



RACISM AND HOMELESSNESS



TODAY'S PRESENTER'S

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Overview

Intro

Brief
History of
Racism in
America

Video –
Authentic
Voices

Modern day examples of
racism, and how this
impacts homelessness

Hopeful
signs

How to
Get
Involved

Conclu
sion



Introduction

- James Alexander

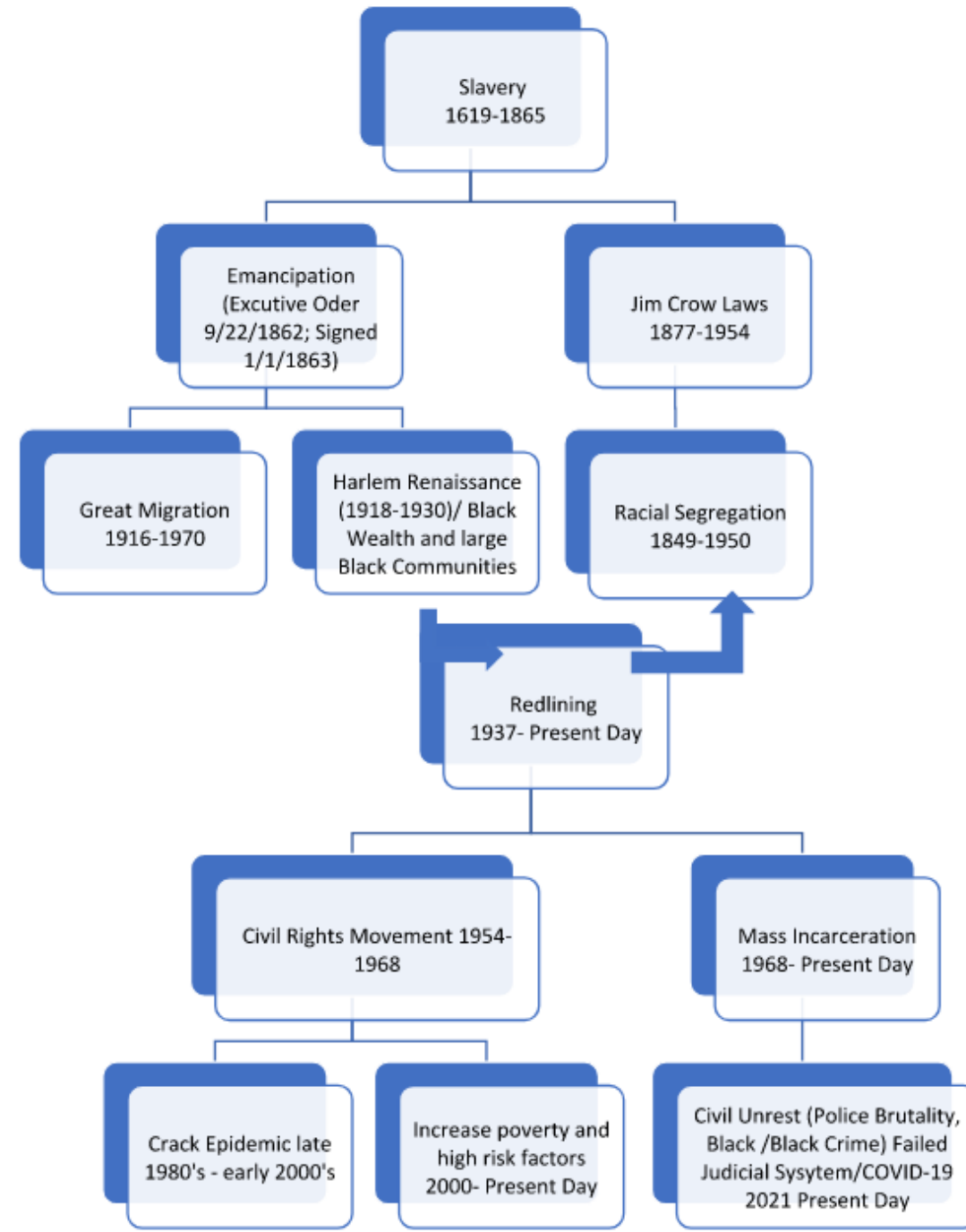
- More than 70 percent of people experiencing homelessness in Columbus are African-American.
- African-Americans only make up 24 percent of Columbus and Franklin County.
- Racism (especially systemic racism) provides an explanation for this disparity in numbers.
- Urgent: Consider that the average life expectancy of a person experiencing homelessness is 50 years (almost 20 years lower than people with homes!).

