



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

**INCREASED IMPOVERISHED CONDITIONS IN METROPOLITAN AREAS
MAY CONTRIBUTE TO DIMINISHED HEALTH AND DISABILITY**

A briefing was held by the Brookings Institution on “Metropolitan Demographic Change”. The keynote speaker at the event was author of a book entitled “Metropolitan Demographics”. Other participants were representatives from University administrations, communication schools, financial institutions, media commentators and an organization for the elderly.

Summary

There are insignificant social changes that are happening in metropolitan areas of America. There are several realities that are occurring in metropolitan’s areas. These realities are that there is growth and outward expansion of the impoverished populations which are diverse, and aging with polarization between those with higher education and greater income.

The metropolitan suburbs are the fastest growing areas of the poor populations with considerable variability in median income. For instance, median income in metropolitan suburbs gained 8% in Wooster MA and was down 17% Detroit MI. Most of the largest increases in metropolitan poverty occurred in Midwestern metro areas.

Disability Prevention

High wage earners wages grew and wages for middle income and low income earners declined in the 100 largest metropolitan areas. These earning disparities among vulnerable income groups were affected by race, educational attainment and unemployment rates. Income inequities have grown since 2000. Minorities make up more than half the poor in cities and most types of suburbs. Income instability of low income and impoverished people is associated with diminished population based health that can contribute to disability.

Activity

There is ongoing study of the implications of activity in metropolitan areas that are associated with public health issues of poverty that diminish health and contribute to disability.

Principle

There is need to develop policies to create more equitable opportunities for vulnerable populations that prevent diminished health and disability.