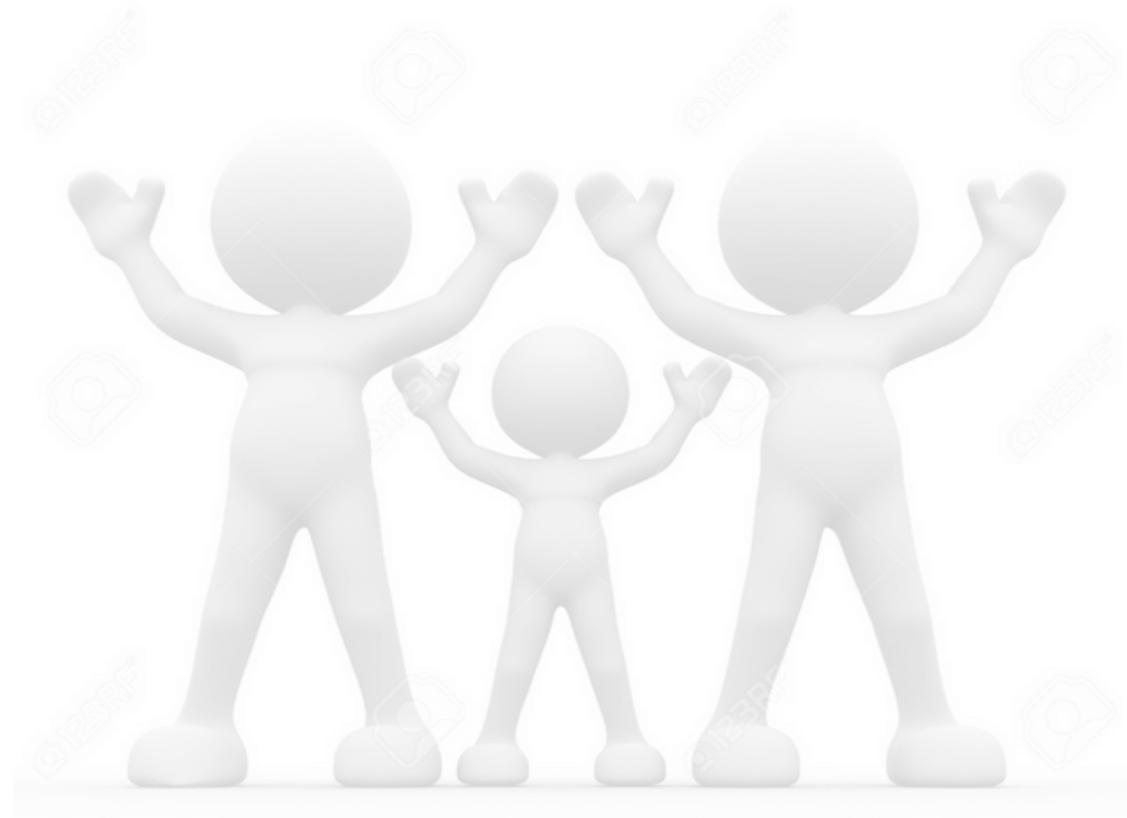


Pandemics + Policing + Protest

On Racism, Adversity and Mental Health



November 13, 2020

Rhea W Boyd MD, MPH

Annual Integration Summit

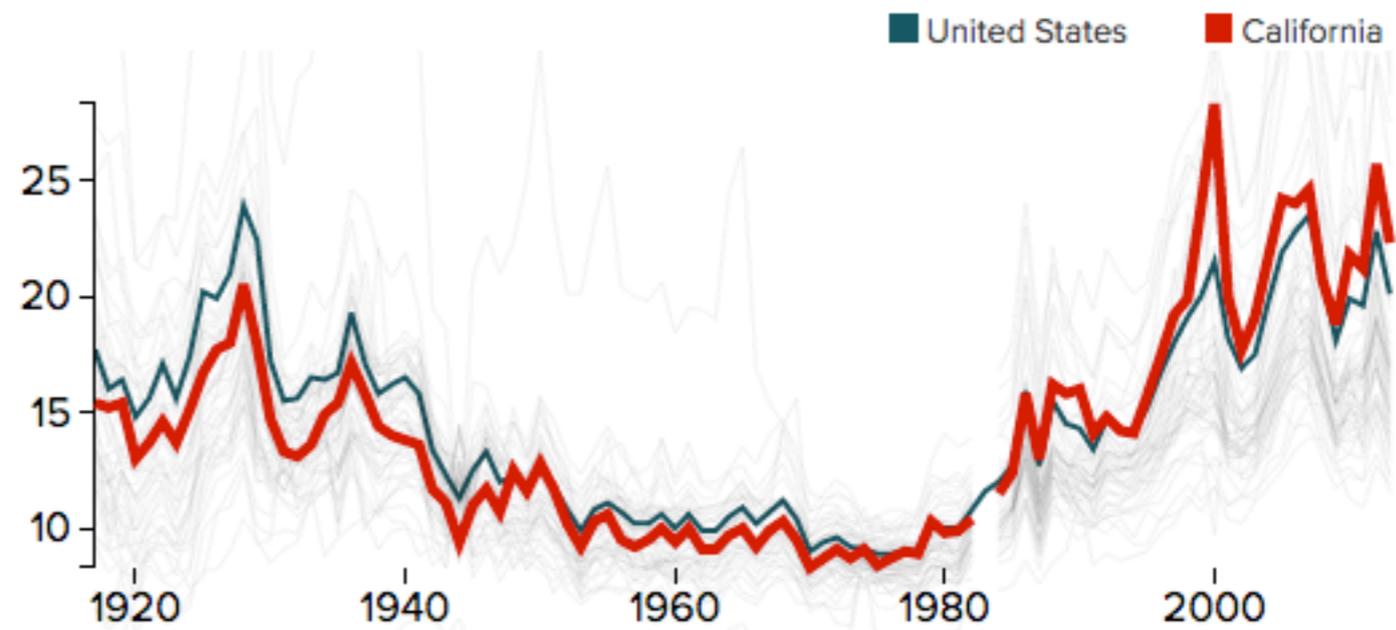
@RheaBoydMD

Neither I nor my immediate family members have a personal financial relationship with a manufacturer of products or services that will be discussed in this presentation.

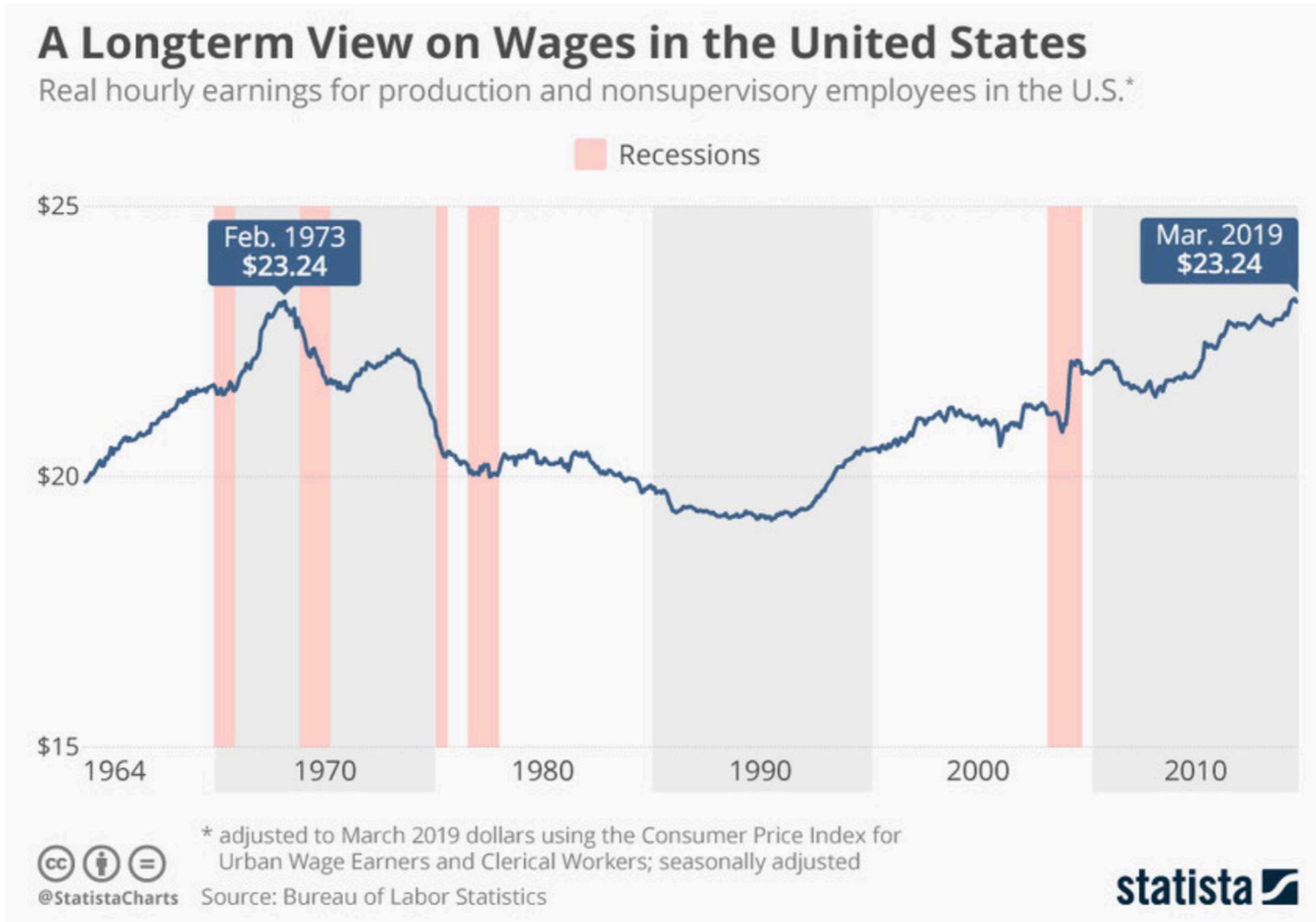
Inequality is growing.

Share of income captured by the top 1%, 1917–2013

The share of all income held by the top 1% in recent years has approached or surpassed historical highs.



Wage stagnation is profound.

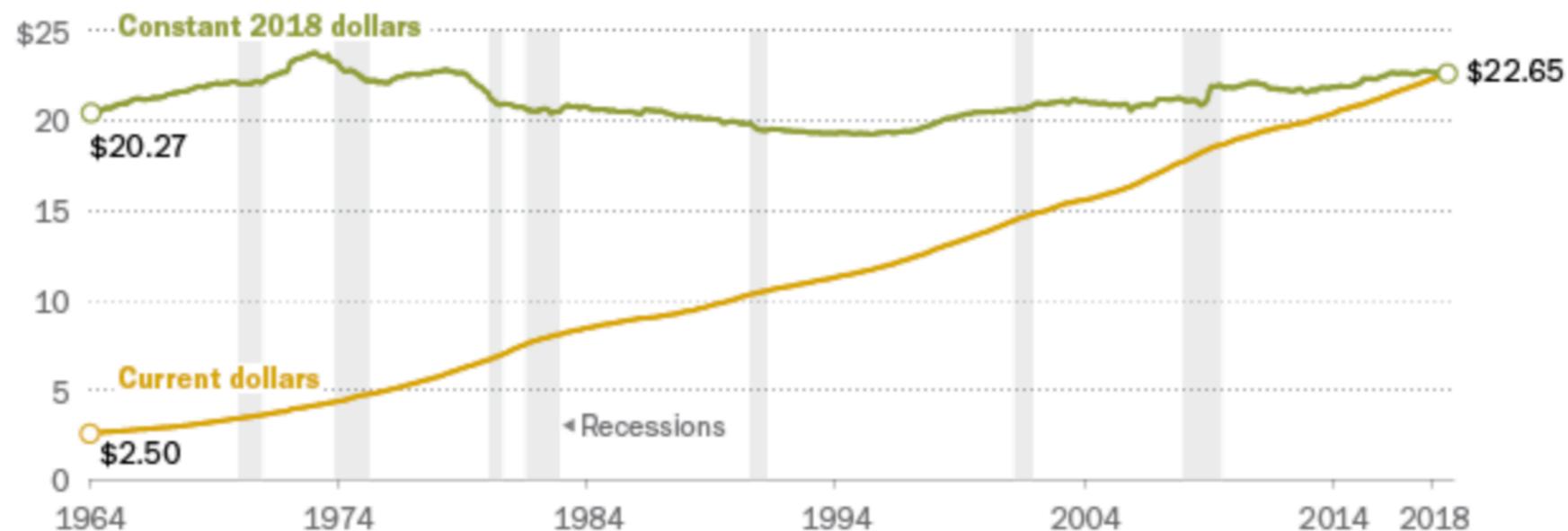


World Economic Forum. [50 Years of US Wages in One Chart](#). April 2019.

