

New 2000 Estimates of the Hispanic Population for Shelby County, Tennessee

REDC



The University of Memphis

Prepared In Partnership By

Regional Economic Development Center
Luchy S. Burrell, Project Director
Steve Redding, Senior Research Associate
Sonya Schenk, Research Associate

And

Center for Research on Women
Marcela Mendoza, Senior Research Associate



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Introduction

In 1997, REDC developed *“Preliminary Estimates and Projections of The Hispanic Population for the Memphis Metropolitan Area 1996-2000.”* This study has been cited widely and many organizations and businesses have utilized it to better serve the local population, before the official 2000 Census count became available.

The official Census count of Hispanics in Shelby County is 23,364. This number is believed to be extremely low by many local officials who are knowledgeable on this issue. With the assistance of the Center for Research on Women (CROW), the REDC completed a set of three new estimates for the year 2000 for Shelby County utilizing more recent symptomatic data to compare with the Census numbers.

In this report, we discuss the methodology and results of these calculations, preceded by a review of additional information on the growth of the Hispanic population in Tennessee and followed by a discussion of our research findings in Shelby County.

Hispanic Immigration in New Growth States

The geographic concentration of immigration in the United States began to fade during the last decade, as the foreign-born population grew substantially faster in states that traditionally had not received large numbers of immigrants. The geographic distribution of Latino¹ immigrants during the 1990s has been described as a redirection of part of the immigration stream from California and other large immigrant states into new settlement areas. While many of the foreign-born migrants moved as family and household units, these households included children and individuals of mixed immigration status (Fix and Zimmerman 1999).

Immigrants moving out of California and other traditional destinations and into the new growth states may be finding higher-paying jobs and lower costs of living. “It does seem clear,” say Passel and Zimmermann (2001:17), “that the movement of Mexicans out of California is larger than in the past.” Possible factors in this movement include higher earnings for out-movers, the existence of relatively well-established communities of Mexican immigrants in other states, and a more widespread recognition of the available opportunities. In general, Mexican immigrants tend to work in blue-collar jobs and the men tend to have high rates of labor force participation.

Until recently, Tennessee has been a nontraditional immigrant-receiving state. By 1990, there were 32,741 Hispanics in Tennessee, or 0.7 percent of the total population in the state (US Census Bureau 2000). The largest number was concentrated in Middle Tennessee. One in three Hispanics lived in the Nashville-Davidson County Metropolitan Area, in the counties bordering this area, or in Montgomery County (site of a military installation). Nashville-Davidson County drew Hispanics from San Antonio (Texas), Detroit (Michigan), New York City, Florida, Puerto Rico, and from abroad (Johnson et al. 1999:283). According to the 1990 Census, ninety percent of all the Latinos in Tennessee were U.S. citizens. More than two of every five Latinos in the state reported Mexico as their country of origin. However, at mid-decade several counties throughout the state reported a significant increase in the Latino population (Tennessee Department of Health 1997:48). Three other metropolitan areas of Tennessee—Memphis, Clarksville, and Chattanooga— also received significant Latino immigration.

¹ We use Hispanic and Latino as interchangeable terms.

Hispanic Immigrants in Tennessee

By mid-decade, there was a remarkable increase in the influx of Latino immigrants to Tennessee and to several other nontraditional immigrant-receiving Southern states. The new Latino immigrants found employment in agriculture, in the service and distribution sectors, and in the construction industry (Johnson et al. 1999:298, Smith-Nonini 1999). They were younger, more skilled, and with higher educational backgrounds than those who arrived in previous decades (Villatoro 1998). They were joined by a growing number of women and children, suggesting that the families might become permanent settlers (Cobb-Clark and Kossoudji 2000, Duran et al. 2000).

In the early 1990s, almost seven of ten Latinos in Tennessee were under the age of 35 (compared to one of two non-Latinos), over one-third of the population was under 19 years old, and 109 Latino males were counted for every 100 Latino females (Tennessee Department of Health 1997:49). The 2000 Census counted 123,838 Hispanics, 2.2 percent of the total population in the state (see Table 1). Also, 38,899 were Hispanic children under the age of 18 (3 percent of the total number of children, see Kids Count 2001).

Table 1: Hispanic Population in Tennessee, 2000: Hispanic population as a percent of total Tennessee population and Hispanic population by type.

