



# RESTORING OUR OWN THROUGH TRANSFORMATION

NICHQ Learning Academy 2022

Fatherhood Talk Tuesdays  
Creating the Balance in Black Family Health  
Equity: Black Families Matter

Jessica M. Roach, MPH  
Chief Executive Officer & Partner

Dorian L. Wingard, MPA  
Chief Operations Officer & Partner

# OBJECTIVES

1. Develop an understanding of the created consequences of the unmet Social Determinants of Health throughout the 400+ year timeline.
2. Establish a baseline understanding of and respect for the current state of Black Fathers and Fatherhood in the U.S.
3. Address the inherent racism of systems, inclusive of health care, and how this impacts Black Families.



# ROOTT ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

Restoring Our Own Through Transformation (ROOTT) is a collective of concerned Black Families, Families of Color, community members, advocates & interdisciplinary professionals dedicated to decreasing maternal & infant mortality in Ohio.

ROOTT's mission is to comprehensively restore our collective well-being through collaboration, resource allocation, research & empowerment, in order to meet the needs of parents & families within communities.



# ROOTT IMPACT STATEMENT

ROOTT accomplishes its mission by providing direct services & public policy advocacy & education, in alliance with local & national stakeholders.

ROOTT goes beyond surface level risk factors regarding marginalized mothers, fathers, infants, & communities in addressing the root causes of these rates.

ROOTT directly addresses the Structural Determinants of Health including the institutional racism that creates & sustains the Social Determinants of Health.

ROOTT collaboratively builds quality relationships with families, caregivers, professionals & paraprofessionals aligned with our mission.



# "FATHER" DEFINED

FATHER - Noun  
fa·ther | \ 'fä-thər \  
*plural fathers*

## DEFINITION

- a male parent
- a man who has begotten a child  
*also* : a male animal who has sired an offspring.

FATHER - Noun  
fathered; fathering\  
'fäth-rin, 'fä-thə-

## DEFINITION

- To Beget
- to be the founder, producer, or author of *fathered* the improvement plan
- to fix the paternity or origin of.

FATHER - Noun

## DEFINITION

a male parent (also used as a term of address to your father).

*"his **father** was born in Atlanta".*



# BREAKOUT SESSION 1

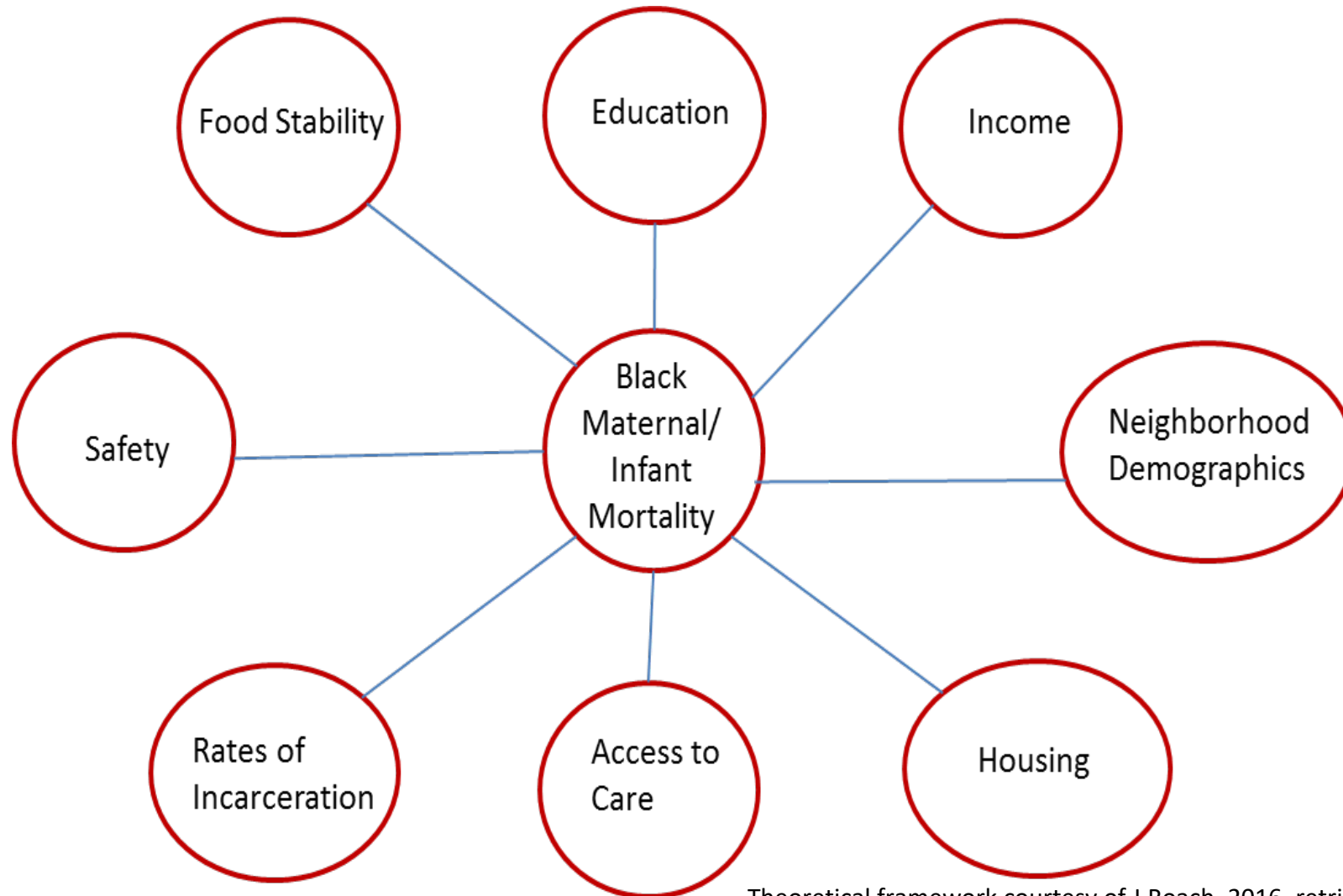
When you think of **Black Fathers**, what comes to mind?





