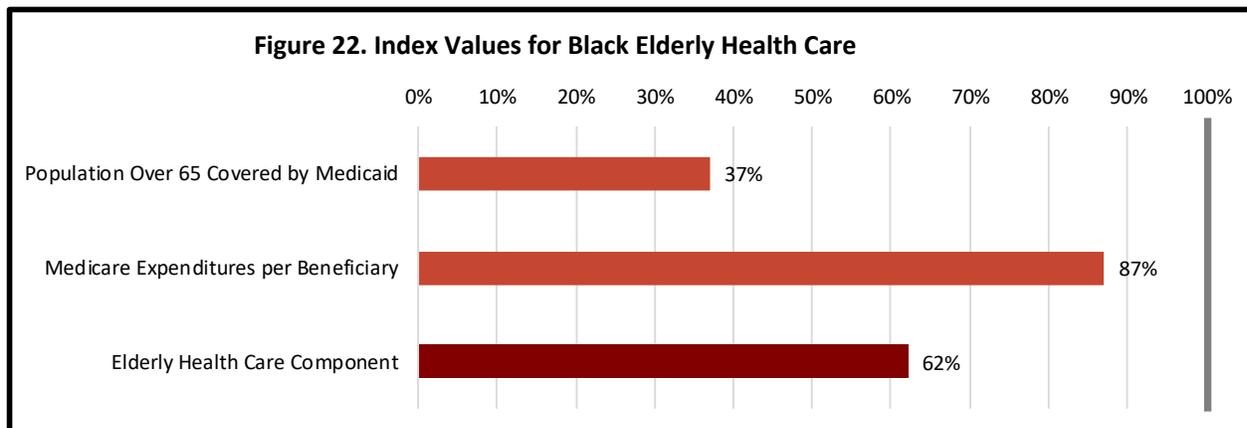| Variable	Value
Incidence of Binge Drinking	107%
Use of Marijuana One or More Times in Last 30 Days	88%
Incidence of Tobacco Use	75%
Substance Abuse Component	90%

Mental Health (2% of Health Sub-index). The variables used to measure Mental Health are all from a survey of youth behavioral risk done in 2017 by Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System (YRBSS). All three variables are derived from the students who responded to the YRFSS Survey. Students who have considered Suicide is an alarming mental health problem in the black community. The index value for the Mental Health component in **2019 is 63% in 2019** compared to **71% in 2015.** Federal, state, and local resources for mental health are crucial in improving mental health in the black community.
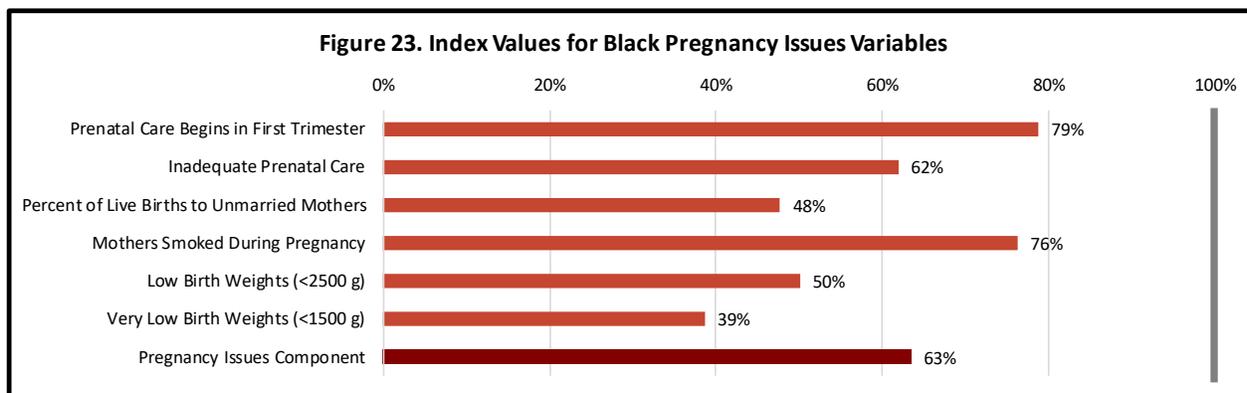
Figure 20. Index Values for Black Mental Health Variables

Variable	Index Value
Students Who Considered Suicide - Total	62%
Students Who Considered Suicide - Male	58%
Students Who Considered Suicide - Female	69%
Mental Health Component	63%

Access to Care (5% of Health Sub-index). Figure 21 shows that the Access to Care variables contribute negatively to both the Health Sub-index and the overall Equality Index for Black residents of Kansas City. The Quality of Health variables are derived from the Behavioral Risk Surveillance System (YRBSS) conducted by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The People Without Health Insurance variable has an index value of **46% in 2019** compared to an index value of **52% in 2015**. The Access to Care component is **56% in 2019** compared to an index value **of 59% in 2015.** As stated earlier, a primary driver in the health variables deterioration is the failure of Missouri and Kansas to expand Medicaid.

Figure 21. Index Values for Black Access to Care Variables

Variable	Index Value
Fair or Poor Health	73%
People Without Health Insurance	46%
Adults 18-64 With Health Insurance	73%
Excellent Health	92%
Access to Care Component	56%

Elderly Health Care (3% of Health Sub-index). Figure 22 shows that Elderly Care contributes negatively to both the Health Sub-index and the overall Equality Index for Black residents of Kansas City. The index value for the Elderly Care component is **56% in 2019** compared to an index value of **54% in 2015.**

Figure 22. Index Values for Black Elderly Health Care

Category	Value
Population Over 65 Covered by Medicaid	37%
Medicare Expenditures per Beneficiary	87%
Elderly Health Care Component	62%

