



FACT SHEET

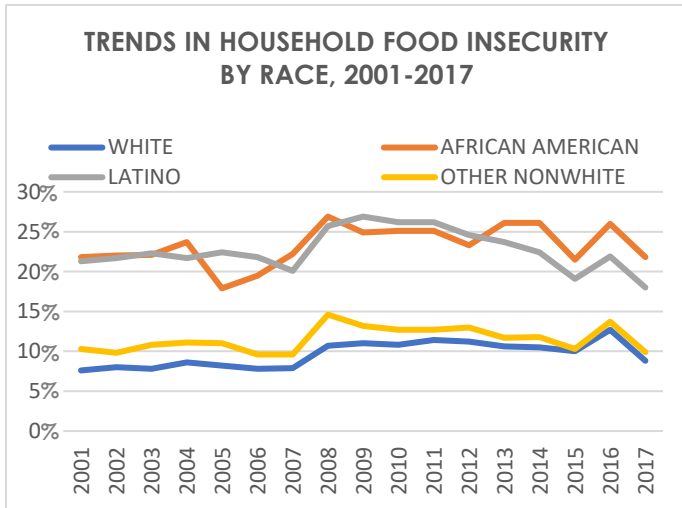
April 2019

Hunger is a Racial Equity Issue

Why Race Matters

In a food-rich nation like the United States, no one should go hungry, yet 12.5% of Americans experience food insecurity - the inability to obtain adequate nutritious food.¹ To end hunger in the United States, we must focus on the communities most impacted. While 8.8% of white households experience hunger, households of color experience hunger at rates of up to 21.8%.² We must consider the **inequities in every area of life** that increase vulnerability to hunger and poverty.³

- Schools with majority African American and Latino students are less able to provide fresh fruit and low-fat milk options than majority white schools.⁶
- Schools with majority students of color are half as likely as majority white schools to adopt and enforce health standards on vendor foods.⁷



Source: Report Series: Household Food Security in the United States, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, 2002-2018

School

Our schools aim to provide students with the resources to succeed today and throughout their lives. Without appropriate funding, schools are limited in their ability to provide small classes, rigorous curriculum and nutritious meals (so students can focus and learn).⁴

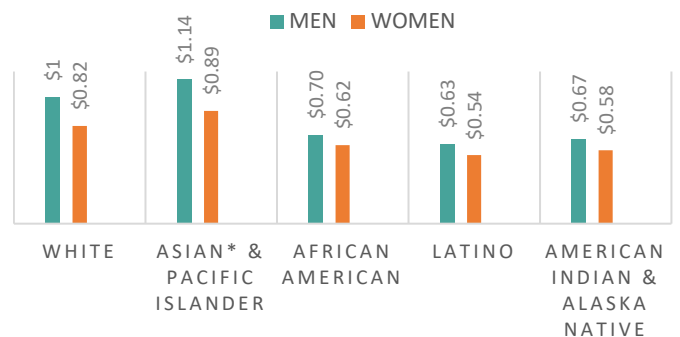
- On average, poor nonwhite school districts receive about \$2,600 less per student than affluent white school districts.⁵

Work

For adults, jobs with livable wages and benefits are crucial to avoiding hunger and poverty. Unfortunately, people of color face a wage gap and disproportionately populate America's low-wage workforce⁸

- African Americans face unemployment rates almost double that of white people, regardless of education level.⁹
- Only 38% of Latino employees and 54% of African American and Asian American employees have access to an employer-sponsored retirement plan, compared to 62% of white employees.¹⁰
- Upon retirement, households of color have less than one-third the average retirement savings of their white counterparts.¹¹

IF WHITE MEN MAKE \$1... MEDIAN HOURLY EARNINGS AS A PERCENTAGE OF WHITE MEN'S EARNINGS

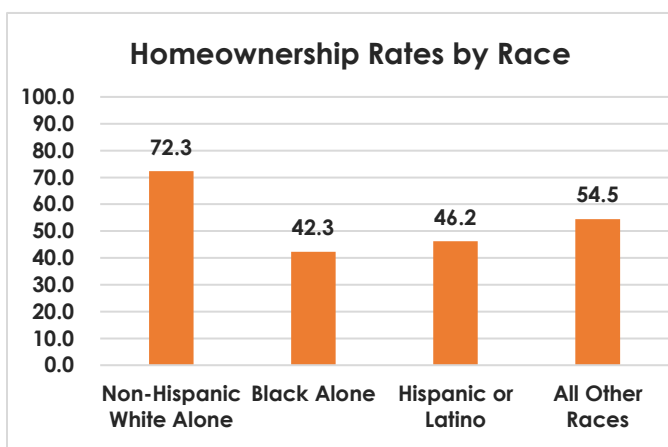


Source: [The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap, 2018](#). *Note: When statistics on Asian Americans are disaggregated, some groups, such as Southeast Asian Americans, also experience a negative wage gap.

Housing

Homeownership (a key wealth builder) and living in a neighborhood with jobs, healthy food and community resources all reduce vulnerability to hunger and poverty. Unfortunately, historic discriminatory housing practices have shaped today's housing market to limit housing opportunities for people of color.

- 72.3% of white adults are homeowners, as compared to 42.3-54.5% of people of color.¹²
- White people are more often able to receive financial support from their families when buying a home allowing them lower interest rates and therefore a lower total cost of home ownership.¹³
- No county in the United States has enough affordable housing to accommodate all extremely low-income renters.¹⁴



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey/Housing Vacancy Survey, February 27, 2018

Food Access

Today, people of color are disproportionately surrounded by food deserts.¹⁵ The USDA defines food deserts as, “areas with limited access to affordable nutritious food”.¹⁶

- Only 8% of African Americans have a grocery store in their census tract.¹⁷
- 24% of African Americans, 17% of Latinos, and 13% of Asian Americans do not own cars, making grocery shopping more time-consuming.¹⁸
- Food stores in communities of color are often further away and have fewer healthy high quality options.¹⁹

Health

Lacking access to nutritious foods can cause disease and poor health outcomes that shorten life expectancy and cause burdensome debt.

