

Systemic Discrimination, the Social Determinants of Health, and Health Justice

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Lack of Clean Bathroom Facilities

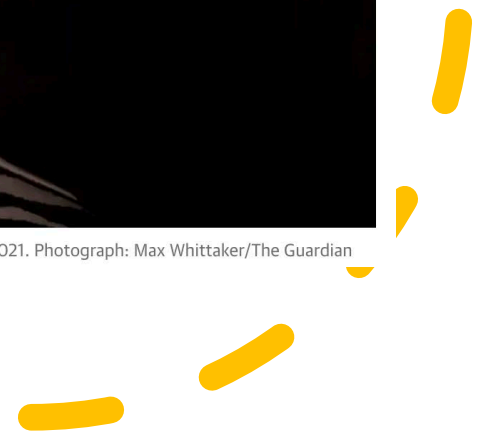


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**Almost half a million US households
lack indoor plumbing: 'The conditions
are inhumane'**



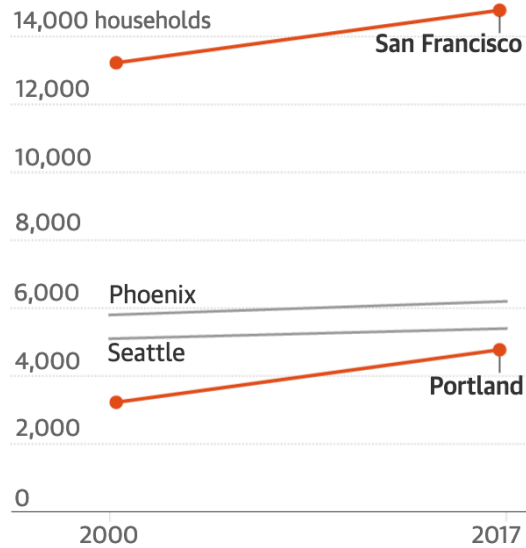
▲ Yan Yu Lin in front of her apartment building, where she struggles with substandard plumbing, in San Francisco's Chinatown on 2 August 2021. Photograph: Max Whittaker/The Guardian



