

INTERSECTIONALITY – THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF RACE, CLASS, GENDER, AND OTHER TYPES OF VULNERABILITY

Somnath Saha, MD, MPH

VA Portland Health Care System and Oregon Health & Science University

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Portland, Oregon — April 22-25, 2017



STARFIELD SUMMIT

Traditional Studies of Disparities/Equity

Majority group

Minority group



Traditional Studies of Disparities/Equity

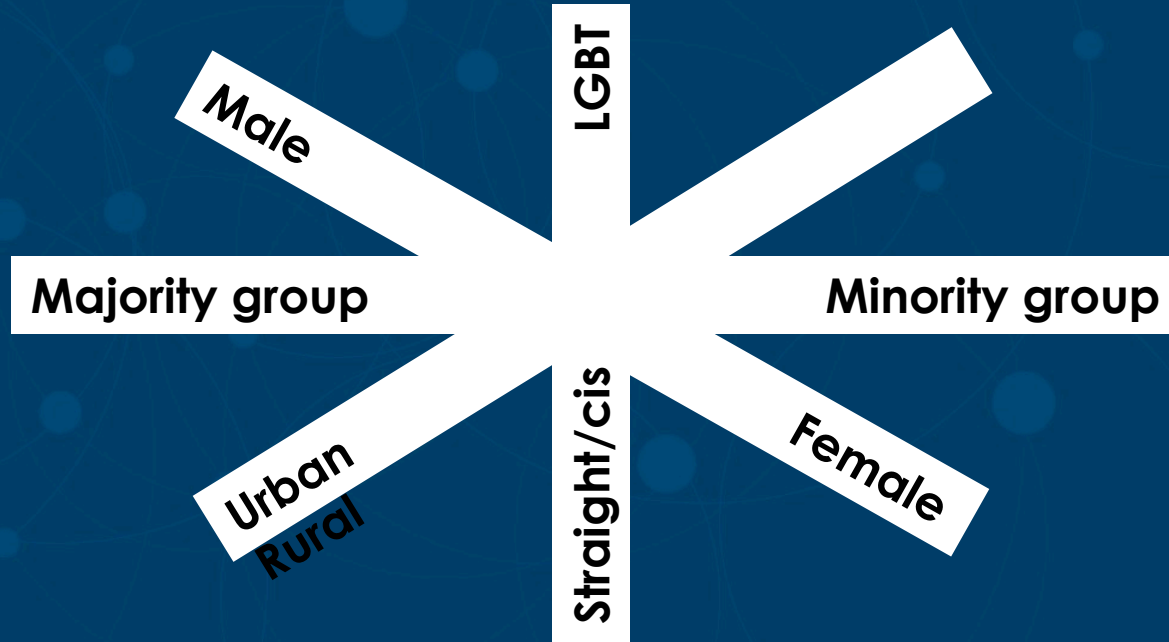
Urban
Rural

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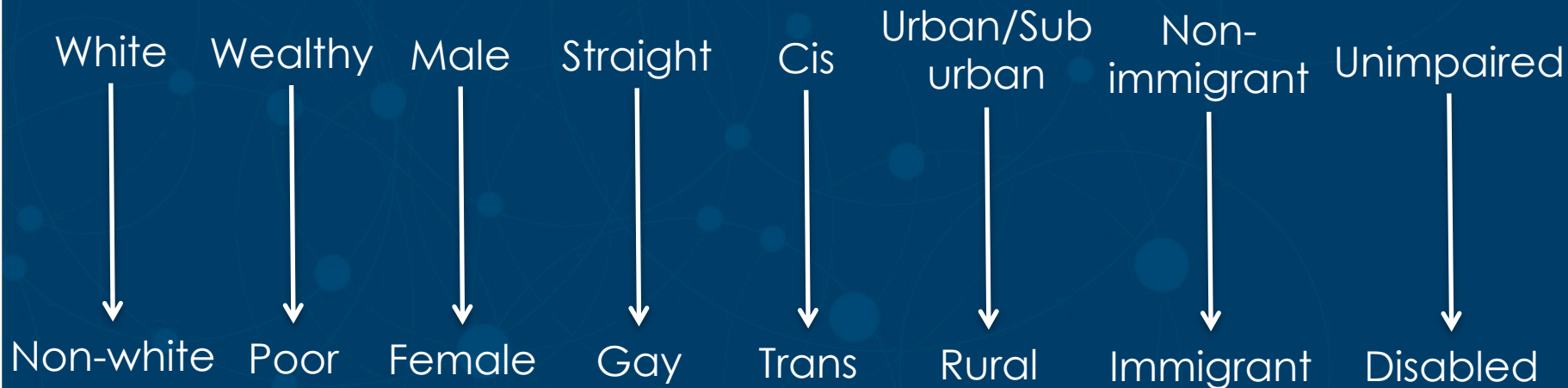


