

Health, Housing, Hope

The Connection of Structural Racism, Housing and Health



American
Heart
Association.

2024 IMPACT GOAL

Every person deserves the opportunity for a full, healthy life. As **champions for health equity***, by 2024, the American Heart Association will advance cardiovascular health for all, including identifying and removing barriers to health care access and quality.

Addressing the drivers of health disparities, including the social determinants of health and structural racism, is the only way to truly achieve equitable health and well-being for all.


THE SCIENCE

JOURNEY

WORKING TOWARD HEALTH EQUITY




Call to Action: Structural Racism as a Fundamental Driver of Health Disparities: A Presidential Advisory From the American Heart Association

Keith Churchwell, Mitchell S.V. Elkind, Regina M. Benjamin, April P. Carson, Edward K. Chang, Willie Lawrence, Andrew Mills, Tanya M. Odom, Carlos J. Rodriguez, Fatima Rodriguez, ... [See all authors](#) 

Originally published 10 Nov 2020 | <https://doi.org/10.1161/CIR.0000000000000936> | Circulation. 2020;142:e454–e468

Importance of Housing and Cardiovascular Health and Well-Being: A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association

Mario Sims, Kiarri N. Kershaw, Khadijah Breathett, Elizabeth A. Jackson, Lisa M. Lewis, Mahasin S. Mujahid, Shakira F. Suglia,
... See all authors 

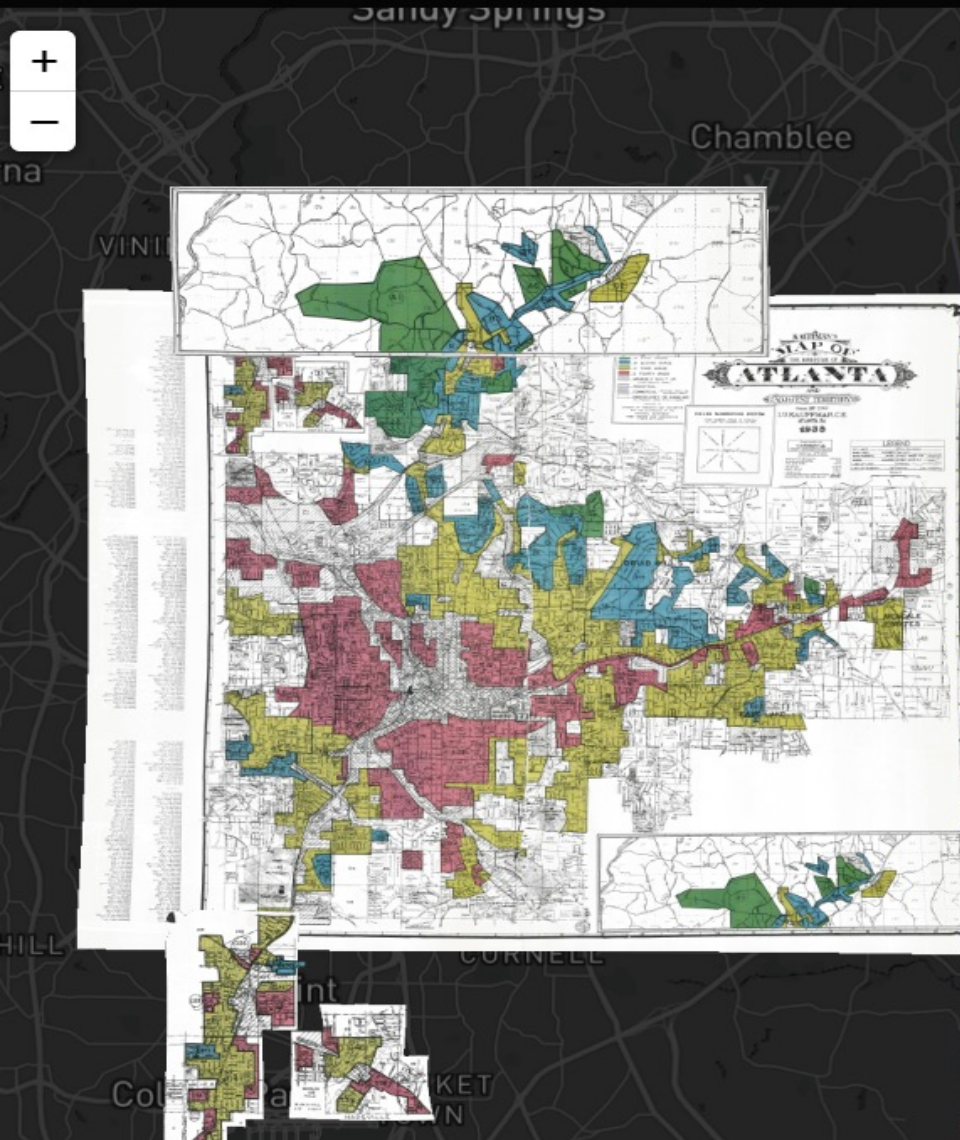
Originally published 15 Jul 2020 | <https://doi.org/10.1161/HCQ.0000000000000089> |
Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes. 2020;13

