Tackling the Racial Hunger Gap and Advancing Equity
Presenters

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Definitions

• **Structural/Systemic Racism** - The normalization and legitimization of an array of dynamics – historical, cultural, institutional, and interpersonal – that routinely advantage Whites while producing cumulative and chronic adverse outcomes for people of color. ([Racial Equity Tools](#))

• **Racial Equity** - Both an outcome and a process whereby race no longer determines one’s socioeconomic outcomes. ([Race Forward](#))

• **Food Insecurity** - A household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food. ([USDA](#))

• **Racial Hunger Gap** - Higher rates of food insecurity among Black, Indigenous and people of color in the U.S. due to historic and systemic discrimination. ([Alliance to End Hunger](#))
Percent of Food Insecure Households by Race/Ethnicity, 2020


Structural Racism

Housing Segregation Which Created Concentrated Poverty
- Food deserts
- Transit deserts
- Low tax base for schools, parks, and other public entities
- Higher exposure to predatory lenders
- Environmental racism since families are exposed to...
  - Environmental toxins
  - Lead paint in housing units and drinking water
- Higher exposure to fast food advertising

Which results in...
- Less assets to fight poverty
- Being 18x less wealthy than white counterparts living near the poverty line
- Less assets for future opportunities, including retirement and education
- Higher probability of falling into deep poverty

The Racial Wealth Divide
- Job segregation
- Wage divides
- Disproportionately working in the 10 lowest paying occupations which have...
  - Low pay
  - Less benefits
  - Inflexible scheduling
- Higher unemployment rates
- Lower promotion rates

Which results in...
- Being 10x as likely to be incarcerated as whites in some states
- Parents losing jobs from incarceration
- Families going into debt from...
  - Bail bonds
  - Court fines
  - Over-ticketing
- Loss of income while incarcerated
- Loss of life in the case of police killings

Employment Discrimination
- Over-Policing
- Discrimination in Healthcare
- Racially biased medical care
- Higher probability of going to underfunded healthcare facilities

These barriers maintain higher food insecurity levels among communities of color