

Where we got this information (and how to learn more)

HELEN'S STORY

Education

In 1950, only 15% of Black women completed high school or attended college, compared to 38% of white women.

National Center for Education Statistics, "120 Years of American Education: A Statistical Portrait," U.S. Department of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, January 1993, pages 18-19.

<https://nces.ed.gov/pubs93/93442.pdf>

Housing

To learn more about redlining and its impact today, see Tracy Jan, "Redlining Was Banned 50 Years Ago. It's Still Hurting Minorities Today," The Washington Post, March 28, 2018.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2018/03/28/redlining-was-banned-50-years-ago-its-still-hurting-minorities-today/>

To see how neighborhoods were classified by redlining in your area, see "Mapping Inequality: Redlining in New Deal America," by researchers at the University of Richmond's Digital Scholarship Lab, Virginia Tech, the University of Maryland, and Johns Hopkins University.

<https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=5/39.1/-94.58>

In many neighborhoods, "race restrictive covenants" in property deeds prohibited people of color from living there. To see examples from the Hartford area, see University of Connecticut Libraries Map and Geographic Information Center (MAGIC), "Race Restrictive Covenants in Property Deeds, Hartford area, circa 1940," 2012, available at

http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/otl/doclink_covenant.html

Employment

In 1960, 60% of employed Black women worked in service jobs, compared to 20.3% of employed white women.

Carol Kleiman, "More Black Women Tied to Low-Wage Jobs," The Chicago Tribune, June 24, 1991.

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-xpm-1991-06-24-9102250930-story.html>

Black women experienced significant employment discrimination in the mid-20th century. In a 1940 survey, more than half of employers said they had a policy against hiring Black women as clerical workers. "Before 1960, it was difficult for a Black woman to get a job as a clerical worker whatever her credentials." In 1960, among women with 12 years of education, less than 20% of Black women had clerical jobs, compared to an estimated 54 percent of white women.

Cecilia A. Conrad, "Racial Trends in Labor Market Access and Wages: Women," in America Becoming: Racial Trends and their Consequences, Volume II, The National Academies Press, 2001.

<https://www.nap.edu/read/9719/chapter/7#125>

Life expectancy

The life expectancy for Black women born in 1935 was 55.2 years, nearly a decade shorter than the life expectancy for a white woman, 65 years.

Laura B. Shrestha, "Life Expectancy in the United States," Congressional Research Service, August 16, 2006, page 25.

https://www.everycrsreport.com/files/20060816_RL32792_8a7c7fa5bfd3890526d12d42c6df39faa5c67cfc.pdf

MARCUS' STORY

Housing

In 1990, 71.5% of white families owned homes, compared to 52% of Black families.

William J. Collins and Robert A. Margo, "Race and Home Ownership, 1900 to 1990," National Bureau of Economic Research, August 1999.

https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w7277/w7277.pdf

In 2020, 74.5% of white families owned homes, compared to 44.1% of Black families.

"Closing the African American Homeownership Gap," PD&R Edge.

<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/pdredge/pdr-edge-featd-article-032221.html>

Education and Debt

Schools located in neighborhoods deemed least desirable by redlining were found to have lower per-pupil funding and lower math and reading scores today compared to school districts in other areas.

Dylan Lukes and Christopher Cleveland, "The Lingering Legacy of Redlining on School Funding, Diversity, and Performance," EdWorkingPaper, 2021.

<https://www.edworkingpapers.com/sites/default/files/ai21-363.pdf>

Black college graduates have nearly \$25,000 more in student loan debt on average than white college graduates, four years after graduation.

Judith Scott-Clayton and Jing Li, "Black-White Disparity in Student Loan Debt More Than Triples After Graduation," Brookings, Oct. 20, 2016.

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/black-white-disparity-in-student-loan-debt-more-than-triples-after-graduation/>

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Wealth

In 2019, the median young Black family had \$600 in wealth, compared to \$25,400 for the median young white family.

Neil Bhutta, Andrew C. Chang, Lisa J. Dettling, and Joanne W. Hsu, "Disparities in Wealth by Race and Ethnicity in the 2019 Survey of Consumer Finances," FEDS Notes, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Sept. 28, 2020.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/econres/notes/feds-notes/disparities-in-wealth-by-race-and-ethnicity-in-the-2019-survey-of-consumer-finances-20200928.htm>

The current racial wealth gap is the consequence of many decades of racial inequality that imposed barriers to wealth accumulation either through explicit prohibition during slavery or unequal treatment after emancipation.

Dionissi Aliprantis and Daniel R. Carroll, "What is Behind the Persistence of the Racial Wealth Gap?" Economic Commentary, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Feb. 28, 2019.

<https://www.clevelandfed.org/newsroom-and-events/publications/economic-commentary/2019-economic-commentaries/ec-201903-what-is-behind-the-persistence-of-the-racial-wealth-gap.aspx>

For more on the relationship between homeownership and generating wealth, see Thomas P. Boehm and Alan M. Schlottmann, "Housing and Wealth Accumulation: Intergenerational Impacts," Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, October 2001. <https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/media/imp/liho01-15.pdf>

Income

Among U.S. households in 2017, the median income for Black households was 40% lower than for white households - \$40,258 for Black households and \$68,145 for white households.

U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1968 to 2018 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/visualizations/2018/demo/p60-263/figure1.pdf>

Health effects of discrimination

Research has linked experiencing discrimination to negative health outcomes, including cardiovascular disease, depression, and anxiety.

David R. Williams, Jourdyn A. Lawrence, Brigitte A. Davis, and Cecilia Vu, "Understanding How Discrimination Can Affect Health," Health Services Review, Oct. 29, 2019.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1475-6773.13222>

Chronic stress from experiences such as routine discrimination can leave people more vulnerable to illness.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, "Discrimination," Healthy People 2020.

<https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-health/interventions-resources/discrimination>

Research shows that Black patients receive less aggressive treatment in medicine than white patients. For example, Black patients received less aggressive treatment for cardiac issues than white patients, including treatments that could prolong survival.

Quinn Capers IV and Zarina Sharalaya, "Racial Disparities in Cardiovascular Care: A Review of Culprits and Potential Solutions," Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities, September 2014, 171-180. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-014-0021-7>

Life expectancy

Marcus's life expectancy is 64.5 years. A white man born the same year would have a life expectancy of 72.7 - nearly eight years longer.

"Life Expectancy at Birth, at Age 65, and at Age 75, by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: United States, Selected years 1900-2016," National Center for Health Statistics, 2017.

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/2017/015.pdf>

LEARN MORE

To learn more about how racism affects health, see "How Racism Makes Us Sick," TEDMED talk by David R. Williams.

https://www.ted.com/talks/david_r_williams_how_racism_makes_us_sick