- Low proximity to supermarkets with affordable, nutritious foods correlates with high rates of obesity, diabetes, and diet-related diseases.^{20,21}
- Elderly people of color are more than twice as likely as their white counterparts to be hungry,²² making them more likely to have to choose between food and medical care.²³
- 44% of Latinos and 34% of African Americans did not see a doctor when ill for financial reasons.²⁴

This factsheet was authored by Margot Nitschke, a former Emerson National Hunger Fellow, and Sarah Peterson, an AmeriCorps VISTA, at the Alliance to End Hunger. For more information visit www.AllianceToEndHunger.org or contact Minerva Delgado at mdelgado@alliancetoendhunger.org.

¹ USDA, “Household Food Security in the United States in 2017,” 2018. http://alliancetoendhunger.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/13-f8f4825afc84921bd400f0919c81a7a/2018/12/2018-usda-food-security-in-the-us-2017-statistical-supplement.pdf

² USDA, “Food Security in the US, Key Statistics & Graphics,” 2018. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/key-statistics-graphics.aspx>

³ This factsheet was adapted from the Alliance to End Hunger and Bread for the World Institute co-authored background paper “Getting to Zero Hunger by 2030: Race Poverty Hunger”

⁴ “Students of Color Still Receiving Unequal Education.” Center for American Progress. August 2012. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/education/news/2012/08/22/32862/students-of-color-still-receiving-unequal-education/>

⁵ U.S. News, “White Students Get More K-12 Funding Than Students of Color: Report,” 2019. <https://www.usnews.com/news/education-news/articles/2019-02-26/white-students-get-more-k-12-funding-than-students-of-color-report>

⁶ School Policies and Practices to Improve Health and Prevent Obesity: National Elementary School Survey Results. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. January 2012. <http://www.rwjf.org/content/dam/farm/reports/reports/2012/rwjf72213>

⁷ Competitive Foods and Beverages Among Latino Students. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Research Network to Prevent Obesity Among Latino Children. May 2013. <http://salud-america.org/sites/saludamerica/files/Healthier%20School%20Snacks%20-%20Research%20Review.pdf>

⁸ “Underpaid & Overloaded: Women in Low-wage Jobs.” National Women’s Law Center. 2014. https://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/final_nwlc_lowwagereport2014.pdf

⁹ Black Unemployment is Significantly Higher than White Unemployment Regardless of Educational Attainment. Economic Policy Institute. December 2015. <http://www.epi.org/publication/black-unemployment-educational-attainment/>

¹⁰ Race and Retirement Insecurity in the United States. The National Institute on Retirement Security. December 2013. https://www.giaging.org/documents/NIRS_Report_12-10-13.pdf

¹¹ Race and Retirement Insecurity in the United States. The National Institute on Retirement Security. December 2013. https://www.giaging.org/documents/NIRS_Report_12-10-13.pdf

¹² United States Census 2017. https://www.census.gov/housing/hvs/files/annual17/ann17t_22.xlsx

¹³ “The Business Case for Racial Equity,” Altarum Institute, October, 2013. <http://altarum.org/sites/default/files/uploaded-publication-files/WKKF%20Business%20Case%20for%20Racial%20Equity.pdf>

¹⁴ The Housing Affordability Gap for Extremely Low-Income Renters in 2013. Urban Institute. June 2015. http://www.urban.org/research/publication/housing-affordability-gap-extremely-low-income-renters-2013/view/full_report

¹⁵ “The Grocery Gap, Who Has Access to Healthy Food and Why It Matters.” Policy Link. 2010. http://thefoodtrust.org/uploads/media_items/grocerygap.original.pdf

¹⁶ “Access to Affordable and Nutritious Food: Report to Congress”, June 2009. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=42729>

¹⁷ “The Grocery Gap, Who Has Access to Healthy Food and Why It Matters.” Policy Link. 2010. http://thefoodtrust.org/uploads/media_items/grocerygap.original.pdf

¹⁸ “Building the Case for Racial Equity in the Food System.” Center for Social Inclusion. 2014. <http://www.centerforsocialinclusion.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Building-the-Case-for-Racial-Equity-in-the-Food-System.pdf>

¹⁹ “The Grocery Gap, Who Has Access to Healthy Food and Why It Matters.” Policy Link. 2010. http://thefoodtrust.org/uploads/media_items/grocerygap.original.pdf

²⁰ “The Grocery Gap, Who Has Access to Healthy Food and Why It Matters.” Policy Link. 2010. http://thefoodtrust.org/uploads/media_items/grocerygap.original.pdf

²¹ Drewnowski et al., “Obesity and Supermarket Access: Proximity or Price?” 2012. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3464835/>

²² Feeding America. “The State of Senior Hunger in America 2016,” 2016. <https://www.feedingamerica.org/sites/default/files/research/senior-hunger-research/state-of-senior-hunger-2016.pdf>

²³ Hunger in America 2014. Feeding America. August 2014. <http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/our-research/hunger-in-america/>

²⁴ The Color of Debt: Credit Card by Race and Ethnicity Demos Fact Sheet. Demos. http://www.demos.org/sites/default/files/publications/FACTSHEET_TheColorofDebt_Demos.pdf