

# 400 Years of Inequality a Public Health Perspective to Eliminate Racial Disparities





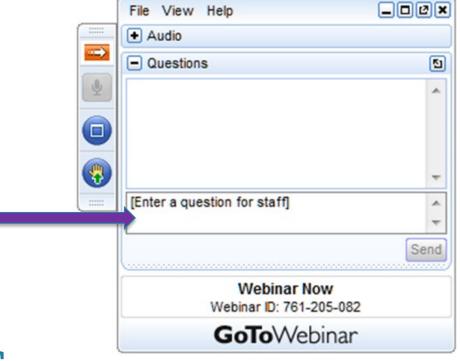
### Agenda

- Learning Objectives & Introductions: Dr. Diane Marie St. George
- **2** Presentation: Dr. Thomas LaVeist
- 3 Presentation: Dr. Robert Fullilove
- 4 Q&A

## Method for Submitting Questions/Comments

#### Join the Conversation...

- You can ask questions in writing anytime during the webinar.
- Simply type them in the "Questions" field on the right side of your screen.







Moderator

Diane Marie St. George, PhD

Associate Professor, MPH Program Director, University of Maryland School of Medicine Chair, ASPPH Diversity and Inclusion Committee

### **Learning Objectives**

- Assess how historical federal government policies, beginning with chattel slavery, have produced inequality in the United States.
- Describe the connection between the 13th amendment and current practices and policies around mass incarceration.
- Describe how health is impacted by social factors such as discrimination, specifically focusing on incarceration in the US.



Thomas LaVeist, PhD

Dean and Professor

Tulane University School of Public Health

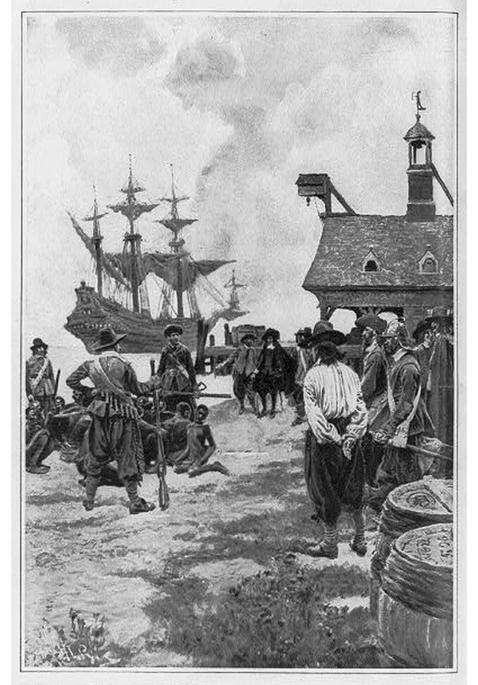
and Tropical Medicine

## Wyatt's Legacy: How we got here









LANDING NEGROES AT JAMESTOWN FROM DUTCH MAN-OF-WAR, 1619



#### **John Punch**

1640 – Jamestown, Virginia Colony

John ran away with two white servants.





The two white servants got years added to their indentures.

John got a life sentence of slavery.

This strongly implies that being African was being used in determining the sentence, since his was different for the same crime.

