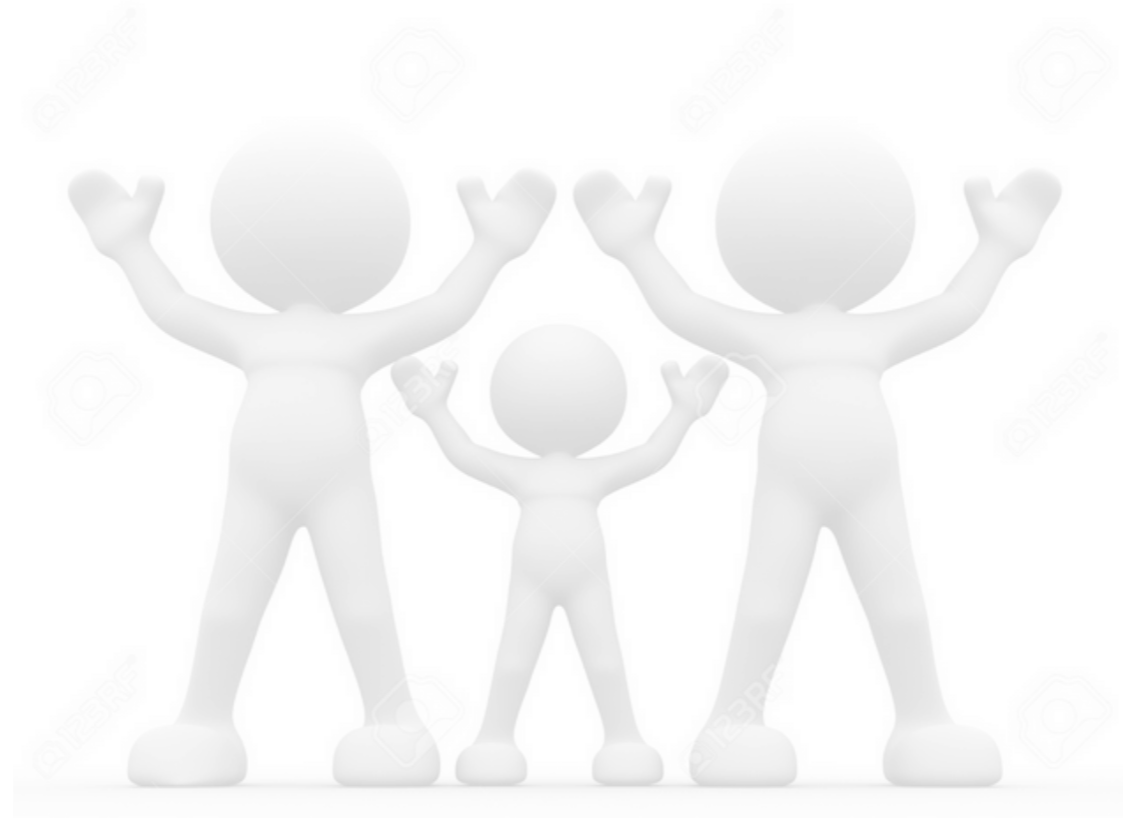


# Pandemics + Policing + Protest

On Racism, Health and Justice



October 2, 2020

Rhea W Boyd MD, MPH

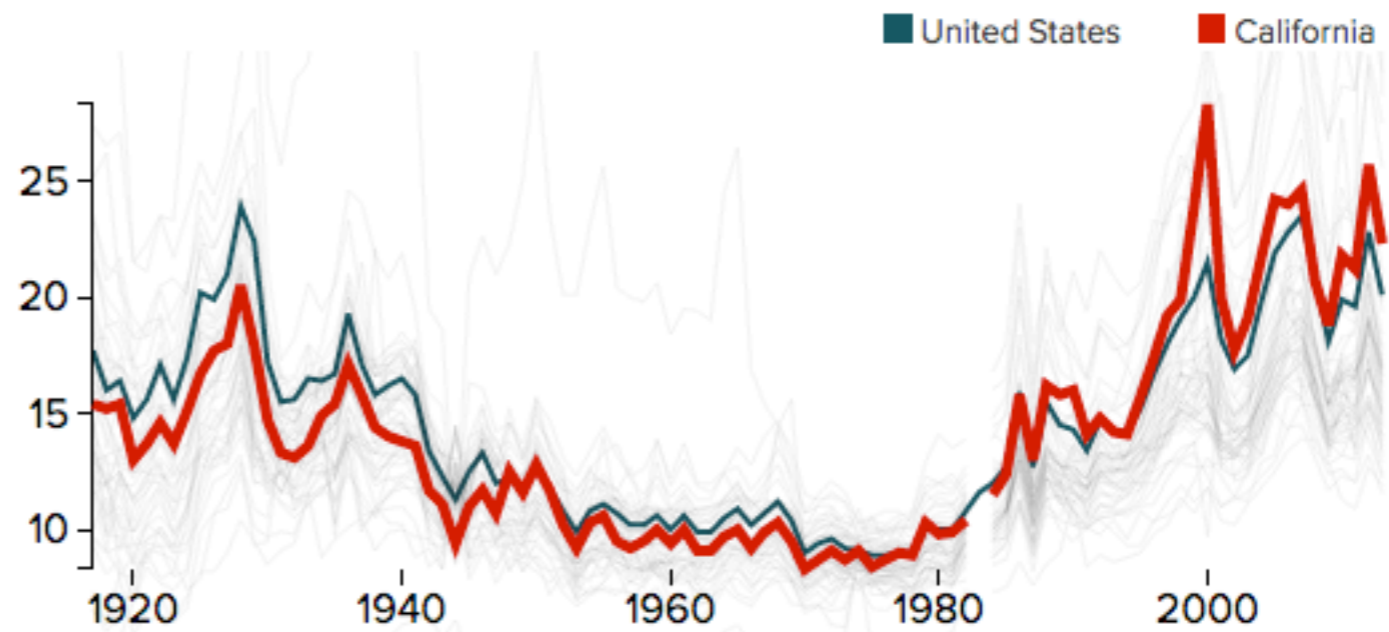
Northwest Health Law Advocates

@RheaBoydMD

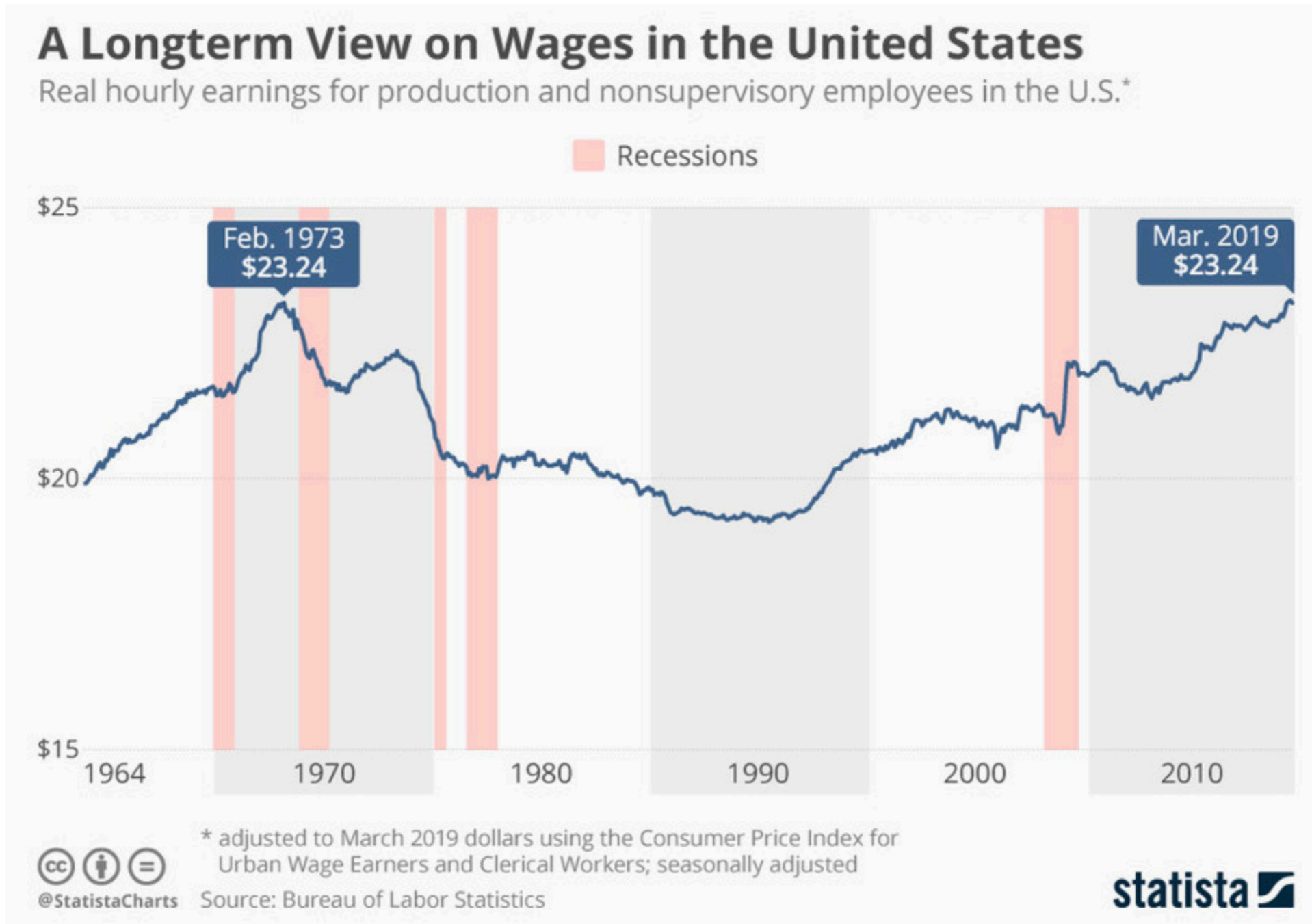
# Inequality is growing.

## 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.

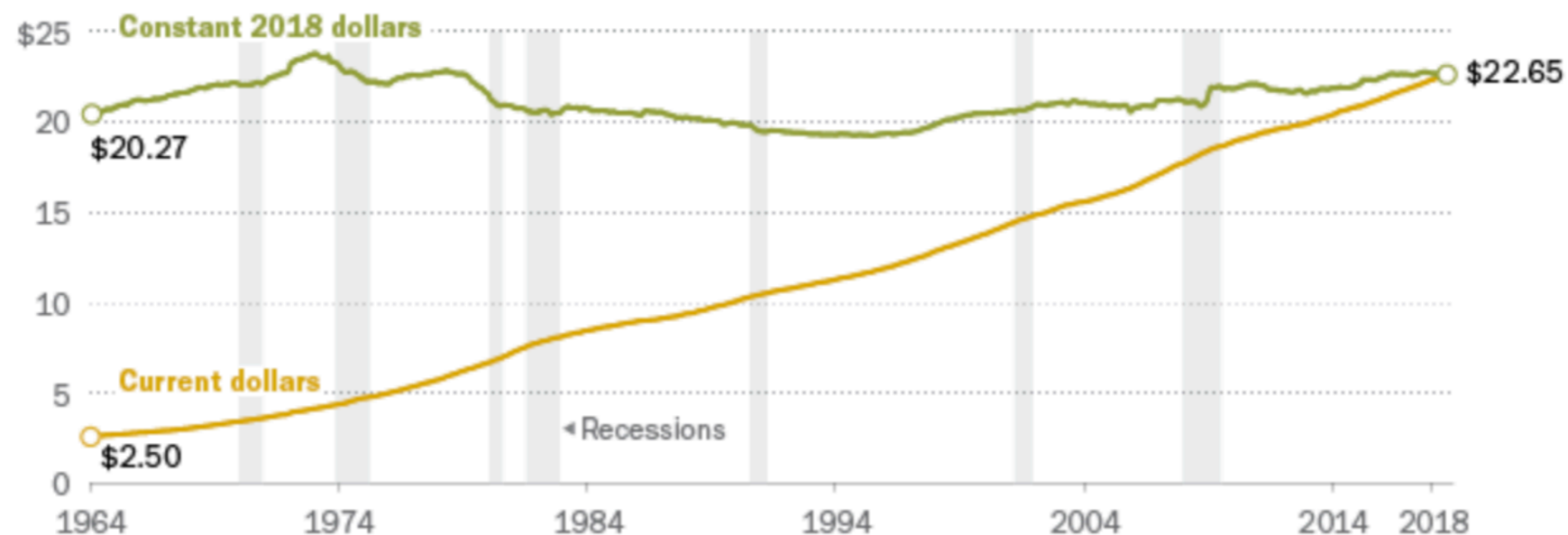


World Economic Forum. [50 Years of US Wages in One Chart](#). April 2019.