Brief History of Racism in America

- Shanican Pender

Racism has been a
part of America from
the beginning

The Cycle of Racism



“BLACK CODES”/JIM CROW

- Following Emancipation Proclamation, Southern white landowners tried to maintain control using criminal justice system → “Black Codes”
- “Black Codes”
 - Yearly labor contracts
 - Breaking contracts → Arrest
- Black Codes led to incarceration of unprecedented amount of African-Americans
- Jim Crow laws arose in place of Black Codes

SEGREGATED HOUSING

- Plantation housing
- Abolishment of slavery → segregated housing becomes institutional
- Lenders make it virtually impossible for African-Americans to get mortgages in certain neighborhoods (redlining)
- Minorities concentrated in underfunded areas
- Still difficult for these houses to appreciate in value (little wealth generation)

DISCRIMINATORY EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

- Forced labor on plantations
- After slavery, continue to work on lands of white landowners
- African-Americans were restricted from many New Deal programs
- Discriminatory hiring practices right up to today
- Many African-Americans have been concentrated in least desired and lowest paying jobs

AUTHENTIC VOICES

Video from people who experience homelessness in Columbus



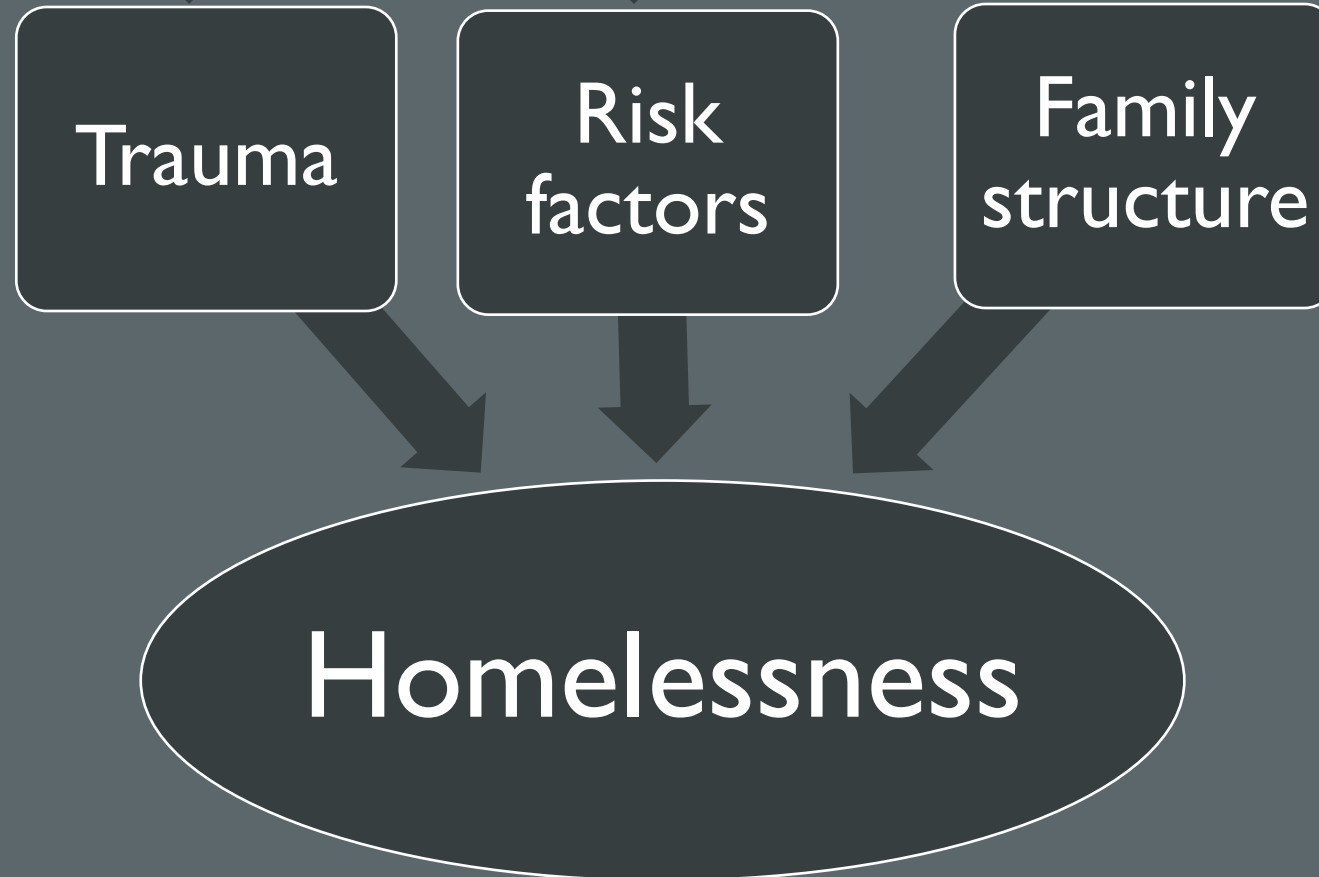
AUDIENCE INTERACTION

- Heather Johnson

- Audience Poll Question
 - Have you or someone you know been impacted by systemic racism?
 - No
 - Maybe; I'm not sure
 - Yes
- Audience Chatbox Question
 - What examples of systemic racism or discrimination have you experienced? Please post in the chat box.

Individual Experiences

- Shanican Pender



WOMEN AND HOMELESSNESS

- African-American women experience the highest rate of sheltered homelessness
- Causes of homelessness in women:
 - Lack of income
 - Lack of affordable housing
 - Trauma – child abuse & neglect, sexual abuse, domestic violence, human trafficking, etc.
 - Risk factors - substance use, mental health issues, lack of education and employment