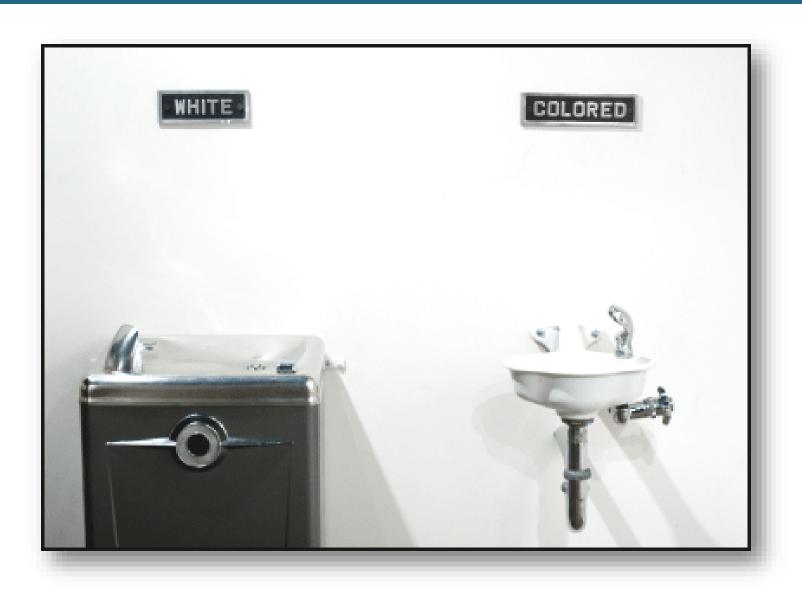
Return to map

# "...serve his said master or his assigns for the time of his natural life here or elsewhere"

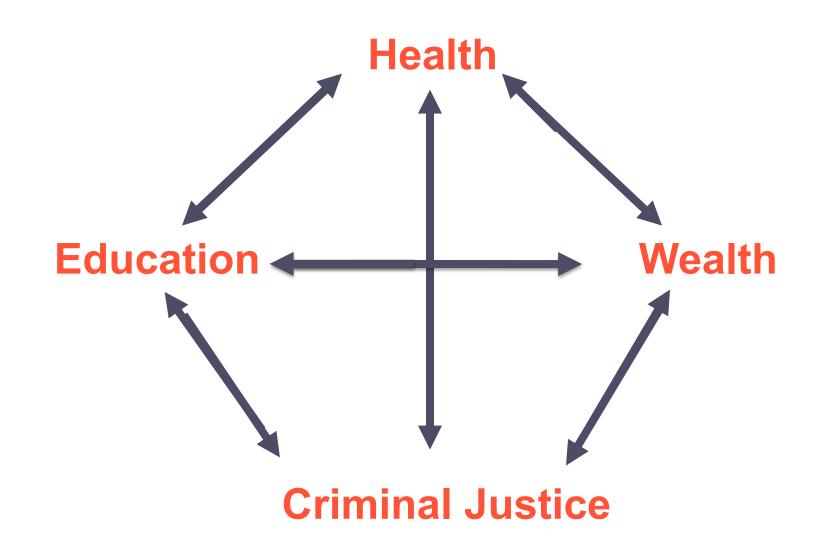
## The Evolution of Slave Laws

- 1662 (Va.) Child's status was determined by mother's status, biracial children could be slaves.
- 1670 (Va.) All non-Christians servants arriving by ship were slaves-for-life.
- 1674 (NY) Blacks who converted to Christianity after enslavement would not be freed.
- 1790 (USA) Naturalization Act reserved citizenship for whites only.

## **Separate and Unequal**



### The 4 Great Race Disparities



# Racial Wealth Inequality

- 1862 Homestead Act
- 1933 Homeowners Loan Corporation
- 1935 Social Security Act
- 1944 Serviceman's Readjustment Act ("GI Bill")

# 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the USA Constitution

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.



## Racial Wealth Inequality

- 1862 Homestead Act
- 1933 Homeowners Loan Corporation
- 1935 Social Security Act
- 1944 Serviceman's Readjustment Act ("GI Bill")

