

THE CASE OF BALTIMORE

Deindustrialization Creates ‘Death Zones’

by EIR Economics Staff

“We call it a death zone,” is the description by a long-time Baltimore resident and teacher, for one of several localities within the city, where the population today is in a state of medical collapse.

The process of deindustrialization and globalization unleashed in leading manufacturing cities in America over the past 40 years is producing a collapse of civilization. This collapse, now in its end-phase, manifests itself in a large increase in death rates from disease, and the potential for still greater death rates as new combinations of diseases interact with squalid living conditions, to spawn still more virulent killer diseases.

Baltimore, America’s sixth-largest city in the 1950s, imbued with the ethics of productive activity, today demonstrates that the political will must be found to put the people of all the “Baltimores” across the United States back to work, with massive Federal credit creation for jobs, building needed infrastructure, before what Baltimore’s own residents call “death zones” take over the nation (**Figure 1**).

The deindustrialization of Baltimore—which began in the 1960s, with the shrinkage of the steel, shipbuilding, auto, and other industrial producers, whose employment allowed workers to participate in progress and earn a living wage—has turned a center of innovation and industry since the American Revolution, into a decayed shell, whose population is living out a 21st-Century death spiral.

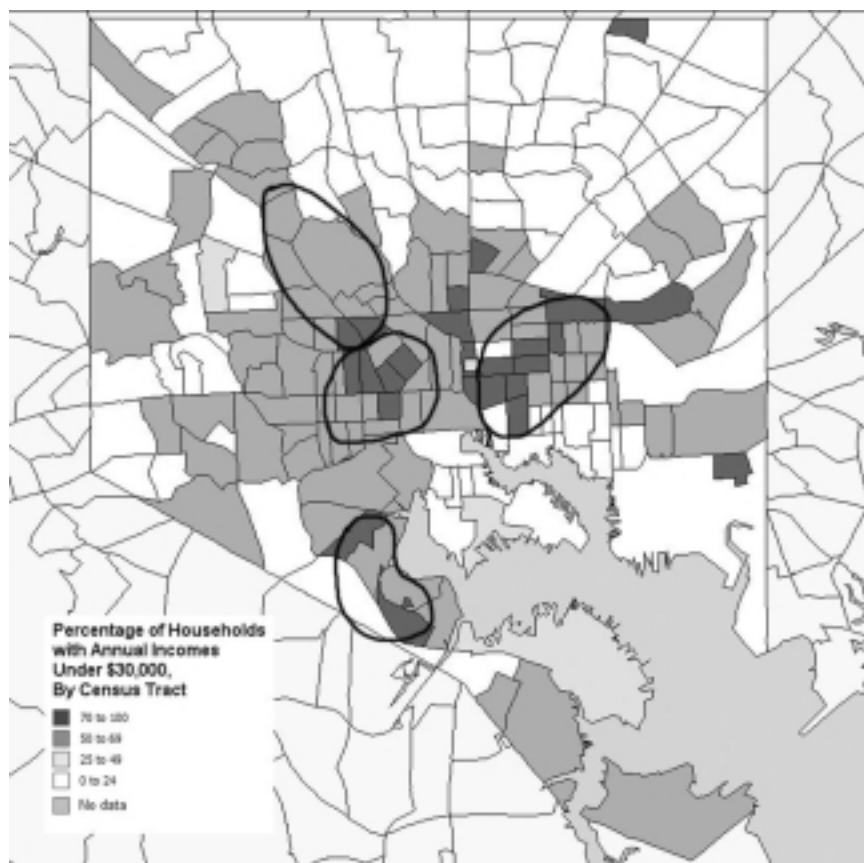
The City of Baltimore has been taken apart in the last 40 years, and re-assembled, with no high-paying manufacturing industry, and minus one-third of its population. Ninety percent of the city workforce works in the service industry, where most jobs pay \$10-11/hour in health care, and below \$8/hour in tourism. As a result, much of Baltimore’s population lives in “slave quarters,” while servicing the entertainment complexes as ticket takers, food service workers, and janitors. A full 25% of the city’s households are headed by single mothers, who live in a city full of boarded-up houses, like a war zone.

This poverty has been a petri dish for disease, drugs, crime—spread in part

FIGURE 1

Baltimore 'Death Zones'—Areas (Circled) of High Disease, Poverty, and Death Rates, Inside the City Borders

(Base Map Shows Percentages of Households with Annual Incomes Under \$30,000, by Census Tract, 2000)



Sources: *EIR*; U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Map produced by MapInfo

In the 24 darkest census tracts, 70% of the households had an annual income under \$30,000 as of 2000. These tracts are core sub-sections of communities characterized by economic collapse, high disease and mortality rates, even measurable statistically as “excess deaths” compared to the national standard for current, age-adjusted death rates.

through the medium of a very large, revolving prison population, which brings the hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, drug-resistant TB, resurgent syphilis, and high-risk pregnancies out of prison into the general population, through the highly volatile vectors of approximately six extremely impoverished neighborhoods.

The result is that Baltimore—the place where the first railroad in the nation was established—today specializes in needle tracks; has the second-highest HIV/AIDS infection rate in the nation; the highest intravenous heroin use, overlapping with strong cocaine use; the highest number of teenage pregnancies; the highest number of low-birthweight babies; and the highest murder rate in the United States.

It is not a question of categories of diseases, or health

problems which act as co-factors for a worsening of diseases. All these conditions *interacting* in a daily complex of conditions of poverty, produce non-linear, rapid shortening of the population's capacity to live—despite the city's famous medical institutions. Two of the city's “death zones,” ironically, sit next to Johns Hopkins—the top-ranked hospital in the United States!

The interacting functions of poor housing, poverty, low rates of high-school graduation, households headed by single mothers, drugs, and crime, are measured in this report as “excess deaths”—deaths beyond the normal number expected for various age groups, according to the national rates.

In mid-2005, statesman and economist Lyndon LaRouche commissioned a study of Baltimore, after briefings by Maryland physician Ned Rosinsky, on the patterns, depth, and geography of the disease syndromes in the city. LaRouche directed that the “Case of Baltimore” be understood and shown, according to the dynamic, non-reductionist principles he set out in his “Vernadsky and Dirichlet's Principle” article (*EIR*, June 3, 2005); that is, *living processes must be treated as Riemannian and dynamic*, rather than Cartesian and mechanistic.

LaRouche's Forewarnings

LaRouche has stressed this in key interventions over the past 35 years. In 1975, he convened a task force to study the potential for a “biological holocaust” to result, if economic breakdown

were allowed to occur from the policy-implementation of globalization, so-called free trade, and deindustrialization. By the mid-1980s, aspects of just this danger became evident: HIV-AIDS outbreaks were identified, and spreading. During the same decade came the bovine spongiform encephalopathy/vCJD outbreak. Today's potential impact of a virulent avian flu pandemic, is likewise part of the dynamics of economic breakdown.

This has been shown in many specific situations. For example, for HIV-AIDS, in 1985, in the town of Belle Glade, near the Florida Everglades, the work of Dr. Mark Whiteside showed the interaction disease threat from poverty, HIV infection, tuberculosis, and lack of public health measures to control mosquitoes, and other vectors.

Today's holocaust situation of Africa is the continent-wide example of the dynamics of poverty-induced collapse, lack of infrastructure, and disease. From the 1970s, LaRouche warned that conditions were being created for a deadly pandemic to arise—which stormed out of Africa as incurable HIV-AIDS.

Now, looking at conditions in Baltimore, LaRouche has issued a similar warning, noting, "That approach is not only relevant to special cases, such as tropical disease and comparable regions in Africa. It is a matter to be a case of threat whose spread is much to be feared under the conditions created by the influence of current HMO practice in the U.S.A. today. It is a deadly potential in any case in which a specific, simply defined disease, rather than a patient, is what is authorized, categorically, for treatment."

In an interactive complex of active disease and related conditions which occupies a well-defined, but mobile populated area, LaRouche insists, one cannot simply take co-factors into account, using a Cartesian method of interacting "hard balls"; rather, one must use a dynamic, Riemannian analysis. (See box.)

Baltimore is not an aberration, but highly typical of formerly industrial cities in the United States. Its process of disease, developing in a non-linear way through interacting vectors of poverty, is the same kind of process as is now causing a genocide in Africa.

This report will prove that there is no other path to the development of health and wealth for current and future generations except production, with the living standards, such as education, transportation, health, and other infrastructure, which sustain and improve it, and create the potential for future scientific and technological breakthroughs. Baltimore shows that the much-applied urban "re-invention model" of entertainment, sports and hotel complexes, not only does not provide jobs even at the poverty level, but in fact is looting even more revenue from America's bankrupt cities.

What follows is a history of the past 40 years of the Baltimore metropolitan region; snapshot profiles of the economic collapse and "death zones" of the city; and a summary, vital statistics-based report by Dr. Ned Rosinsky on the geography and medical-economic dynamics behind the zones of "excess death."

Baltimore as a Productive City

Baltimore has been a leading port and manufacturing complex since colonial times (**Figure 2**). In 1887, the Pennsylvania Steel Company brought the steel process—which allowed stronger rail tracks for more powerful locomotives—to a tidewater facility southeast of Baltimore, at Sparrows Point. There, in an advance over British steel production, the steelmaking process was integrated in a single facility—from the arrival of tankers with iron ore at the Sparrows Point docks, to the shipment of finished steel, which eventually produced more than 3,500 combinations and grades of steel.

FIGURE 2

Baltimore—Strategic Eastern Seaboard Location



From the 1600s, Baltimore served as a centrally located port for the original colonies, located 12 miles inland from the Chesapeake Bay. As the new nation grew, Baltimore grew continuously in importance in manufacturing, commerce, and shipping—with key rail links to the west (Baltimore & Ohio Railroad), north and south. Then, as of the mid-1960s, the city and its economic base began a drastic contraction under the national "post-industrial," free-trade policy shift.

In 1916, Bethlehem Steel bought the plant and expanded it, such that during World War II, it produced 17 million tons of steel at that one plant.

Under Roosevelt's transformation of the U.S. economy into the "Arsenal of Democracy" for World War II, Baltimore employed 260,000 workers in manufacturing activity. Three shipyards employed 77,000 workers; the aircraft industry (including a converted GM assembly plant) employed 50,000, and the gigantic Sparrows Point integrated steel complex em-



Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society

The Bethlehem Steel complex, at Sparrows Point, east of Baltimore, in 1954. This aerial view looks northward from the mouth of the Baltimore Harbor on the Chesapeake Bay. During the 1950s, the furnaces and mills produced more than 3,500 types and grades of steel. By 1959, it was the world's largest steel works, employing 35,000 workers.

The first steel plant was constructed in 1887 at Sparrows Point, by the Pennsylvania Steel Co.. In 1916, Bethlehem Steel bought the facility, and vastly expanded capacity, making good use of the strategic location as a tidewater port, to receive iron ore, coke, and limestone. Sparrows Point has four miles of waterfront.

During World War II, as part of the economic mobilization, the Bethlehem Steel Sparrows Point works produced 17 million tons of raw steel over the 1941-45 period, unprecedented for a single facility. The Bethlehem Steel shipyards were a key part of the complex. Between 1939 and 1946, they turned out 68 tankers, 26 general cargo ships, and 22 other types of vessels. Over 20,000 workers were employed in the shipyards.

ployed 29,000.

