



United Way of  
the National Capital Area

# Regional Housing Inequity

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# The Ratio of Black/White Wealth

- 1880       $1/36$
- 1890       $1/26$
- 1900       $1/23$
- 1910       $1/16$

Source: Robert Higgs, *Competition and Coercion: Blacks in the American economy, 1865-1914*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1977.

# ECONOMIC HISTORY AND THE WEALTH GAP

- **Wage Loss**

  - Wages from Enslavement Withheld

  - Wages During Jim Crow/Sharecropping/Artificially Depressed

  - Contemporary Wage Loss That Has Roots In Enslavement

- **Inability to Accumulate**

  - Economic Envy

  - Tulsa, 1921

  - Land Grabs 1890-1940

- **Inability to Participate**

  - A/A were often excluded from periods of economic expansion

    - Homestead Act of 1862 only included citizens (Amended Act included A/A)

    - Between 1862 and 1924 – 1.6million were included 270million acres 10% of all continental US land

    - 75 million acres of Native American Land

# ECONOMIC HISTORY AND THE WEALTH GAP

- **1890 – 1925 Growth**

Progressive Legislation, child labor, mines, income taxes

Economic Expansion driven by electricity

- **1945 -1973 Postwar prosperity**

GI Bill excludes Black GIs (servicemen)

Housing boom, suburban housing boom

Military/Space Spending

- **Need to Repair Faulty Public Policy**

Minimum Wage Law Exclusion

FHA Underwriting Manual

Urban Renewal/Highway Construction/Destruction of Communities



# National Capital Data

Demographic Data: National Capital Area

| Area                   | <u>County</u><br><u>Unemployment Rate</u><br><u>(Bureau of Labor</u><br><u>Statistics 2018)</u> | <u>ALICE Population*</u> | <u>Poverty Level</u><br><u>(National Average</u><br><u>12.3% - Census**)</u> | <u>White</u> | <u>Black</u> | <u>Hispanic</u> | <u>Asian</u> |
|------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                        |   |                          |  |              |              |                 |              |
| Alexandria             | 2.2%  | 23%                      | 9%   | 52.0%        | 21.6%        | 16.1%           | 6.5%         |
| Arlington              | 2.0%  | 18%                      | 7%   | 62.0%        | 8.6%         | 15.1%           | 10.0%        |
| Fairfax County         | 2.4%  | 22%                      | 6%   | 52.3%        | 9.5%         | 15.7%           | 18.5%        |
| Falls Church           | 2.1%  | 25%                      | 3%   | 72.1%        | 5.5%         | 9.8%            | 9.1%         |
| Loudoun County         | 2.4%  | 20%                      | 4%   | 58.6%        | 7.3%         | 12.9%           | 16.7%        |
| Prince William County  | 2.6%  | 30%                      | 7%   | 45.5%        | 20.6%        | 21.1%           | 7.9%         |
| Montgomery County      | 3.2%  | 27%                      | 7%   | 45.9%        | 17.8%        | 18.0%           | 14.6%        |
| Prince George's County | 4.1%  | 35%                      | 8%   | 13.6%        | 63.5%        | 15.8%           | 4.2%         |
| Washington DC          | 5.6%  |                          | 16.6%  | 37.0%        | 45.0%        | 11.0%           | 4.3%         |

| <u>Unemployment Rate***</u> | <u>National</u> | <u>Maryland</u> | <u>Virginia</u> | <u>Washington DC</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| African American            | 7.2%            | 6.8%            | 5.4%            | 12.9%                |
| White                       | 3.3%            | 2.4%            | 2.8%            | 1.5%                 |

\*2016 Point in Time Data

\*\*<https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty.html>

\*\*\*<https://wamu.org/story/18/05/18/d-c-s-black-unemployment-rate-remains-among-highest-country/>



# Regional Housing Stats

|                      | Total | White alone | Black alone | Asian alone | Some other race alone | Two or more races | Hispanic | White alone, not Hispanic |
|----------------------|-------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| District of Columbia | 40.8  | 47.2        | 38.8        | 24.5        | 20.0                  | 29.6              | 24.2     | 48.5                      |
| Maryland             | 67.7  | 75.4        | 51.3        | 60.5        | 43.6                  | 50.9              | 48.0     | 75.8                      |
| Virginia             | 68.1  | 73.5        | 51.1        | 57.0        | 37.2                  | 47.7              | 44.3     | 74.0                      |
|                      |       |             |             |             |                       |                   |          |                           |



# Homeownership by Race/Ethnicity 2015-2018

| 2018<br>Third Quarter | United States | Non-Hispanic<br>White Alone | Black Alone | All Other Races Total | All Other Races (Asian,<br>Native Hawaiian and<br>Pacific Islander Alone) | Hispanic<br>(of any race) |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|
|                       | 64.4          | 73.1                        | 41.7        | 56.6                  | 58.2  | 46.3                      |

U.S. Census Bureau

# What can the Region Do? Go Bold!

- Recognize the role history has played, which may mean one-sized investment standards don't work.
- Focus on programs that advance the economic interests of minority people.
- Programs such as:
  - Financial Literacy~ Business Incubation ~ Business Development ~ Educational Assistance
- Ask the question: Does this investment improve or worsen racial economic equity?
- Does it increase or decrease the income & wealth gap?