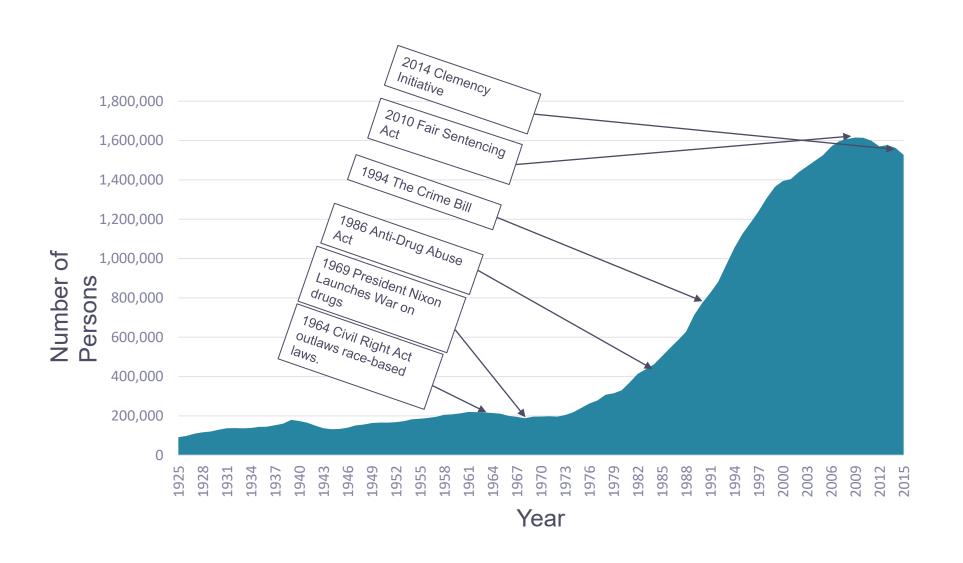
# Racial Educational Inequality

- 1862 Morrill Act
- 1890 Morrill Act
- 1896 Plessey v. Ferguson
- 1954 Brown v. Board

## Racial Criminal Justice Inequality

- 1969 War on Drugs
- 1970 Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act
- 1986 Anti-drug Abuse Act
- 1988 Anti-drug Abuse Act
- 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act ("The Crime Bill")
- 2010 Fair Sentencing Act
- 2014 Clemency Initiative

#### U.S. State & Federal Prison Population, 1925-2015



## Thank You



Robert Fullilove, EdD
Associate Dean, Community and Minority Affairs
Columbia University Mailman
School of Public Health

# 400 Years of Inequality: The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment and Mass Incarceration

## Transcript of 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Abolition of Slavery (1865)

#### **AMENDMENT XIII**

#### Section 1.

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

#### Section 2.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation. Passed by Congress January 31, 1865. Ratified December 6, 1865.

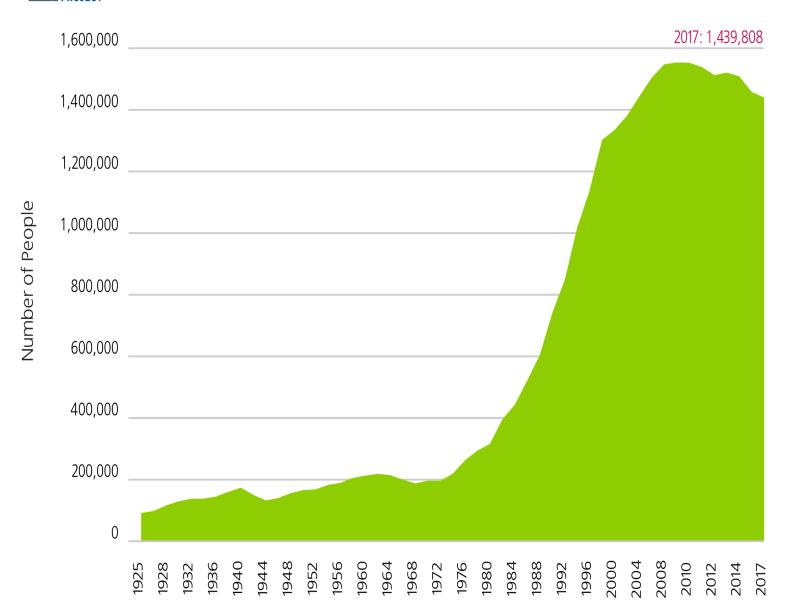
## Chain gang: Mississippi circa 1900



## **Modern Chain Gang**



#### U.S. State and Federal Prison Population, 1925-2017



### Racial Disparities in Incarceration

• 38% of people in state or federal prisons were black, 35% were white, and 21% were Hispanic in 2011.

• 1 in every 13 black males ages 30 to 34 was in prison in 2011, as were 1 in 36 Hispanic males and 1 in 90 white males in the same age group. Sentencing Project 2016

## Racial Disparities in US prisons

- Nationwide, as of 2010, 3% of all adults and 10% of African Americans were currently or previously doing time in prison
- Rates vary by state, ranging from 1% of the African American adults in Maine to 12% of such adults in California

## The Burden of Felony Convictions

- Nationwide, approximately 8% of all adults in the US had a current or past felony conviction
- By contrast, in 2010, 23% of African American adults had such a conviction with 33% of all African American males living with the consequences of a felony record

## The Burden of Felony Convictions [2]

- Depending on the state, between 1 in 10 and 1 in 3 African
   American adults are confronting the daily reality of:
  - limited citizenship rights
  - diminished job prospects
  - limited education/training opportunities
  - significant stigmatization

### Incarceration's Back Door: Community Supervision

 The number of formerly incarcerated persons living in disadvantaged, "inner-city communities" has increased fivefold since 1980

• Fully 68 percent of all persons under "correctional supervision" are now supervised at home.