Baltimore was a magnet for workers. African-Americans from the Carolinas traveled there for these high-paying manufacturing jobs, joining Germans, Poles, Irish, Italians, and others migrating south from Pennsylvania coal country. Wages were high enough for all to purchase their own homes, raise a family on the wages of one person, and send their children to college: a first in many families, seen as a sure portent of a better future.

Dundalk, Turner Station (towns in Baltimore County, ad-

jacent to Baltimore City and Sparrows Point), and West Baltimore saw thousands of homes bought by these skilled workers. By 1959, Sparrows Point employed 35,000 workers, making it the largest steel process plant in the world. After the war, Bethlehem Steel, the inventor of the H-beam, became the leading producer of steel I-beams, used to build skyscrapers.

In 1967, Bethlehem Steel ran a full-page ad in *The Baltimore Sun*, boasting of its production of "5.4 million tons of Basic Oxygen Furnace steel in 1966 . . . a new steelmaking



Dundalk, 1960s, showing the town center, churches, school (multi-story structure center left), and expanding housing (see photo, 1960s). Located in Baltimore County, between Baltimore City line on the west, and Sparrows Point to the east, Dundalk grew as one of the principal residential towns associated with the Bethlehem steel and its shipyards complex.



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Dundalk row houses, 1960s view, of houses constructed post-World War II. Typical steel worker family household dwellings.

Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society

record.” This cultural outlook of production was prevalent throughout the school and college systems, with training in metallurgy and other kinds of science and technology.

All along, as the steel, and general manufacturing base of the Baltimore metropolitan area thrived, the needs of the “physical market basket” of families were met. Housing makes the point. Early on in the 20th Century, the mill-worker company town located in Sparrows Point itself, became too small for Bethlehem Steel’s growing workforce, and in 1929, Bethlehem Steel bought 1,000 acres of land and established the Dundalk Company, to build a planned community for its burgeoning shipbuilding business.

Now an independent town in Baltimore County, Dundalk’s layout and housing style (see photo) was modelled on an appealing, well-to-do area in Baltimore City, and promoted as “the working man’s Roland Park.” Here, steelworkers bought houses, lived alongside workers from General Motors, Glenn L. Martin aerospace (later, Martin Marietta), and Black and Decker machine tools, and raised children to have greater

opportunities than they themselves had had. Schools, church, stores, libraries, parks, and workplaces were within walking distance, or a 10-15 minute ride on trolleys, or later, buses. Virtually no household needed two cars, or two jobs. Many had time to volunteer for community projects. In 1960, twenty-eight percent of Dundalk’s workforce was employed by Bethlehem Steel, and the town grew to 82,428.

Turner Station, just south of Dundalk, an African-American community dating from the 1880s, has a similar history. It grew rapidly through migration from the South to well-paying jobs at Bethlehem Steel. By 1950, it had 10,000 residents, who bought homes, raised families, and were able to send their children to college.

In the 1970s, when the paradigm shift away from production was in full swing, augmented in the 1980s by Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker’s 20% interest rates, industry in the United States could not produce and pay a skilled labor force. The population of Turner Station today has fallen to about 3,000, with many employed in low-paying

FIGURE 3

U.S. Steel Production, Per Capita, Falls, 1965–2005

(Short Tons Per Person)

Sources: American Iron & Steel Institute; *EIR*.

Steel output in the United States has declined by 50% over the past 40 years, in per-capita terms, from the range of 0.7 short tons per person in 1970, down to 0.35 tons today. This reflects every aspect of the “post-industrial” turn, including such shifts as the lack of steel consumption for capital infrastructure repairs and construction—bridges, rail, ports, locks and dams, levees; the lack of advanced power generation and distribution—nuclear plants, new transmission grids, etc; urban water and sewage treatment, and other vital systems; new high-speed rail and maglev routes. At the same time, steel imports increased.

Bethlehem Steel at Sparrows Point shrank each decade. During the bankruptcy and buy-out frenzy beginning in the late 1990s, Bethlehem was among those eventually taken over by the scavenger operator Wilbur Ross, who in 2002, set up the International Steel Group (ISG), and successively bought out LTV Steel, ACME Steel, Bethlehem, Weirton, and others. Along the way, Ross imposed huge job terminations, and cuts in pension and health benefits. He made a killing selling various ISG holdings, including former Bethlehem capacity, to Mittal Steel Co. NV, the Netherlands-based world steel conglomerate interlocked with synarchist financial cartels. As of December 2005, only 2,500 workers were still employed at the Sparrows Point steel site.

service jobs—if they are employed at all. Today, Dundalk’s population is at 75% of 1950 levels, at 62,306, and 59% of Dundalk’s rental housing is occupied by Section 8 recipients (those who receive vouchers for Federally subsidized housing for the poor).

In October 2001, Bethlehem Steel declared bankruptcy, and was taken over by “restructuring specialist” Wilbur Ross’s ISG Corp., looted, then quickly resold to Lakshmi Mittal, who is buying up steel plants around the world for pennies, to shut them down. Today, the Sparrows Point plant employs only 2,500 workers (**Figure 3**).



Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society

Charging a blast furnace, at Bethlehem Steel, Sparrows Point works, in 1966. As of 1967, Bethlehem was the world’s leading producer of steel made by the basic oxygen furnace (BOF) process, with five oxygen furnaces, and four more authorized, aiming to produce 10 million tons of basic oxygen steel yearly. The BOF method was 10 times faster than the predecessor open hearth steel process. A “heat” of steel that took 8 to 10 hours with open hearth, could be produced in 40 to 50 minutes in a basic-oxygen furnace.

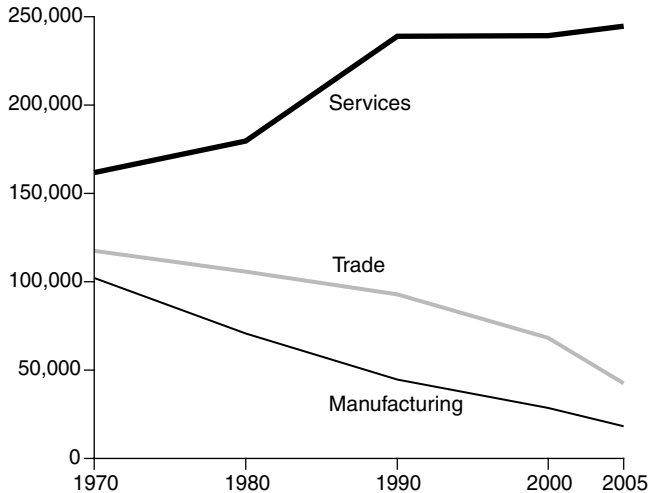
Drastic Deindustrialization Shift

In 1970, Baltimore employed 102,672 workers in manufacturing, out of a total 499,000 employed—20.5%. In 2005, only 17,800 (projected) are in manufacturing out of 365,900 employed—4.8%. This means that this former industrial powerhouse is more deindustrialized than any of the “Rust Belt” cities of the Upper Midwest, or the nation as a whole. Baltimore was downshifted into the “services” economy, and low-wage poverty. Today, 90% of all jobs in Baltimore city are service-providing jobs. Whereas, in 1982, for example, unionized steelworkers at Bethlehem Steel earned an average wage equivalent to \$22.83/hour, service job rates were well below \$10/hour (**Figure 4**).

Accordingly, as of 2000, the median household income in Baltimore City was only \$30,078—far below the statewide median household income of \$52,868 that year, and the national median of \$42,500.

FIGURE 4

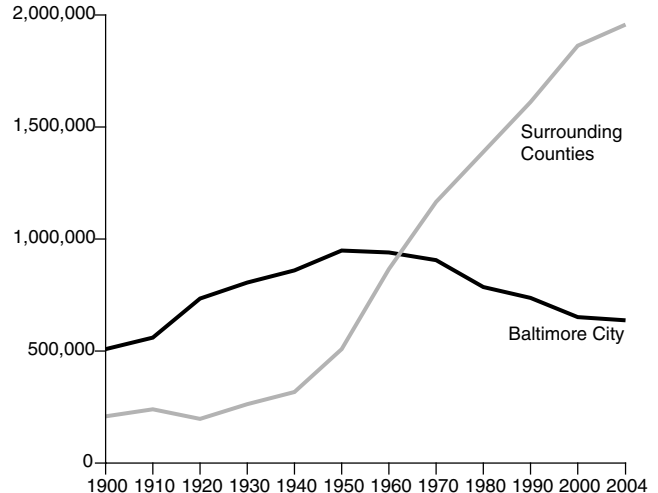
Baltimore's Employment in Manufacturing and Trade Declined, While Service Jobs Increased, 1970 to 2005



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

FIGURE 5

Since 1950s, Baltimore City's Population Declined; Surrounding Five Counties' Population Rose



Source: Bureau of the Census.

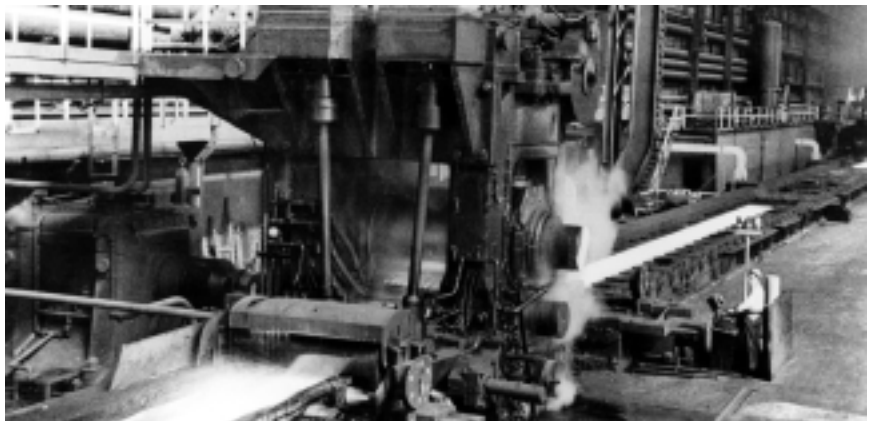
The official unemployment level in Baltimore City is about 8%, nearly double the statewide average. This does not include the approximately 9,000 residents released from jail and prison each year, the 2,000 students who drop out of school and are unemployed each year, and the thousands of people on public assistance. In some "death zones," the real unemployment rate is 30-40%. Baltimore's labor participation rate was 57% in 2000, ten percent below the state and national levels, and 20% below several suburban counties. Approximately 22% of Baltimore's residents live below the poverty line.

As the manufacturing jobs disappeared, so did the city's population: In 1950, the city had 950,000 residents; in the 2000 census, it has 651,000—a loss of about one-third (**Figure 5**). The 2004 census projects the city's population to fall to 637,000. The white population moved to the five surrounding counties, with much higher living standards, leaving a city population that went from less than 25% African-American to more than 64% African-American.

Holders of the low-wage service work jobs in Baltimore are 71% African-American, according to a 1999 study by the Economic Policy Institute, which found women filling 83% of ad-

ministrative and personal service positions (e.g., hospitals, health-care workers, tourism). Of the women studied, 75% were the sole source of income for their households.