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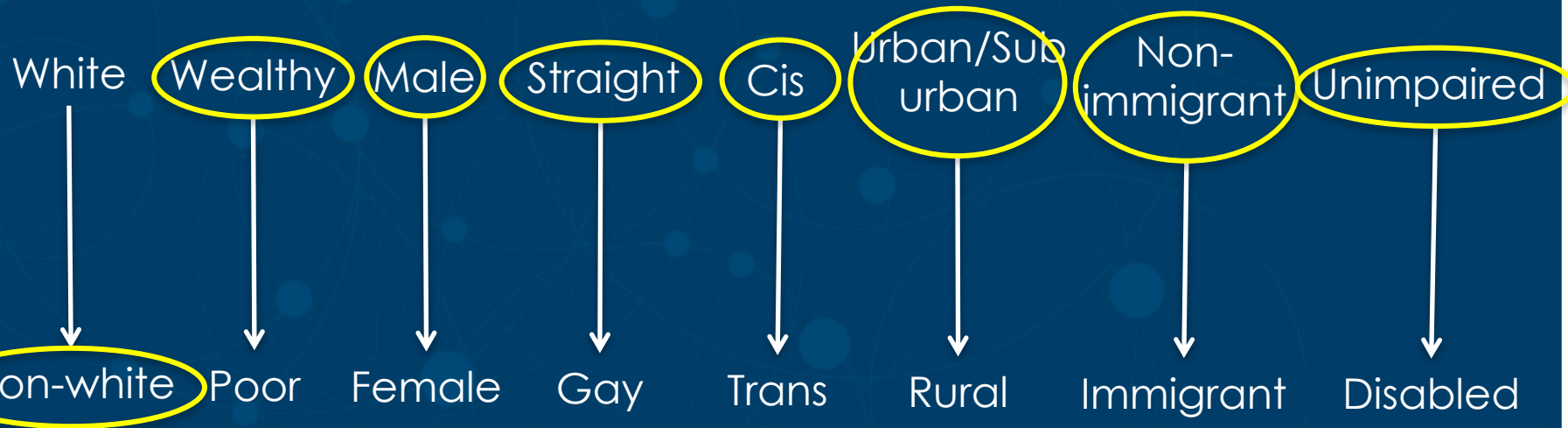
Intersectionality