History Ushers In the Present

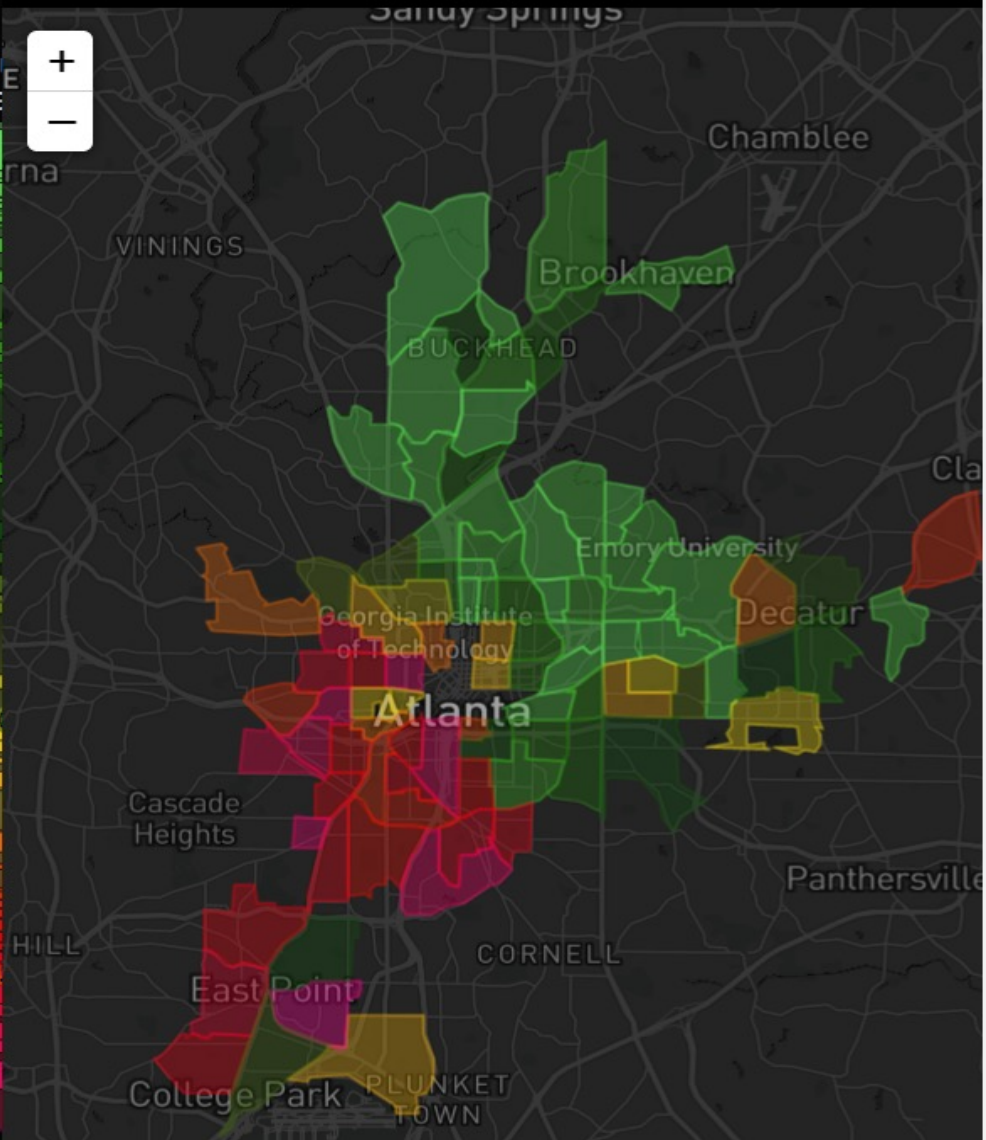
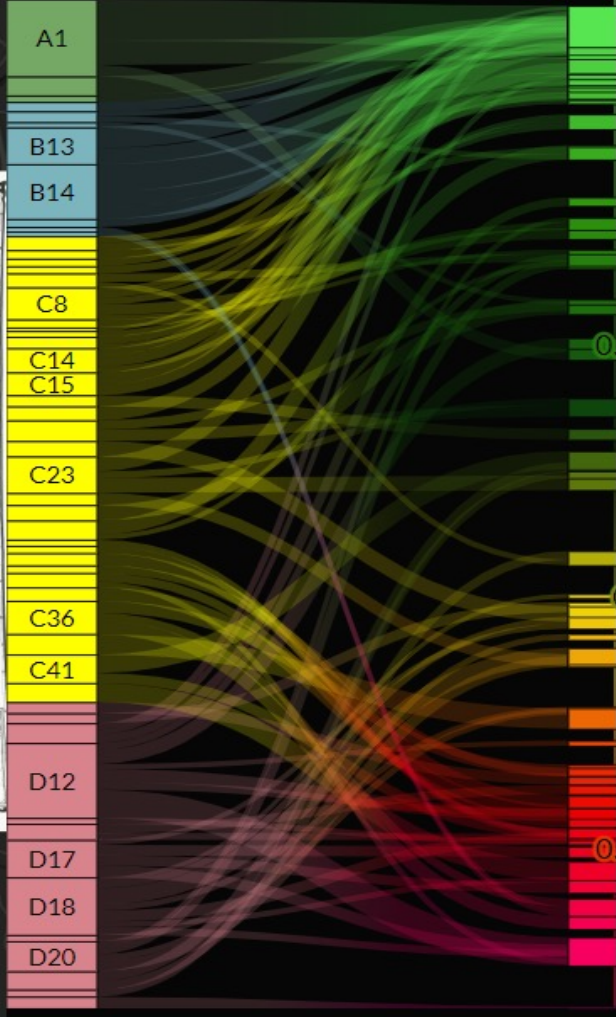
Discriminatory laws (the Indian Removal Act, the GI Bill) and federal practices (redlining) were enacted that ensured persons who were American Indian, Black, or Hispanic/Latino were denied access to home ownership and quality affordable housing.