<i>Total Population TN</i>	<i>Total Hispanic Population</i>	<i>Percent Hispanic</i>	<i>Hispanic Type: Mexican</i>	<i>Hispanic Type: Puerto Rican</i>	<i>Hispanic Type: Cuban</i>	<i>Hispanic Type: Other</i>
5,590,283	123,838	2.2 %	77,372	10,303	3,695	32,488

Source: Census 2000 Brief. US Census Bureau, May 2001

In some rural areas, such as Morristown in Hamblen County, East Tennessee, the Latino population has tripled. Even though the numbers may not be large (3,299 Latinos or 5.7 percent of the total population in the county), the presence of Latinos in such relatively sparsely populated areas is especially noticeable.

The largest number of Hispanics is still concentrated in Middle Tennessee. For example, 4.6 percent of the population (26,091) in the Nashville-Davidson County Metropolitan Area is Hispanic; 7.5 percent of the population in Bedford County and 5.2 percent in Montgomery County is Hispanic.

Hispanics in Memphis and Shelby County

The 1990 U.S. Census counted 8,116 Hispanics in the Memphis Metropolitan Area². Most of the immigrants who settled in the metropolitan area arrived from Houston and Dallas, or from abroad (Johnson et al. 1999:283), and they were largely of Mexican, Cuban, and Puerto Rican descent (Greenbaum 1998). The majority (7,091) became Shelby County residents.

The 2000 U.S. Census found several more thousand Hispanics in the Memphis Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) than it had anticipated. The Census counted 27,520 Latinos in the MSA, the majority of them (23,364) in Shelby County, a remarkable population increase during the decade.

In 1993, the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department began recording the births to Hispanic residents. During the period 1993-1998, resident births to mothers who listed their birthplace as Mexico increased 330 percent (Memphis and Shelby County Health Department 1998:7). Our data indicate that the majority of the new Latino

² The Memphis Metropolitan Area includes Shelby County (and the City of Memphis), Tipton and Fayette Counties in Tennessee, De Soto County in Mississippi, and Crittenden County in Arkansas.

immigrants in Memphis and Shelby County are young men and women from Mexico and Central America.³ Four bus companies leaving from Memphis provide weekly transportation to south-central Mexico. In particular, Matehuala, San Luis Potosí, Querétaro, Guanajuato, León, Guadalajara, Morelia, Apaseo del Alto, and Mexico D. C. are often mentioned in our interviews as the immigrants' places of origin.

When questioned about the subject, Latino immigrants say that the main reason for choosing Memphis is the availability of employment. Our data strongly suggest that job opportunities and family reunification explain why Latino immigrants are settling in Memphis. The immigrants are employed in a wide range of occupations, such as construction, packing and warehousing, landscaping, and other service jobs (sales representatives, administrative assistants, restaurant employees, cleaning and maintenance workers). Still, a number of Latino immigrant women are homemakers.⁴

In 2000, Memphis and Shelby County public schools enrolled 2,366 Hispanic students, up from 572 in 1993. A partial count of Hispanic students in private schools increases to 2851 the total number of Hispanic students in the year 2000 (Burrell, Redding, and Schenk 2000).

Initially, most Latino immigrants settled in working-class neighborhoods near Jackson Avenue. Lately immigrants began to settle in neighborhoods that are closer to the southeast Memphis industrial parks. During the fall 2000, we counted about twenty-five restaurants, bars, supermarkets, video-rentals, churches, and a bakery, radio-station, and

³ Three studies carried out among Spanish-speaking immigrants in Memphis (Scarinci, Klesges, and Chang 2000; Martin 2000; and Afflitto 2000) reported that the majority of the individuals interviewed were under the age of 35. 90 percent of the Latino immigrant women interviewed by Scarinci, Klesges, and Chang (2000) were born in Mexico.

⁴ See the studies by Afflitto (2000) and Scarinci, Klesges, and Chang (2000). Similar responses were obtained from Latinos interviewed by researchers at the Center for Research on Women (Mendoza, Ciscel, and Smith 2000).

short-lived movie-theater with subtitles in Spanish language catering to Mexican immigrants in this particular area of town. Our current research shows that Latino immigrants are increasingly becoming homeowners in the metropolitan area (Mendoza and Schenk 2000, see also Alexander 2001). However, a recent report by the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (2000) indicates that a number of Latinos have received a subprime loan when they purchased or refinanced their homes in Memphis.