Purchasing power of the US workforce has *barely* increased over the last **50 years**.

Americans' paychecks are bigger than 40 years ago, but their purchasing power has hardly budged

Average hourly wages in the U.S., seasonally adjusted



Note: Data for wages of production and non-supervisory employees on private non-farm payrolls. "Constant 2018 dollars" describes wages adjusted for inflation. "Current dollars" describes wages reported in the value of the currency when received. "Purchasing power" refers to the amount of goods or services that can be bought per unit of currency.

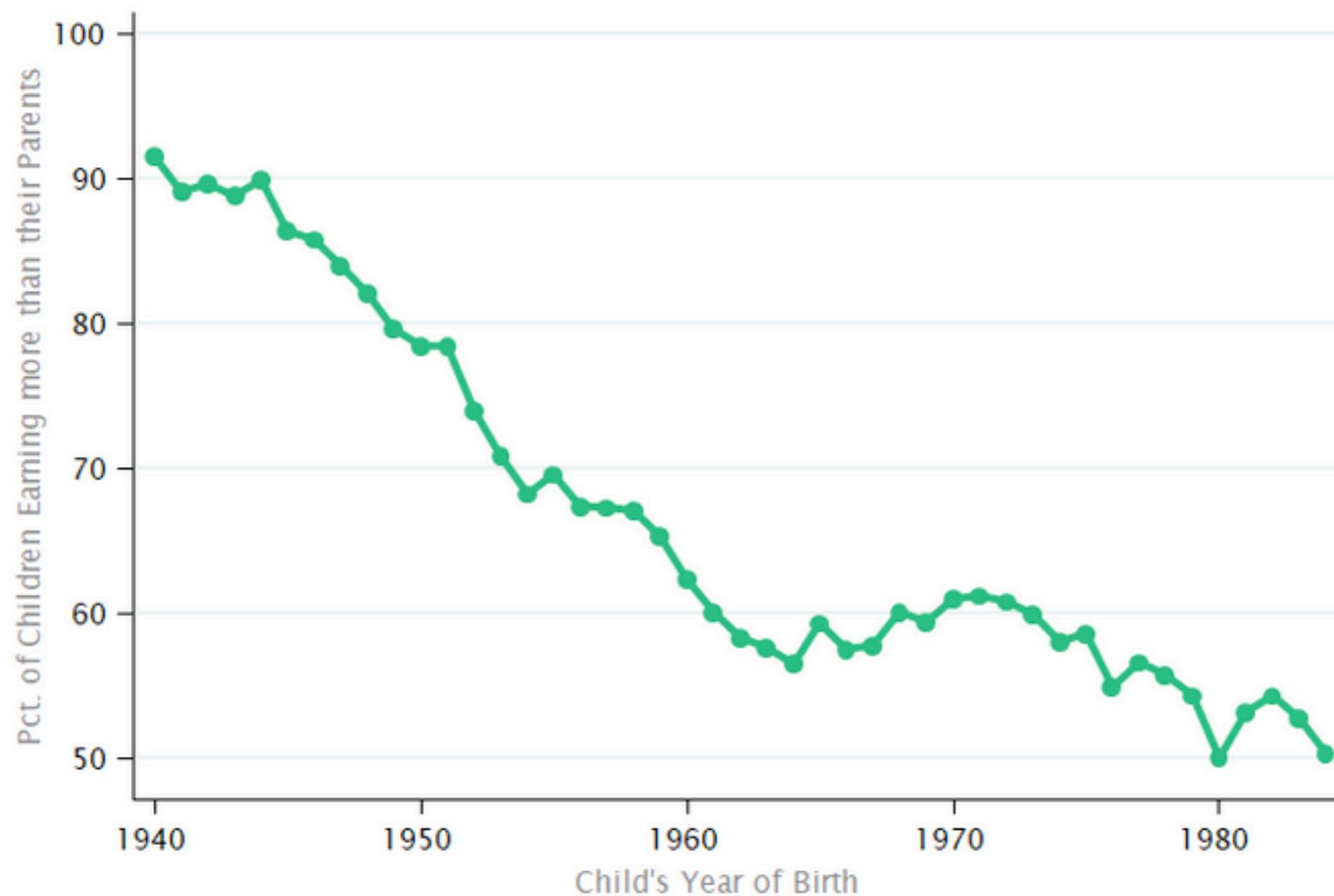
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Pew Research Center. [For most US workers, real wages have barely budged in decades](#). August 2018.

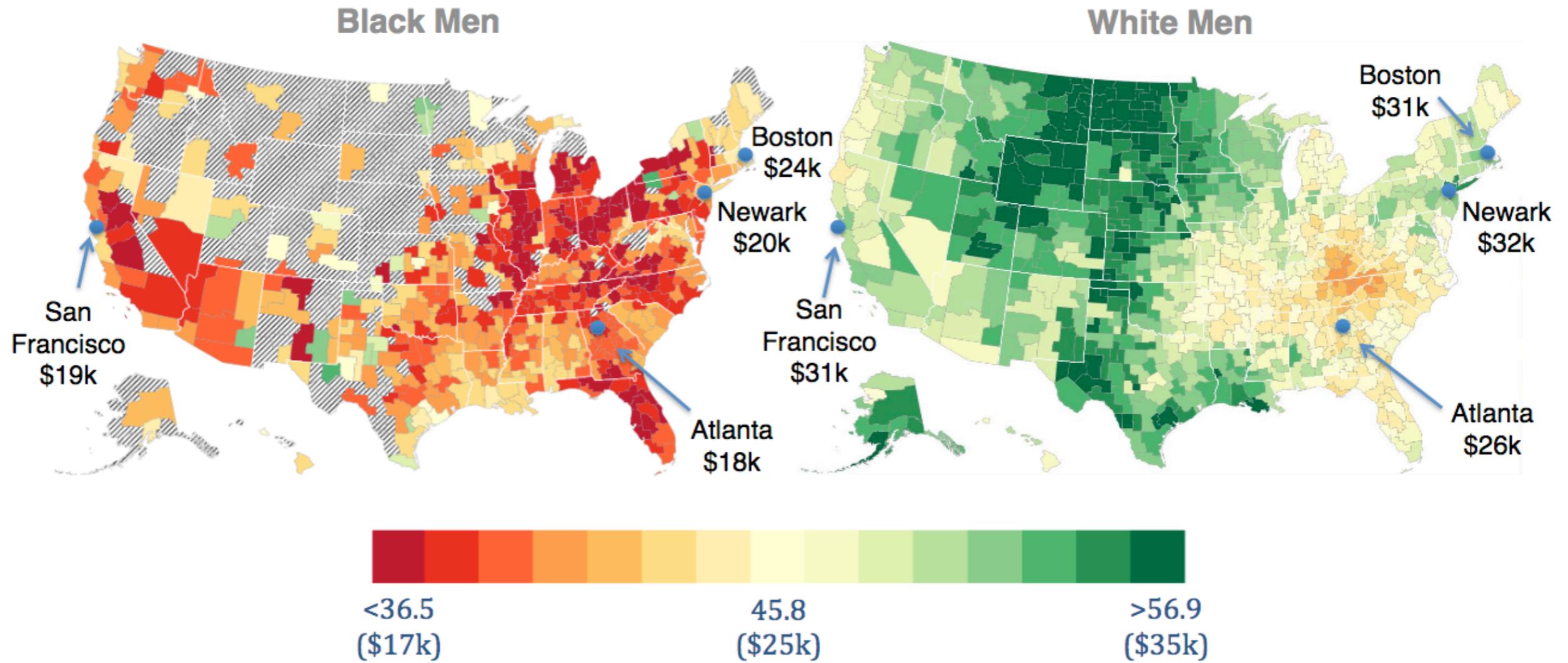
We are a part of a generation for whom *only* **half** of children will **out-earn** their parents.

Percent of Children Earning More than Their Parents, by Year of Birth



Two Americas: The Geography of Upward Mobility by Race

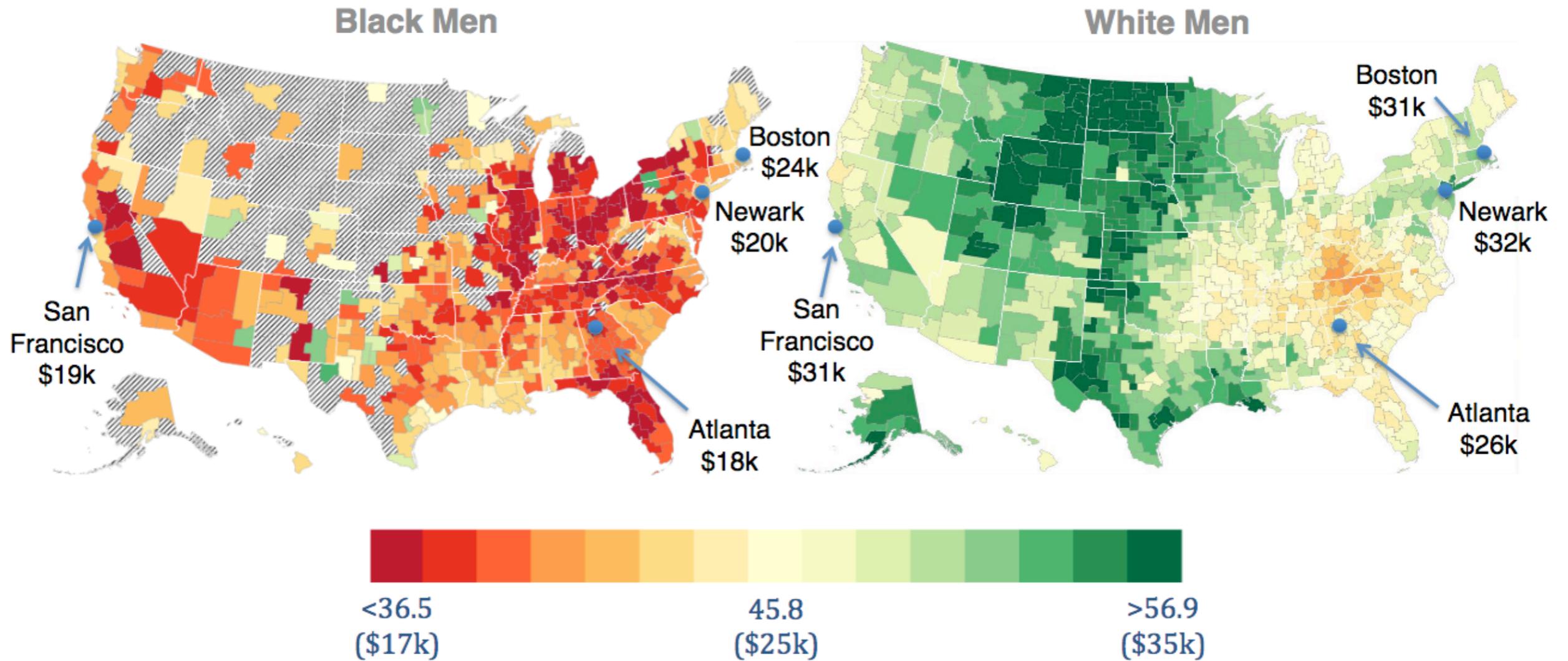
Average Individual Income for Boys with Parents Earning \$25,000 (25th percentile)



Chetty, R. et al. Race and Economic Opportunity in the United States: An intergenerational perspective. Opportunity Insights. 2018.

Two Americas: The Geography of Upward Mobility by Race

Average Individual Income for Boys with Parents Earning \$25,000 (25th percentile)



In **99%** of neighborhoods in the US, **black boys earn less** in adulthood than **white boys** who grow up in families with comparable incomes.

Black and white children fare very differently in America,
even if they grow up with two-parents, comparable
incomes, education, and wealth, live on the same city block
and attend the same school.