# 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.

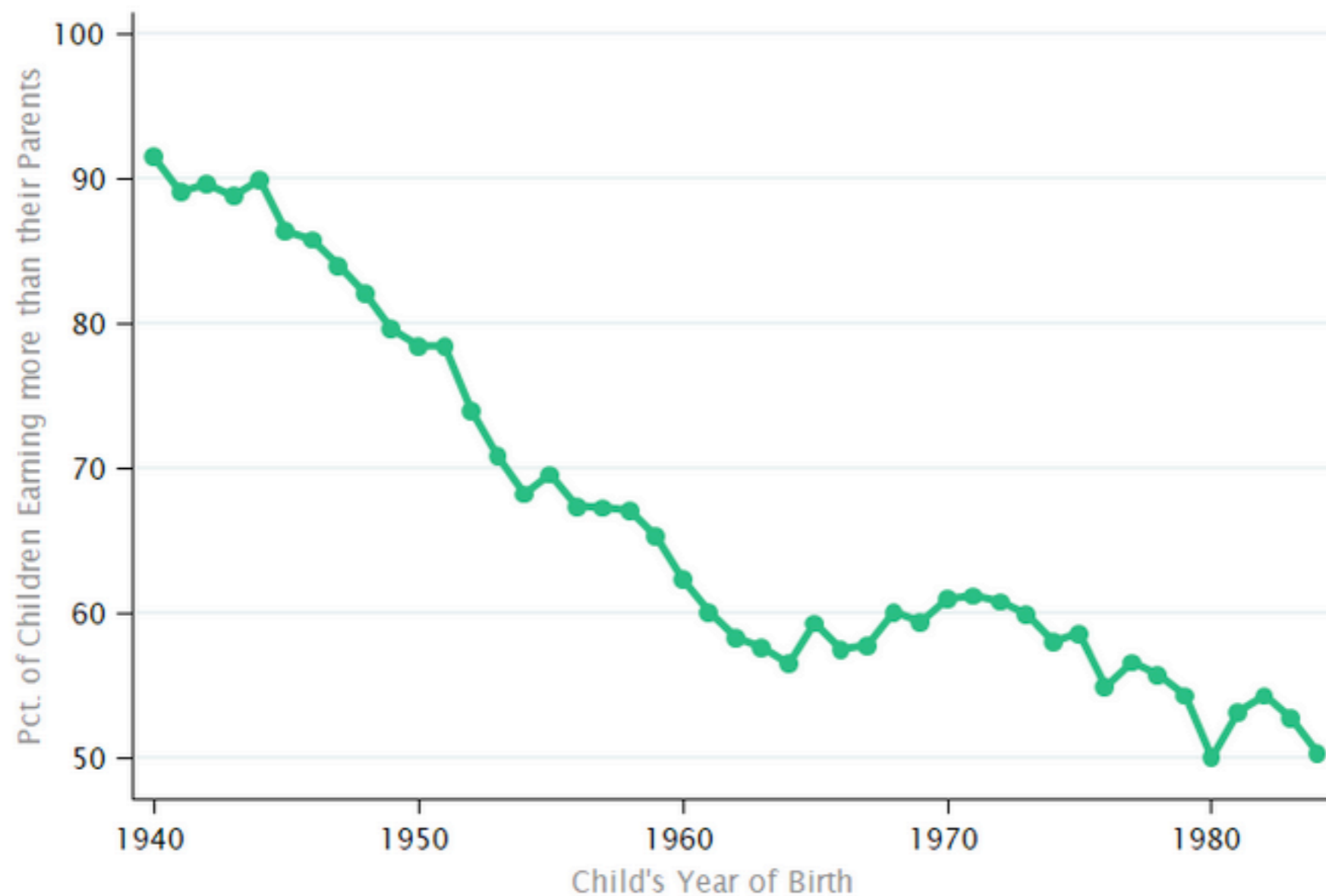
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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



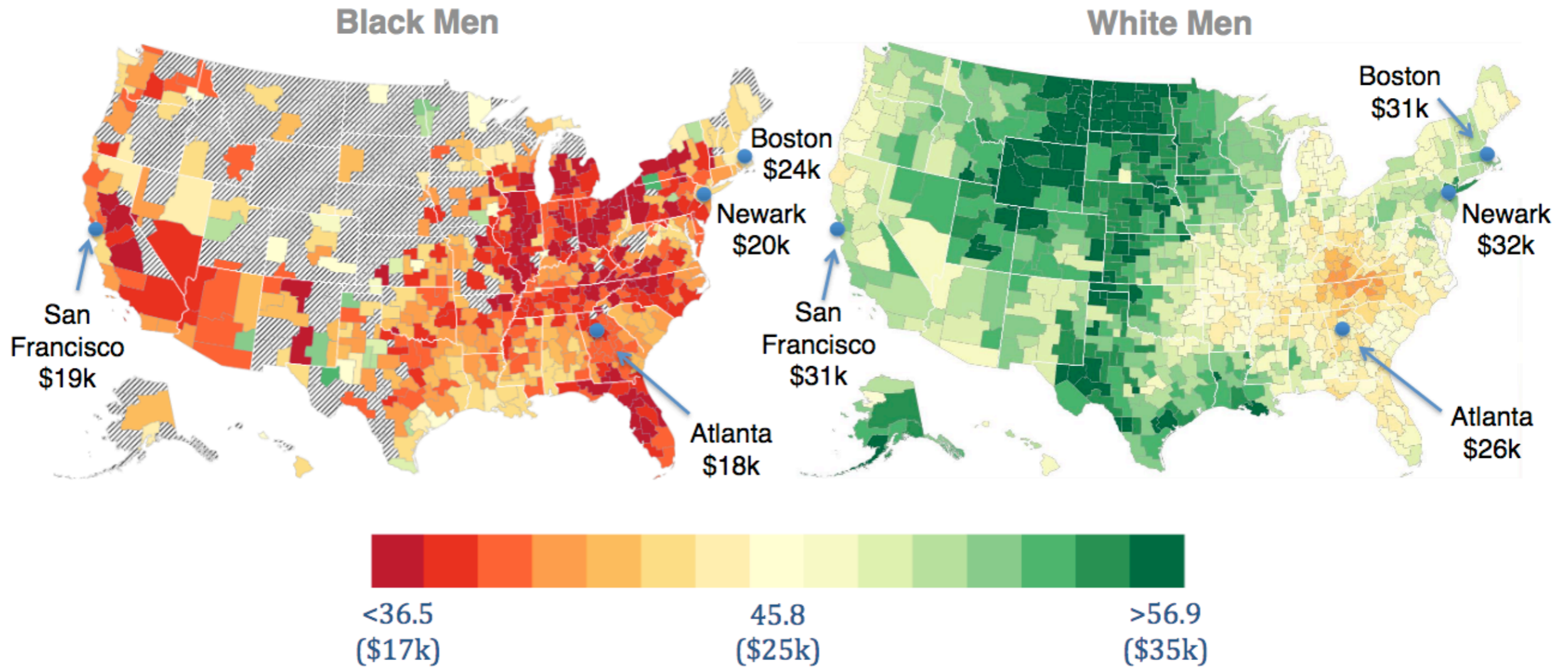
We are a part of a generation for whom *only* **half** of children will **out-earn** their parents.

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



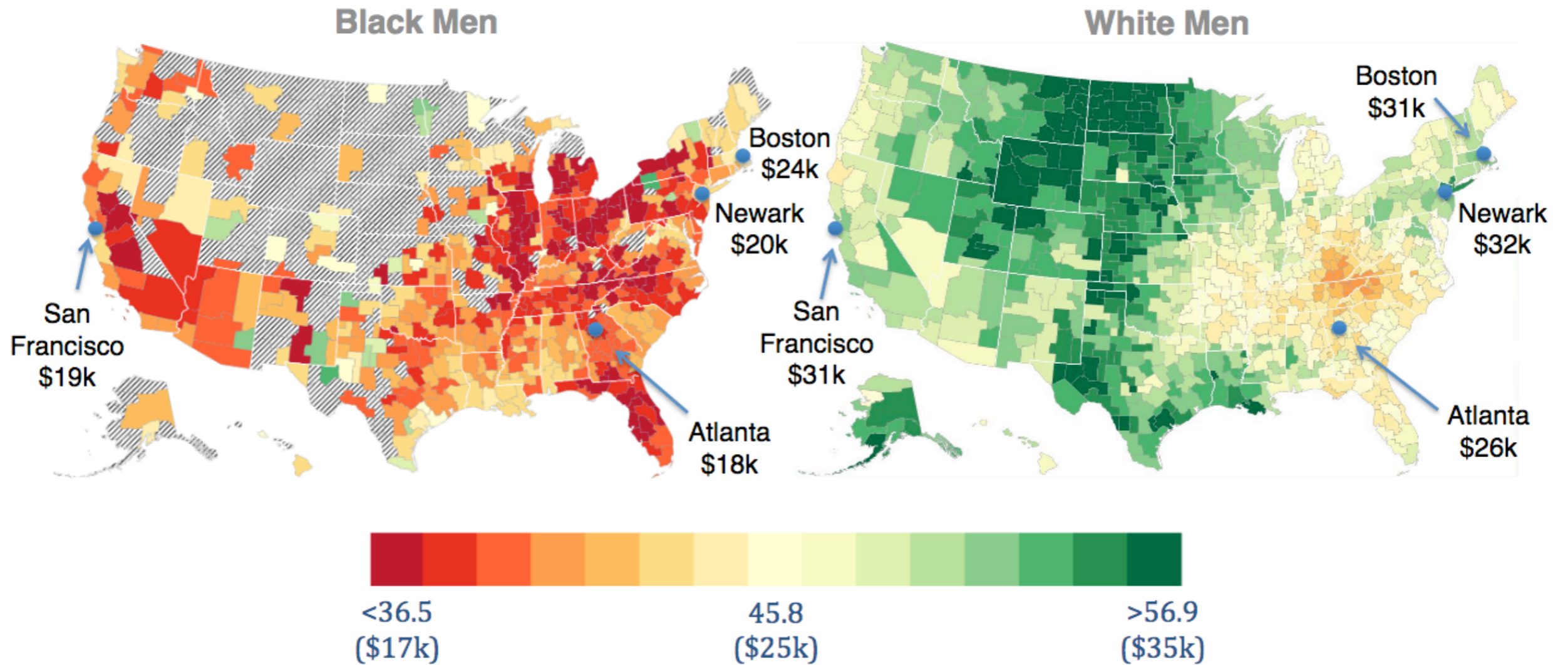
## Two Americas: The Geography of Upward Mobility by Race

Average Individual Income for Boys with Parents Earning \$25,000 (25<sup>th</sup> 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 (25<sup>th</sup> 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.



