

Race And Housing

Creating An American "Ghetto"
What Is Segregation?
How Segregated Are We?
How Does Segregation Happen?
Power Threat Theory



Creating A “Ghetto”

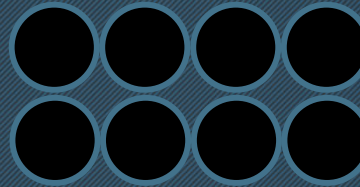


1. Take One All-White Suburban Subdivision (House Value: **\$250k**)
2. Add One Black Upper-Class Family (Ad Executive & Physician To The Neighborhood)
3. Sprinkle In Some Xenophobia Among Some White Homeowners
4. Take Out a Few White Families, Putting Those Houses For Sale
5. Add Two More Upper-Class Black Families (Lawyers, Professors) To The Neighborhood Who Buy The Houses For **\$230k**
6. Sprinkle In Irrational Fears Of What “Might” Happen Because Black Families Have Moved In
7. Remove A Few More White Families. There Aren’t Enough Upper-Class Black Families To Move In And With Three Black Families, Whites Won’t Move In
8. Houses Take Longer To Sell And Prices Go Down To **\$150k**. Working Class Black Families Can Move In. It Is Now A Mixed-Class “Black Neighborhood”
10. The Black Doctors, Lawyers, Executives, and Professors Move Out.
11. House Can’t Sell And Bought By “Investors” For **\$100k** Who Rent Them To People With Lower Incomes
12. Eventually This Becomes a Low-Income Neighborhood Where Houses Are Valued At **\$60k**
13. Supermarkets, Banks, and Shopping Centers Are Replaced By Liquor Stores, “Check Cashing Joints”, and The Underground Economy. It Is Now A Radically Depressed Neighborhood . . . **Which The News Shows In That White Suburb Where A Black Executive And Lawyer Just Moved**

What Is Segregation?

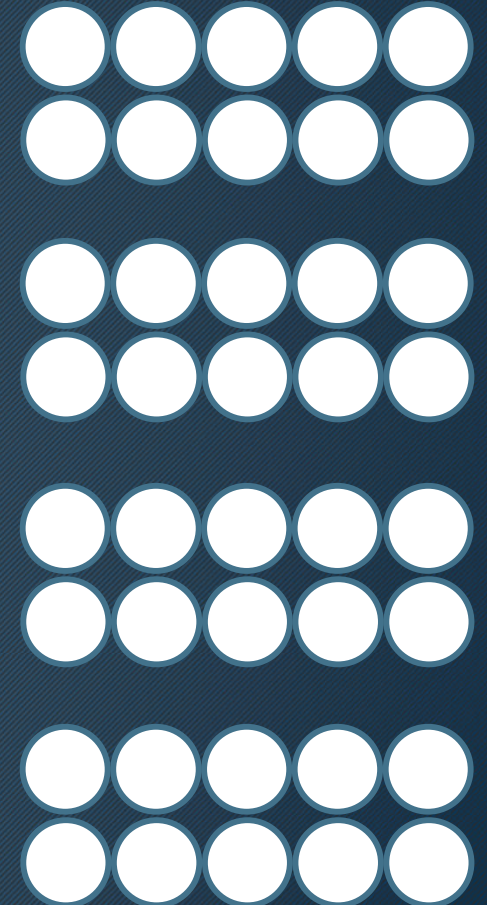
Segregation

The degree to which various racial groups are distributed throughout a city or other residential environment in a way that, ultimately, limits both access and opportunity.



Imagine a city with 48 families in it where 8 (17%) of the people are black

This version of that city would have total (100%) segregation.



