



# Framing Racially Disaggregated Data for Housing Policy

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Research to Action Lab

# About the Urban Institute

- The Urban Institute is the trusted source for unbiased, authoritative insights that inform consequential choices about **the well-being of people and places** in the United States. We are a nonprofit research organization that believes decisions shaped by facts, rather than ideology, have the power to improve public policy and practice, strengthen communities, and transform people's lives for the better.

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**OUR MISSION IS TO OPEN MINDS,  
SHAPE DECISIONS, AND OFFER  
SOLUTIONS THROUGH ECONOMIC  
AND SOCIAL POLICY RESEARCH.**

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# Why housing?

**Learned and lived expertise shows:**

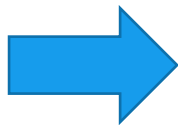
**Housing is central to life opportunities and outcomes.**



# Housing problems are life problems.

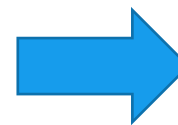
## Short-term outcomes

- Less savings
- Financial insecurity
- Residential churning
- Eviction filing or judgment
- Homelessness
- Labor-market instability
- Unhealthy neighborhood
- Less spending on kids' education
- Less access to well-funded public schools
- Less family time
- Exposure to health hazards



## Indirect outcomes

- Lower educational attainment for self and children
- Worse mental and behavioral health
- Missed medical care
- Reduced sense of belonging and autonomy
- Harassment or arrest for homelessness crimes
- Reduced future housing options



## Lifetime outcomes

- Lower lifetime earnings
- Lower retirement assets
- Higher health costs
- Shorter lifespan

# Pressure to Sell: Gentrification as “Reverse Blockbusting”

EQUITABLE PLACES

December 02, 2020 / Research Summary

A case study of predominantly Black neighborhoods in Nashville, Tennessee, explores whether home sellers ultimately benefit from gentrification.



EQUITABLE PLACES

## Are Subsidized Housing Residents More Vulnerable and More Exposed to Extreme Heat?

November 18, 2020 / Research Summary



STABILITY & OPPORTUNITY

## The Many Meanings of “Aging in Place”

November 04, 2020 / Research Summary

# Framing Disaggregated Data



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## Applying a Racial Equity Lens to Housing Policy Analysis

August 05, 2020

[Gabriella Velasco](#), [Martha Fedorowicz](#)



# The importance of racially-disaggregated data

- Disaggregated data helps **articulate the need for varying investments across scales united under a common goal of racial equity** (and what racial equity looks like for a particular community)

# The importance of framing

- Equity-focused public policy work extends beyond the mere inclusion of racially disaggregated data. Meaningful work in this space requires **significant power shifts** and **critical reevaluations** of racist assumptions and systems.

*“Disaggregated data that is shared within a robust racial equity frame, **acknowledging and fully engaging with historic, structural, and systemic drivers of inequitable outcomes**, is essential to ensure that policymakers are equipped with the context necessary to develop antiracist interventions that redress harm and promote equitable outcomes for all impacted by a specific policy issue.”*

**What do you miss when racially disaggregated data and structural racism framings aren't a part of your work?**

# Eviction

# Socioeconomic Mobility + Housing

# Education + Housing

# Health + Housing



# Housing Assistance

# Tools and Strategies

## Framing

- Qualitative and ethnographic research alongside quantitative disaggregation
- Critical histories
- Be specific

## Implementing

- Community ownership of data
- Shift decisionmaking power through community boards/comittees
- Fund and cede space to organizers who have long been doing this work
- Regulatory teeth



## Urban Institute: The Racial Equity Analytics Lab (REAL)

- Delivers data for decisionmaking
- Identifies patterns of structural racism
- Cultivates collaboration and continuous learning

# Key Takeaways

- Rigorous, clear data is an essential tool to build coalitions for racial equity in housing
- Disaggregating data is one (important) step, but must be bolstered by structural framings and plans for tangible power shifts
- Invest in critical qualitative research on a community's specific history and present of racism in housing and land use before taking further steps to develop policy or plans
- Allow room for flexibility and creativity in creating an analytical approach to racial equity that fits the unique nature of communities

**Please feel free to reach out with any further questions**



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**Thank you!**