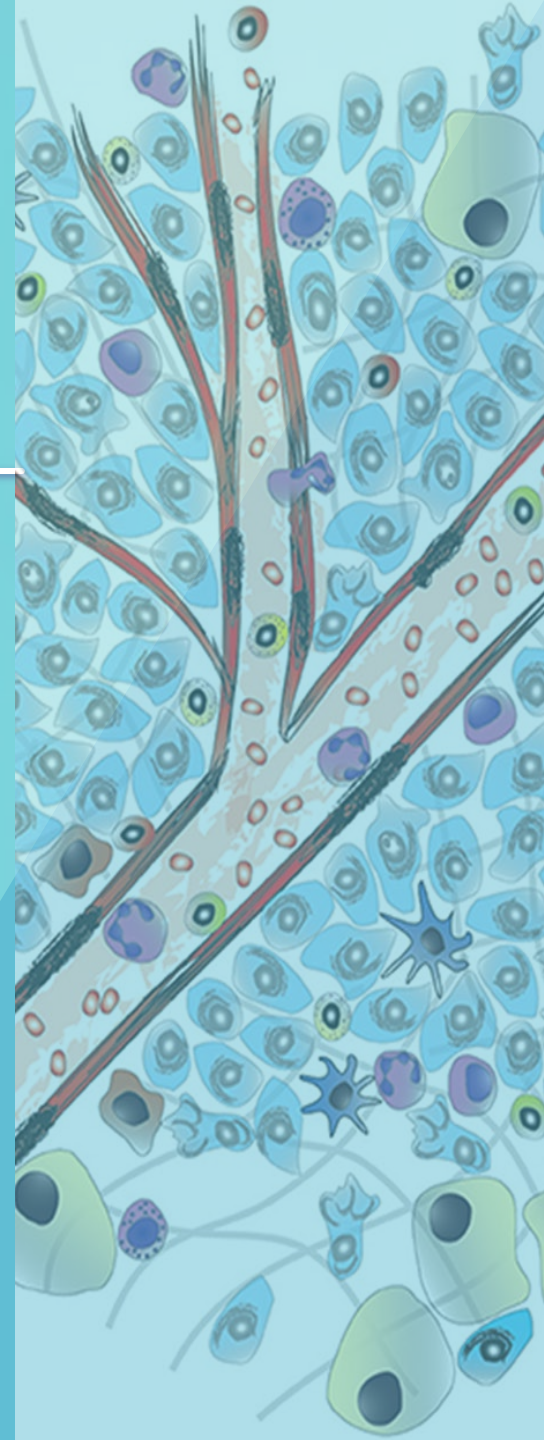


**National Academies Workshop on
Promoting Health Equity in Cancer
Care: Overview of Social Determinants
of Health Inequities in Cancer Care**



Structural Racism as a Root Cause of Cancer Care Disparities

Zinzi D. Bailey, ScD, MSPH
October 2021





Agenda

- 1 Unpacking racial/ethnic inequities in cancer**
- 2 Highlighting the role of structural racism in driving racial/ethnic inequities**



Racial/Ethnic Inequities in Cancer

EXAMPLES OF CANCER DISPARITIES



BREAST CANCER

African American women are nearly twice as likely as white women to be diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer and are much more likely than white women to die from breast cancer.



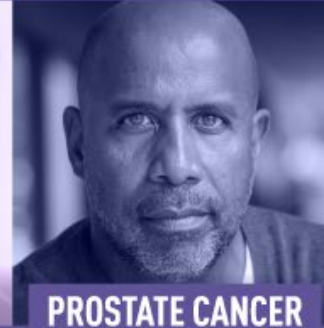
KIDNEY CANCER

The highest rates of kidney cancer cases and death in the United States occur among **American Indians/Alaska Natives**.



LIVER CANCER

Rates of liver cancer are higher among **American Indians/Alaska Natives** and **Asian and Pacific Islanders** than other racial/ethnic groups.



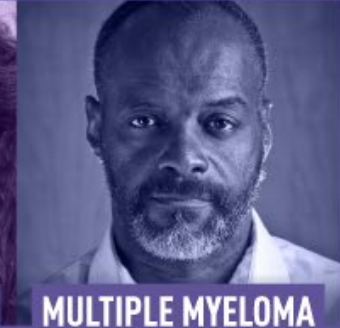
PROSTATE CANCER

African American men are more than twice as likely as white men to die from prostate cancer.