As a “new growth” metropolitan area, Memphis has little experience to integrate recently arrived immigrants who are unfamiliar with U.S. customs and institutions. In an effort to serve the Latino population more effectively, many service providers, including healthcare providers, and local businesses have expanded their workforces by hiring Spanish-speaking or bilingual staff (Mendoza and Petersen 2000, Fordham 2000). Banks and other financial institutions have begun to train employees to deal with the growing immigrant clientele. Money order services and wire transfers in the Spanish language have proliferated (Lacy 2000). Also, immigrant advocacy groups have formed to assist newcomers in their efforts to access services and information.

Methodology for the New 2000 Hispanic Population Estimates

Symptomatic data are widely used to estimate the population for inter-censal periods. These data are obtained from official records that reflect changes in population. Examples of symptomatic data include residential building permits, school enrollment, births and deaths, utility connections, and voter registration, to name a few.

REDC developed three estimates based on the following methods:

1. Vital Statistics - Official birth data obtained from the Shelby County Health Department on the number of births to Hispanic women from 1993 to 1998.
2. Census Method I – Component method that utilizes official data on the number of children classified as Hispanic enrolled in public and private schools in Shelby County and in the nation as a whole from 1992 to 1998 to estimate the net migration component. In addition it utilizes actual local birth and death data to calculate the natural increase.
3. School Enrollment Trends of Hispanic Students – This method assumes that the population of Hispanics in Shelby County grew at the same rate as the school enrollment of Hispanic students in public and private schools from 1992 to 2000. School enrollment by Hispanic children grew at the rate of 21% per year for the past eight years in Shelby County.

REDC is not aware of any acceptable method of estimating the number of single men without children; therefore, the above methods do not include an estimate of this group of the population.

Findings

The three new 2000 estimates of the Hispanic population in Shelby County are considerably higher than the 2000 Census number (23,364). The estimate utilizing birth data (31,200) and the one based on the net migration rate of school children (34,602) appear to be the most reasonable. The annual growth rate of school children applied to the population as a whole yields a much higher number, which renders the estimate questionable. Detailed calculations of each estimate are included in the appendices.

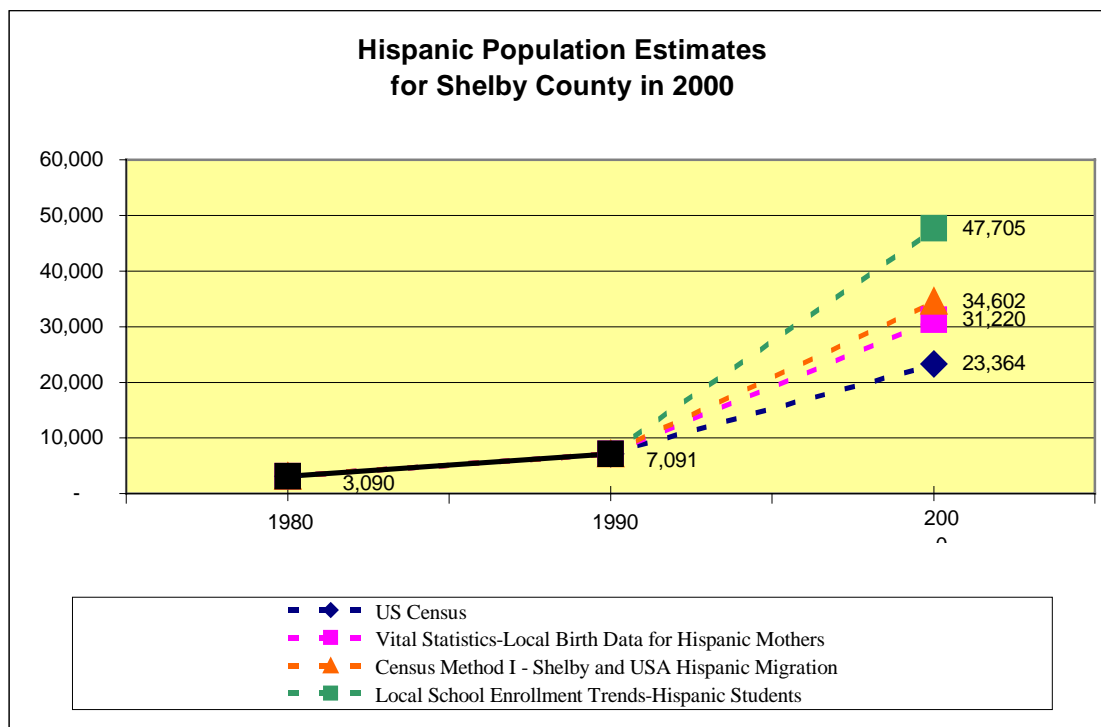
Table 2: Estimates of the Total Hispanic Population in Shelby County Using Different Methods

