

# Why Racism Matters

---

- In the United States, racism plays a significant role in creating and perpetuating health inequities. Social inequities, such as poverty, segregation, and lack of educational and employment opportunities have origins in discriminatory laws, policies, and practices that have historically denied people of color the right to earn income, own property, and accumulate wealth.
- Health promoting resources are distributed unevenly across the city of Boston and follow patterns of racial segregation and poverty concentration. As a result, on average, Boston residents who are White enjoy better health than many residents of color.
- These significant differences in health outcomes between residents of color and White residents are systemic, avoidable, unfair, and unjust.

