

Spring 2024

Poverty and the Economic Impact of People of Color

Darin Roseberry
droseberry1@murraystate.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.murraystate.edu/bis437>

Recommended Citation

Roseberry, Darin, "Poverty and the Economic Impact of People of Color" (2024). *Integrated Studies*. 574.
<https://digitalcommons.murraystate.edu/bis437/574>

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Works at Murray State's Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Integrated Studies by an authorized administrator of Murray State's Digital Commons. For more information, please contact msu.digitalcommons@murraystate.edu.

Poverty and the Economic Impact of People of Color

Darin Roseberry

Murray State University

BIS 437

DR. Douglas

Due: January 19, 2024

Economic disadvantages and poverty that African Americans or people of color are going through today are a continue battle in the United States, it is time to be aware of and make changes. The ghetto and slums of some of the most impoverished cities in our country are a sad statement for those who are being left behind and forgotten about. No one should not have to make decisions or choices of crime, drugs, or joining a gang as a way out of these conditions of poverty, health, and mass incarcerations, among other things if someone pushes you down a hole it does not mean you cannot climb yourself out. Changes must be formulated and planned out to close this economic gap and the disadvantages for people of color who have a bit of wealth and some livable means polling or pulling their resources together to buy back their neighborhoods by owning the grocery stores, the gas stations, the corner stores, and many other small businesses in their communities. This could make a real difference in the lives of people of color.

There is a fundamental problem when the economic and racial inequality in the lives of African American people and the disadvantages they suffer to gain equal opportunities for all. Poverty, poor health, negativity in the urban communities, along with mass incarcerations are ways that need to change to improve the lives of people of color.

Living in areas of concentrated ghetto poverty, still shadowed by the legacy of slavery and second-class citizenship. Too many young Black men are trapped in a horrific cycle that includes active discrimination, unemployment, poverty, crime, prison, and early death. When they act out violently or participate in dramatic crimes that make the news, the repercussions for the general image of young Black males can be far-reaching. Strongly identified with violent criminality by skin color alone, the anonymous young Black male in public is often viewed primarily with fear and suspicion, his counterclaims to propriety, decency, and law abidingness notwithstanding. Others typically do not want to know him. Aware of his place as an outsider, he may try to turn the tables when he can, expressing himself in public, as threatening, oppositional, and justifiable given their initial reactions.

The young ghetto males self-presentation is often consciously off putting or thuggish a primary status that overpowers positive qualities. In a bid for respect, many value this image as part of a hip style that deters insults and attacks in the local hood. Bu the image may have unintended consequences giving potential employers reason to discriminate in favor of less threatening workers of ten from the pool of recent immigrants who appear clean cut, diligent and

willing to work for less and without the benefits and protection expected by ghetto males. This issue is set with preexisting fears, negative assessments, or prejudice. The employed may consciously exclude the stereotypical black ghetto male contributing to his persistent do lessness and desperation. As these circumstances become more widespread, the negative stereotypes are perpetrated and strengthened, leading to more suspicion, discrimination, and marginalization. The whole sale diminution of social capital, which energizes and intensifies the country's racial divide. To understand the origin and nature of the problems and prospects of the black inner-city male must insinuate him in postindustrial urban American. In the 1950's more military Black people emerged to challenge the system collectively via The Civil Rights Movement. Meier, A., & Rudwick, E. M. (1996)

Racism and poverty go hand and hand together with backs against the wall, poor, young, Black, and male. There is indeed a link between poverty and racism. Ethnic minorities are disproportionately affected by poverty with the lack of education, adequate housing, and health care transmitting poverty because of the exclusion it leads to. But in addition, poverty itself may lead to further calls of racism. (Horowitz, 2019) The uncomfortable truth is that negative stereotypes about people of color in poverty are ripe among the general population and are embedded in the very institutions meant to support the poor. Like schools, social services, healthcare, housing. Even judges have been found to hand down harsher sentences based on poverty and racism. Sometimes learning to speak upon these issues along with human rights can aim at fostering concrete action to fight poverty and racism. To break those poverty cycles people of color need access to better employment, healthcare, and political participation. This can become a positive way to breaking poverty and racism cycles. (Breaking the Cycle of Poverty, n.d.)

