Racial Disparities in MFIP Outcomes

The Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) is Minnesota’s welfare program for families. In the MFIP program, success is defined as working in paid employment for an average of 30 or more hours per week or being off the cash portion of the MFIP program three years after a baseline eligibility quarter. The rate of success is called the Self-Support Index (S-SI).

While S-SI is officially reported for the state, counties, and tribes, the S-SI can be calculated for any MFIP subgroup (regions, races, service providers, etc.). This following chart below presents the S-SI by race/ethnicity.

The S-SI for each of eight race/ethnicities is represented by a vertical bar at half-year intervals between 2004 and 2010. The horizontal line represents the gap between the average of the American Indian and African American S-SI and the average S-SI for all other race/ethnicities.

There is a very large and enduring gap between African Americans and American Indians and all other race/ethnicities with respect to MFIP success. The gap was smallest in 2004 (16.6 percentage points) and has remained above 19 percentage points since mid-2008.

For more information, see the MFIP/DWP Caseload and Participant Characteristics Reports series and Welfare Reform Outcomes of Racial/Ethnic and Immigrant Groups in Minnesota: Racial/Ethnic and Immigrant Studies (REIS) series at www.dhs.state.mn.us (Economic Supports / MFIP / Reports).