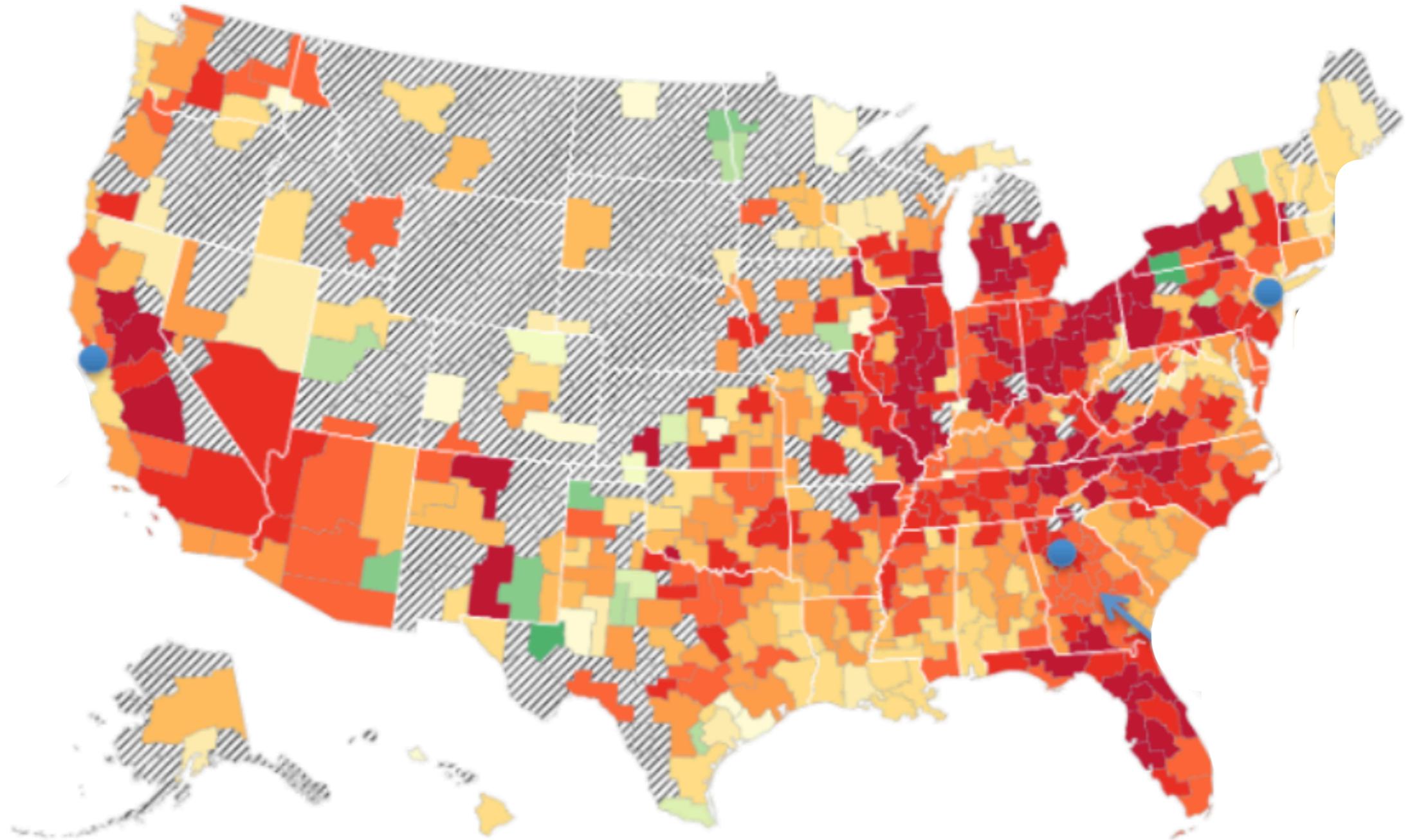


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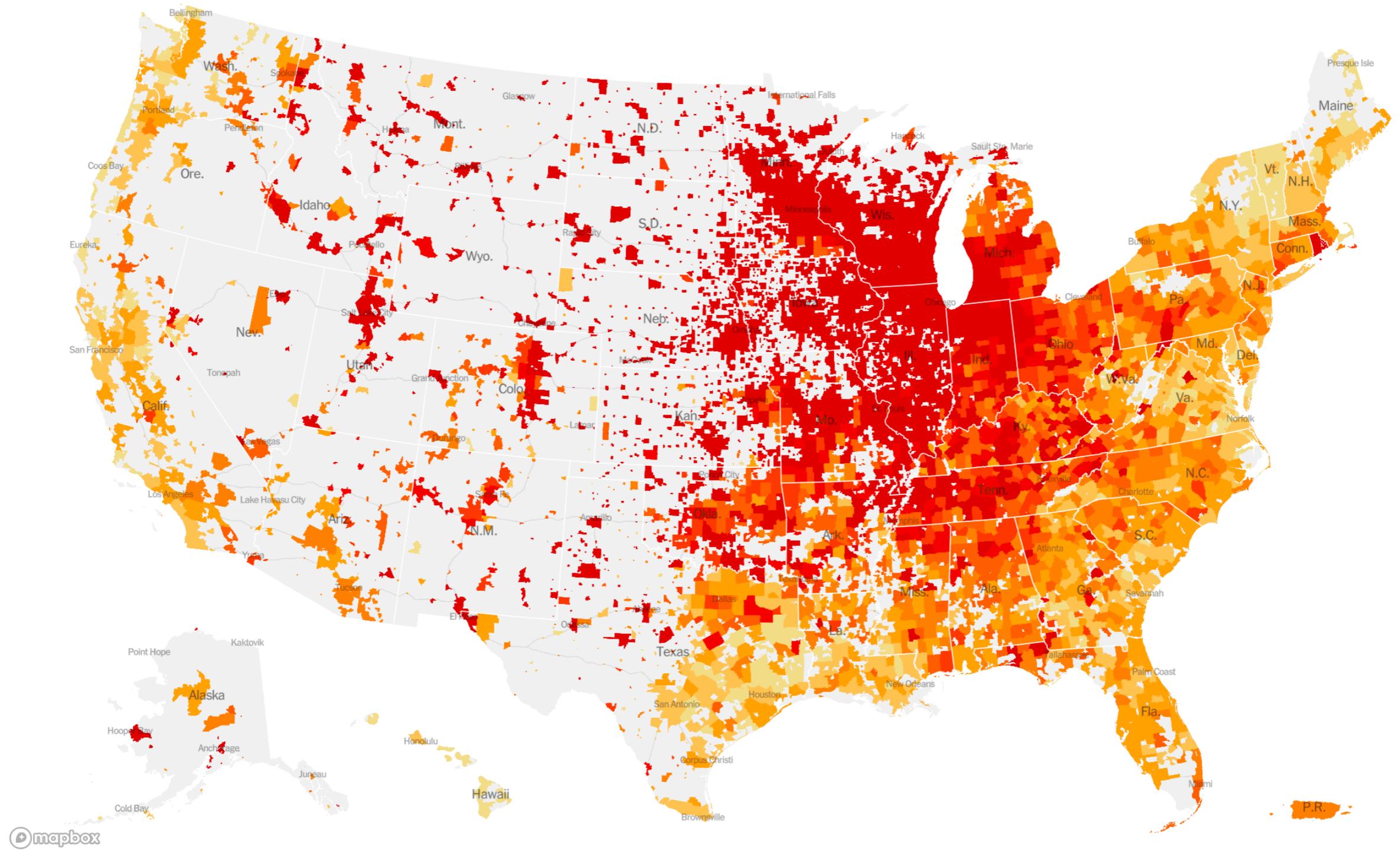


*These gaps are smallest in areas with **low racial bias** among
whites and **high father presence** in black neighborhoods.*

Pre-Existing Inequality



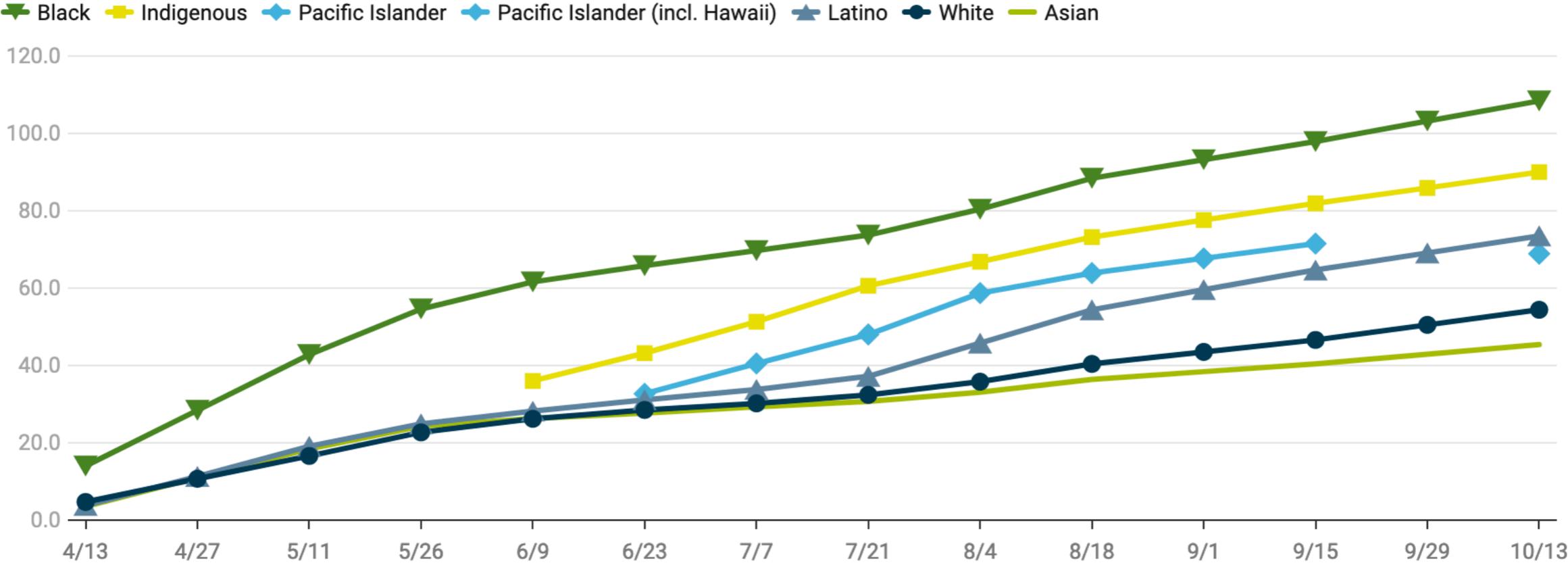
COVID-19 Hot Spots



NYTimes. [Coronavirus in the US. Latest Map and Case Count.](#) As of Nov 11.

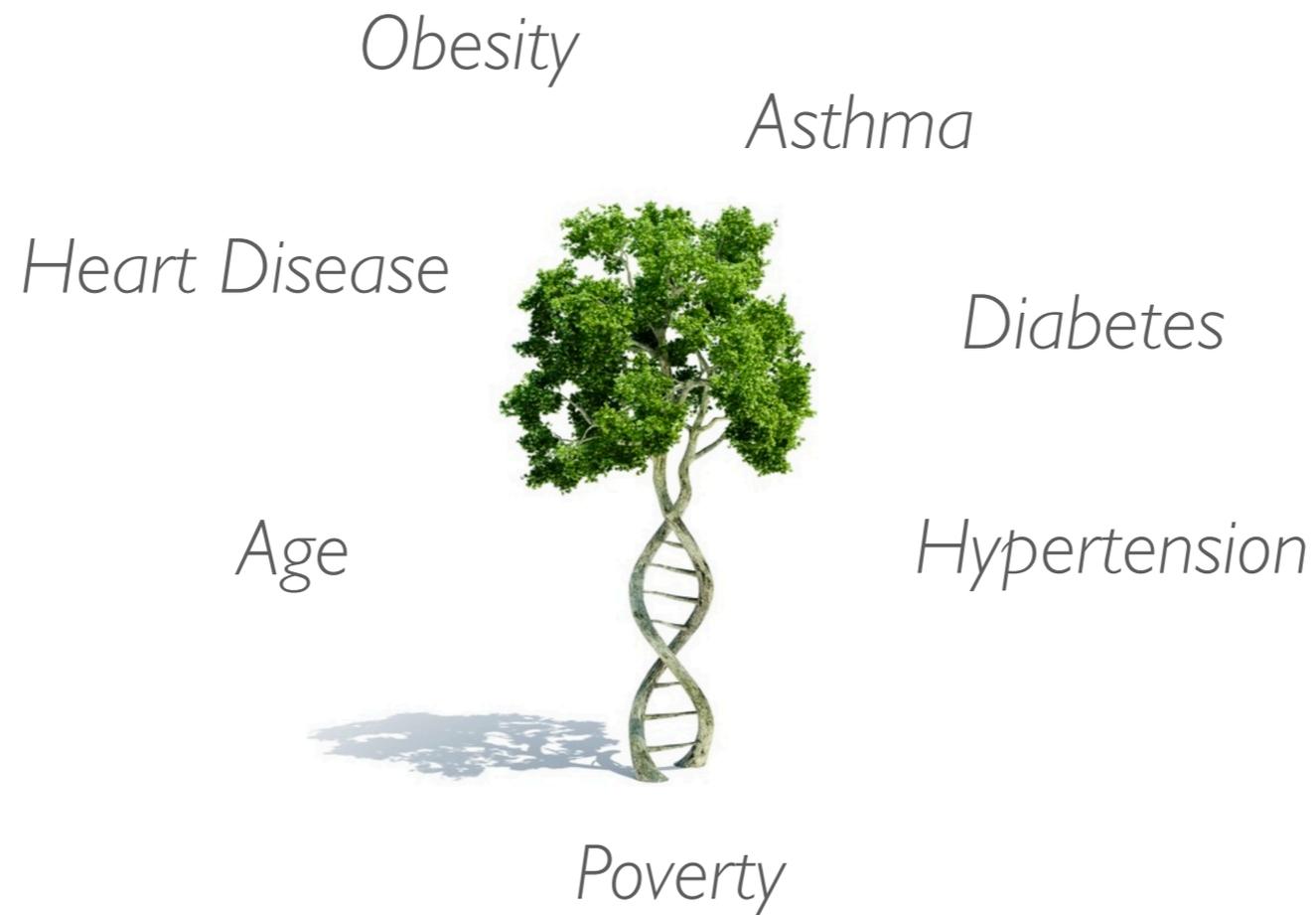
Black & Indigenous Americans experience highest death tolls from COVID-19