Pregnancy Issues (4% of Health Sub-index). Figure 23 shows that Pregnancy Issues also contribute negatively to the Health Sub-index in the Kansas City region. Among the seven indicator variables for Black Pregnancy Issues, all have index values below 79%. The Pregnancy Issue component is **63.5% in 2019** compared to **64.0% in 2015**. The fact that the index value for Prenatal Care in the First Trimester has implications for complications in pregnancy. This is reflected in the index value for Low Birth Weight Variable (2,500g) of 50.1% and the index value for Very Low Birth Weight (1,599g) of 39.7% in 2019.
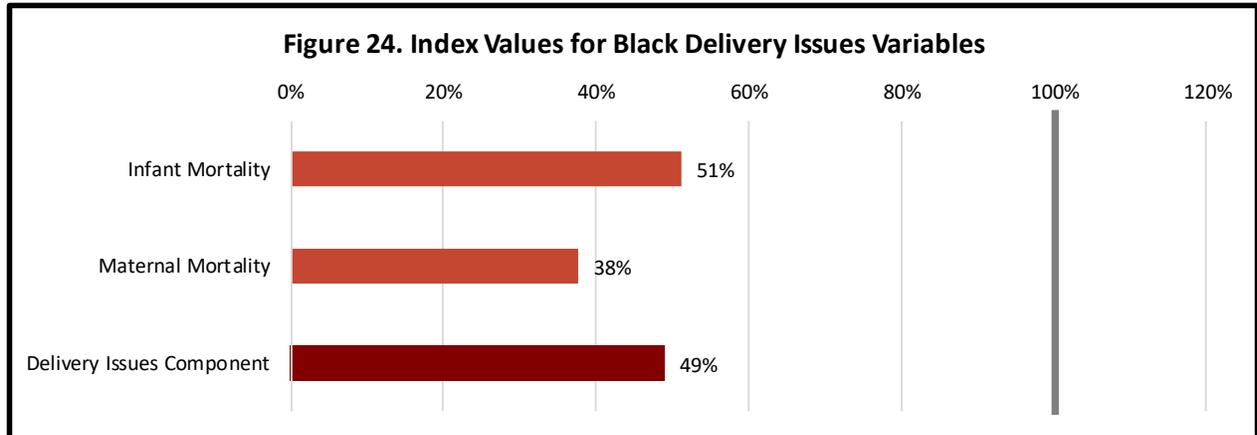
Figure 23. Index Values for Black Pregnancy Issues Variables

Category	Value
Prenatal Care Begins in First Trimester	79%
Inadequate Prenatal Care	62%
Percent of Live Births to Unmarried Mothers	48%
Mothers Smoked During Pregnancy	76%
Low Birth Weights (<2500 g)	50%
Very Low Birth Weights (<1500 g)	39%
Pregnancy Issues Component	63%

Reproduction Issues (1% of Health Sub-index). The Reproduction Issues component is represented by the Abortions per 1,000. The index value for the Reproduction Issues component is **53.5% in 2019** compared to **47.3% in 2015,** which indicates that abortions are approximately twice as frequent among the black population as among the white population.
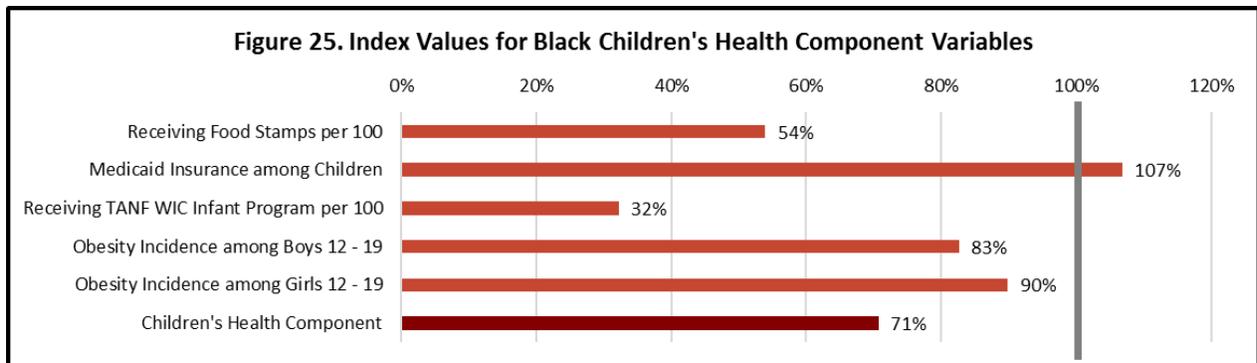
Delivery Issues (10% of the Health Sub-index). Two variables contribute to the calculation of the Delivery Issues component of the Health Sub-index. Infant Mortality and Maternal Mortality are weighted equally within this component.

Figure 24 shows that Delivery Issues contribute negatively to the Health Sub-index and to the overall Equality Index. The index value of the Delivery Issues component is **49% in 2019** compared to **46.4% in 2015.** Both infant and maternal mortality have indices below the Health Sub-index and below the overall Equality Index. There is no excuse for the extremely high values of Infant and Maternal Mortality observed in

the nation and in the five-county Kansas City region in a country that spends 18% of its Gross Domestic Product on health care. The extremely high values of Infant and Maternal Mortality justify a public health policy aimed at reducing these high numbers.
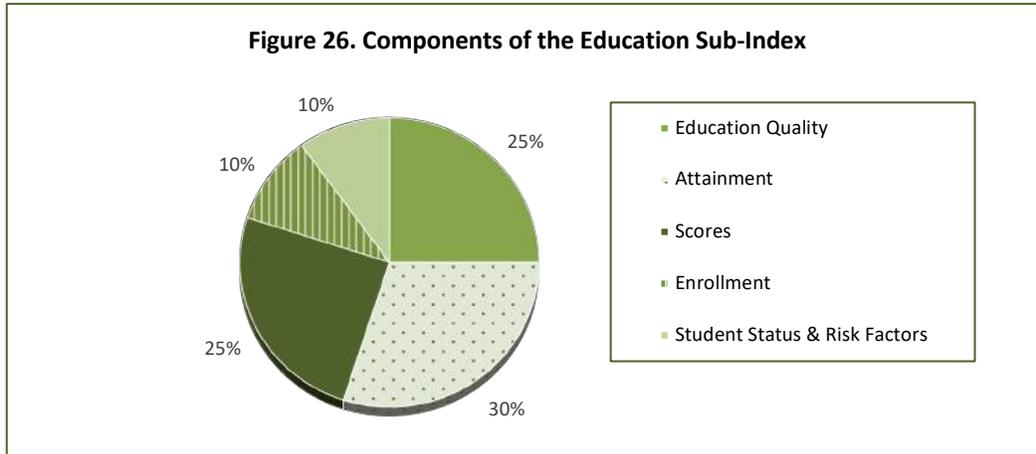
Figure 24. Index Values for Black Delivery Issues Variables

Variable	Value
Infant Mortality	51%
Maternal Mortality	38%
Delivery Issues Component	49%

Children's Health (10% of the Health Sub-index). Five variables contribute to the calculation of the Children's Health component of the Health Sub-index. The health variables in the Black Kansas City Report are different from those in the Hispanic Kansas City Report because of data limitations for variables in the Hispanic Report that were not available. Figure 25 shows that Children's Health contributes negatively to the Health Sub-index and to the overall Equality Index. The Children's Health Index is **70.7% in 2019** compared to **59.5% in 2015.** The index value for those Receiving Food Stamps per 100 is 54% and the index value for those receiving TANF WIC Infant Program per 100 is only 32%.