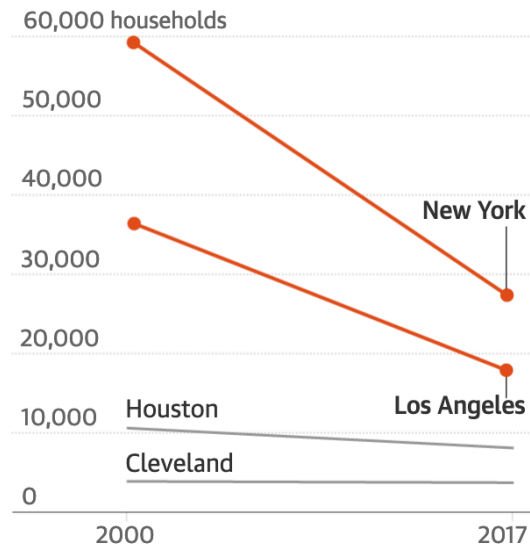
Lack of Plumbing

Changes in access to indoor plumbing across the most affected cities

Cities where **more** households had no piped water access in 2017 than in 2000



Cities where **fewer** households had no piped water access in 2017 than in 2000

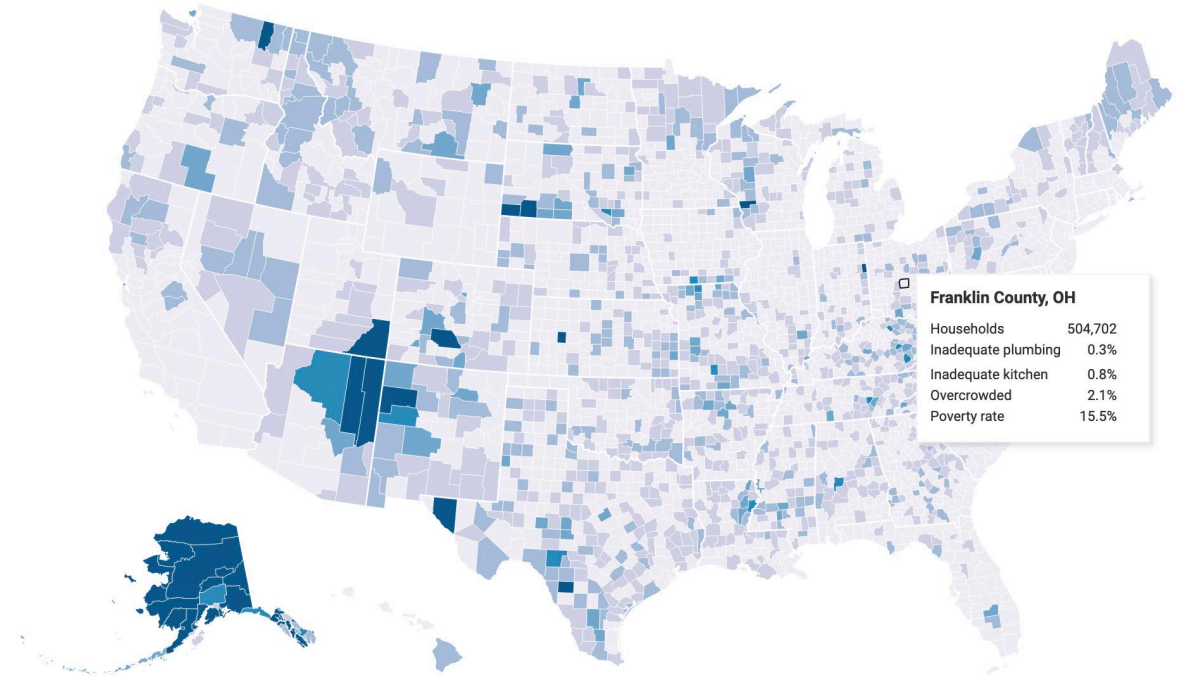


Guardian graphic | Source: Plumbing Poverty in U.S. Cities: A Report on Gaps and Trends in Household Water Access, 2000 to 2017 by Katie Meehan, Jason R Jurjevich, Alison Griswold, Nicholas MJW Chun and Justin Sherrill

Nearly Half A Million American Homes Lack Sufficient Plumbing

Households with inadequate plumbing per 1,000

- <5
- 5-10
- 10-20
- 20-30
- 30-40
- 40+



American homes are considered to lack adequate plumbing if they don't have one or more of the following: piped hot and cold water; a bathtub or shower; or a toilet.

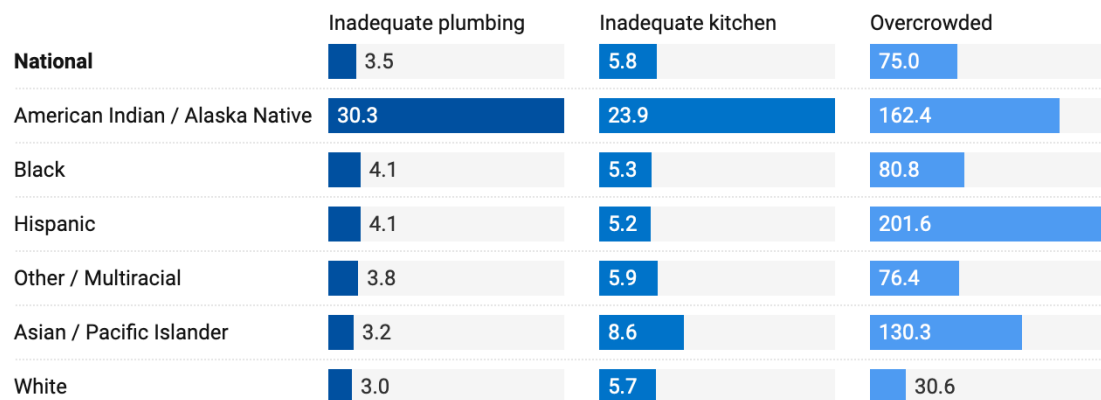
Credit: Hannah Recht/Kaiser Health News

Source: American Community Survey, 2014-2018 • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Lack of Plumbing & Water

Racial Inequities Seen In Substandard Housing

Non-Hispanic whites are least likely to have inadequate plumbing to properly wash hands while stuck at home during the pandemic. They fare better than the national rate in each category. Rates are per 1,000 people.



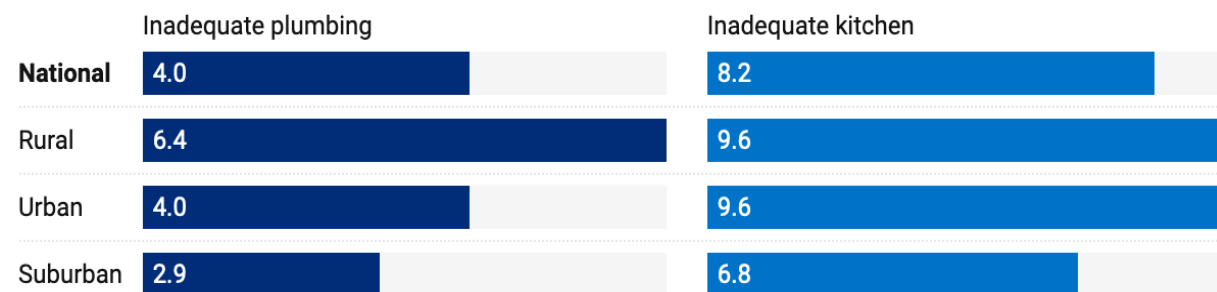
American homes are considered to lack adequate plumbing if they don't have one or more of the following: piped hot and cold water; a bathtub or shower; or a toilet. Kitchens are considered inadequate if they lack a refrigerator, a stove or range, or a sink with a faucet. Homes are considered overcrowded if they have more than one person per room. Hispanics can be of any race or races.

