

## Racial Inequalities/Disparities Facts

### Education

- During the 2015–2016 school year, Black students represented only 15% of total US student enrollment, but they made up 35% of students suspended once, 44% of students suspended more than once, and 36% of students expelled. The US Department of Education concluded that this disparity is “not explained by more frequent or more serious misbehavior by students of color.”<sup>i</sup>
- In one US survey, 15.8% of students reported experiencing race-based bullying or harassment. Research has found significant associations between racial bullying and negative mental and physical health in students.<sup>ii</sup>
- In 2011, less than 30% of Hispanic students graduated from high school, and less than 4% earned advanced college degrees.<sup>iii</sup>
- In 2011, Hispanics had the highest dropout rate (17%) for students ages 16 through 24.<sup>iii</sup>

### Employment

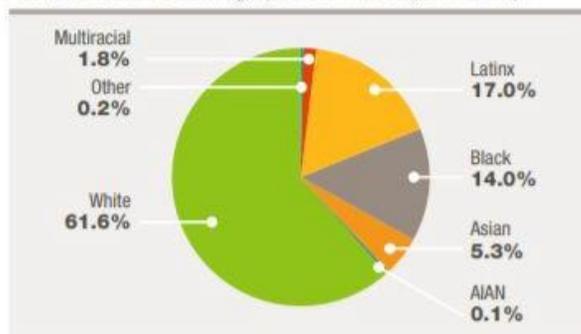
- One US study found that job resumes with traditionally White-sounding names received 50% more callbacks than those with traditionally Black names.<sup>iv</sup>
- In a study conducted by Rutgers University, 22% of Hispanic/Latino workers reported experiencing workplace discrimination, compared to only 6% of whites... Working in discriminatory conditions often leads to depression, lack of self-confidence, bitterness, and withdrawal from work.<sup>iii</sup>
- Hispanic females earn roughly 54 cents for every dollar earned by a white, non-Hispanic male, which accounts for a loss of almost \$24,000 in a year’s time.<sup>iii</sup>

### Healthcare

- Racial and ethnic minorities have less access to mental health services than White people, are less likely to receive needed care and are more likely to receive poor-quality care when they are treated.<sup>v</sup>
- 20.1 percent of Hispanics under the age of 65 reported having no health insurance coverage.<sup>vi</sup>
- In 2018, 8.8 percent of Hispanic adults received mental health services compared with 18.6 percent of non-Hispanic white adults.<sup>vi</sup>
- In 2017, the number of suicide attempts by adolescent Hispanic females was 40 percent higher than that of adolescent non-Hispanic white females.<sup>vi</sup>

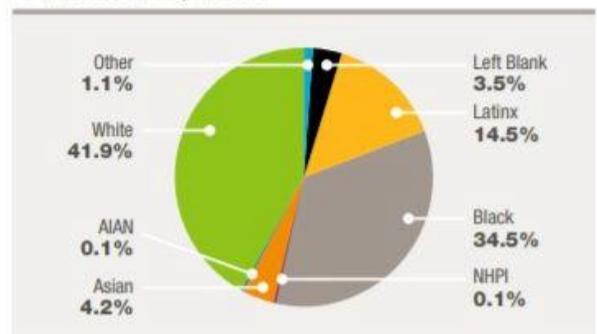
- Low birthweight, which puts infants at higher risk of early death and long-term health and developmental issues, is more common in Black infants than in all other racial and ethnic groups in the USA. <sup>vii</sup>
- In 2017, the poverty rate was much higher for Black children (28.7%) than for White children (10.9%). This situation provides a basis for health problems such as obesity, which is one and a half times more common in Black children and adolescents aged 6–17 years when compared with their White counterparts. <sup>vii</sup>
- Black children fare much worse with conditions such as asthma; they are six times more likely to die from it than White children. <sup>vii</sup>
- Mental health is a concern; the prevalence of attempted suicide was 9.8% for Black high-school students compared with 6.1% for White students in 2017. <sup>vii</sup>
- Blacks in all age groups were more likely to report fair to poor health status than Whites. Blacks were more likely than Whites to report frequent mental distress and frequent physical distress at age  $\geq 50$  years. **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- In all age groups, Blacks were more likely than Whites to report not being able to see a doctor in the past year because of cost. Blacks aged 18–34 years were less likely to have a personal doctor or health care provider than Whites. Blacks with high blood pressure were more likely than Whites in each age group to report taking medication to control it. **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- COVID-19 Impact. (*Sources included in the image.*)

Racial and ethnic demographics of Illinois (2014-2018)



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates, 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates, Table DP05

Racial and ethnic demographics of coronavirus deaths in Illinois as of May 4, 2020



SOURCE: Illinois Department of Public Health. n.d. "COVID-19 Statistics." Illinois Department of Public Health. Retrieved May 4, 2020 (<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/covid19-statistics>)

NOTE: The Illinois Department of Public Health did not provide data for people who identify as multiracial.