Figure 25. Index Values for Black Children's Health Component Variables

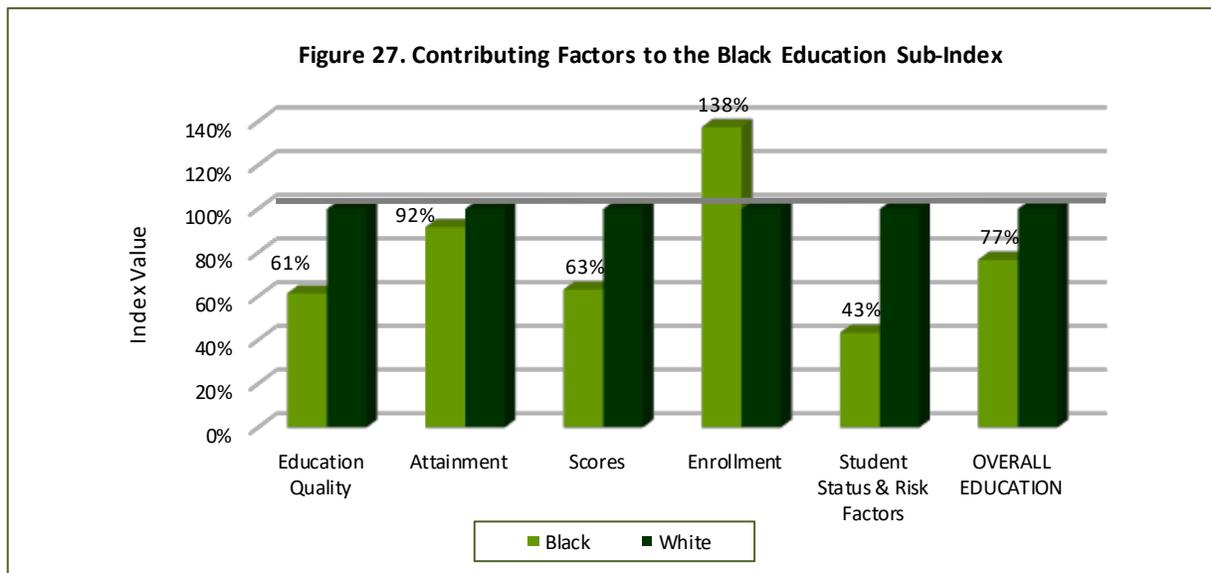| Variable	Value
Receiving Food Stamps per 100	54%
Medicaid Insurance among Children	107%
Receiving TANF WIC Infant Program per 100	32%
Obesity Incidence among Boys 12 - 19	83%
Obesity Incidence among Girls 12 - 19	90%
Children's Health Component	71%

EDUCATION – 25% OF THE EQUALITY INDEX

The Education portion of the Equality Index has five components. Each of the components has a different weight used for the calculation of the overall Education Sub-index. Figure 26 presents the five components of the Education Sub-index and their respective weights.

Figure 26. Components of the Education Sub-Index

- Education Quality — 25%
- Attainment — 30%
- Scores — 25%
- Enrollment — 10%
- Student Status & Risk Factors — 10%

In the Kansas City region, the Education Sub-index for the 2019 Black Equality Index is **76.8%**, compared to the 2015 Sub-index for the Black Equality Index of **77.5%.** The decrease in the Education Sub-index means that Black people have not improved in the Education category from 2015. The 2019 index of 76.8% means that black students in Kansas City are still performing worse educationally than whites in Kansas City. Black people in the Kansas City area are not performing better than their national counterparts with an index value of 78.5%. Figure 27 presents a summary of the Education Sub-index and its components, along with their respective index values. An examination of key contributing variables and the components of the Education Sub-Indices reveals why this is the case.

Figure 27. Contributing Factors to the Black Education Sub-Index

Black values: Education Quality 61%, Attainment 92%, Scores 63%, Enrollment 138%, Student Status & Risk Factors 43%, OVERALL EDUCATION 77%

Key Education Variables

Prior to discussing the strategy for collecting data for the Education Sub-index in the Kansas City region, it is important to note these individual variables that had substantial weight within the Education area: Percentage of Classes Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers, Composite ACT Score, Percentage of Adults (25 and Older) Who Are High School Graduates, and Percentage of Adults (25 and Older) with a Bachelor's Degree.

Figure 28 shows these comparisons between the black and white populations of the five-county Kansas City area. Highly qualified teachers for black students than white students teach a lower percentage of classes. ACT Composite scores for black

Figure 28. Key Variables of the Black Education Sub-index

students were about 37% less than scores for whites. The percentage of High School Graduates was higher for black students than whites (9%). However, there were twice as many white students as black students who obtained a Bachelor's Degree.
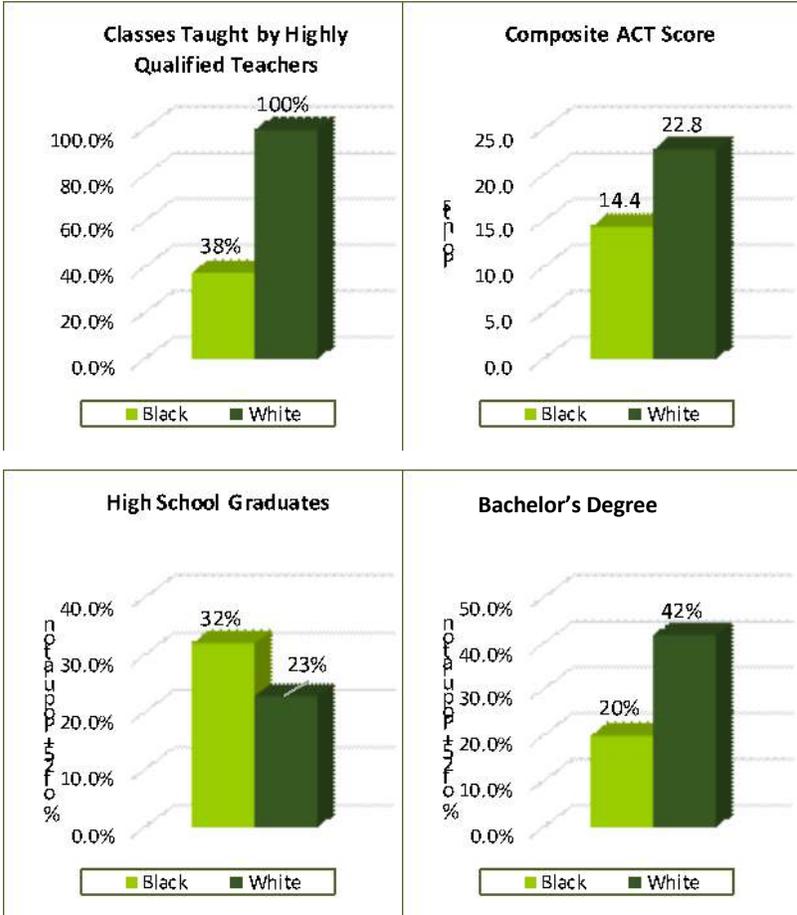
Education Sampling Design

