

Another issue, Busler said, is the large numbers of single mothers in the black community.

Of the 16,017 black households in Atlantic County, an estimated 4,060 are considered a “married couple family” and 5,623 “other family.” The rest are considered single households.

The disparity between one-parent family households headed by men and women in that second category, however, is vast — 4,695 households are led by a woman without a husband present, compared with 928 led by a man without a wife present.

That comes to almost half of all black family households in the county being led by a woman with no husband — compared with just under 15 percent for all households in the county.

“Single mothers also typically have lower earning potential,” Busler said. “Households earn less than when they have a father and mother in the household.”

Then there is the issue of the elderly. More African Americans 65 and older in Atlantic County have incomes of less than \$15,000, about 1,100, than any other age group.

“The reason the poverty level is where it is, in my opinion, is that it’s very difficult for seniors to get part-time jobs or to get opportunities to work in the casino industry, because of their age,” said Ralph Hunter Sr., president and founder of the African American Historical Museum of South Jersey in Newtonville, Buena Vista Township.

Most of the wages earned by casino employees don’t stay in Atlantic City, or many times even Atlantic County, Hunter said — an issue that contributed to the cllby ar tterd.
