

CRJ 204 1700: Criminal Justice and the Urban Community

SPRING 2021

Tuesdays & Thursdays from 5:30 – 6:45 pm in Zoom

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AGENDA: Thursday, February 18, 2021

- **Complete discussion of Poverty in the city**
 - **READ:** Austensen, M., Been, V., O'Regan, K. M., Rosoff, S., & Yager, J. (2016). *2016 focus: Poverty in New York City*. New York, NY: New York University Furman Center.
- **Understanding disparities: How a War on Poverty became a War on the Poor**
 - **READ:** Piven, Frances Fox. "Our Endless War on the Poor." *Progressive.org*, *The Progressive*, 30 Mar. 2020, [progressive.org/magazine/our-endless-war-on-poor-fox-piven/](https://www.progressive.org/magazine/our-endless-war-on-poor-fox-piven/).
- **Extra Credit**
- **REMINDER: Neighborhood Assignment 1 is due T 2/23**
- **Midterm Exam Review questions: Updated**
- **Looking ahead**

Looking ahead

<p>Class session 7: Tu 2/23</p>	<p>Understanding disparities: Racial and ethnic disparities</p> <p>READ: Hinton, Elizabeth, LeShae Henderson, and Cindy Reed. "An unjust burden: The disparate treatment of black Americans in the criminal justice system." <i>Vera Institute of Justice</i>. May (2018).</p> <p>NEIGHBORHOOD RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE in BLACKBOARD by 11:59 pm</p>
<p>Class session 8: Th 2/25</p>	<p>Understanding disparities: Gender in neighborhoods</p> <p>READ: Miller, J. (2008). Chapter 2: Gender 'n the 'Hood: Neighborhood violence against women and girls. <i>Getting Played: African American girls, urban inequality, and gendered violence</i> (pp. 32-66). New York, NY: NYU Press.</p>

Where were we? Poverty in NYC 2016

- New York City has a larger number of people living in poverty today than it has since at least 1970.
- The neighborhood of the typical poor New Yorker varies substantially from that of the typical non-poor New Yorker, but those disparities are largely experienced by black and Hispanic New Yorkers living in poverty.
- Poor black and Hispanic New Yorkers are much more likely to live in higher poverty neighborhoods than poor white and Asian New Yorkers.