The strategies for gathering the information needed to determine the Kansas City Education Sub-index were unique to Kansas City, creating a need for different solutions in the five counties and their many school districts. State-level and school district-level data was available for some of the components needed to calculate the Kansas City Education Sub-index. However, collecting some data elements was challenging because of differences in their enrollment of both black and white students and in their collection of different types of education data. We employed the following sampling strategy to collect some of the Education data from each county to construct the Education Sub-index.

Jackson County, Missouri. To facilitate a comparison between black education and a white education in Jackson County, we chose (a) an elementary school and a high school that were predominantly black and (b) an elementary school and a high school in Jackson County that were predominantly white. We selected Troost Elementary (87% black) and Cordill-Mason Elementary (75% white) for comparison of educational performance at the elementary school level. At the high school level, we selected Central Academy of Excellence High School (90% black) and Blue Springs South High School (74% white).

Clay and Platte Counties, Missouri. Data was not available to select schools that were predominantly Black, because of a small population of Black students in these counties. For comparison, we accessed summary statistics on education benchmarks and scores for an elementary school and high school in each county. In Clay County, we selected Nashua Elementary (81% white) and Staley High School (73% white). In Platte County, we selected Central Elementary (91% white) and Platte High School (81% white).

Wyandotte County, Kansas. We chose (a) an elementary school and a high school in Wyandotte County that were predominantly Black and (b) an elementary school and a high school in Wyandotte County that were predominantly white to analyze the quality of education received across some of the Education components. We selected JFK Elementary (47% Black) and Edwardsville Elementary (64% white) for comparison of educational performance at the elementary school level. At the high school level, we selected Washington High School (50% Black) and Bonner Springs High School (62% white).

Johnson County, Kansas. Data was not available to select any predominantly black elementary or high school for comparison to predominantly white schools, due to the small population of black students at the individual school level. However, the State of Kansas does provide elementary and high school performance measures of black and white students at the school district level. We accessed performance benchmarks at the district level for USD 512, Shawnee Mission Public Schools.
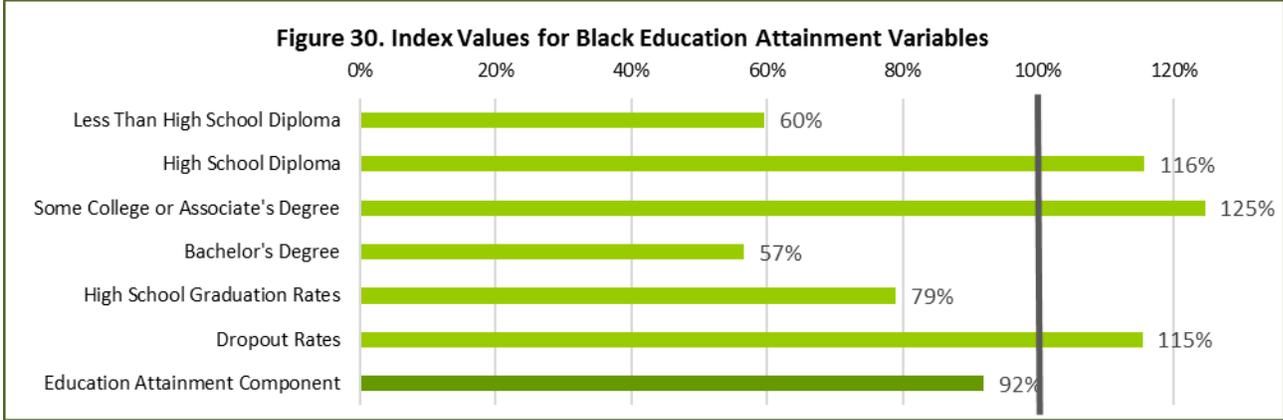
Components of the Education Sub-index

Education Quality (25% of Education). There are two important components of the Education Quality Index: Quality of Teaching and the Quality of Course Offerings. This data was gathered from the Missouri Comprehensive Data System and the Kansas Department of Education and was utilized according to the sampling design described above. The Education Quality component is summarized in Figure 29. The index value of the Education Quality component (**61%**) is lower than both the Education Sub-index **(76.7%)** and the Black Equality Index **(72.5%)**. The Education Quality component negatively influences the overall Education Sub-index since 2015.

Figure 29. Index Values for Black Education Quality Variables

Teacher Quality	71%
Course Quality	55%
Education Quality Component	61%
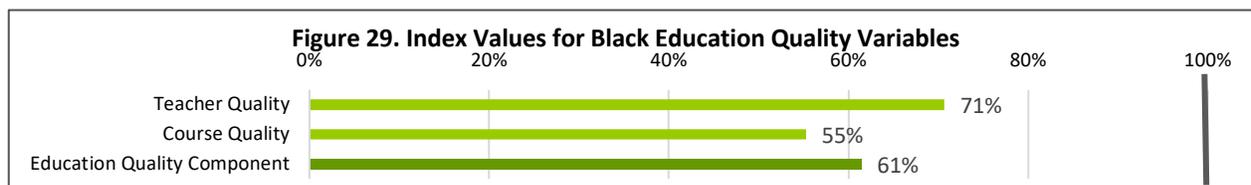
Education Attainment (30% of Education.) In order to measure Attainment, we examined the Highest Educational Level of Individuals Ages 25 and Over. At the lower end of the educational spectrum, we calculated the percentage of the population aged 25 and over with Less than a Ninth Grade Education. At the upper end of the educational spectrum, we calculated the percentages of the population aged 25 and over with a Bachelor's Degree, and with a Graduate or Professional Degree. The data for these variables is from the *American Community Survey*. Each index compares the attainment of the black population

over 25 to that of the white population over 25. We also calculated High School Graduation Rates and Dropout Rates. The data for these rates is from the respective State Departments of Education. Once again, these rates compare the black population to the white population. The Education Attainment component is summarized in Figure 30.