Credit: Liz Lucas and Hannah Recht/Kaiser Health News

Source: IPUMS. American Community Survey 2014–2018 • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Rural Homes Most Likely To Lack Running Water Or Plumbing

Rural homes are more likely to lack running water or adequate plumbing, and insufficient kitchens are even more common. They are also a problem in urban areas. Rates are per 1,000 households.



American homes are considered to lack adequate plumbing if they don't have one or more of the following: piped hot and cold water; a bathtub or shower; or a toilet. Kitchens are considered inadequate if they lack a refrigerator, a stove or range, or a sink with a faucet.

Credit: Liz Lucas and Hannah Recht/Kaiser Health News

Source: Housing Assistance Council, American Community Survey 2013–2017 • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Roadmap

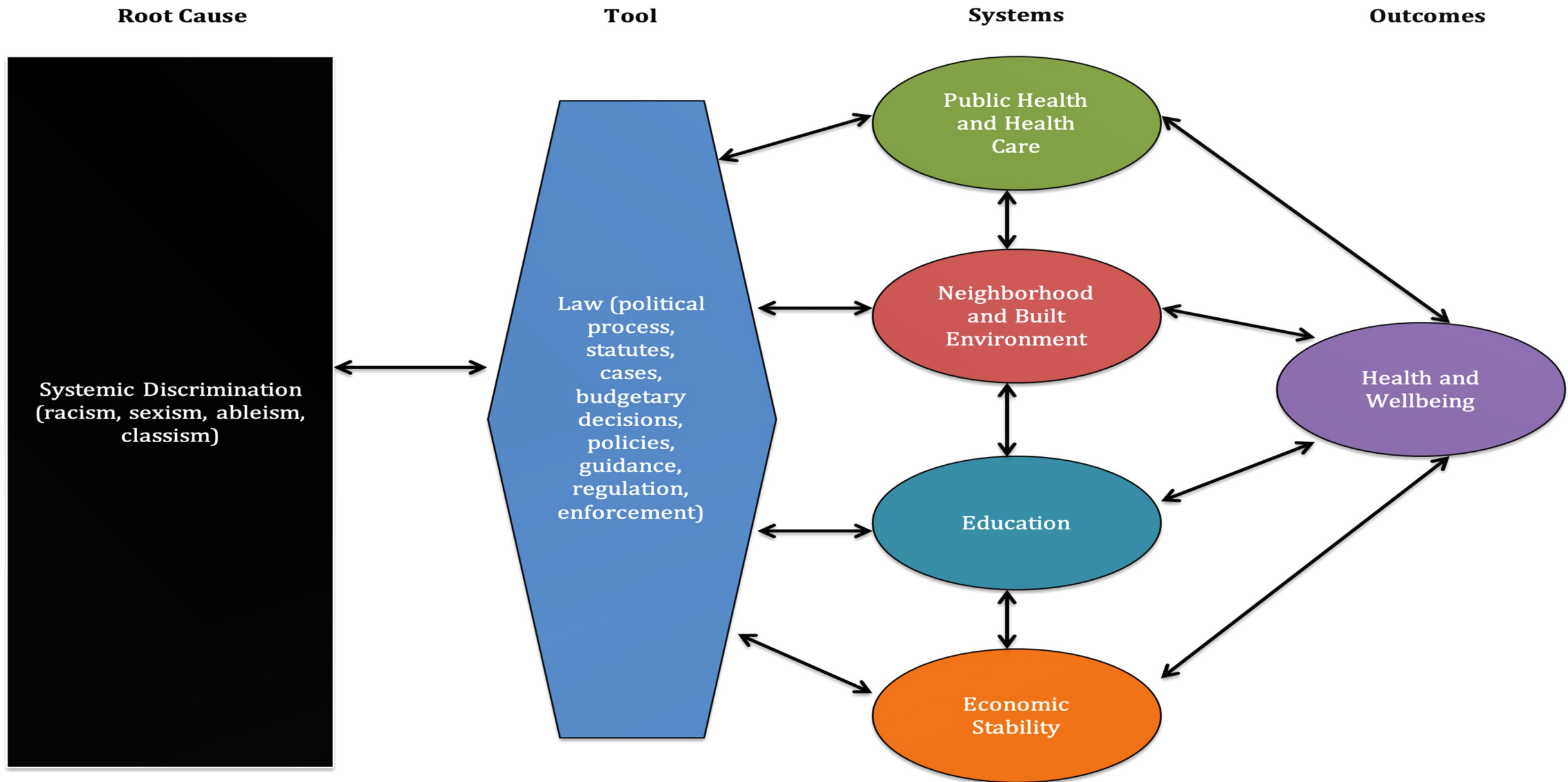
- ❖ **The Social Determinants of Health**
- ❖ **Model & Systemic Discrimination**
- ❖ **Structural Racism & Institutional Racism**
- ❖ **Health Justice**
- ❖ **Additional Readings & Contact Info**