CERVICAL CANCER

Women in rural areas are twice as likely to die from cervical cancer as women in more urban areas.



MULTIPLE MYELOMA

African Americans are twice as likely as whites to be diagnosed with and die from multiple myeloma.

RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DISPARITIES

Root Causes



Genetic and
Biological Factors



Health Care
Access



Socioeconomic
Factors



Chemical and
Physical Exposures

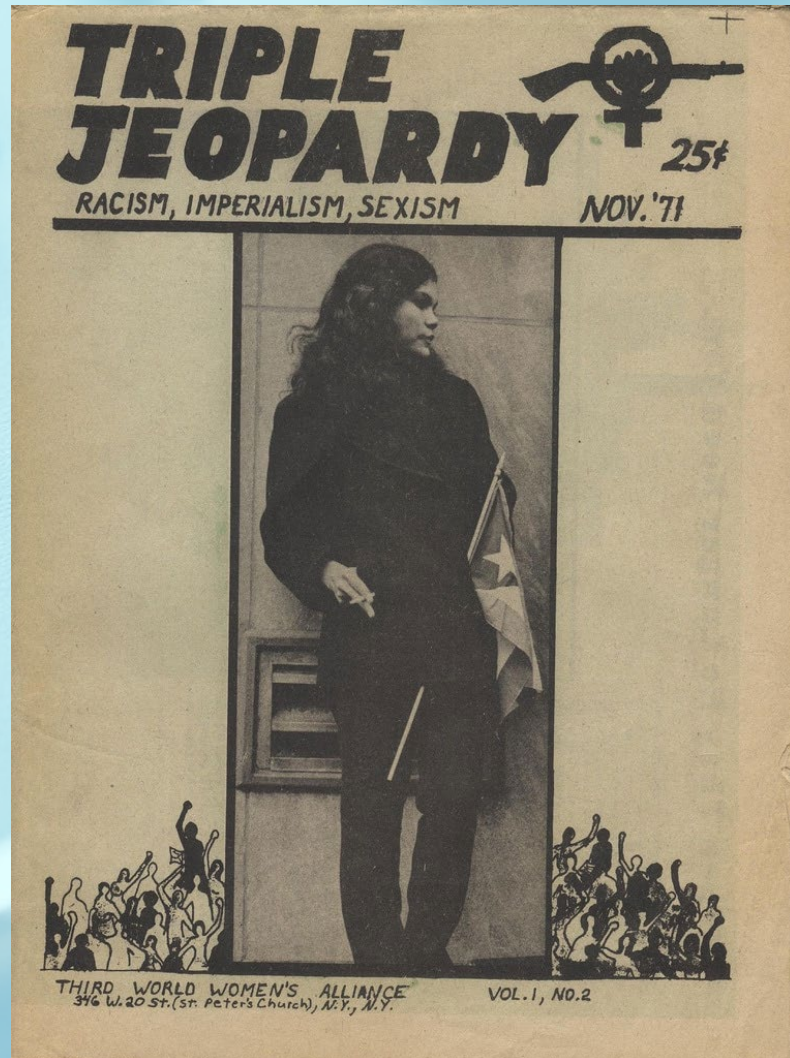


Diet



Physical
Inactivity

GETTING AT THE ROOT CAUSES



LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

- CANCER
- HEART DISEASE
- COMPLICATIONS FROM DIABETES

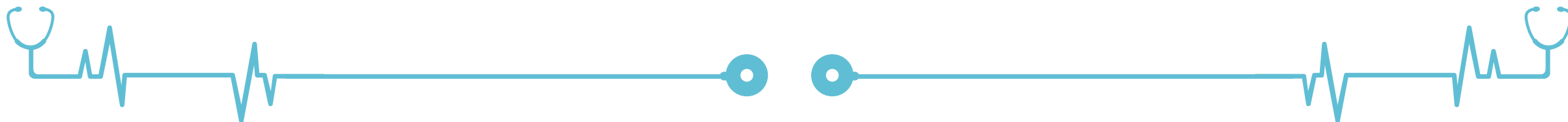
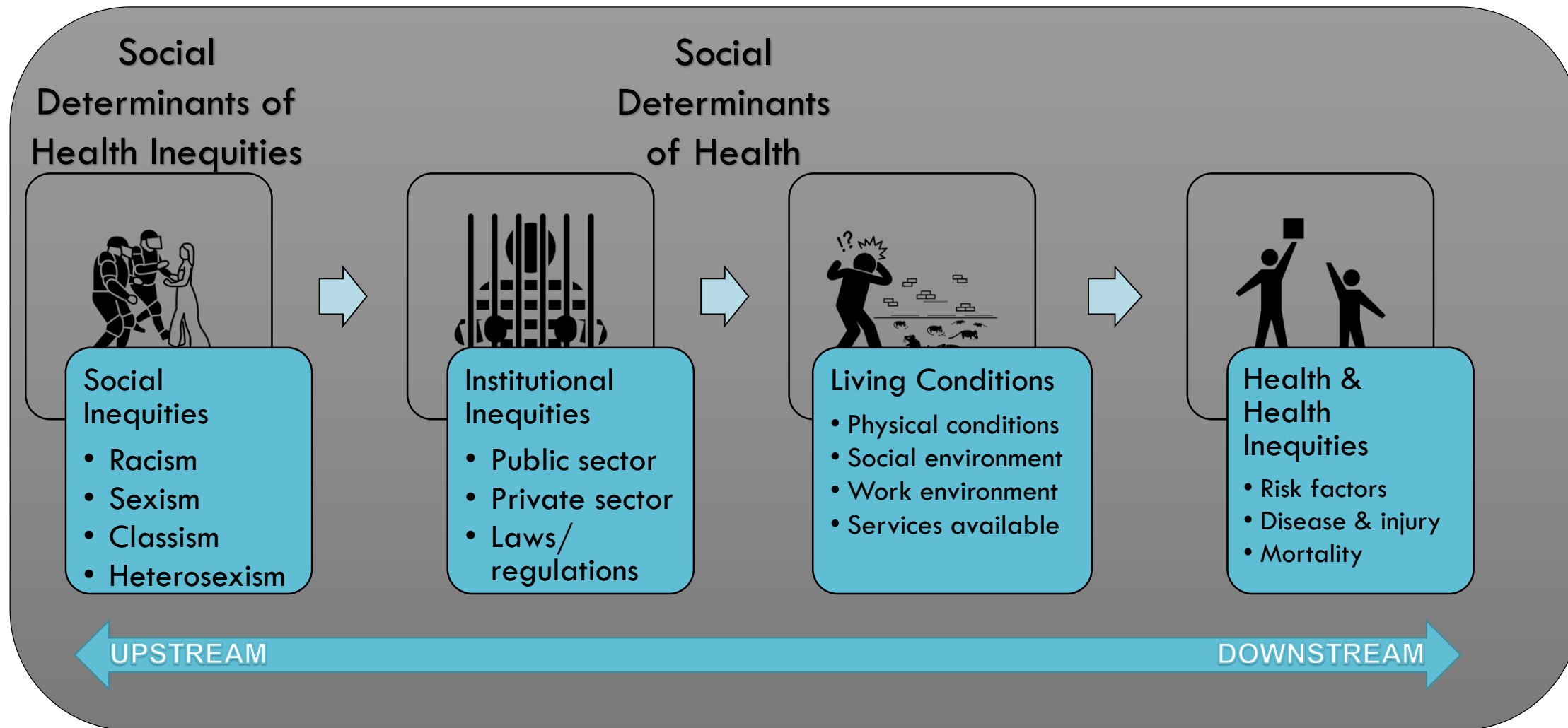
CONTRIBUTING RISK FACTORS

- Family History
- Cigarette Smoking/Tobacco Use
- High Blood Pressure
- High Blood Cholesterol Levels
- Environmental Factors
- Diabetes
- Obesity
- Poor Diet (Access to Fresh Fruits & Vegetables)
- Physical Inactivity
- Stress
- Poor Hygiene
- Radiation/Sun Exposure

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS

- Income Instability
- Socioeconomic Status
- Inadequate Housing
- Food Insecurity
- Transportation
- Access to Services
- Discrimination by Race, Gender or Class
- Social or Environmental Stressors
- Education

GENETICS



The elimination of health inequities depends on the degree to which we invest in dismantling structural racism.