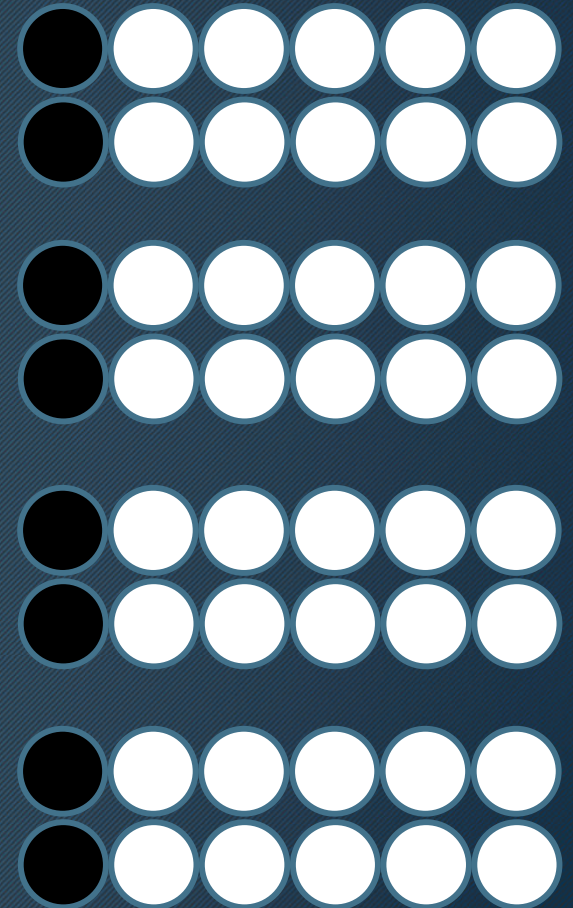
What Is Segregation?

Segregation

The degree to which various racial groups are distributed throughout a city or other residential environment in a way that, ultimately, limits both access and opportunity.

Imagine a city with 48 families in it where 8 (17%) of the people are black

This version of that city would have zero (0%) segregation.