**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  
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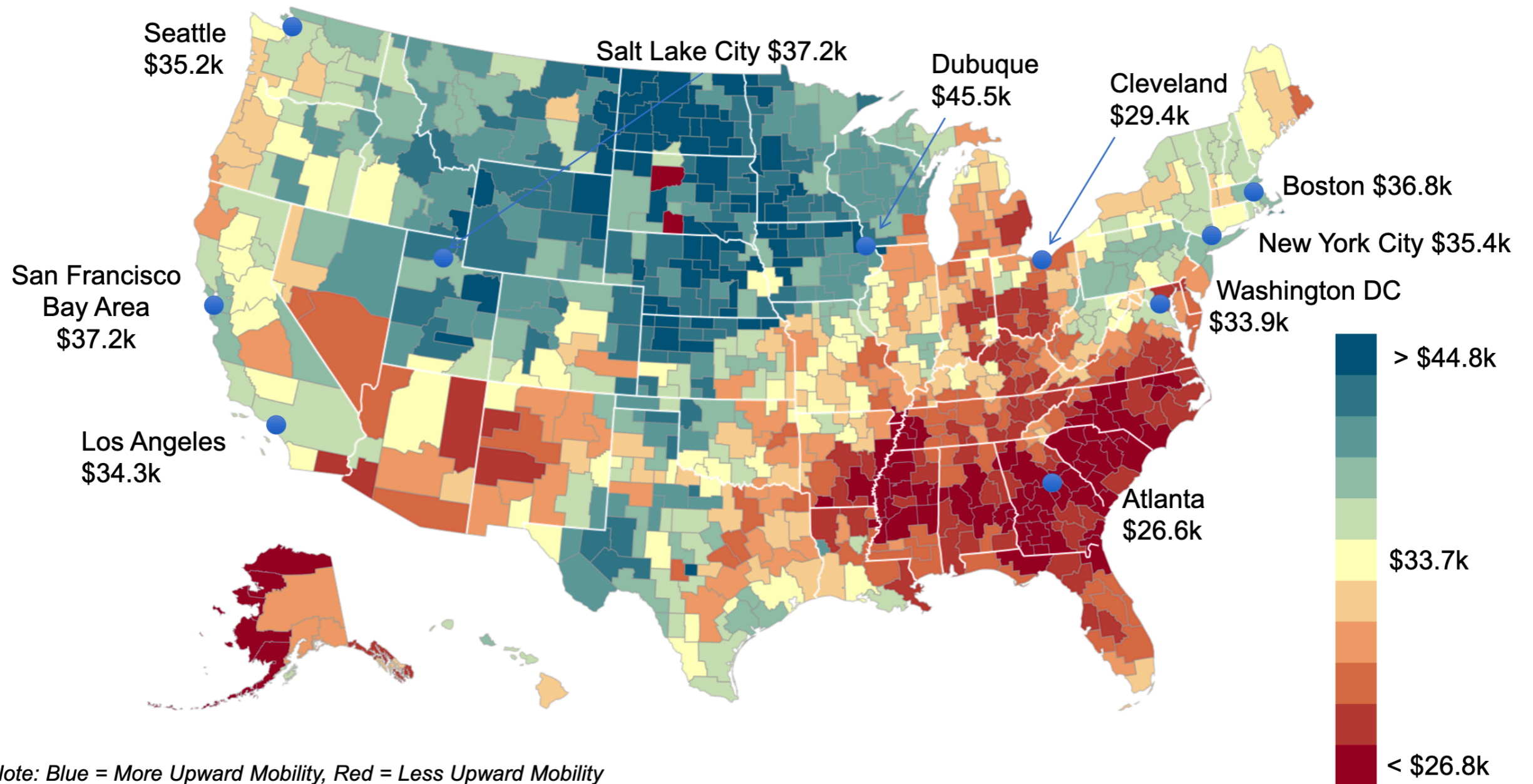


*These gaps are smallest in areas with **low racial bias** among  
whites and **high father presence** in black neighborhoods.*

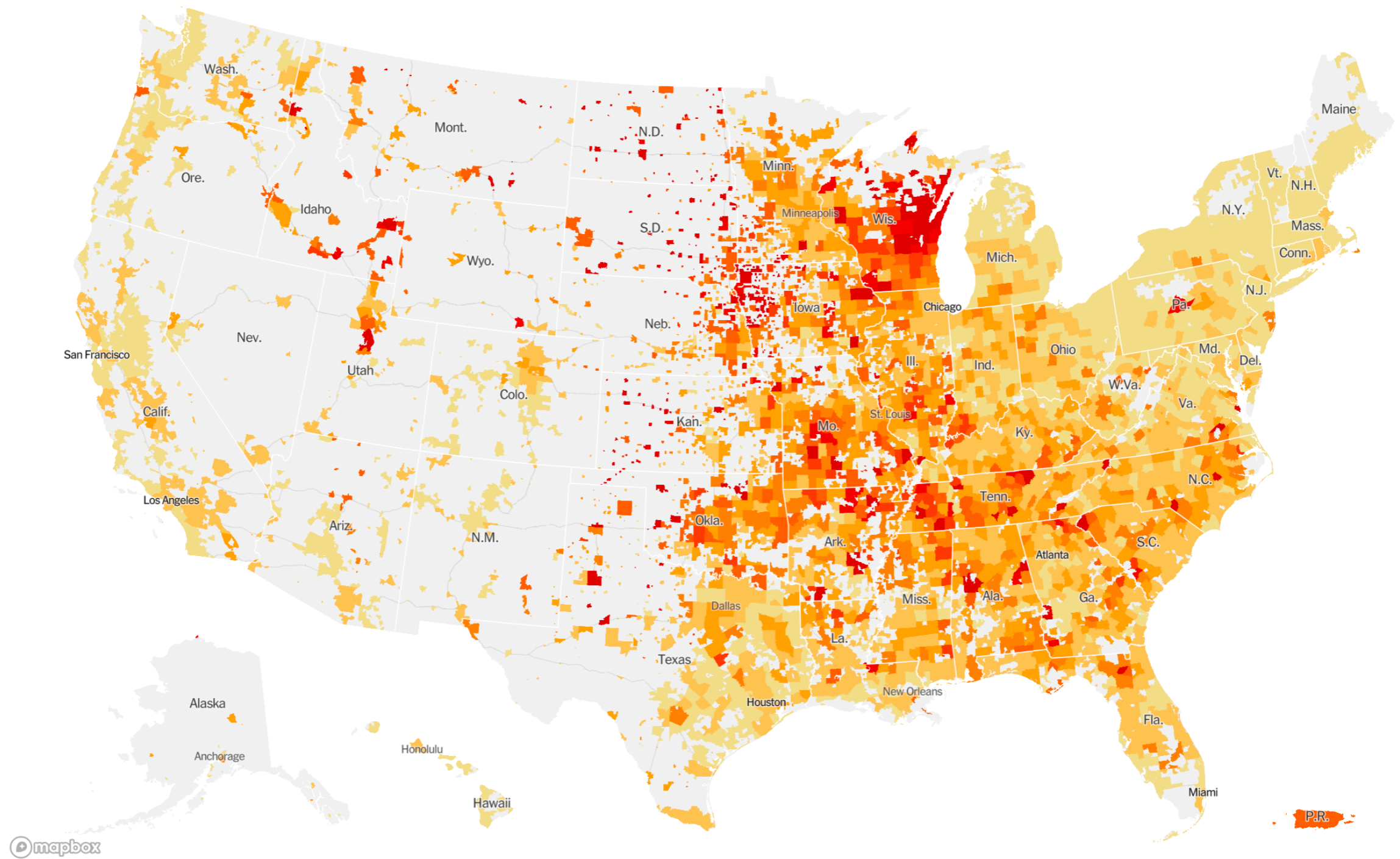
# Pre-Existing Inequality

## The Geography of Upward Mobility in the United States

Average Household Income for Children with Parents Earning \$27,000 (25<sup>th</sup> percentile)



# COVID-19 Hot Spots



NYTimes. [Coronavirus in the US. Latest Map and Case Count.](#) As of October 1.



**TABLE. Demographic characteristics and underlying conditions among school-aged children aged 5–11 years and 12–17 years\* with positive test results for SARS-CoV-2 (N = 233,474) — United States, March 1–September 19, 2020**



Characteristic	Age group, no. (%)		
	All (N = 277,285)	5–11 yrs (n = 101,503)	12–17 yrs (n = 175,782)
<b>Race/Ethnicity<sup>§</sup></b>			
Hispanic/Latino	67,275 (41.7)	27,539 (45.9)	39,736 (39.2)
White, non-Hispanic	52,229 (32.4)	15,503 (25.8)	36,726 (36.2)
Black, non-Hispanic	27,963 (17.3)	11,315 (18.8)	16,648 (16.4)
A/PI, non-Hispanic	4,541 (2.8)	1,932 (3.2)	2,609 (2.6)
AI/AN, non-Hispanic	3,044 (1.9)	1,342 (2.2)	1,702 (1.7)
Multiracial/Other race	6,335 (3.9)	2,421 (4.0)	3,914 (3.9)
Unknown <sup>¶</sup>	115,898 (N/A)	41,451 (N/A)	74,447 (N/A)

Among those aged 18-29, **Latinx** young adults account for **43%** of confirmed *cases*.

Among those aged 5-29, **Latinx** children, youth, and young adults account for an estimated **40%** of **deaths**.

**TABLE. Demographic and clinical characteristics of SARS-CoV-2–associated deaths among persons aged <21 years — United States, February 12–July 31, 2020\***

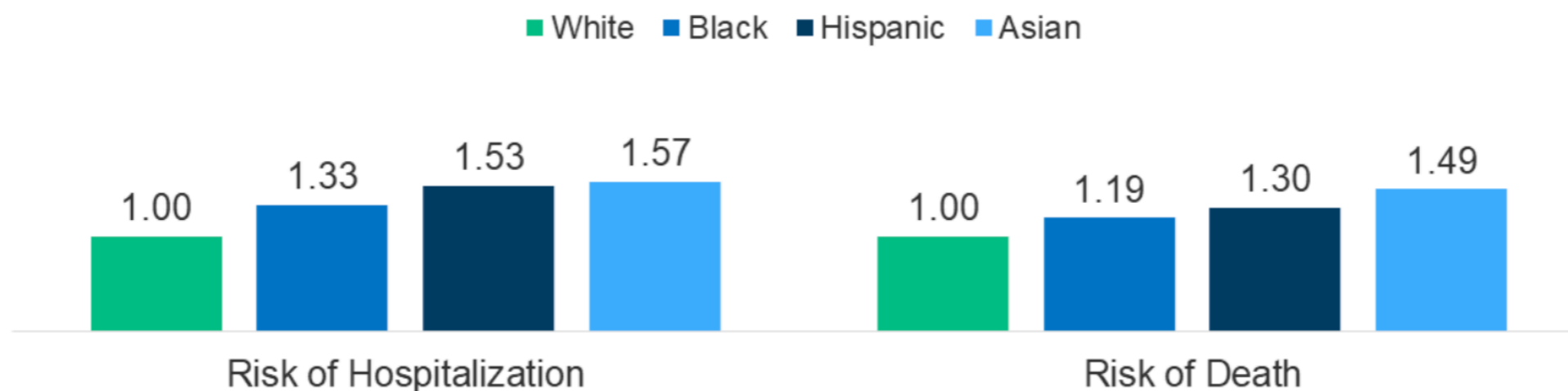


Characteristic	No. (%)
Race/Ethnicity	
Hispanic	54 (44.6)
American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic	5 (4.1)
Asian or Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic	5 (4.1)
Black, non-Hispanic	35 (28.9)
White, non-Hispanic	17 (14.0)
Multiple/Other <sup>†</sup>	2 (1.7)
Missing/Unknown	3 (2.5)

Figure 6

## Risk of Hospitalization and Death among Epic Patients who Tested Positive for COVID-19

Probability of experiencing hospitalization or death compared to White patients with similar sociodemographic characteristics and underlying health conditions:



NOTE: Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race but are categorized as Hispanic; other groups are non-Hispanic. Data for other racial groups not shown due to insufficient data. Values shown are hazard ratios after controlling for age, sex, geographic social vulnerability, and select comorbidities.