Systemic Racism

```
graph TD; A[Systemic Racism] --> B[Home ownership and housing]; A --> C[Education, employment, income]; A --> D[Criminal Justice]; B --> E([Homelessness]); C --> E; D --> E;
```

Home
ownership
and housing

Education,
employment,
income

Criminal
Justice

Homelessness

RACISM AND HOME OWNERSHIP/HOUSING

Why a homeownership gap?

- Lingering effects of discriminatory housing policies
 - Redlining: assigned grade levels and codes to neighborhoods that represented lenders' perceived credit risk...risk was often determined by residents' race
 - End result: Virtually impossible to qualify for mortgage in red-lined neighborhood
- Today, many Black families own homes in formerly-red-lined neighborhoods that have much lower property values → lower accumulation of wealth



RACISM AND HOME OWNERSHIP/HOUSING



73.7%
of white households
are homeowners

6.15%
mortgage denial rates
for all races

\$139,300
median household net
worth in 2019 for white
households

80
times homeowner
households' net worth
is as large as renter
households' net worth

Source: Redfin; Census Bureau; Lending Tree; Zillow

44%
of black households are
homeowners

12.64%
mortgage denial rates for
black buyers

\$12,780
median household net
worth in 2019 for black
households

52%
less appreciation for a
typical house in redlined
neighborhoods than in
greenlined
neighborhoods

Between January 2007
and December 2015,
homes in majority black
neighborhoods were twice
as likely to be foreclosed
on than homes in majority
white neighborhoods



DWUAN D. JUNE/THE WASHINGTON POST; ISTOCKPHOTO

EVICTIONS

Evictions

- African-Americans and Latinx more than twice as likely to rent than whites
- Columbus ranks 52nd of American cities in evictions
- African-Americans, whose income is lower on average, at higher risk for eviction
- Correlation between majority-Black neighborhoods and high eviction rates



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RACISM AND JOBS, EDUCATION, INCOME