The characteristics of these jobs dynamically interact with each other, and the environment at large, to create a "black hole" with such gravitational force that escape is virtually impossible: Low wages force such workers to seek second jobs, and work up to 60 hours a week, which takes many



Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society

The continuous hot rolling mill is shown in this photo from the 1960s. Associated with the technological innovations at Sparrows Point were ranks of engineers, mill-workers, and supporting personnel, including metallurgy training centers at area colleges. This all provided the base of skills and ingenuity for future waves of technological advances. However, this national asset was undermined after the 1970s, with the nationwide takedown of the steel sector, and radical downsizing of Sparrows Point.

TABLE 1

Baltimore Tourism Jobs—Wage Rates Put Families Under Poverty Level, 2001

Tourism Job	Average Wage Per Hour	Annual Salary for Average Hours Worked in Job	Percent of Poverty Line for Family of Four
Cashier	\$7.80	\$11,762	67%
Concierge	8.20	13,176	75
Counter Clerk	9.10	14,243	81
Dishwasher	7.40	10,120	57
Food Worker	7.70	11,892	67
Janitor, Cleaner	7.90	13,269	75
Maid	8.10	14,531	82
Parking Lot	7.40	12,352	70
Usher	6.80	6,506	37
Wait Staff	7.10	9,931	75

Only Three Tourism Jobs Pay Above Poverty Level

Security Guard	\$10.30	\$18,318	104%
Tour Guide	12.40	19,473	110
Restaurant Cook	10.40	18,171	103

Sources: Maryland Occupational Wages for Baltimore City (average wages), and National Compensation Survey (average hours) 2001: table of tourism jobs/wages from: "Subsidizing the Low Road: Economic Development in Baltimore," by Kate Davis and Chauna Brocht, with Phil Mattera and Greg Leroy, of Good Jobs First, September 2002.

single mothers away from the home, precluding supervision of their children's schooling and social life; no benefits, no job training or opportunities for advancement; many jobs are part-time, with staggered shifts; and jobs like health aides may require hours of bus travel into the suburbs and back for just a few hours work.

The jobs in tourism and entertainment are even worse. (Table 1) The cashiers, dishwashers, food workers, janitors, and waiters make less than \$8/hour, leaving these workers at only 80% of the poverty level. Only three tourism jobs pay the poverty level or 10% more: security guard, cook, and tour guide. In 2000, the Service Employees International Union estimated that the self-sufficient wage for a family of three in Baltimore was \$17.41/hour (Table 2).

Household Physical Market Basket Lacking

Under these conditions, the physical market basket necessary for families, is lacking in all respects—housing, transportation, education, food and nutrition, sanitation, health care, science, and culture. Thousands of citizens have been forced into below-subsistence conditions.

The housing base is a wreck in the Baltimore "slave quarter" zones of collapse. City-wide, there were more than 55,000 unoccupied housing units out of 300,477 total units in 2000. The unoccupied units were concentrated in east and

TABLE 2

Baltimore Hospital Worker Job—Pays \$10 per Hour, But \$17.41 Per Hour Is Required To Live

Expense	Monthly Expenditures	Hourly Equivalent
Food	\$396	\$2.25
Housing	722	4.10
Transportation	287	1.63
Health Care	248	1.41
Child Care	749	4.26
Miscellaneous	240	1.36
Taxes	421	2.39
Total	\$3,064	\$17.41

Source: Putting Baltimore's People First, 2004, SEIU 1199E-DC, based on "The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Maryland," by Diana Pearce, prepared for Advocates for Children and Youth, and the Center for Poverty Solutions, December 2001.

The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) District 1199E-DC reports that the average wage rate is \$10 an hour, for a Johns Hopkins Hospital services worker, with many years on the job. Yet this worker needs \$17.41 an hour for a "self-sufficient wage" to support a typical family of three—one single parent, one pre-schooler, and one school-age child. (For a pay period post-2001).

west Baltimore, near the inner city "death zones," with fingers extending north on York Road, and northwest along Reisterstown Road. In 18 census tracts, 11 in east Baltimore, and 7 in west Baltimore, there are more than 200 abandoned housing units per census tract.

The infrastructure base of the city—utilities, transportation, power, parks, as well as soft infrastructure and health care—is aging, inadequate, and even collapsing. For example, water treatment and distribution: Baltimore was home to the invention of mass water filtration by Dr. Abel Wolman in 1918; twelve years later, the application of Wolman's formula had eliminated 92% of the typhoid in America. Yet, today, upkeep of the basic facilities and piping systems in the city is woefully inadequate.

Mass transit is minimal. Baltimore has a small subway system which opened in the 1970s, but has had no significant development since. Instead, the highway grid has been expanded, with interstates and clover-leaves, to serve in-flow and out-flow for the select sports, tourism, and national health-care complexes. Baltimore metropolitan area residents are forced to spend hours on multiple bus rides, or sitting in their cars in traffic.

Railway service has atrophied, with the exception of the fact that Baltimore remains on the Boston to Washington, D.C. interstate Amtrak passenger service route.

One dramatic marker for the condition of all of Baltimore's decaying infrastructure, is the rail tunnel fire in July 2001. Only heroic action by Baltimore firemen contained the

days-long blaze.

The fire broke out when part of a 60-car freight train carrying hydrochloric acid and other hazardous materials, derailed in a tunnel under the center of the city. In chain-reaction effects, a water main broke, whose flow created a 1.2-foot-high pool of water in the vicinity; telecommunications wires were burned, cutting off phones and Internet; and other breakdowns ensued, while persisting clouds of black smoke covered a wide part of the city.

The tunnel is 1.7 miles long, and 106 years old. It was a wonder of construction at the time it was started, in the 1880s, using over 30 million bricks, and requiring engineering innovations to deal with a 1.35-degree gradient. It was completed in May 1895, and allowed efficient, modern transportation services right into the City center to serve the port, and also the north-south, and western rail corridors, by its connection to Camden Yards. Passenger transit went through the tunnel until 1958. But the tunnel was never upgraded nor maintained.

Being 27 feet wide, the tube was originally built for two trains to pass at the same time. So in recent decades, when wider widths for freight trains were approved, only one train could pass through at a time. Meanwhile, under deregulation, rail company mergers meant that more and more freight trains were consolidated to run along the few remaining routes—such as that cutting through Baltimore—while other routes were shut down. ConRail cargo was carried on CSX lines through the city.

At the same time, Camden Yards was converted from rail, to the home of sports arenas (ironically, one briefly named for the now-bankrupt PSINet Stadium).

In 1985, a Federal study stated explicitly that running flammable and toxic cargo on the Baltimore tunnel route should be stopped, because of fire danger, entrapment of crews, and the dense population of the city site. On July 18, fire broke out, with pressure and flames like a bazooka—just as the experts had predicted. Under post-industrialism and deregulation, the warnings had been ignored.

Impoverished Schools

The schooling crisis is stark. More than 30% of Baltimore's adult population lacks a high school diploma. In the City of Baltimore, a whopping 84% of public schools have 50% or more of their students on free or reduced-price meal programs, which means that these students are either at 130% of the poverty level (free meals) or 185% of the poverty level (subsidized meals). In fact, 60% of the public schools have 75% of their students on the free or subsidized meal program—a standard measure of poverty in the education field.

It has long been known that an individual student's poverty level affects academic achievement, but the level of poverty schoolwide also has an effect on an individual student's achievement *whether or not that student is in poverty*. The U.S. Department of Education's *Prospects* report in 1993

showed that even though non-poor students perform consistently better than their low-income classmates, the performance of non-poor students declines as the proportion of their classmates below the poverty line increases. The report found that "students in low-poverty schools score from 50-75% higher in reading and math than students in high-poverty schools."

Furthermore, the report finds a kind of "tipping point," where school poverty depresses scores of *all* students, in schools where at least half the students are eligible for subsidized lunches, and seriously depresses the scores when more than 75% of students live in low-income households. In 1999, Baltimore City had three times as many students in poverty as the next closest county in the metropolitan area, and, while

LaRouche on Epidemiology In the City of Baltimore

On Oct. 12, 2005, at an international LaRouche PAC web-cast in Washington, D.C., Lyndon LaRouche spoke of the situation in Baltimore, in his discussion of the necessity of ending genocide in Africa, Asia, and elsewhere, by returning to the "characteristic features" of the concepts of the General Welfare and the Common Good, as understood in modern European society.

Let's take one case, we have a case right here, in nearby Baltimore. You have an area which we call "the Blob." It's called the "Blob," because it's a case in which the principles of Dirichlet's Principle of Riemann applies to epidemiology. You have a section of a city—remember, Baltimore once had a certain degree of prosperity during World War II: It was an industrial city; you had the Bethlehem Steel works, and shipping and so forth, were all centered there. And you had an indigenous population of largely African descent, which was becoming prosperous, developing homes, normal lives.

In the course of the past period, especially the 1970s, this characteristic of Baltimore was destroyed. Baltimore has been transformed. It's been transformed in two ways. In one sense, it's been gentrified—which is really a horrible thing to do to anybody—at high prices, along the waterfront. What used to be a prosperous waterfront is now an area of gentrification, of useless people thinking they're important. But then, to maintain this population in Baltimore, you also require a slave quarter: a population which services the menial work of maintaining the gentrified part of the population.

68.4% of the students received subsidized meals, only 17% had “satisfactory” performance on the MSPAP competency tests. Only 11% of schools in the five counties surrounding Baltimore have 50% or more students eligible for subsidized meals; in Baltimore City, 84% are eligible.

Poverty also generates many more remedial special education requirements. Baltimore City schools spent one-third of their unrestricted education funds on the 18% of the students in special education in 1997. As a result, the city ranked *last* in spending per pupil in regular education. The State of Maryland has fought against subsidizing Baltimore’s school system, with its poor property tax base, adopting an attitude like that of genocidalist William Paddock, who said of Mexico’s poor: “Lock the borders and let them scream.” A 1998

report by the Government Accounting Office ranked Maryland last in efforts to equalize funding to all schools. Currently, the Baltimore School System is under intense pressure from the state to close a dozen or more schools, to cut 2.7 million square feet of operating space, for a student enrollment that has dropped from 126,000 to 86,300.

Cycling Through Prisons, Jails

Without the expectation that school will lead to a high-paying job in the mainstream economy, large numbers of students, and even a *majority* in certain neighborhoods, will end up in the revolving door to prison or jail called “Corrections Department supervision.” Fully 56% of all young Baltimore City African-American males, are currently in the Cor-

Now, such a population is not one which, on the average, is raised on a certain level of productivity—no! It is a process population, which is dying at the same time it’s used! It’s just like what you saw on the beaches when the tsunami hit on the coasts in Asia, in last year’s tsunami. People who were considered useless, were running the errands and providing the sexual entertainment, for European and American visitors who are there as tourists, in tourist and entertainment centers. So therefore, in order to be convenient to these crazy Americans and Europeans, who want to have sex on the beaches, or by the beaches, you have a population of very poor people who live in shacks in this area, and in very poor conditions; and high rate of disease!

