RACISM AND HOMELESSNESS
TODAY’S PRESENTER'S

James Alexander – Columbus Coalition Against Racism and Homelessness and Southeast Healthcare
Email: jalexander5858@outlook.com

Shanican Pender - Amedio Reliant Group, LLC.
Email: shanicanp@yahoo.com

Heather Johnson – Columbus Coalition for the Homeless
Email: heatherjohnson234@gmail.com
Overview

1. Intro
2. Brief History of Racism in America
3. Video – Authentic Voices
4. Modern day examples of racism, and how this impacts homelessness
5. Hopeful signs
6. How to Get Involved
7. Conclusion
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!).
Racism has been a part of America from the beginning.

Brief History of Racism in America
- Shanican Pender
The Cycle of Racism

- Slavery 1619-1855
  - Emancipation (Executive Order 9/22/1862; Signed 1/1/1863)
    - Great Migration 1916-1970
    - Harlem Renaissance (1918-1930) / Black Wealth and large Black Communities
  - Jim Crow Laws 1877-1954
    - Racial Segregation 1849-1950
      - Redlining 1937- Present Day

- Civil Rights Movement 1954-1968
  - Crack Epidemic late 1980's - early 2000's
- Mass Incarceration 1968- Present Day
  - Increase poverty and high risk factors 2000- Present Day
“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 \(\rightarrow\) 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

Trauma
Risk factors
Family structure

Homelessness
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

- Home ownership and housing
- Education, employment, income
- Criminal Justice

Homelessness
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
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

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

Source: Redfin; Census Bureau; Lending Tree; Zillow

DAMIAN D. JUAREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE, STEVEN R. ROSE/STOCKPHOTO
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
Systemic Racism

- Home ownership and housing
- Education, employment, income
- Criminal Justice

Homelessness
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.
JOBS, EDUCATION, INCOME AND HOMELESSNESS

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

Home ownership and housing

Education, employment, income

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.

- **People who had any police contact**:
  - 11.5% Black
  - 12.5% Hispanic
  - 6% Other
  - 70% White

- **People who experienced police use of force**:
  - 20% Black
  - 21% Hispanic
  - 10% Other
  - 49% White

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Contacts Between Police and the Public, 2015* Tables 1 and 18
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)

- General public: 21
- Formerly incarcerated: 203
- Women after release from prison: 264
- Men after release from prison: 195
- Black after release from prison: 240
- Hispanic: 191
- White: 148

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

Racial Equity Action Committee on Homelessness in Ohio
CONCLUSION

James Alexander
Columbus Coalition Against Racism and Homelessness
• Please complete the evaluation form.
• Thanks for your feedback! It helps to improve the program next time.