



# Brookings News Release

A Forum Co-sponsored by the Brookings Institution  
and Living Cities: The National Community Development Initiative

## Stunning Progress, Hidden Problems: Declines in Concentrated Poverty in the 1990s

**Monday, May 19, 2003**  
**9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Falk Auditorium  
The Brookings Institution  
1775 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC

In his seminal 1997 book *Poverty and Place*, Paul Jargowsky reported that the number of people living in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty—where at least 40 percent of the residents were poor—doubled between 1970 and 1990. The poor had become significantly more isolated from the social and economic mainstream, increasingly living in large, blighted sections of many of the nation's central cities.

The latest evidence, drawn from new economic data from the 2000 Census, shows that the 1990s reversed the trend of prior decades. Concentrated poverty fell dramatically in nearly every major metropolitan area in the United States, particularly among African Americans.

This forum will feature a discussion of these latest findings, which are summarized by two reports to be released by Brookings and the Urban Institute. Panelists will elaborate on why these trends might have occurred and what the implications are for policies to assist poor families and poor neighborhoods, and ensure the economic and social health of metropolitan areas.

### Welcoming Remarks:

**REESE FAYDE**

Chief Executive Officer, Living Cities, Inc.

### Panelists:

**PAUL JARGOWSKY**

Author and Director, The Bruton Center for  
Development Studies, University of Texas, Dallas

**TOM KINGSLEY**

Author and Principal Research Associate,  
The Urban Institute Metropolitan Housing  
and Community Policy Center

### Moderator:

**BRUCE KATZ**

Vice President, The Brookings Institution;  
Director, Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy

### Respondents:

**RON HASKINS**

Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution; Former  
Senior Advisor to the President on Welfare Policy

**ANGELA BLACKWELL**

President, PolicyLink

***This event and these papers are part of the Living Cities Census Series, a three-year effort supported by Living Cities: The National Community Development Initiative to document urban demographic changes over the last decade.***

**RSVP:** Seating is limited; please call Sandra Honeysett at 202/797-6270, or by email at [shoneysett@brookings.edu](mailto:shoneysett@brookings.edu)