

# African Americans in US society

How much does the affiliation to the African American racial group impact lives regarding

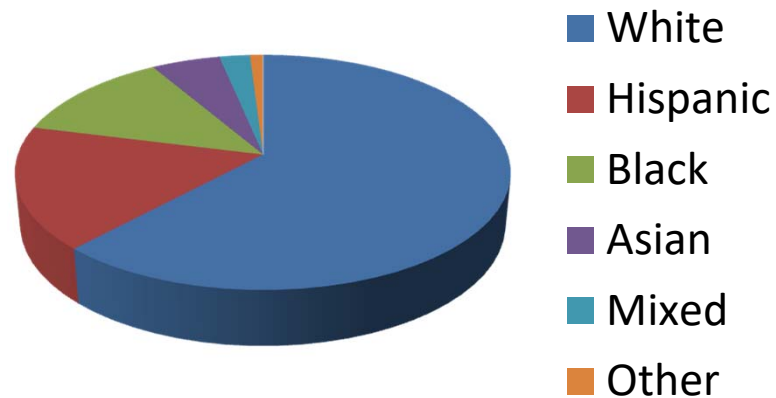
- Education,
- Wealth and
- Health disparities including Covid-19,
- and fatal police shootings along with the movement “Black Lives Matter“?



# Racial groups in the United States

According to “Statistic Atlas” the population of the United States, which includes 330 million civilians, is divided into racial groups as follows:

- About two thirds of Americans are white, which make the white population the largest American racial group.
- Approximately one seventh are Hispanics, excluding black and Asian Hispanics.
- More than one eighth of the population, i.e. about 40 million people, are African Americans.
- The smaller racial groups, like e.g. Asians, form about one twelfth of America’s population.



# Education



According to “U.S. Census Bureau”, in 2017

- nine tenths of Americans of age 25 and older have completed high school.
- About 94% of non-Hispanic whites and approximately 87% of African Americans are high school graduates.

➔ High school completion gap has declined by half since 1993.

➔ 25 high school students of color got surprised with their acceptance into the “Harvard Diversity Project” on “GoodMorningAmerica” in June 2020.

# Wealth disparity

With a median wealth of \$17,100 in 2016, African American households have only ten cents in wealth for every dollar held by white households

The Great Recession of 2007-2009 lead to

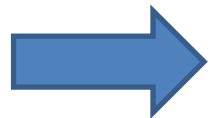
- a decline in wealth for U.S. families amongst all racial groups,
- an increase of the wealth gap between middle-income white and African American households and
- the reduction in the wealth gap among lower-income families from 2007 to 2016 due to decrease in wealth for white households.



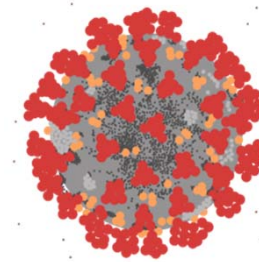
# Health disparities regarding Covid-19

According to “The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention” about one third of Covid-19 patients in the United States are African Americans due to

- their occupation with low paid jobs, bearing a high risk of getting infected with Covid-19,
- the economic disparities which often prevent African Americans from access to health care,
- „redlining”, i.e. neighborhoods affected by environmental pollution, and
- institutional racism, leading to high stress levels and chronic illnesses.



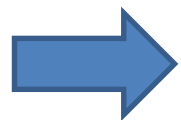
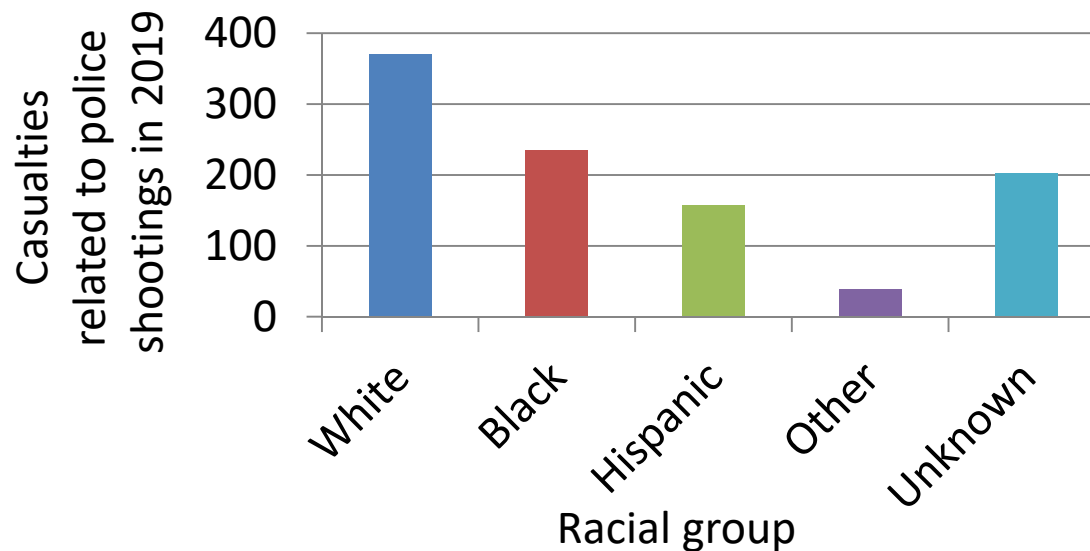
Covid-19 magnifies racial inequality.



# Fatal police shootings

In 2019, the amount of fatal police shootings in the United States has increased to 1,004 civilians being shot.

- 77 percent of police officers are white; only 13 percent are African Americans.
- 370 white civilians and 235 African American civilians were killed.



African Americans have largest number of casualties per racial group.

# “Black Lives Matter”

Beginning of the movement in 2013 due to public outcry after

- the acquittal of the neighbourhood watch George Zimmerman, who fatally shot the African American Trayvon Martin in 2012 in Sanford, Florida

Current peak:

- Global protests following the death of the African American George Floyd, who was killed by police officers in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 25, 2020.



# Goal of “Black Lives Matter”

The movement “Black Lives Matter” protests against racial inequality in the U.S. policing and raises awareness for apparent racial disparities regarding education, wealth and health

because

**“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”**

**(Martin Luther King Jr.)**



# Sources

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