The Role of Structural Racism in Racial/Ethnic Inequities

WHAT IS RACISM?

Racism is an **organized social system** in which the dominant racial group, based on an **ideology of inferiority**, categorizes and ranks people into social groups called “races” and uses its power to **devalue, disempower, and differentially allocate valued societal resources and opportunities** to groups defined as inferior.



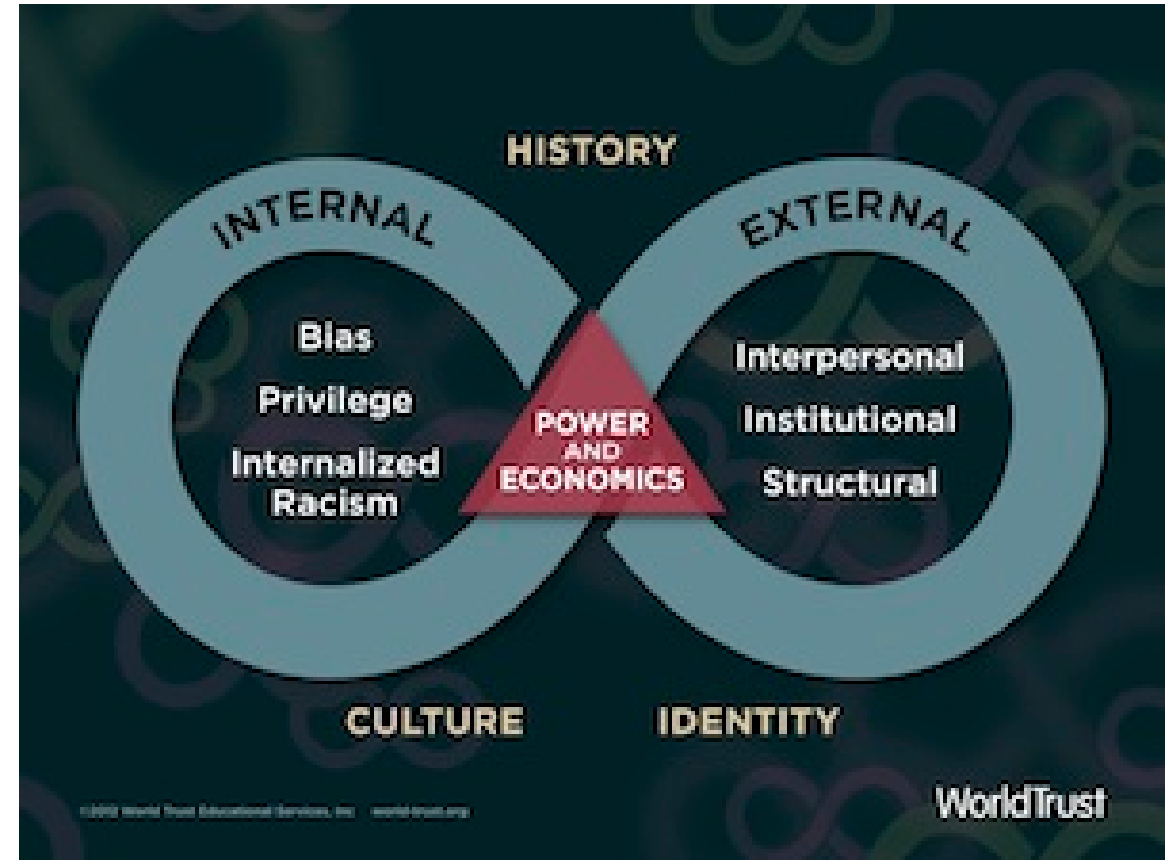
(Williams et al., 2019)