Where were we? Poverty in NYC 2016

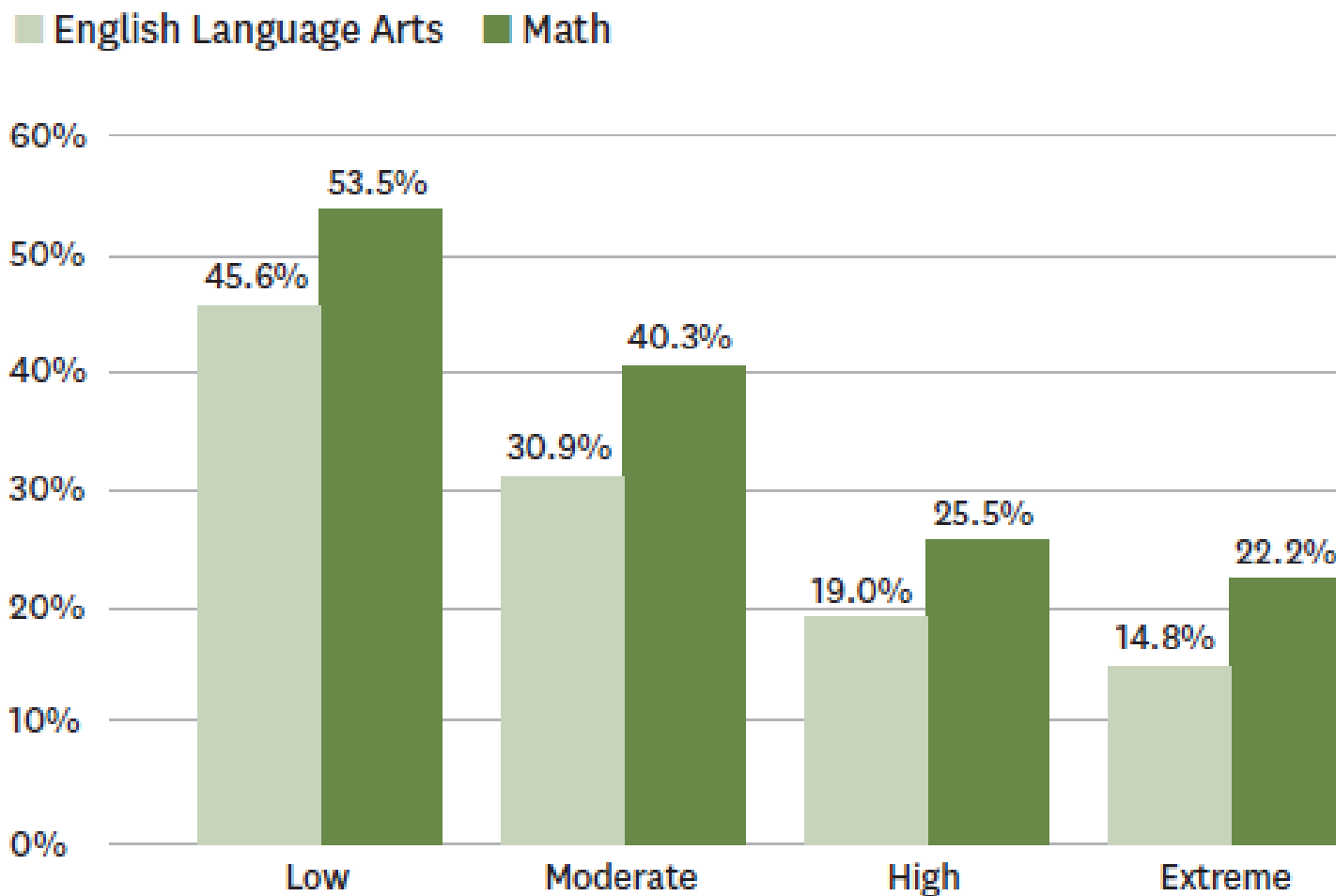
- Children make up a higher share of the population in higher poverty neighborhoods than adults or seniors.
- In the Bronx, 52.6 percent of all neighborhoods were high or extreme poverty
- In Brooklyn, 21.5 percent of neighborhoods were high or extreme poverty.
- Queens had the lowest share of its neighborhoods qualifying as high or extreme poverty (3.3%).

Where were we?

Poverty in NYC 2016

- Higher poverty neighborhoods have schools in which many fewer children were performing at grade level in English language arts (ELA) and math on fourth grade standardized tests.
- In 2014, there was about a 30-percentage point difference between the share of children performing at grade level in schools in or near low-poverty neighborhoods versus those in extreme-poverty neighborhoods (see Figure 14).
- There was a large disparity between schools near low-poverty areas and those near moderate-poverty areas as well (14.7 percentage points for ELA; 13.2 percentage points for math).
- <https://forms.gle/yE3DEjZaph7bzjDQ8>

Figure 14: Share of Students Performing at Grade Level in English Language Arts and Math (Fourth Grade) in Neighborhood Schools, by Neighborhood Poverty Level in New York City, 2014