Poor health outcomes among African Americans Back Against the Wall, Poor, Young, Old, and Black and Male, poor health outcomes among people of color what do they have in common. Everything leads to the same outcomes no matter the given title compared to their White counterparts. People of color are at higher risk for heart diseases, stroke, cancer, asthma, influenzas and pneumonia, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS. One possible contributing factor is transportation, getting to and from doctor visits. Also playing a part is living in poverty, not owning a home, poverty, income, inequality like wealth. People of color go through repeated and chronic exposure to stressors associated with racism and discrimination. These disparities have

been exacerbated by the ongoing racism and police violence against and killing of Black people, moreover the long history of inequitable health outcomes among people of color reflects the abuses faced during slavery, segregation, mass incarceration, and their persistent legacies. People of color face increased barriers to accessing and utilizing healthcare while the implementation of the affordable care act and the pandemic era policies have helped narrow some disparities in health coverage. People of color continue to have a higher uninsured rate. People of color are more likely to face social and economic challenges that can adversely impact healthcare and are more likely to face social and economic challenges including higher rates of poverty and food insecurity. People of color are also more likely than White adults to report being treated unfairly because of their race while seeking care for themselves or family members. Ongoing racism and discrimination, police violence, and killings of Black people and gun violence, also negatively impact health and the well being of people of color. By addressing the historic and current health and social challenges as the Black population continues to grow and become more diverse improving people of color overall health and well being will support the Black communities to help in assist in helping them get out of this cycle of poverty and poor health. These health disparities in the communities of people of color the need to underscore the urgent and serious problems and the urgent need to address systemic racism as a root cause of racial and ethnic healthcare and a core element in the surrounding communities housing people of color. (West, C., & Anderson, E. 2011)

Affordable housing (people of color) racial disparity is the results of higher home ownership rates and higher incomes among White households. Decades of racial discrimination in real estate leading practices and federal housing policy have made home ownership difficult to obtain for people of color. Racial disparities this topic go along with Back Against the Wall Poor, Young, Old, Black, and Male and racism poor health outcomes among African American (people of color) racial disparities in income are the results of historical racism and current discrimination and the differences in educational attainment, wages, and employment rates among other factors. People of color continue to have lower rates of upward mobility than Whites. The United States history of segregated housing continue to limit affordable housing. Few human decisions are more important to people of color than a family choice of where to live. But this have always been the case for African American families who have faced a history of housing segregation. To be sure owning a home is all but an impossible dream for increasing

number of African American families. The roots of housing racism and discrimination particularly as it affects Black Americans extend deep into the nations history. Slavery shaped the early housing options for people of color who were brought to a new world for plantation labor overtime as slavery was replaced by institutional and economic forces that limited African American participation in civic and community life, their housing choices followed a pattern of inequality in keeping with their status in the nation it is worth noting that the melting pot theory of immigrant assimilation failed to blend African Americans into a homogenized nation.

(Affordable Housing as Local Reparations for Black Americans: Case Studies | Othering & Belonging Institute, n.d.)

We need a diverse and fair balanced judiciary that reflects all aspects of the legal profession. Once again racism play a key role along with Back Against the Wall, Poor, Young, Old, Black, and Male, Racism and Poor Health Outcomes Among African American and Affordable housing have a common theme it one is rooted in poverty and the economic impact of people of color. This mass incarceration among people of color that is skewed against the African American communities. This imbalance will last for decades without intervention. One way to start is to eliminate racial and economic bias in the lives of African American families. To reform our justice system, start with addressing the structural inequities that allow people with lower incomes to be penalized in ways that wealthy people are not. This systematically affects Black communities who continue to be over policed, surveilled, harshly sentenced and sent to prison in lieu of no access to quality healthcare. (Equal Justice Initiative, 2019)

When we see policies that unfairly target or penalize Black people in the criminal justice system. We must address these issues where they are, with laws and legislation and with elected and appointed leaders. That will provide policy recommendations to eliminate race-based discrimination in policing, courts, and incarceration. The challenge is in talking about racism, race, and justice communicating the ways that discrimination, prosecutions, and incarceration practices impact Black communities. Our criminal justice system is shaped by biased policing and unfair judicial precedents, rooted in anti-Blackness and racial disparity. The emotional, mental, physical, and monetary impact on the communities is a tangible experience for millions of Black people in the U.S. the cost of an unjust justice system is high. Black people are incarcerated at more than five times the rate of Whites and 65 percent of Black adults have felt targeted because of their race. (Hurwitz & Peffley, 2005)

Poverty and the economic impact of people of color subject is most interesting because of the disparities in underserved communities. It is amazing how that people in these communities do not have access to healthcare, the average lifespan for people of color compared to every other race is only 65 years of age do to lack of healthcare and nutrition. One of the main factors that is playing a significant role in these underserved communities is transportation and access to healthcare facilities. Also, without transportation it is also harder for those in these communities to get gainful employment to best provide for their families. (Copeland, 2005) Children are growing up in single family homes with the only role model that they have which is their mothers who I do feel are the real superheroes. No child should go to bed hungry or wondering where they will lay their head down to sleep at night. The communities of color are really at a disadvantage when it comes to the justice system with African American males making up 85% of the prisons and jails. Something must change with the sentencing guidelines to make it better for first time no violent offender to be placed in a diversion program as an opportunity to incarceration although the African American youth today do see many role models in their neighborhoods but gang members and drug dealers as the only ones to look up to there is a better way. But the positive role model that are under reported are African American teachers, lawyers, congresspeople and women, small business owners, firefighters, police officers, judges, pastors, doctors etc. There is so much more for the African American youth to look forward to if given the chance.

