A Life Course Framework for Improving the Lives of Boys and Men of Color

Arnold Chandler | Forward Change
1. Part I: Structural Changes have produced intergenerational cycles of disadvantage that operate gender-specifically

2. Part II: A Life Course Framework for Improving the Lives of Disadvantaged Populations: Problem Framing Heuristic for Analysis and Intervention
Rise of Male Joblessness and Declining Earnings
Declining Male Employment

Joblessness Among Native-Born Males
Ages 18-61 | 1950-2010

- 1950: 8% Black, 6% Latino, 21% White
- 1960: 8% Black, 6% Latino, 21% White
- 1970: 8% Black, 6% Latino, 15% White
- 1980: 8% Black, 6% Latino, 12% White
- 1990: 7% Black, 7% Latino, 14% White
- 2000: 10% Black, 12% Latino, 17% White
- 2010: 17% Black, 17% Latino, 24% White

Heavily concentrated among those who didn’t attend college

Joblessness by Education Level
Ages 40-44 | 2010

- H.S. Dropout:
  - Black: 68%
  - Latino: 38%
  - White: 9%

- H.S. Graduate:
  - Black: 16%
  - Latino: 17%
  - White: 4%

- College Degree:
  - Black: 4%
  - Latino: 4%
  - White: 4%

Winters and Hirsch, 2012
Black men’s real median earnings in 2010 were lower than they were in 1950.

Winters and Hirsch, 2012

Donovan and Bradley, 2018
Rise of Mass Incarceration
Mass Incarceration and the War on Drugs

Increasing Joblessness & Declining Earnings

Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics Online; Travis & Western, 2014
Historical Incarceration Rates (1925-2012)
(State and Federal Prisoners per 100K Population)

- Imprisonment increased by 430 percent between 1973 and 2010
- Due to policy decisions that:
  - Increased prison Admissions
  - Increased Sentence Lengths
- Felony conviction and/or imprisonment reduces lifetime earnings and employment by 10-30 percent (Travis & Western, 2014)
- 1 in 10 (12.1%) of adult males and 1 in 3 adult black males (33%) have a felony record (Shannon et al, 2017)

Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics Online
Lifetime Risk of Imprisonment by Age 35 for Males in 2010
(by Education Level)

In the 1970s

Western and Pettit, 2010, for California Raphael, 2007
Rise of Disadvantaged Families
The Rise of Disadvantaged Families

Increasing Joblessness & Declining Earnings

Mass Incarceration and the War on Drugs

Growth of Disadvantaged Families

Joblessness, Mass Incarceration and Male Mortality have produced a sharp increase in single-parent families since the 1970s.
CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY

Percentage of children living in families with incomes below the poverty line (2001-15)

SOURCE: American Community Survey
Percentage of Children Living in Single Parent Families (1960-2014)

Census Bureau: https://www.census.gov/cps/methodology/techdocs.html
Growing up in a single-parent family is associated with:

- Reduced college attendance for boys, but not for girls (Jacob, 2002)
- Increased juvenile delinquency among boys, but not girls (Cobb-Clark, 2011)
- Significantly increased behavior problems for boys compared to girls (Bertrand and Pan, 2011)
- With an incarcerated father is associated with increased behavioral problems much more among boys than girls (Wakefield and Wildeman, 2013)
- A divergence in academic outcomes between boys and girls starting in Kindergarten: Based on a sample of 1 million Florida kids (Autor, 2015)
Adult Employment Based on Childhood Family Structure

Children Raised in **Married Parent** Households

Children Raised in **Single Parent** Households

Children's Employment Rates at Age 30 by Gender and Parent Income Percentile

Married Parent Households

Single Parent Households

Low-income single parent households

Male-Female Difference

Parent p10: 3.2%
Parent p50: 5.4%
Parent p90: 3.3%

Male-Female Difference

Parent p10: -4.5%
Parent p50: -1.3%
Parent p90: -0.1%

All U.S. Children Born from 1980-1982, N=10 million children claimed as dependents on IRS Forms

The Black-White Gap in Intergenerational Mobility is Driven by Males

All U.S. Children Born from 1978-1983, N=20 million children claimed as dependents on IRS Forms (94% of child cohort) matched to census data