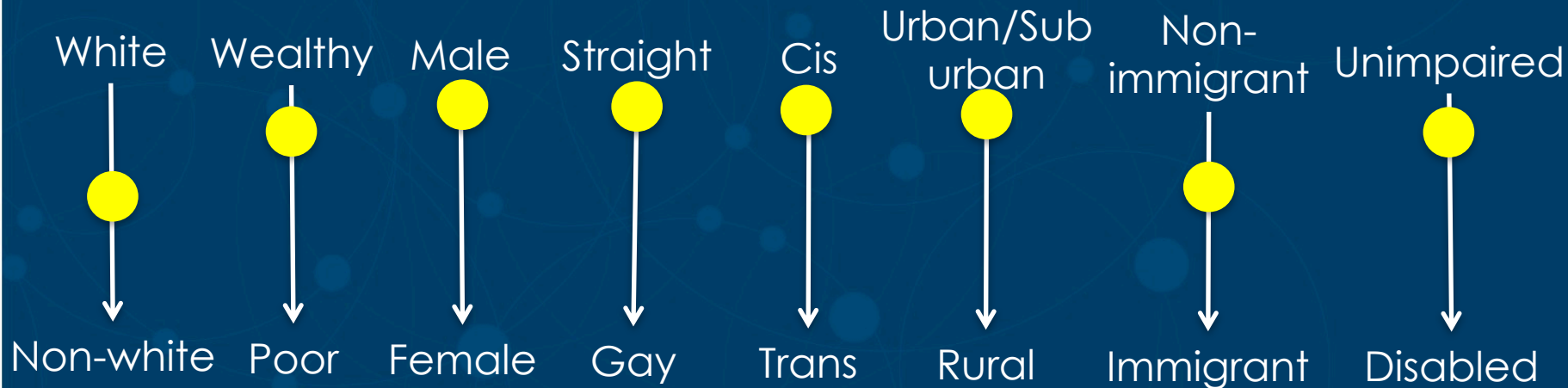
Dimensions of Social Advantage-Disadvantage