Cumulative actual COVID-19 mortality rates per 100,000, by race and ethnicity, April 13-Oct. 13, 2020



Note: All intervals are 14 days apart, except for 5/11-5/26, which is a 15-day period. 9/1 and 9/29 data has been interpolated. Pacific Islander data prior to 10/13 did not include Hawaii, as it was not releasing data; its inclusion resulted in an overall drop in the Pacific Islander rate, which begins a new series at 10/13.

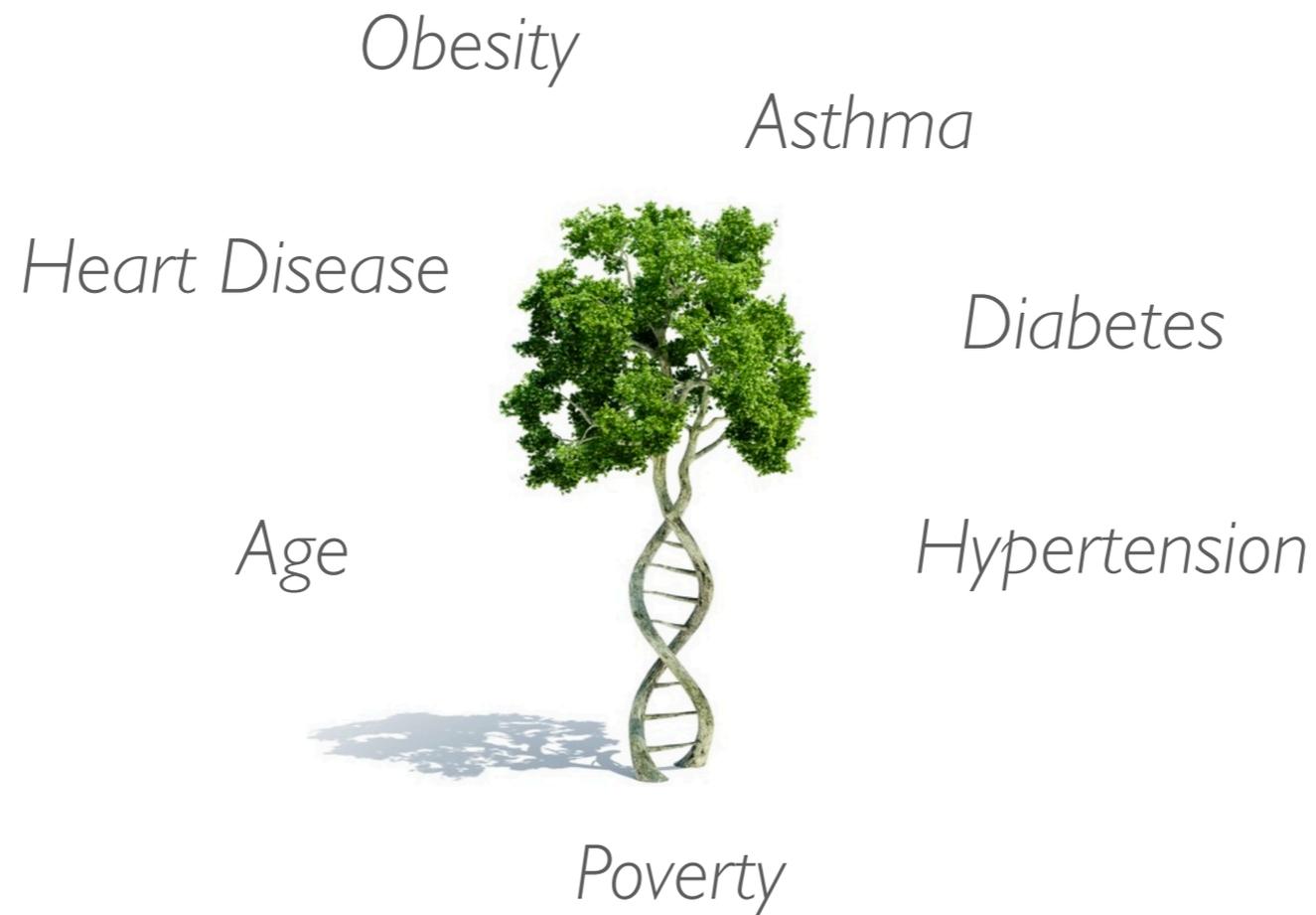
Source: [APM Research Lab](#) • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)



Jones CP. Levels of racism: a theoretic framework and a gardener's tale. *Am J Public Health*. 2000;90(8):1212-1215.

Williams DR, Lawrence JA, Davis BA. Racism and Health: Evidence and Needed Research. *Annu Rev Public Health*. 2019;40:105-125.

Segregation



Jones CP. Levels of racism: a theoretic framework and a gardener's tale. *Am J Public Health*. 2000;90(8):1212-1215.

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Segregation

Discrimination

Obesity

Asthma

Heart Disease

Diabetes

Age

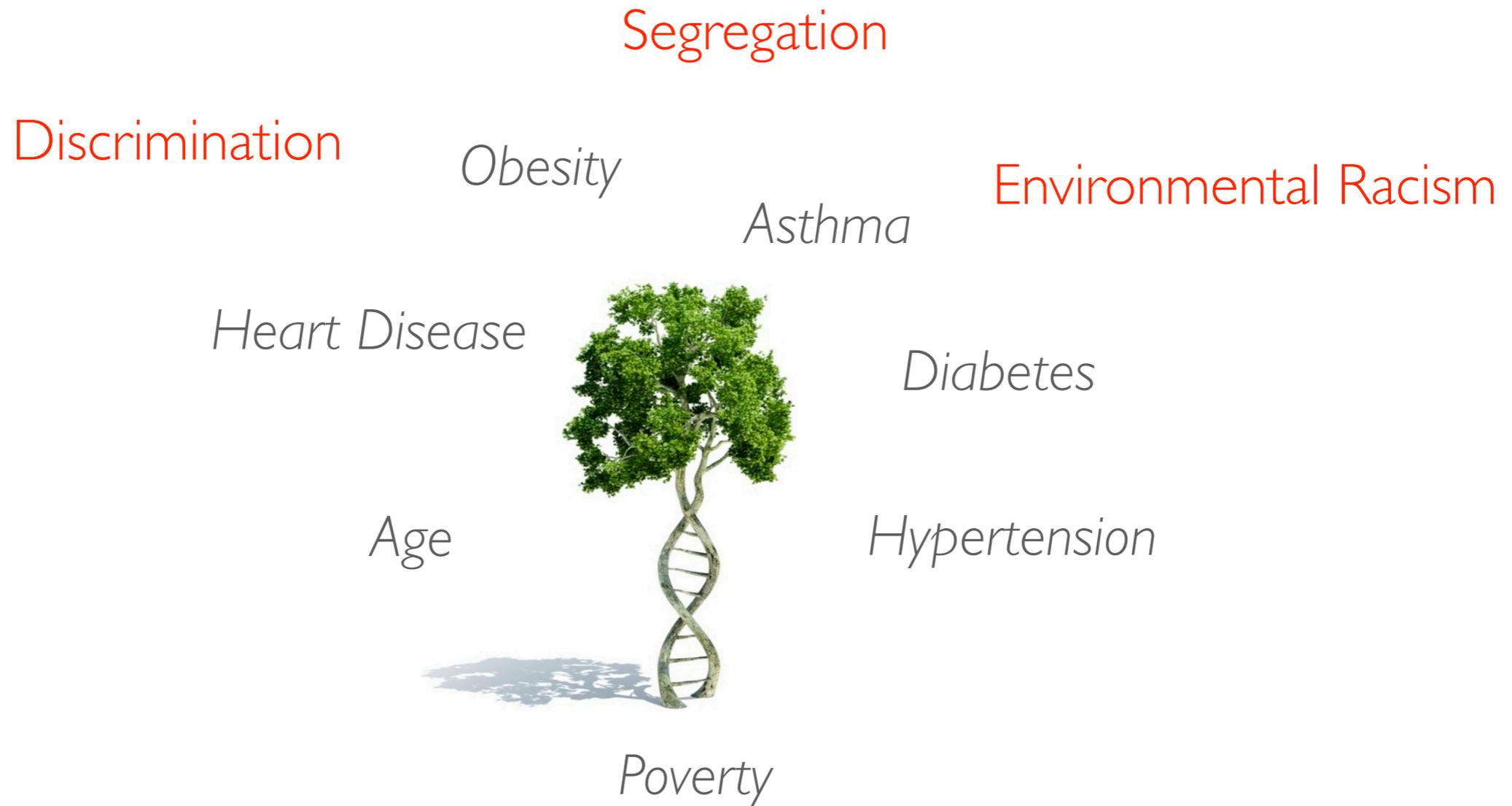
Hypertension



Poverty

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Age

Hypertension

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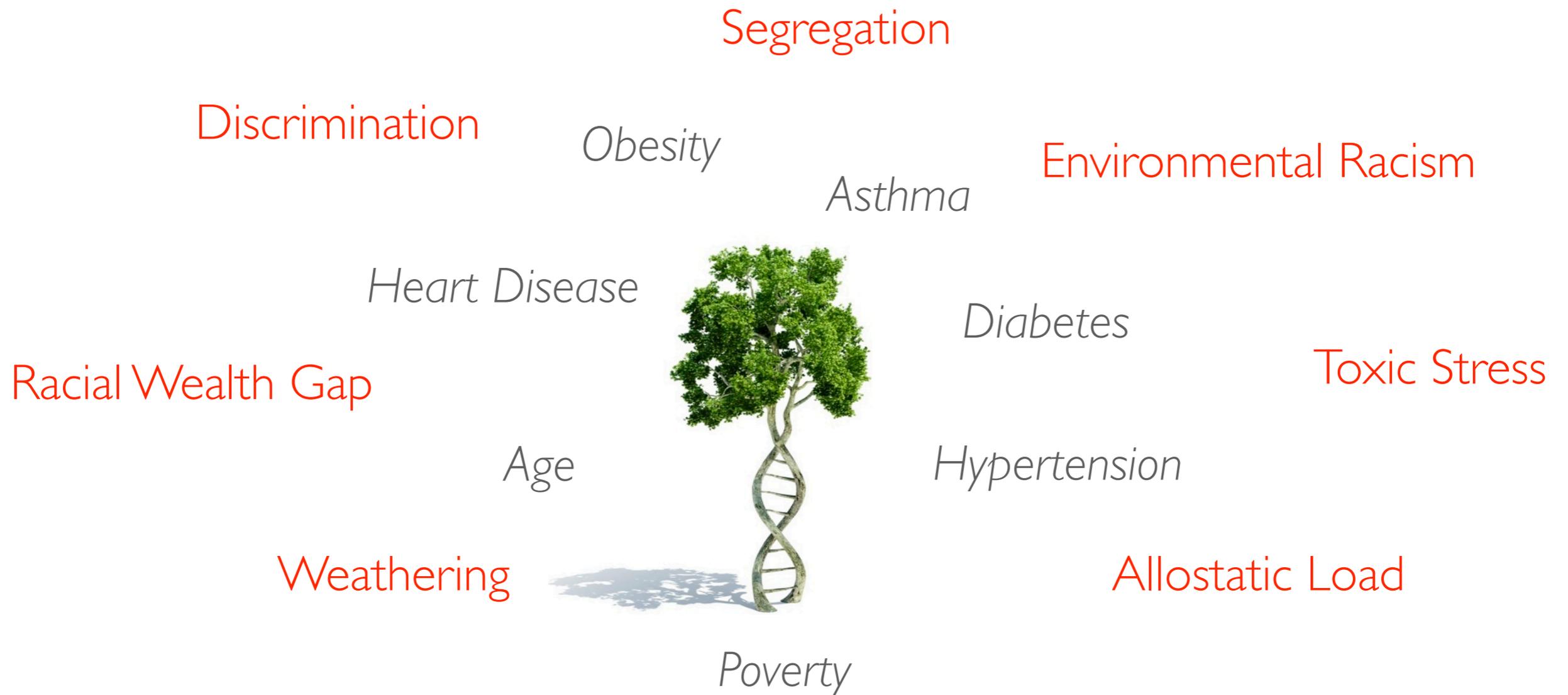
Allostatic Load



Poverty

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Structural Racism refers to *differential access* to goods, services, opportunities, **by race**.

