

Population

Approximately 825,000 men and women 16 years old and over resided in the selected slum areas of the six cities. Of the residents, 68 percent were Negro; the remainder were about equally divided between Spanish-American and other white persons.

Educational attainment

Workers living in the Urban Employment Survey areas had not completed as much schooling as their counterparts in the Nation as a whole. Slum area workers 18 years and over averaged 10.7 years of school completed, compared with 12.3 years for all the Nation's workers and 11.1 years for Negro workers in March 1968. Only 37 percent of the workers in these areas, compared to 60 percent of the workers in the Nation as a whole, had completed 4 years of high school or more. About the same proportion of Negro and white workers in the survey areas had completed high school.

Adult women workers (25 years and over) living in UES slum areas were better educated than men. The proportions who completed 4 years of high school or more were 39 percent for women and 30 percent for men. In the Nation as a whole, about three out of five of both adult men and women workers had completed at least 4 years of high school.

Labor force participation and employment

During the third quarter of 1968, 59 percent of the persons 16 years and over living in the UES slum areas were in the Labor force—working or looking for work. That was about the same as the national proportion. Adult women in the survey areas were more likely to be in the labor force than women in the Nation as a whole. In the case of adult men, the labor force participation rate was lower in the slum areas than nationally.

An unusually large proportion of the persons not in the labor force reported that they wanted work; 23 percent of the slum resident who were not in the labor force reported that they wanted a job "now," as compared to 8 percent of the nonparticipants nationally. More than half of those in slum areas who wanted a job indicated that they intended to look for work during the next 12 months; this compares with 78 percent in the Nation as a whole.

Nearly half of the men in the Urban Employment Survey areas who were not in the labor force but wanted a job, listed health problems as one of the reasons they were not looking for work. Health problems and family responsibilities were the main reasons given by women for nonparticipation.

About 80 percent of the employed persons at work in UES areas were working full time (35 hours or more weekly) during the third quarter of 1968, less than the national average (86 percent). Of those who were working part time, most did so voluntarily, although others wanted but couldn't find full-time jobs. About 1 out of every 5 slum area part-time workers was on short hours because of circumstances beyond his control, such as slack work, material shortages, and repairs to plant and equipment. That was about the same proportion as in the Nation as a whole.

Unemployment

At 9.5 percent, the unemployment rate for workers in the UES slum areas was more than two and one-half times the national average (3.6 percent) during the third quarter of 1968. The jobless rate for Negro workers in the UES slum areas was 10.4 percent compared with 6.8 percent for all Negro workers in the United States. White workers in the UES areas and in the Nation as a whole had unemployment rates of 7.2 and 3.2 percent, respectively.

Teenagers residing in these slum areas were particularly affected by unemployment. The teenage unemployment rate was 30 percent in the UES areas; this compares with 12.2 percent for all teenagers and 24.4 percent for Negro teenagers in the entire country. Jobless rates in these slum areas were 5.2 percent for adult men and 9.3 percent for adult women, compared to respective rates of 1.9 and 4.0 percent for all adult workers in the Nation. Heads of households had an unemployment of 4.2 percent for men and 8.0 percent for women, about three times the corresponding national averages.

Work experience

One of the best measures of the employment problems faced by residents of slum areas is their work experience over a full year. This contrasts with the labor force status information described earlier which relates to an individual's