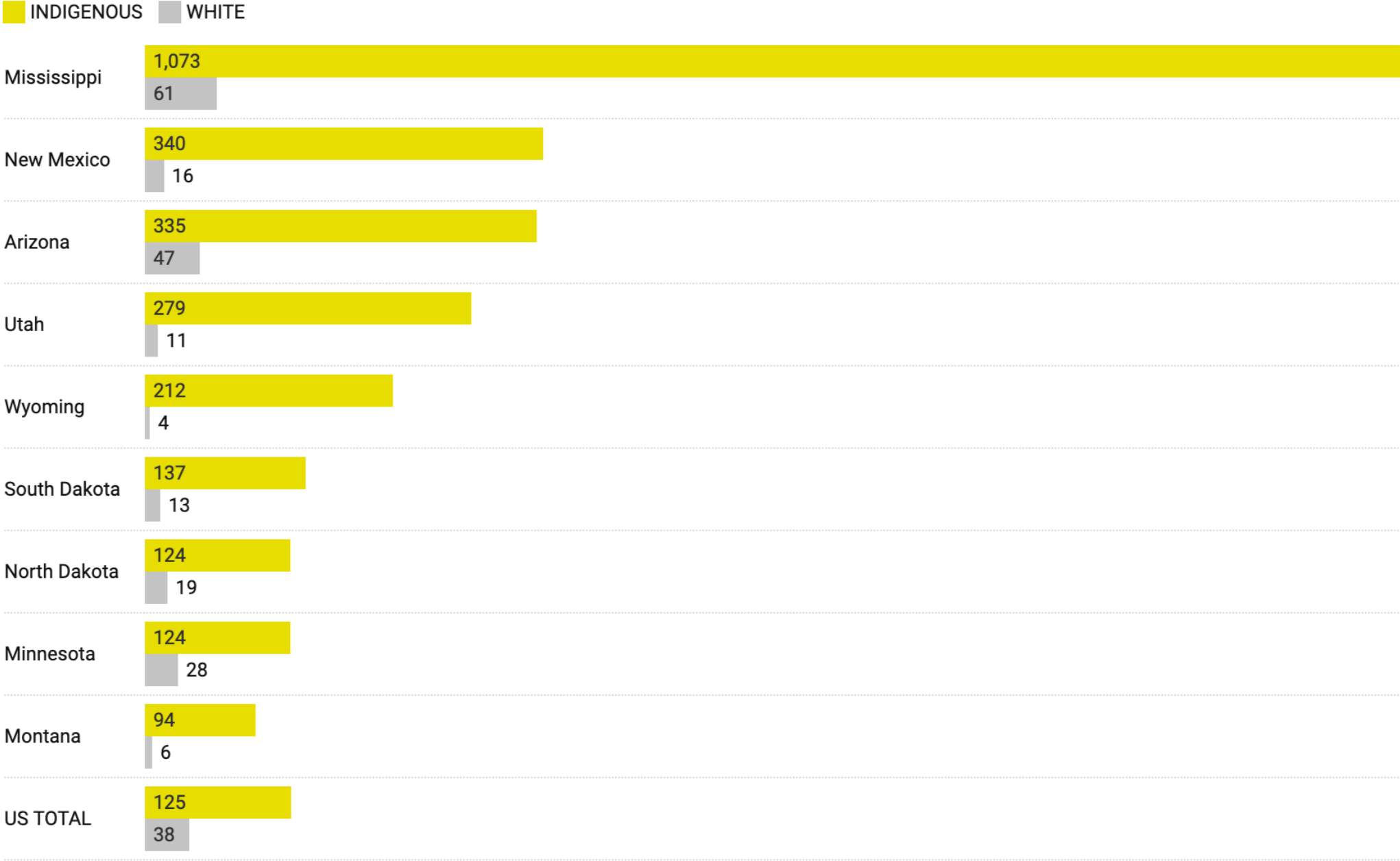
SOURCE: Epic and KFF analysis of Epic Health Record System COVID-19 related data as of July 2020.



**Figure 6: Risk of Hospitalization and Death among Epic Patients who Tested Positive for COVID-19**

# Indigenous vs White Americans: Age-adjusted COVID-19 mortality rates, through Sept. 15

Deaths per 100,000 of each group. For all U.S. states with available data, where 15 or more known deaths have occurred for both groups. Sorted from largest to smallest absolute disparity between Indigenous people and Whites.

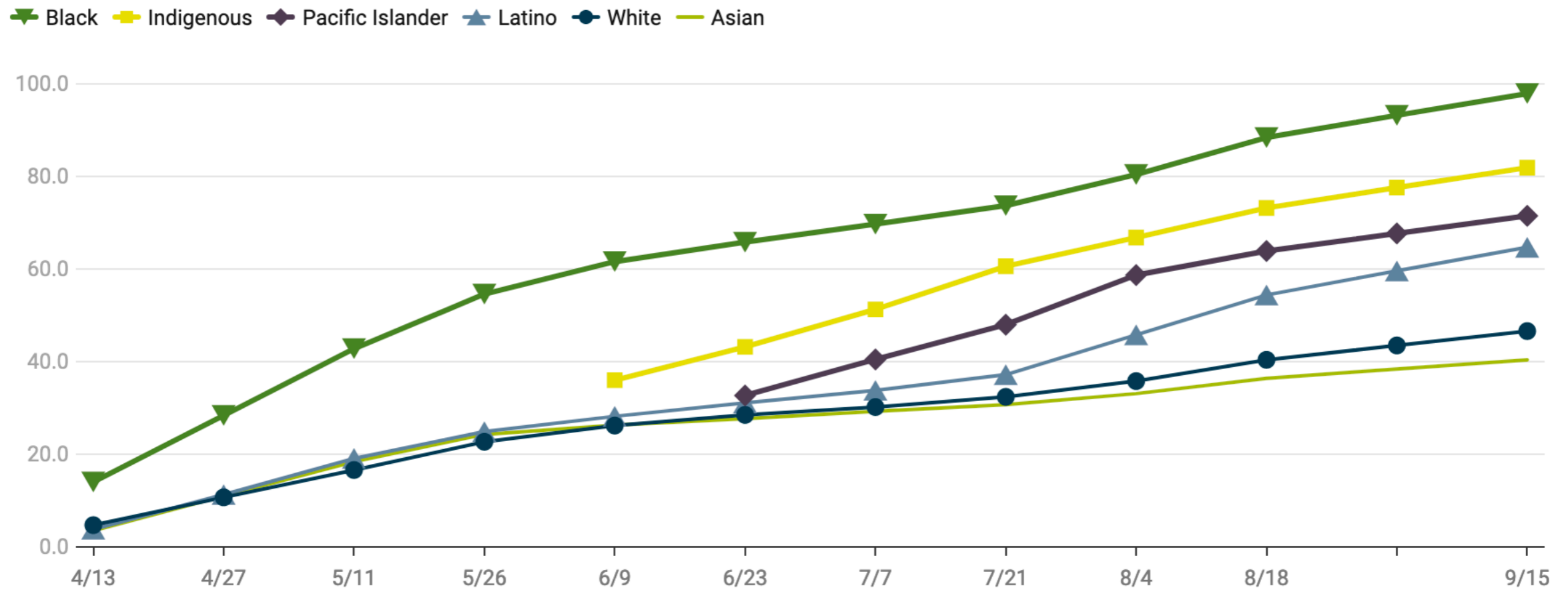




Overall, **Black Americans** have the highest COVID-19 related *mortality rate*, that averages **3 times** the rate for Asian and white populations.

# 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-Sept. 15, 2020



Note: Dates prior to 8/18 are 14 days apart, except for 5/11-5/26, which is a 15-day period. The interval from 8/18 to 9/15 reflects a 4-week period, unlike the 2-week period in most of the series. Midpoint data between 8/18 and 9/15 has been interpolated.

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



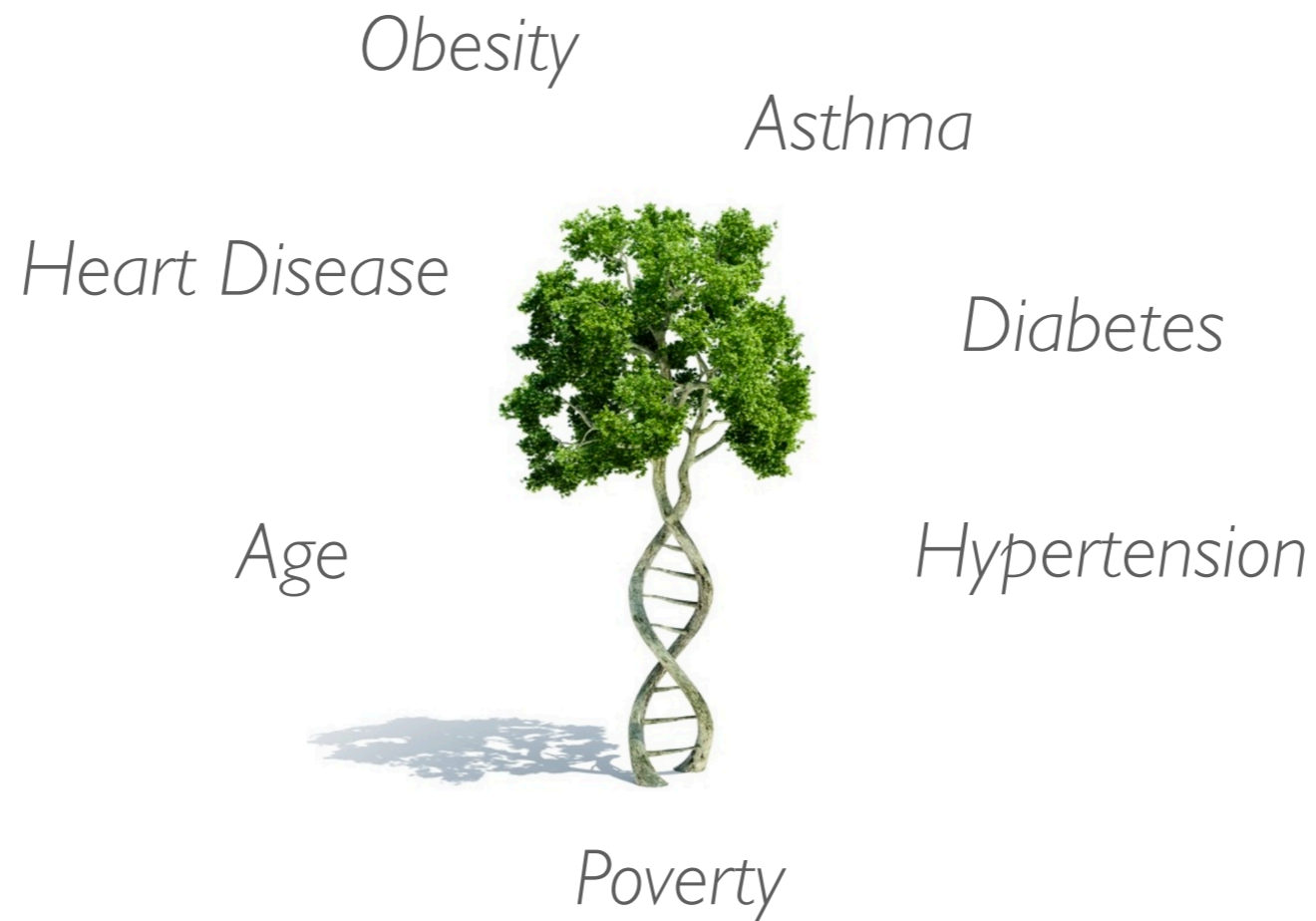
# Health Disparities

Population-level differences in health.

# Health Inequities

Population-level differences in health that are avoidable, unnecessary, unfair, and *unjust*.