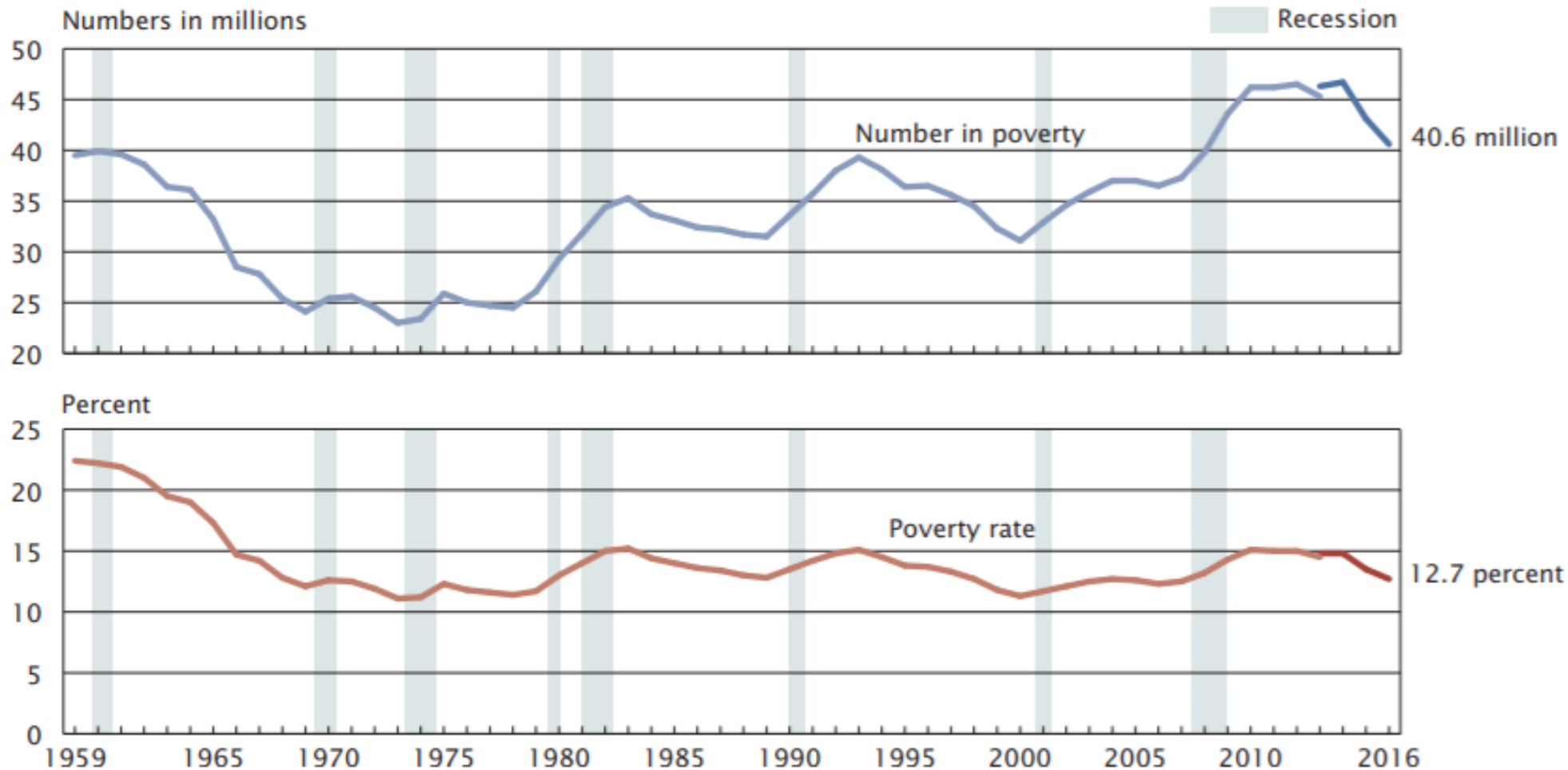


Sources: American Community Survey (2011-15), New York City Department of Education (2014), NYU Furman Center

From the War on Poverty to a War on the Poor

- In the late 1950s and early 1960s **37 million people** were living in poverty in the US
- President Lyndon B. Johnson declared the war on poverty (1964), which was part of:
- The Great Society program: “not a hand OUT, but a hand UP”
- At root: Should the state (the government) take an active role in improving the lives of the most vulnerable?
- War on Poverty results: From 22% to 13% poverty rate (greatest one-time reduction in poverty in US history)

Figure 4.
Number in Poverty and Poverty Rate: 1959 to 2016



Note: The data for 2013 and beyond reflect the implementation of the redesigned income questions. The data points are placed at the midpoints of the respective years. For information on recessions, see Appendix A. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar17.pdf.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1960 to 2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

The “Great Society”/War on Poverty:

- Passed more than 200 pieces of legislation; largest expansion of social safety net programs in history:
 - Created Medicare and Medicaid
 - Expanded Head Start early education program (preschool)
 - Increased funding for K-12 and postsecondary education
 - Established food stamps (now called SNAP) and school- and community-based nutrition program
 - Started job training programs like Job Corps (training unemployed young people) and VISTA (a domestic peace corps)
 - Increased subsidized hours for elderly and low-income families

Successes of the War on Poverty

- **Rapid decline in elderly poverty**
- **Extension of universal health care to the elderly**
- **Long-term gains in educational attainment, employment and earnings**
- **Lower rates of teen pregnancy and crime associated with early childhood education**
- **Desegregation of institutions receiving federal funding.**

Looking ahead

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