**History, Part 5**

*Objectives:*

Following completion of this session, learners will be able to:

1. Appraise deficits in the teaching they received on history during their formative years
2. Identify at least two examples of efforts to dismantling systemic racism during the Civil Rights Era
3. Describe at least two examples of roadblocks faced by individuals fighting to dismantle racism during the Civil Rights Era
4. Imagine how experiences with segregation and Jim Crow laws have shaped generational experiences

*Preparatory Work:*

Prior to attending the session, learners have been asked to:

No pre-work

*In Session Facilitator Guide*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Duration** | **Format** | **Activity** | **Materials Required** |
| 5 minutes | Large Group Discussion | Brief welcome and check in with the small group: Any hanging questions or comments from last week?  Ask 1-2 volunteers to share examples they have seen from our last session where a “causes of causes” approach to think about the patient/family did (if they used it) or could have (if they did not) uncovered how SDoH were impacting the patient’s presentation and/or care. Why did (or did not) they use the causes of causes framework?  Set the stage—*We are continuing our journey through history* |  |
| 15-20 minutes | Large Group Powerpoint | (Slide 3) I want to be explicit about the many, many ways that racism is built into our nation’s fabric– where racism was codified (aka made into law). These examples all happened well after the 13th amendment outlawed slavery.  Farming- Pres Johnson revoked “40 acres and a mule”. Many ppl forced to become sharecroppers. Difficult to obtain land. However, in 1920 almost 1 million Black farmers, now <50K which means about 98% of farm ownership is currently in White hands. Estimated conservatively that the value of farmland Black farmers lost between 1910-1970 is worth at least $300 Billion today. This is not just lost wealth, but lost potential wealth and collateral to grow wealth (education, finance bigger land acquisitions, etc). Not granted loans by USDA. Delays in distribution of loans = late preparation of land = late planting = smaller harvests. Then considered a “poor investment” so loan comes smaller and later. Requiring supervised loans for Black farmers.  *Univ Mass- Boston; Land Loss and Reparations Project*  *Episodes 5 & 6 of NYT 1619 Podcast*  *Episode 43 of Scene On Podcast (from “Seeing White” series)*  Mexican Repatriation– informal raids leading to deportation of Mexican immigrants during the Great Depression with the reasoning that the resources and jobs they were using should go to White Americans. Estimated up to 1.8 million people were deported, over half of whom were actually US citizens, many of them born here to 1st gen immigrants. People would be arrested and put on buses, trucks and trains to Mexico. These were not officially sanctioned by the US Government, but President Hoover’s slogan “American jobs for real Americans” denoted approval. Many companies also laid off thousands of Mexican American workers to give the jobs to White Americans. Raids for repatriation took place in public places including HOSPITALS where patients would be removed and dropped off at the border. Current economists note that these ‘repatriation drives’ intended to boost local economies had no such effects, and in fact may have led to further depression of local economies.  *https://www.history.com/news/great-depression-repatriation-drives-mexico-deportation*  1935 Social Security Act part of FDR’s New Deal, explicitly excluded domestic and farmworkers (which was 65% of the African American workforce). Black sharecroppers remained bound to White landowners working for meager wages. No wealth to pass on. Notably, 3yrs later FDR called for all groups to be included and over time these exclusions were changed. Important to remember that for a long time SSA was a major source of income for elderly Americans (and therefore a source of generational wealth)  *The Urban Institute https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/100697/african\_american\_economic\_security\_and\_the\_role\_of\_social\_security.pdf*  *DeWitt, Larry. 2010. “The Decision to Exclude Agricultural and Domestic Workers from the 1935 Social Security Act.” Social Security Bulletin 70 (4): 49–68*  1935 Wagner Act: labor unions legal and have collective bargaining power; unions allowed to strike, picket, and boycott. NAACP did not support– wanted stronger protection (for example, outlawing Jim Crow unions which it did not; removed provision prohibiting racial discrimination). Used by many organizations to EXCLUDE Blacks from joining unions and higher paid labor jobs. Dominant unions at the time discriminated against Blacks, so many did not get to reap the potential benefits of the Wagner Act. Only about 3% of the Black workforce was able to participate in unions protected by this Act.  *https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1997/summer/american-labor-movement.html*  GI Bill- no specific language excluding Black folks, but was written to be administered by states. More Black veterans were dishonorably discharged so could not secure the benefits. Educational equipment only made available to White veterans. Only shown homes in less desirable neighborhoods (less greenspace, infrastructure, etc.) further creating segregation and loss of accrual of wealth through real estate as property values decreased. Direct attacks and even lynching of black vets trying to use these benefits. Could kick someone out of the weekly wages if there was other employment available (even if it was substandard wages) but could do this by choice. VA encouraged vocational training rather than university for Black vets.  [*https://www.history.com/news/gi-bill-black-wwii-veterans-benefits*](https://www.history.com/news/gi-bill-black-wwii-veterans-benefits)  *(Slides 4-5)*  Let’s take a look at how some of these policies have impacted the SDoH of our patients… this is an illustration of racism as a powerful determinant of health. Think back to the “In Sickness and in Wealth” documentary.  Homeownership by age (2019 survey of consumer finances)  Federal Reserve  https://www.federalreserve.gov/econres/notes/feds-notes/disparities-in-wealth-by-race-and-ethnicity-in-the-2019-survey-of-consumer-finances-20200928.htm  We see these trends also for retirement account holdings. Further worsened b/c employer sponsored plans not available to all (not offered, nor not eligible b/c part time, new working, etc.)  Emergency savings the same  “Wealth is the sum of resources available to a household at a point in time; as such it is clearly influenced by the income of a household, but the two are not perfectly correlated. Two households can have the same income, but the household with fewer expenses, or with more accumulated wealth from past income or inheritances, will have more wealth. “  Here you see info from the Brookings Institute and the Federal Reserve showing disparities in WEALTH, not just income  *(Slide 6)* And here you can see that even among Black “top earners,” their WEALTH is still far less than among white top earners. This disparity is seen at every level of income. You can’t even see the teal bar for the bottom 20 percent; the green bar here for White earners is barely visible. SO clearly that is a problem as well. Bottom earners of all races are struggling mightily, AND it is also true that this is even more pronounced for Black low earners. This also doesn’t take into account social capitol– who do you know. White folks who struggle are more likely to have connections to family, friends or community members who can provide support if/when needed, due to this overall differential wealth differential. At the poverty line, knowing someone who can loan you $20 can be the difference between eating, electricity, and shelter.  *(Slides 7-9)*  You might be thinking, “but surely these tides are turning!” We can look straight up at income too (not wealth). Wyoming is the only state where the median household income for Black folks exceeds the median household income for White folks, looking at this 2018 data. Wisconsin, our home state, is the worst in the nation– exceeded only by Washington, DC. In more than 2/3 of states there is greater than a 20% disparity.  Differences in family characteristics – parental marriage rates, education, wealth – and differences in ability explain very little of the black-white intergenerational gap.  In 99% of neighborhoods in the United States, Black boys earn less in adulthood than white boys who grow up in white families with comparable income.  Both Black and white boys from low-poverty areas grow up to have higher incomes than their caregivers, but Black-white gaps are actually larger in lower-poverty neighborhoods.  Within low-poverty areas, Black-white intergenerational gaps are smallest in areas with low levels of racial bias among whites and high rates of father presence among Blacks. Remember, paternal presence is highly related to incarceration rates. Unfortunately, due to codified racism within our justice system, there are huge disparities in incarceration rates between Black and white folks. In the state of WI, one in every 36 Black Wisconsinites is in prison (the worst in the nation). If you want to learn more about these disparities, I suggest reading The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander.  This map shows likelihood of upward mobility– calling to task the notion of success being available for everyone if they work hard enough. In some areas of the country, it is highly unlikely (less than 5 in 100) that someone will be able to become a top earner if they start out in a low earning household. It is worth highlighting the DARK RED in the area where Milwaukee is– our state is again one of the worst nationally, primarily driven by Milwaukee and large segregation there. | *References, which can also be used for further learning are included in italics here* |
| 20-25 min | Large group powerpoints and videos | **Slide 10- VIDEO**  *Slide 11*  Some of the laws codifying racism started to be overturned, thanks primarily to the efforts of Black Civil Rights leaders and protesters. Yet these laws were inconsistently enforced. Efforts at desegregation were seen in Morgan v Virginia and Brown v BOE, but desegregation laws were not enforced or carried out in many Southern states. The ruling in Brown vs BOE gave no guideline as to how, or with what speed, desegregation must be carried out. As an interesting aside, during Brown vs BOE, Thurgood Marshall– who would later become the first Black US Supreme Court Justice– served as head attorney for the plaintiff on this case.  Emmett Till: 14yo teen from Chicago, spending time in Mississippi, was lynched after reportedly whistling at, or flirting with, a white woman. His murderers were acquitted by an all-white jury. We will hear more about Emmett Till’s story a little later.  Little Rock Nine: You may remember this historical event from your primary school history lessons. Nine Black students were sent to integrate an all-white school. The governor of Arkansas had sent the national guard in to prevent integration of Central High, and there were many civilian protestors barring safe access for the children as well. There was such an uproar that it required Eisenhower (after much pressure and equivocation, he himself not actually in agreement with the Brown vs BOE decision) to send in the 101st airborne to escort the students, and Eisenhower also had to federalize the national guard. The students faced significant discrimination– including refusal of teachers to teach them– once in the school that persisted. *(you can learn more in Warriors Don’t Cry by Melba Pattillo Beals)*  Rosa Parks- This story was often told as a ‘little old lady who had worked hard all day and was tired of being on her feet.’ She was not old (only 42yo). And she was tired– tired of racism. This was an intentional protest. Rosa Parks was a Civil Rights advocate long before this event and had even worked for the NAACP.  And nearly 15 years after Morgan v Virginia, segregation on public transportation was still occurring, deemed again unlawful in the Boynton v Virginia ruling  A brief nod to the Freedom Riders here– The Freedom Riders were groups of multiracial civil rights activists who participated in bus trips through the South as a protest to segregation in bus terminals and to test the enforcement of Boynton v Virginia. The riders faced threat of extreme violence, including a ride in May when local authorities gave permission to the KKK to strike against the freedom riders; this event escalated into fire bombing of the bus and a series of attacks from which the police provided no protection to the riders.  **SLIDE 12- VIDEO (trigger warning, hard to listen to esp for those who have faced medical discrimination based on their race, in their lives or those of their loved ones, leading to harm)**  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3XX3Pi2QMQ> – The Moth’s The Freedom Riders and Me (Barbara Collins Bowie) (11:47)  **SLIDE 13- MUSIC (audio only)**  Jazz Ambassadors program: Cold War era program sending ‘cultural exchanges’ to various nations in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and the Middle East to spread goodwill about the US and alleviate negative messaging around rising racial tensions in the United States. Ambassadors included musicians such as Dizzy Gillespie and Louis Armstrong. A number of participants (such as Armstrong) were highly conflicted in participating in such a program given the current racist practices prevalent in the US.  Armstrong famously (and defiantly) included the Fats Waller song “Black and Blue” for the president of Ghana, while playing there outside of the official auspices of the Jazz Ambassadors program, who was brought to tears.  (pic– Louis Armstrong playing for his wife on a Jazz Ambassadors tour)  PLAY MUSIC here or from phone through speakers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHLTI2cMCQk> (run time 3:05)  *Slide 14*  The Civil Rights Era continued with the 1963 March on Washington, and finally, the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act.  Loving v VA was a landmark Supreme Court ruling that laws banning interracial marriage are unconstitutional under the 14th Amendment; the arguments were grounded in understanding that these laws, designed in large part to prevent interracial procreation that could muddy the waters of who was ‘white’ enough, upheld the completely bogus concept of eugenics and perpetuated white supremacy ideals. It should also be noted that these laws were designed to keep whiteness in power– you may recall from your childhood the Disney story of Pocahontas and John Smith. The story as it’s presented is untrue; Pocahontas and John Smith were not even their real names. And there was no love story. But they did have children, so when laws regarding how land could be passed down, and who could own land, were created with a focus on “not a drop” of blood that wasn’t white, John Smith (actually named John Rolfe) and colleagues specifically wrote into this exceptions for HIS descendants. This highlights that even at the time men in power had an inkling that there really weren’t true differences between races that made some less fit to lead, own land, or hold power; it was a completely constructed idea with the rules bent to fit their interests. But I digress– Loving vs VA arguments really pushed back against this ‘race as biological difference’ concept. And, this case has had ongoing implications for many other civil rights related legal arguments, from discussions on immigration bans and arguments in support of gay marriage which was not legalized until 2015.  \*relationship to concept of **intersectionality** which we will talk more about later– but it is important to keep in mind that we cannot fight one oppression without fighting them all. In fact, many of the legal advances in rights for blacks since the reconstruction really paved the way for rights among other oppressed groups. Another example would be voting rights-- 1870 was the 15th Amendment (black men given right to vote, though many barriers to exercising this right still exist); 1920 this right was granted to women with some connected arguments. The women’s suffrage movement and the abolitionist movement were frequently intertwined throughout history.  For more check out: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/true-story-pocahontas-180962649/>  <https://www.sceneonradio.org/episode-34-on-crazy-we-built-a-nation-seeing-white-part-4/> | Tee up videos and music |
| *10 min* | *If time permits; if not, open with these for next session* | ***SLIDES 15-16 (VIDEO)***  *Here are some stories of lived experiences. Think about what it means to hear these stories as a patient, how these are similar to or different from the stories shared in your family, and how these stories being part of a family’s generational history can impact health. Let’s remember, this wasn’t that long ago!*  [*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFXM18X5Eeo*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFXM18X5Eeo) *– StoryCorps’ A woman who grew up in the Jim Crow South remembers one night on a rural road (Francine Anderson) (3:05)*  [*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9iYErDBXLMw*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9iYErDBXLMw) *– StoryCorps’ Dr Weaver remembers integrating his high school football team in Knoxville, Tennessee* |  |