In the African American communities and the talking of race, poverty and the environment and to persist, restore, and rejuvenate the communities is looking into the gap between the working class in those living below the poverty levels is so lost with a lack of understanding of way things are, the way that they are. The fact that cities and communities are working to restore abandon buildings and infrastructures to provide more affordable housing for low-income families, those who are affected by incarceration and woman who are or have been in abusive relationships with no way out or no place to go. Yes, these past few years have been taxing with a new demographic of politician to which we do not have to put a name to. Our democratic process has gone from caring about Americans and their well-being to caring about the top 10 percent of those who have the most wealth to only make their lives easier to the lives of those who are living in very tough situations and poverty. This current environment is surrounded by those who do not care enough or just do not fully understand. How bad and how

hard it is for those who are less capable of making ends meet. The Resist, Restore, and Rejuvenate is a great start to enforce the opportunity for local renters rights everyday as the federal government elevation of the right wing. Yes, America is starting to become increasingly racist and political with selfish ambitions to promote more domestic violence. Housing, food, and healthcare should be a privilege not a right to those who feel as if they are the only one entitled to it. To restore the fabric of America one nation under God, the land of the free. The great melting pots. The place for freedom and where opportunity knocks. There are so many groups of people who need housing and if one would take a long drive across America to see just how bad the homeless situation is and if we open our eyes we can see that this is a problem that can be fixed and must be fixed before it worsens to a level of no return. It has become a sad day across the world not only in America when women are doubly victimized, the courts system are failing them to the point some way feel why even bother to tell my story.

There is hope that we are starting to see a group of people as well as institutions who are willing to bring a ray of hope for those who do not see an end to their struggles. Resist, Restore, rejuvenate are doing their part to get positive vibes flowing through the streets, prisons, and shelters looking for partners to come along to make this place a better place for everyone no matter their race, creed, or the color of their skin. We are more alike than different; we can have an underline balance of care. Another way to bring change is to bring forth a change at the government level because in so many ways poverty affects us all in one way or the other. Reimagine has taken an idea and made it a reality giving hope to the housing problem putting their resources to work restoring building and homes to best suit those who are in need of affordable housing it just takes one to look in the mirror to make a change and many of us to make a difference. (Clarke, 2017) People may not always have a choice of the families they were born in or the situations that are places in, but it will take some serious truth tellers and willing caring advocates to make a big difference in the lives of those who are born into poverty and generations of stresses and low-income situation, yes, I can, yes I will make a difference.

Slavery although many, many, many, years ago is still having an impact on poverty and the economic impact of people of color. The sheer brutality of life under slavery and how that brutality stemmed directly from the fact that slavery was above all. A business slavery unleashed horrifying violence on Black people. Slave owners drove Black people relentlessly through deadly heat and disease. Overseers whipped them in the fields, leaving inch deep gashes in their

skin that never really healed. These deep wounds are felt in the Black communities nationwide. An overseer broke Harriet Tubman's skull with a two-pound iron weight and she suffered from seizures the rest of her life. White women beat, kicked, and burned the Black people who worked in their homes, and taught their daughters to do the same. When identifying why there are so many single parent families in the Black communities one need not look no further but back in time to slavery. Slave owners tore Black families apart, selling children away from their mothers and brothers from sisters. They used rape as a weapon. They skimmed on food, clothing, and shelter. Slavery was essential to the development of capitalism. If slaves held privileges that looked like rights what did free Black people have? Fredrick Douglas answered that question by saying, "whatever privileges we may enjoy they are granted to us as a favor and as a right." These words hold true today, Black Americans are nothing more than strangers in our native land. This denial of free Black people rights and privileges was rooted in the scourge of slavery. Poverty and the economic impact of people of color, Black Americans in 1848 did have certain rights so to speak. But they did not have equal rights. State and local laws singled out Black Americans because of their race. Laws that restricted or barred them from voting and from attending school, laws that doomed most Black people to grinding into poverty, and laws that constantly humiliated them with petty, racist discrimination. Before the Civil War, a half-million free Black people had staggered under the burden of caring for their loved ones without a social safety net. Just like to Black people are suddenly faced with those same decisions more than ever before who would keep a roof over their head when bad or tough times or just plain old age set in. Poverty and the economic impact of people of color, these questions come into play. What did a husband owe his wife or a child her parents? What was the makeup of the Black family in the first place? This can only lead to faith; faith is knowing in the solid core of your soul. That the work is already done, even as an idea is being conceived in your mind. It is being as sure as you are about your dreams as you are about anything you know how to live for the Black community, poverty, and the economic impact of people of color dealing with faith is being sure of what the spirit has whispered in your heart that your belief in the Black community is unshakable. Even if you do not live to see it come to pass, you know without one doubt that one day the Black communities will be thriving now that is faith. Few would disagree with the idea that faith has power, but often this truth does not become meaningful to us until we are tested by a challenge,

we think we may not survive. The Black American must know how transformative their capacity to achieve success truly is a God given right.