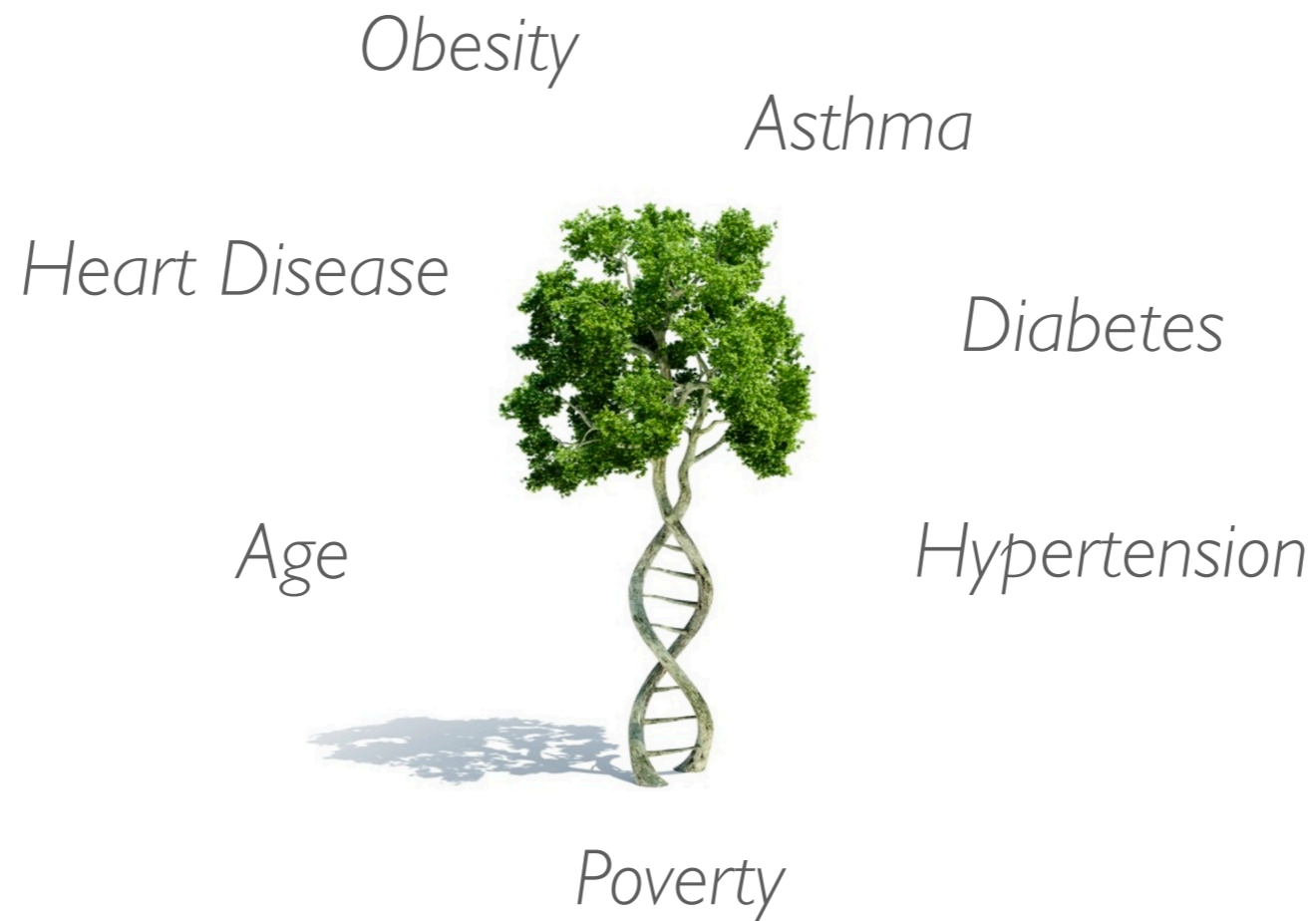
Health Inequities arise when certain populations are **made vulnerable** to illness or disease, often through the *inequitable* distribution of **protections** and **supports**.



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

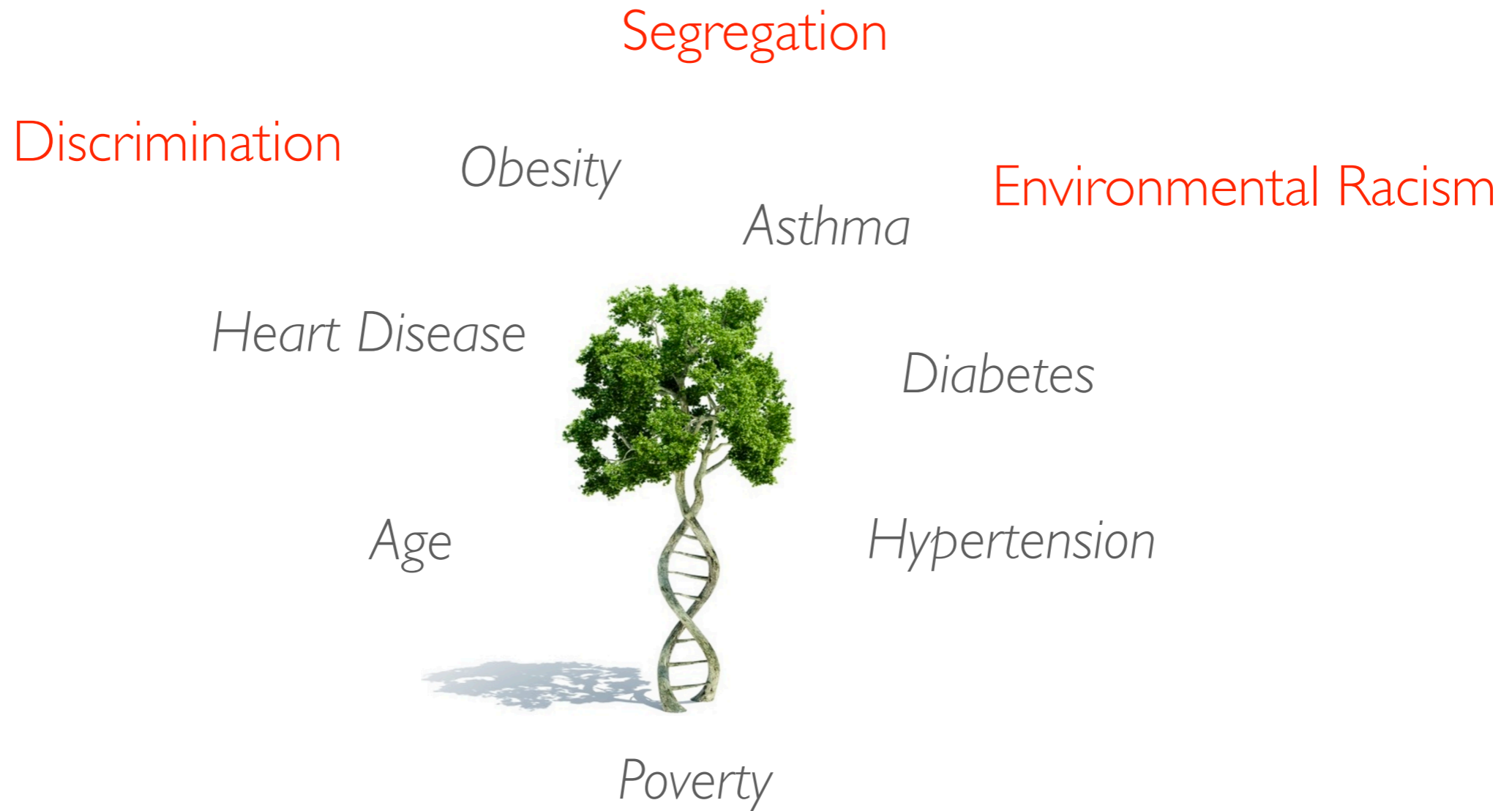
Hypertension



Poverty

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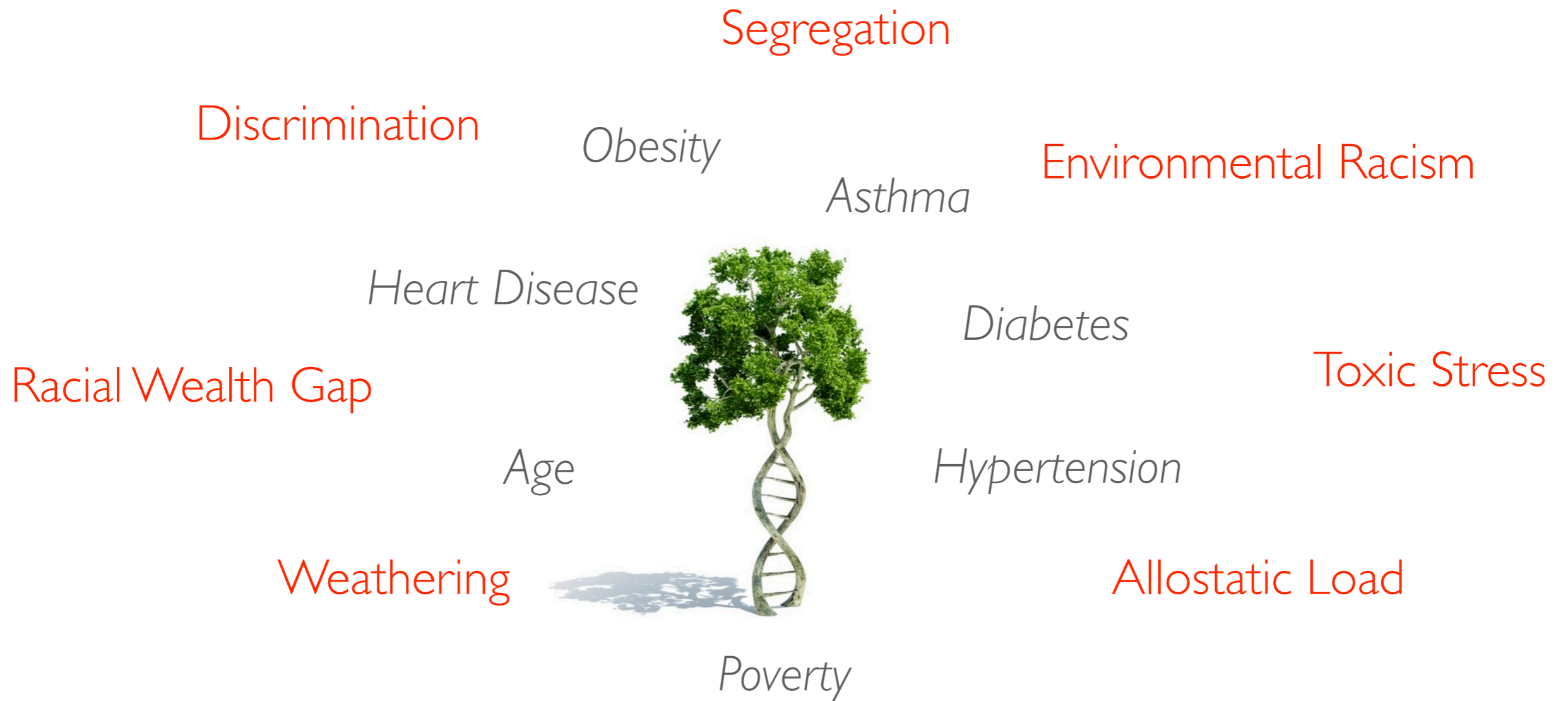
Allostatic Load



Poverty

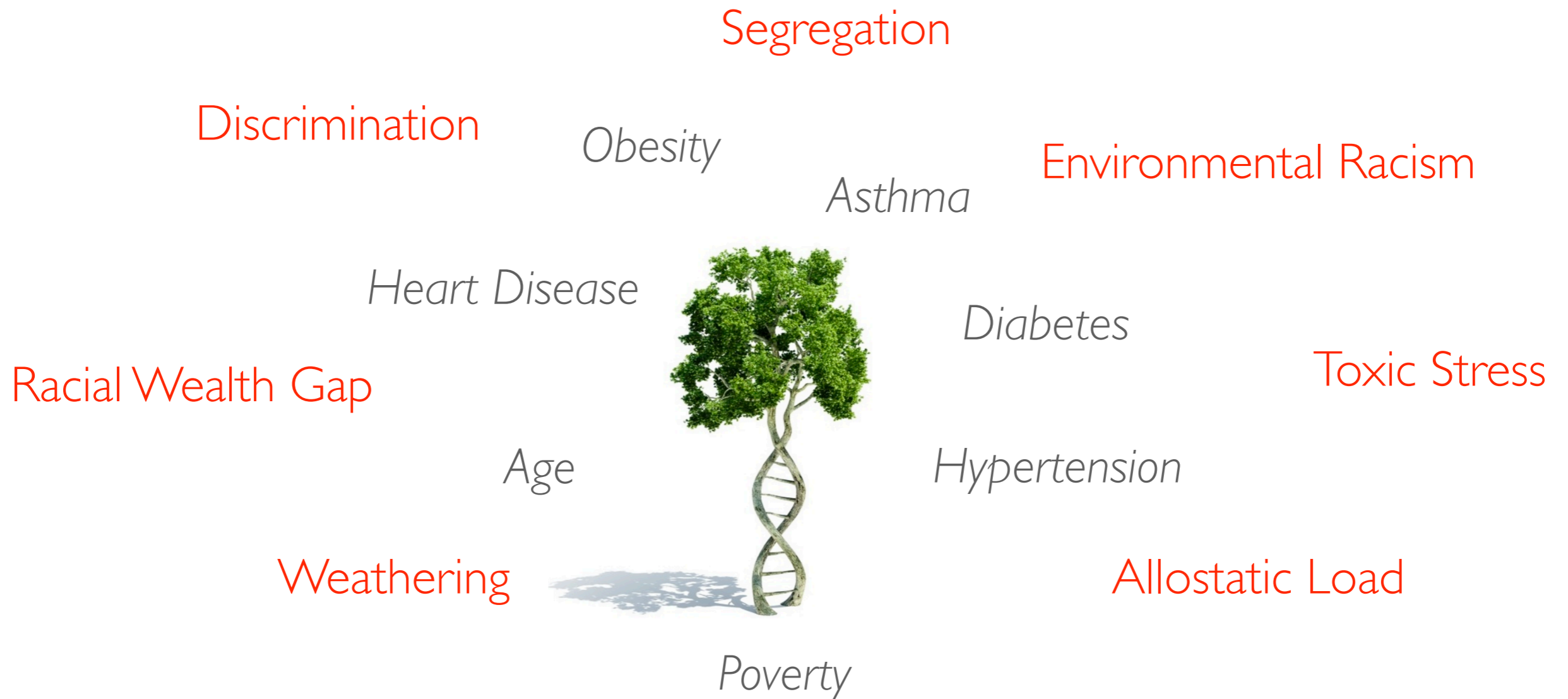
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**Structural Racism** refers to *differential access* to goods, services, opportunities, **by race**.

