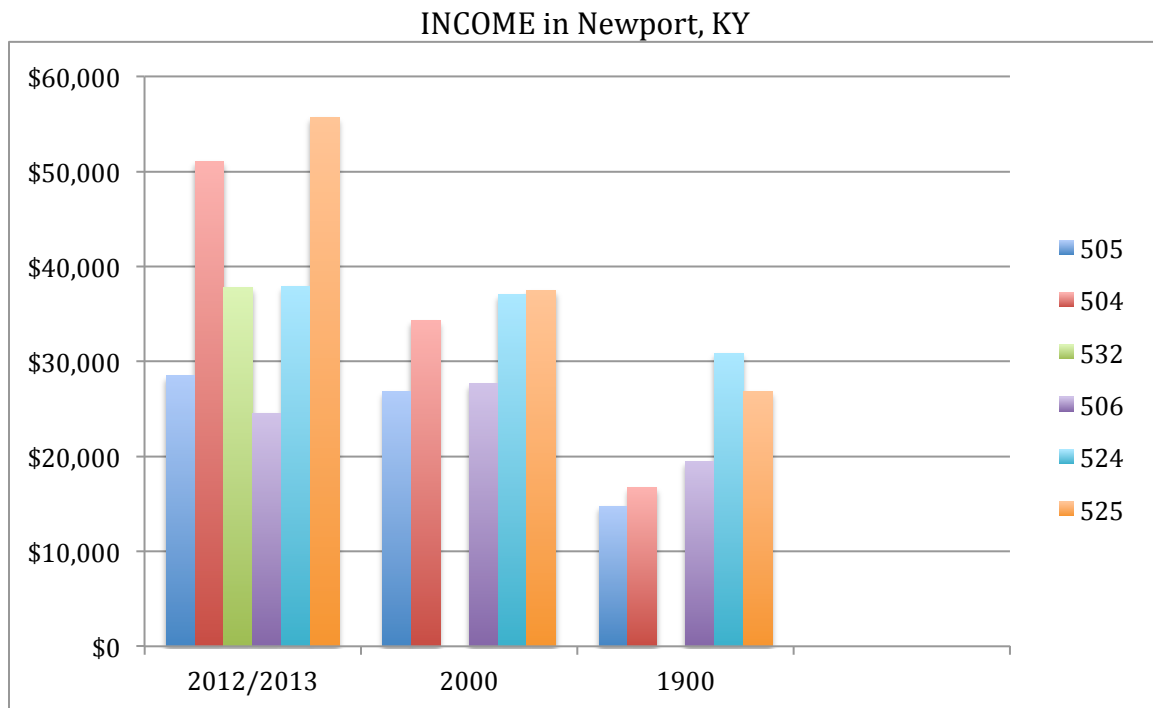


Income Inequality

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Over the past couple weeks our class has been looking at census tract 505 and the surrounding tracts. Looking at the census reports we have concluded that there is obvious differences in income between the east and west side of Newport.



The graph above includes both east and west side of Newport Kentucky. As you can see census tract 505 has increased over the years but there is still obvious inequality in income. 505's increase can be attributed to Monmouth streets business's that has been

bringing in more revenue over the past decades. However, that increase should not reflect the income of the population living in census tract 505.

According to the US Department of Health & Human Services, a family of 4 is considered in poverty if the household income is \$24,250 or less. Census tract 505's median income is \$28,507, just above that poverty line. Without Monmouth Street, 505 would most likely be at or below the national poverty line. Even worse than 505, tract 506's median income was only \$24,507, barely above the line of poverty. These tracts are both on the west side of Newport. On the opposite side of this spectrum, tracts such as 525 show the higher income of the east side. Tract 525's median income in 2013 was \$55,711, almost twice the line of poverty. This exemplifies the income inequality between these areas.

Monica Remmy, the garden manager at The Henry Hosea House, spoke on Wednesday about the problems of income in census tract 505. She said that there is a metaphoric wall of income inequality between the east and west sides of Newport Kentucky. This "wall" divides the two sides at York Street where the Henry Hosea House is located. Remmy works with young children in the garden teaching them how to grow fruits and vegetables. Many of these children come from lower income families and are on government assistance such as food stamps. With the help of Remmy's garden, she hopes to end the familial cycle of need for soup kitchens. Her intentions are to not see these children's future families in the same economic situation they are in.

The need for organizations such as the Henry Hosea House and the Brighton Center demonstrates the poverty of 505 and the west side. We can learn from Remmy that not only providing for families is helpful but also teaching the families how to use their dollar wisely can in the end be more beneficial to the future generations of tract 505.