Slavery is the great equalizer and no individual regardless of race, wealth, or fame can escape the tragedy that slavery has had on the Black race. If one primary purpose in our lives is to cast off all illusions and awaken to the eternal knowledge of how bad of a lasting impact that slavery is still having on the Black communities, then this tragedy can be viewed as an equal opportunity aid to our development as a nation. The problem's people of color are facing today whether they are standing in protest injustice or fighting health problems battling addictions, as people of color find a way to overcome these obstacles standing in their way. Black people must identify false trappings and to focus intensely on what is real and what is profoundly important for the Black communities. The struggle for Civil rights was more than a series of battles against the system, it was a spiritual confrontation that tested the power of two ideas one based on unity and the other based on division believing that some people were inherently better than others because of skin color, class, or religion. This also to some degree have something to do with poverty and the economic impact of people of color. Black people must activate in the midst that some power in adversity can also be consciously utilized to bring forward the kind of change or transformation needed in their own lives and communities. Thus, slavery functioned as a means of assimilation, enslaved people were not dehumanized, that is their value was more than purely economic. To understand cause in effect of poverty and the economic impact of people of color we must also address the history of people of color, and slavery being one of them. Slaves were allowed to maintain family connections and therefore were able to retain their cultural traditions. It should also be noted that before the involvement of the Europeans, there was no racial component to the slave trade.

The Black church and the Civil rights movement also had a major impact on people of color. The reverend Martin Luther King JR a brilliant young Baptist minister from Atlanta, Georgia became involved with the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott, bringing to the campaign his prophetic ministry, deep spirituality, and unique leadership skills. This combination captured the hearts and minds of progressive Whites and Black people alike, more importantly it inspired alienated and impoverished Black people in both rural and urban America to organize and fight for true freedom, justice, and equality. The African American church and Black American religion continued to evolve after the assassinations of Malcol X and Dr. King. Given the

problems facing the African American communities today and the changing demographics of the nation as a whole. African American churches have emphasized outreach, using both traditional and nontraditional strategies to protect and aid the most vulnerable members of the Black communities. (STEVENSON, 1990) During the post-Civil War era and beyond African Americans began to organize, develop, and lead their own communities that began to change the lives of people of color. Black feminism also played a part in the poverty and the economic impact of people of color. Since its origins, Black feminist thought has been based on the resistance of African American women to oppression. It has attempted to articulate how to be a Black woman in a nation that denigrates, objectifies, and oppresses women of color. The primary themes can be classified as falling into four main categories. First is the relationship among racism, sexism, and classism, which highlights the differences, not the commonalities, in the experiences of Black women in America in an attempt to transcend normal classifications. Second is the search for an authentic voice by challenging traditional negative stereotypes and replacing them with images of the true condition of Black women in America. Third is the relationship between intellectual inquiry and political action as activists attempt to realize their goals. Fourth is the empowerment of Black women in everyday lives, linking individual struggles to a broader collective enterprise. Of course, these ideas have been expressed differently in different historical periods. Any consideration of the development of Black feminism must of course begin with an exploration of the ideas and experiences of African and Black American women in the United States. During these years women of color struggled against racial, gender, and political oppression. More practically Black women suffered the violence associated with the state of enslavement, most commonly regular beating, and sexual assault. The Black families were separated this is given more reason way poverty and the economic impact of people of color. Black families were forced to live in appalling conditions, and they were treated like subhuman, and their resistance took many forms. The growth of Black feminism is a testament to the fact that race or gender alone cannot fully explain the complex experiences of Black American women. And Black feminist thought continues to change with the times and provide useful insights regarding both the situation of women of color and the state of the larger society, most importantly however women of color today who subscribe to a Black feminist and thus continue to fight against gender and sexual oppression not just for their own sake but also for that of the next generation. (Hansen, 2004)

The family structure of the lower-class Black race so to speak is highly unstable and in many urban centers is approaching complete breakdown. The rapid increase in various social problems that emerged in the lives of people of color. Rest on the unique history of Black American families, which left it ill prepared to cope with the complex and consistently changing nature of modern American society. The ongoing impact of racism on Black men who faced with few employment opportunities turned to crime to support their families or simply abandoned them. People of color must act according to the dictates of his or her conscience. They must search for the truth and seek it out. Do not allow themselves to be blown away by the prevailing winds of our time but try. There best to reach down to the core to the central foundation of the truth. Through the time of struggle or difficulty people of color must hold on to the principles that define them and when all else fails just hold on. People of color must open their mouths in respectful talk with each other about race and racism. Doing so many well begin to feed their souls and help people of color to make progress towards that day when difference does not make any more difference. (Kincaid et al., 2010)