defender  
counselor  
coach  
caretaker builder entrepreneur  
dedicated provider teacher  
leader cook son powerful  
protector educated present  
father barber  
brother cousin musician guide  
artist

# WEB OF CAUSATION SOCIAL DETERMINANTS



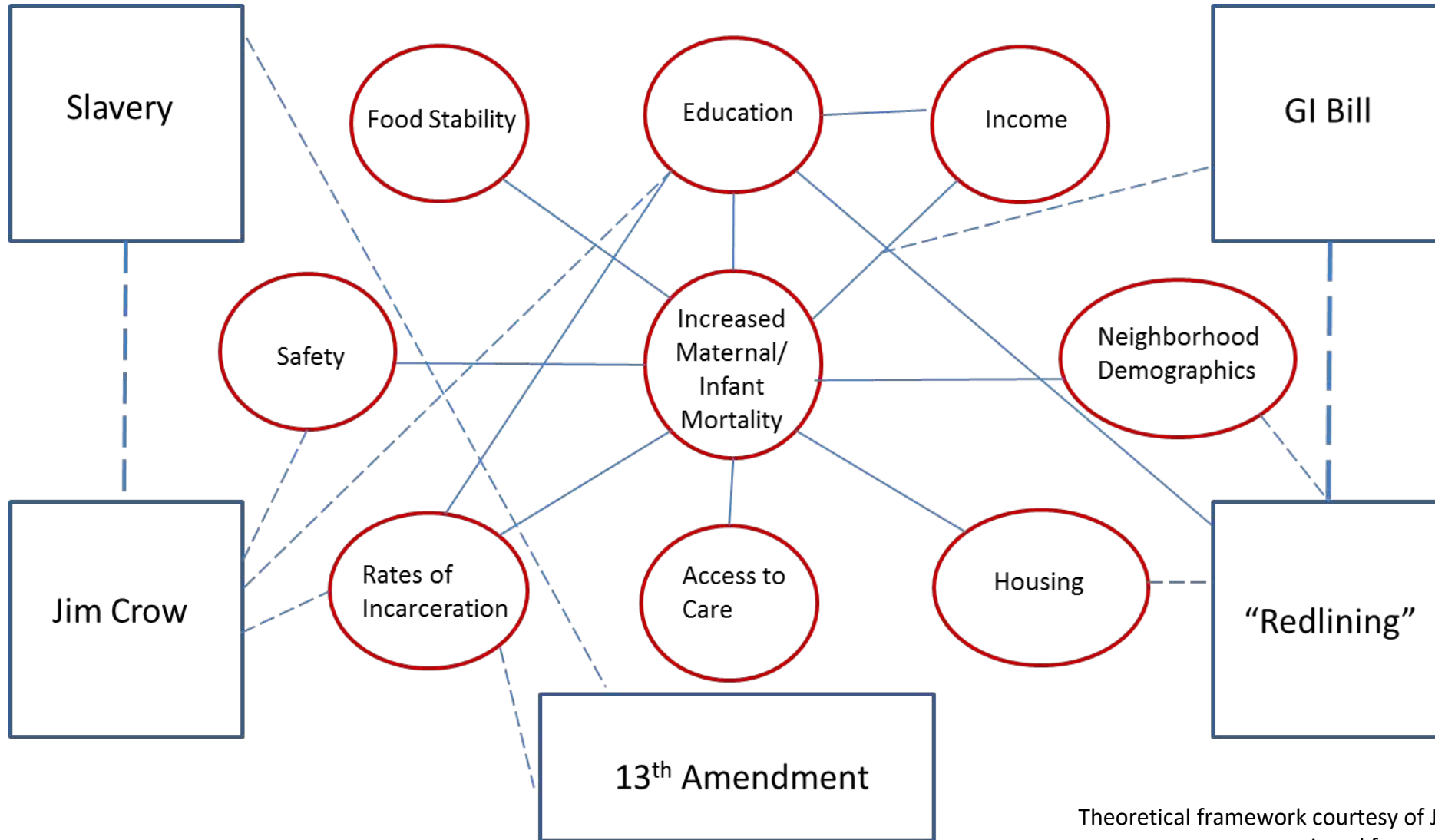
Theoretical framework courtesy of J.Roach, 2016. retrieved from [www.roottrj.org](http://www.roottrj.org)





