



## **Racism is a Public Health Issue: Disparities Faced by African Americans**

June 24, 2020

### **HIV**

- African Americans account for a far higher proportion of new HIV diagnoses and people living with HIV, compared to other races and ethnicities. Despite accounting for 13% of the US population, African Americans make up 42% of new HIV cases. In 2018, 31% of new HIV cases were among African American men and 11% were among African American women [1].

### **Housing**

- The rate of homeownership for African Americans is regularly lower than it is for other races/ethnicities. Homeownership among African Americans between 2016 and 2020 hovered around 40% compared to the US average of around 60% [2].
- African Americans homebuyers and renters are burdened by discrimination from realtors and agents. African Americans are not shown as many houses as their White, Latinx, and Asian counterparts [3].
- African American homebuyers face significantly higher levels of discrimination from large housing agencies; this is exacerbated if they are childless or male [3].
- In an HUD study, African American home-seekers were told about 0.2 fewer units than their White counterparts, which over a series of five visits with an agency means that African Americans are shown one fewer available unit [3].
- Rental units with structural problems are more often shown to African American renters than to their White counterparts [3].

### **Homelessness**

- According to 2019's HUD Point in Time count, African Americans are far more likely to be homeless than White Americans and the national average [4].

- The January 2017 Los Angeles Homeless Count reported that African Americans make up 40% (20,960) of the Los Angeles population of homeless individuals. This was an increase of 22% from the previous year, while homeless people who identified as White decreased 7% [5].
- African American families with children are more likely to be unsheltered than nonAfrican American families with children [5].
- African Americans experiencing homeless in Los Angeles County have disproportionately high rates of child welfare system-involvement in their childrearing compared to their White counterparts [5].
- According to the 2017 Homeless Count, there were 2,782 transition aged youth experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County, 42% of whom identify as African American [5].

## **Economics and Employment**

- The average African American household income was \$40,165, in comparison to \$65,845 for White households [1].
- 22.9% of the African American population are living at the poverty level, compared to only 9.6% of the White population [1].
- In 2018, the unemployment rate for African Americans was 6.5%, higher than the national average of 3.9% unemployment [6].
- Among adult women of at least 20 years of age, African Americans were the most likely to participate in the work force (62.9%) compared to Latinx (59.4%), Asian (58.6%), and White women (57.6%) [6].

## **Education**

- For all African Americans over the age of 25, 86% earned a high school diploma compared to 93% Whites [1].
- For all African Americans over the age of 25, 21% earned a Bachelor's Degree or higher compared to 26% of Whites [1].
- For all African Americans over the age of 25, 8% earned a Graduate or Advanced Professional Degree compared to 14% of Whites [1].

- Among people in the U.S. workforce, 31% of African Americans have a Bachelor's Degree or higher, compared to 41% for Whites. [6].

## Sources

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[2] U.S. Census Bureau. Quarterly Residential Vacancies and Homeownerships, First Quarter 2020. April 28, 2020. Available online: <https://www.census.gov/housing/hvs/files/currenthvspress.pdf>

[3] Housing and Urban Development. Housing Discrimination Against Racial and Ethnic Minorities 2012. June 2013. Available online: [https://www.huduser.gov/portal/Publications/pdf/HUD-514\\_HDS2012.pdf](https://www.huduser.gov/portal/Publications/pdf/HUD-514_HDS2012.pdf)

[4] End Homelessness. State of Homelessness: 2020 Edition. Available online: <https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/state-of-homelessness-2020/>

[5] LAHSA. Report and Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Black people Experiencing Homelessness. Available online: <https://www.lahsa.org/documents?id=2823-report-and-recommendations-of-the-ad-hoccommittee-on-black-people-experiencing-homelessness>

[6] U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. BLS Report. October 2019. Available online: <https://www.bls.gov/opub/reports/race-and-ethnicity/2018/home.htm>