Imagine our nation without racism, the Civil rights movement had a lot to do with poverty and the economic impact of people of color. Dr. Martin Luther King JR's assassination in 1968 and President Obama's election in 2008 were filled with racial conflagration that shook cities across the country. Following the assassination of Dr. King in Memphis where he had gone to offer support to striking sanitation workers at least a hundred cities were engulfed in flames, including Chicago, New York, Detroit, Baltimore, and the nations capital. The uprising was a direct reflection of the anger African Americans felt over the assassinations and of their ongoing frustration with how slowly they were seeing any lessening of the stranglehold that racism had on the lives of people of color. (Jones, 2019)

With the 1965 Watts riots and a long history of police brutality etched in local memory, Los Angeles in 1992 again became the center of prolonged protest when a jury acquitted the four officers who had been caught on video beating an unarmed and utterly defenseless Rodney King. This would make people of color wonder if the Civil rights movement had made any fundamental changes in race relations in the United States and the questioning continued why were African Americans still on the bottom rungs of America's racial caste system? To understand more about poverty and the economic impact of people of color some answers can be found in the history of higher education in America as well as the ways the American education

system developed alongside and within the context of racism and acknowledge that while America's higher education institutions can and often do promote racism, it can also help us study, understand, teach about, and convene courageous conversations about race and racism. It was during the post-Civil war years that many schools admitted Black students for the first time. Harvard which had rescinded the admission of three Black students in 1850 after some pressure from White students in dentistry and law in 1869. In 1870 the first African American received an undergraduate degree from Harvard. Despite the ongoing marginalization and exclusion of people of color. The number of Black attendance rates remained relatively steady at HBCUS.

Teenage pregnancy in African American families, is one of the biggest issues facing the Black communities today without a head of household or someone leading the way to. Teach them about the does and do nots of the complications that can come from their own permissive attitudes. It is a mystery how this issue has not been addressed over the years. Impact on child development, it would have to be hard for the African American child to grow up in a home where there is no parental guidance. A world full of letdowns living in poverty going to school with hand me down clothes and shoes, a drug addicted mother living everyday as a young teenage adult taking care of your younger siblings, this can cause a great deal of depression. Alcohol and drug abuse among African Americans, is high with no hope for the future and no way out of the inner cities along with a lack of employment and access to transportations can only bring the use of alcohol and drug use high among the Black communities as a way to drown out the hurt and pain of the life that they are currently facing. African Americans and gangs, why are so many young African Americans choosing to join gangs? Is it because of the so-called street code? Or is it peer pressure? Or could it be the only way that a young Black man or woman can provide for their families or just maybe the rap song's and videos glorify this lifestyle as a legitimate way to have street creed in the African American community. Prostitution in the African American communities and the reason that Black females engage in this practice. The selling of ones body for sexual pleasure for the buyer, may just be the only way that the African American women may feel is the only avenue to keep food on the table, drug use and drug abuse can play a significant role in this lifestyle along with a lack of education and opportunities. Single parent families in Black communities are a serious problem with barriers too high for them to overcome. Many fathers are in jail or incarcerated on drugs or just do not care about the outcome of the children that they have fathered. Is this still a lingering effect of slavery? Or is it a normal

way of life for the African American families. Crime and gender why do more African American men commit more crime than African American women. This can have a lot to do with gang membership and the tough man mentality that the African American man is raised to believe. Gangsters in paradise is a title for those who are living as drug lord's in the Black communities which will lead those living in this lifestyle to jail. Women are more than likely the only caregivers to their children with less opportunities to go out there in break the law. Black Americans and the criminal justice system, no justice no peace. The court systems across America are full of African Americans being incarcerated in high volume on a daily basis at a rate of 82% to 90% percent of all jails in prisons being housed by African American males. Where is fairness in our legal system? Where is justice for all begins? Criminal justice is not fair or equal and some privilege is playing a factor in some races. African American role models, who are the role models? Who are the young African American men looking up to. Who are they trying to follow or duplicate? Role models are more than gang members and drug dealers, they are teachers, doctors, lawyers, police men and women, it is not all negative in the hood and every role model is not a sports figure or athlete. They are hardworking men in women of the African American community trying to make a difference. Peer pressure in the Black community, it is a sad, sad, state of mind when a young Black man and woman have to be ashamed for wanting to go to school everyday be called out of your name because you want something better for your who do they think they are getting on that school bus everyday or walking two to four miles everyday to get to school as if that is going to make a difference in their lives. Wow what peer pressure just wanting to succeed. (Ordway et al., 2017) Domestic violence among African American woman, domestic violence goes underreported in Black communities most women fill as if they must take this abuse because that is just the way it is and how it always been. This is wrong no one should be treated unfairly no matter what race you are, along with sexual assaults most African American women will not report this crime because they will not be taken serious or will not be believed. Drop out rates in the African American communities acceptance goes a long way among a child's peers but a feeling of belonging and being able to relate to the subject can make a significant difference in the lives of the African American children. Academics should relate to all races helping to bridge the learning gap that African American students can begin to strive in. Racism is bad for our country and bad for the African American although we are more alike than different. We are divided by the color of our skin. We can look at humans as

