

LOOKING AT INSTITUTIONAL AND STRUCTURAL RACISM THROUGH VINCENTIAN LENS



Society of St. Vincent de Paul
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE USA

OPENING PRAYER

Mary, friend and mother to all, through your Son,
God has found a way to unite himself to every human being,
called to be one people, sisters and brothers to each other.

We ask for your help in calling on your Son, seeking forgiveness for the times
when we have failed to love and respect one another. We ask for your help in
obtaining from your Son the grace we need to overcome the evil of racism and
to build a just society.

We ask for your help in following your Son, so that prejudice and animosity will
no longer infect our minds or hearts but will be replaced with a love that
respects the dignity of each person. Mother of the Church, the Spirit of your
Son Jesus warms our hearts: pray for us.

Amen.



GROUND RULES

- Keep it theological, not political
- Listen to understand, not listen to reply
- No one second speaks a time, until everyone has a chance to speak for a first time
- Do not interrupt any other speakers
- Address the topic, not another speaker
 - Correct: "I agree this position because etc."
 - Not: "I disagree with Steve"



- **“The roots of racism have extended deeply into the soil of our society.** Racism can only end if we contend with the policies and institutional barriers that perpetuate and preserve the inequality – economic and social – that we still see all around us. With renewed vigor, we call on the members of the Body of Christ to join others in advocating and promoting policies at all levels that will combat racism and its effects in our civic and social institutions.”



AS DEFINED

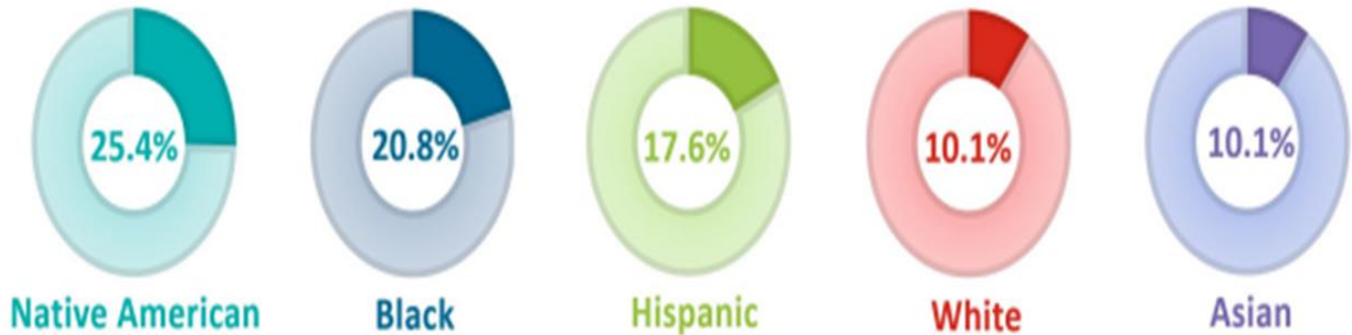
Individual racism is when persons “believe themselves to be superior to others because of the color of their skin or their ethnic background” (Open Wide Our Hearts).

Institutional racism is when resources, power, and opportunities are distributed such that certain groups (i.e., in the U.S., those who are white) benefit, and others (i.e., in the U.S., people of color) are excluded. Examples of institutional racism in the criminal justice and education systems, and historically unequal access to employment, housing, wealth, and the ability to vote.



WHY WE SEEK TO UNDERSTAND THE ROLE THE RACISM PLAYS IN OUR POVERTY NUMBER

poverty rate of 10.1%, while Asians had a poverty rate at 10.1%.

