

Migration

Qiong Wu (Mars) & Karyne Brown

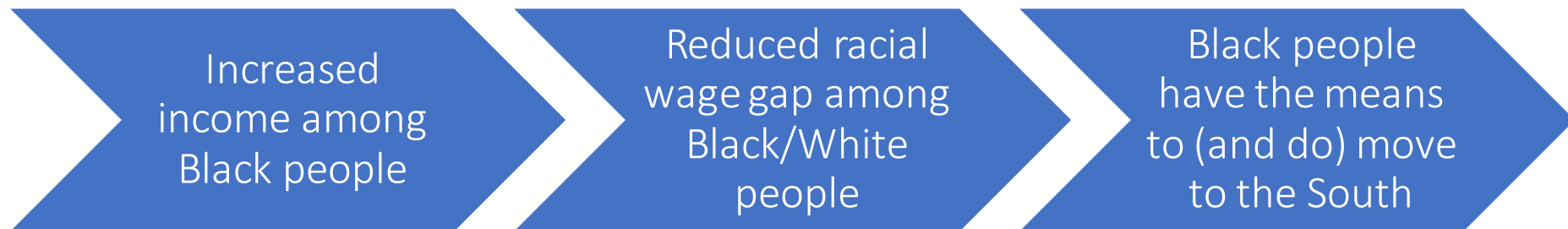
December 08, 2023

Overview

- ~1910-1970: the Great Migration
 - Migration from South to North
- 1970s: The "Sunbelt" Phenomenon (Newman, 1983)
 - Migration from North to South (trend reverses)
 - Mostly White people, but also a significant number of Black people
- **Why?** The South became a better place for Black people to live while the North became worse (Hunt et al., 2008).
 - Social & economic reasons
 - Lower "de-facto racial segregation" in the South (Farley & Frey, 1994)
 - Tremendous growth in service-sector jobs (Cromartie & Stack, 1989)
 - Marked declines in the Black/White wage gap (Hunt et al., 2008)
 - Migration is a self-reinforcing phenomenon (Greenwood & Hunt, 1984)

Hypothesis/Theory

- Increased income among Black people by the 1970s reduced the racial wage gap (between Black and White people) and provided Black people with the means to migrate to the South in search of better economic opportunities.
 - Not just White people with the financial economic means to migrate; reduced racial wage gap allows a significant number of Black people to migrate towards economic opportunity as well