And when we look through some of the things in this area, and you look at things like HIV and you start to make the dots of the co-factors, in some of these areas, you find that instead of having an area, where you have many dots of co-factors, you’ve got the whole thing is almost solidly black co-factors: which is the kind of cesspool, in which AIDS spreads fantastically. Because everybody transmits everything to everybody out of this kind of area.

And usually, the center of this thing, is something like a prison system. You go into the prison system, you’ll find the concentration of disease of the populations coming in and out of the prison, in a *dynamic model*—not your normal statistical model, but a dynamic analysis of this, will show you a process, where you have an area in a city, which has this function. Of people who are in the process of dying, who are all black in terms of dots of disease-sharing, and who often spread AIDS, tuberculosis, and everything else at a high rate, because everybody who kisses everybody, spreads all the diseases.

Some people are looking for a specific agent: They’re not looking at the totality of the problem. They’re looking at the *disease of poverty! The disease of filth! The disease*

of terrible conditions! And every other disease imaginable. And it’s all this area.

And then, you can find an area, you can demark precisely: *It’s where the people who are part of this operation live.*

Now, you want to find out, a part of the world where you find this commonly. It’s called Africa.

A Crime Against Humanity

This is genocide: *To condone this kind of condition of humanity*, where you create a dynamic condition—not one disease!—a dynamic condition: nutrition, sanitation, diseases, infectious agents, all these things together, this brew! You’re committing genocide! And that’s what we have to deal with in Africa.

So therefore, we, because we are human, as a human race, if we get our act together with a conception of Eurasian development, Eurasian culture as an emergent development—we, combined, *must deal with this great crime against humanity, in Sub-Saharan Africa.* We have to go into an area where disease is of this character; conditions of life of this character; where the death rates are such that you don’t have family structure; all these kinds of conditions. That is what a Eurasian policy means to me.

First of all, we’ve got to take this world and *come back out* of what we’ve known before, and finally begin to consider, as nation-states, cooperating nation-states, the condition of the planet as a whole. We have to therefore develop a concept of Eurasian culture, as a process of extending the benefits of European experience, including technologies, into this kind of development in Eurasia generally. We then, jointly, through Eurasian culture, we must attack this great sin, this *great evil*, that’s been done in Sub-Saharan Africa: And we must say, that is a mission to make this planet self-respecting, once again.



Baltimore City Fire Department

On July 18, 2001, fire broke out in the railroad tunnel serving the main CSX freight line through Baltimore, spewing smoke into the air, and lasting for days. The tunnel was long overdue for replacement, like many aging structures in the city, from water systems, to bridges. The fire closed Route 395, Camden Yards Oriole Park, and the Inner Harbor.

rectional System at some point—in jail, prison, on bail, out on probation or parole. At any point in time, over 20% of those between 20-30 years old are behind bars.

In 2001, fifty-nine percent of all Maryland state prisoners released returned to Baltimore—because that is their home, despite the fact that Baltimore now has only 12% of the state's population. Not only has Baltimore City become the state's warehouse for criminals, but, within Baltimore, there are 6 of the city's 55 communities (encompassing 260 smaller neighborhoods) which are home to the highest number of returning prisoners: Southwest Baltimore, Greater Rosemont, Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park, Greenmount East, Clifton-Berea, and Southern Park Heights. Two of these communities are profiled in an accompanying article as "death zones."

Several of these communities received more than 200 released prisoners in 2001, despite their small area. Another 5,000 inmates are returned to Baltimore City from jail each year, having served sentences of less than one year.

The statewide profile of prisoners released in 2001 was 91% male, 76% black, and 75% between 20 and 40 years old; the median age was 34. Of the 4,411 who returned to Baltimore City, where the population is 64% African-American, we may assume an even greater percentage were black.

Drugs and Disease

Approximately 38% of the prisoners were convicted of drug offenses. The Maryland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration estimated that more than 58,000 Baltimore residents need treatment for alcohol and/or drug abuse—9% of

the city's population. Nearly 73% of city residents treated for drug abuse in 2001 reported heroin use. The National Institute of Justice found that Baltimore's arrestees had the highest opiate-positive rate of all U.S. cities (38% of males, 49% of females). Of these, 70% of males and 86% of females also tested positive for cocaine. These figures do not include the drug use of prisoners not arrested on that charge. More than 90% of the drug addicts in Baltimore are infected with Hepatitis C. Increasing drug use led to a *six-fold* increase in the number of paroled prisoners who returned to prison in the 1990s, up to 3,500, from a steady 500 during the 1980s.

The dynamic relationship between drug use and violent criminal activity, in a city with high unemployment, low-wage jobs, and ubiquitous drugs, is obvious. In addition, no parolee convicted of a violent crime can receive welfare or food stamps for one year after conviction,

nor can anyone convicted of drug-related or violent crimes live in subsidized housing.

Thus, Baltimore has the highest intravenous drug use, and the highest murder and violent crime rate in the nation.



Brochures advertising Baltimore tourist spots—featuring real estate scheme sites of Camden Yards, the former rail hub, and the Inner Harbor.

‘Greater Baltimore City’ Swindles

How did this deliberate destruction come to pass? Being a superb, mid-Atlantic Seaboard site, 12 miles inland from the Chesapeake Bay, Baltimore was ideally situated to remain a national rail and water transportation hub for coastal and ocean freight into the Midwest industrial heartland. But, under various urban “re-invention” swindles, the shift out of industry and shipping and into services was enforced in Baltimore, right in line with the national “post-industrial” downgrade of the economy.

During the 1950s, then-Mayor William Donald Schaefer and the Wall Street financial crowd spoke of the “Greater Baltimore City” vision, referring to the tourism and entertainment projects projected for the City, intended for maximum real estate looting, and *subsidized by city tax funds*. There was the the Charles Center, the Inner Harbor, the Convention Center, Camden Yards, and the Ravens Stadium—all subsidized.

Politely termed “investor projects,” these have never made the city a penny, but rather *cost* the city revenues—even in purely financial terms, while grinding up its citizenry into \$7-8/hour jobs.

The Baltimore City government has spent \$2 billion in building and maintaining Baltimore’s tourist facilities since the 1970s, and hundreds of millions more in subsidies to tourism-related businesses. These cost demands continue and will always remain high, because to maintain itself as a tourist destination, Baltimore must constantly add something new. For example, in December 2005, the city announced an expansion to the famous Aquarium featured at its Inner Harbor tourist center.

The sequence of real estate/tourist schemes began in the 1950s (**Figure 6**). In 1954, Mayor Schaefer and financial interests launched the Greater Baltimore Committee (now Greater Baltimore Corporation). Its first project was the 33-acre Charles Center, which included offices, apartments, and retail business at a cost of \$180 million, \$40 million of which came from public funds.

Baltimore’s famous Inner Harbor, a plan for 240 acres of tourist attractions, offices, and retail shops, was the next project, constructed 1968-81. Public money funded 90% of its initial phase of development, much from Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grants. The city acquired and demolished more than 400 structures to provide land. HUD estimates that between 1975 and 1981, Baltimore spent 35% of its HUD money on the Inner Harbor. These projects included public

facilities such as Baltimore’s World Trade Center, Science Museum, Aquarium, and privately owned investments such as the Hyatt Regency Hotel, which was funded mainly through a \$10 million HUD grant, while its owners invested a mere \$500,000.

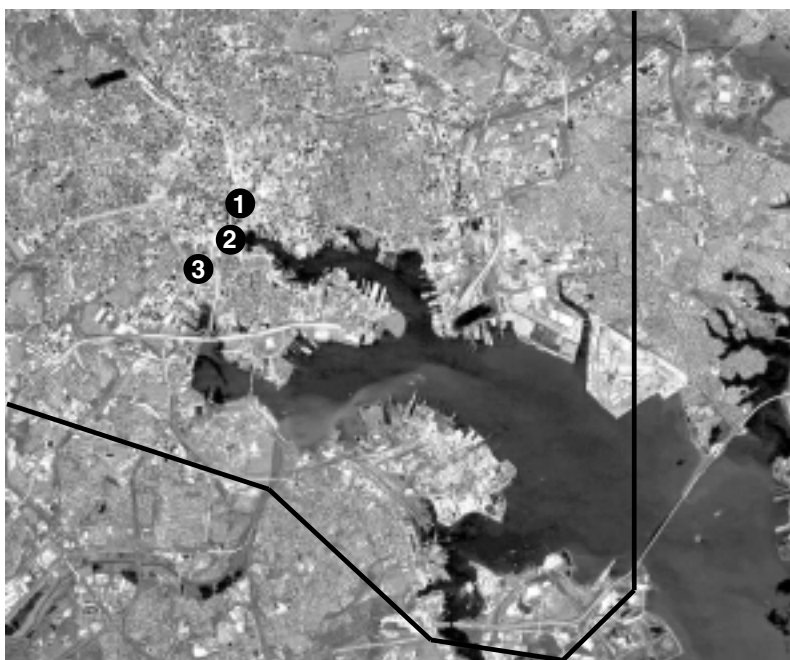
The service industry jobs created by these schemes are below poverty level (Table 1). This means that the city and state might owe any worker with two children at least another \$13,500 annually in public assistance programs! This is the hidden government cost of the low-wage jobs. Baltimore gave away the store to the developers, and still has no laws requiring subsidized companies to pay certain wage levels, nor to provide health care.

During the 1990s, public funds again flowed to Inner Harbor development. In 1992, Oriole Park at Camden Yards was built with more than \$200 million in public funds. Ravens Stadium was built in 1998 with more than \$200 million in public funds.

The Convention Center was expanded in the mid-1990s

FIGURE 6

Satellite View of Baltimore, Showing Major Inner City Real Estate Schemes



visibleearth.nasa.gov



- 1 Charles Center—1954, 33 acres of retail, offices, apartments.
- 2 Inner Harbor—1968-81, 240 acres of tourist attractions, hotels, restaurants.
- 3 Camden Yards, Oriole Park (1992), Ravens Stadium (1998)

Abandoned houses (right) in Druid Hill. This decaying neighborhood is in the “death zone” aligned with Park Heights in northwest inner Baltimore.



EIRNS/Stuart Lewis



EIRNS/Stuart Lewis

Newly built townhouses near Camden Yards baseball stadium. At hyper-inflated prices, these homes are in contrast to the extreme poverty areas in West Baltimore, only blocks away.

at a cost of \$151 million. In 1995, \$147 million in public money was spent to build Columbus Center, a tourist attraction/marine biology center.

In 1999, Baltimore City also put up more than \$40 million in loans, grants, and tax abatements for the construction of the Marriott Waterfront Hotel, adjacent to Camden Yards. This continued the practice of the city providing an average 30% subsidy to every downtown hotel built since the late 1970s.

The corporate center and tourist development thrust has brought an increase in tax revenue to the city—but it has always lost money. Real estate tax revenue in the central business district more than tripled between 1967 and 1987, in inflation-adjusted dollars. However, Baltimore spent \$17 million more each year on maintaining the Inner Harbor and the downtown area than it generated in property tax revenue from these districts.