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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.

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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

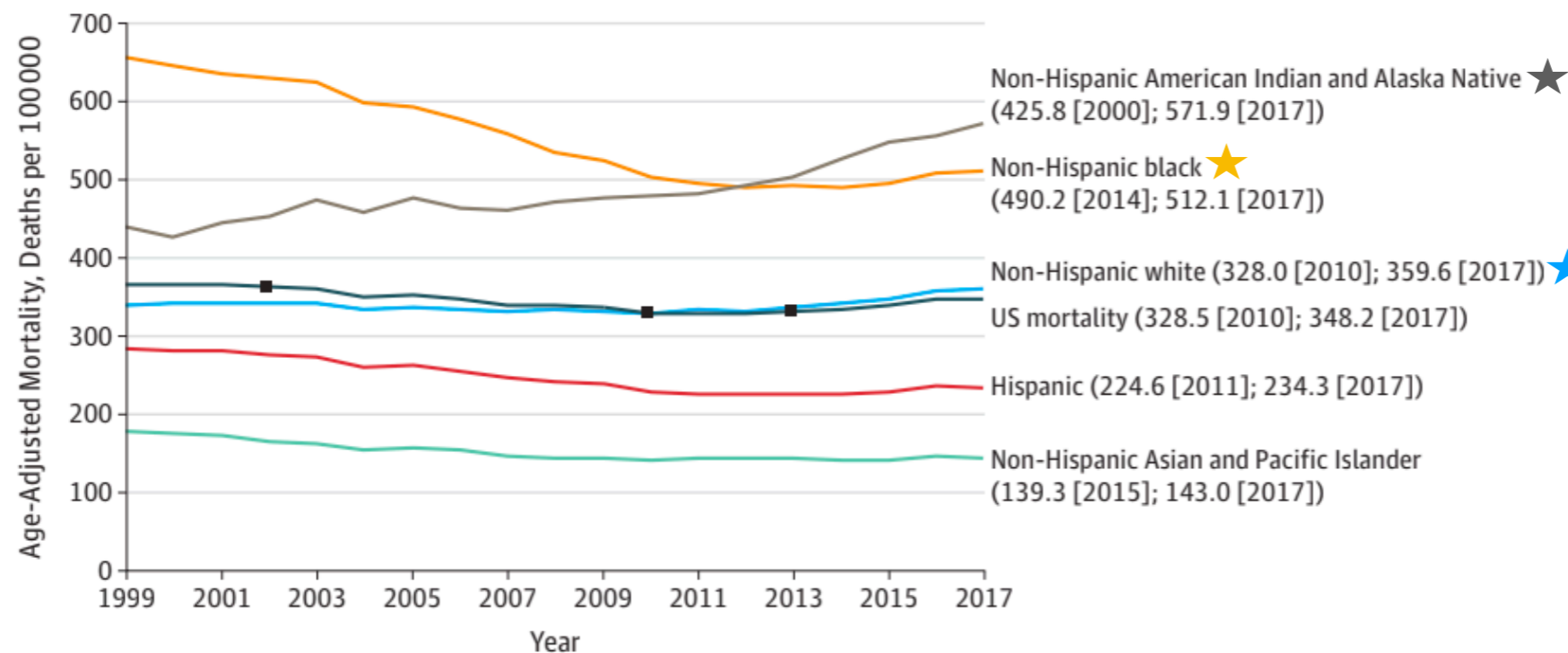
Infection + Complications

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

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**.

# Age-adjusted All-Cause Mortality is Increasing.

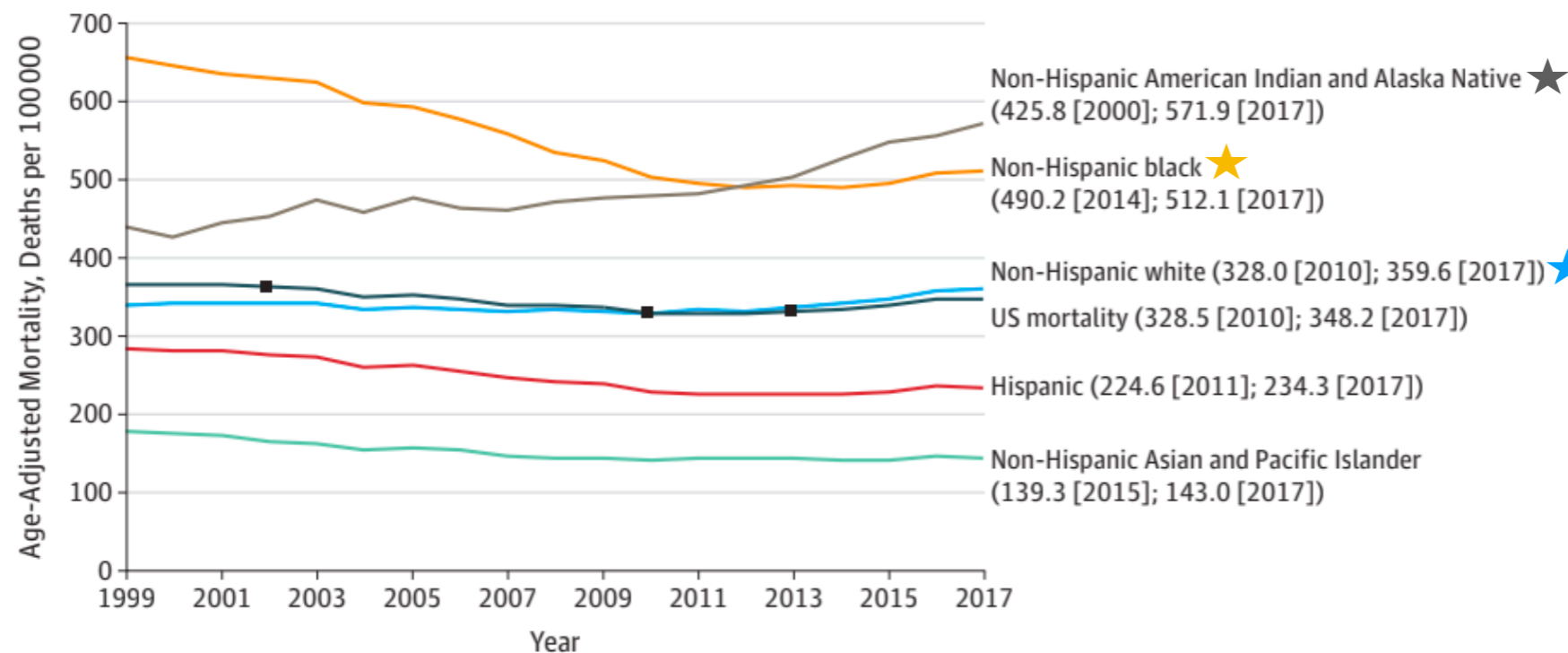
Figure 5. Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates, US Adults Aged 25-64 Years, by Race/Ethnicity, 1999-2017



Black curve indicates age-adjusted mortality for all US adults aged 25 to 64 years; bolded data points indicate joinpoint years, when the linear trend (slope) changed significantly based on joinpoint analysis. The lowest mortality rates per 100 000 (and the years they were achieved) are listed first in parentheses; mortality rates for 2017 listed second. Source: CDC WONDER.<sup>20</sup>