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"Inherited Disadvantage"



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"Inherited Disadvantage"



The physical and structural **environment** in which humans grow, learn, work and play shapes *intergenerational* population health.

Jones CP. Levels of racism: a theoretic framework and a gardener's tale. *Am J Public Health*. 2000;90(8):1212-1215.

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Inequitable Risk* of COVID

Infection + Complications

The preconditions that render certain racial and ethnic populations *vulnerable* to COVID19 are **not** simply summarized as "poverty" or "underlying illness".

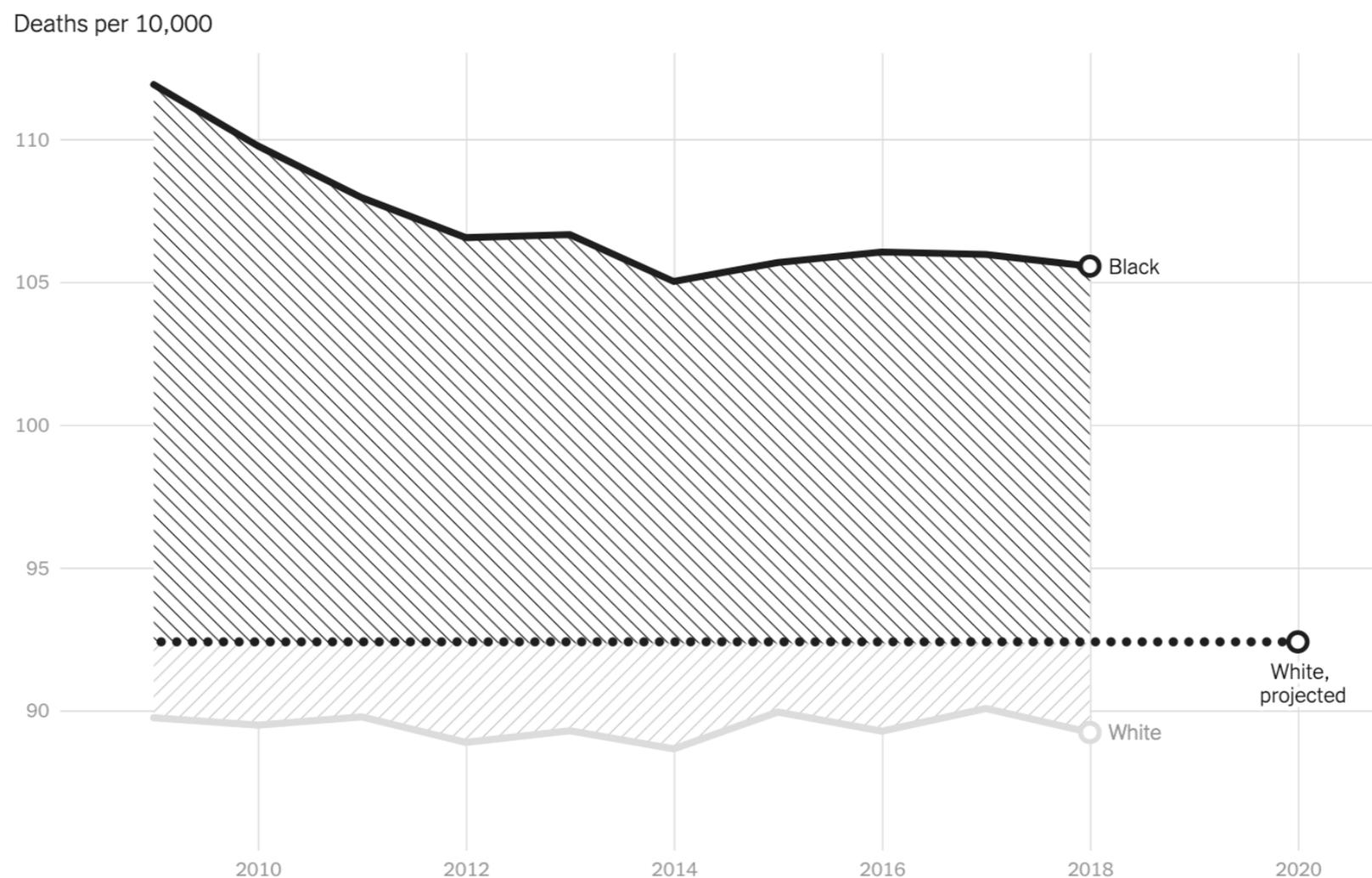
Inequitable Risk* of COVID

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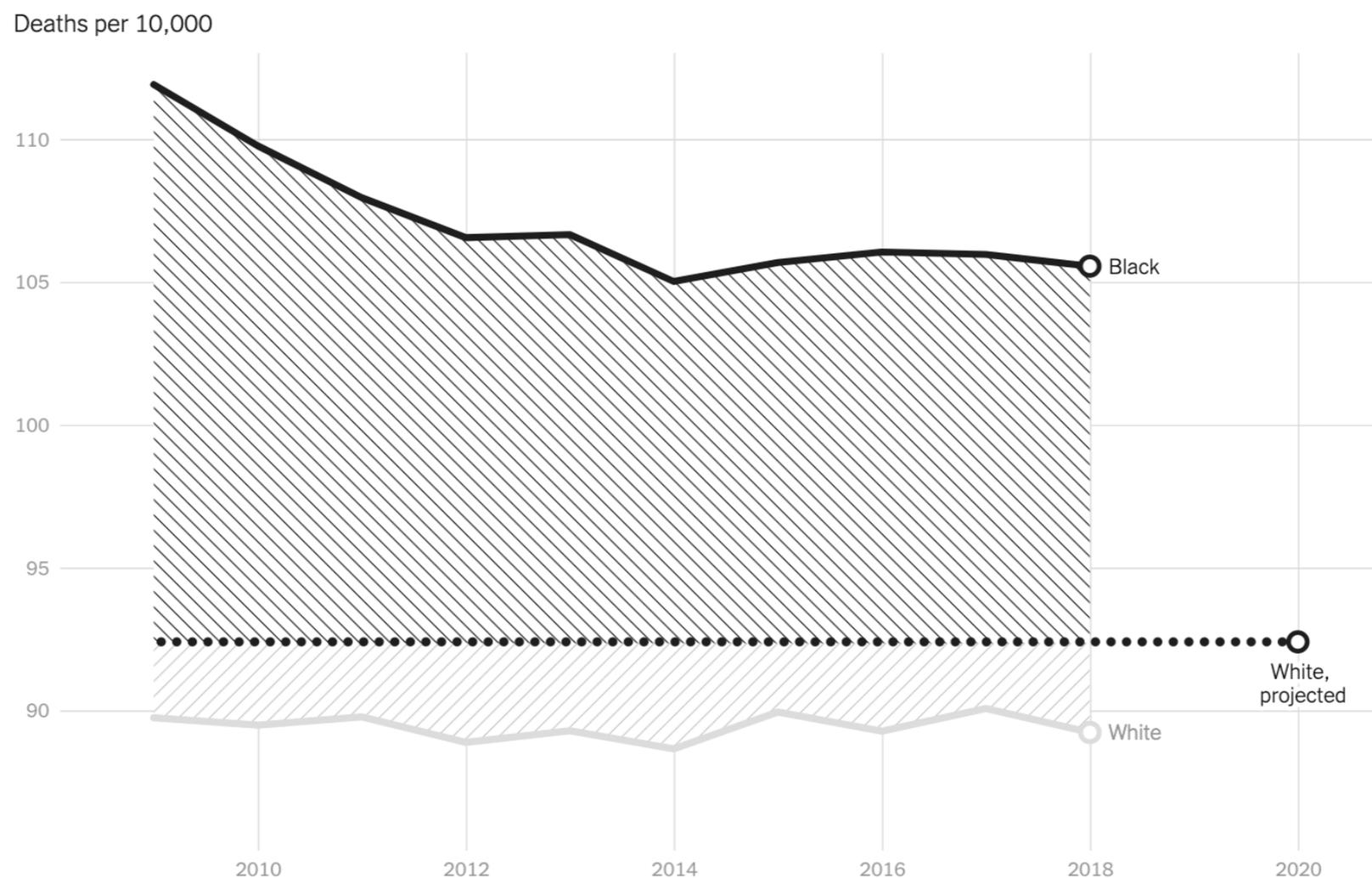
They are **legacies** and *current practices* of **racial exclusion, discrimination, disinvestment** and **violence** that concentrate **disadvantage**, create **adversity**, shape population-level opportunities for health and **provide conditions for disease**.

Despite COVID 19, *white mortality* is likely to be **less** than what **Black** Americans have experienced **every year**.



Note: Mortality rates are adjusted for age. The projection for 2020 uses 2017 mortality as a baseline, applying shares of non-Hispanic white Covid-19 mortality to total excess deaths for each state as of July 25. Source: Elizabeth Wrigley-Field, "U.S. Racial Inequality May Be as Deadly as Covid-19"

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In 2020, *white life expectancy* will remain **higher** than **Black** *life expectancy* has **ever been**.

What are **legacies** and *current* **practices** of racial exclusion, discrimination, disinvestment and violence that concentrate disadvantage, create adversity, shape population-level opportunities for health and provide conditions for disease?



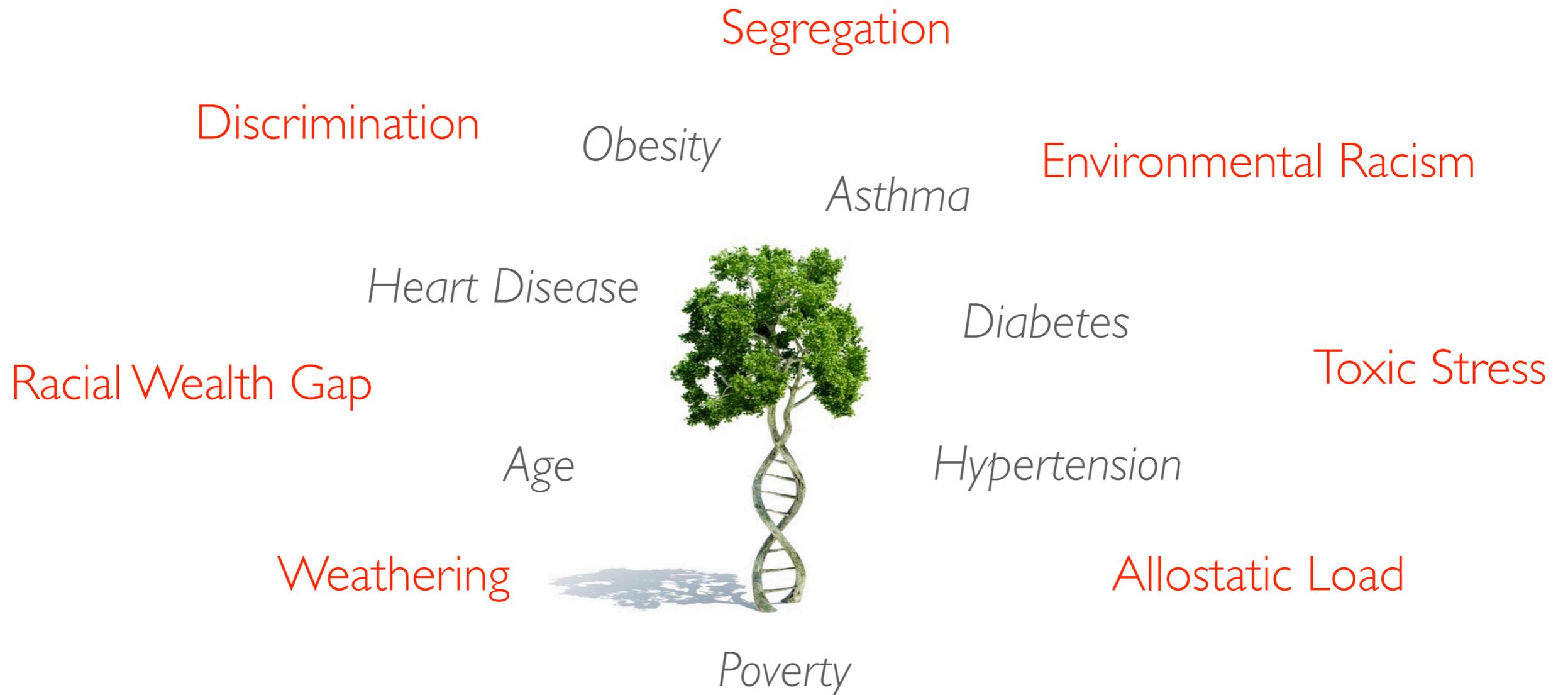
[Wikipedia Commons](#). Street car terminal Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 1944.



