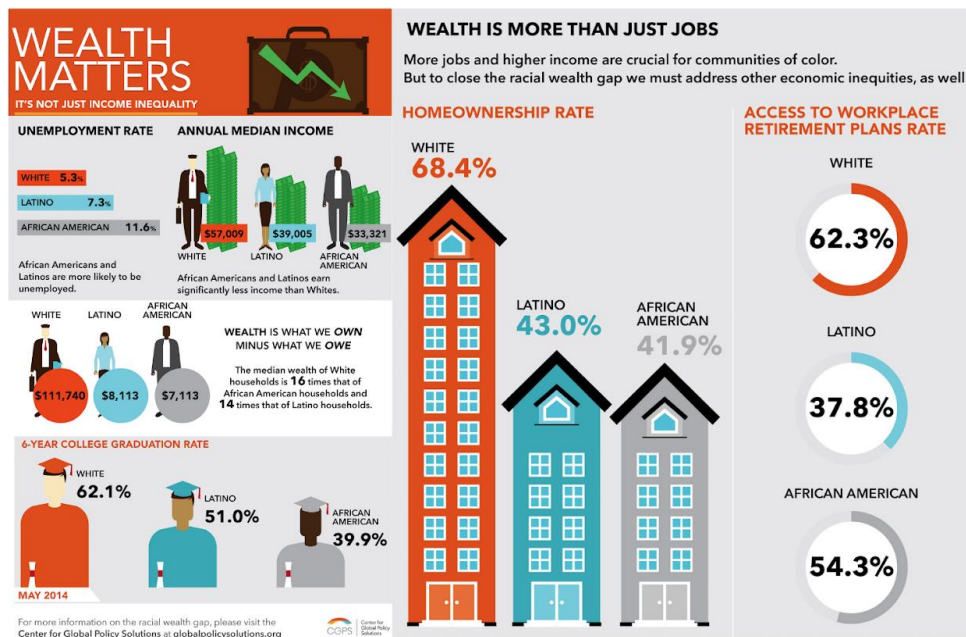


# DAY 12: The Racial Wealth Gap

Ann Arbor is reported to be [the most educated city](#) in the country, but this accolade does not tell the real story of what it is like to live in our County. Residents are leading very different lives: Washtenaw ranks [81<sup>st</sup> of 83 Michigan counties](#) in terms of income inequality, with significant disparities between the top and bottom quintiles of incomes. [Median income](#) for black households is \$36K compared to \$45K for Hispanic and \$68K for White households. As the [income gap](#) continues to grow in America, working households are struggling to meet their daily needs and find it difficult to build wealth through savings, investments, or home ownership.



**Did You Know?** The first episode of [Netflix's Explained series](#) from Vox dives into the Racial Wealth Gap. If you are looking to learn more about this topic, we recommend watching. It just 15 minutes, it is able to [break down an incredibly complex topic](#).

## Today's Challenge:

**Option 1:** Read about [Shonda's journey from financial precarity to stability](#) through a partnership with United Way of Washtenaw County's financial coaches.

**Option 2:** Did you know that Michigan payday lenders disproportionately place their businesses in communities of color, rural areas, and low-income areas? A [2018 report from the Center for Responsible Lending](#) looks into how these businesses are targeting vulnerable customers.

**Option 3:** Explore the UWWC [Data Portal](#) on Financial Stability. We recommend looking at the [Debt in America](#) map to visualize differences in the weight of debt across geographies and between white and non-white residents.

**Option 4:** Hear from Ruth, an immigrant from Honduras, on how the 'toxic stress' of poverty and financial insecurity is impacting her and her children in this [10-minute PBS News Hour special](#)..

**Option 5:** Listen to this [30-minute interview with Dr. Donna Beegle](#) on how she broke the cycle of generational poverty in her family and is now working to help others do the same through the consulting firm she founded.

**Option 6:** Journal on your and your families experiences of work and money. What career do you have? What did your parents have? Do you or they work in a historically segregated industry? If so, how was that segregation maintained? How does that affect your families earning power?

**Share your reflections** on today's topic on social media using the hashtag [#unitedforequity](#) and tag [@uwwashtenaw](#).