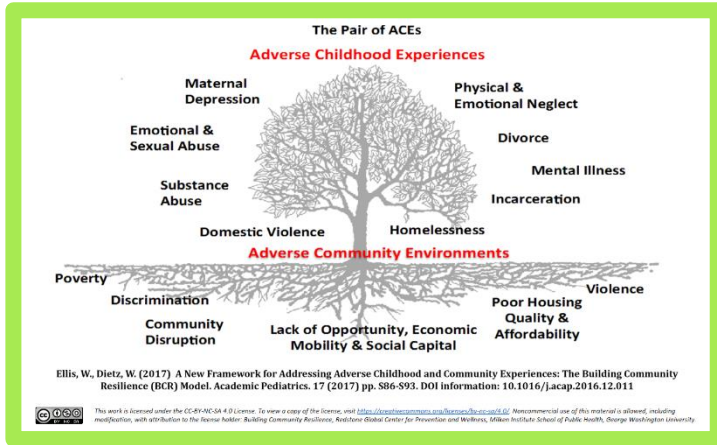
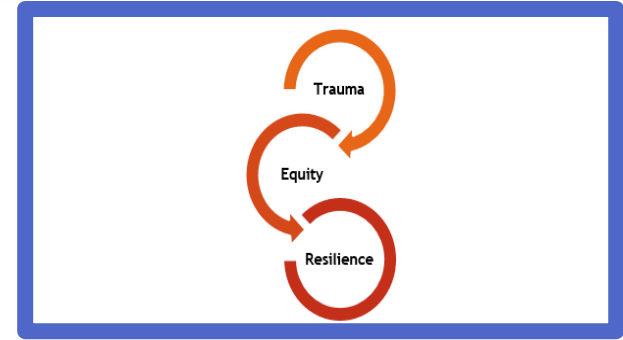


## What's Equity Got to Do with It?

Across the country, parents, families and communities face the challenge of achieving or maintaining good health in the face of daunting adversity. Childhood adversity or **trauma** such as abuse and neglect, parental substance abuse and incarceration, oftentimes are rooted in community environments lacking **equity** as measured by concentrated poverty, poor housing conditions, higher risk to violence and victimization, and homelessness. These inequitable community conditions provide little access to support or buffers that support **resilience**.

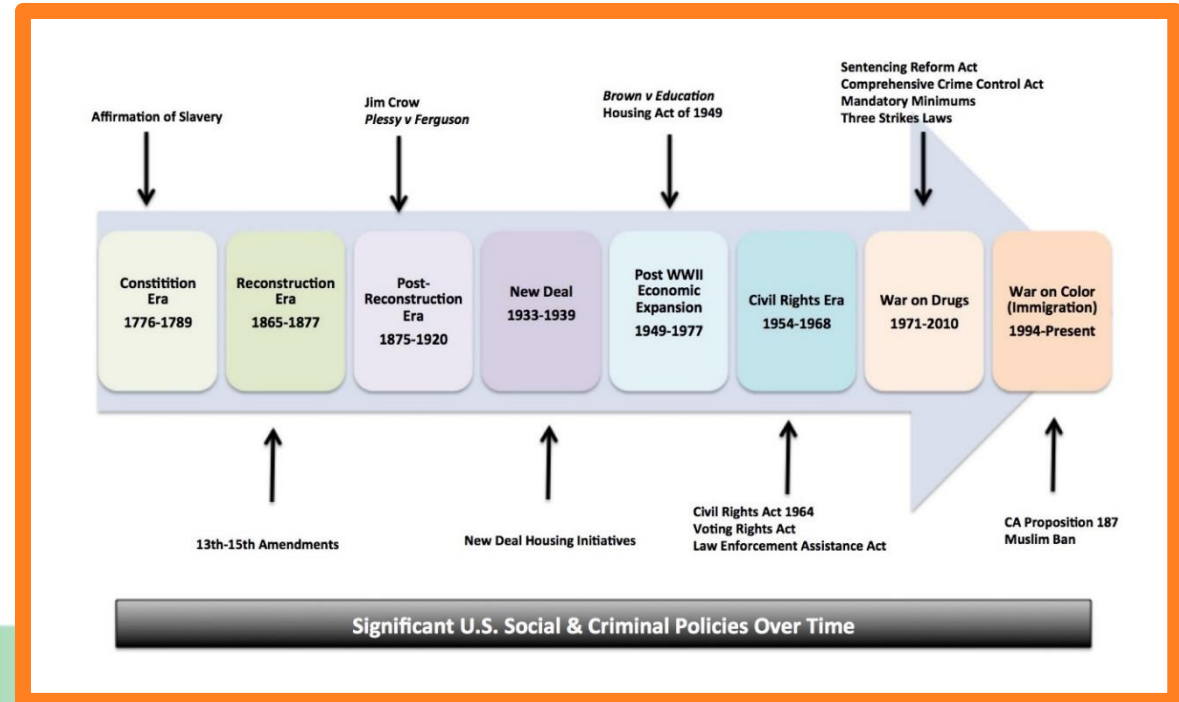


## The Pair of ACEs

Adverse childhood experiences in the context of adverse community environments continuously assault the developing minds of children and negatively impact health across the lifespan. These negative impacts include higher risk for mental health problems, early initiation of drug and substance abuse, school dropout, juvenile delinquency, risky sexual behavior and teen pregnancy. **In Building Community Resilience, we understand that many adverse childhood experiences can be linked to policy and systems driven inequities.** Many of these policies are driven by and reinforce institutional racism. The resulting inequities include lack of access to economic mobility that may allow families to secure safe and affordable housing and living wages.

## Inequity by Design

Adverse community environments are the result of **policies and practices across multiple systems that were perfectly designed for the place-based inequities they produce.** Many of the nation's poor live in communities of concentrated poverty not by choice, but rather by design – the cumulative result of social and criminal policies enacted over the course of our nation's history. For example, federal policy and lending practices in the real estate industry in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century supported housing segregation – creating patterns of racial and economic segregation that persist today. These policies combined with the inequitable enforcement of policies across criminal justice (enforcement and incarceration) and public education (funding) also help to explain the place-based differences in who is arrested, length of incarceration and odds of completing high school and attaining higher education.



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