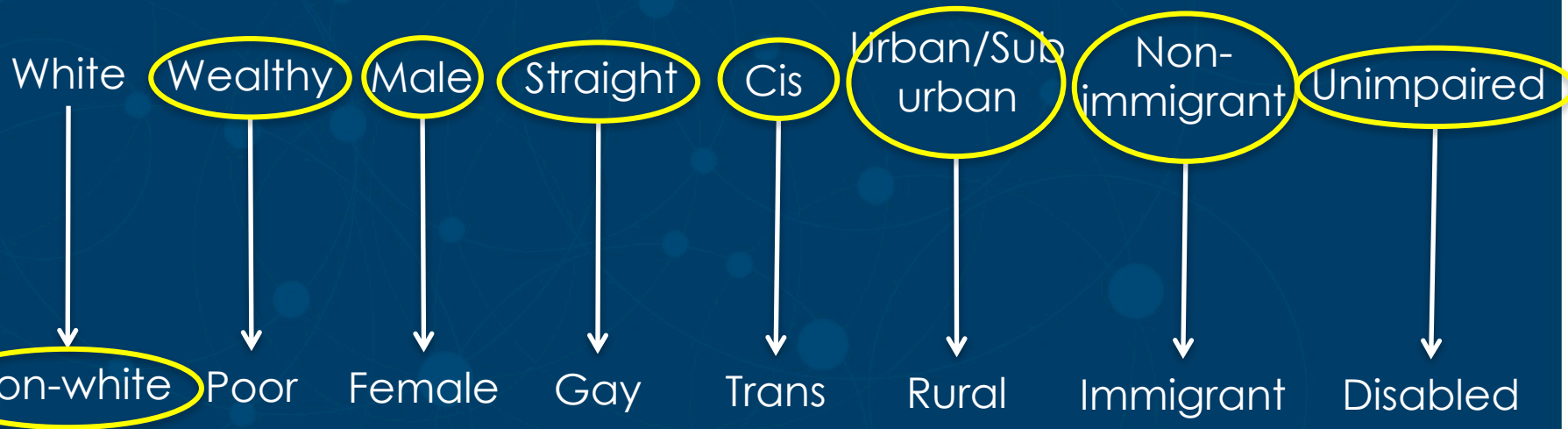
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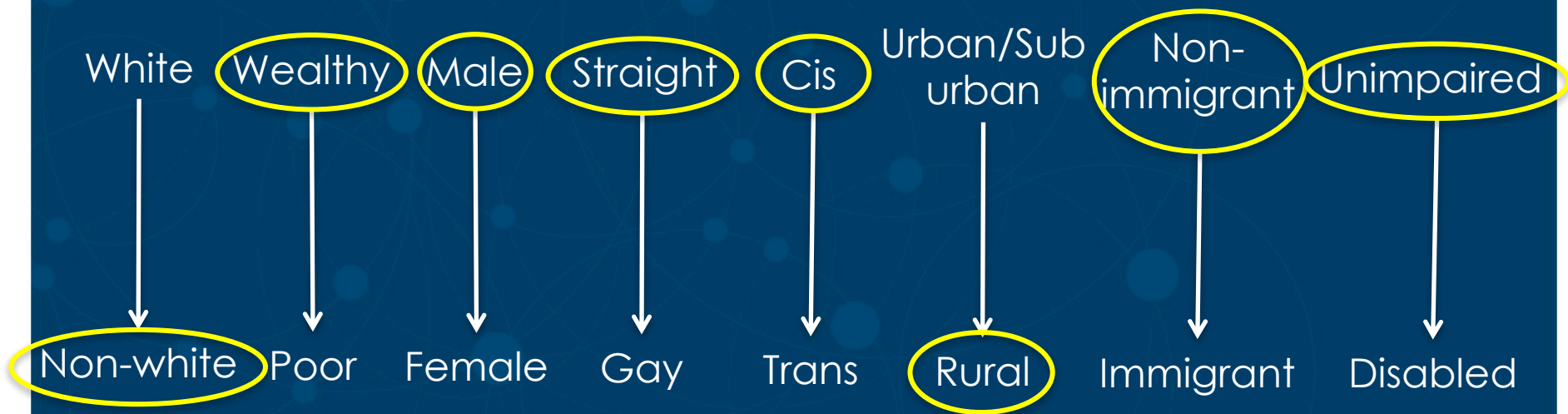
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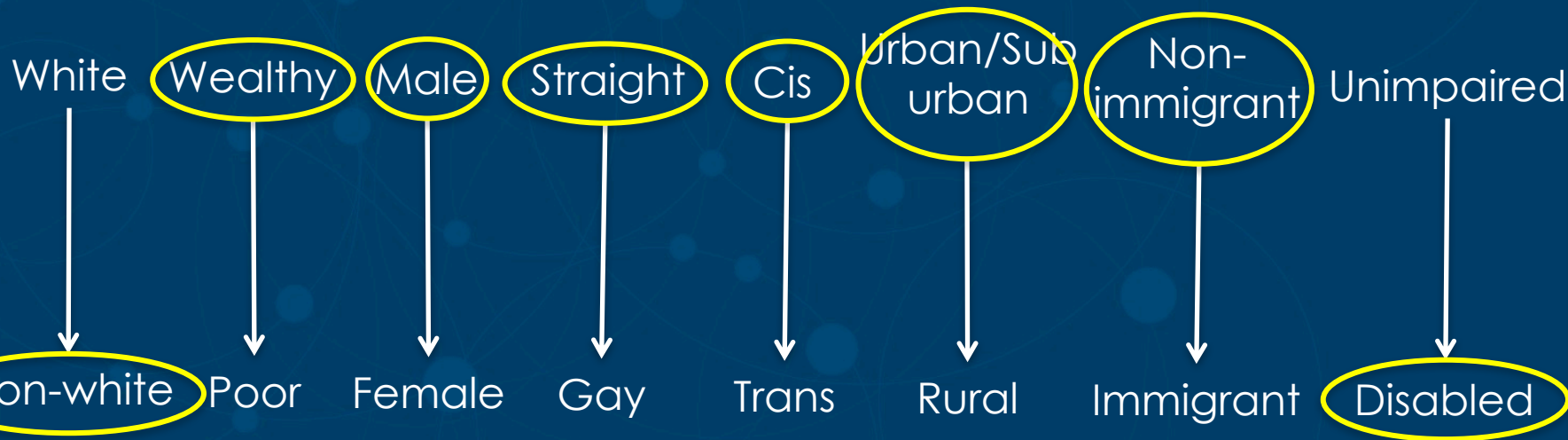
Not All Dimensions Affect People Equally



