

# Structural Racism in Ithaca City and Tompkins County: Some Research Ideas for Our Community

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Things a SURJ research committee could do:

1. Prepare a brief history of the African-American population of Ithaca/Tompkins County
2. Prepare brief histories of other ethnic/racial groups of Ithaca/Tompkins County
3. Prepare a direct data contrast between Ithaca City and the rest of Tompkins County (ie. not including Ithaca City) on any to all of the characteristics/variables in the structural racism report.
4. Draft a set of suggestions about how to talk about structural racism.
5. Research the history and nature of segregation in Tompkins County (not necessarily the same as suggestion #1)
6. Connect with the local History Center to see what kinds of information are available about any of the topics above in 1-5.
7. Follow up the social capital survey and try to find out who has the data and whether we can look over them again. Is another social capital survey planned?
8. Work with Paula Ioanide *et al* about effects of incarceration and extent of mass incarceration in Tompkins County. Look into what kinds of local data or records exist.
9. Look into the 2010 TC social capital study and see if we can look at the original data – especially the answers about the police..
10. Redo the 2010 TC social capital study and compare/contrast the results and discuss how to interpret similarities and differences we might find.
11. Is there evidence of “steering” by real estate agents?
12. Does concentration of low-income and thus minority households result in stigmas which in turn could result in stereotyping and decline in people’s self image?
13. Create a “racial justice” indicator, scale or statistical index or other device by which we can evaluate our community.

14. Find out: are there any toxic waste sites or other locations where the possibility for environmental racism might exist in this area? For the general issue and a little background, see Section 5.1 of the Structural Racism draft.