<i>Total Population Estimates</i>	<i>1980</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>1990-2000 Annual Average Growth</i>	<i>1990-2000 Growth Rate</i>	<i>1990-2000 Compound Annual Rate</i>
US Census	3,090	7,091	23,364	1,627	22.9%	2.1%
Vital Statistics-Local Birth Data for Hispanic Mothers	—	—	31,220	2,413	34.0%	3.0%
Census Method I – Shelby and USA Hispanic Migration	—	—	34,602	2,751	38.8%	3.3%
Local School Enrollment Trends Hispanic Students	—	—	47,705	4,061	57.3%	4.6%

Sources: US Census 1980, 1990, and 2000.

REDC developed population estimates for year 2000 using different methods: Steve Redding developed the estimates using the Vital Statistics and local birth data on Hispanic mothers. Luchy S. Burrell developed estimates using Census Method I and the local enrollment trends.

Figure 1: Hispanic Population Estimates for Shelby County, 2000.



Conclusions

Although the methods employed in this study are commonly used and recommended by experts for estimates at periods between the decennial censuses, they do not replace or intend to challenge the official 2000 Census count.

Conducting similar estimates by county and on a statewide basis in Tennessee could further test the validity of these methods. These tests could lend more credibility to the belief that the 2000 Census has extremely undercounted the Hispanic population in Shelby County. REDC and CROW will engage in further testing of these methods as time and other resources become available.

Appendices

Appendix A

Population Estimates Based on Birth Data

	Actual 1998	Estimate 2000	Source
Births to Hispanic Women in Shelby County	313	475	Shelby Co. Health Dept./ Scarinci et al.
Adjustment for Births with Hispanic Father, Non-Hispanic Mother	x 1.139	x 1.139	Fernandez (US Census Bureau)
Adjustment for Unregistered Births	x 1.013	x 1.013	Fernandez (US Census Bureau)
Estimated Hispanic Births in Shelby County	361	548	
Fertility Rate (Hispanic Women - Southern Region)	.1 .70.90 x 1,000	.1 .70.90 x 1,000	Current Pop. Report P20-499 (June 1995)
Estimated No. of Hispanic Women Age 15-44 in Shelby County	5,094	7,730	
Ratio of Hispanic Women Age 15- 44 to Total Hispanic Females	x 2.01	x 2.01	US Census Bureau (1998)
Estimated No. of Hispanic Women in Shelby County	10,237	15,535	
Ratio of Hispanic Females to Total Hispanics	x 2.01	x 2.01	Census Est. for US (August 23, 2000)
Estimated Hispanic Population	20,572	31,220	

Appendix B

Shelby County Hispanic Birth Data (Residents Only)

Total Hispanic

Year	Estimate/ Actual	Births to Hispanic Mothers	Change From Prior Year	% Change Prior Year
1990	Estimate	66*		
1991	Estimate	80	14	21.5%
1992	Estimate	97	17	21.5%
1993	Actual	118	21	21.5%
1994	Actual	130	12	10.2%
1995	Actual	189	59	45.4%
1996	Actual	240	51	27.0%
1997	Actual	298	58	24.2%
1998	Actual	313	15	5.0%
1999	Estimate	380	67	21.5%
2000	Estimate	462	82	21.5%
	Total	2,374		