Figure 30. Index Values for Black Education Attainment Variables

Category	Index Value
Less Than High School Diploma	60%
High School Diploma	116%
Some College or Associate's Degree	125%
Bachelor's Degree	57%
High School Graduation Rates	79%
Dropout Rates	115%
Education Attainment Component	92%

The index for the first two categories is the ratio of the percent of the black population over 25 to that of the white population over 25. The index for the next five categories is the ratio of the percent of the white population over 25 to that of the black population over 25.
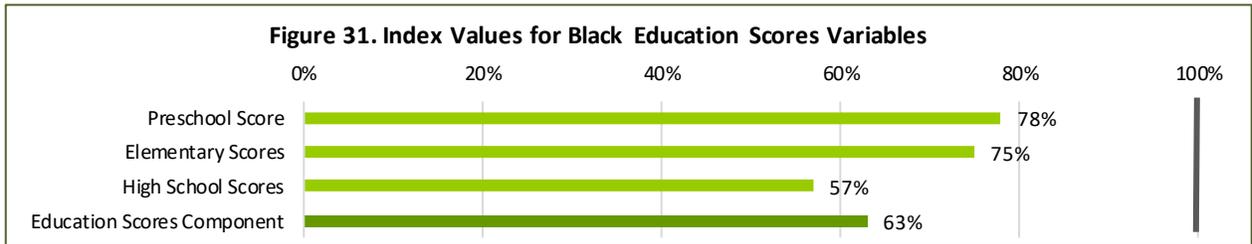
The index value of the Education Attainment component (**92.0%**) is higher than both the Education Sub-index and the Black Equality Index. Overall, this component contributes to more equality than there would be without this component. Whereas the index values for (1) a High School Diploma and (2) some College or an Associate Degree have index values of 116% and 125%, respectively, the percentage of the black population over 25 with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher is only a little over half that of the white population over 25 (57%).

Education Scores (25% of Education). For this component, Elementary Readiness was weighted at 10%, Elementary Test Scores were weighted at 40%, and High School Test Scores were weighted at 50%. Proficiency test scores at the elementary and secondary school level were the most readily available data. Data was not available in Clay County or Platte County, Missouri.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education reports a Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP5) Achievement Level Report at the school level on a variety of subject matters at a variety of grade levels. The MSIP5 program is Missouri's accountability system for reviewing and accrediting public school districts, outlining the expectations for student achievement with the ultimate goal of each student graduating ready for success in college and careers. The overall score is comprised of scores for each Local Education Agency (LEA) and school. The overall score includes scores for each of the MSIP5 performance standards: (1) Academic Achievement, (2) Subgroup Achievement, (3) High School Readiness (K-8 Districts) or College and Career Readiness (K-12 Districts), (4) Attendance Rates, and (5) Graduation Rates (K-12 Districts). Information about this system can be found at this website:
http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/MSIP-5-comprehensive-guide-3-13_1.pdf.
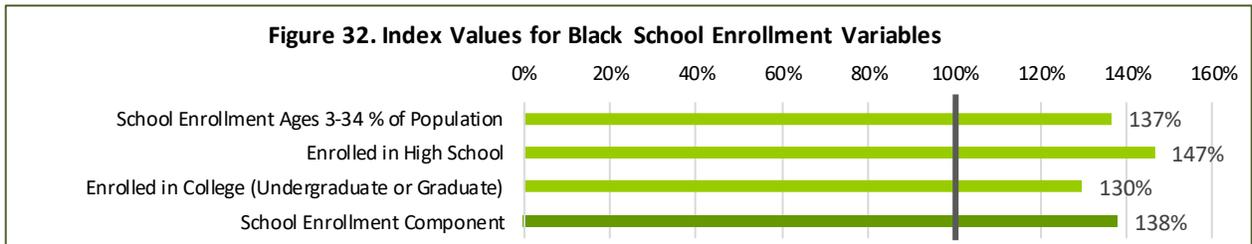
The Education Scores component is summarized in Figure 31.

Figure 31. Index Values for Black Education Scores Variables

Variable	Value
Preschool Score	78%
Elementary Scores	75%
High School Scores	57%
Education Scores Component	63%

The Education Scores component in **2019 was 63.3%** as compared to **56.4% in 2015**. The Education Scores component of 63.3% portrays the inability of the region's educational system to educate black children. The index of the Education Scores component (**63.3%**) is much lower than both the Education Sub-index and the Black Equality Index. This component contributes to more inequality and points to disadvantages black students have in high schools, in colleges, and ultimately in the labor market.

School Enrollment (10% of Education).

The School Enrollment component is summarized in Figure 32. The School Enrollment component measures the percentage of the population enrolled in high school, the percentage enrolled in college, and the percentage of the population between 3 and 34 that is enrolled in any level of schooling. Figure 31 summarizes the School Enrollment component. The value for this component (**138%**) is much higher than the Education Sub-index or the Black Equality Index.

Figure 32. Index Values for Black School Enrollment Variables

Variable	Value
School Enrollment Ages 3-34 % of Population	137%
Enrolled in High School	147%
Enrolled in College (Undergraduate or Graduate)	130%
School Enrollment Component	138%

Student Status and Risk Factors (10% of Education). All of the variables included in this category indicate students who have a high probability of leaving school, and thus, do not obtain the reward of an education. Because the performance of children at school is linked to conditions in their households, these variables were selected: (1) Poverty, (2) Children with No Parent in the Labor Force, (3) Attendance, and (4) Students Eligible for Free Lunches. Discipline variables that are indicative of the high probability of black children being removed from mainstream classrooms were also included: (1) Discipline Offenses, (2) Suspensions, (3) Felonies, and (4) Misdemeanors. The index value for this component is **43.3% in 2019 compared to 42.2% in 2015.** The index value for High School Dropouts is **66.6%,** and the index value for children in poverty is **32.8%.** All other risk factors show a similar trend.

SOCIAL JUSTICE – 10% OF THE EQUALITY INDEX

The Social Justice portion of the Equality Index has two components. Each of the components has a different weight used for the calculation of the overall Social Justice Index. Figure 33 presents the components of the Social Justice Sub-index and their respective weights.