God, see them that every man is alike but to do so will not allow those who are in power or feel as if they were born into privilege will not allow them to set aside their pride to do so. Listening to others can go a long way. Eliminate racial and economic bias, hey preacher what? Talk to me? About what? Peace? There is no peace, why? Who wants to know what we do? Why not share? Hell no, why not because to share shows that you care for everybody. What a true statement about who is to blame for these unloving and uncaring attitudes? How do you create a system that works for all? It must start with the heart. Affordable housing for African American families, no child should worry if they have enough food to eat or a place to lay down their head at night, but this is a real problem. Housing discrimination have been deeply rooted in the lives of people of color for many, many generations, although there are groups and or organizations that are helping to address these housing problems there is still a lot needed to be done. Young Black men trapped, there is an environment that African American men are caught up in with gang violence and alcohol and drug use. Many are waking up every day as if this is a normal way of life. Where you can shoot a basketball, sell drugs, and watch someone get shot and killed on the same playground and go long your day as if this is normal and a normal way of life. Many African American youths are facing this lifestyle every day. Poor health outcomes among African American's, healthcare should start at your grocery store and your dinner but we so many African Americans having so much food insecurities that fact is hard to achieve. Lack of transportation to doctors visit and affordable healthcare is a problem for African American families. These issues are shortening the lives of Black people a change in the system must come. Life expectancy gap between Black and White American it is a huge difference and the pandemic recently have shown this problem do still exists among the Black community. Some progresses have been made in the past 30 years to close this gap, but the same issues still play a big part in the African American communities just being able to get to a doctors office. White Americans have a better chance receiving good medical care and healthcare plans and solutions to live long lives. Historically Black colleges and universities, with such a great history and background. HBCU are an excellent opportunity for African American men and children, and women to be a part of the fact that they have been around since the early 1830s and are still standing and growing is a testament within itself, with an extensive list of alumni and some well known names and celebrities. HBCU will continue to have a rich history. The legacy of slavery still affects Black people in the U.S. today. ("What Are HBCU Colleges? Facts about Historically

Black Colleges and Universities,” 2023) Just looking at how most Black men 63% percent do not play any role or any part in raising their children was the same during slavery nurturing came from the mothers while the fathers was put on the selling and trading blocks. Many of them not even knowing who their children are or where children live, families being split up through the slave trade.

People facing many circumstances and issues must be caring people to start we are being entrusted with the lives of people who need our help and direction to get on the road to recovery. No matter the problems to make choices that are best suited for success in life gives them the tools and resources to best achieve their goals. (Substance Abuse Statistics for African Americans, n.d.)

Address the economic and racial inequality in the lives of African American people and the disadvantages they suffer to gain equal opportunities for all. Its poverty, history, poor health, communities, and mass incarceration are ways that need to change to improve the lives of people of color. A subject does not mention is mental health issues surrounding the African American families, mental health is a twofold approach. For social workers to dive into this issue they must examine the mental health that is affecting the African American families by looking at the across the generational lifespans of the Black race.

Privilege is the benefits and advantages held by a group in power, or in a majority that arise because of the oppression and suppression of minority groups. So now we have one avenue of poverty and the economic impact of people of color. Furthermore, privilege is by a social justice definition the advantages people have that they do not think about because they never have to experience the oppressive side understanding privilege requires an active effort to see things from the perspective of people of color who are underprivileged.

Poverty has become one of the main factors in the lives of people of color, economic resources are not equally distributed across the board. History of slavery is still playing a part in these shortcomings, poor health, and short life spans in the African American communities have close the gap some it is still more work to be done. People of color still need to find more ways to receive affordable healthcare and better transportation to get to doctor visit and hospital, mass incarceration is a big problem that as it stands. Today that still need to be fix, although people of color do not have to fall victims of there is no other way out, yes society can find ways to help

more, but you also have to be willing to pull yourself out of that hole. Black women are suffering with the same if not more: poverty and poor health. Many believe that Black female slaves had it easier because they were pampered house slaves and did not have to work in the fields doing harsh, physical labor like the men did every day. But one must remember just like today. Black women were also often subjected to sexual abuse by their owners because they were women with no human rights. It is time to get more educated on the history of people of color which have directly harmed them throughout history and throughout the years. There are many struggles the people of color are facing today with so many barriers and obstacles to overcome. (Breaking the Cycle of Poverty, n.d.) There is movement to bring some economic resources into the African American communities to stop the bleeding. Privilege is not fair, but it can be blind because those who set in those seats may not understand the hardships that people of color are going through maybe if some set the table and invite both parties to it and have a opened minded discussion maybe just maybe we can close the gap.