The best example of the continuous outflow is the Oriole Park at Camden Yards, the renowned “success” (Table 3). According to a 1997 Brookings Institution study, Camden Yards generates approximately \$3 million a year for Maryland, in jobs created and spending by out-of-state residents—but the cost to taxpayers is \$14 million a year in inflation-adjusted interest and depreciation! The Ravens Stadium does worse: The annual economic benefit of \$1.4 million costs Maryland taxpayers \$18 million!

A 1992 study found that \$60 million in redevelopment loans distributed by the city for 50 projects since the 1970s remains unpaid. One-third of the loans in default were for hotels, including the Omni, the Belvedere, the Lord Balti-

more, and Harrison’s Pier 5. Other debtors have gone bankrupt; some, like the Omni, have never generated enough revenue to trigger repayment of the loans. Contrary to the city’s claims, not all funds from tourism are re-invested in “the community.” A portion of the tax revenue from some down-

TABLE 3
Oriole Park Subsidies*

50% of Land Acquisition and Site Preparation	\$44.5 million
Construction Costs	97.0 million
Train infrastructure	18.6 million
Roads	48.2 million
Light Rail Station	0.3 million
Total Subsidies	\$208.6 million

Ravens Stadium Subsidies*

50% of Land Acquisition and Site Preparation	\$44.5 million
Construction of Costs	217.0 million
Light Rail	5.0 million
Personal Seat Licenses	75.0 million
Naming Rights	69.5 million
Lease Savings on Training Facility	1.0 million
Memorial Stadium Upgrade	2.0 million
Total	\$414.0 million

*Figures adjusted for team contributions.

Source: *Subsidizing the Low Road: Economic Development in Baltimore*, by Good Jobs First, K. Davis, et al., September 2002.

Features of Decline in Baltimore's 55 Neighborhoods

FIGURE 7a

Percentage of Households Earning Less than \$25,000/Year

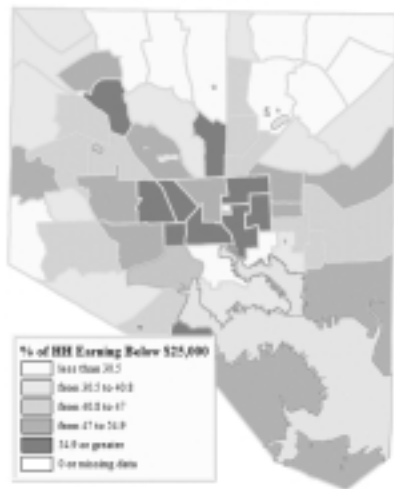


FIGURE 7b

Percentage of Vacant Residential Property, by Neighborhood

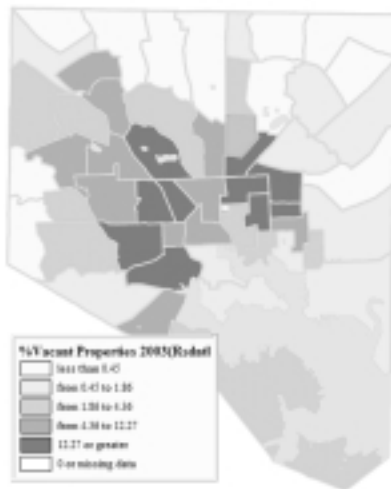


FIGURE 7c

Official Unemployment Rate, by Neighborhood

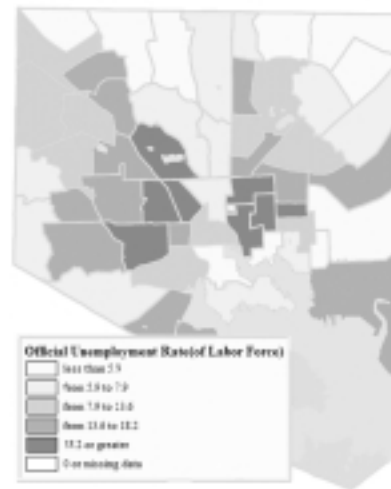


FIGURE 7d

Violent Crime, by Neighborhood

(Incidents per 1,000 Population)

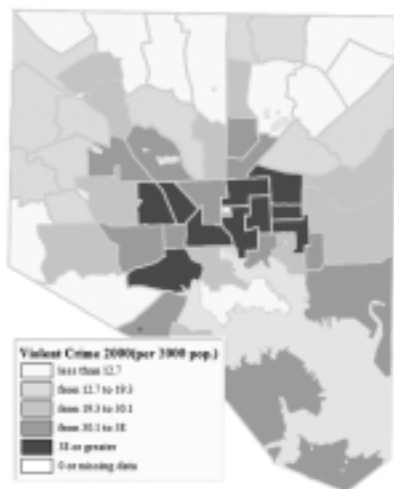
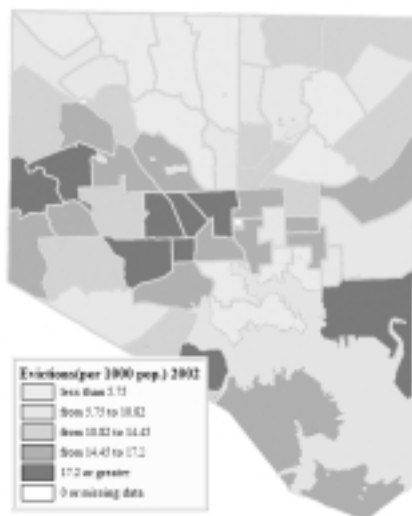


FIGURE 7e

Evictions, by Neighborhood

(Incidents, per 1,000 Population)



Source: Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance.

The BNIA is an organization of diverse groups, which aims to help people make better decisions by using accurate data, to improve the quality of life in Baltimore City neighborhoods. www.bnial.org

town hotels is earmarked to pay for the Convention Center. While under the Schaefer Administration, Baltimore increased “economic development” spending by 400%, it cut spending on education and social welfare by 25%.

‘Slave Quarter’ Communities

The cumulative effects of the decades of take-down of

Baltimore’s economic base are indicated in the map series in **Figure 7**, showing a few of the basic aspects of decline—low income, unemployment, decaying housing, eviction, and violent crime, for the major 55 communities of the city in 2000-03. What comes through clearly, are the geographic patterns of suffering and collapse. Baltimore residents call these, the “death zones.”

'Death Zone' Profiles

All of the sub-districts in Baltimore, delineated as experiencing "excess death," manifest in their particulars of breakdown, disease, and death, the four-decades-long collapse of the entire metropolitan area. The following two community profiles make the point. They are shown in **Figure 1** by number, which displays 55 "Community Statistical Areas," amalgamated from the 200 census tracts, taking into account the 260 local neighborhoods of Baltimore.

Clifton/Berea (10)—'An Epidemic of Homicide'

"An epidemic of homicide" was the phrase used by the *Baltimore Sun* in a front-page feature on Dec. 12, 2005, covering this area and adjacent neighborhoods, referring to the current high murder rate among black males, ages 14 to 25. However, the generalized conditions for the 12,500 residents (as of 2000), in the five census tracts of the core neighborhoods, make the point that the localized homicide rate is not a "separate" vital statistic, but rather is coherent with the whole disease and death syndrome prevailing here.

Relevant descriptions of this "death zone" are provided from the Census 2000 for Clifton/Berea.

The population as of 2000, which was 98% black, had 55% of its households earning less than \$25,000 a year. The median household income was \$22,516. This is half the national median household income of \$44,000; and also below the Baltimore City median income of \$30,000.

The official unemployment rate in 2000 was 18%, which has only worsened since then. Moreover, of the population between the ages of 16 and 64, fully 46% is not in the labor force at all. These people are either incapacitated, behind bars, or just "lost" from the rolls of those seeking work, apart from any bare fraction statistically considered homemakers.

Housing is poor, or in outright breakdown. In 2003, the rental eviction rate was 14.4 per 1,000 people. (This refers to where landlords successfully filed through the courts for eviction; not counted are cases where tenants land out on the street summarily.) At the same time, the vacancy rate among residential properties was 21% in 2003; plus there is a high rate of vacant-and-abandoned housing—neither up for rent nor purchase, but simply boarded up and crumbling. This area is also in the larger vicinity of the medical complex of Johns Hopkins Hospital, which has been buying up property, and holding it—frequently in boarded-up condition—for further bio-medical center expansion.

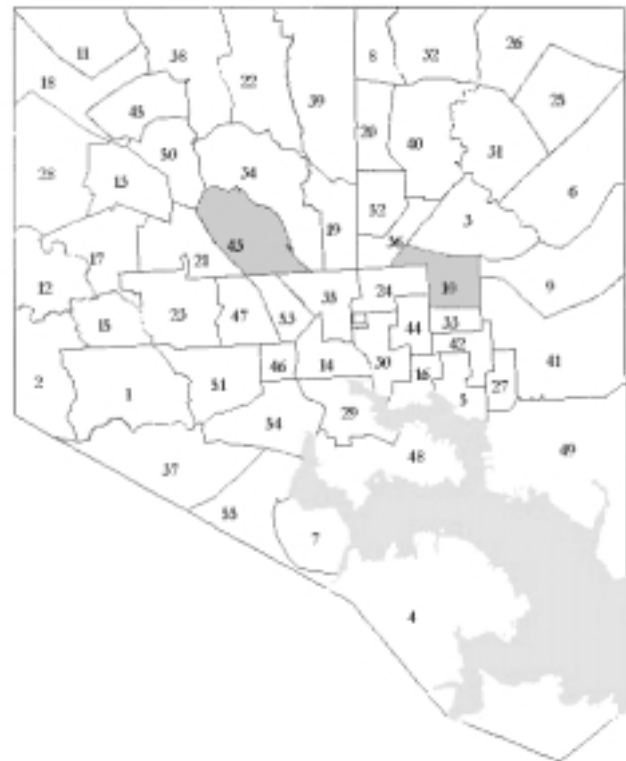
In 2000, forty-three percent of the households that rented, were paying 30% or more of the income for rents. Of those owning homes, 47% were paying out more than 30% of their income for housing.

Sanitation conditions are poor, including trash in the streets, clogged storm drains, debris, and abandoned cars. In 2003, there were 22 incidents per 1,000 population of reported dirty streets and alleys; 44.6 incidents per 1,000, of abandoned vehicles; and 25.4 incidents of rats per 1,000 people. These rates are very high.

Youth are special victims. They are trapped in an environment of crime and violence.

In 2003, the school absentee rate was significant and rising through the grade levels, referring to those who miss classes, 20 or more days out of the school year for elementary and secondary school. The absentee rates in this neighborhood for 2003 were: third grade—8.82%; fifth grade—13.53%; eighth grade—37.04%; and tenth grade—57.14%. The 2003 drop-out rate covering all grades was 13.9% in 2003. The number

FIGURE 1
Baltimore City—55 'Community Statistical Areas'



Source: Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance. www.bnai.org.

The 55 areas shown here are amalgamations into communities, of the 200 census tracts of Baltimore, into "Community Statistical Areas" to characterize the main features of sub-districts of the City, which span an estimated 260 local neighborhoods. Number 10 shows the neighborhoods of Clifton/Berea; Number 43 shows Southern Park Heights, discussed in the text. The statistics and mapping are done by the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance.



EIRNS/Stuart Lewis

Collington Square, in the neighborhood of Clifton/Berea.

of teens who gave birth, per thousand girls between the ages of 15 and 19, was 93.3 in 2003, down from 132.3 in 2000, after concerted interventions through community centers, but still very high.