LEVELS OF RACISM

Internalized racism

Interpersonal racism

Institutional racism



STRUCTURAL RACISM

America: Equity and Equality in Health 3



Structural racism and health inequities in the USA: evidence and interventions

Zinzi D Bailey, Nancy Krieger, Madina Agénor

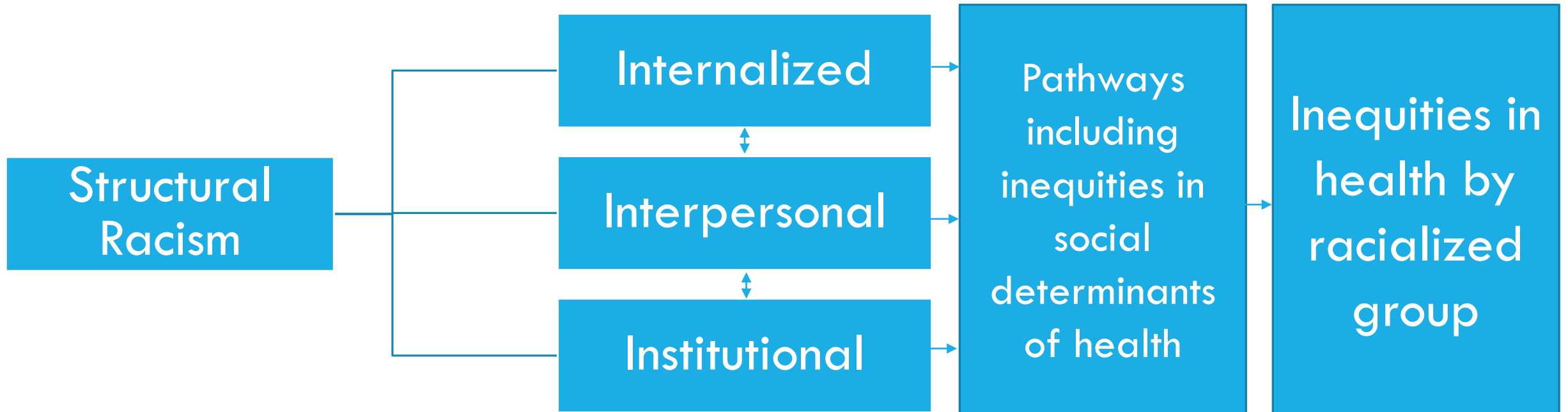
Despite growing interest in understanding the role of structural racism in health inequities, many academic, policy, and public discourse remain reluctant to identify structural racism as a key driver of health inequities. This is the third in a Series on equity and equality in health.

Panel 1: Definitions of structural racism and institutional racism

Many academics use structural racism and institutional racism interchangeably, but we consider these terms as two separate concepts.

Structural racism refers to “the totality of ways in which societies foster [racial] discrimination, via mutually reinforcing [inequitable] systems...(eg, in housing, education, employment, earnings, benefits, credit, media, health care, criminal justice, etc) that in turn reinforce discriminatory beliefs, values, and distribution of resources”, reflected in history, culture, and interconnected institutions.⁹ This definition is similar to the “über discrimination” described by Reskin.¹⁰

RACISM & HEALTH INEQUITIES



PATHWAYS BETWEEN RACISM & HEALTH

Economic injustice and social deprivation

Environmental and occupational health inequities

Psychosocial trauma

Targeted marketing of health-harming substances

Inadequate healthcare

State-sanctioned violence (including forced displacement)