Social Determinants of Health

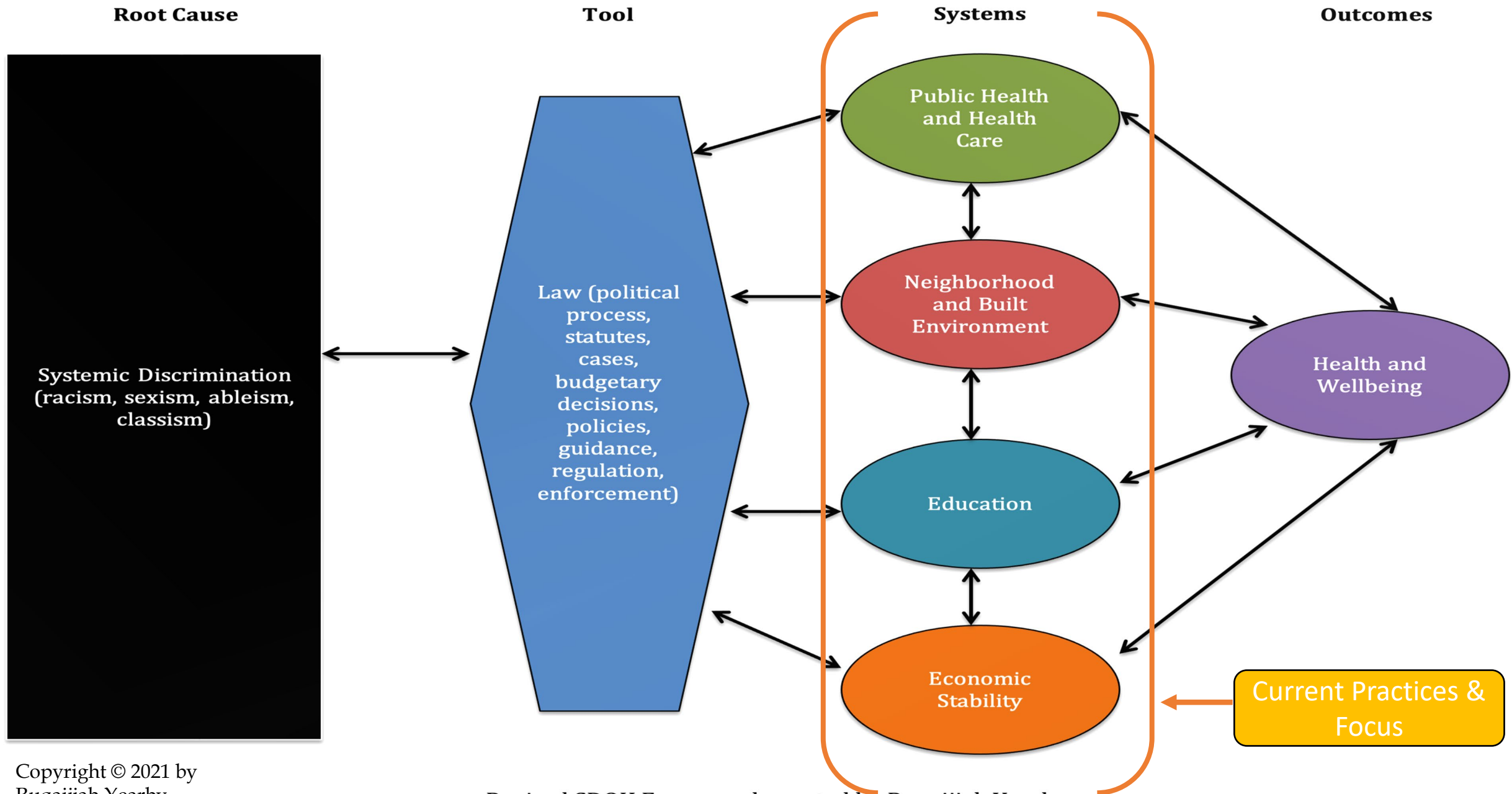
- ❖ Economic Stability
- ❖ Neighborhood and Built Environment
- ❖ Health and Health Care
- ❖ Social and Community Context
- ❖ Education

