



## Day 13: Segregation in the Capital Region

Institutional Racism is defined as “the systematic distribution of resources, power and opportunity in our society to the benefit of people who are white and the exclusion of people of color.” - [Solid Ground](#)

When you hear the word segregation, what do you think of? Many of us think back to the Civil Rights Movement. Yet, American cities continue to be highly segregated, and a [report found that New York public schools are some of the most segregated schools](#), including those located in Albany. [Racial divides in access to health, nutritional, and educational opportunities](#) are often a reality for kids living in urban areas across the nation, including the Capital Region.

Present-day racism was built on a long history of racially distributed resources and ideas that shape our view of ourselves and others. It is a hierarchical system that comes with a broad range of policies and institutions that keep it in place. Policies shaped by institutional racism that enforce segregation include redlining, predatory lending, the exclusion of Black veterans from the G.I. bill, the subsidization of the federal highway system and suburbs, and the forced segregation of neighborhoods by the Federal Housing Authority. As a result of institutional racism, racial stratification and inequities persist in employment, housing, education, healthcare, government, and other sectors ([Solid Ground](#)). Cities didn't become segregated by accident; it wasn't simply a matter of certain families choosing to live in certain neighborhoods. To learn more about how federal, state, and local governments segregated every major metropolitan area in America through law and policy, watch this short video [“Segregated By Design”](#) (17:42).

**Did you know** that UAlbany was ranked 27<sup>th</sup> in the nation for advancing social mobility for its students? Read more about their commitment to creating pathways to success for all students by clicking [here](#).

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**Option 1:** Explore the [Racial Dot Map](#) I created by the University of Virginia, which uses colored dots to visualize how racial segregation appears in our communities. We encourage you to zoom into New York and the Capital Region to see how it plays out in our backyard. Read more about the methodology [here](#).

**Option 2:** Why are cities still so segregated? Watch this [quick video where NPR's Code Switch](#) (6:36) looks at the factors contributing to modern-day segregation. To further examine the practice of redlining during the New Deal, examine [Mapping Inequality Redlining in New Deal America](#).

*This resource was created through the collaboration of three teams at four universities - the University of Richmond, Virginia Tech, University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University.*

**Option 3:** Nearly sixty years after Martin Luther King's death, our nation is still divided. [Read more from The Economist about how segregation](#) exists today in cities across America and the costly impact on the future of our communities.

## Questions to Consider for Self-Reflection:

- Were you surprised at how segregated your community is?
- In what ways does segregation continue to play a role in your community?

**Share the Racial Dot Map** exercise on your social media and encourage others to examine the racial segregation in our communities. Use the hashtags [#unitedforequity](#), [#equitychampions](#), and [#CREquitychallenge](#) when sharing on social media!