### The overall impact is astounding

Approximately 19.8 million people in the US have a felony conviction

 100 million US residents are estimated to have a criminal record, that is some official documentation of engagement with the police, the courts, or both

### **Poverty, Crime and Punishment**

- Pettit and Western (2004) argue that:
  - High crime rates in poor communities explain high rates of police surveillance in these places
  - "Although crime rates may explain as much as 80% of the racial disparities in imprisonment...
  - A large residual of racial disparity in imprisonment thus appears to be due to the differential treatment of African Americans by police and the courts"

### **Carceral Citizenship**

• "Carceral citizenship is a novel *social arrangement* produced by crime control practices born in the era of mass incarceration and its community analogue, mass supervision" Miller and Alexander (2013)

### Mass Incarceration as a Neighborhood Phenomenon

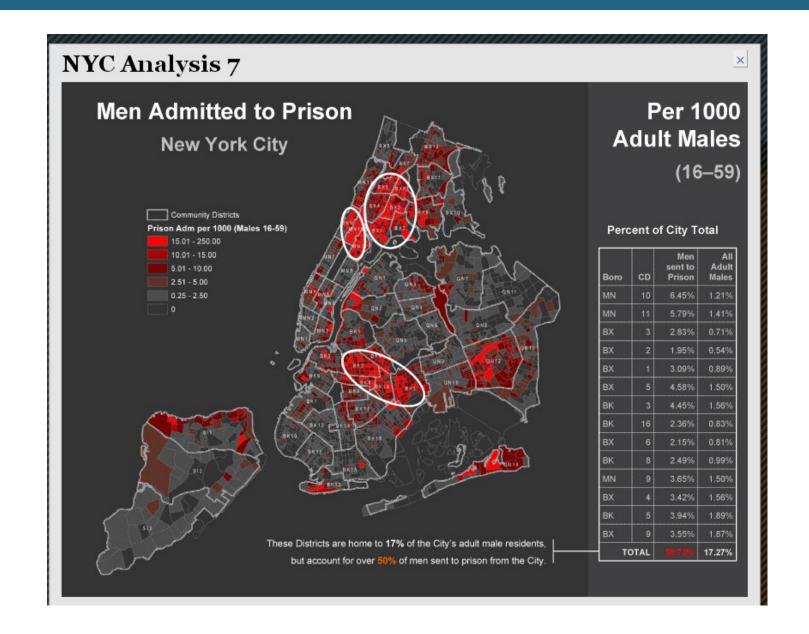
 Community Loss Index: a measure of "the chronic exposure by neighborhood residents to multiple resource losses."

(Abramovitz and Albrecht, 2013)

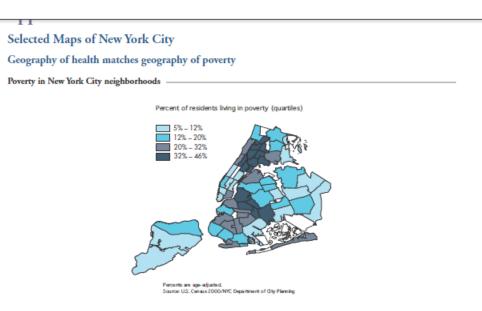
### Mass Incarceration as a Neighborhood Phenomenon [2]

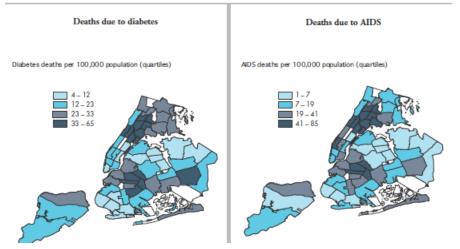
- In the 1990s, as the HIV epidemic was experiencing rapid growth in New York City, the prison population grew as well
- 7 neighborhoods in New York City were the home origins for 74% of the New York STATE prison population
- Those 7 neighborhoods had some of the highest HIV infection rates in the nation

