

101 SMSA's, 10 per cent of all families. Of these poor families, 1.9 million were white, 8 per cent of all white families; and .9 million were non-white, 28 per cent of all non-white families. Of the poor families, 1.1 million, or 39 per cent, lived in the Poverty Areas. Of the white poor families, 454 thousand or about one-fourth (24 percent) lived in these areas. In contrast, 642 thousand or almost three-fourths (72 percent) of the non-white poor lived in the Poverty Areas. Some 1.4 million white families and 254 thousand non-white fell below the poverty level but did not live in the Poverty Areas.

It is clear, then, that although in these SMSA's, as in the nation, more white than non-white families were poor (1.9 million compared with .9 million), a much larger proportion of the non-whites than of the whites fell below the poverty level (28 compared with 8 per cent). It is clear, also, that poverty in these SMSA's tended to be concentrated in the delineated Poverty Areas, 39 per cent; and much more so for non-whites, 72 per cent, than for whites, 24 per cent.

Anti-poverty programs in the United States, then, have readily identifiable targets. Poverty has the highest incidence among non-whites, households with unrelated individuals especially those with persons 65 and over, and families with female heads especially those with children under 6. Moreover, the population groupings with the highest incidence of poverty tend to be concentrated in SMSA's; within central cities and within Poverty Areas, which are mainly located in the central cities.

Although, as has been indicated, there are more poor whites in the United States than poor Negroes, the discussion which follows will be focused on the problem of the Negro Americans. For it is the Negro American who is at the core of "the urban crisis" and whose growing impatience with present anti-poverty efforts is forcing the Nation to face up to the problem.

*The "Why" of Negro Poverty.*—It is not difficult to understand why poverty has its highest incidence among Negro Americans concentrated in metropolitan areas and within segregated Poverty Areas. Although by 1910, the Negro had been a resident of what is now the United States for some three centuries, he had not yet entered the mainstream of American life. In 1910 about nine-tenths of the Afro-Americans were still resident in the South and almost three-fourths of them lived in rural areas, on farms or in places having fewer than 2,500 persons. In effect up to 1910 the Blacks lived as an isolated sub-cultural group, highly illiterate, steeped in poverty, and denied participation in white American society.

Afro-Americans have had access to the mainstream of American life, urban and metropolitan America, only since World War I. In half the century between 1910 and 1960, Negro Americans have experienced amazingly rapid urbanization and metropolitanization, and had managed in large measure to leave the South. By 1960 the concentration of Negroes in the South had diminished to 60 per cent and they had become transformed into a people 73 per cent urban, more urban than the white population. Moreover, by 1960, 65 per cent of Negro Americans lived in SMSA's and 51 per cent in the central cities of SMSA's. In the North 93 per cent of all Negroes lived in SMSA's and 79 per cent in their central cities. In the West comparable percentages were 93 and 67 per cent, and in the South 46 per cent and 34 per cent.

The rapid urbanization and metropolitanization of Negro Americans has not been accompanied by equally rapid preparation for the transition from an agrarian way of life, largely in the rural slum South, to urbanism and metropolitanism as a way of life. As recently as 1960, 78 per cent of all Negro adults, those 25 years of age and older, had not completed high school, and 23 per cent were functionally illiterate, had not completed 5 years of schooling. The Negro, entering the mainstream of American life only during World War I and mainly during and after World War II, was not equipped with the basic education and skills to enable him to make a living in the technologically advanced and complex economy which had relatively few opportunities for uneducated and unskilled labor. This stands in marked contrast with the opportunities available to the uneducated and unskilled streams of European immigrants who entered this country prior to World War I. At that time with only unskilled labor to offer, the immigrant could make a living, for this nation was still building railroads, roads, industrial plants and urban infrastructure.

The Negro American, although a resident of this nation for 3½ centuries is, in fact, a newer newcomer to the mainstream of American life than our pre-World War I immigrants; and he has entered a much more advanced and complex economy. Moreover, the Negro American, unlike white immigrants, has