THE CAUSES OF PERSISTENT POVERTY AMONG AFRICAN AMERICANS IN ALABAMA’S BLACK BELT

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High Concentration of blacks = Racial Prejudice
- Gender matters. Thus, the axiom is: “The blacker the county, the more likely a business will bypass it.”
- There is an industrial realigning in Alabama’s Black Belt.

Racial Composition of the Area
- African Americans
- Hispanics

High Concentration of Black People
- Rights of poverty
- Legal aid centers

Strategies used to survive poverty
- Drawing on government and private sector support
- Getting help from partners, family, and friends
- Doubling up in households
- Cutting size or skipping meals

Structural Characteristics of the Area
- Poor employment opportunities
- Business closings
- Poor public services and infrastructure
- Social cost of space
- Globalization-Dependency
- Local Politics that set people in opposition to one another

Economic conditions
- Unemployment
- Male underemployment
- Non-employment
- Limited job availability
- Unsuccessful job searches
- Opting out of the labor force
- Dependent on Federal/state govt.

Demographic Structure
1. Female-Headed Households
2. Teenage Parents
3. The elderly
4. Children under 18

Business Closings
- Wal-Mart shuts down: surprises the community

Globalization-Dependency
- What is needed in research, from my viewpoint, is to focus on local deficits in the fundamental requirements for social well-being, namely jobs and income, services, equality, and community.

Conclusion
- Summary
- There are millions of families in our Black Belt dependent on menial jobs with low wages, few benefits and poor working conditions.
- The uneducated, the poor, the sick, the vulnerable and, of course children are living in horrific filth and poverty.

The Elderly
- Bud’s Going out of Business

Female-Headed Households

The Neighborhood

Strategies used to survive poverty
- Cost-effective shopping
- Working off-the-books in illicit or illegal work
- Community food kitchens/pantries during financial shocks

Local Politics and Poor Neighborhood

Political Divisions Set People Apart

Closed gas station