### The Justice Mapping Center Million Dollar Blocks: NYC



### **Health Disparities in New York City**





### What's Missing Here?

The answer is "agency"

 Such statistics encourage the view that both incarcerated persons and the communities from which they are taken are victims

 The possibility to become an actor with some agency here should not be underestimated

### **Bard Prison Initiative**

Established in 1999

Offers AA and BA degrees for those in 6 NY State prisons

 By 2019, Bard granted nearly 550 degrees to BPI participants and enrolled more than 500 students per year in college classes

### **BPI and Public Health**

 BPI offers a concentration in public health for men at Woodbourne, Fishkill, and Taconic State Correctional Facilities in New York State

 Objective: to train students to enter entry level jobs as community health workers

## Gov. Cuomo's Bold Step on Prison Education [NY Times 2/8/14]

- While the state struggles with an overall recidivism rate of 40 percent, only 4 percent of prisoners enrolled in the Bard program and 2.5 percent of those who completed a degree returned to prison.
- Results like these would seem hard to dispute, but several Republican <u>legislators</u> are opposing Mr. Cuomo's plan, calling it a "<u>slap in the face</u>" to law-abiding New Yorkers.

## Mailman Student Journeys from Incarceration to a Master's Degree in Public Health

 When Richard Gamarra was 16, a gun fell out of his backpack during class at a Catholic high school in Queens and he was arrested.

• It was the beginning of a 12-year journey in and out of prison that ultimately led to Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health, where he will earn a master's degree this month.

# Richard Gamarra Will Receive a Master's Degree from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. NEW YORK DAILY NEWS



### **Credible Messengers**

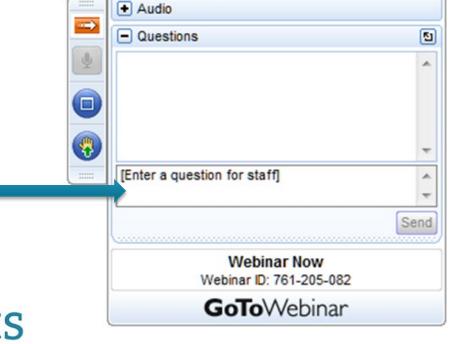
- Programs such as the Bard Prison Initiative (BPI) present unique opportunities for combatting health disparities
- BPI graduates demonstrate that they are powerful change agents when armed with the tools of public health advocacy, community building, and successful program development

## Thank You

### Method for Submitting Questions/Comments

#### Join the Conversation...

- You can ask questions in writing anytime during the webinar.
- Simply type them in the "Questions" field on the right side of your screen.



File View Help



### **Additional Resources**

- 400 Years of Inequality Led by Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health <a href="http://www.400yearsofinequality.org/">http://www.400yearsofinequality.org/</a>
- 1619 Project The New York Times https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/1619america-slavery.html
- Four Hundred Years Since Jamestown: An AJPH Dossier American Journal of Public Health (AJPH), October 2019 Issue <a href="https://ajph.aphapublications.org/toc/ajph/109/10">https://ajph.aphapublications.org/toc/ajph/109/10</a>

## 2020 ASPPH ANNUAL MEETING

# SAVE THE DATES

**MARCH 18-20, 2020** 

CRYSTAL GATEWAY MARRIOTT, ARLINGTON, VA

Public Health and Global Health Education
SUMMIT

18 MARCH

### **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**



HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY REPORT: 10 YEARS LATER

**DR. JULIO FRENK**President, University of Miami

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY MUST BE CENTRAL TO PUBLIC HEALTH

SIR MICHAEL MARMOT Director of the Institute of Health Equity, University College London



https://www.aspph.org/event/2020annualmeeting/

https://www.aspph.org/event/2020ugphsummit/

### **Thank You Attendees!**

This webinar has been recorded and will be available on the webinar event page on the ASPPH website soon:

https://www.aspph.org/event/aspphpresents-webinar-400-years-of-inequalitya-public-health-perspective-to-eliminateracial-disparities/ FOUR

Contact: bbrickman@aspph.org