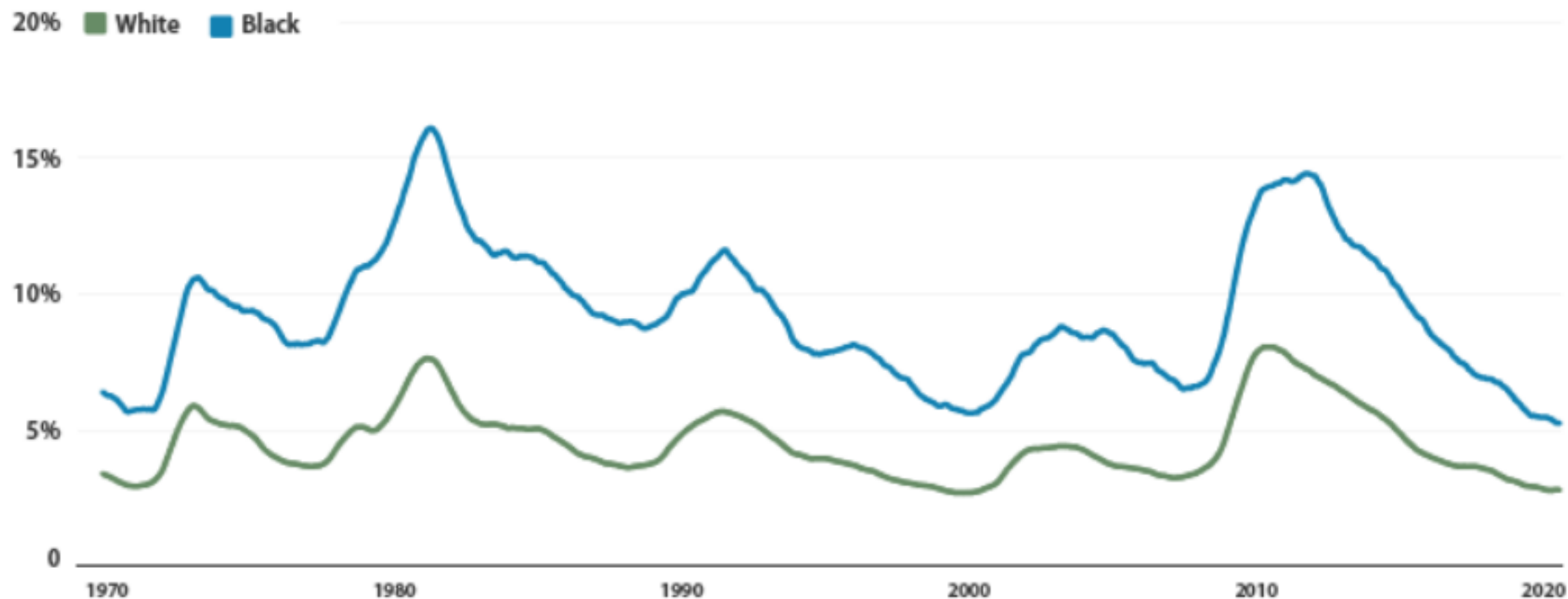
- In general, African-Americans face more barriers to getting and keeping good jobs than whites
- Jobs that are:
 - lower paying
 - have worse benefits
 - less stable (when economy turns downward, these are first to go)
- Result of fewer opportunities, due to:
 - Lack of college education
 - Systemic racism
 - Outright employment discrimination



FIGURE 2

Prime-age unemployment is historically higher for Black workers than white workers

U.S. unemployment rate by race, 1973–2019



Note: Data are 12-month averages and are not seasonally adjusted. The prime-age unemployment rate is the share of workers ages 25 to 54 who are out of a job and looking for work.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 'Current Population Surveys, 1972–2019' (Washington: U.S. Department of Labor, 1972–2019), available at <https://www.bls.gov/cps/>.