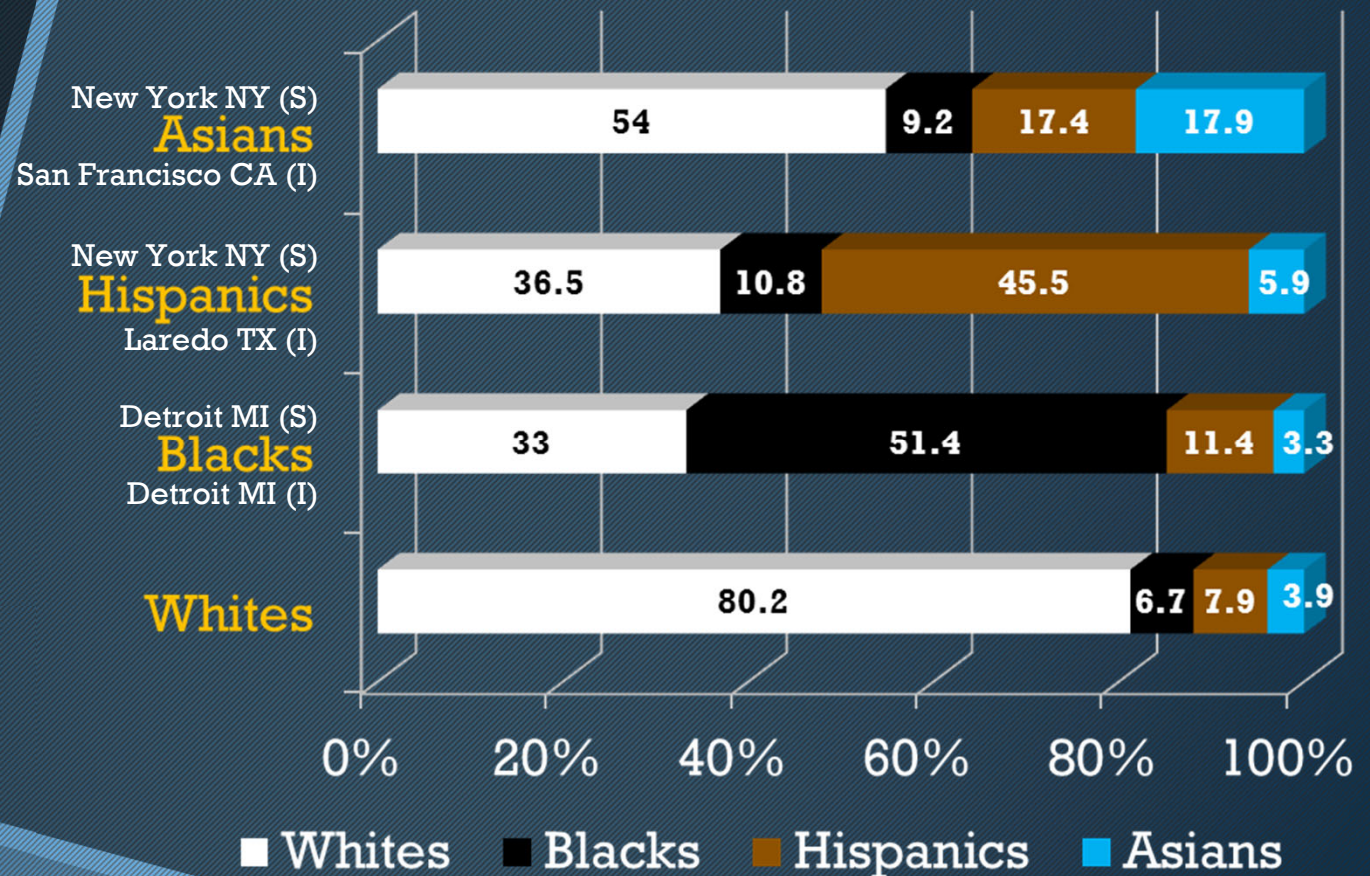


How Segregated Are We?

X-White Segregation (S): The degree to which non-Whites live in neighborhoods without Whites

X-Isolation (I): The degree to which non-Whites live in neighborhoods by themselves

Diversity Experienced In Each Group's Typical Neighborhood – National Metropolitan Average
(Lewis Mumford Center, University of Albany)



Farley et al 1978
Krysan 2002

HOW Did (Does?) This Happen?

- **White Flight?**

Four percent of Detroit Whites would move if there were one Black family in their 15-house neighborhood. That number jumps to 15 with 3 Black families? Five families? **THIRTY PERCENT!**

WHY? Prejudice, stereotypes about integrated neighborhoods, concerns about property values, and "neutral ethnocentrism"

- **White Fight?**

In spite of the Fair Housing Act of 1968, between 60% and 90% of houses shown to Whites are never shown to Blacks. "Steering" also persists.

- **Choice?**

Twenty-five percent of Blacks wouldn't move into an all-Black neighborhood. Seventy-seven percent would prefer a 50/50 neighborhood

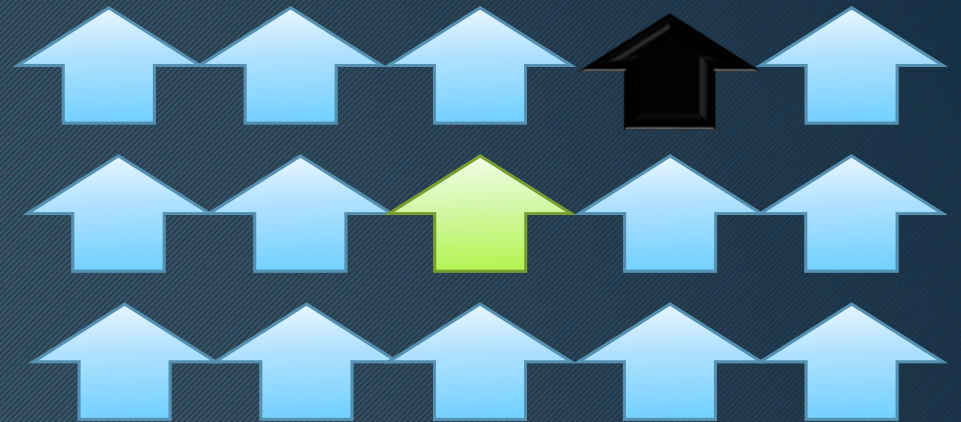
Farley Neighborhood Diagrams

Would You Move In To
The Neighborhood??