We are living in such a polarizing society at this time in our lives with so many moments along with so many letdowns, that it is hard to understand or believe where we as a nation could be headed. The us against them movement is telling in such a way that it is pitting Americans against Americans. It should be us against poverty, us against homelessness, us against a lack of healthcare resources for those who are in dire need to get to a doctors office, us against finding more ways to build and to come up with more ideas to come with affordable housing- tent cities are popping up everywhere across America with entire families living on the streets and under bridges without a doubt this most change in the direction of those who have the greatest need. Having the title of a free nation, we as a country must do more to make housing more affordable, understanding how some family structures are playing a key role in the outcomes of lives going across generations and generations. Poverty should never become a part of life. Homelessness should never be the only options families can choose from.

Us against them must stop now we are all Americans, and we all came here on boat's some by choice and some by force, but we are Americans it only takes a handful of us to care to make a difference. It is a sad, sad, sad day when we can allow children to go without housing, food, and drink having no security blanket to rely on mothers without hope lacking social connections to someone to reach. These goals are to overcome poverty and homelessness. We are a nation strong and proud, and we cannot leave anyone behind, especially the children- our

children who we must rely on for the future of America. We can get there if we try, we can walk together in this journey hand and hand arm to arm helping to make a bright future for all.

Imagine is trying to do their part by rebuilding old buildings and houses. Can you imagine an America without homelessness and poverty? This can be accomplished if we can find a little love in our hearts that can in the near future. Put hope in our soul's. "Homes for all" Reclaim, Remain, Rebuild our cities. Resist, Restore, rejuvenate; the very fragrance of our inner cities as the founding fathers stated long ago-One nation under God with liberty and justice for all. Build, build, build, and build some more; our children need us. The world needs our vision to end poverty as a global nation. To heal the world and to make this a better place for the entire human race. Homelessness needs to end now! (Affordable Housing as Local Reparations for Black Americans: Case Studies | Othering & Belonging Institute, n.d.)

"Poverty and the economic impact of people of color" That sentence alone say a lot about economic disadvantages that the African American or the people of color are facing today one must ask yourself. Why not share? Because to share means that we care for everybody. In the ghetto and slums of some of the most impoverished cities in our country is a sad statement for those who are being left behind and forgotten about no one should be facing with decisions or choices of crime, drugs, joining a gang as a way out of this condition of poor health, mass incarceration, so on and so on. If someone pushes you down a hole it does not mean you cannot climb yourself out. Some changes must be made to close this economic gap and the disadvantages for people of color that comes along with it. If you would campaign that the people of color who have a bit of wealth and some livable means pooling or pulling there resources together to buy back their own neighborhoods, owning the grocery stores, the gas stations, the corner stores, and many other small businesses in their own communities-this could make a huge difference in the lives of people of color.

Psychological control associated with youth adjustment and risky behavior in the African American single mother families. Concerning single parent homes and children ranging from the age of 14-17 with risky behaviors that can be associated with alcohol and drug use which can lower the hype of a possible sexual encounter compared to the Caucasian or Hispanic race. (Substance Abuse Statistics for African Americans, n.d.) African American families are an integral part of the rich tapestry of the United States. With roots in indentured servitude and slavery although the African American family has survived the so-called African holocaust with

values and behavioral pattern that are visible today. What is lost is the fact that these should include extended family support among family members. As we deal with risky behavior in the African American single mother home there are so many risk factors to explore. Peer pressure is one and the fact that more African American youth between the ages of 14-17 are more likely to engage in sexual intercourse is allowing. Not having a father figure in their lives to give the youth a form of guidance and protection of relevance to African American youth, over half of African American youth 56% are raised in single parent or single mother homes. The Harlem children zone is one of the most successful well known and comprehensive programs designed to promote self-awareness and pride and the African American communities. Where there is such a disadvantage with the disconnect between single mothers in their children? This disconnect with African American youth can also be felt along with several studies subjecting that a disproportionate of disciplinary referrals and suspensions of African American students relative to their Caucasian counterparts. This can also be considered psychological control. Youth who reported higher levels of parental psychological control were also the most likely to engage in a combination of both alcohol use and sexual intercourse. Alcohol can increase the youth vulnerability for risk behavior using well established theories, models, and practice along with intervention into the homes and lives of the African American single mother families can make a difference. Building on strengths that can help the African American youth develop more cultural values is critical. Historically culture values, family practices, and strengths such as kinship ties have been part of African American life for generations it has gotten lost somewhere overtime what happened to grandparents and great grandparents playing a role that use to be part of a long-lasting network that made a great difference in the lives of African American youth. Family network use to be composed of several generations which use to be a source of strength for African American families, but we are talking about risky behavior that can bring on several unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. Risky behavior can bring on mass incarceration. The Bivariate association has shown between demographic variables and psychosocial adjustment and HIV youth risk behavior is high with African American girls at 54.9% risk factor and boys at 45.1% risk factors, education, and income to play a major part in this risk factor study and demographics also play a role. African American youth age can play a role also without proper parental guidance in a single mother home. (Kincaid et al., 2010)

