

HOW WE GOT HERE

Examining the economic reality of Philadelphia

Loss of earning power

Deindustrialization hit Philadelphia particularly hard from the 1950s to 1990s



For example, USX Bucks County steel plant employed 10,000 people in 1974, but only 850 when the factory closed in 1991.

Criminal justice policies

Philadelphia has the **highest incarceration rate** in the country. Many individuals and families in Philadelphia incur **criminal justice debt**, or debt related to bail, booking, release, public defender fees or restitution fines.



26%
poverty rate

48% of
Philadelphians
struggle to
make ends
meet

Discriminatory housing practices

For 30 years, until 1986, the Federal Housing Authority **refused to support loans** for Black people.

Many neighborhoods were labeled "dangerous" and **remain hyper-segregated today**, devoid of investment ever since.



Access to education


City public schools have been underfunded since the **19th century**

State education funding was frozen from **1992 to 2007**

Pa. schools rely more on **property taxes**, but the tax pool is shallow



Learn and read more about Philadelphia's economic reality at www.brokeinphilly.org

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Resolve
Philadelphia

Source: Shared Prosperity Philadelphia, The Pew Charitable Trusts

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