

Statistics Confirm Racial Disparities

The statistics below reveal significant disparities in life outcomes between whites and people of color in our country.¹ We share these quantitative observations to demonstrate, identify and characterize racism as a social regularity, that is, an established social phenomenon, and to dispel the myth that racism consists merely of unusual singularities, or outlier events. The disproportionate impact reflected in these statistics is part of everyday knowledge for most people of color, but disproportionate impact is simply not in everyday consciousness for most white people. These statistical descriptions are difficult for all of us to hear, but recognition of this reality is crucial to understanding it:

Blacks are more likely to be unemployed than Whites, a phenomenon exacerbated during economic downturns:

	<u>1980</u> ²	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Dec 2009</u> ³
Blacks	14.3%	11.4%	7.6%	10.1%	16.2%
Whites	6.3%	4.8%	3.5%	5.2%	9.0%

Blacks are likely to be unemployed for longer periods:⁴

	<u>Average (mean) duration</u>	<u>Median duration</u>
Blacks	21.7 weeks	12.1 weeks
Whites	16.7 weeks	8.8 weeks

When employed, Blacks are more likely to be employed in lesser-paying occupations:⁵

	<u>Managerial, Professional, and Related Occupations</u>	<u>Transportation Occupations</u>	<u>Occupations Involving Service Production, & Material Moving</u>
Blacks	27%	24%	17%
Whites	38%	14%	12%

Because of reduced access to well-paying jobs, median household income for Blacks is less than two-thirds that of Whites and median weekly earnings for Blacks are also less.

Median household income:⁶

Black households:	\$30,173
White households:	\$48,784

Median weekly earnings in 2008:⁷

Blacks	\$589
Whites	\$742

The poverty rate for Blacks is significantly higher and Black children are particularly affected.

Poverty rate:⁸

	Blacks	25.6%
	Whites	8.8%
The poverty rate for children:		
	Black children	35.9%
	White children	11%

Transportation to work is more often an obstacle for Blacks.

Transportation to work:⁹

	<u>public transportation</u>	<u>carpooled</u>	<u>drove alone</u>
Blacks	11.5%	10.5%	72.2%
Whites	2.6%	8.3%	81.1%

These disparities are depressingly consistent in all social domains including health, education, housing, and wealth:

The infant mortality rate for Blacks is more than twice that for Whites, even when controlling for the mother's socioeconomic status.

Infant mortality rate:¹⁰

Black	13.6%
White	5.7%

The death rate from heart disease is 25% greater for Black men than for White men, and 35% greater for Black women than for White women.

Death rate due to heart disease (deaths per 100,000 population):¹¹

Black men	364.3
White men	286.9
Black women	253.8
White women	187.1

Deaths from breast cancer, lung cancer and colorectal cancer are significantly greater for Blacks than for Whites.

Cancer death rates (per 100,000 population):¹²

	Breast cancer	lung cancer	colorectal cancer
Blacks	35	63	27
Whites	26	58	20

The gap between the percentage of Blacks who graduate from high school and that of Whites is approximately 25%.

High school graduation rate, 2009:¹³

Black	51%
White	76%

High school status completion rate, 2007:¹⁴

Black	88.8%
White	93.5%

Blacks are significantly less likely to own their own homes.

Home ownership:¹⁵

Black households lived in owner-occupied homes	46%
White households lived in owner-occupied homes	74%

The values of those homes are less.

Median value of owner-occupied homes:¹⁶

Blacks	\$104,185
Non-Hispanic Whites	\$153,693

Householder median net worth:¹⁷

Blacks	\$5,446
Whites	\$87,056

Net wealth of Blacks is a shocking fraction that of Whites.

Householder median net worth excluding home equity:

Blacks	\$1,101
Whites	\$19,079

¹ We have used statistics available on websites so that readers may easily peruse them for more depth.

² Table 10: Unemployment rates by sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 1972-2008 annual averages, Current Population Survey, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, http://www.bls.gov/cps/race_ethnicity_2008_10.htm.