Housing insecurity, overcrowding, concentrated poverty, environmental hazards, and lack of access to health providers continue to burden historically marginalized communities





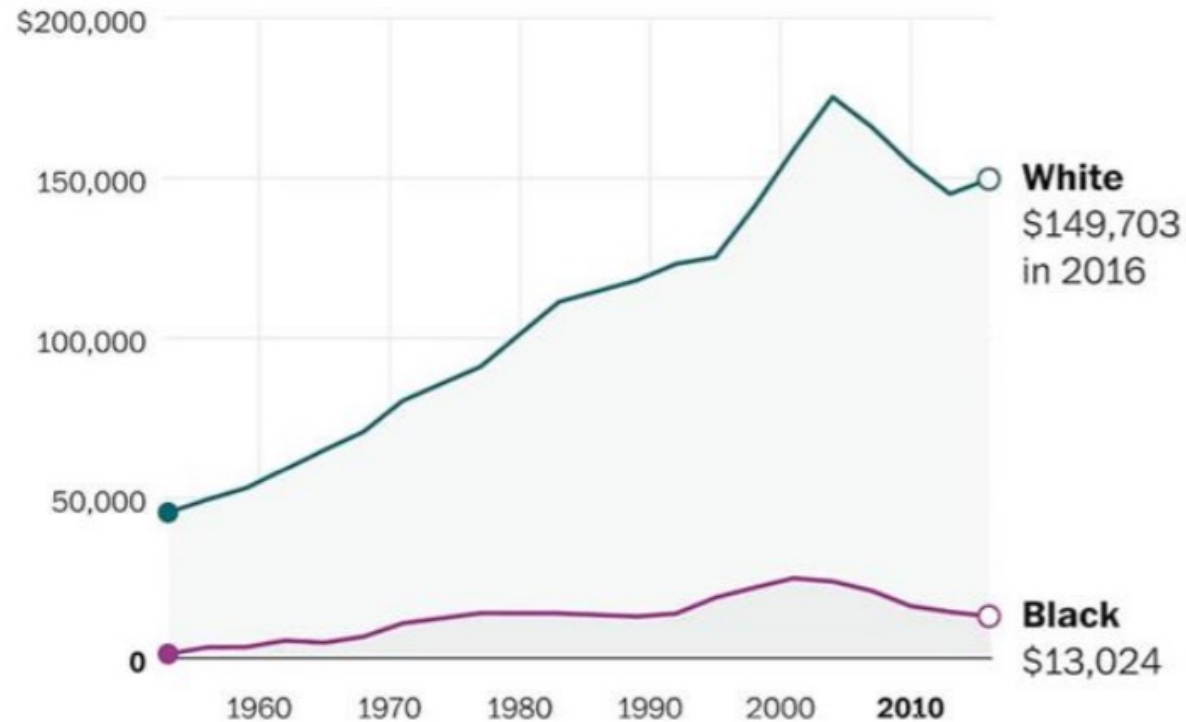
HOLC ← 1930s grades & census tracts