The juvenile arrest rate is also high, standing at 182.2 per 1,000 youth between ages 10 and 17, in 2003; the year earlier, this rate hit 231.4 per 1,000 youth, with 102.2 for drug-related offenses in 2002. In 2000, overall there was a rate for violent felonies, including murder, of 85 per 1,000 residents (1,063 total crimes) in this community.

Amidst these patterns comes the cycling in and out of prison and jail. Clifton/Berea is one of the six city neighborhoods with the highest concentrations of young men in and out of prison and jail.

In 2001, there were 159 prisoners from the Maryland state system going into this neighborhood, for a ratio of 12.7 returnees per 1,000 residents. They are almost all young black males. Correspondingly, female-headed households account for over 41% of all households here. Over 19% of all households are Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients.

Southern Park Heights (43)—Terrible Disease

The extended community of Park Heights is located in northwest Baltimore, and taken at its fullest extent, could be called the single largest neighborhood in the city. Its population is nearly 40,000, living on 1,734 acres. One of its core sub-neighborhoods is Southern Park Heights, discussed below.

As of 2000, what this area is outstanding for, according to expert testimony to Congress that year, is *disease*. Sharon Duncan-Jones, executive director of the Park Reist Corridor Coalition, Inc., gave a graphic description of the situation in testimony on Feb. 14, 2000 to the Subcommittee on Human Resources of the Maryland House Committee on Ways and Means. She stressed that this area has the highest rates in all Maryland, for: child maltreatment, crime, infant mortality, substance abuse, juvenile crime, diabetes, and HIV-AIDS.

She also stressed the economic decay as the context from which to understand the disease. "The present economic condition in Park Heights can be linked to past conditions throughout Baltimore," she said. "Beginning in the 1970s, manufacturing jobs had begun to fall. Since 1990, Baltimore has suffered a loss of 63,000 manufacturing jobs. Park Heights has experienced economic decline, with two major companies relocating out of the community and the city: London Fog, a clothing manufacturer, and Park Sausage, a meat manufacturer. Park Heights' unemployment rate is 22%, and it is well above the city's average."

For Southern Park Heights, the situation is extreme. In 2000, its population was 15,761. The description from Community Statistical Area 43, from its four contiguous census tracts, is grim.

The median household income of the population, which is 97.1% black, is \$21,218, with 56.3% of households earning less than \$25,000. Squeezed to pay even low rents, over 45% of renters pay 30% or more of their income for rent.

The official unemployment rate in 2000 was 15.5%. Of



credit

Baltimore's Southern Park Heights neighborhood, one of the most devastated in the city.

the population between the ages of 16 and 64, fully 43.3% are statistically “not in the labor force.”

The condition of housing and sanitation is decrepit in the extreme. The rate of incidents of dirty streets and alleys was 16 per 1,000 people in 2003; of rats, 23 per 1,000 people; and 45 per 1,000, for abandoned vehicles.

The young people are in dire circumstances. The rates in 2003 for those missing 20 or more days of school a year in elementary and secondary school were: third grade—17%; fifth grade—13%; eighth grade—49%; tenth grade—59%. The dropout rate through high school was 12.2%.

In 2003, the juvenile arrest rate—arrests per 1,000 youth ages 10 through 17—stood at 197, with 64 of those drug-related. The number of girls between ages 15 and 19 who gave birth, was 110 in 2003. Domestic and street violence is rampant. In 2000, there were 1,138 reported violent felony crimes, for a rate of 72 per 1,000 residents of this small community.

In 2001, of 4,411 men and women prisoners released to Baltimore City, out of the Maryland state system, 174 of them returned to the small area of Southern Park Heights. This is a ratio of 11 returnees per 1,000 residents. Correspondingly, 40% of the households in this area are headed by females. Over 20% of them are TANF recipients.

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Poverty Kills

by Ned Rosinsky, M.D.

Economic collapse kills people. Poverty destroys societies; and social collapse, at its end stages, involves sudden downward changes in people's health, due to factors such as loss of jobs, loss of health insurance, homelessness, breakup of families, resort to substance abuse, psychological collapse, and descent into crime and incarceration. These various downward changes strongly interact. Loss of job can directly cause loss of health insurance, as well as homelessness due to inability to pay rent or mortgage. Homelessness can contribute to family breakup, and with this loss of family support, can come psychological collapse.

Psychological collapse and family breakup can lead to substance abuse. Substance abuse can in turn lead to job loss, worsen psychological collapse, and induce a resort to crime to pay for the drugs, which in turn can lead to more psychological collapse and more disruption to the family.

These strong interactions set up a spiralling downward process, ultimately leading to the total collapse of individuals, families, and larger social groups and layers of society. These factors also result in poor nutrition, exposure to infectious disease, violence, and lack of medical care for treatable illnesses, all culminating in high death rates.

Health conditions in the City of Baltimore illustrate this collapse process in grisly detail; the death-rate patterns in Baltimore show the disastrous effects of economic collapse.

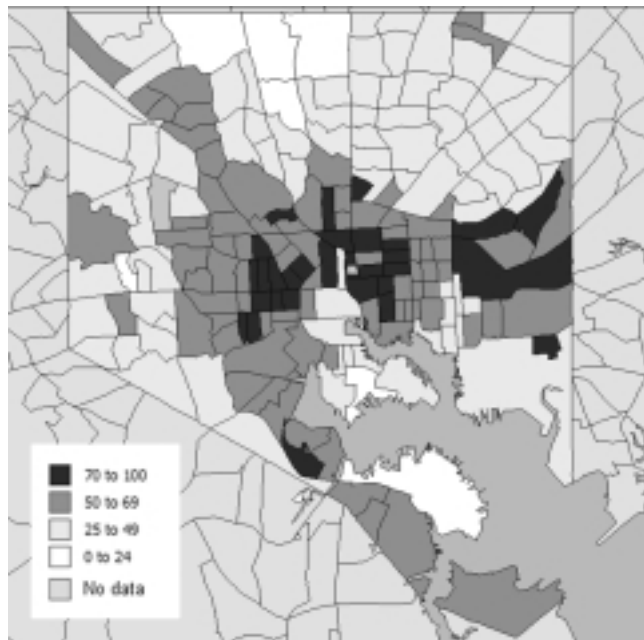
The study presented here compares death rates to poverty rates, using data from the 1990 and 2000 national censuses, including data on population and household income levels in each of Baltimore's 201 census tracts. (Due to some tracts being sub-divided in two, or missing data, the total number of census tracts used in any part of the study may vary from 199 to 201.)

The median income in Baltimore is currently approximately \$34,000 per household; in 2000 it was \$30,000. This study uses a measure of poverty as the percent of households with income below \$25,000 for the 1991 data, and an inflation-equivalent \$30,000 for the 2000 data. (**Figures 1 and 2** show the pattern of census tracts in the various household percentage categories of income.) The figure of \$25,000 is not crucial to the study, because as poverty increases and the percent of households below \$25,000 increases, so also does the percentage below \$20,000, and so on.

This percentage of poverty is then compared to the total number of deaths that occur in each census tract, as reported by the Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

FIGURE 1

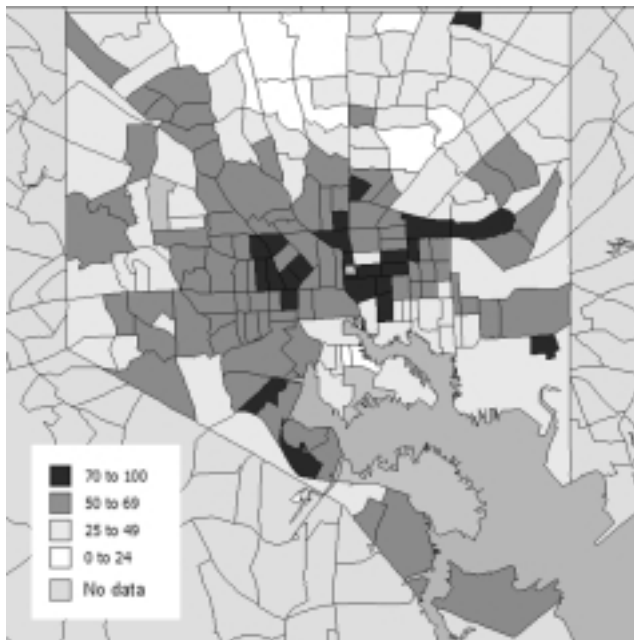
Baltimore, 1990: Percentages of Households with Annual Incomes Under \$25,000, by Census Tract



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

FIGURE 2

Baltimore, 2000: Percentages of Households with Annual Incomes Under \$30,000, by Census Tract



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

When tracking the effects of poverty in a major city, it is important to have access to data from numerous small geographic areas, because neighborhoods can change from poor to wealthy over short distances (such as around the Inner Harbor complex of Baltimore); and the smallest geographical areas in Baltimore for which there is reliable and publicly available health and population data, are the national census tracts.

Each census tract contains from several hundred to several thousand persons, and while the census tract boundaries may have had some past historical significance, currently they cut nearly randomly across various socio-economic levels of neighborhoods. Some census tracts are nearly all impoverished, some nearly all wealthy, and some are mixed.

The State of Maryland has kept records of deaths by census tract annually since 1991, and therefore the first study shown here uses the 1991 data. Before 1991, the state kept death records according to larger geographical areas that are less suitable for this type of analysis.

Comparing 'To Be Expected' to 'Excess' Deaths

For each census tract it is possible to calculate the total number of deaths expected for that population, based on the number of people of each age grouping, documented in the

national census done every 10 years. For the current studies, the 1990 and 2000 census data is used, and death rates can be predicted based on national statistics of death rates for each age ("age-corrected"). The actual number of deaths for each census tract as reported by the State of Maryland is then compared to the total expected for the population, producing a number we refer to as the *excess death ratio* (Figures 3 and 4).

This excess death ratio is shown as height in the graph, with the number 1 representing the average for the U.S. population as a whole. (As Baltimore is divided into 201 census tracts, this graph uses one point for each of these tracts.) For example, a point at level 1 would indicate no excess deaths above the national average for that tract, while a point at level 2 would mean that twice as many people died as would be expected by national statistics.

The horizontal axis of the graph in Figure 3 shows poverty level, with a higher percentage of households in poverty toward the right side of the graph, the range going from 0 to 100% of households below \$25,000 income annually.