³ News Release, January 8, 2010, Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empst.pdf>. Table A-2. Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex, and age, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empst.t02.htm>.

⁴ Table 11, Unemployed persons by duration of unemployment, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2008 annual averages, Current Population Survey, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, http://www.bls.gov/cps/race_ethnicity_2008_11.htm.

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, "The American Community – Blacks: 2004," American Community Survey Reports, Issued February 2007, Figure 13, Occupation: 2004, p. 17, <http://www.census.gov/prod/2007pubs/acs-04.pdf>. Percentages are for those Blacks and non-Hispanic Whites 16 and older.

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, "The American Community – Blacks: 2004," American Community Survey Reports, Issued February 2007, Figure 14, Median Household Income: 2004, p. 18, <http://www.census.gov/prod/2007pubs/acs-04.pdf>.

⁷ Table 14: Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 1979-2008 annual averages, Current Population Survey, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, http://www.bls.gov/cps/race_ethnicity_2008_14.htm.

⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, "The American Community – Blacks: 2004," American Community Survey Reports, Issued February 2007, Figure 15, Poverty Rate by Age Group: 2004, p. 19, <http://www.census.gov/prod/2007pubs/acs-04.pdf>.

⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, "The American Community – Blacks: 2004," American Community Survey Reports, Issued February 2007, Figure 18, Commuting to Work: 2004, p. 22, <http://www.census.gov/prod/2007pubs/acs-04.pdf>.

¹⁰ Cara James, Megan Thomas, and Marsha Lillie-Blanton of The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, and Rachel Garfield, Harvard University, January 2007, "Key Facts: Race, Ethnicity and Medical Care," Figure 8, Infant Mortality Rate by Race/Ethnicity, 2003, p. 8, <http://www.kff.org/minorityhealth/upload/6069-02.pdf>.

¹¹ Cara James, Megan Thomas, and Marsha Lillie-Blanton of The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, and Rachel Garfield, Harvard University, January 2007, "Key Facts: Race, Ethnicity and Medical Care," Figure 11, Death rate due to heart disease by race/ethnicity, 2003, p. 10, <http://www.kff.org/minorityhealth/upload/6069-02.pdf>.

¹² Cara James, Megan Thomas, and Marsha Lillie-Blanton of The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, and Rachel Garfield, Harvard University, January 2007, "Key Facts: Race, Ethnicity and Medical Care," Figure 12, Cancer Death rates by race/ethnicity, 2002, p. 11, <http://www.kff.org/minorityhealth/upload/6069-02.pdf>.

¹³ Alliance for Excellent Education. "Understanding High School Graduation Rates in the United States," estimate of completed diplomas based on school year 2005-06. http://www.all4ed.org/files/National_wc.pdf.

¹⁴ Indicates the percentage of young people, 18- to 24-year-olds who have left high school and who hold a high school credential (diploma or equivalent including a GED certificate). U.S. Department of Education, High School Dropout and Completion Rates in the United States: 2007, Compendium Report, p. 8, Table 9, Status completion rates, and number and distribution of completers ages 18-24 not currently enrolled in high school or below, by selected characteristics: October 2007, p. 35, <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009064.pdf>.

¹⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, "The American Community – Blacks: 2004," American Community Survey Reports, Issued February 2007, Figure 16, Housing Tenure: 2004, p. 20, <http://www.census.gov/prod/2007pubs/acs-04.pdf>.

¹⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, "The American Community – Blacks: 2004," American Community Survey Reports, Issued February 2007, Figure 17, Selected Housing Characteristics: 2004, p. 21, <http://www.census.gov/prod/2007pubs/acs-04.pdf>.

¹⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2001 Panel, Figure 7, Median net worth and median net worth excluding home equity of households by race and Hispanic origin of householder: 2002, p. 13, <http://www.census.gov/prod/2008pubs/p70-115.pdf>.