grades ← 1930s grades & census tracts
census tracts ← 1930s grades & census tracts
social vulnerability scores ← 1930s grades & census tracts



Wealth Gap Over Time (National)

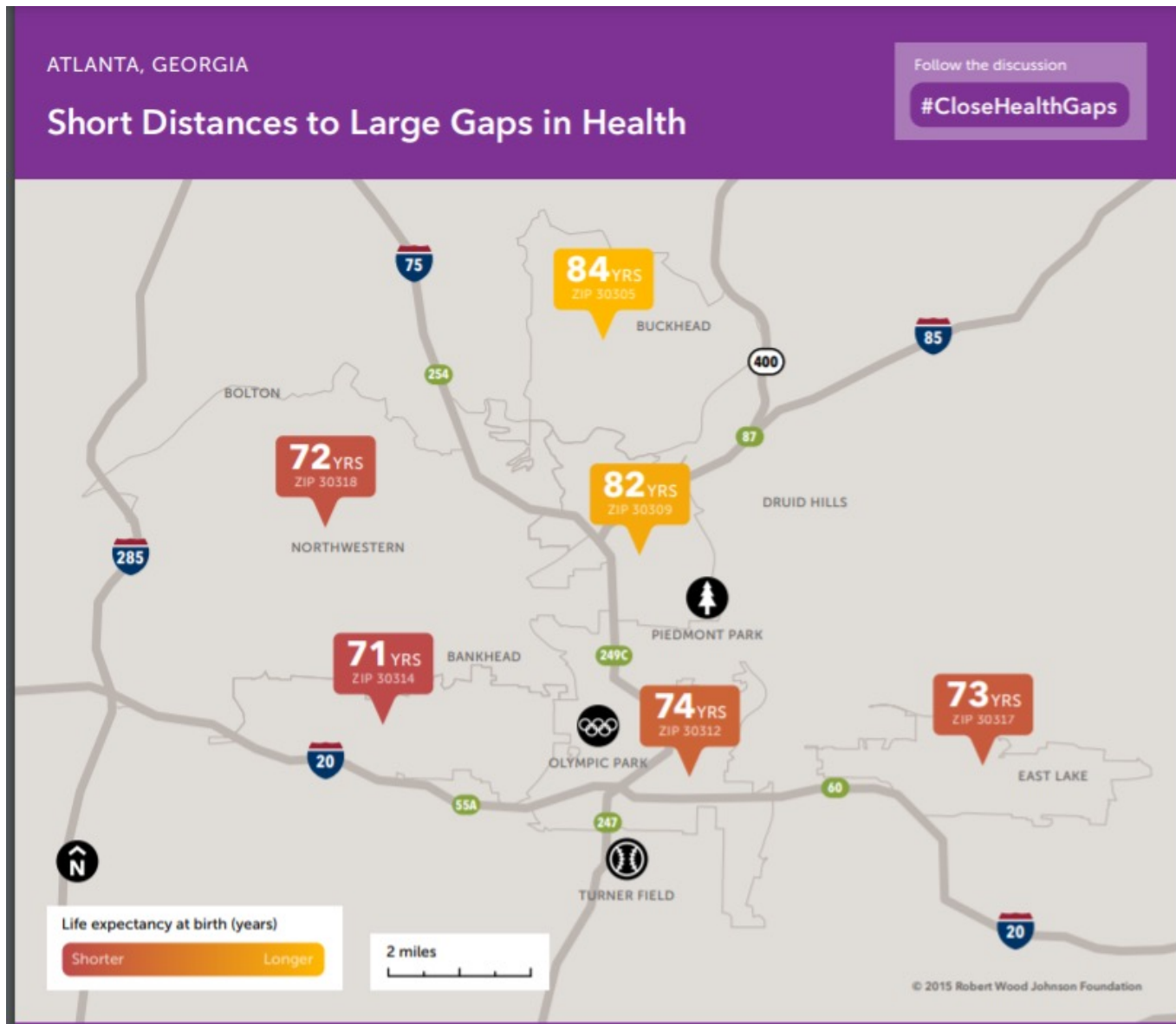
White wealth surges; black wealth stagnates