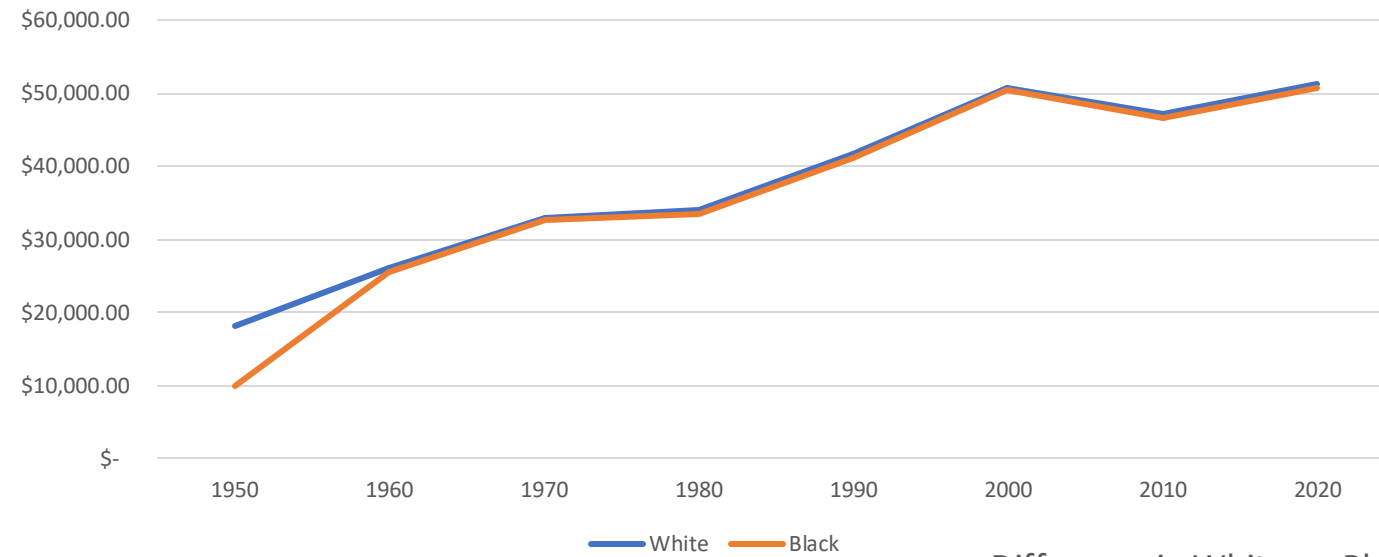


Variables & Data

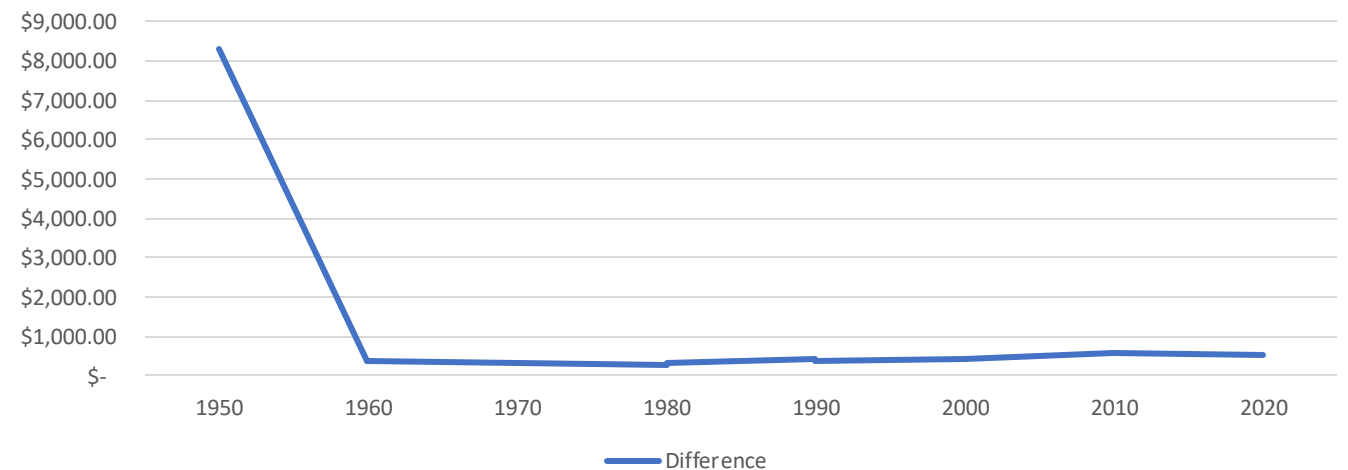
- **Variables:** race, birthplace, state or country of residence 5 years ago, state or country of residence 1 year ago, total personal income, total household/family income
 - No "current residence" variable; use "state or country of residence 1 year ago" instead
- **Samples:** data from each decade from 1950 to 2020
- Data was collected from the [IPUMS USA](#) website.