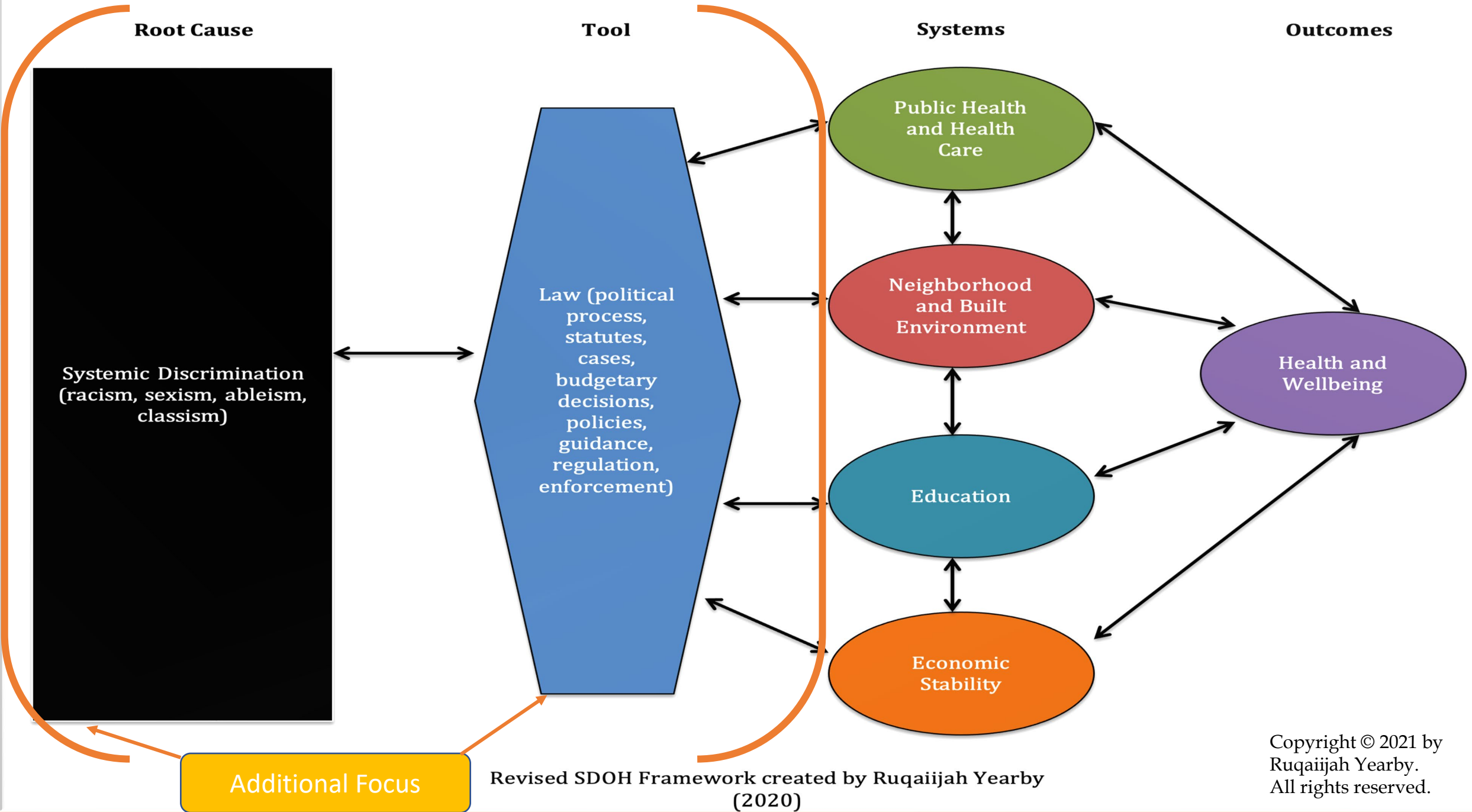
Social Determinants of Health





Revised SDOH Framework created by Ruqaiijah Yearby (2020)





Systemic Discrimination

- ❖ Systemic discrimination refers to a complex array of **social structures**, interpersonal interactions, and beliefs by which a dominant group categorizes people into groups and uses its dominance to **disempower and devalue** other groups and differentially allocate societal resources (Yearby & Mohapatra, 2021; Williams, Lawrence & Davis, 2019; Elias & Feagin, 2016)
- ❖ Discrimination is about *Power* and **does not require bad intent**
- ❖ Includes four different types of discrimination: **intrapersonal**, **interpersonal**, **cultural**, and **structural**

