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### OVERVIEW OF RACIAL DISPARITY IN HOMELESS POPULATION

- Black persons make up 13% of U.S. population, 26% of population living in poverty.
  - > 40% of the population experiencing homelessness.
  - True across all subgroups: youth, families, single adults. (Jones, 2016, SPARC 3/18)
  - Black/white disparity may be even greater (SPARC 3/18)
  - American Indian/Alaska Native population also very overrepresented in homeless pop. (SPARC 3/18)
  - Yet African Americans and other minority groups are UNDERREPRESENTED in homeless Services workforce, leadership. (SPARC 3/18)

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### WHY ARE AFRICAN AMERICANS/BLACK AMERICANS OVERREPRESENTED AMONG HOMELESS POPULATIONS?

- (Carter, 2011): PUSH + PULL FACTORS
- Hypothesis 1: Racial segregation of housing may limit access to quality affordable housing for black Americans.
- Hypothesis 2: More homeless shelters are located in black communities and "pull people out of inadequate substandard housing into homelessness"

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### GI BILL, RACE, AND THE MIDDLE CLASS

- 16 million returning WWII Vets
- GI Bill (1944) – free higher education, cheap mortgages, loans for qualified veterans.
- Lifts millions out of poverty – creation of U.S. middle class.
- But far fewer black veterans can go to college (segregation of higher education, lacked access to high school before war)
- Black vets born in South no gain from GI bill (Turner and Bound, 2002)
- Widens racial economic and housing gap.



Photo:  
U. S. Dept. of Labor website

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### NORTHERN URBAN SEGREGATION, 1950-PRESENT

- Many African Americans and other minorities are left out of trend toward homeownership (1950-2008)
- Why? Structural/institutional & individual racism pose barriers to good job, good credit, mortgage– redlining, discrimination in employment, criminal justice system.
- Creation of “inner city” – Many members of minority groups relegated to dilapidated rental housing. No incentive for landlords to maintain. Urban renewal displacement.
- Creates racially disparate vulnerability to homelessness.

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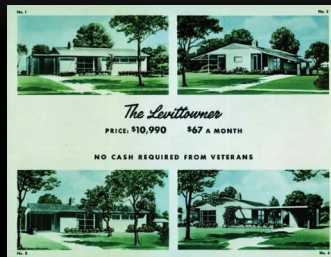
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### CREATING WHITE SUBURBIA



- Racially restrictive covenants keep black veterans and other black families out of suburbs.
- Lack of access to education, good jobs keeps many African Americans from participating in “affluent society” of ‘50s and ‘60s.

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### PATHWAYS IN AND OUT OF HOMELESSNESS MAY DIFFER BY RACE/GENDER/VET STATUS

- Socioeconomic disadvantage + racial discrimination may be the largest precursors of homelessness for minorities than whites; serious mental illness + family problems are more likely precursors of homelessness for whites than minorities. (Jones, 2016)
- But structural, family and behavioral factors may combine to create the "perfect storm" leading to homelessness for persons of color. (SPARC, 2018).
- Black veterans are at higher risk of homelessness than non-black veterans, are more likely than white veterans to benefit from caseworkers in HUD-VASH rehousing programs. (Patterson, Nochajski, & Wu, 2014).
- American Indian/Alaska Natives > likely to exit shelter, housing programs into homelessness than other groups. (SPARC, 3/18).

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