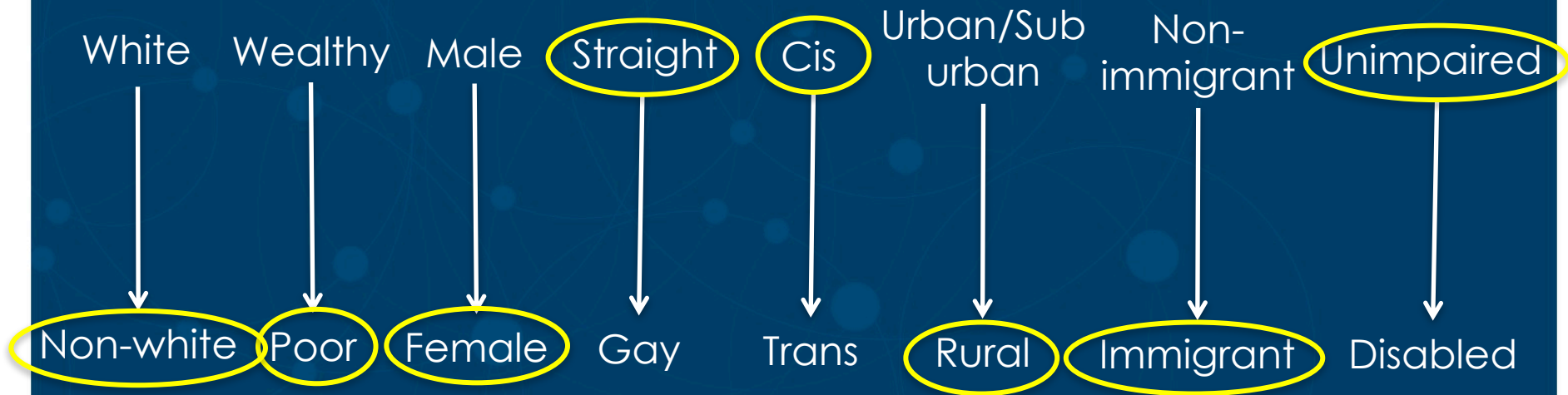
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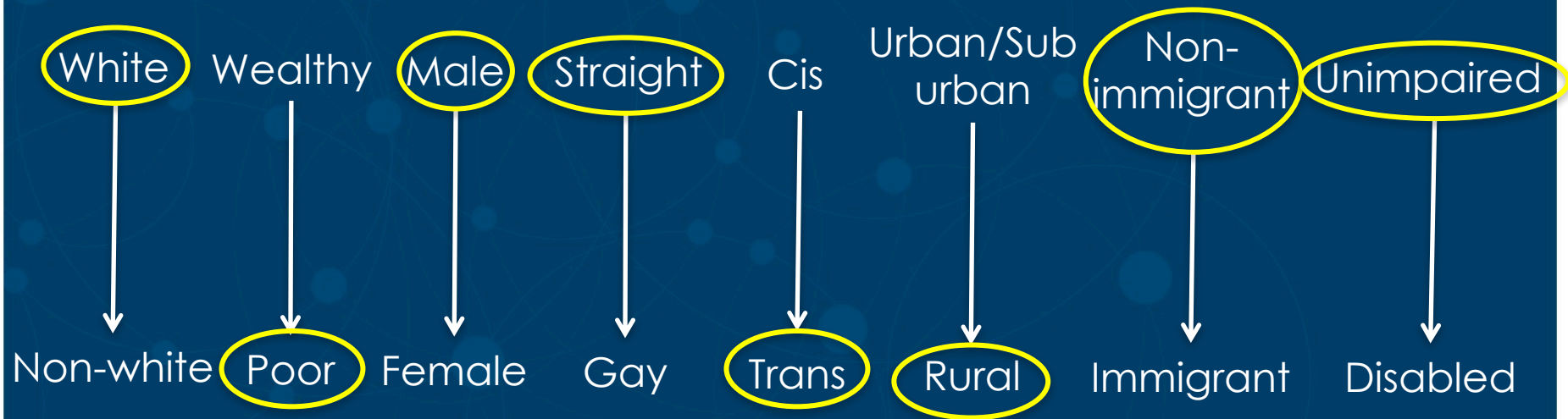
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Context Matters



