



LRJ Presents

FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**Let's Talk About Why Advocacy
for Education Equality Matters**



HOW IS STRUCTURAL RACISM REPRESENTED IN OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM?

Structural racism refers to "the **historical and ongoing** racial discrimination and segregation of African Americans/blacks in particular, which is typically instigated or sanctioned by government...it **creates inequality in every aspect of life.**" -ERASE Racism NY



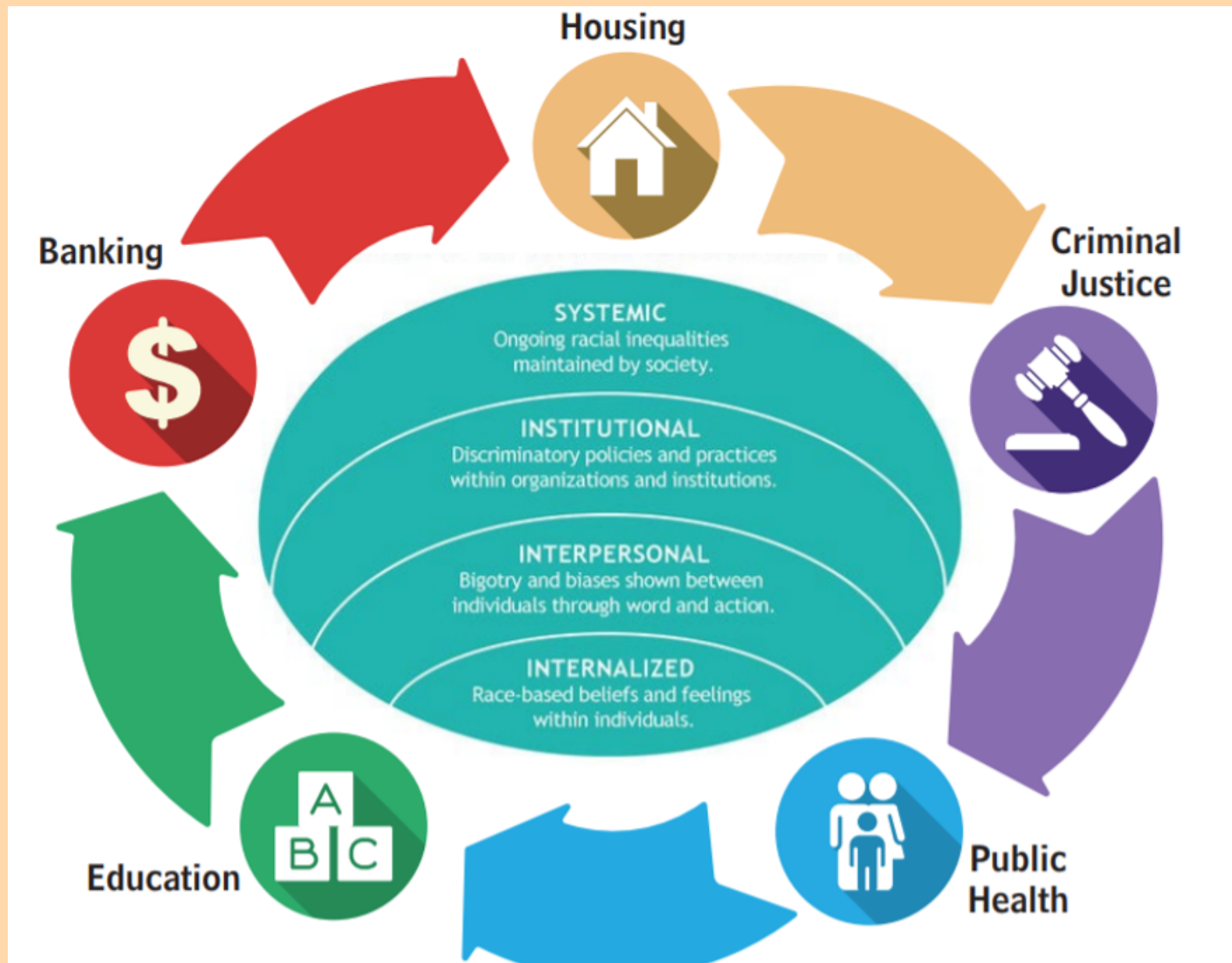
HOW IS STRUCTURAL RACISM REPRESENTED IN OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM?

"Because of this structure, Black children are **far more likely to encounter adverse childhood experiences**, also known as ACEs. Research has shown that adults with several ACEs are **more likely to face mental and physical health issues** later in life than their peers with fewer or no ACEs."

-Madeline St. Amour, 2020



HOW IT CONNECTS: THE CYCLE



CREDIT: ELIJAH MICKELSON



SOURCE: [FRANK PORTER GRAHAM CHILD DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE](#)



HOW IS THE SYSTEM BIASED?

WHERE DO THE GAPS EXIST?

- socioeconomic level
- access to medical resources
- access to academic resources
- opportunity for economic mobility
- access to mental health care
- access to AP and honors courses
- equal representation
- bias in judicial decisions and police investigations
- job inequality

....and many more areas

WHAT CAN WE DO?

HOW DO WE OFFER SUPPORT IN SCHOOLS?

- creating opportunities for more black educators and mental health counselors on campuses
- assuring that hired counselors are culturally competent and trained in trauma-based care
- educating young students on systemic racism



EDUCATING YOUNG STUDENTS ABOUT THIS CYCLE: WHY IT MATTERS

Kevin Clay, an assistant professor of education at Virginia Commonwealth University:

"Black kids in poor schools have very little understanding of the **history of social policy positions that have led to Black poverty.**"

"You see Black youth who typically **blame themselves and blame their communities.** They think about poverty as this one-to-one effect of hard work."

"In his research, Clay has seen many **Black students blame themselves if they realize they were underprepared for college,** and that can contribute to mental health issues."

-Madeline St. Amour, 2020



THE TOLL OF BEING AN ADVOCATE: THE IMPACT

"Students of color who engage in activism and leadership frequently sideline their own mental health needs to focus on the fight for racial justice on their campuses. They have less time and emotional bandwidth to dedicate to typical student experiences, such as creating and maintaining personal relationships and a social life, performing academically and navigating what is likely their first time living away from home."

-Greta Anderson, 2020



THE TOLL OF BEING AN ADVOCATE: THE IMPACT

"Black student leaders noted that **the amount of stress they endure and the time-consuming nature of activist work -- plus the racist incidents that inspire this work -- can cause students to fall behind in their studies** or can become so emotionally burdensome that they drop out."

-Greta Anderson, 2020



WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

National Alliance on Mental Illness, nami.org

Inside Higher Ed, insidehighered.com

Mental Health America, mhanational.org

ERASE Racism NY, eraseracismny.org

The Education Trust, edtrust.org

Check out LRJ's other posts on our website!