# WEB OF CAUSATION

## STRUCTURAL and SOCIAL DETERMINANTS: IMPACT ON HEALTH



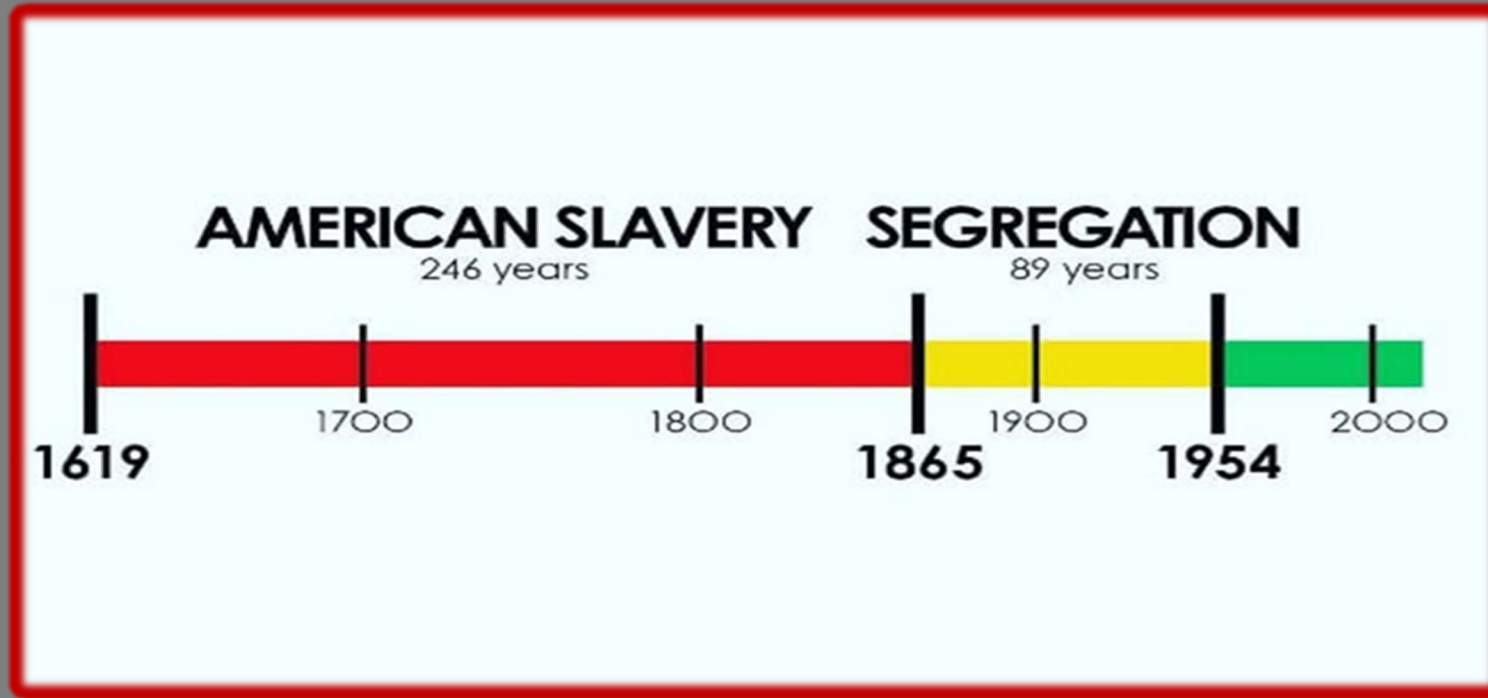
Theoretical framework courtesy of J.Roach, 2016.  
retrieved from [www.roott.org](http://www.roott.org)