Figure 33. Components of the Social Justice Sub-Index
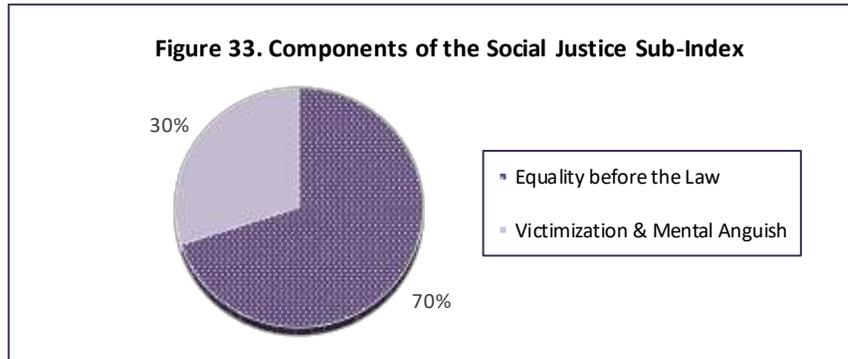
In the Kansas City region, the Social Justice Sub-index for the 2019 Black Equality Index is **55.0%**. At the national level, the Social Justice Sub-index for the 2019 Black Equality Index is **55.9%.** In part, this lower sub-index value means that black people in the Kansas City region are not only faring markedly worse than whites; they are also doing more poorly than black people across the United States, as measured by the national Social Justice Sub-index. Figure 34 presents the components of the Social Justice Sub-index and their respective index values. The horizontal gray bar represents the relative experience of the white population.

Figure 34. Contributing Factors to the Black Social Justice Sub-Index
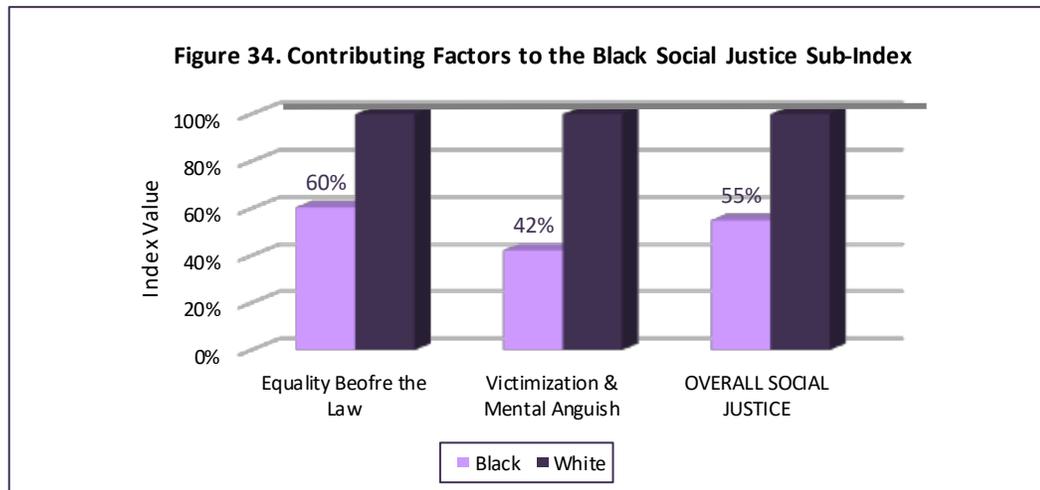
Key Social Justice Variables

Two important variables carried the greatest weight in the calculation of the Black Social Justice Sub-index. These variables are the Average Prison Sentence for All Offenses and the Murder Victimization Rate.

Figure 35 shows the difference in years between the average length of prison sentences for black people and for white people. The

Figure 35. Key Variables of the Black Social Justice Sub-index

average for black people is 7.7 years, and the average for white people is 5.8 years. The index value for this variable is 75.3%, documenting that black people having noticeably longer prison sentences compared to those of white people. Differences that are even more dramatic are apparent in the Murder Victimization Rate, with 77% of victims from the black population compared to 20% of the victims from the white population. The index value of 26.0% for this variable shows that black people are only doing 26% as well as whites with regard to this gravely serious condition.

Social Justice Sampling Design

Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties of Missouri. The sources of our crime statistics for the three Missouri counties—Jackson, Clay, and Platte—were data from the Police Department, the State of Missouri, the Missouri Sentencing Advisory Commission, and other sources related to criminal justice.

Thanks to the availability of unique local data from local law enforcement agencies that is compiled and published by the Missouri Attorney General's Office, we have reviewed and compiled statistics by local law enforcement agencies that allowed us to partly answer the question of Equal Treatment under the Law for black people and white people in Kansas City. We aggregated the vehicle stops reports for 2019 up to the county level for Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties in Missouri.

Four variables were aggregated that address the issue of Racial Profiling as it pertains to traffic stops by law enforcement:
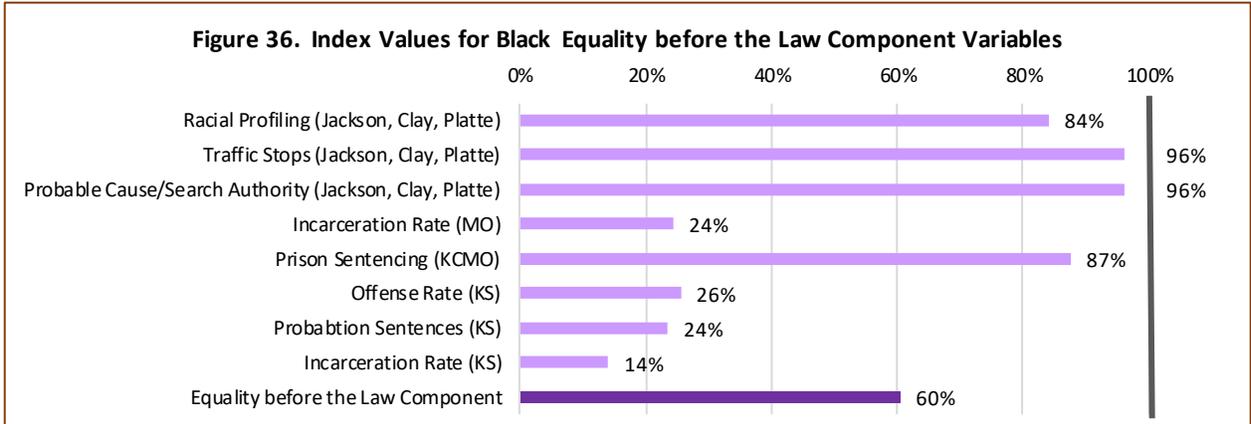
- Search Rate
- Arrest Rate
- Contraband Hit Rate
- Disparity Index