CAGR- Actual 21.54%

CAGR- Total (Actual + Est.) 21.54%

* 1990 Census (STF3A) pop.<1 yr.=156

Mexican Born Mothers

Year	Estimate/ Actual	Mothers Born in Mexico	Change From Prior Year	% Change Prior Year	% of Total Hispanic Births
1990	Estimate	20			31.0%
1991	Estimate	27	7	33.9%	34.2%
1992	Estimate	37	9	33.9%	37.7%
1993	Actual	49	12	33.9%	41.5%
1994	Actual	65	16	32.7%	50.0%
1995	Actual	98	33	50.8%	51.9%
1996	Actual	115	17	17.3%	47.9%
1997	Actual	188	73	63.5%	63.1%
1998	Actual	211	23	12.2%	67.4%
1999	Estimate	283	72	33.9%	74.3%
2000	Estimate	378	96	33.9%	81.8%
	Total	1,471			

CAGR – Actual 33.91%

CAGR – Total (Actual + Est.) 33.91%

Source: Actual – Memphis and Shelby County Health Department

Estimate – REDC calculation based on CAGR of actual trend (assumes declining rate for non-Mexican births)

Appendix B – Continuation

Shelby County Hispanic Birth Data (Residents Only)

Non-Mexican Born Hispanic

Year	Estimate/ Actual	Hispanic Mothers Not Born in Mexico*	Change From Prior Year	% Change Prior Year
1990	Estimate			
1991	Estimate			
1992	Estimate			
1993	Actual	69	69	
1994	Actual	65	(4)	-5.8%
1995	Actual	91	26	40.0%
1996	Actual	125	34	37.4%
1997	Actual	110	(15)	-12.0%
1998	Actual	102	(8)	-7.3%
1999	Estimate			
2000	Estimate			

CAGR – Actual 8.13%

* Total Hispanic births less births to mothers born in Mexico

Appendix C

Census Method I. Estimates of the Hispanic Population in Shelby County for 1996 and Projection for 2000

Estimates of the Hispanic Population	
Beginning Population in 1990 ¹	7,091
Plus Estimated (226.5%) Net Migration 1990-96 ²	16,061
Plus Estimated Number of Births 1990-96 ³	920
Minus Estimated Number of Deaths 1990-96 ⁴	474
Estimated Population as of 1996 ⁵	23,598
Average Change per Year ⁶	2,751
Projected Population for 2000 ⁷	34,602

Sources:

- 1 1990 Census of Population and Housing
- 2 Burrell, L. Census Method I, School Enrollment for Ages 7-13, 1990 and 1996. REDC.
- 3 Redding, S. Memphis and Shelby County Health Department, 1990-1998. Fall 2000. REDC.
- 4 National Births to Deaths Ratio for 1990. US Statistical Abstract, 2000.
- 5 1+2+3-4 above.
- 6 Self Explanatory.
- 7 Self Explanatory.

Appendix D**Census Method I: Estimating Net-Migration Rate**

	United States	(in 000) States	% Change	Estimated Age 7-13 Shelby Co.		Estimate	% Change
	1990	1996	1990-96	1990	1998	1996	1990-96
School Enrollment Ages 7 to 13	25,016	26,936	7.7%	126,365	144,883	140,253	11.0%
Hispanic Enrollment	2,794	3,710	32.8%	486	NA	1,746.89	259.3%
Share of Total	11.2%	13.8%					
Est. Net Migration Rate 1990-1996							
Total Pop.						3.3%	
Hispanic Pop.						226.5%	

To Estimate Ages 7-13 for Shelby County, TN.

Children Age 7 to 13 as % of K-12	United States	US Share	Shelby Co. Share			% Change
Total Population	1990	1996-1998	1996	1996		
Total Population	0.54	0.52	47.8	0.56		
Hispanic Population	0.77	0.54	6.1	0.61		
	United States	% Change	Shelby Co. (K-12)		% Change	
	1990	(in 000) 1998	1990-98	1990	1998	1990-98
School Enrollment K-12	46.5	48.2	3.7%	148.665	170,450	14.7%
Hispanic Enrollment	3.63	6.89	89.9%	572	2,123	271.2%
Share of Total	7.8%	14.3%		0.4%	1.2%	
Est. Net Migration Rate 1990-1998						
Total Pop. Shelby Co.						11.0%
Hispanic Pop. Shelby						181.3%

Sources: US Statistical Abstract, 1999; TN Statistical Abstract, 2000; Shelby County Schools, October 2000; Memphis City Schools, October 2000; US Census Bureau CPR, October 1998. Note: school enrollment figures for 1990 do not specify children of Hispanic origin, thus the 1992 figure was utilized. No data available for preschool age Hispanic children in Shelby County, thus these numbers may be underestimated.

