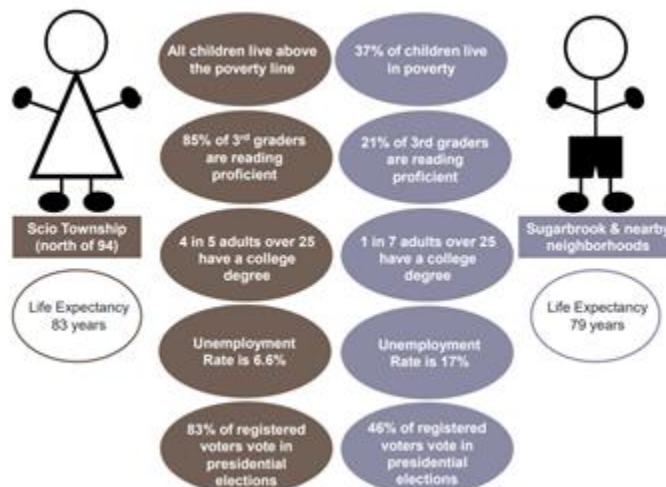


DAY 8: Segregation in Washtenaw County

Institutional Racism is defined as “the systematic distribution of resources, power and opportunity in our society to the benefit of people who are white and the exclusion of people of color.” -- [Solid Ground](#)

When you hear the word segregation, what do you think of? Many of us think back to the Civil Rights Movement. Yet, American cities continue to be highly segregated, and in 2015 Washtenaw County was ranked the [eighth most economically segregated](#) metro area in the United States. Washtenaw County also ranked in the [bottom 8% for upward mobility](#) for children whose parents fall into the bottom 25 percent of earners nationwide.

Present-day racism was built on a long history of racially distributed resources and ideas that shape our view of ourselves and others. It is a hierarchical system that comes with a broad range of policies and institutions that keep it in place. Policies shaped by institutional racism that enforce segregation include redlining, predatory lending, the exclusion of black veterans from the G.I. bill, and the forced segregation of neighborhoods by the Federal Housing Authority. As a result of institutional racism, racial stratification and inequities persist in employment, housing, education, healthcare, government and other sectors. ([Source](#))



Source: Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development

Did You Know? United Way is hosting lunch-hour discussion groups to make connections with others, reflect on what you're experiencing, and explore the questions that are emerging for you. [To learn more and RSVP your attendance click here.](#)

Today's Challenge:

Option 1: Read Concentrate's two-part series on the current state of socioeconomic and racial segregation in Washtenaw County ([Part 1](#)) and what can be done to reintegrate our community ([Part 2](#)).

Option 2: Explore the [Racial Dot Map](#) created by the University of Virginia, which uses colored dots to visualize how racial segregation appears in our communities. We encourage you to zoom into Michigan and Washtenaw County to see how it plays out in our backyard. Read more about the methodology [here](#).

Option 3: Listen to the [Washtenaw United interview with Charo Ledón](#) from Buenos Vecinos and Bridget Healy, UWWC's Director of Community Impact, to learn more about how the Buenos Vecinos collaborative is working to deliver solutions to inequities by growing the Latinx community in Washtenaw.

Option 4: Why are cities still so segregated? Watch this [quick video where NPR's Code Switch](#) looks at the factors contributing to modern day segregation.

Option 5: Fifty years after Martin Luther King's death, our nation is still divided. [Read more from The Economist about how segregation](#) exists today in cities across America and the costly impact it has on the future of our communities.

Option 6: The Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Jan. 20, 2020, marks the 25th anniversary of the day of service that celebrates the Civil Rights leader's life and legacy. Observed each year on the third Monday in January as "a day on, not a day off," [MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service](#) to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. Plan your "day on" by visiting this [list of ways to serve or engage in learning in our community.](#)"

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