

Chamber Releases Report Examining Underlying Factors of Inequality for Black Americans and Americans of Color

The U.S. Chamber today published [America's Opportunity Gaps: By the Numbers](#), a compilation of research that documents the inequality of opportunity for Black Americans and people of color. Released the day before the Chamber's [National Summit on Equality of Opportunity](#), the report quantifies racial divides in six critical areas: education, employment, entrepreneurship, criminal justice, health, and wealth development.

"In order to drive meaningful, measurable impact through public policy and private sector solutions, we must listen, learn, and lead," said Suzanne Clark, President of the U.S. Chamber. "This research informs our work as we pursue targeted, data-driven, and sustainable solutions that will help deliver the American promise of equal opportunity to all."

Key findings and takeaways from the analysis include:

On education: Black students are twice as likely as white students to attend high-poverty schools; less than half as likely to be reading at grade level in the fourth grade; nearly 10% less likely to graduate from high school; and about half as likely to earn a bachelor's degree.

On employment: For the past four decades, Black unemployment rates have been consistently twice as high as white unemployment rates, and Black Americans are underrepresented among high-earning management positions.

On entrepreneurship: Black Americans are underrepresented among entrepreneurs and are less likely than white Americans to launch businesses. When they do, Black-owned businesses struggle to access capital and tend to have lower revenues and fewer employees.

On criminal justice: Black Americans represent 27% of arrests, about twice their proportion of the population. Once arrested, they are more likely to be convicted. Once convicted, they are more likely to face long prison sentences. Moreover, having a prior conviction reduces employer callback rates by 65% for Black male job applicants versus a 50% reduction for white men.

On health: Black Americans have markedly worse health outcomes than white Americans; they are adversely and disproportionately impacted by poor access to primary care; and they are less likely to have health insurance.

On wealth: The net worth of the average white American family (\$171,000) is nearly 10 times greater than that of the average Black American family (\$17,150). Black Americans also are much more likely to experience poverty (21%) than white Americans (8%).