Structural Racism (SR)

❖ The ways that **laws** are used to structure systems (public health and healthcare, neighborhood and built environment, education, and economic stability) to advantage the dominant group and disadvantage racial and ethnic minorities minorities (Yearby, 2020; Yearby & Mohapatra, 2020)

❖ **It does not require bad intent** (Yearby, 2020; Yearby & Mohapatra, 2020)

Lack of Clean Water



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▲ Amanda Larson, who has no running water at her home, carries water for her son Gary Jr to have a bath in the Navajo Nation town of Thoreau in New Mexico last year. Photograph: Mark Ralston/AFP/Getty Images

Lack of Water



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‘There’s no excuse for this’: thousands in Mississippi city still without water weeks after storms

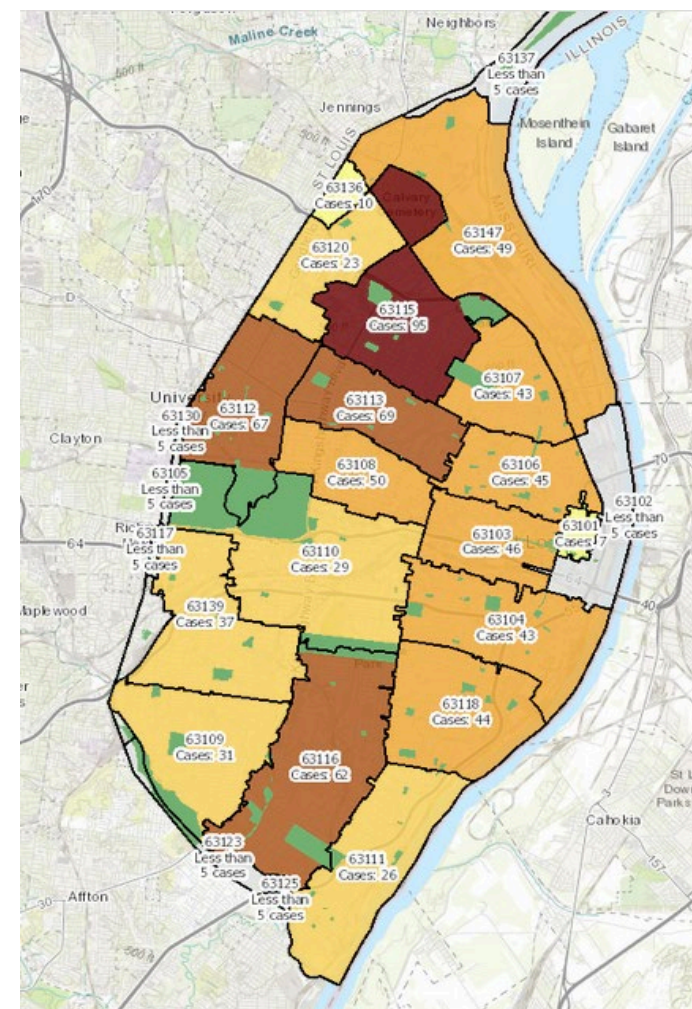
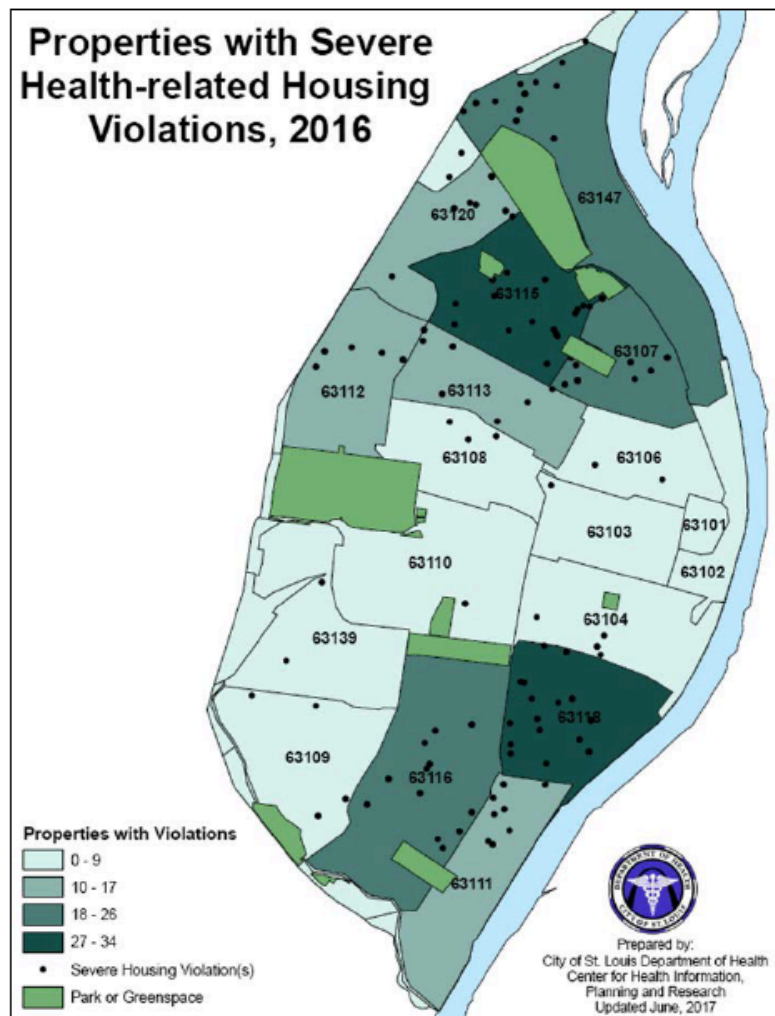
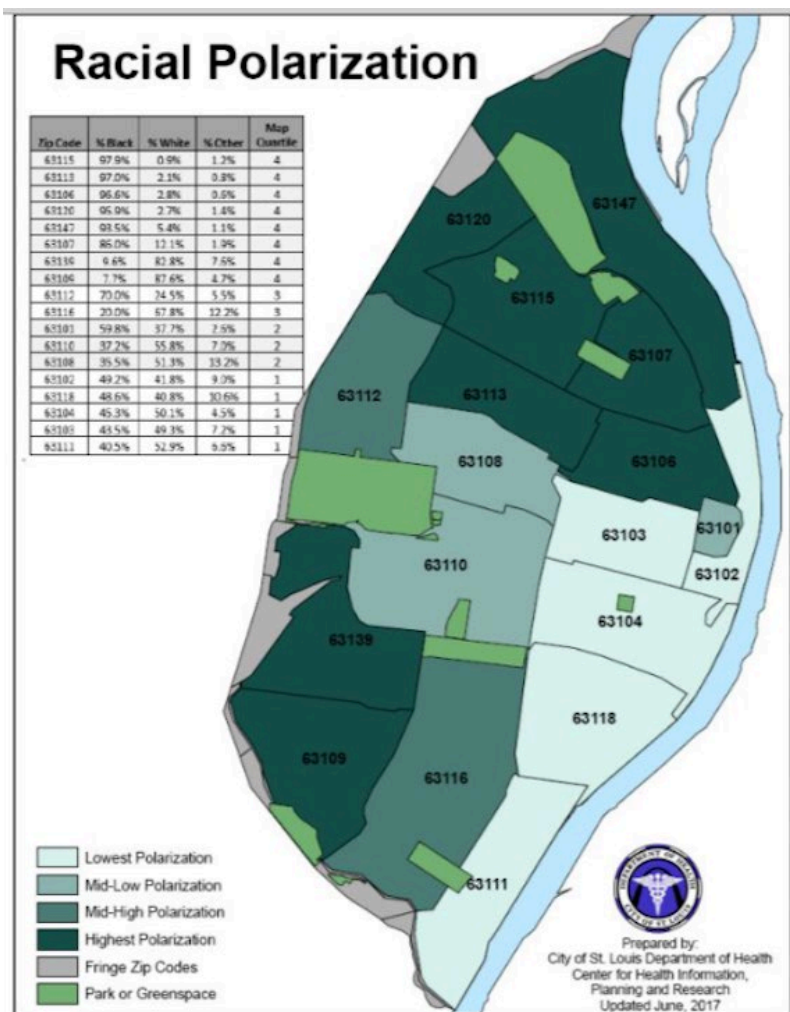


