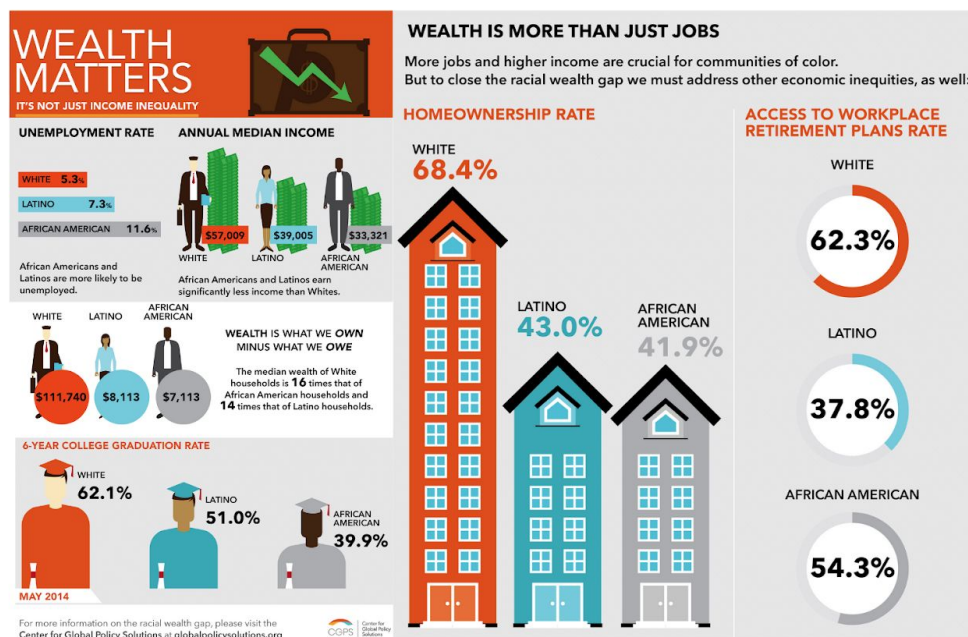


Day 12: The Racial Wealth Gap and Financial Stability

According to the U.S. Federal Reserve, White households have a median net worth that is almost 10X higher than that of Black Households. To create an economy that works for all of us, we need to understand and address the racial wealth gap.

[Prosperity NOW](#) notes only half of Americans realize that there is a wide gap in financial well-being between White households and households of color. Even among those who do recognize the racial economic inequality, there is a widespread misconception that the problem is only based on income. The problem is much deeper than that-- when we consider wealth, the financial capital families need to expand their economic opportunity and agency, the disparity facing households of color grows even larger. 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.



Today's Challenge:

Option 1: Interested in seeing how the disparity developed over our nation's history? Watch Netflix, [The Racial Wealth Gap Explained](#). Reflect on what you watched and acknowledge any new information.

Option 2: Take a look at [Asset Types Held by Race](#), by Jenna Ross, Visual Capitalist. Reflect on the asset types held by the race you identify with and those of other race identity groups.

Option 3: See how your selected city or region is doing on several key equity indicators and how inequity threatens economic prosperity - [National Equity Atlas](#) . Reflect on how you see key indicators showing up in your community and the impact it has on your own economic prosperity. Consider how equitable economic prosperity benefits you. Consider the systemic interconnections; equal distribution of wealth and power leads to greater sense of community, aligned community values, decrease in crime, increase in property values, desirable place to live, work, and grow, fewer gaps to fill, lower taxes, economic prosperity for all.

Option 4: Michigan payday lenders disproportionately place their businesses in communities of color, rural areas, and low-income areas. See this [2018 report from the Center for Responsible Lending](#) which looks into how these businesses are targeting vulnerable customers. Reflect on how many payday lenders are in your community, where they are located, and to whom they market and attract.

Option 5: Journal on your and your families experiences of work and money. What career do you have? What did your parents have? What was the source of their financial stability-- earned income, inherited resources (e.g. a home passed down)? How did that affect your family's earning power?

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