Don Hogan Charles. The New York Times.



Time Magazine. The Roots of Baltimore's Riots. Photo by Devin Allen. 2015.



The physical and structural **environment** in which humans grow, learn, work and play shapes *intergenerational* population health.

Segregation

Discrimination

Obesity

Asthma

Environmental Racism

Heart Disease

Diabetes

Toxic Stress

Racial Wealth Gap

Age

Hypertension

Weathering

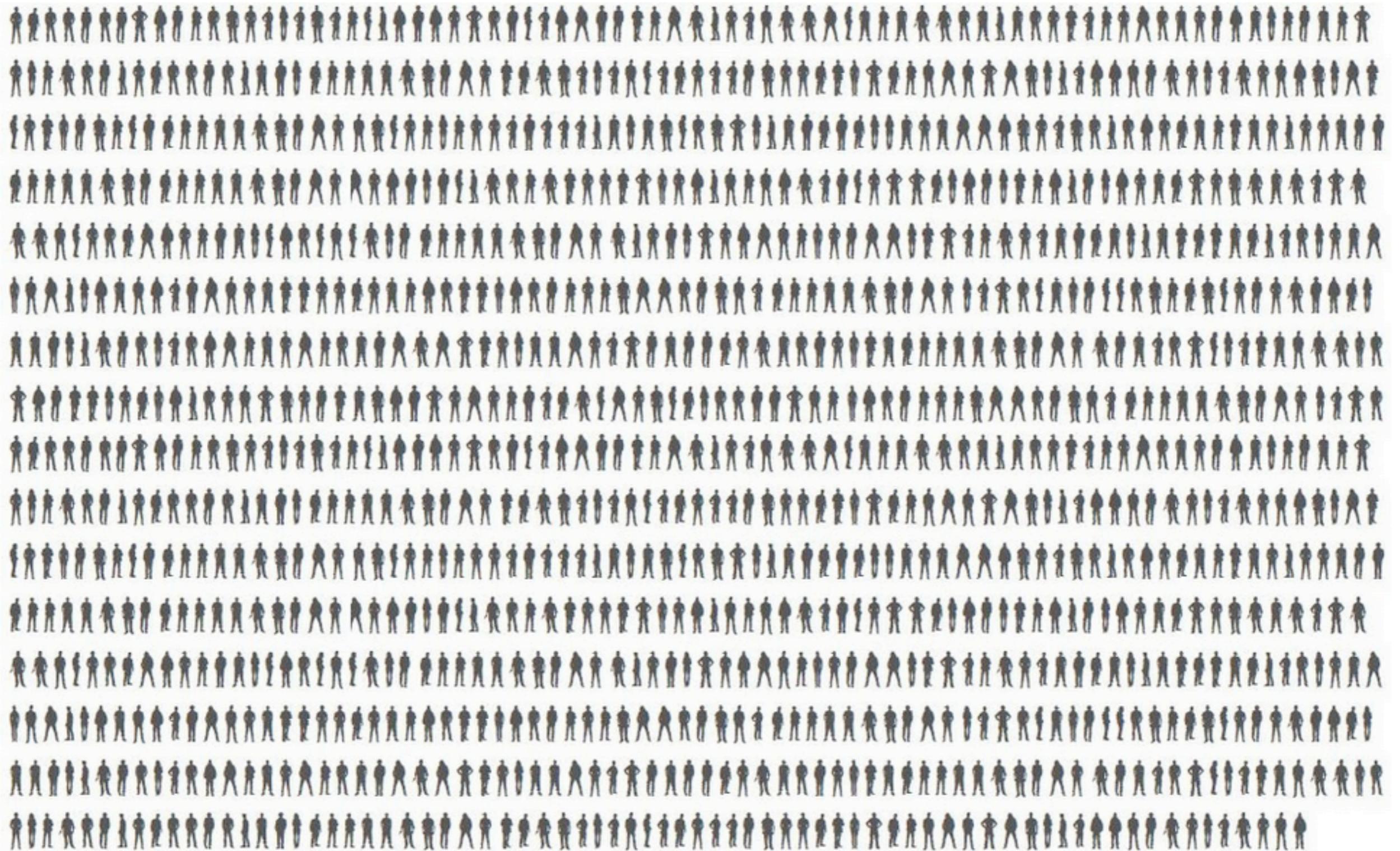
Allostatic Load



Police Violence

The physical and structural **environment** in which humans grow, learn, work and play shapes *intergenerational* population health.

More than one thousand people are **killed by police** every year in America



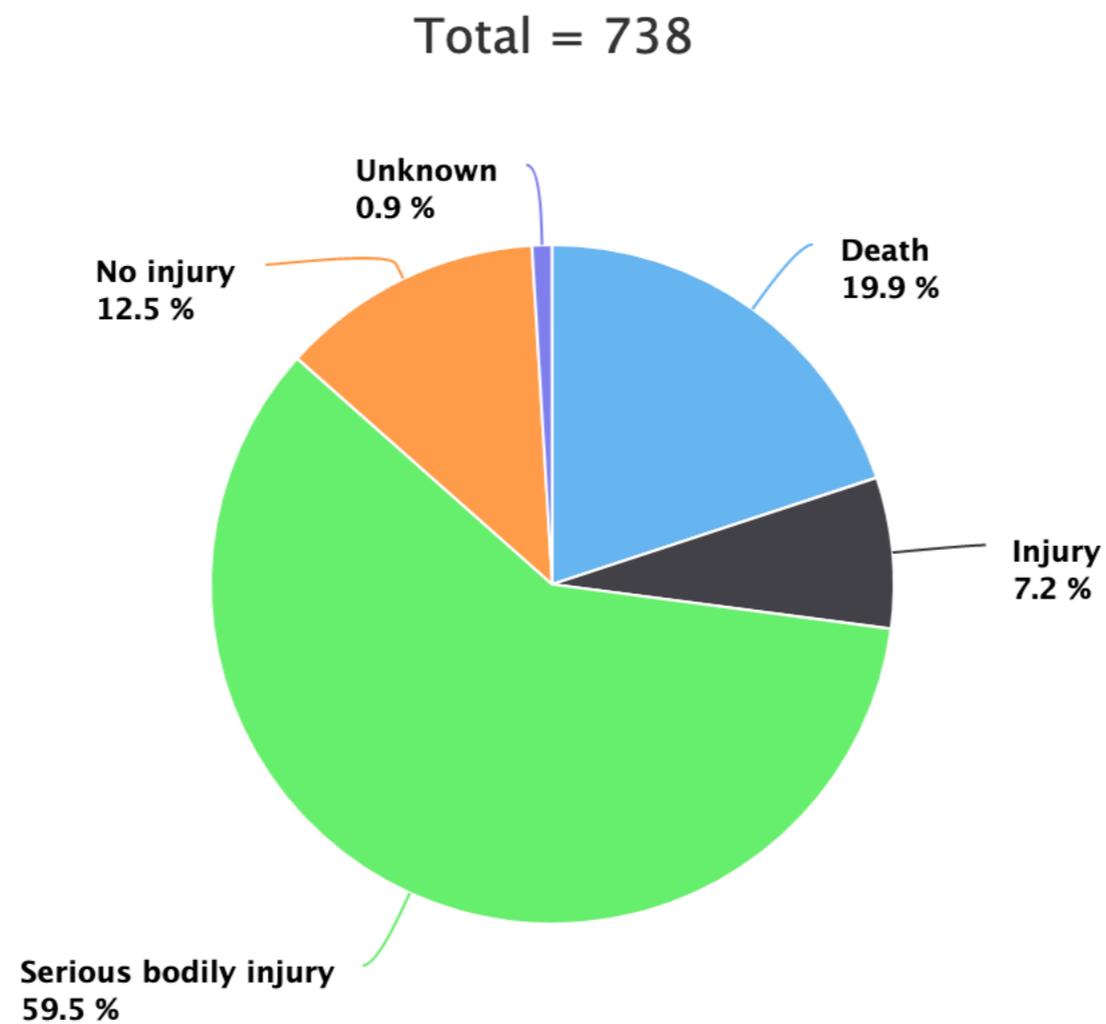


1 *in* **1000**

Black men + boys will be **killed** by police.

Use of Force

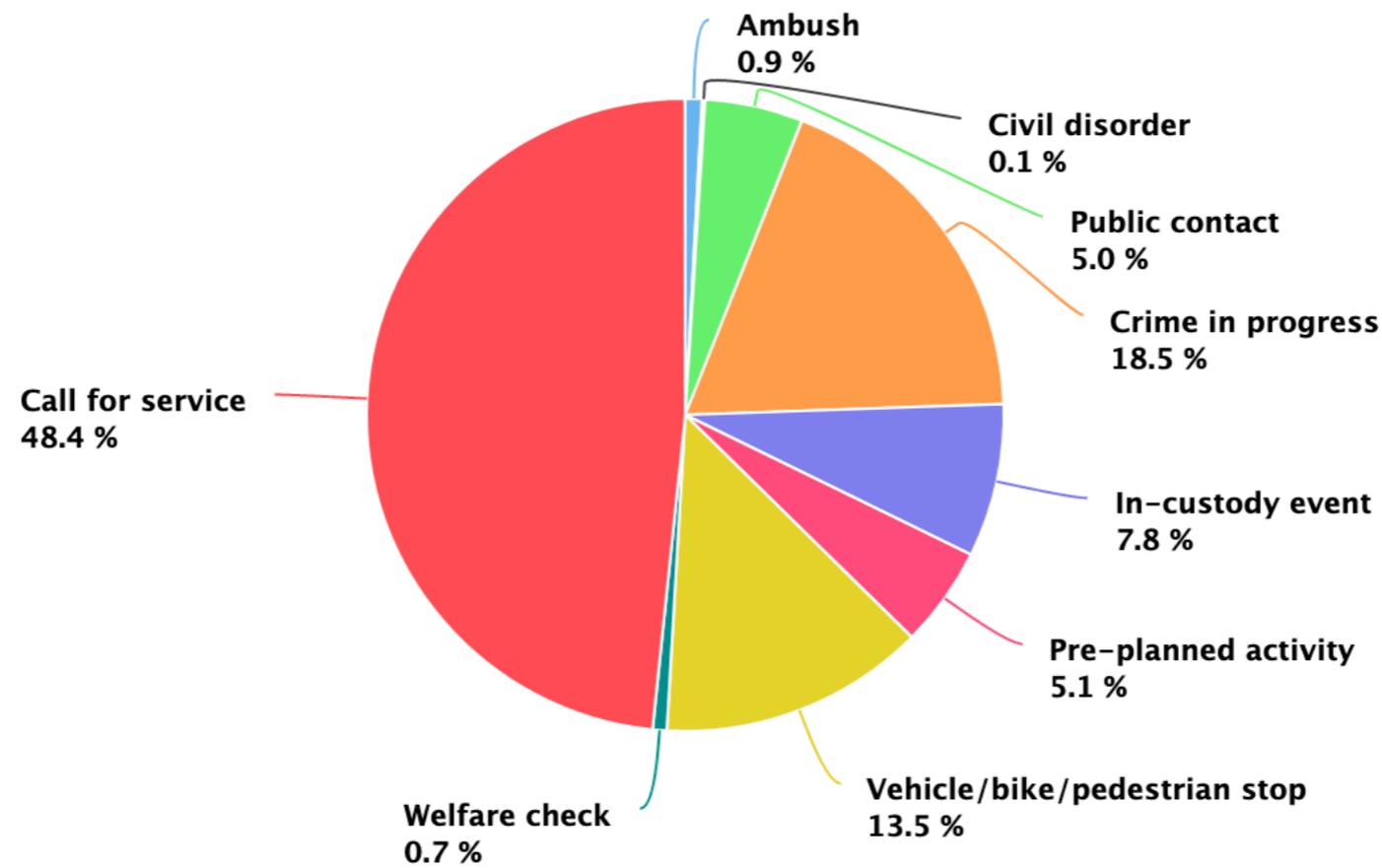
CIVILIAN INJURY BY TYPE, 2019



Use of Force

REASON FOR INITIAL CONTACT, 2019

Total = 703



Exposure to ICE Violence

Experiencing or witnessing an immigration-related arrest of a family member is associated with higher rates of depressive symptoms.