Scenario 1

AFAM (82%) • LATN (91%) • ASAM (90%)



Scenario 2 (7%)

AFAM (71%) • LATN (85%) • ASAM (89%)



Scenario 3 (20%)

AFAM (31%) • LATN (45%) • ASAM (63%)

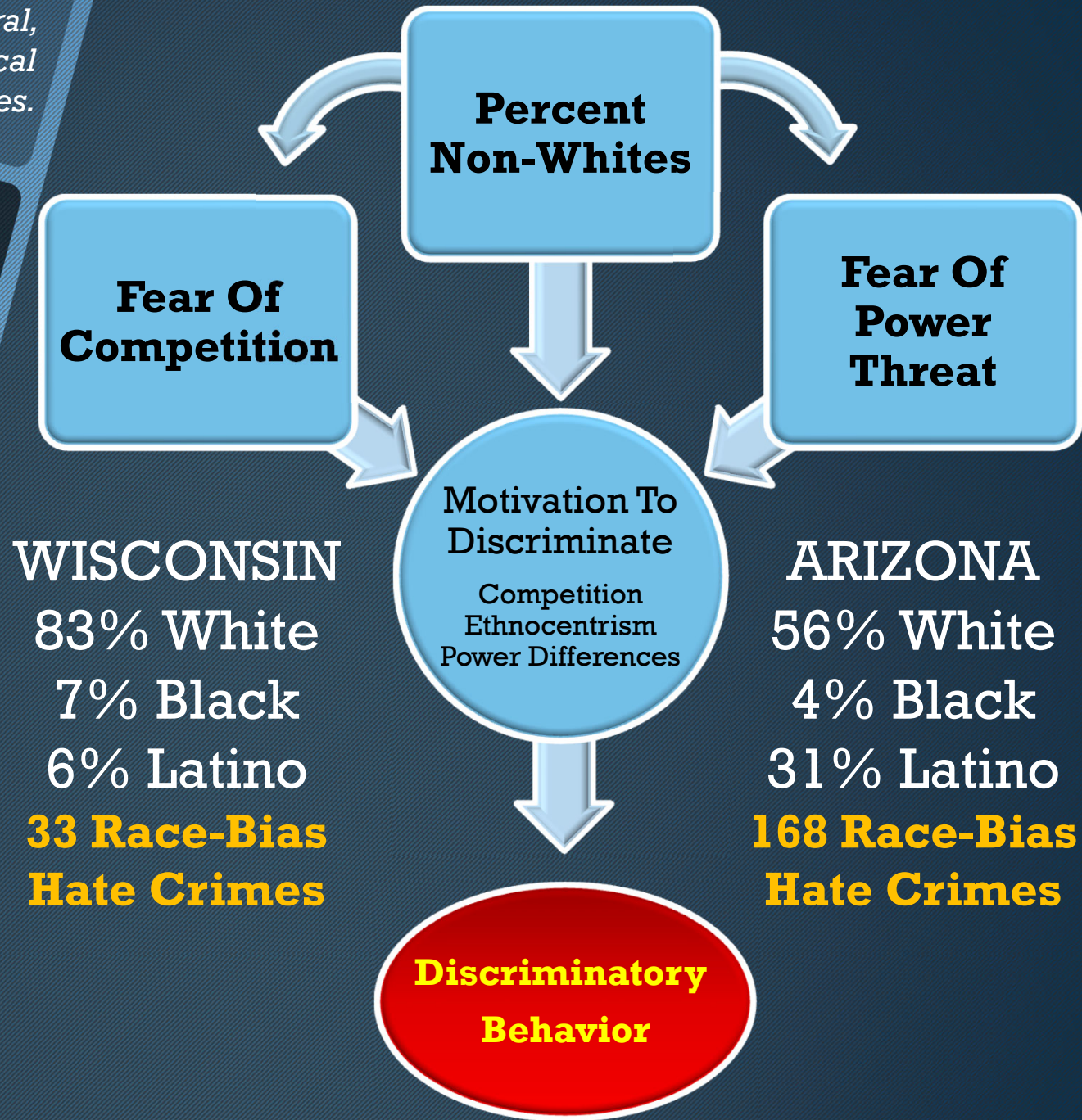


Scenario 5 (53%)

Research Was Done In Atlanta, Boston, and Detroit

As the size of a minority grows, the greater the threat they pose to the majority's control over cultural, economic, and political resources.

Power Threat Theory



JOURNAL QUESTION

Describe the neighborhood you lived in when you were 15. What was the racial/ethnic makeup of the neighborhood? How might you describe its socioeconomic demography.?

Think about the lectures we had this week and discuss what kind of racial or ethnic demographic might move into your neighborhood whose presence would be “disruptive” to its norms.

How would your parents respond to these families moving in?