Results

White vs. Black mean total personal income 1950 to 2020

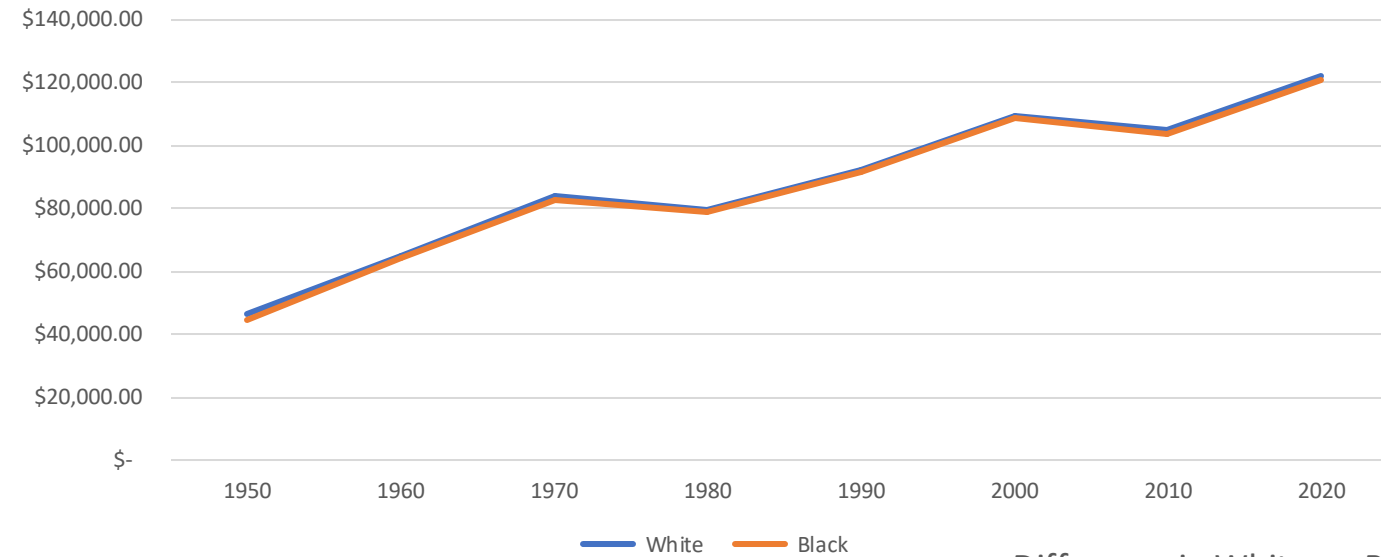


Difference in White vs. Black total personal income from 1950 to 2020

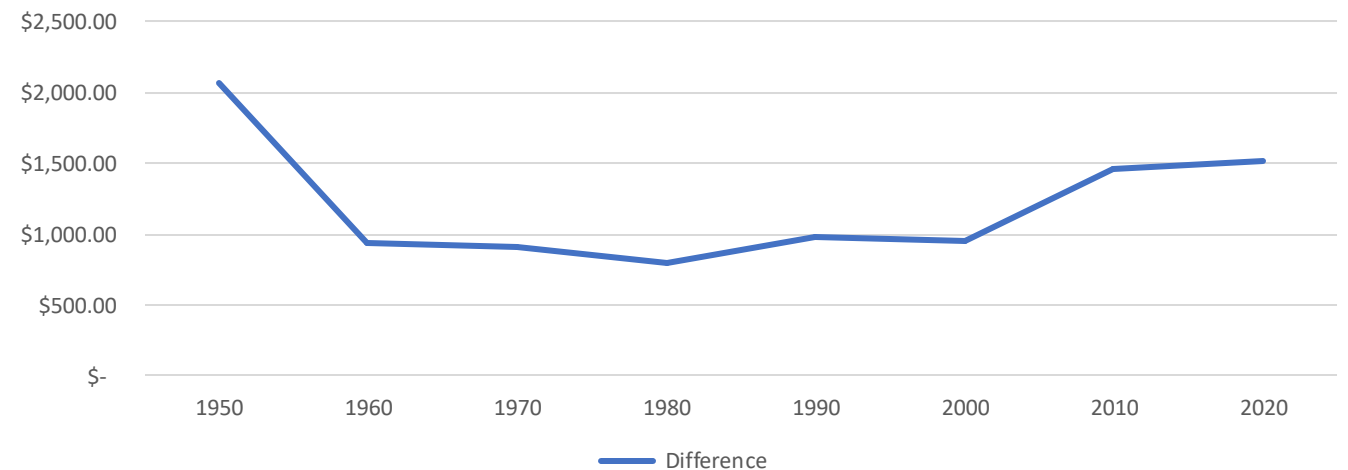


Results

White vs. Black mean total household income 1950 to 2020



Difference in White vs. Black total family income from 1950 to 2020



Analysis

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1		2020	2010	2000	1990	1980	1970	1960	1950
2	RACE	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
3	BPL	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4	MIGPLAC5				x	x	x		
5	MIGPLAC1	x	x	x		x			x
6	INCTOT	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
7	FTOTINC	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
8									

- Issues with our data
 - Missing variables in each sample: only the 1980 sample has all 6 variables
 - Limitations with expressing higher numbers in the program ("9999999")
 - These data were removed—also skews the calculations for "average"
 - Impossible to track individuals' migration over time (anonymity)
- Ignoring the obvious flaws in our data:
 - Racial wage gap (total personal income) does seem to decrease over time
 - Gap in average total personal income between White and Black people decreases rapidly from the 1950s to the 1960s, which supports the theory that the decreased wage gap may have influenced migration patterns
 - Hard to tell trends in average total household income
 - There is a less noticeable trend (if at all) in the gap between White and Black average total household income over time

Conclusion

- Was our hypothesis correct?
 - Due to the flaws in our data, it is hard to accept or reject our hypothesis
- Our data shows that there **may be** a relationship between the decreasing racial wage gap between Black and White average total personal income and significant migration trends
 - Suggests correlation
 - Cannot claim causation without a more in-depth analysis