Political exclusion

Maladaptive coping behaviors

Stereotype threats

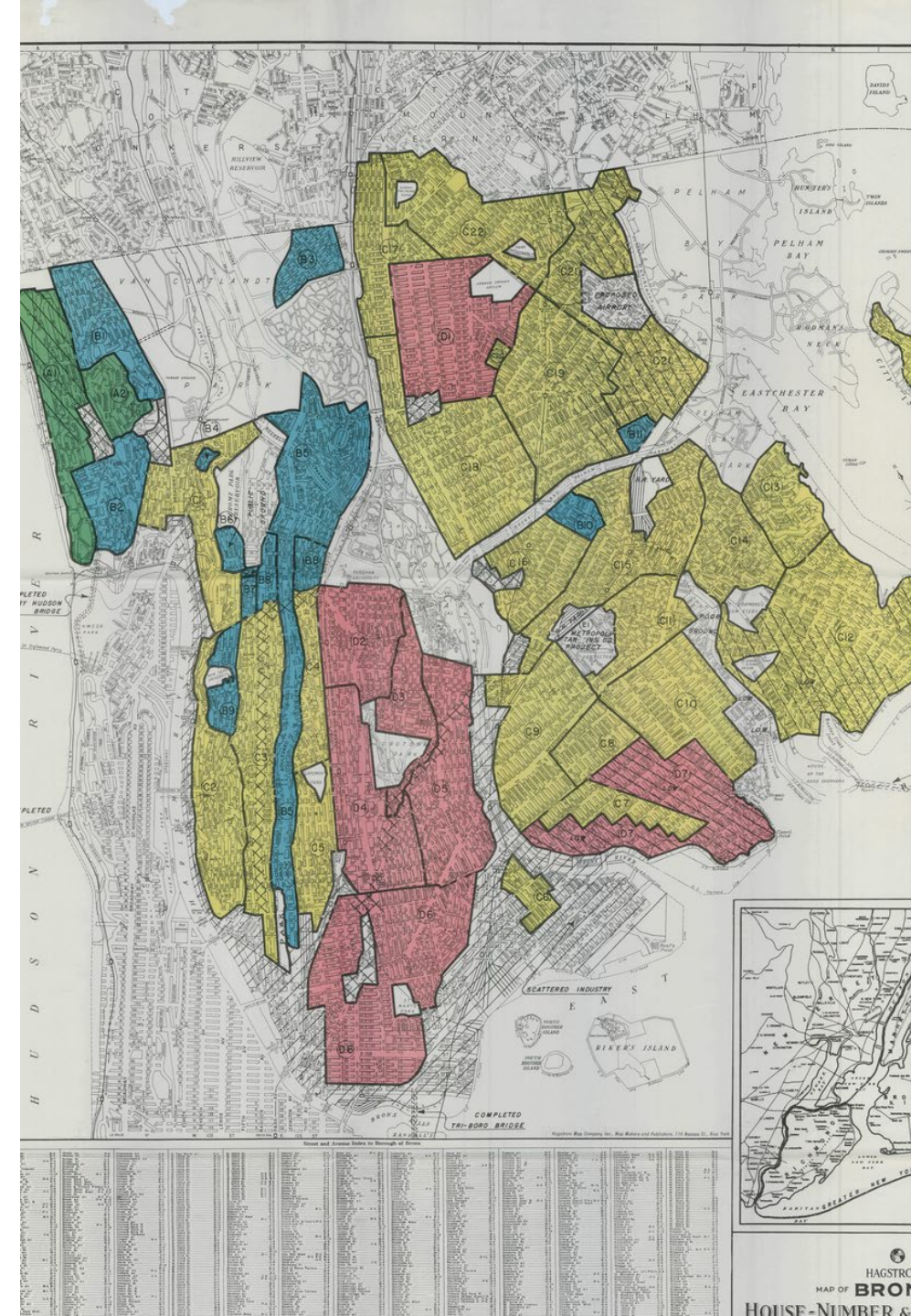
(Bailey et al, 2017)

RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION

Reinforces all other forms of racism

Integral to U.S. history

Seemingly operating in the housing sector



RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION - REDLINING

The Home Owners' Loan Corporation (1934-1968):

Created an inventory of all residential areas in the U.S. to assist banks in making loans

- Color-coded denial or limitation of financing/refinancing to certain neighborhoods based on racial/ethnic composition (used widely including by the Federal Housing Administration)
- Hundred secret maps of “residential security”

A – 1st Grade (green)
Free of black & foreign-born white residents. Lenders encouraged to offer max amount

B – 2nd Grade (blue)
Lenders advised to make loans 10-15% below max

C – 3rd Grade (yellow)
Subject to “infiltration of a lower grade population”

D – 4th Grade (red)
Lenders often refused loans. Often closest to downtown, or next to factories or railroad tracks

IMPLICATIONS OF REDLINING

Concentrated investment in White suburbs, which simultaneously segregated racialized groups and hastened the decay of the “inner city”

Coupled with:

- restrictive covenants
- disparate impact of zoning/local land use policies
- discrimination in historical & current rental/mortgage markets

RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION

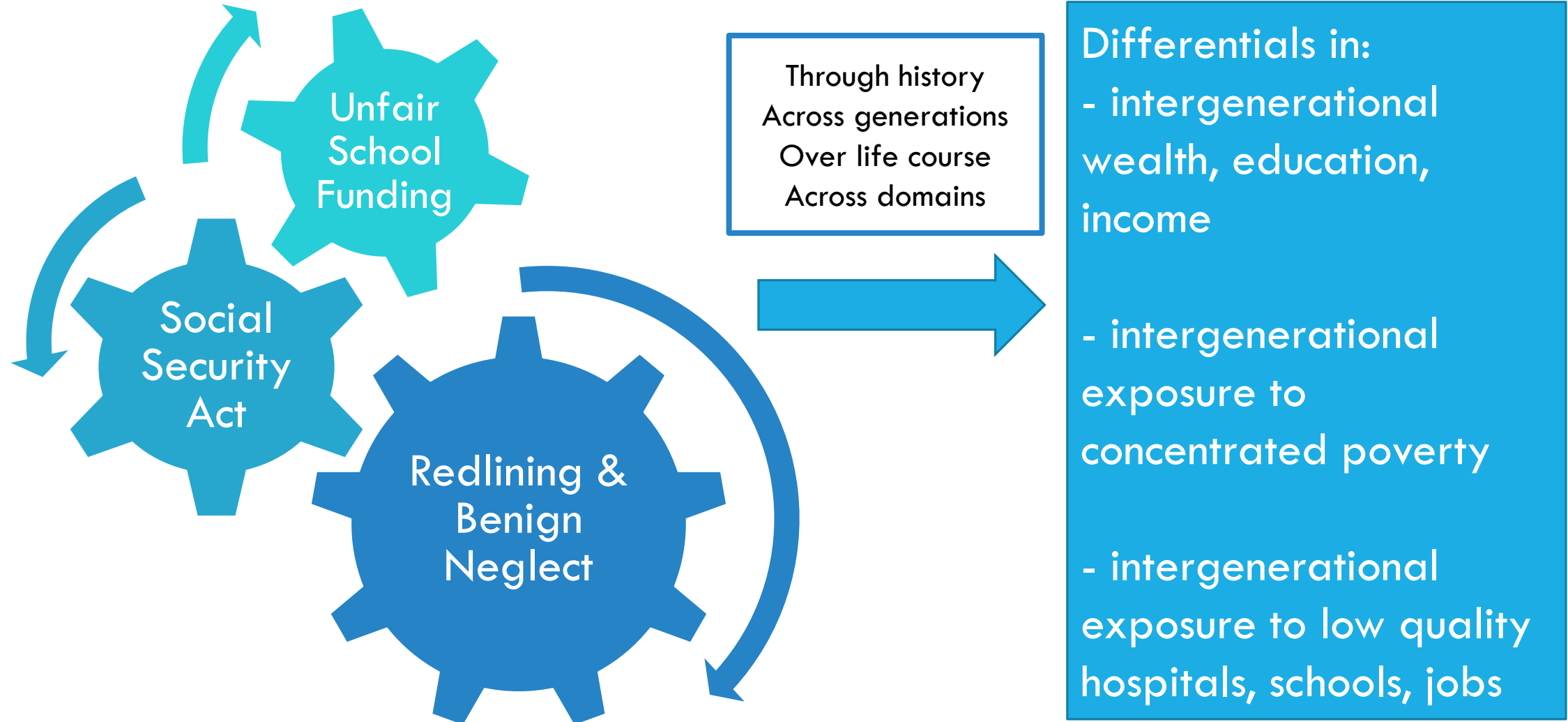
Sets stage for “color-blind” distribution of resources over time:

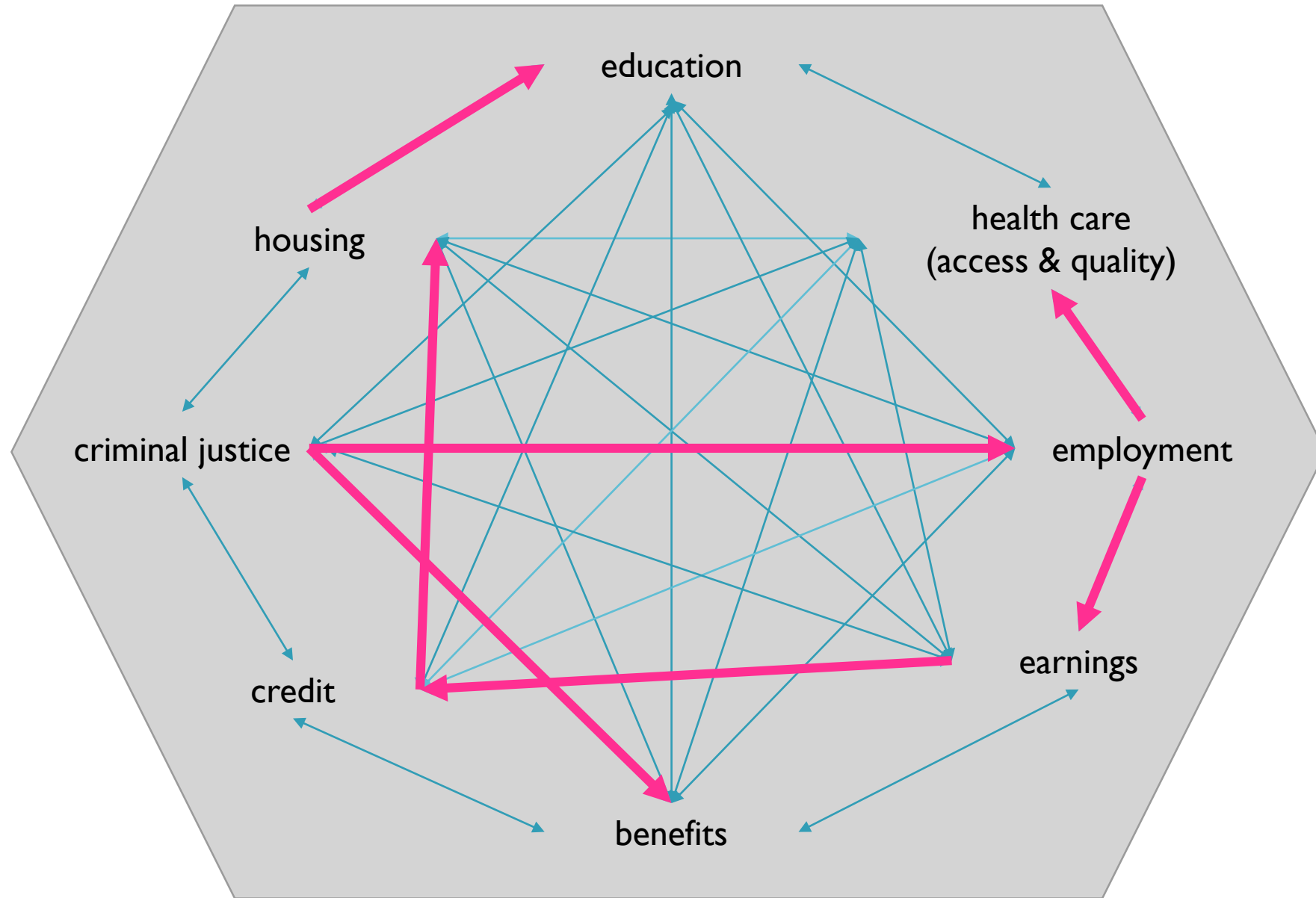
- Environmental hazards (example: toxic waste, Flint)
- Inadequate healthcare (segregated services)
- Inadequate education (segregated schooling)
- State-sanctioned violence (including police violence, incarceration, forced migration, urban “renewal”)

****Municipal disinvestment (“benign neglect” & planned shrinkage), blight****



STRUCTURAL RACISM OF SEGREGATION





KEY COMPONENTS OF STRUCTURAL RACISM

Mutually reinforcing inequitable systems/institutions

Institutions in different sectors/domains (housing, education, healthcare, media, criminal justice) at different levels

Reinforcement of discriminatory beliefs (with impacts institutionally, interpersonally, & individually)

Normalization and legitimization of historical, cultural, institutional, and chronic adverse outcomes for people of color



Thank You!



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