The Fierce Urgency of Now
Key Features of Racial/Ethnic Inequities in the U.S.

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Issue 1

Racial Gaps in Economic Status are Persistent
A national disgrace!
Median Household Income and Race, 2015

For every dollar of income whites have

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 dollar</th>
<th>1.23 dollar</th>
<th>72 cents</th>
<th>62 cents*</th>
<th>59 cents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>Asians</td>
<td>Hispanics</td>
<td>AI/ANs</td>
<td>Blacks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

U.S. Census Bureau: Proctor, Semega, Kollar, 2016; *2013, Native Her. Month, 2014
Childhood Poverty and Race, 2016
Percent

- Black: 30.8%
- Native American: 33.8%
- Asian American: 11.1%
- Hispanic: 26.6%
- White: 10.8%

Am Comm Survey, 2015-2016; Economic Policy Institute, 2017
Median Wealth and Race, 2011

For every dollar of wealth that Whites have, 

- Asians have 81 cents
- Blacks have only 6 cents
- Latinos have only 7 cents

U.S. Census Bureau, 2014
Early Childhood Problems are not equally Distributed in the Population
New Study: Who is at Risk?

- 95,677 children, birth to 17 years
- >1,800 per state
- 9 adverse child and family experiences
- How they vary by race/ethnicity, income level and immigration history

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adverse child and family experiences</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Survey of Children’s Health, 2011-2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Death of a parent</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent served time in jail</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic violence witness</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lived with someone who was mentally ill or suicidal</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victim or witness of neighborhood violence</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lived with one with a drug/alcohol problem</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorce/parental separation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial hardship</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
% of children with ≥ 2 adversities

Children in native-born families

- White
  - Poor: 48%
  - Nearly poor: 32%
  - Middle income: 17%
  - High income: 8%

Children in immigrant families

- White
  - Poor: 33%
  - Nearly poor: 13%
  - Middle income: 16%
  - High income: 8%
Summary of findings

Greater exposure to adversity is present among:

1. Black and Hispanic children compared to White children
2. Poor children compared to wealthier children
3. Children of US-born parents compared to children of immigrants, despite more financial strain in immigrant families
4. Poor white children compared to other poor children

Child Poverty Rate


1. Iceland
2. Finland
3. Cyprus
4. Netherlands
5. Norway
10. Czech Republic
15. Malta
20. New Zealand
22. United Kingdom
24. Canada
25. Poland
28. Lithuania
29. Italy
30. Greece
31. Spain
32. Bulgaria
33. Latvia
34. USA
35. Romania

Child Poverty Rate

Improving health and reducing disparities are not the same thing
Obesity in Adolescents

Headline: Good News! We are making Progress!

• Obesity in 12-17-yr olds, 1990 to 2010

• Obesity increased in teens from 1988 to 2004,
• but was stable from 2004 to 2010

Frederick, Snellman, Putnam PNAS Jan 2014
Obesity in Adolescents

Headline: Good News! We are making Progress!

- Obesity in 12-17-yr olds, 1990 to 2010
- Obesity increased in teens from 1988 to 2004, but was stable from 2004 to 2009
- However…..
- Adolescent obesity declined for children of parents with college degree or more education
- But obesity continued to increase for children of parents with a high school education or less
- Caloric intake declining for all but steeper for high SES
- Physical activity increased for high SES but stable or declining for low SES

Frederick, Snellman, Putnam PNAS Jan 2014
Our Challenge
We need to better identify how to develop interventions that improve the health of the disadvantaged more rapidly than the rest of the population so that we can narrow disparities in health.