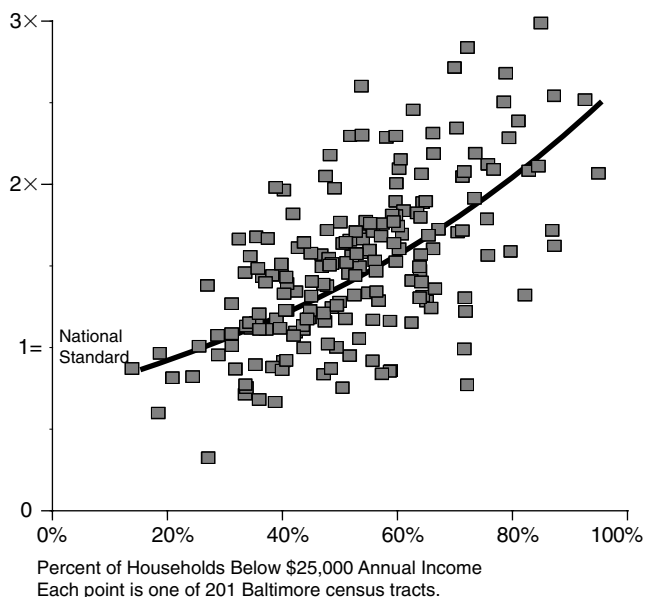
The resulting pattern of point locations shows that for those tracts with low levels of poverty, with approximately 20-30% of households having an income below \$25,000, the points cluster around a height of slightly less than 1, indicating that the number of deaths that actually occurred in these census tracts is slightly below national averages.

FIGURE 3

Baltimore 'Excess Deaths,' 1991: Census Tract Deaths, Shown As Compared (Above or Below) to Expected Death Rates (National Standard)

(Plotted by Percent of Tract Households Below a \$25,000 Annual Income)

Number of Times Census Tract Actual Deaths Exceed Expected Deaths (National Standard)



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census; Baltimore City Health Department.

As the poverty level increases, towards the right side of the graph, the excess death ratio also increases, so that in census tracts with high poverty levels, at 60-70% or more of households with less than \$25,000 annual income, the points cluster around two to three times the number of deaths expected.

Figure 4 shows a parallel study using the 2000 census populations to predict death rates, and the 2000 census tract total death rates. In this case the income cut-off is \$30,000. The resulting graph is similar in form to the 1991 graph, with a higher upturn on the right, indicating that the extreme end of poverty has worsened over the decade.

Media Lies: 'Average' Life Span Improving

One does not usually see coverage in the media of these overall increases in death rates with poverty. What the media usually report is that the overall life-span for the country as a whole is slowly increasing, and death rates from the main killer diseases, such as heart attacks, strokes, and cancer, are slowly decreasing. *The key word here, is "overall."*

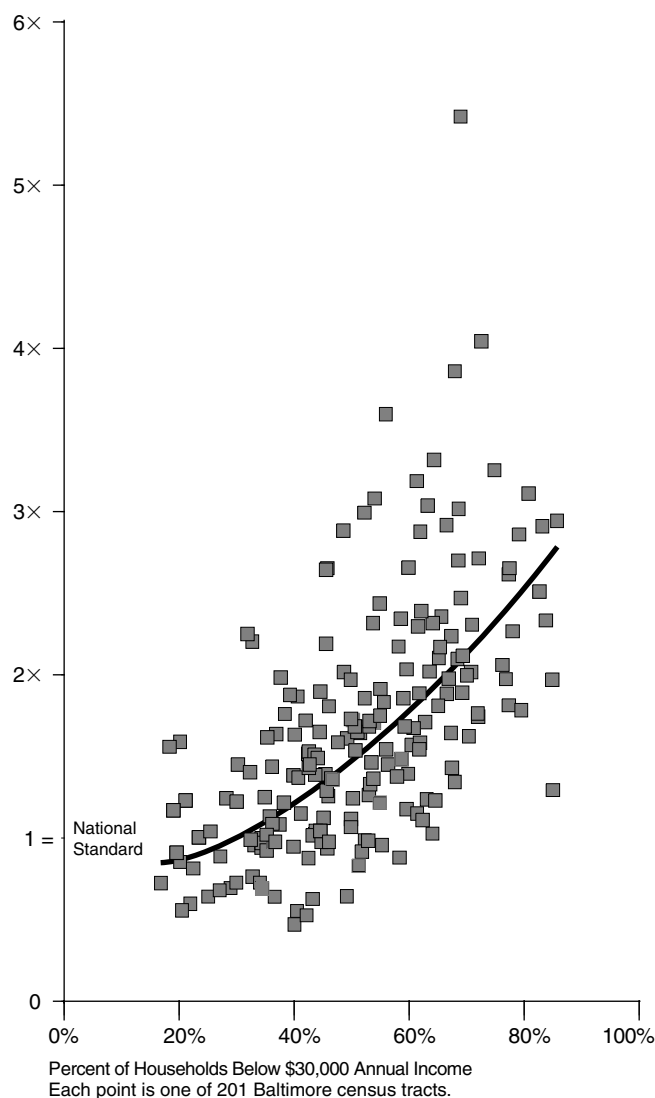
Just as the income statistics for the whole country show that the upper 20% of families are getting richer and the lower

FIGURE 4

Baltimore 'Excess Deaths,' 2000: Census Tract Deaths, Shown As Compared (Above or Below) to Expected Death Rates (National Standard)

(Plotted by Percent of Tract Households Below a \$30,000 Annual Income)

Number of Times Census Tract Actual Deaths Exceed Expected Deaths (National Standard)



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census; Baltimore City Health Department.

80% are getting poorer, with the overall income average slowly increasing, so in health it appears that the wealthier families are doing better, while the poorer families are doing worse, with the average numbers covering up the catastrophic conditions in the very poorest areas.

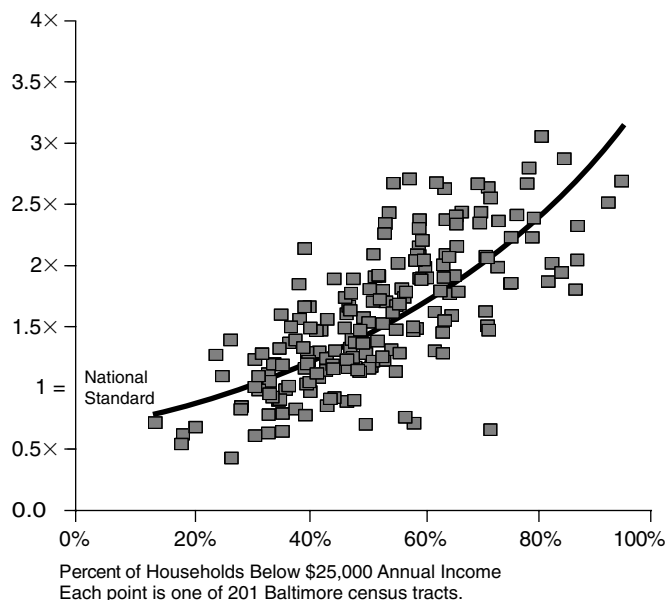
Keep in mind that Baltimore as a whole has a higher aver-

FIGURE 5

Baltimore 'Person Years Lost,' 1991-94: Person-Years Lost Compared (Above or Below) to Expected Person-Years Lost (National Standard)

(Plotted by Percent of Tract Households Below a \$25,000 Annual Income)

Number of Times Person-Years Lost Exceeds Expected (National Standard)



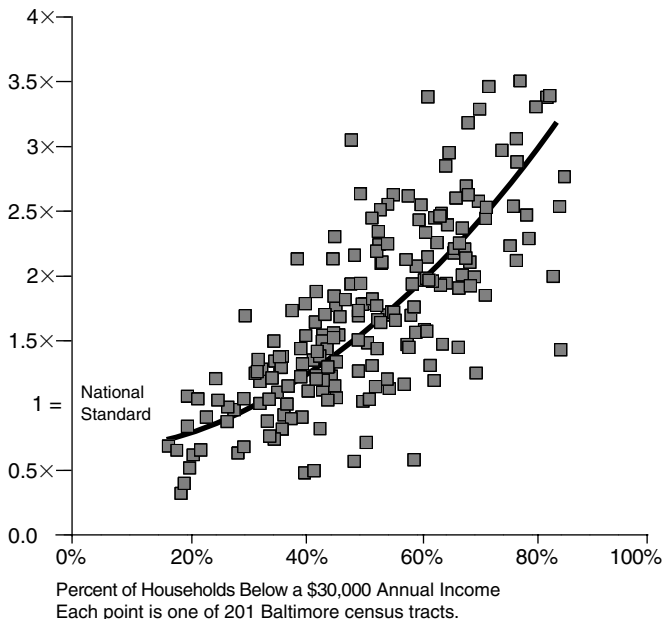
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census; Baltimore City Health Department.

FIGURE 6

Baltimore 'Person-Years Lost,' 2001-04: Person-Years Lost Compared (Above or Below) to Expected Person-Years Lost (National Standard)

(Plotted by Percent of Tract Households Below a \$30,000 Annual Income)

Number of Times Person-Years Lost Exceeds Expected (National Standard)



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census; Baltimore City Health Department.

age death rate than the U.S. average. The very high numbers seen here are balanced by lower numbers elsewhere, such as the wealthy areas of Baltimore County which surround the city to the north.

Calculating 'Person-Years' Lost

The real effect of these higher death rates in poorer communities can be shown in another way. Instead of counting deaths, one can count years of life lost. For example, the death of a person at age 15 may involve the loss of 60 years of potential life that will not be lived, while the death of a person at age 70 may involve the loss of 10 years of additional life not lived.

In order to do this calculation, one needs to know the age, gender, and race of each person that died, to make an accurate estimate of the expected life-span that is lost with the death. This information is available from State of Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Baltimore City Health Department on request.

However, because of the small size of the census tracts—

each with populations ranging from several hundred to several thousand—to protect the identities of the deceased persons, the government will release data only in larger aggregates, in this case by aggregating four years of data together, such as 1991 to 1994, or 2001 to 2004. The information on age, gender, and race of the deceased persons is important in estimating the years of life lost, since in the United States, females live longer than males, and whites live longer than blacks. Life expectancy tables for each year of life, by gender and race, are available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

With this additional data, a graph of total person-years of life actually lost, divided by expected lost, versus poverty level, can be constructed. Two cases were examined.

Figure 5 used the actual deaths for the period of 1991 to 1994 (37,429 death profiles,¹ representing over 99% of the Baltimore resident deaths during this period; an annual count

1. This figure is for death records that are statistically usable; some are not, due to typographical and other errors.

of deaths was calculated from this figure) and predicted deaths based on the 1990 census population and income data; and **Figure 6** used the corresponding actual deaths from 2001-04 (from which an annual death count was made) and predicted deaths based on the 2000 census population and income data. The resulting study shows an even stronger relation to poverty than the previous graphs.

For the 1991-94 study, the ratio of total person-years lost increases steadily as poverty increases, to the level of 2-3 times what would be expected, with 46 of the 201 census tracts being over 2 times the national average.

In the 2001-04 study, the effect is even more dramatic, with total person-years lost ratio increasing up to 3.5 times expected, and with 58 tracts over 2 times the national average, as well as 10 tracts over 3 times the national average.

Since the population of Baltimore has been steadily shrinking over this period, any distortion caused by using 1990 census data for the 1991-94 cases and 2000 census data for the 2001-04 cases would be to overestimate the expected years lost, and thereby cause an underestimation of the calculated excess years lost ratio. A rigorous statistical analysis of the data concludes that poverty causes an increase in lost person-years to 2.6 times expected rate.²

The most striking feature of these person-years studies, is the increase in the excess lost person-years that is evident when the 1991-94 period is compared to the 2001-04 period, and is particularly evident at the severe poverty level.