Wyandotte and Johnson Counties of Kansas. Data was not available from Wyandotte County, Kansas, and Johnson County, Kansas.
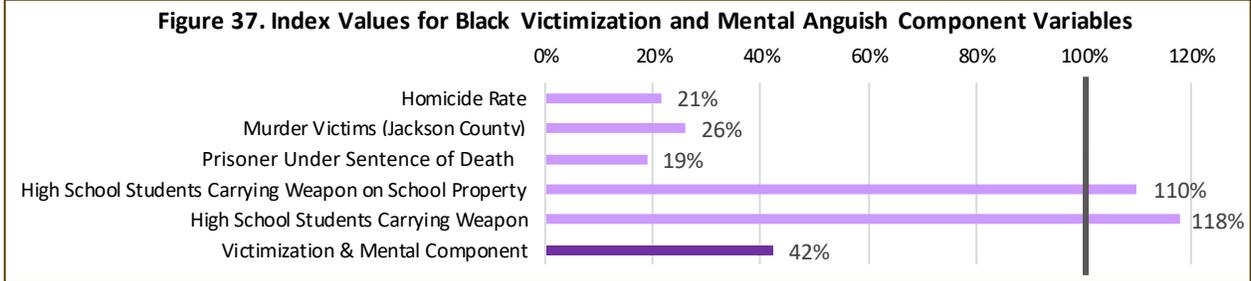
Components of the Social Justice Sub-index

Equality before the Law (70% of Social Justice). The largest category in the Social Justice Sub-index addresses Equal Treatment before the Law in our region. A value of 100% for the Equality before the Law component index would mean that we live in a region that is nondiscriminatory on the basis of race. Figure 36 summarizes the Equality before the Law component, with an index value of **60.0%**. Although this represents an improvement from the 2015 index value of **56.1%,** the Kansas City region is far from nondiscriminatory on the basis of race. This component is above the total Social Justice Index of 55% and substantially less than the overall Equality Index. This component is a significant contributor to inequality in the Kansas City region.

There are major differences in the index values for the variables that make up the Equality before the Law component. In particular, the Incarceration Rate for whites is less than 25% of the Incarceration Rate for blacks in both Missouri and Kansas. In general, the indicators for Kansas have much lower index values than do the indicators for Missouri. More information about these differences is available in Appendix A.
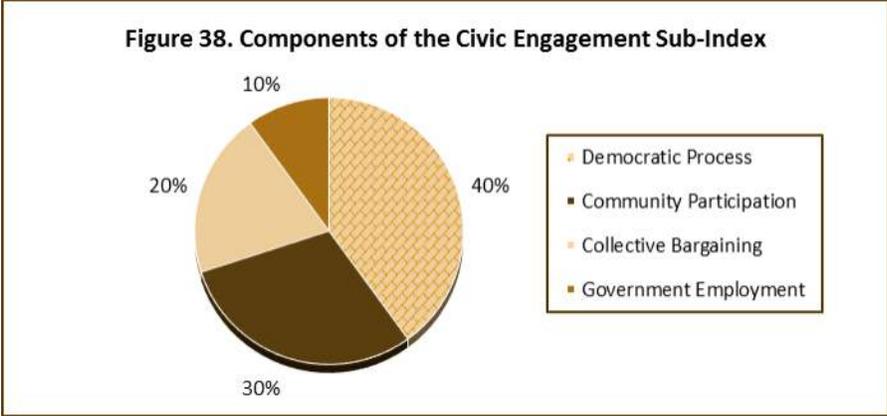
Figure 36. Index Values for Black Equality before the Law Component Variables

Variable	Index Value
Racial Profiling (Jackson, Clay, Platte)	84%
Traffic Stops (Jackson, Clay, Platte)	96%
Probable Cause/Search Authority (Jackson, Clay, Platte)	96%
Incarceration Rate (MO)	24%
Prison Sentencing (KCMO)	87%
Offense Rate (KS)	26%
Probabtion Sentences (KS)	24%
Incarceration Rate (KS)	14%
Equality before the Law Component	60%

Victimization and Mental Anguish (30% of Social Justice). Figure 37 summarizes the Victimization and Mental Anguish component of the Social Justice Sub-index. The component index value is **42.2%**, indicating that this component contributes strongly to inequality. The component index was **44.2%** in 2015. The Homicide Rate index value in the region is almost five times as great among the black population as it is among the white population. The Homicide Victimization Rate index value is **26.0%,** four times as large for the black population as it is for the white population. The index value for Prisoners Under Sentence of Death is only 19%, five times as large for the black population as it is for the white population. This component value is the lowest of all components, even though the two elements pertaining to Students Carrying Weapons are over 100%.

Figure 37. Index Values for Black Victimization and Mental Anguish Component Variables

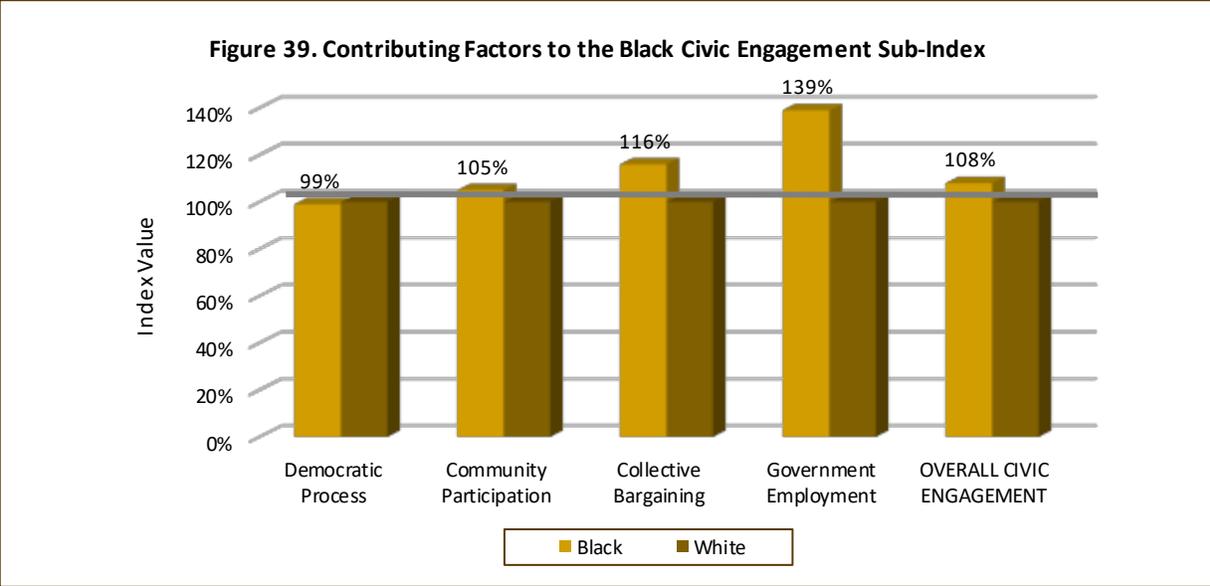| Variable	Index Value
Homicide Rate	21%
Murder Victims (Jackson County)	26%
Prisoner Under Sentence of Death	19%
High School Students Carrying Weapon on School Property	110%
High School Students Carrying Weapon	118%
Victimization & Mental Component	42%

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT – 10% OF THE EQUALITY INDEX

The Civic Engagement component of the Equality Index has four components. Each of the components has a different weight used for the calculation of the overall Civic Engagement Index. Figure 38 displays the Civic Engagement Sub-index components and their respective weights.

