

Lesson Plan 6: Household income

SUBJECT(S): Math, Social Studies

GRADE LEVEL: 7 - 10

DURATION: one class period

Objectives

Students will understand that:

- the household income of different groups of people varies significantly

Students will be able to:

- read and interpret a bar graph
- predict outcomes

Warm-up/Discussion

Ask students to think about what they would give up if they (or their families) suddenly had to live on 25% less income. You can hand out copies of the *Do I really need this?* (pg. 97) handout to help them think about the question (or write the items on the board). They can also generate additional goods or services to add to the list.

Learning Activities

Distribute the *Median Household Income in the Chicago Region* (pg. 111) and *Reading the Household Income Graph* (pg. 112) handouts and ask students to answer the questions. If you've covered this material previously, you might ask the questions in class rather than having students complete the *Reading the Household Income Graph* (pg. 112) handout.

Assessment

Evaluate the accuracy of students' answers to questions on the *Reading the Household Income Graph* (pg. 112) handout.

Materials Included:

- Do I really need this? (from Chapter 3; Lesson Plan 3) [pg. 97]
- Median Household Income in the Chicago Region [pg. 111]
- Reading the Household Income Graph [pg. 112]

Additional Materials Needed:

- None

Vocabulary

household:

a domestic unit consisting of the members of a family who live together along with non-relatives; the living space belonging to such a unit

median household income:

the middle income value in a list of income for all households

Wrap-up/Reflection

Ask students to think about the following:

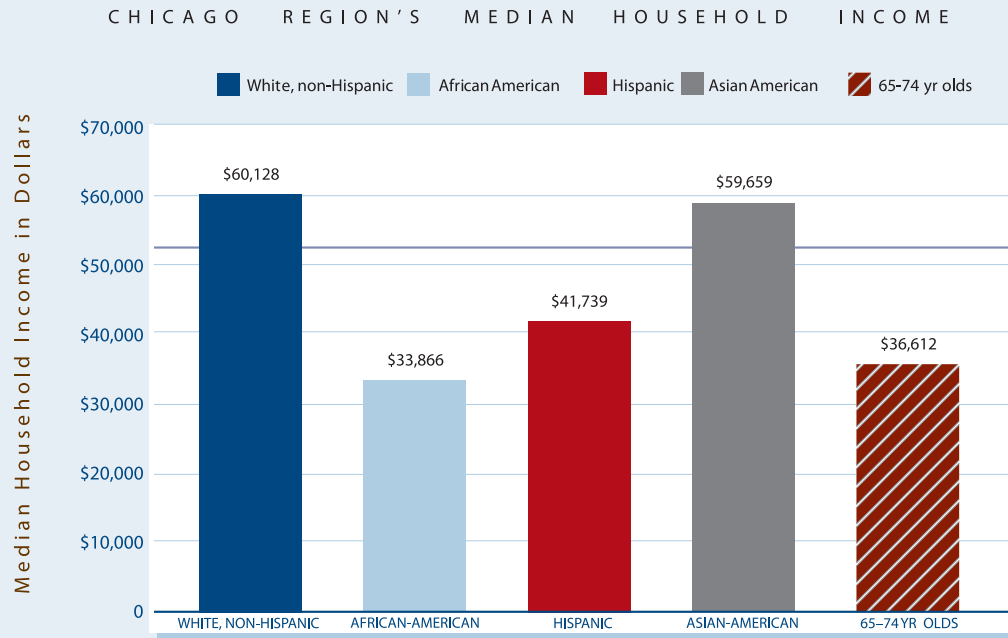
If you were making your own graph of household income, would you have used the median value? Why or why not? Is there some other measure that you feel may have been more appropriate or might have produced different results?

What factors might contribute to variation in median household income? (level of education, how many workers there are in a household, etc.)

Ideas for Additional Activities

Social Studies: Ask students to think about why it might be important to have data for separate categories of the population, such as race and ethnicity, age and income.

Median Household Income in the Chicago Region



Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000

The fastest growing segments of the region's population. Hispanics, African-Americans and those over 65 have median household incomes well below the area median household income.

Reading the Household Income Graph

- 1) What is the median household income for the Chicago region?
- 2) Name the two groups whose median household income is closest in range.
- 3) What is the median household income of Latinos in the Chicago region?
- 4) The median household income of _____ is \$36,612.
- 5) Information for this graph was collected in what year? _____
- 6) According to the information on the chart, which two groups comprise the fastest growing segments of the population?