The person-years calculation has an additional implication, in the area of economics. When young people die, society loses large numbers of potentially productive person-years. This is not the case when elderly people die. The shift of the curve upward when Figures 5 and 6 are compared to Figures 3 and 4, indicates that the increase in deaths with poverty is in part related to more younger people dying. This is consistent with other more publicized observations, such as that the population of Baltimore is getting younger, and that a higher portion of youths die in poor communities compared to higher income areas.

The take-home message of these studies is clear: Public policies and any other factors that increase poverty are lethal. Politicians who promote such policies must be held accountable for these lethal effects.

2. The statistical correlation coefficient R , using the method of least squares developed by Gauss, is 0.73 for the 1991-94 graph, and 0.75 for the 2001-04 graph. The effect of poverty is measured by R^2 , which is 0.56; that is, 0.56 of the rise in the best-fit line is due to poverty. If the best-fit line for the 2001-04 study is extrapolated to 100% poverty, it reaches a level of 4 times the U.S. average, or an increase of 3 times the baseline. The effect of poverty is R^2 times the rise, or 1.6 times the baseline, which when added to baseline produces a total of 2.6, or 260% of baseline. That is, this measure of poverty increases person-years lost to 260% of what would otherwise be expected.

Interview: Ted Smith

‘These Kids Are On a Death March’

Ted Smith is a Baltimore teacher, resident, and community center director. He was interviewed by Larry Freeman on Dec. 27, 2005.

EIR: As you know, we’re looking at the history of Baltimore and the conditions that have led to an increase in disease and death in certain sections of the city. How do you see this?

Smith: Yes, my part-time job is, I am the director of a community center at Oliver and Collington; this community center is located in one of the areas with the highest death rate and highest unemployment within Baltimore City. I perceive this as a death zone, and it’s almost as if the kids that I service and try to serve, are on a death march. I’ve worked in this job, in this capacity, since August of this year, and this community center is now in its fourth year of operation. Those that have been with this organization since its inception, almost speak hopelessly of reaching the kids.

The kids we service are from sixth to eighth grade, but each year, at least two to three get caught up in some measure of gun violence. And many of the kids that we service, by the time they’re even in eighth grade, end up involved in the sale and distribution of drugs, and some actually even use drugs.

EIR: You are talking about the Clifton-Berea area of East Baltimore. What are the basic conditions for the population?

Smith: Immediately as you come into our community center, on the very street, the entrance where our community center is located, almost all of the houses on the block are boarded up. If you go to certain sections of the area, you’ll see 20 to 30 guys on the corner, involved in illegal activity. It’s open-air drug markets. Many of the young people just don’t speak with any hope, especially many of the males, in terms of their prospects. It’s almost a foregone conclusion, that in order to make money, they will have to go to illegal means. They don’t even speak of the option of trying to find a job.

And also what I noticed, is that many of the kids, more than you would actually think, live with foster parents or grandparents, because of the scourge of the drug problem; many of the parents themselves have been hit directly by the drug epidemic.

Our program is funded by Episcopal Social Ministries—and I appreciate the service—but it’s almost like trying to place a band-aid on a gaping wound.

EIR: Are we mainly talking about African-American males in their teens and twenties? Or is your program for younger kids? And what about other ages? Are any elderly people even living in these areas any more?

Smith: We service predominantly African-American males, sixth through eighth grade. Middle school is our target range; but our program has not been as successful—I was kind of brought in to provide leadership, to begin to figure out ways to make it more successful. My goal is now to even try to reach the males at fifth- and sixth-grade range, because by the time they are in especially eighth grade, I would say, we have [lost] about half of our males: They might run into our center to hide their stashes, or they might hold a drug stash’s money, or be somehow involved in illegal activity, even by that age. But at a younger age, I begin to target them in rites of passage programs, to teach them what it really means to be a young male, and to try to steer them in a positive direction.

It has helped, especially some of those that are in the fifth- and sixth-grade range. But, again, I think that just dealing with trying to reach them, without actually having the means to provide economic solutions, and job solutions, and other type of things—it’s like placing a bandaid on a gaping wound.

EIR: What about their schooling?

Smith: They are still in school. By eighth-grade range, in the area we service, I would say that about one out of every four of the males is not attending school on a regular basis.

What we try to do, is provide mentoring service; we provide academic plus fun activities. And the fun activities are a hook, toward the academic service. Like, we started a basketball team. We have “stepping” for the females. We have a chess club, computer classes, and an array of activities, in addition to academics, to try to reorient them, to steer them in the right direction. And we have the mentoring services.

Many of the kids do not have strong family structures, especially the males; you have very few fathers, or positive older males within their homes. That’s the big lack, and it kind of feeds a cyclical process.

EIR: You’ve also been a teacher in the Baltimore City school system for a number of years. How do you see what’s happened to Baltimore over the last 20 years?

There are the promo stories coming out that Baltimore is a renaissance city. And there’s all this development and progress taking place—the Inner Harbor jobs, the biomedical field, and so on. Then there’s the aging infrastructure.

Smith: What I see happening over just the last 20 or so years,

is, with the shutdown of manufacturing industry, and nothing viable to replace it, drugs are just being sold so hard within certain urban communities, that many people have turned to the sale and distribution of drugs.

Also, I think there’s another dimension, too, with many of the rap videos and rap groups: You almost feel like they are run by organized-crime units! It’s almost like they advertise, both with their dress, and with their lyrics, for a drug culture. And they influence people within that direction.

There was a time, when I was coming out of high school, that rap music was used to uplift. You had groups like Public Enemy, KRS One, and other groups that talked about black unity, positivity, getting your education. Now, these groups talk about how cool it is to be high, to drop out, to gang bang, to steal, to do any type of illegal activity. And I find it ironic, that even as Kanye West spoke out against President Bush in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, that it was 50 Cent, the number-one gangsta rapper, that came to the defense of George Bush. And I feel that it is just typical of the era, that he and others of the like advertise drug sales.

The very first gangsta rap group NWA—which stood for “Niggers With an Attitude”—was funded by Ricky O’Harris, who was in the book by Gary Webb that talked about the CIA drug-cocaine connection. And I believe that gangsta rap is funded, and is organized and connected with organized crime.

EIR: Now, given this drug problem, the lack of economic opportunity for these young men in terms of jobs, the very poor housing and all the rest, do you see any institutions or groups responding to this total collapse? Who is reacting to what you call a “death zone”—that there is no way out, but to die, one way or the other?

Smith: Well, there are definitely institutions that are trying. And I at least salute those institutions that are trying. One, I say, is BUILD, that is, Baltimore Is United In Leadership Development: It’s a group of clergy, that have been involved in fighting for a living wage, and at least putting that issue to the fore, and they’ve also been providing partnerships with the schools.

And, also probably bigger than that, of course, has been the LaRouche movement, and especially the LaRouche Youth Movement. I would say they go even further than BUILD, because BUILD fights for a living wage, and that is important; but the LaRouche movement focusses on manufacturing and how you have to have a significant portion of your economy manufacturing-based, or so. And also, providing just the infrastructure projects, which could put a lot of people to work.

EIR: How do you respond to those who have been saying, for the last 30, 40 years, but in this city, the last 25 or 30 years, that we don’t need the industry, we don’t need the steel plants,

we don't need the manufacturing plants, we don't need the auto plants; and that people will get a higher standard of living, they say, in an information/service economy? Baltimore now has shifted completely to a service economy—that's got to be 90% or more of the jobs. What are the effects you have seen of this transformation from an industrial to a service economy?

And why do people accept the idea, that this is a success?

Smith: I would encourage people to interview, on their own, people who used to work for—let's say—the Sparrows Point steel plant, or other steel plants, where a person could work there and feed a family of four. Then you begin to hear stories, from elders within the family, I know, right within my own family, and I would encourage others to ask where you might have one bread-winner, that could feed a family of four *comfortably*. My father used to brag that he could stay off of work for a year, and yet he could still feed his family with one job!

EIR: Where did he work?

Smith: He worked for the Post Office. But, he also applauded Sparrows Point, where the male bread-winner could hold his face up, as the head of the family. But nowadays, a lot of males can't do that.

Baltimore's a case in point. We've shifted to a service-based economy. And people have said all the things that we would be able to do in an information age; but I think the proof is in the pudding: You have to look at what you see. We've been lied to. I haven't seen the positive effects of the shift to the information age.

I think that one major reason why people get so easily hoodwinked, is because we're not properly educated in economics, and we're just not properly educated, period. I know I definitely was not educated at all, until I came in contact with the LaRouche movement. I went to college, and learned about the "genius of Adam Smith." He was the foremost economist. You learned that the economic system of America is capitalism; you don't learn anything about American System economics. You don't learn about the science of physical economy.

So, I think that most Americans just have not been properly taught economics, so it makes us easy suckers for what the media, and many professors and educated personnel, put out there.

EIR: You are familiar with the idea that Mr. LaRouche has put forward, the concept of massive infrastructure development programs; and combining the best of Franklin Roosevelt from the '30s and '40s, and John Kennedy, and what he was able to do with the space program in the '60s. Baltimore is well-placed, in terms of the entire East Coast, as a key transportation point and shipping point, because of the port and other aspects of its location and the industry that it used to have. This has been completely destroyed

over the last 30 years, but this is something that we would like to revive, around the concept of building the magnetic levitation train up and down the East Coast, from Boston to Washington.

These types of programs could provide jobs. And it seems to me something else they could provide, is some hope. Because one of the problems we're facing in the areas of Baltimore, especially with young black men, is pessimism.

How do you see this approach working, and what specific things do you think we should be thinking about, to end this death zone, and bring it back into a life zone?

Smith: I do applaud the work of those that have been working diligently over the years within the LaRouche movement, and especially what the LaRouche Youth Movement is doing currently. But, I think in addition to the LaRouche Youth working on the national level, there needs to be a core of people working with promising young people, right here, to try to properly educate them, especially in economics.

For example: There was a group, the Algebra Project. The Algebra Project was started by Bob Moses, who was with the Civil Rights movement down in Mississippi. And, this Civil Rights pioneer sought to bring math literacy to urban areas across the country, and the Algebra Project, here in Baltimore, is a part of that effort. The Algebra Project has been fighting almost single-handedly, just for proper funding and equal education for a lot of students within urban areas. A lot of these persons lay down across the cement, right out in front of the State Board of Education, and they have been fighting, and they have the zeal, but they just need just a bit more knowledge.

I think that the LaRouche movement should try to build partnerships, especially with people, young people such as those from the Algebra Project and some others, that really see that things are not right. And they have not given up hope—they just don't know what to do. They need to just be properly educated, and schooled in economics.

I think that LaRouche's approach is definitely what's needed for this area. I was excited when there was some talk about having the maglev trains, because I'd read so much in *EIR* and *21st Century Science & Technology* about the importance of the maglev trains in Baltimore-Washington, D.C., and the amount of jobs that could be opened up, just with the maglev trains. We're definitely in need of massive infrastructure projects. You could drive right around the city of Baltimore, and see the need for that.

I think that what's needed to actually make that happen, is to strategically target especially younger people that have the will to fight, that have not given up hope, that really want to be educated in these ideas, and begin to replace the infrastructure that we have within Baltimore City. Because many of the political leaders within Baltimore City, they lie as much as the neo-conservatives—they just don't lie as well!