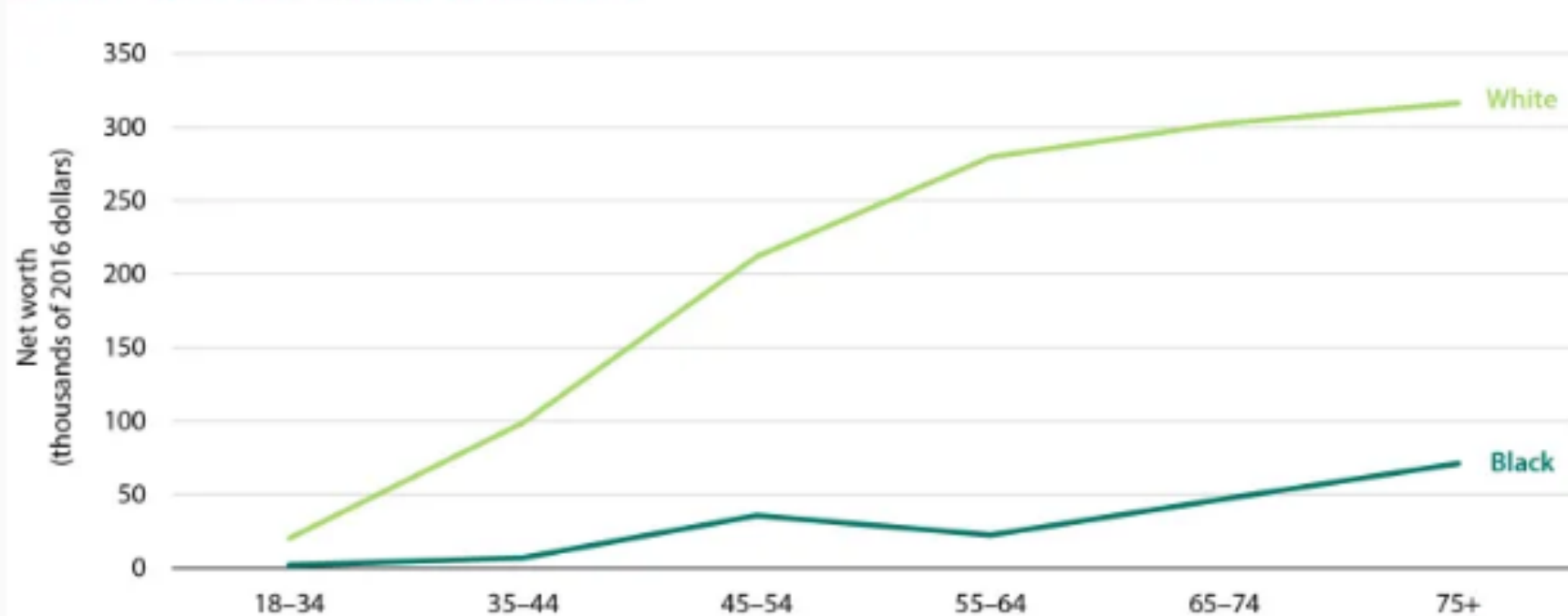


JOBS, EDUCATION, INCOME AND HOMELESSNESS

- Lower paying jobs + lower attainment of college degrees = obvious impact on income

FIGURE 2.

Median Net Worth, by age of Household Head



Source: Survey of Consumer Finances 2016; authors' calculations.

Note: Data are from 2016. Net worth refers to the difference between assets and debt for a household head. Race and ethnicity are those of the survey respondent.

Systemic Racism

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graph TD; A[Systemic Racism] --> B[Home ownership and housing]; A --> C[Education, employment, income]; A --> D[Criminal Justice]; B --> E([Homelessness]); C --> E; D --> E; style D stroke:#f00,stroke-width:4px
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A flowchart illustrating the impact of systemic racism on homelessness. At the top, a dark grey rounded rectangle contains the text 'Systemic Racism'. Three dark grey arrows point downwards from this box to three separate dark grey rounded rectangles below it. The first rectangle on the left contains the text 'Home ownership and housing'. The middle rectangle contains the text 'Education, employment, income'. The third rectangle on the right contains the text 'Criminal Justice' and is highlighted with a thick red border. From each of these three middle rectangles, a dark grey arrow points downwards to a single dark grey oval at the bottom containing the text 'Homelessness'.