Figure 38. Components of the Civic Engagement Sub-Index

|	
10%	
20%	▪ Democratic Process
40%	▪ Community Participation
30%	▪ Collective Bargaining
	▪ Government Employment

In the Kansas City region, the Civic Engagement Sub-index for the Black Equality Index for **2019 is 108.6%** compared to an index value of **106.9% in 2015**. At the national level, the Civic Engagement Sub-index for the Black Equality Index for 2019 is **99.7%.** This index value illustrates that Black people are more civically engaged than whites locally, as well as being slightly more civically engaged than their national counterparts are. The Civic Engagement Sub-index and each of its components contribute to more equality for the Black population in the Kansas City region. Figure 39 summarizes the index values of the Sub-index and each of its components, with the horizontal gray bar giving a point of reference as to how the white population is faring on the same components.

Figure 39. Contributing Factors to the Black Civic Engagement Sub-Index

Democratic Process	Community Participation	Collective Bargaining	Government Employment	OVERALL CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
99%	105%	116%	139%	108%

Legend: ■ Black ■ White

Key Civic Engagement Variables

Two variables that serve as major indicators of Civic Engagement are the Percentage of U.S. Citizens 18 and Older Who Voted and the Percentage of Workers 16 and Older Who Work in the Private Nonprofit Sector. Figure 40 displays the relative equality of registered voters (70% of blacks and 74% of whites) and

Figure 40. Key Variables of the Black Civic Engagement Sub-index
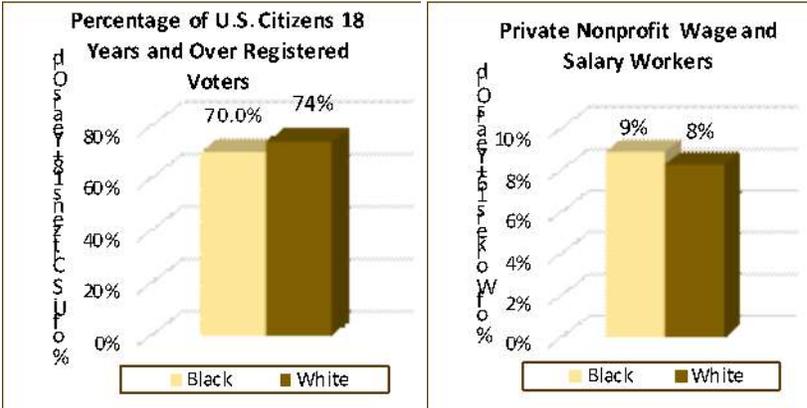
the relative equality of participation in the workforce within the private nonprofit sector (9% of blacks, compared to 8% of whites). The index values of 95% and 107% indicate that black people are functioning well in these aspects of Civic Engagement.

Components of the Civic Engagement Sub-index

Democratic Process (40% of Civic Engagement). The Democratic process component is calculated from one variable: the percentage of registered voters from the Population of U.S. Citizens 18 and over. The index value for this component is **95.0%**. This value suggests relative equality in voter registration. In actuality, there are differences between Missouri and Kansas with regard to the Democratic Process component. In Missouri, black people were more involved in voting behaviors than whites, while the opposite was true in Kansas. According to Missouri data from the 2016 election, 77% of black U.S. citizens over 18 were registered to vote, compared to 75% of whites. In Kansas, 61% of black U.S. citizens over 18 were registered to vote, compared to a white voter registration percentage of 72%. Index values of 103.0% in Missouri and 85.0% in Kansas indicate that great inequality is occurring in the Democratic Process in Kansas.

Community Participation (30% of Civic Engagement). These two variables were used to calculate the index value for the Community Participation component:

- Persons Who Are Veterans of the Armed Forces, 18 and Over
- Private Not-For-Profit Wage and Salary Workers, 16 and Over

The Community Participation component has an index value of **105.33% in 2019** compared to an index value of **98.2% in 2015**, suggesting that black people are more involved in the armed forces and the non-profit sector than whites in the Kansas City region. Across all counties in the five-county Kansas City region, more differences were seen in the status of being a Veteran of the Armed Forces. See Appendix A for comparisons across counties.

Collective Bargaining (20% of Civic Engagement). Collective Bargaining is captured by the Percentage of Those Employed Who are Union Members. The index value of 117.0% for the Unionism variable shows that a significantly higher percentage of black people are in unions than whites.

Government Employment (10% of Civic Engagement). There are two components in the Government Employment Sub-Indices:

- Government Workers as a Percentage of the Employed Population over 16
- Public Administration Employment as a Percentage of the Employed Population over 16

Both the Government Workers variable and the Public Administration Employment variable contribute to the very high index value of **139.4% in 2019** compared to an index value of **134.7% in 2015** for the Government Employment component. It therefore raises both the Civic Engagement Sub-index and the Black Equality Index.

CONCLUSION

The Kansas City Black Equality Index of **72.5%** reveals that much work must be done for the black population to achieve equality and fare as well as the white populations. The National Black Equality Index of **72.5%** denotes the pervasiveness of this inequality across the United States. All five of the areas of inequality that were examined—Social Justice, Economics, Health, Education, and Civic Engagement—are intertwined with one another. In 2019, the Economic, Social Justice, and Civic Engagement Indices increased from 2015 levels. The Health Index and Education Index decreased in 2019 from 2015, reflecting inadequate attention to the health needs of the black community in the Kansas City region. The Health Index should not have decreased from 2015 to 2019 given access to care by the Affordable Care Act, but the refusal of the legislatures to expand Medicaid Insurance in Missouri and Kansas is a contributing factor. Concerted, collaborative efforts will be needed to address the multiplicity and complexity of these issues. The importance of continued assessment cannot be understated as a means to determine whether strategies to improve equality are making a meaningful difference.