Exposure to ICE Violence

Experiencing or witnessing an immigration-related arrest of a family member is associated with higher rates of depressive symptoms.

Depressive symptoms are magnified among youth who report that both of their parents have undocumented legal status.

Exposure to Police Violence

Police killing unarmed Black Americans *increases* self-reported poor mental health days and frequent mental distress in Black Americans living in the same state.

Police Violence as Community Violence

Living in **lethally-surveilled** areas is linked to a greater risk of **high blood pressure** and **obesity** for *all* neighborhood residents and to a greater risk of obesity for **women**.

Lethal police brutality is an important **neighborhood risk factor** for **illness**, especially, for women.

Exposure to Policing *in School*



In California, more than 1.8 million students (nearly 1 of 3) attend a K-12 public school that has a police officer but no psychologist, nurse, social worker, or counselor.

Exposure to Policing *in Clinic*

Mandated reporters within child-serving systems can extend the carceral gaze into children's lives through referrals to Child Protective Services.

"This renders marginalized populations hyper-visible to the state in ways that may reinforce inequality and marginality."

Fong, Kelley. 2020. "Getting Eyes in the Home: Child Protective Services Investigations and State Surveillance of Family Life". *American Sociological Review* 85 (4):610-38.

Kim H, Wildeman C, Jonson-Reid M, Drake B, "Lifetime Prevalence of Investigating Child Maltreatment Among US Children", *American Journal of Public Health* 107, no. 2 (February 1, 2017): pp. 274-280.

Exposure to Policing *in Clinic*

Mandated reporters within child-serving systems can extend the carceral gaze into children's lives through referrals to Child Protective Services.

1 in 2 Black children will experience a *child protective services investigation* by age 18 years.

Fong, Kelley. 2020. "Getting Eyes in the Home: Child Protective Services Investigations and State Surveillance of Family Life". *American Sociological Review* 85 (4):610-38.

Kim H, Wildeman C, Jonson-Reid M, Drake B, "Lifetime Prevalence of Investigating Child Maltreatment Among US Children", *American Journal of Public Health* 107, no. 2 (February 1, 2017): pp. 274-280.



For youth who experience it as **caregiver absence, custody transitions**, or the **criminalization of peers**, police exposure can be linked to events associated with **loss** or **stress**.

This transforms **routine police encounters** into events that in *quantity* or *severity* affect their **health**.

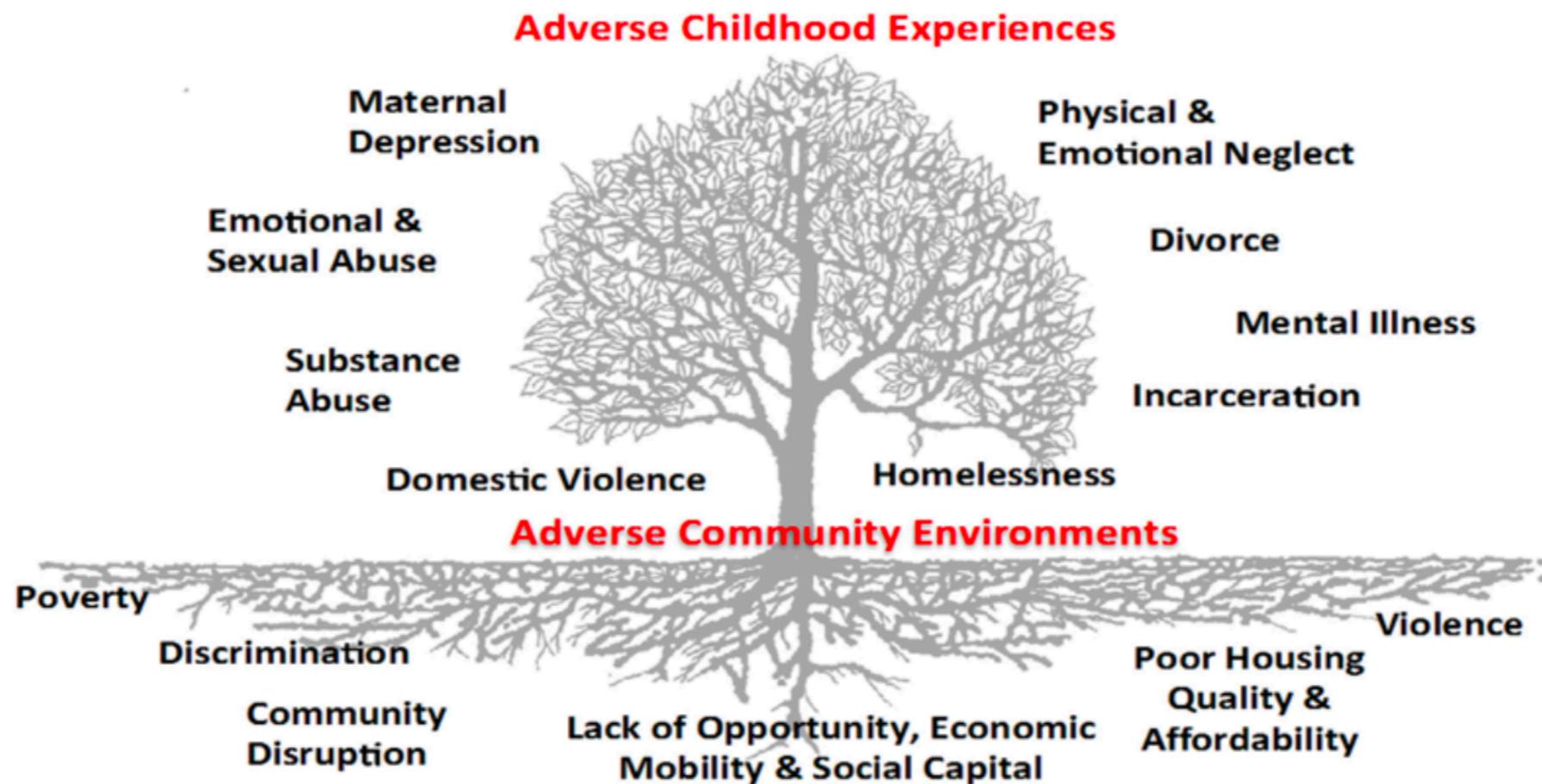


The **violence of policing separates** children from the *social networks* on which they rely and in which they **thrive**.



The **violence of racism**, and the various **structural inequalities** it engenders at a population-level, impairs and *disappears* **caregivers**.

Racism is a *critical* root of childhood **adversity**.



Ellis, W. Dietz, W. A New Framework for Addressing Adverse Childhood and Community Experiences: The Building Community Resilience (BCR) Model. *Academic Pediatrics*. 17 (2017) pp. S86-S93.

Segregation

Discrimination

Obesity

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Environmental Racism

Heart Disease

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Toxic Stress

Racial Wealth Gap

Age

Hypertension

Weathering

Allostatic Load



Police Violence

Racism is a *devastating* root of chronic, **undertreated** disease and **preventable** premature death.

Jones CP. Levels of racism: a theoretic framework and a gardener's tale. *Am J Public Health*. 2000;90(8):1212-1215.

Williams DR, Lawrence JA, Davis BA. Racism and Health: Evidence and Needed Research. *Annu Rev Public Health*. 2019;40:105-125.

Racism kills people.

Equality *saves* lives.

Ducharme J. 'Protest Is a Profound Public Health Intervention.' Why So Many Doctors Are Supporting Protests in the Middle of the COVID-19 Pandemic. [Time](#). June 2020.

Equality *saves* lives.

Protest is a *powerful* and *vital*
public health intervention.

Ducharme J. 'Protest Is a Profound Public Health Intervention.' Why So Many Doctors Are Supporting Protests in the Middle of the COVID-19 Pandemic. [Time](#). June 2020.



At protests, mostly white crowds show how pandemic has widened racial and political divisions



1/30 Over 1,500 people attended a rally at the capitol in Sacramento, May 1, 2020, asking for the reopening of the economy, closed due to the coronavirus. (Carolyn Cole/Los Angeles Times)

By HAILEY BRANSON-POTTS, ANITA CHABRIA, ANDREW J. CAMPA, PRISCELLA VEGA

MAY 8, 2020 | 5 AM

CORONAVIRUS >

His plane-disinfecting invention didn't take off — until COVID-19 hit

Tom Brady holds group workout with teammates days after NFLPA recommended against it

How will the COVID-19 pandemic end?

What we are wondering: Updates, goals, links, numbers and distractions (free)

These governments tamed COVID-19. They're keeping social distancing in place

Cases statewide »

196,044
confirmed

5,725
deaths

As of June 24, 10:36 p.m. Pacific



Whiteness becomes both **normative** and
“absently present.”

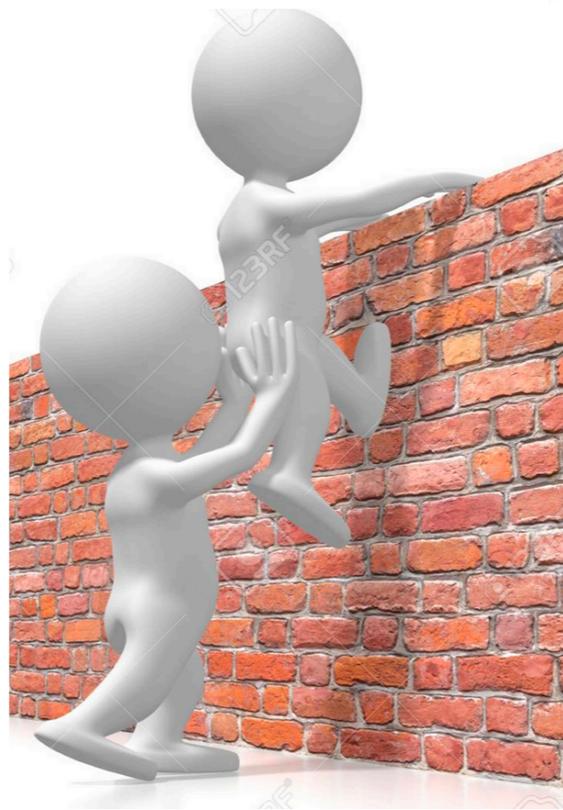
Diana Gustafson. White on whiteness: becoming racialized about race. Nursing Inquiry. 2007.

Angie Wang. The New York Times. 2016.



White is a **racial status** affixed to a skin tone.

Whiteness describes the **structural apparatus** in which that status functions, gains meaning, and adapts over time.



Whiteness describes the **structural apparatus** in which that status functions, gains meaning, and adapts over time.