▲ Rodrick Readus carries a reusable water container outside his apartment in Jackson, Mississippi. Photograph: Rory Doyle/The Guardian

SR & Chronic Disease: Residential Segregation

- ❖ Overall residential segregation has decreased in the United States, but as of 2010, some cities like St. Louis City and Boston, MA remain segregated (Massey & Tannen, 2015)
- ❖ Residential segregation is **associated with increased mortality and has been shown to limit** Black people's opportunities to be healthy (Gilbert et al, 2015; Yang & Matthews, 2015; Thorpe et al, 2008; Jones, 2013)
- ❖ Residential segregation has also been **linked to Black persons' higher rates of heart disease, stroke, and blood pressure** (Greer et al, 2014; Kershaw et al, 2017)

Residential Segregation, Lack of Water, and COVID-19 in St. Louis



Institutional Racism (IR)

The ways that organizations work together to create separate and independent barriers through the “**neutral denial**” of equal treatment “that results from the normal operations of the institutions in a society” (Yearby & Mohapatra, 2020)

Employment

- ❖ Gender disparity in **depression and anxiety disorders** when **women earn less than their male counterparts**, which was substantially reduced when women earn more than their male counterparts (Platt, 2016)
- ❖ Experiencing discrimination at work has also been associated with to:
 - **higher job stress and posttraumatic stress symptoms** for African American women (Velez et al, 2018)
 - **problem drinking and substance abuse** in minorities and African American women

Essential Workers

- ❖ More than **55 million** Americans have been labeled as “essential workers” during the COVID-19 pandemic, most worked in the health care (30%) or food and agriculture industry (21%)
- ❖ Research showed that working in the health care, transportation, food preparation, cleaning, and service industries was **strongly associated** with a high risk of contracting COVID-19 and dying.
- ❖ **Blacks disproportionately occupied** the top nine occupations that placed them at high risk for contracting COVID-19 and potentially infecting their households (Rogers, et al, 2020)

IR & Employment Attendance Policies

❖ JBS Greeley, CO plant

- 6 workers died and 290 were infected with COVID-19 in April 2020
- One month after initial outbreak resolve (October 2020), 70 infected with COVID-19 in November 2020
- 7.5 points before COVID-19, 6 points during COVID-19
- Require doctor's note and call into English only attendance hotline

IR & Lack of Workplace Health and Safety Protections



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- ❖ **90%** of all COVID-19 cases in Waterloo, Iowa (Black Hawk County) tied to the Tyson meat processing plant, which is alleged to have:
 - ✓ Required workers to work long hours in cramped conditions, **including those transferred from facilities shut down for COVID-19 outbreaks**; and
 - ✓ Failed to provide appropriate PPEs, sufficient social distancing, or safety measures
- ❖ **Tyson** increased production of meat, pork, chicken, and prepared foods, resulting in a net income of **\$692 million** up from \$369 million in 2019 and expected a revenue of **\$42 billion**

Disparities in COVID-19 infections and deaths

- ❖ Of the 9,919 (61%) cases with racial and ethnic data, **56% of COVID-19 cases** occurred in Latinos, 19% occurred in non-Hispanic Black, 13% in non-Hispanic whites, and 12% in Asians (Waltenberg et al. 2020)
- ❖ Between **6 to 8% of all U.S. COVID-19 cases** in the United States are tied to meat and poultry plants
- ❖ Having a plant in the county was associated with a **51% to 75%** increase in COVID-19 cases and **37% to 50%** increase in deaths.

Health Justice Framework

- ❖ Legal and policy responses must **address** the impacts of the **structural discrimination**, particularly on racial and ethnic minority communities
- ❖ Interventions mandating healthy behaviors must be accompanied by **financial supports and accommodations** to enable compliance and minimize harms
- ❖ Impacted communities, particularly racial and ethnic minority communities, must be **empowered** and **engaged** as leaders in the creation, implementation, and evaluation of any interventions to attain of health equity (Benfer, Mohapatra, Wiley & Yearby, 2020)

Additional Readings

❖ Ruqaiijah Yearby, *Structural Racism and Health Disparities: Reconfiguring the Social Determinants of Health Framework to Include the Root Cause*, 48 J. OF L. MED. & ETHICS 518-526 (2020), <https://doi.org/10.1177/1073110520958876>

❖ Ruqaiijah Yearby, *Internalized Oppression: The Impact of Gender and Racial Bias in Employment on the Health Status of Women of Color*, 49 SETON HALL LAW REV. 1037-1066 (2019), <https://scholarship.shu.edu/shlr/vol49/iss5/3/>

❖ Ruqaiijah Yearby, *Racial Disparities in Health Status and Access to Health Care: The Continuation of Inequality in the United States Due to Structural Racism*, 77 AM. J. ECONOMICS AND SOCIOLOGY 1113-1152 (2018), <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajes.12230>

Additional Readings & Contact Info

❖ **Ruqaiijah Yearby & Seema Mohapatra, *Law, Structural Racism, and the COVID-19 Pandemic*, 7 OXFORD J. OF LAW AND THE BIOSCIENCES 1-20 (May 30, 2020),**

<https://doi.org/10.1093/jlb/ljaa036>

❖ **Emily Benfer, Seema Mohapatra, Lindsay Wiley, and Ruqaiijah Yearby, *Health Justice Strategies to Combat the Pandemic: Eliminating Discrimination, Poverty, and Health Inequalities During and After COVID-19*, 19 YALE J. HEALTH POLICY, LAW, AND ETHICS (2021),**

<https://digitalcommons.law.yale.edu/yjhple/vol19/iss3/3/>

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