# Age-adjusted All-Cause Mortality is Increasing.

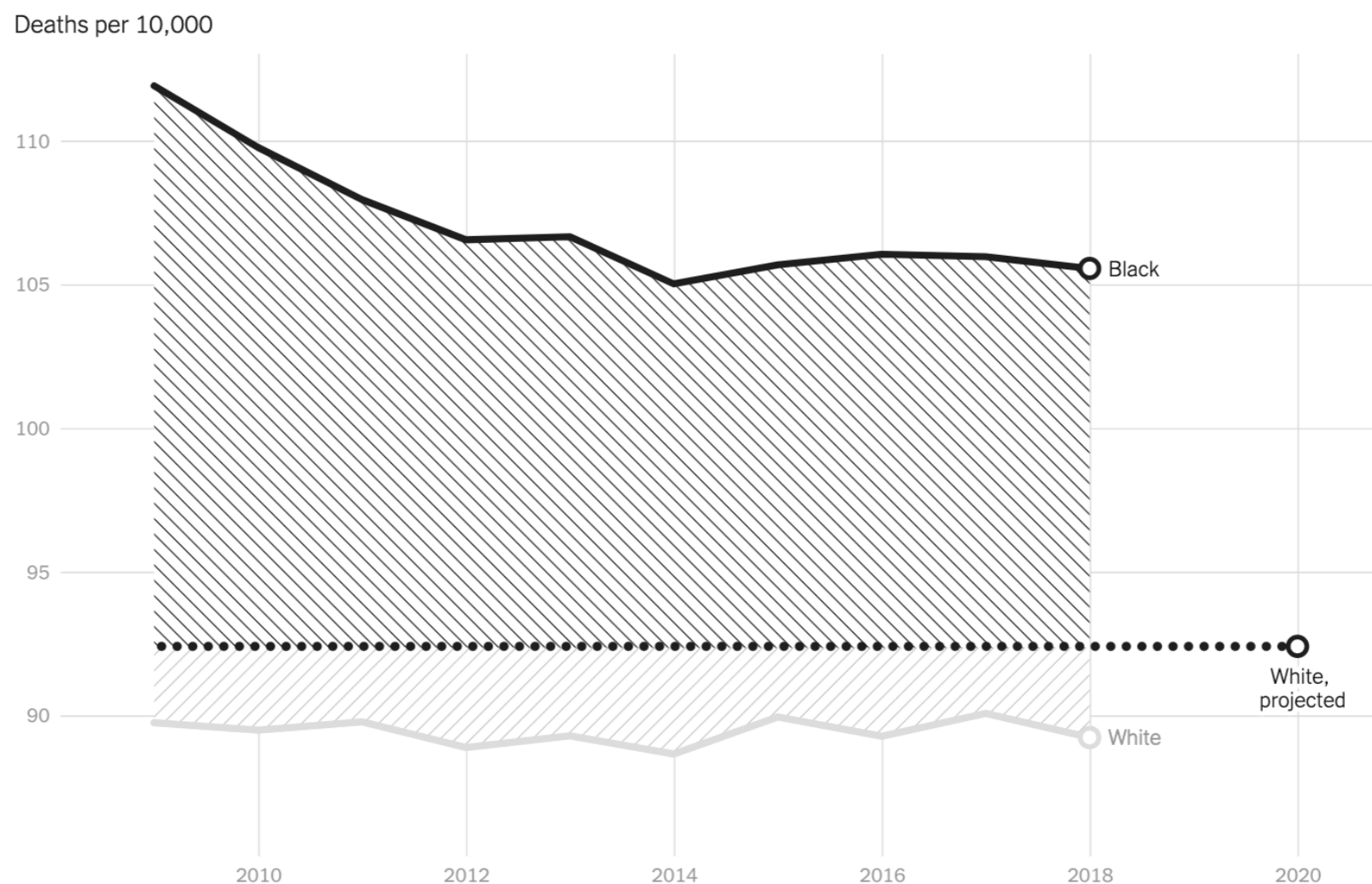
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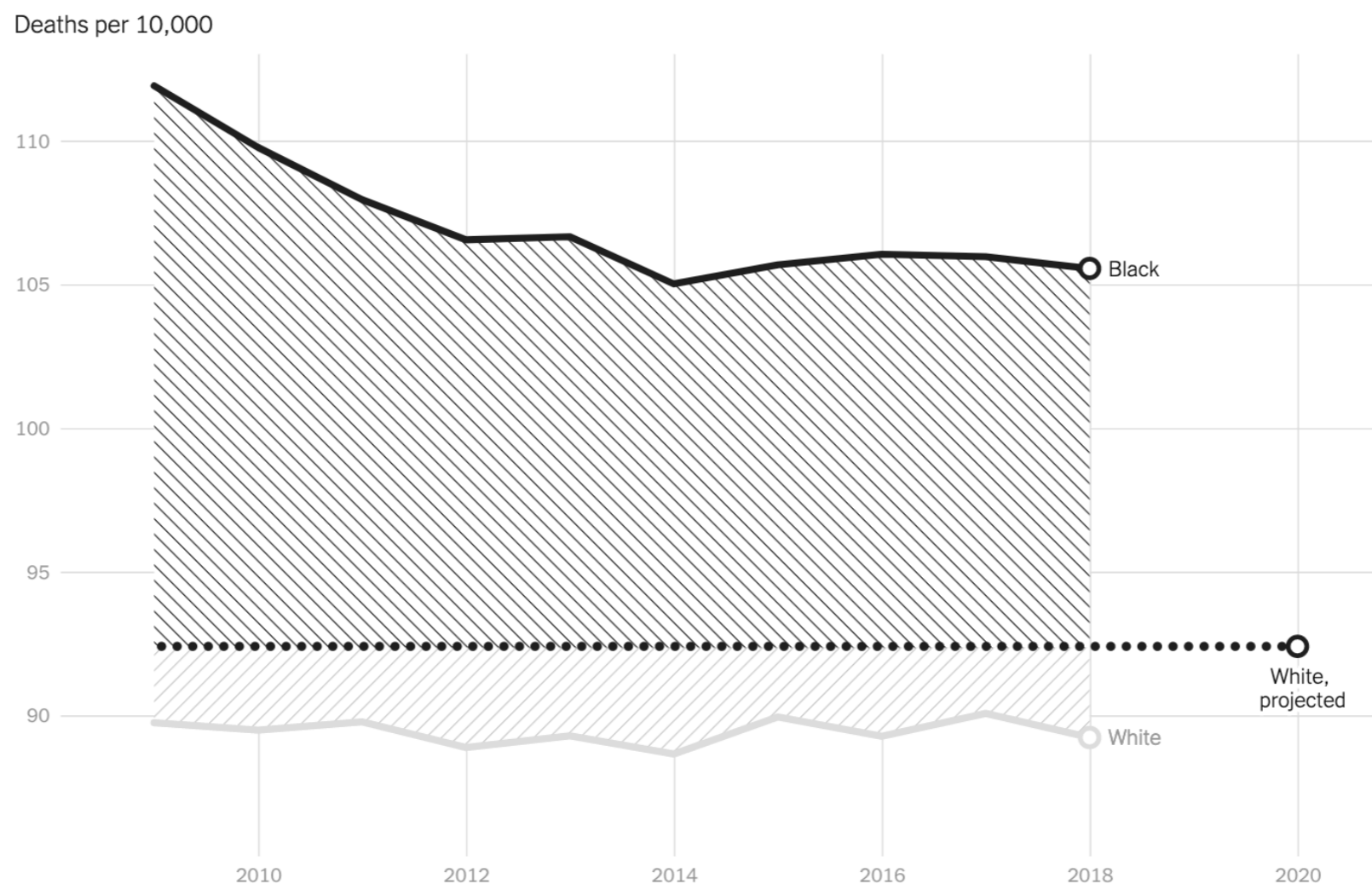
# Life Expectancy is decreasing in the US.

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.

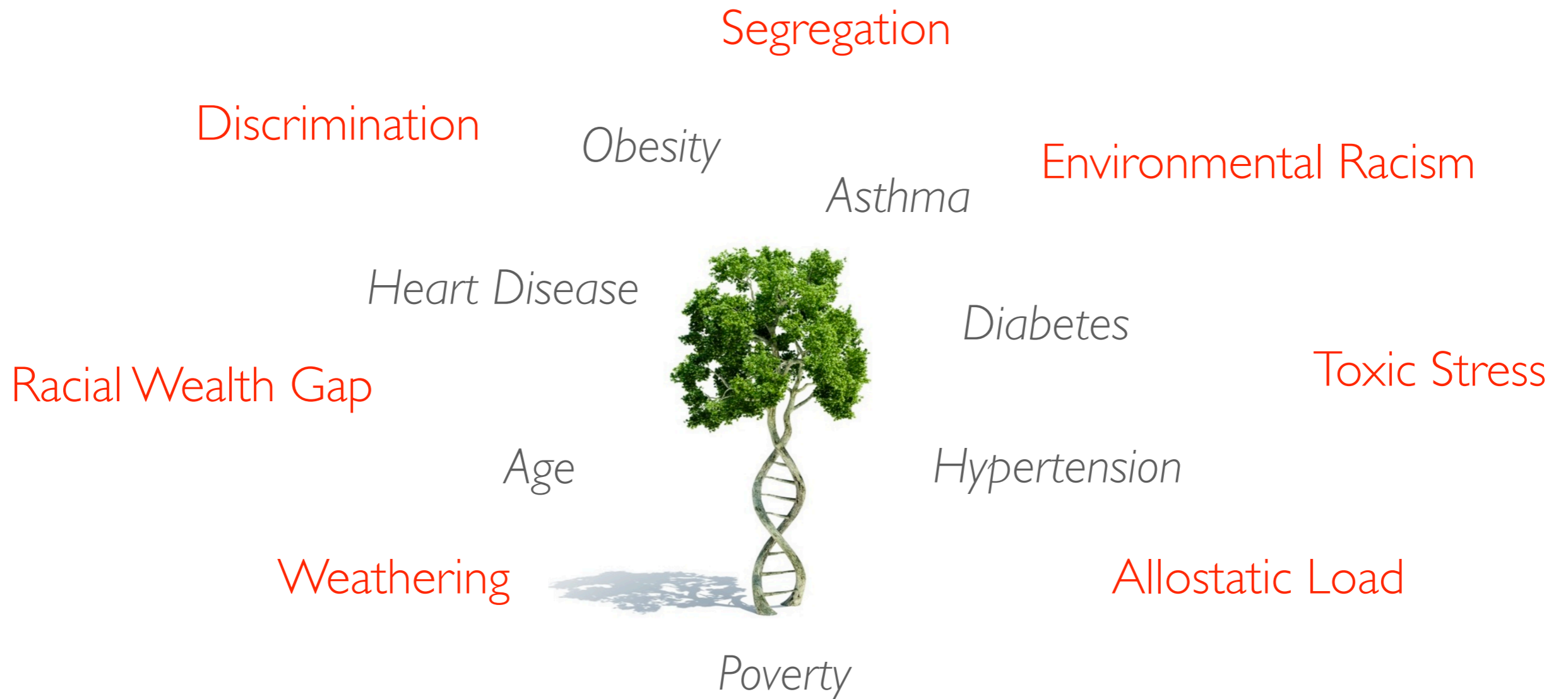




Don Hogan Charles. The New York Times.



