



# Economic and Psychological Disparities within Marginalized Communities

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## Abstract

This research will explore in depth the experiences of those living within marginalized communities impacted by economic disparities to better understand how those disparities impact mental health and well-being among individuals, relationships and the community. In particular, participants will be asked to reflect on how economic disparities and access to resources such as educational accessibility, healthcare, businesses meeting daily living needs (e.g. grocery stores, financial support, exercise facilities) and social support within the community affect them and the community as a whole. The study will also aim to see how the effects of COVID-19 has impacted these communities in the past year. The cost of living, sustainability crisis, and the differing wage gaps across racial groups of color compared to their white counterparts which all contribute to the experiences of chronic anxiety and external stressors within people of color in these communities (Brower & Michener, 2020), will be taken into consideration. By using nationwide ethnographic surveys to gather participants' perspectives, this mixed method study aims to provide a contextual analysis of the impact of these systematic disparities to better understand how to reduce the negative impacts of these discrepancies within marginalized communities now and in the future

## Purpose of Study

The purpose of this study is to highlight how these ongoing economic and psychological disparities impact those living within marginalized communities

## Research Question

Within this research the primary question that will be addressed is what ongoing economic and social disparities are most prevalent and common in these communities, and how do they impact individuals' mental health, relationships and the community as a whole?

## Methods

This is an ethnographic mixed methods study that will use a survey via the software Qualtrics as its primary form of data collection. The survey will be sent nationwide to applicable communities and individuals. Participants will be adults 18+ who have prior experience or currently are residents in marginalized communities. Demographic information, questions about access to resources and short-answer narrative questions regarding participants' experiences living in their community will be part of the data collection. Participants of all racial and ethnic backgrounds are encouraged to participate in the study, while there is particular interest in looking at how people of color may be impacted differently than white participants. The researchers hope to recruit approximately 11-50 participants to be involved in the study. Upon completion the data will be collected and prepared through excel and SPSS. Qualitative data analysis will look for themes across responses

## Background / Context

Over time, those living in marginalized communities have been consistently overlooked and neglected based on economic and social principles of equity and equality. Adding on to that, more specifically people of color have been the victims of this societal inequity. Due to that, those living in these communities have had to struggle more so than their counterparts due to the lasting and unseen impact these inequities can have on health and well-being. People living in these communities are seeing a lower quality of life and an increase in negative psychological experiences due the lack of access to resources and community barriers to safety, education, health and wellness. This study aligns with current research regarding the disparities and risks of living in marginalized communities to better understand qualitatively how these disparities impact the experiences, mental health and community well-being of its members. The hope is that this research will contribute more in-depth knowledge of the experiences of those living in marginalized communities leading to recommendations for decreasing the negative impact these disparities can have



## Acknowledgements

Funding By  
The McNair Scholars Program

Special Thanks to:  
Dr. Bethany Simmons

## References

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