## Law Enforcement & the Justice System

- While people of color make up about 30 percent of the United States' population, they account for 60 percent of those imprisoned. <sup>viii</sup>
- According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, one in three Black men can expect to go to prison in their lifetime. <sup>viii</sup>
- Students of color face harsher punishments in school than their White peers, leading to a higher number of youth of color incarcerated. Black and Hispanic students represent more than 70 percent of those involved in school-related arrests or referrals to law enforcement. Currently, African Americans make up two-fifths and Hispanics one-fifth of confined youth today. <sup>viii</sup>
- According to recent data by the Department of Education, African American students are arrested far more often than their White classmates. The data showed that 96,000 students were arrested and 242,000 referred to law enforcement by schools during the 2009-10 school year. Of those students, Black and Hispanic students made up more than 70 percent of arrested or referred students. Harsh school punishments, from suspensions to arrests, have led to high numbers of youth of color coming into contact with the juvenile-justice system and at an earlier age. <sup>viii</sup>
- The war on drugs has been waged primarily in communities of color where people of color are more likely to receive higher offenses. According to the Human Rights Watch, people of color are no more likely to use or sell illegal drugs than Whites, but they have higher rate of arrests. African Americans comprise 14 percent of regular drug users but are 37 percent of those arrested for drug offenses. From 1980 to 2007 about one in three of the 25.4 million adults arrested for drugs was African American. <sup>viii</sup>
- Once convicted, Black offenders receive longer sentences compared to White offenders. The U.S. Sentencing Commission stated that in the federal system Black offenders receive sentences that are 10 percent longer than White offenders for the same crimes. The Sentencing Project reports that African Americans are 21 percent more likely to receive mandatory-minimum sentences than White defendants and are 20 percent more like to be sentenced to prison. <sup>viii</sup>
- Voter laws that prohibit people with felony convictions to vote disproportionately impact men of color. An estimated 5.3 million Americans are denied the right to vote based on a past felony conviction. Felony disenfranchisement is exaggerated by racial disparities in the criminal-justice system, ultimately denying 13 percent of African American men the right to vote. Felony-disenfranchisement policies have led to 11 states denying the right to vote to more than 10 percent of their African American population. <sup>viii</sup>

- In 2010, the state of Arizona passed a law authorizing local police to check the immigration status of anyone they reasonably suspect of being in the United States illegally. <sup>iii</sup>

### Poverty & Inter-related Impacts

- Blacks had significantly lower educational attainment and home ownership and almost twice the proportion of households below the poverty level compared with Whites across the life span. This might help explain disparities in mortality via chronic disease–related behaviors, health-related quality of life, and health care utilization. <sup>ix</sup>
- More than 20% of Hispanic females under the age of 18 live below the poverty level. <sup>iii</sup>
- More than 6 million Latino children were in poverty in 2010, 2/3 of whom come from immigrant parents. <sup>iii</sup>
- The median wealth for White households is 18 times that of Latino households. In 2005, average Latino household wealth was \$18,359; by 2009, this figure had declined to \$6,235. This is a loss of 66 percent of wealth among Latino families; White families only lost 16 percent of their wealth during the same time period. <sup>x</sup>
- Latino families earn a little over half the income earned by White families (\$39,005 compared to \$57,009), partly because of discrimination in getting hired, trained, and promoted. Many settle for manual-labor and service sector jobs that pay low wages often, come with limited prospects for advancement and have few, if any, fringe benefits. Lower incomes lead to a higher poverty rate among Latinos, which is 2.6 times higher than that of Whites. <sup>x</sup>

## References

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<sup>i</sup> *2015-16 Civil Rights Data Collection: School Climate and Safety*. (2018, April). U.S. Department of Education. <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/school-climate-and-safety.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> Rosenthal, L., Earnshaw, V. A., Carroll-Scott, A., Henderson, K. E., Peters, S. M., McCaslin, C., & Ickovics, J. R. (2015). *Weight- and race-based bullying: health associations among urban adolescents*. *Journal of health psychology*, *20*(4), 401–412.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1359105313502567>

<sup>iii</sup> *11 Facts About Discrimination and Poverty in the Latino Community*. (n.d.). DoSomething.org. <https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-discrimination-and-poverty-latino-community>

<sup>iv</sup> *Discrimination in the job market in the United States*. (n.d.). The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL). <https://www.povertyactionlab.org/evaluation/discrimination-job-market-united-states>

<sup>v</sup> Office of the Surgeon General (US), Center for Mental Health Services (US), & National Institute of Mental Health (US). (2001). *Mental Health: Culture, Race, and Ethnicity: A Supplement to Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (US).

<sup>vi</sup> Carratala, S. & Maxwell, C. (2020, May 7). Center for American Progress. *Health Disparities by Race and Ethnicity*. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/race/reports/2020/05/07/484742/health-disparities-race-ethnicity/>

<sup>vii</sup> *Action against racism: the path to better child health outcomes*. (2020, July 3). The Lancet. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-4642\(20\)30212-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-4642(20)30212-1)

<sup>viii</sup> *The top 10 most startling facts about people of color and criminal justice in the United States*. (2015, May 29). Center for American Progress. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/race/news/2012/03/13/11351/the-top-10-most-startling-facts-about-people-of-color-and-criminal-justice-in-the-united-states/>

<sup>ix</sup> Cunningham, T. J., Croft, J. B., Liu, Y., Lu, H., Eke, P. I., & Giles, W. H. (2019, April 8). *Vital Signs: Racial Disparities in Age-Specific Mortality Among Blacks or African Americans — United States, 1999–2015*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6617e1.htm?s\\_cid=mm6617e1\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6617e1.htm?s_cid=mm6617e1_w)

<sup>x</sup> *The Racial Wealth Gap: Latinos*. (2014, April). Center for Global Policy Solutions. [http://globalpolicysolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/RacialWealthGap\\_Latino\\_Final.pdf](http://globalpolicysolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/RacialWealthGap_Latino_Final.pdf)