Home
ownership
and housing

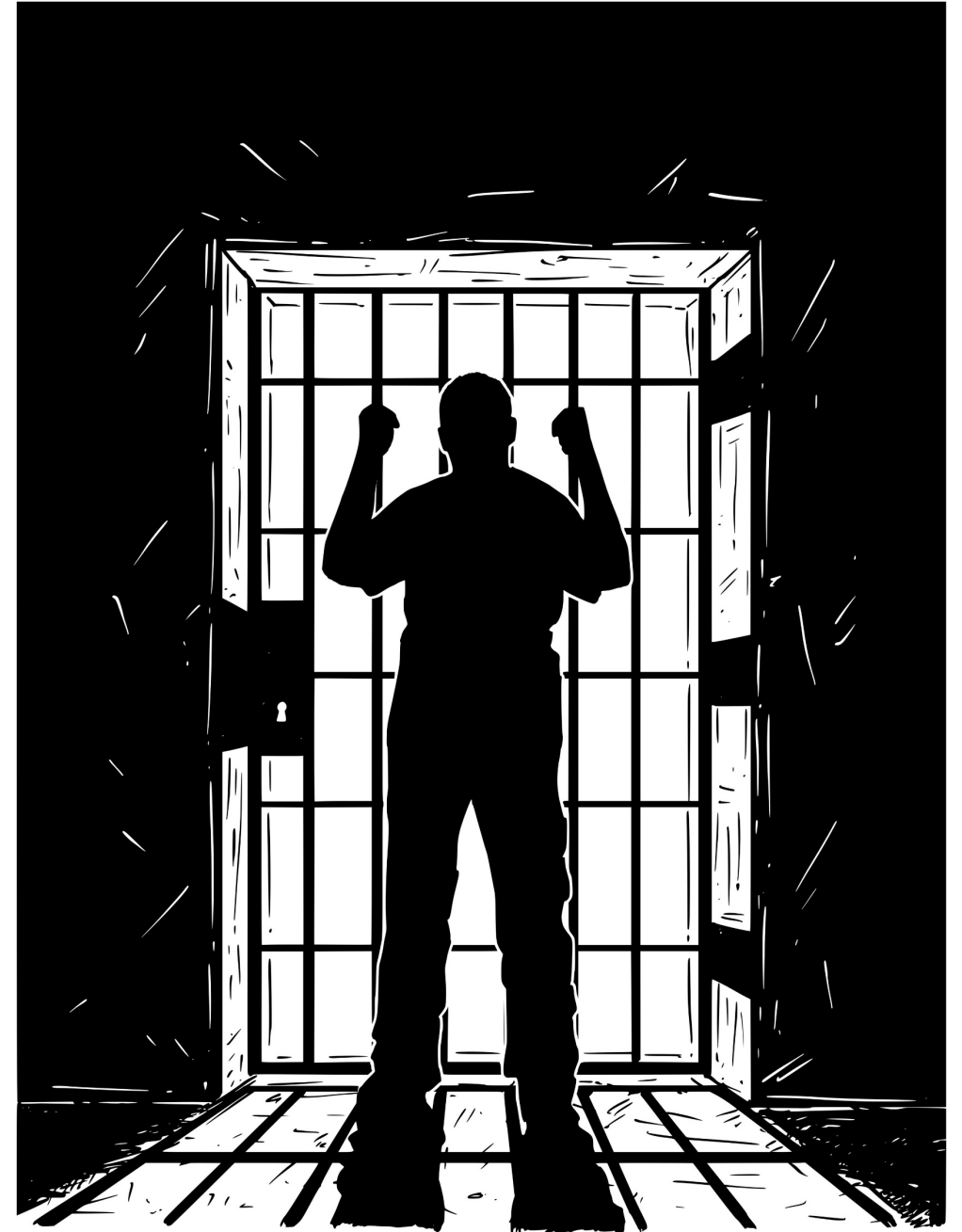
Education,
employment,
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Criminal
Justice