## BREAKOUT SESSION 2

When you think of the **Black Fatherhood**,  
what comes to mind?





*Disease is a social and political category imposed on people within an enormously repressive social and economic capitalist system, one that forces disease and death on the world's people"*

**Vicente Navarro, MD. Faculty Director, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health**





Enslaved Couples Faced  
Wrenching Separations, or Even  
Choosing Family Over Freedom

TERA W. HUNTER • SEP 20, 2019

*Soldier and Companion, c.1861-65 (tintype  
with brass mat & leather case), American  
Photographer, (19th century)/Detroit Institute*



*Five generations of slaves on Smith's  
Plantation in Beaufort, S.C., circa 1862.*

*Library of Congress*

## 13th Amendment

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.



Mass incarceration has disproportionately ensnared young black men, sucking hundreds of thousands of marriage-age men out of the community.

New York Times, 2015

“Today mass incarceration defines the meaning of blackness in America: black people, especially black men, are criminals. That is what it means to be black.”

M. Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*, 2010



# Black Dads Are Doing Best of All



By **Charles M. Blow**

June 8, 2015



Give this article



392

Read in app

One of the most persistent statistical bludgeons of people who want to blame black people for any injustice or inequity they encounter is this: According to data from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (C.D.C.), in 2013 in nearly 72 percent of births to non-Hispanic black women, the mothers were unmarried.

New York Times, 2015



## Fathers' Involvement

Involvement of fathers with activities of their children under age 5.

### FATHERS LIVING WITH CHILDREN

	Hisp.	White	Black
	(Percentages)		
<i>Fed or ate meals with children daily</i>	63.9	73.9	78.2
<i>Bathed, diapered or dressed children daily</i>	45.0	60	70.4
<i>Played with children daily</i>	74.1	82.7	82.2
<i>Read to children daily</i>	21.9	30.2	34.9

### FATHERS NOT LIVING WITH CHILDREN

	Hisp.	White	Black
<i>Fed or ate meals with children daily</i>	8.6	*	12.6
<i>Bathed, diapered or dressed children daily</i>	7.3	6.6	12.7
<i>Played with children daily</i>	10.0	6.6	16.5
<i>Read to children daily</i>	*	3.2	7.8



“To manipulate history is to manipulate consciousness; to manipulate consciousness is to manipulate possibilities; and to manipulate possibilities is to manipulate power.”

Dr. Amos Wilson *Blueprint for Black Power: A Moral, Political, and Economic Imperative for the Twenty-First Century*, 2000



This is how we  
ROOTT!!

[www.rootttrj.org](http://www.rootttrj.org)

ROOTT Origin Story  
NPR Story Corp, 8-2019



ROOTT Fatherhood Discussion  
BMHW 2022

[BlackFatherhood.mov](#)



“At some point, we must acknowledge and address how the foundation of Obstetrics and Gynecology as we know it in the U.S., was built from the stolen knowledge and traditions of Black and Indigenous Women...and used against us through means of rape, sexual assault, pedophilia, eugenics, and genocide. Reproductive Justice is the definition by which we say, WE are taking this back.”

Jessica M. Roach, MPH

”Race neutral solutions are impotent in the address of intentional, race-specific racism. Consequently, true health equity will certainly change the lives of the oppressed and the oppressor, in ways that may lead to the deconstruction of American inhumanity.”

DL Wingard, MPA