Median household wealth, adjusted for inflation



Source: Historical Survey of Consumer Finances via Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and University of Bonn economists Moritz Kuhn, Moritz Schularick and Ulrike I. Steins
THE WASHINGTON POST

Redlining and Health Outcomes Today



COVID-19 Compounds Existing Disparities

COVID-19 will reduce life expectancy in 2020 by 1.13 years for white people and 3 to 4 times that for Black and Latinx people—reversing the progress made over the last decade in closing the Black-white life expectancy gap.⁶

Early Warning Signs in Vaccine Distribution and Availability

- Access
- Cost
- Communication / Outreach
- Focus on racial equity in state distribution plans



Unique Moment

The health of our nation will never be secure until we embrace housing as a vital condition for people and communities to thrive and endure the next economic, environmental or health shock.



Administration Priorities COVID-19

THE BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

President Biden will deliver bold action and immediate relief for American families as the country grapples with converging crises. This will include actions to control the COVID-19 pandemic, provide economic relief, tackle climate change, and advance racial equity and civil rights, as well as immediate actions to reform our immigration system and restore America's

Form Approved
OMB Control No. 0920-1303
Expiration Date: 12/31/2020

[FORM] DECLARATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY FOR THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION'S TEMPORARY HALT IN EVICTIONS TO PREVENT FURTHER SPREAD OF COVID-19

This declaration is for tenants, lessees, or residents of residential properties who are covered by the CDC's order temporarily halting residential evictions (not including foreclosures on home mortgages) to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. Under the CDC's order you must provide a copy of this declaration to your landlord, owner of the residential property where you live, or other person who has a right to have you evicted or removed from where you live. Each adult listed on the lease, rental agreement, or housing contract should complete this declaration. Unless the CDC order is extended, changed, or ended, the order prevents you from being evicted or removed from where you are living through December 31, 2020. You are still required to pay rent and follow all the other terms of your lease and rules of the place where you live. You may also still be evicted for reasons other than not paying rent or making a housing payment. This declaration is sworn testimony, meaning that you can be prosecuted, go to jail, or pay a fine if you lie, mislead, or omit important information.

I certify under penalty of perjury, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, that the foregoing are true and correct:

Moving Forward

We should inspire support for systems change fundamentally through:

- Understanding the history and context of the communities we are serving
- Engaging around the vision the community has for itself
- Building agency within the community to work in partnership with cross-sector partners tackling the interconnected issues we are facing

Concepts in Action

- Providence St. Joseph's Health
- Greensboro Housing Coalition
- Health Action Plan, Housing for Health Fund

The Future We Are Working Towards

“My vision of the future is when everyone takes the needs and issues of equity in this country as personal. This is personal work, and **we should not accept a world where zip code is predictive of your health.**”

- Josie Williams, Executive Director,
Greensboro Housing Coalition