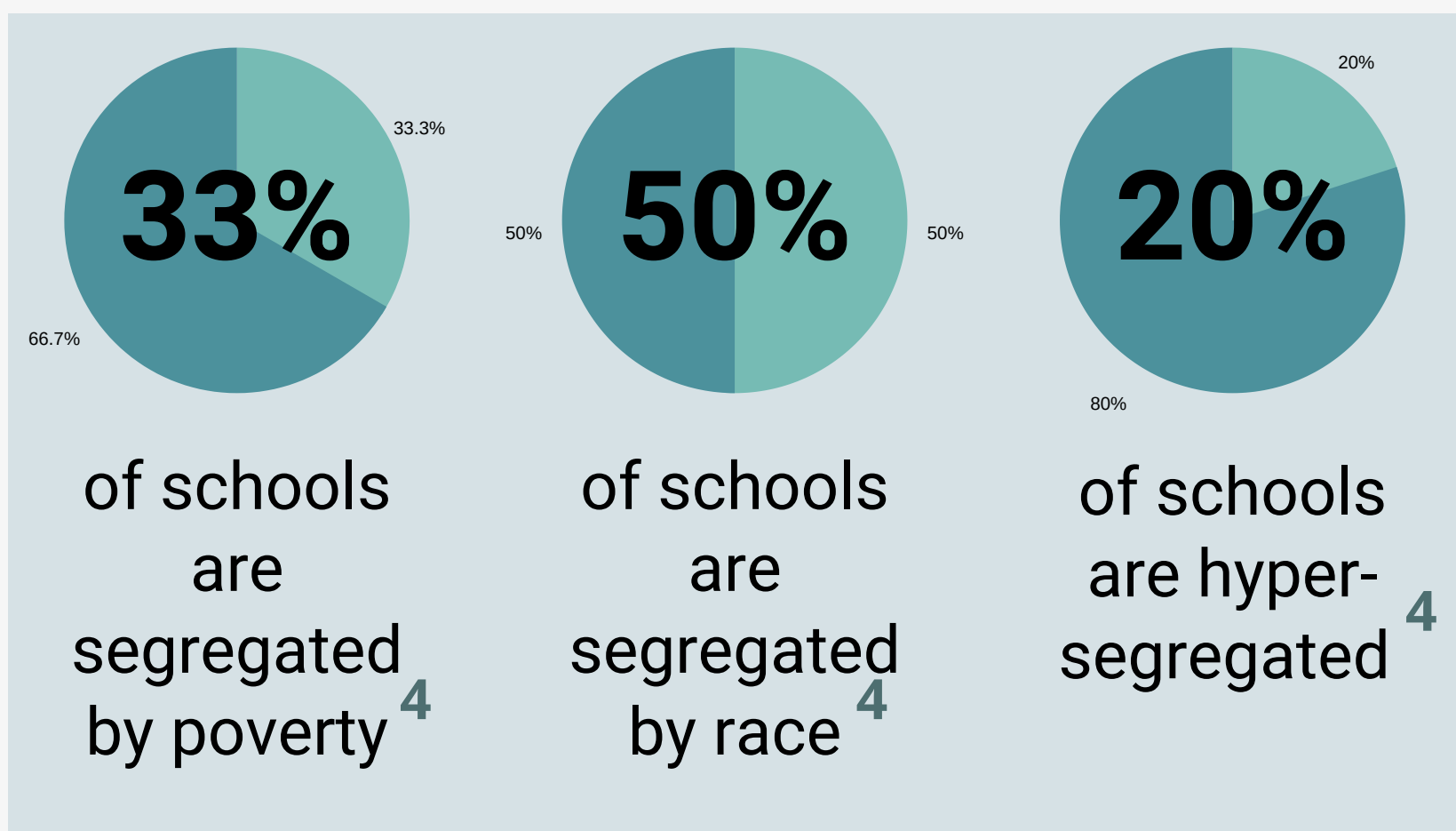


RESEGREGATION

IN CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS

The Problem

CMS is the most racially segregated school system in the state. The school system would have to reassign 55 percent of students in order to achieve "racial parity."⁸



The Effects

At balanced schools, reading proficiency is at 59 percent versus 29 percent at schools with high concentrations of black students⁴

High poverty schools have consistently lower End Of Grade test scores across grade levels.³

"Concentrating black students in a school or college-preparatory tracks has damaging effects on their college achievement"⁵

Widened racial inequality due to rezoning and resegregation in CMS "led to a large and persistent increase in criminal activity among minority males."²

The History^{2,6}

1954

Schools around the country are mandated to integrate with the ruling of the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court case

1971

Swann v. Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools (1971) court case decided that mandatory busing could be used as a strategy for desegregating the school system

1990s

Most busing was replaced with controlled choice of magnet schools after complaints about desegregation practices from white parents and business elites

1999

White families began suing based on the racial standards of controlled choice of magnet school

2002

CMS redrew school zone boundaries and switched to a neighborhood-based placement plan. Neighborhoods are highly segregated in Charlotte, leading to segregation in schools.

The Myth

Diversity isn't crucial to education.

White and affluent student would be hurt by integration.

The Truth

“Students attending integrated schools become less prejudiced, increase cross-racial trust and friendships, and enhance their capacity for working with others.”⁸

White students placed in majority white schools versus more diverse schools saw minimal impacts on performance.⁸



Potential Solutions



Strategic Resource Differentiation²

CMS found in its own study that there are disparities between schools in terms of how resources are allocated and suggested that strategically allocating resources such as time, teachers, and access to advanced coursework can help to level the playing field.



Inclusionary Zoning⁴

Inclusionary zoning would be the practice of redrawing school zones in such a fashion that neighborhoods of mixed incomes and demographics are in the same zones to increase equity and diversity.



Re-instituting busing^{9,10}

Busing would take students from different areas to schools outside of their neighborhoods in order to create school populations that are diverse both racially and socioeconomically, but this is difficult to enact because it was struck down in the 1990s.

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