Homelessness

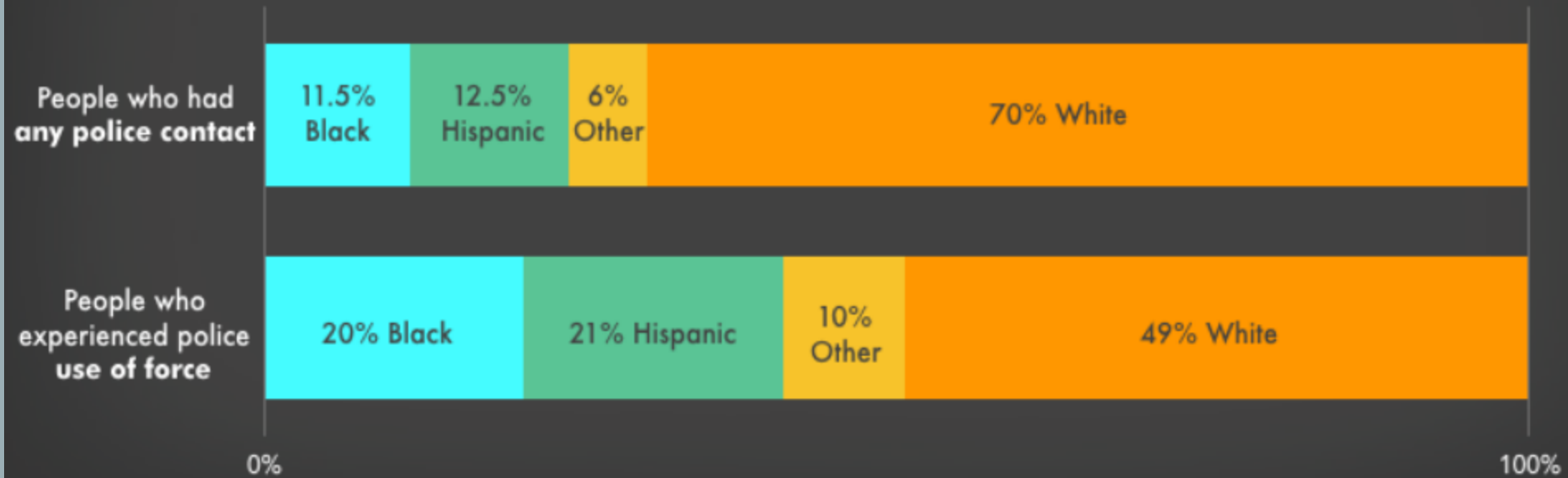
RACISM AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- African-Americans make up 13 percent of the US population, yet are drastically overrepresented in numbers of arrests and incarcerations:
 - Policing and profiling
 - 2020 NY Times investigation: In Minneapolis African-Americans are 19 percent of population; 58 percent of police use-of-force incidents
 - Sentencing
 - Survey sampling Louisiana inmates found those serving life without parole for nonviolent offenses were 91 percent Black, despite being only 33 percent of state population
 - Jail, prison, incarceration
 - 2018 Pew study: 1 in 23 black adults on parole or probation; 1 in 81 white adults



Among individuals who have any contact with police, people of color disproportionately experience the use of force

Racial composition of people who reported having any contact with police in the past 12 months (as of 2015) compared to those who reported experiencing the threat or use of force by police in the past 12 months



