

This Damning Chart Shows How Much of a Head Start White Families Have Over Black Families

By Jordan Weissmann



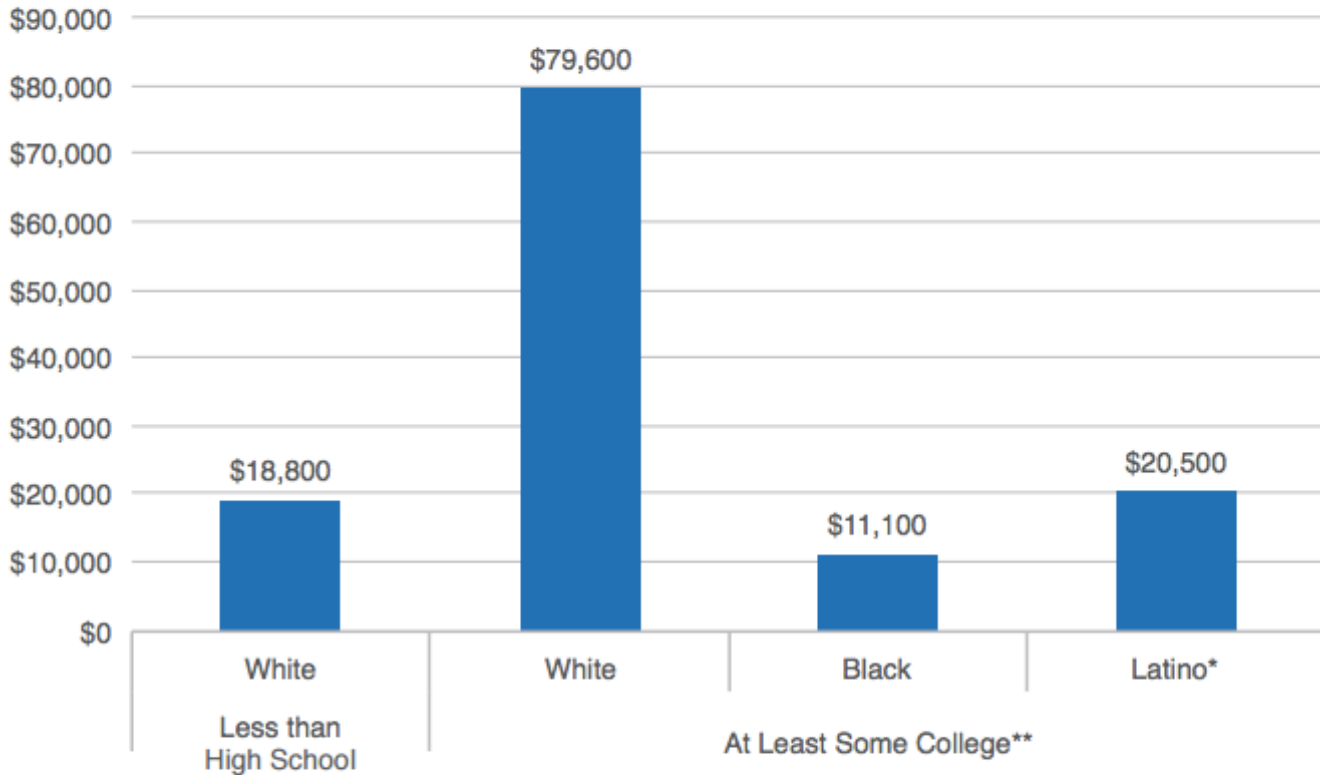
Freshmen students at historically black Spelman College in Atlanta.

Tami Chappell/Reuters

The **yawning wealth gap** between black and white families is one of the starkest legacies of America's history of racist social policymaking. As far as simple statistical comparisons go, I can't recall any representations of it as striking as this chart from a **recent report** by the left-wing think tank Demos and the Institute on Assets and Social Policy at Brandeis University. As it shows, the median white household headed by a high-school dropout is wealthier today than the median black household headed by someone who went to college. The latter category includes those who at least attended a two- or four-year college, but not graduate degree holders.

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Figure 1. Median Wealth by Educational Attainment for Working Households under Age 55



Source: Authors' calculations of the Survey of Consumer Finances, 2013

* Latino refers to anyone who identified as Hispanic or Latino on the Survey of Consumer Finances and may be of any race.

** This group includes households who attended college but attained no degree as well as those with associate's or bachelor's degrees. Households with graduate and professional degrees are not included.

That's how much of a head start white Americans have. The median black American who pursues higher education is still poorer, judged by net worth, than a white person who never finished 12th grade.

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