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

Environmental Racism

Asthma

Heart Disease

Diabetes

Racial Wealth Gap

Toxic Stress

Age

Hypertension

Weathering

Allostatic Load

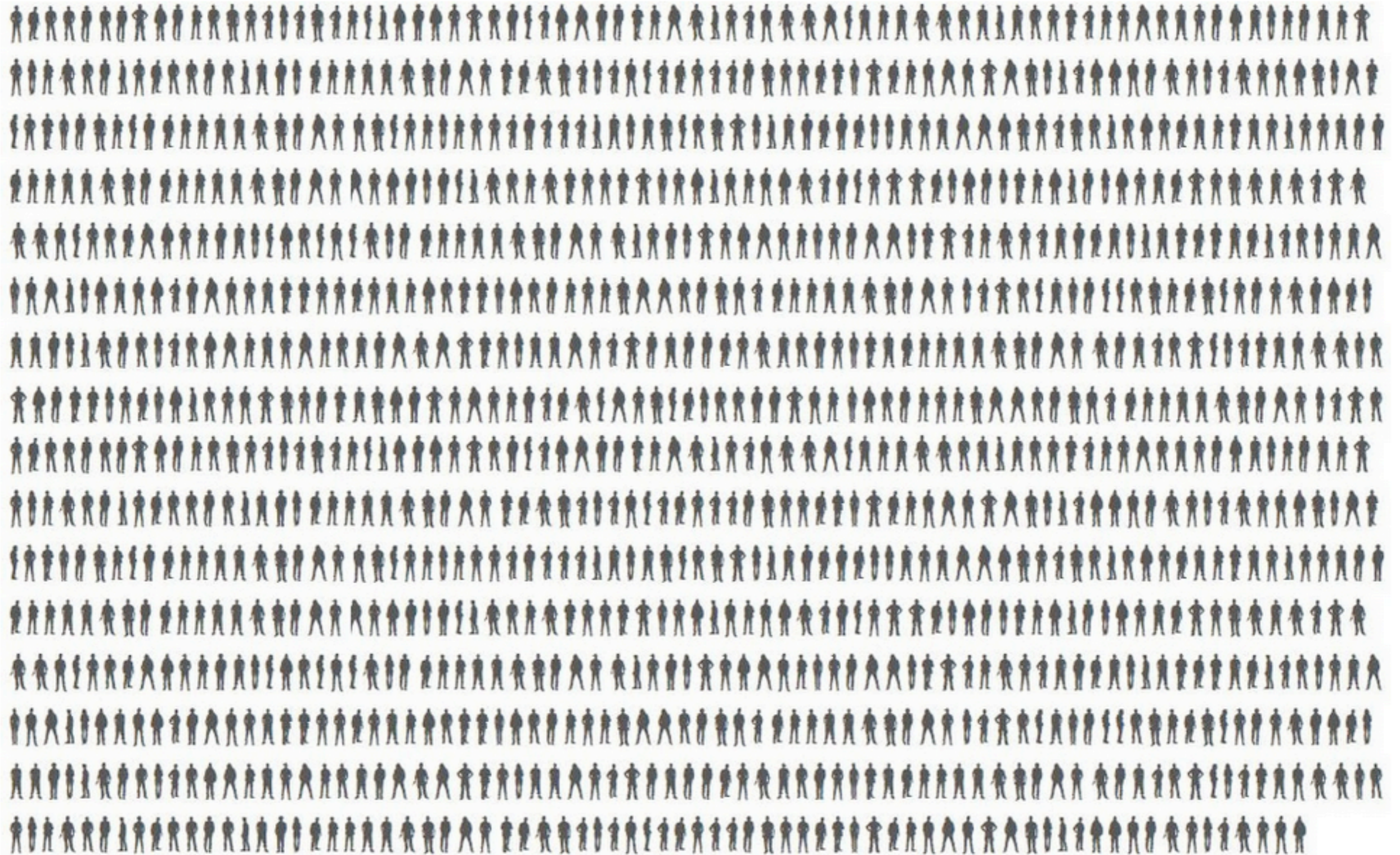


**Police Violence**

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





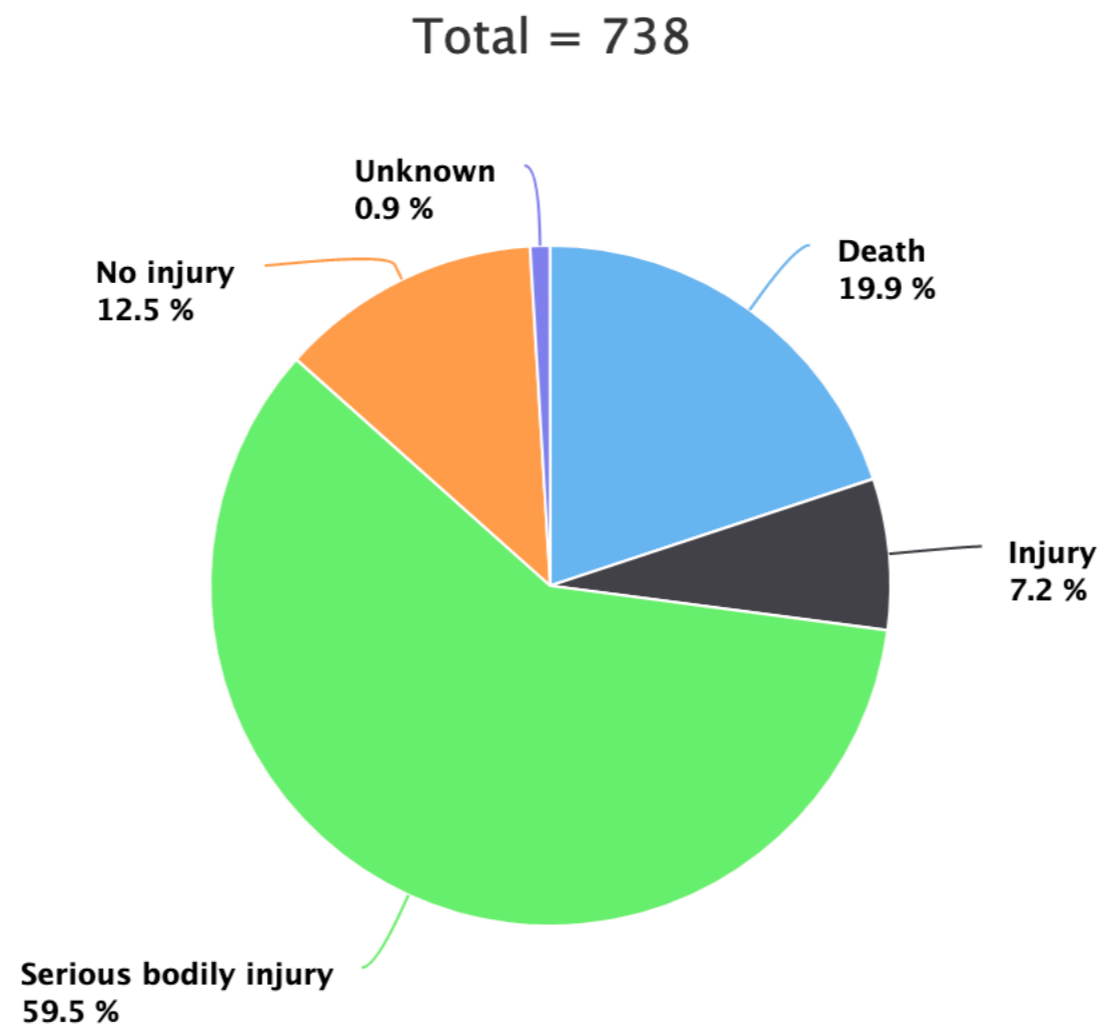


**1** *in* **1000**

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

# Use of Force

## CIVILIAN INJURY BY TYPE, 2019

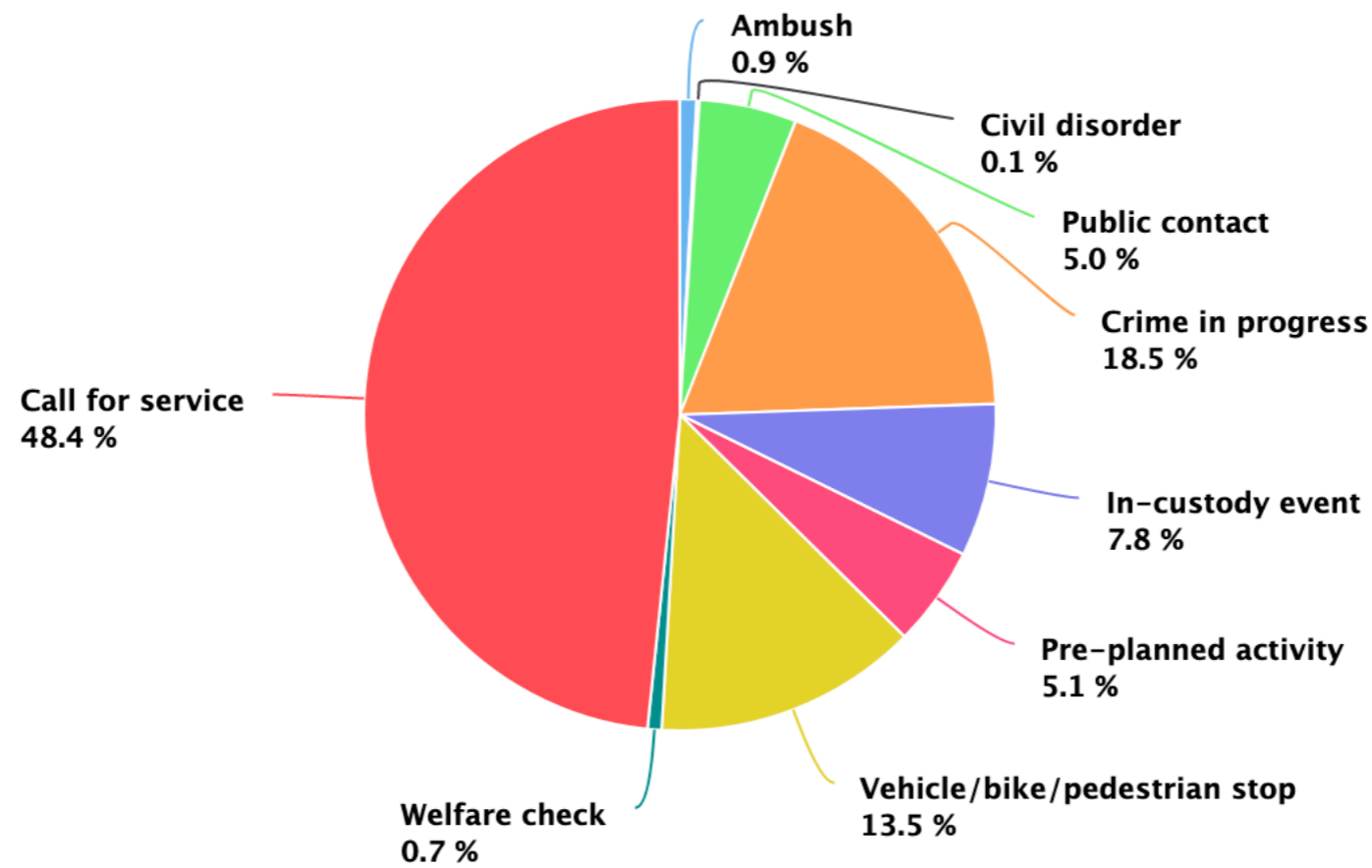




# Use of Force

## REASON FOR INITIAL CONTACT, 2019

Total = 703



# 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 (Stop Terrorism Oppression by Police Coalition) • UDW/AFSCME Local 3930 • Youth Justice Coalition. Passed August 28, 2020.

# 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.



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**.



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Age

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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.

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

# 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.”*

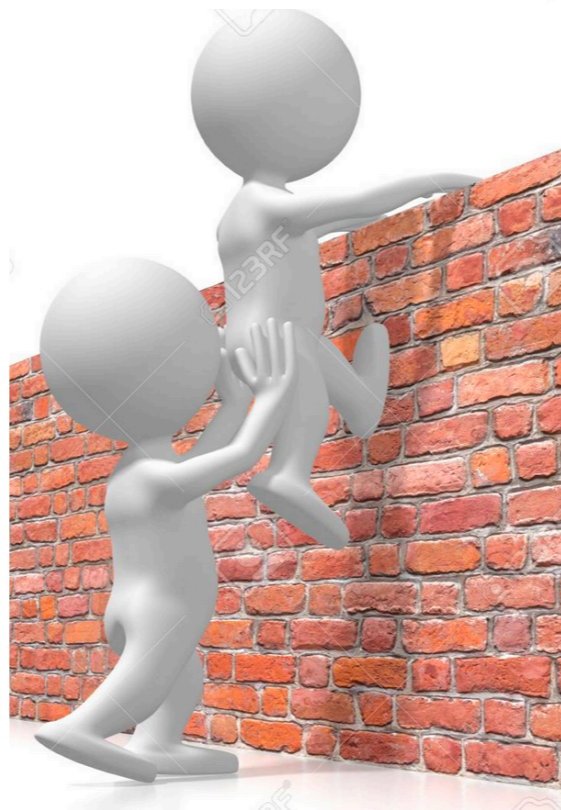
Diana Gustafson. White on whiteness: becoming racialized about race. Nursing Inquiry. 2007.

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.

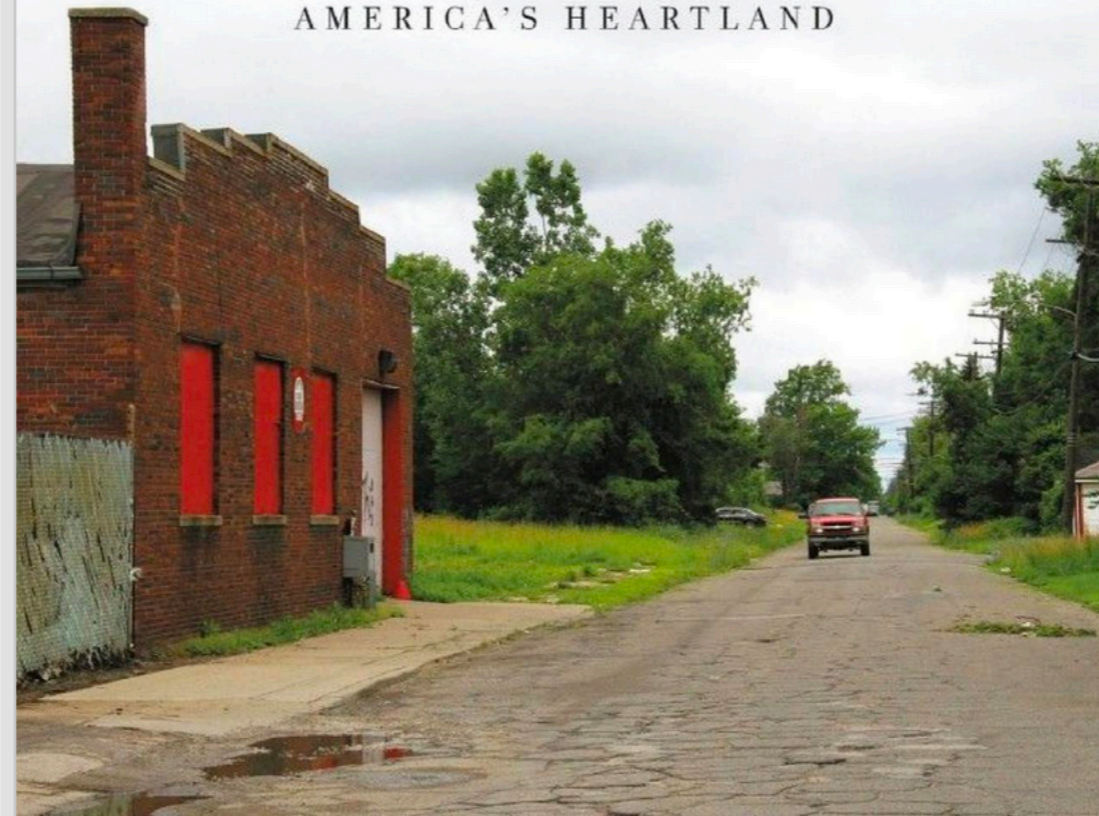


Through laws and norms that *empower, normalize, favor, and reward* white people, as a population.

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.

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

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.**

# Vote

"Hope is your **superpower**. Don't let anybody or anything make you hopeless. Hope is the enemy of injustice. Hope is what will get you to ***stand up*** when people tell you to sit down."

- Bryan Stevenson, *Equal Justice Initiative*