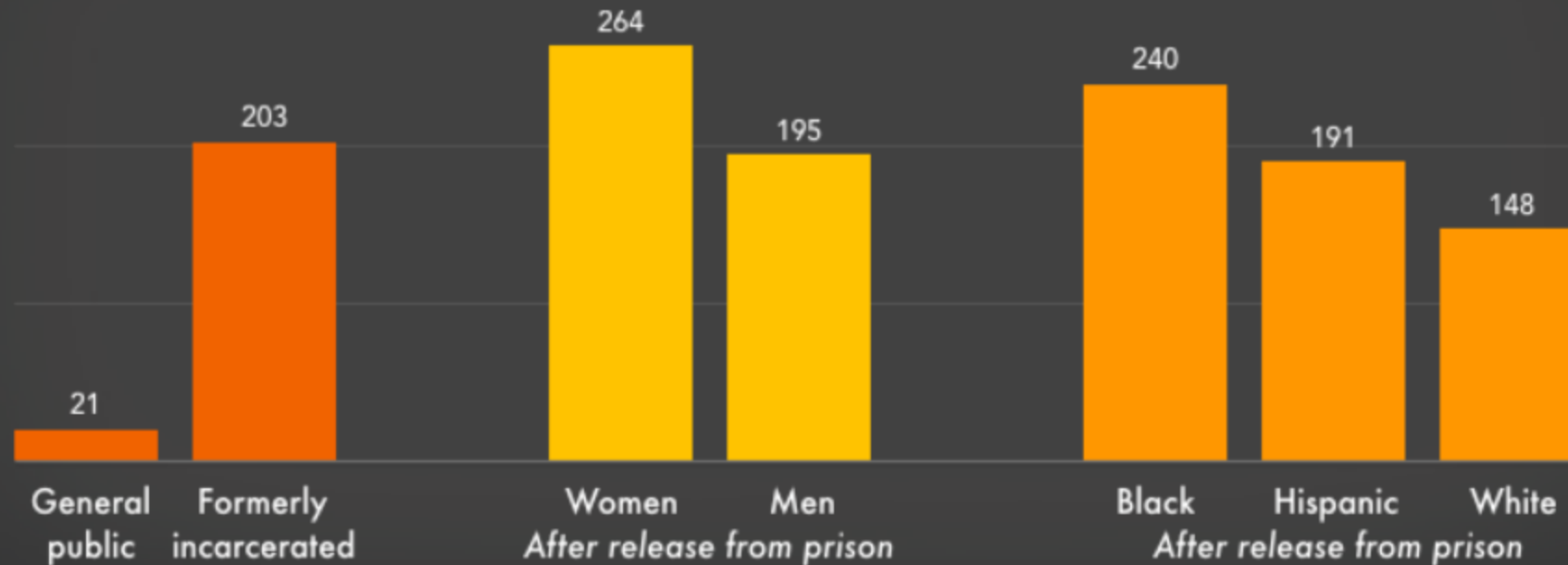
INCARCERATION AND HOMELESSNESS

- People with conviction histories are more likely to experience homelessness
 - In fact, those with one or more convictions are 13 times more likely to experience homelessness
 - According to HUD, more than 50,000 people per year go directly from correctional facility to shelter
- Those experiencing unsheltered homelessness are far more likely to interact with police and justice system



Formerly incarcerated people have very high rates of homelessness, especially women and people of color

Number of homeless per 10,000 people in each category in 2008
(the most recent year data for formerly incarcerated people are available)



Sources & data notes: www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/housing.html

PRISON
POLICY INITIATIVE

JANE ELLIOT VIDEO CLIP

- Jane Elliot asks white people a profound question



Self Reflection:

- How can you change the narrative?



HOPEFUL SIGNS FOR CHANGE

- Heather Johnson

- Black Lives Matter Movement and Police Reform
- Justice System Changes – special dockets, ending cash bail, new drug laws, etc.
- Monuments, Flags, and Symbols of the Confederacy
- Recognition of Racism in Film and Media



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Simple things you can do
- Social justice events
- Community conversations on race
- Voting registration drives, campaigns, and elections
- Supporting new legislation / changing existing laws
- Join Columbus Coalition for the Homeless – www.columbushomeless.org
- Join CCAR – Contact James Alexander – jalexander5858@outlook.com

What is COHHIO's REC

- COHHIO's Racial Equity Committee is a response to the overwhelming need to address racial inequities in housing and homelessness
- Began work in October of 2018
- For Race Equity full day/4-part trainings reach out to the racialequity@cohhio.org



R.E.A.C.H Ohio



CONCLUSION

James Alexander

Columbus Coalition Against
Racism and Homelessness



EVALUATION

- Please complete the evaluation form.
- Thanks for your feedback! It helps to improve the program next time.