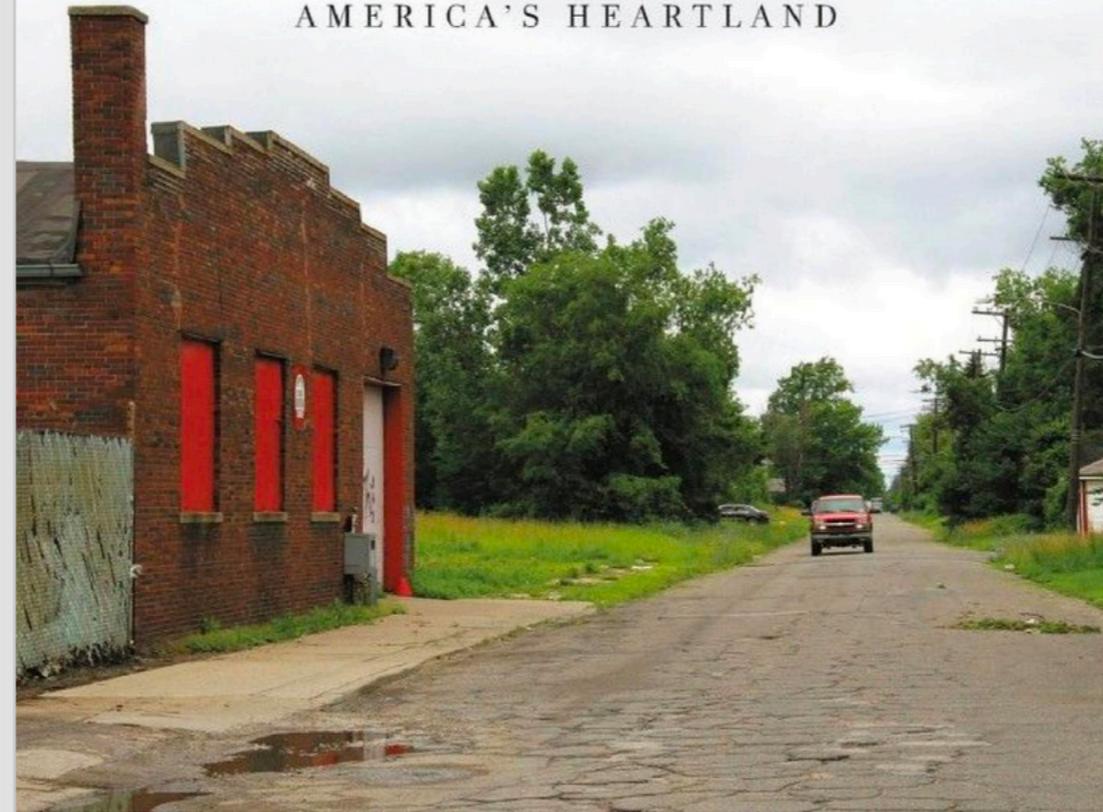


Through laws and norms that *empower, normalize, favor, and reward* white people, as a population.

JONATHAN M. METZL

DYING OF WHITENESS

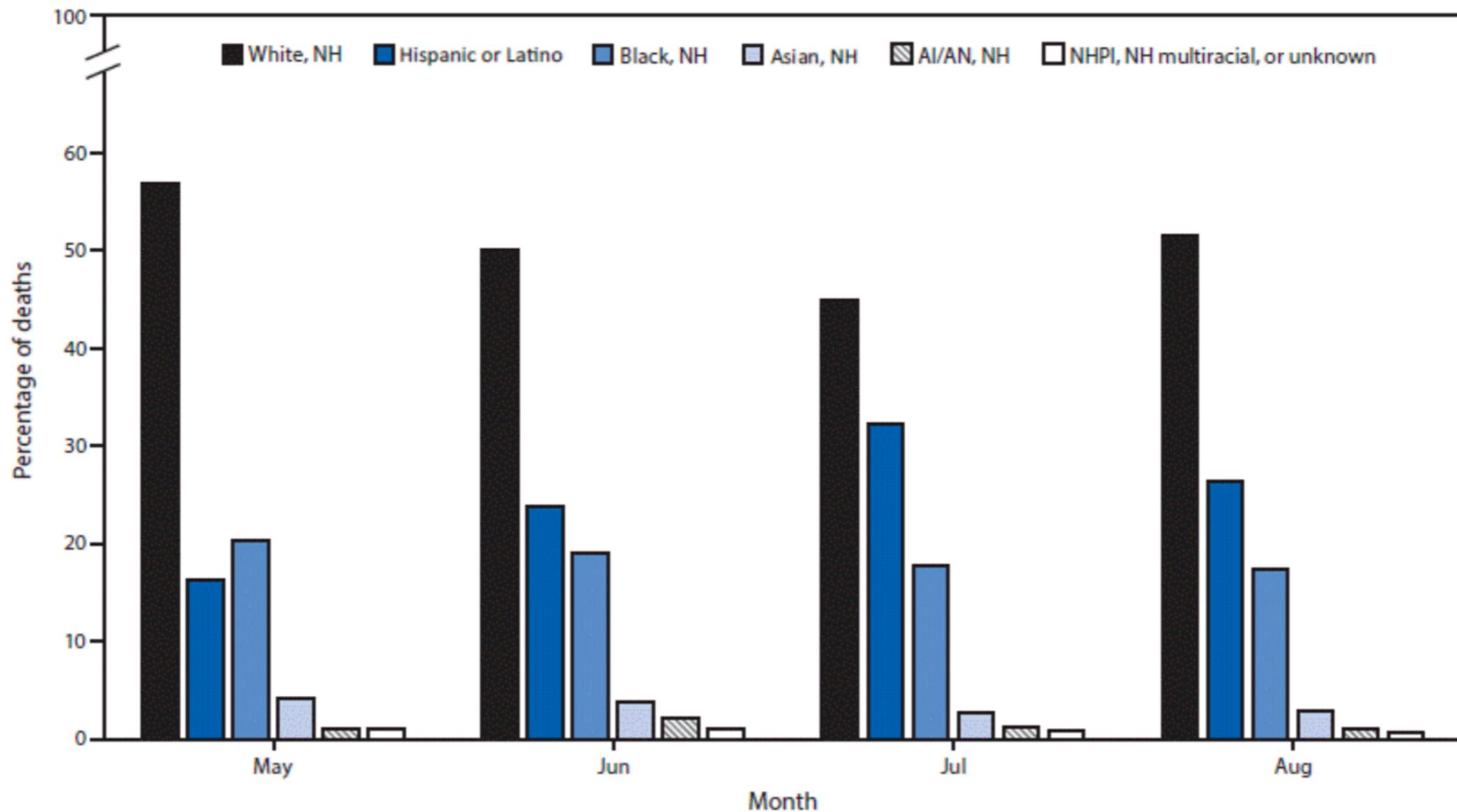
HOW THE POLITICS OF
RACIAL RESENTMENT IS KILLING
AMERICA'S HEARTLAND



Metzl J. Dying of Whiteness. Basic Books. 2019.

As of Oct 31, **114,995** white Americans have **died** of COVID-19.

FIGURE 2. Monthly deaths, by race/ethnicity* as a percentage of all COVID-19–associated deaths (114,411) — National Vital Statistics System, United States, May 1–August 31, 2020



National Center for Health Statistics. Deaths involving COVID-19 by race and Hispanic origin and age, by state. As of Nov 4 2020.

Gold JA, Rossen LM, Ahmad FB, et al. Race, Ethnicity, and Age Trends in Persons Who Died from COVID-19 - United States, May–August 2020. *MMWR*. ePub: 16 Oct 2020.

To adequately respond, *at scale*, to **racism**
as a public health crisis, we must move
towards **abolition**.

Build Sanctuary

"Black people live
without sanctuary in the
United States..."

- Professor Leah Wright Rigueur, *Harvard University*

Build Sanctuary

"Black people live
without sanctuary in the
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...from the intersecting forms of **violence** that
threaten and *shorten* our **lives**.

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...from the intersecting forms of **violence** that
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Police *Free* Hospitals

PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES TO SHERIFF PRESENCE AT SFGH AND DPH CLINICS

Presented to: SF Department of Public Health Leadership

Developed by: DPH Must Divest Coalition and Community Partners

Who do we serve? Who do we protect? What is the foundation of the system we choose to invest in? We must carefully contemplate these questions and challenge ourselves to interrogate and dismantle systems that do not reflect our hospital's mission.

The people we care for come to us from all circumstances, and many bring with them complexities of trauma, economic inequities and the burden of racism and other forms of historic marginalization. Our hospital's polished vision for our patients is to "advance our community's wellness in a person centered, healing environment." Instead of providing a person-centered, healing environment, we ask our patients to enter their care through courtyards, lobbies and hallways flanked by armed sheriffs. We ask them to exist in clinical spaces inherently rendered unsafe for them by the sheer physical presence of the San Francisco Sheriff Department. Entangling sheriff presence with our medical care presumes the concept of safety requires armed law enforcement for all; an assumption which invariably leads to harm for many.

Police *Free* Schools



WE CAME TO LEARN

A CALL TO ACTION FOR POLICE FREE SCHOOLS

Advancement Project. We Came to Learn: A Call to Action for Police Free Schools. 2018.

Black Organizing Project. Oakland, California. George Floyd Resolution. 2020.

Invest in the Care Economy

California SB 803 sets up a standardized process to *train and certify* peer support specialists. This will **expand the network of support** for people with mental illness, and **compensate people** already providing informal support to friends, neighbors, and loved ones.

Signed September 25, 2020!

Invest in the Mutual Aid

Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems
(C.R.I.S.E.S Act)

California AB 2054 creates a *pilot grant* program for community-based responses to local emergencies including crises related to being unhoused, mental health, IPV or community violence, substance use, and natural or climate disasters.

Bill co-sponsors: Alliance for Boys and Men of Color • ACLU of California • Anti Police-Terror Project • Berkeley Free Clinic • CURYJ • East Bay Community Law Center • Justice Teams Network • Oakland Power Projects • PolicyLink • Public Health Advocates • STOP (StopTerrorism Oppression by Police Coalition) • UDW/AFSCME Local 3930 • Youth Justice Coalition. Passed August 28, 2020.

Redistribute Wealth



For every **dollar** of wealth held by a household with **white children**, households with **Black children** have *just* **one penny**.

Percheski, C., & Gibson-Davis, C. (2020). A Penny on the Dollar: Racial Inequalities in Wealth among Households with Children. Socius.

Flynn A et al. Rewrite the Racial Rules: Building an Inclusive American Economy. [The Roosevelt Institute](#). 2016.

Redistribute Wealth

"A *progressive* economic agenda that seeks to raise the minimum wage, for example, will benefit Black Americans, but it will *not* change the fact that a dollar of income in Black hands buys less safety, less health, less wealth, and less education than a dollar in white hands."

Percheski, C., & Gibson-Davis, C. (2020). A Penny on the Dollar: Racial Inequalities in Wealth among Households with Children. *Socius*.

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Confront Whiteness

INTRODUCTION

The summer of 1967 again brought racial disorders to American cities, and with them shock, fear, and bewilderment to the Nation.

The worst came during a 2-week period in July, first in Newark and then in Detroit. Each set off a chain reaction in neighboring communities.

On July 28, 1967, the President of the United States established this Commission and directed us to answer three basic questions:

What happened?

Why did it happen?

What can be done to prevent it from happening again?

To respond to these questions, we have undertaken a broad range of studies and investigations. We have visited the riot cities; we have heard many witnesses; we have sought the counsel of experts across the country.

This is our basic conclusion: Our Nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal.

Reaction to last summer's disorders has quickened the movement and deepened the division. Discrimination and segregation have long permeated much of American life; they now threaten the future of every American.

This deepening racial division is not inevitable. The movement apart can be reversed. Choice is still possible. Our principal task is to define that choice and to press

for a national resolution.

To pursue our present course will involve the continuing polarization of the American community and, ultimately, the destruction of basic democratic values.

The alternative is not blind repression or capitulation to lawlessness. It is the realization of common opportunities for all within a single society.

This alternative will require a commitment to national action—compassionate, massive, and sustained, backed by the resources of the most powerful and the richest nation on this earth. From every American it will require new attitudes, new understanding, and, above all, new will.

The vital needs of the Nation must be met; hard choices must be made, and, if necessary, new taxes enacted.

Violence cannot build a better society. Disruption and disorder nourish repression, not justice. They strike at the freedom of every citizen. The community cannot—it will not—tolerate coercion and mob rule.

Violence and destruction must be ended—in the streets of the ghetto and in the lives of people.

Segregation and poverty have created in the racial ghetto a destructive environment totally unknown to most white Americans.

What white Americans have never fully understood—but what the Negro can never forget—is that white society is deeply implicated in the ghetto. White institutions created it, white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it.



Relationship-Centered Healing



Racism works to fracture and scatter families and communities. Healing requires reunification.

We must move to **abolish racism**, from every institution, every practice, every policy and every social norm in which it operates and **too often hides**.

The *future* health and well-being of our children and our children's children will be measured by how well we succeed in this.