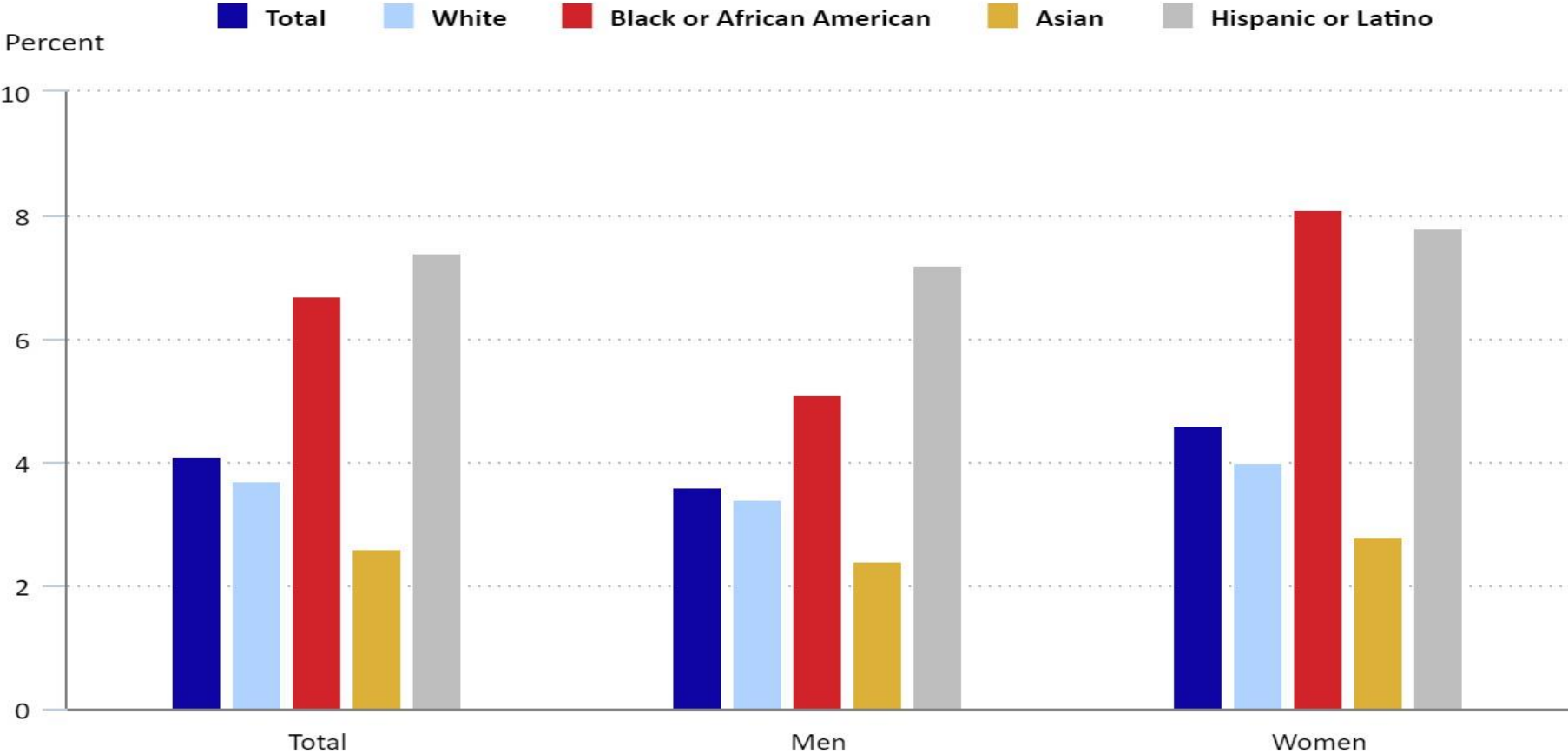


The Economics of Poverty

Poverty thresholds are determined by the US government and vary according to the size of a family, and the ages of its members. In 2018, the poverty threshold—also known as the poverty line—for an individual was \$12,784. For two people, the weighted average threshold was \$16,247.



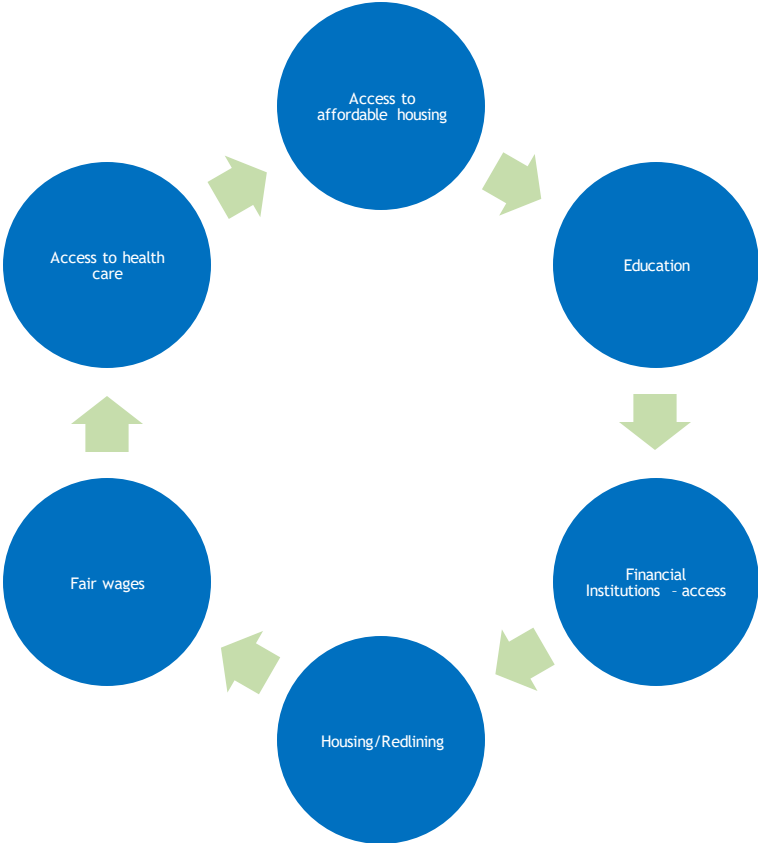
Chart 2. Working-poor rates by gender, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2020



Click legend items to change data display. Hover over chart to view data.
Note: People whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS).



HOW INSTITUTIONAL AND STRUCTURAL RACISM AFFECT THOSE WE SERVE



HOW INSTITUTIONAL AND STRUCTURAL RACISM AFFECT THOSE WE SERVE

1. Access to affordable housing
2. Education
3. Financial Institutions - access
4. Housing/Redlining
5. Fair wages
6. Access to health care



QUESTIONS?



CLOSING PRAYER

God the Father,

I give you thanks for all the marvels you have created.

I praise you and I bless you.

For the inestimable grace of life that you gave us
Transform me , make me a better Christian
A living testimony of your mercy and of your power.

Strip me, Lord, of al roots of bitterness,
Of false pride and haughtiness of heart
Make me meek and humble of heart

Put into my heart the ardent desire to work earnestly for the poor and the needy
Show me the garment with which you clothed me the day that I received you as Lord and Savior of my life

May I wear those garments at the service of my neighbor and of this community
Use me, Lord, for your work.
Amen



PRESENTERS:

FR. RICHARD BENSON, CM

PAM MATAMBANADZO