The Black-White Gap in Intergenerational Mobility: Explanations

- For poor black boys, growing up in single parent families **DOES NOT** explain the black-white mobility gap

- Neither does parental education or parent wealth

All U.S. Children Born from 1978-1983, N=20 million children claimed as dependents on IRS Forms (94% of child cohort)

The Black-White Gap in Intergenerational Mobility: Explanations

- For poor black boys, growing up in single parent families **DOES NOT** explain the black-white mobility gap
- Neither does parental education or parent wealth
- One of the **strongest correlated factors** with the gap is the **percentage of two-parent households at the neighborhood level**

Along with other neighborhood factors:
- Neighborhood income
- Neighborhood poverty
- Neighborhood high school graduation rates
- County-level racial bias

All U.S. Children Born from 1978-1983, N=20 million children claimed as dependents on IRS Forms (94% of child cohort)

Family Factors Associated with Behavior Problems

Based on 119 Longitudinal Studies

Residential Mobility
Foster Care
Parent’s Education and Expectations
Parental Psychopathology
Parent Antisocial Behavior
Separated from Parents
Unwanted Pregnancy
Family Deviance (e.g. crime)
Home Discord and Stability
Discipline
Child Rearing Skills
Supervision and Involvement
Child Maltreatment
Warmth and Relationship
Family Stress
Family Socioeconomic Status
Broken Home
Young Parents
Parent Substance Use/Abuse
Family Size
Urban Housing

Problem Behavior

Family Factors Associated with Criminal Behavior

Based on 119 Longitudinal Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent’s Education and Expectations</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Discord and Stability</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Rearing Skills</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Stress</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Maltreatment</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Deviance (e.g. crime)</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warmth and Relationship</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discipline</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Antisocial Behavior</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Care</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Housing</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Socioeconomic Status</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Size</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unwanted Pregnancy</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broken Home</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separated from Parents</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Substance Use/Abuse</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Parents</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential Mobility</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervision and Involvement</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental Psychopathology</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Family Factors Associated with Violent Behavior

Based on 119 Longitudinal Studies

Violent Behavior

- Unwanted Pregnancy
- Supervision and Involvement
- Family Size
- Warmth and Relationship
- Family Stress
- Separated from Parents
- Foster Care
- Parent Antisocial Behavior
- Discipline
- Child Rearing Skills
- Parent's Education and Expectations
- Child Maltreatment
- Home Discord and Stability
- Family Deviance (e.g. crime)
- Family Socioeconomic Status
- Urban Housing
- Young Parents
- Broken Home
- Parental Psychopathology

A Vicious Cycle of Intergenerational Disadvantage

- Increasing Joblessness & Declining Earnings
- Human Capital, Socioemotional Skills, & Social Capital Deficits
- Mass Incarceration and the War on Drugs
- Growth of Disadvantaged Families

This cycle is now an intergenerational phenomenon as education attainment shapes the employment prospects of the next generation.

Gender-specific effects on educational attainment
• Poor neighborhoods are **over-policed** through aggressive drug enforcement and order-maintenance policing and **under-protected** from violence due to reduced “police legitimacy” and police effectiveness with regard to violent crime.

• **Mass incarceration** is also concentrated (Clear, 2007).

• The rise of **concentrated poverty** and **jobless ghettos** since the early 1970s due to economic decline, disinvestment and **racial & economic segregation** (Wilson, 1996).

• Concentration of factors associated with poverty like crime, violence, poor school quality, drugs, disinvestment (Massey, 2007).

• Concentration of single parent and poor families.


Centers for Disease Control (2010) "Homicide Rates Among Persons Ages 10–24 Years, by Race/Ethnicity and Sex, United States". Available at http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/stats_at-a_glance/hr_age-race.html


John M. Leventhal, Julie R. Gaither and Robert Sege (2014) "Hospitalizations Due to Firearm Injuries in Children and Adolescents", *Pediatrics*; originally published online January 27, 2014: Available at [http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2014/01/22/peds.2013-1809](http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2014/01/22/peds.2013-1809)


Bruce Western & Becky Pettit (2010) “Incarceration & social inequality”, Daedalus, Summer 2010