Context Matters

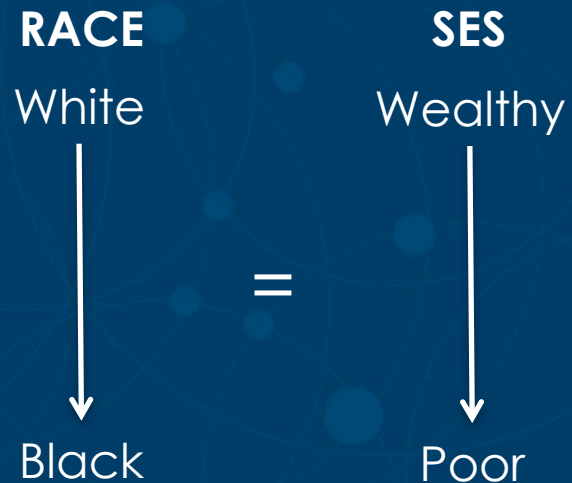


Advantages of Intersectional Approach

- Explicitly considers each dimension of advantage/disadvantage, avoids conflation of dimensions
 - E.g., race as simply a proxy for SES
- Less backlash from those disadvantaged by factors not considered in uni-dimensional approach
- Allows exploration of highly disadvantaged/marginalized groups potentially with greatest need



Avoiding Conflation



Avoiding Conflation

RACE + SES

Wealthy White



Poor White

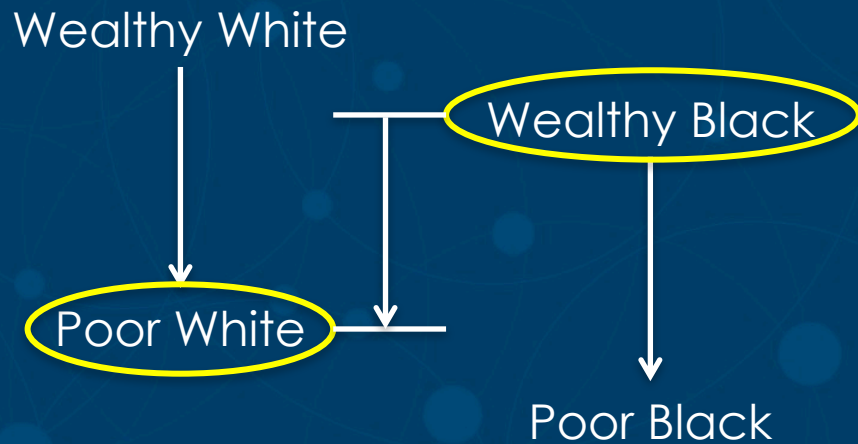
Wealthy Black



Poor Black



Avoiding Backlash



Exploring Highly Disadvantaged Groups

Wealthy White



Poor White

Wealthy Black



Poor Black




Poor Black Women

Challenges with Intersectionality

- Losing the forest for the trees
 - Intersectional thinking can lead to an anti-categorical, “every person is unique” mindset that undermines population-based comparisons
- Collecting data on some dimensions of vulnerability is difficult
- Small data cells





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