



## **Separate and Unequal**

### **High School Years**

- The percentage of African-Americans graduating from high school decreased between 1991 and 2005
- Blacks nearly twice, Hispanics more than three times as likely to drop out of high school than Whites
- More than half of Black men living in inner cities do not finish high school
  - Among Black dropouts
    - 72% of males in their 20s were jobless
    - More Blacks in their late 20s are in prison on a given day (34%) than are working (30%)

### **Racial Disparities in High School Dropout Rates**

- Half of the nation's African American and Latino students are dropping out of high school, with the most severe problems are in segregated high poverty schools.
  - Of schools with minority populations of at least 50%, half have dropout rates over 40 percent
  - Of schools comprised of at least 90% minority students, two-thirds of these schools have dropout rates of more than 40%.
  - 88 percent of high minority schools are high poverty schools ( 50 percent of the students are on free and reduced lunch)
  - About 1.4 million black students and nearly 1 million Latino students attend schools that are almost all minority (defined as being between 90–100% minority)

### **Higher Education**

- According to the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (2001), 30 of every 100 white kindergartners go on to graduate from college, while only 16 of every 100 black kindergartners later earn bachelor's degrees.
- 80 % of Blacks have HS degree, Only 17% have a Bachelors
- Only 9.1% of college degrees in 2002-03 academic year were awarded to Blacks
- Among persons 18 to 24 years of age, the lowest college enrollment rates are for black males (26.5%) and Hispanic males (21.7%)
- Black women outnumber Black men in college at a ratio of nearly 2:1
- Less than 1/3 of Black men enrolled graduate within 6 years ([Center for College Affordability](#))

## Global Education Rankings

### *High School Completion*

- In 2004, 87% of the U.S. population between 25-34 years old had completed high school, a figure well above average but has changed little over the years.
  - However, in more than half of all ranked countries, the proportion of 25-to-34-year olds with at least a high school education now exceeds 80%, and in Canada, the Czech Republic, Japan, Korea, Norway, the Slovak Republic and Sweden it exceeds 90%
- The change over time in the United States ranking in high school completion can be clearly seen when looking at different age cohorts.
  - The United States ranks first among the 30 ranked countries in the high school educational attainment of 55-to-64- year-olds (i.e. those who completed high school some 40 years ago) but only 11th among 25-to-34-year-olds, who completed high school a decade ago.
  - By contrast, Korea ranks 24th among 55-to-64-year-olds but 1st among 25-to-34-year-olds.
  - The US has slipped to #16 in high school graduation, and 9th in postsecondary enrollments.

### *College Graduation*

- Although the college graduation rate for the United States increased slightly between 2000-2004, (from 33% to 34%), it was slightly below the average college graduation rate and well below the highest rates of over 45% reported by Australia, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, New Zealand and Norway.
- Current rates of college participation suggest that even more countries are likely to catch up and surpass the United States graduation rates. The number of students enrolled in college in the United States increased 21% between 1995 and 2003, considerably below the average of 38% and well below increases in Australia, the Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Korea, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic and Sweden, that ranged from 33% to 169% during the same period.