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## Report: Racial divide persists in W.Va.

The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) - A new study has found that black West Virginians have substantially higher poverty rates and earn considerably lower salaries than white residents across the state.

The study released Tuesday also says blacks face higher unemployment and infant mortality rates than whites across the state.

The "Legacy of Inequality: Racial and Economic Disparities in West Virginia" study is based on census data.

It was compiled by the Partnership of African American Churches, the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy and the American Friends Service Committee.

The Rev. James Patterson says all West Virginians pay the price for such inequities. He urged state leaders to take steps to correct them, including the creation of a state Office of Minority Affairs.