Appendix E

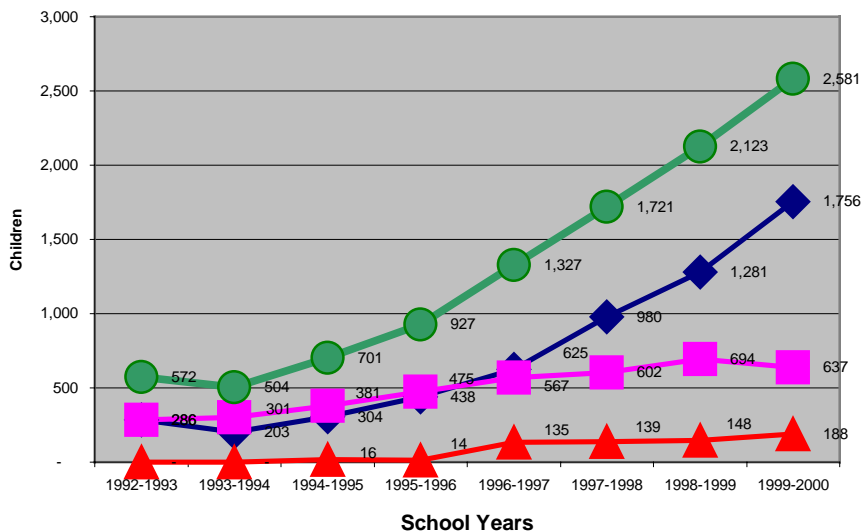
School Enrollment Trends for Hispanic Children in Memphis and Shelby County 1992-1993 to 1999-2000

Enrollment	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	Total Change 8years	Average Annual Change
Shelby Co. Schools	286	301	381	475	567	602	694	637	351	44
Memphis City Schools	286	203	304	438	625	980	1,281	1,756	1,470	184
Private Schools	NA	NA	16	14	135	139	148	188	172	22
Total	572	504	701	927	1,327	1,721	2,123	2,581	2,009	251
Annual Change										
Shelby Co. Schools	NA	15	80	94	92	35	92	(57)	351	44
Memphis City Schools	NA	(83)	101	134	187	355	301	475	1,470	184
Private Schools	NA	NA	NA	(2)	121	4	9	40	172	22
Total	NA	(68)	197	226	400	394	402	458	2,009	251
Percent Change										
Shelby Co. Schools	NA	5.2%	26.6%	24.7%	19.4%	6.2%	15.3%	-8.2%	123%	11%
Memphis City Schools	NA	-29.0%	49.8%	44.1%	42.7%	56.8%	30.7%	37.1%	514%	25%
Private Schools	NA	NA	NA	-12.5%	864.3%	3.0%	6.5%	27.0%	1075%	36%
Total	NA	-11.9%	39.1%	32.2%	43.1%	29.7%	23.4%	21.6%	351%	21%

Source: REDC Survey of Local School Districts and Private Schools, Fall 2000.

Appendix F

Enrollment Trends of Hispanic Children in Public and Private Schools in Shelby County



Note: County School enrollment declined from 1999 to 2000 due annexation by the City of Memphis. Private school data are incomplete.

◆ Memphis City Schools ■ Shelby County Schools ▲ Private Schools ● Total

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Regional Economic Development Center
 Graduate Program in City and Regional Planning
 The University of Memphis
 226 Johnson Hall
 Memphis, TN 38152

Tel. 901-678-2056

Fax. 901-678-4162

E-mail address: lburrell@memphis.edu
 Web Site: <http://planning.memphis.edu/redcplan>

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From

Regional Economic Development Center
 Graduate Program in City and Regional Planning
 The University of Memphis
 226 Johnson Hall
 Memphis, TN 38152

Tel.: 901-678-2056

Fax: 901-678-4162

lburrell@memphis.edu

<http://planning.memphis.edu/redcplan>

And

Center for Research on Women
 The University of Memphis
 339 Clement Hall
 Memphis, TN 38152

Tel.: 901-678-2770

Fax: 901-678-3652

crow@memphis.edu

<http://cas.memphis.edu/isc/crow>