A population that is the most culturally and ethnically diverse in our nations history. This project is helping to prepare me to become a culturally competent practitioner. In this preparation stage it is allowing me to identify with organizing the principle of my project with the beliefs and the behaviors of the African American families from the pride, shame, positive situation that makeup the foundation of the level of African American culture. In my field of study, a social worker is a family therapist and an individual client therapist.

“High school drop out rate of African American youth.” With so many obstacles already facing the African American youths and their families one important thing that stands out is the high school drop out rate of African American children is alarming. To many African American families are caught up in a never-ending cycle of poverty and hardships facing situation that continue to keep them in communities that are ran down without hope and a possibility to get out. Passing down the lifestyle of being on welfare and government assistance from generations to generations not all African American families are facing these issues but a vast majority of them are in this God-awful situation. Education should be at the forefront of households in the African American communities not only because it is necessary, but an education can led to a way out of poverty and to develop a better solution. An important predictor of whether African American remain and stay in school or withdraw is their ability to identify with academics. Studies have shown throughout the years that Black and Hispanic students tend to demonstrate higher levels of academic disidentification relative to Asian and White students. Specifically African American youth students when considering school withdrawal appear to place less importance on academic achievement than White students. (Alspaugh, 1998)

Family settings may have to do with some of this fact with African American youths being raised by single parent homes or in homes where the fathers are incarcerated most of the time throughout the African American youth lives growing up with the only role models as drug dealers and gang members or having placed upon them the responsibility of having to help provide for their families when mother and father are drug abuser and user. (Matsuda et al., 2013) Placing less and less importance on high school education. The frustration and self-esteem that these youths are facing day today can make them suffer an impaired perception of self and keep their self-esteem low without many options to succeed. It may be a hard fight to overcome when school is not place on a high priority in the African American families. Also, poor academic performance can play a role in shaping perceptions. Theoretically both a negative

home environment and academics are crucial factors in preventing African American students from leaving school. (Holyfield, 2010)

One big downfall can be that African American families adopt behaviors that are directly coming from their households instead of having a positive outlook for their future are surrounded by so many negative individuals. African American students often face peer-pressure to resist schooling and academic success, when walking to school passing by gang members, drug dealer, and being labeled as a schoolboy. When facing such situations as this being told that you are a sell-out for wanting to improve your life and work your way out can put unwanted peer pressure on both African American boys and girls possibly harming one's perception of self and perception of worth. So, if African American youths continue to remain in this environment of negative stereotype surrounding them change will never come. These youth are often facing both negative academic stereotypes and peer pressure can really place heavy burdens on the African American youth ability to succeed in life and to stay in school to reach their full potential home life and peer pressure can strong predictors of how and why African American high school dropout rates are so high. (Saxena, 2020)

School counselor can be a great help and awesome resource for African American families can have as they are also having the same role as a social worker being able to provide a road map that can bring the best results the African American students to succeed in life and to bring more Black youth to high school graduations. Social workers and counselors have so many valuable resources to choose from which allow the opportunities to best help each youth and African American family to gain insight and hope for a better tomorrow and a better future. Also, relevant teaching helps Black students value academic achievement and success. Starting with a positive home environment with no worries of food insecurities, or housing worries, school family community partnerships are needed most to meet the need's of African American families. Social workers must consider the variety of processes by which this behavior in the African American youth is learned considering issues of social justice and fairness. This will help to develop a culturally sensitive approach to social work with African American families. Cultural considerations must be part of the reason why so many African American youth drop out of school on the bright and positive side. Generally speaking, African Americans families members who assist each other with childcare, finances, emotional support, housing, counsel, particularly in times of trouble or stress African American families. Also, must consider nonblood related

relatives, such as neighbors, babysitters, friends, ministers, spouses, and church family with ties as well as their own family members for emotional support and positive reinforcements to keep the African American youths on track to reach higher graduation rates. This is well documented that the better your support group that better a child can become more productive in school and the community at large.

The lack of understanding of a culturally stressful family. African Americans experience in both blatant and subtle ways racism almost daily. Social work is no exception to this phenomenon, despite the well-meaning intentions and efforts of social workers who believe they would never deliberately act in such a manner towards their clients. Even when the social worker receives extensive multicultural training, racism can still be manifested unconsciously in becoming a social worker. Social workers must also avoid the illusion of color blindness in which a social worker may assume that the Black or African American patients culture is the same as the social workers own culture in some ways disregarding the importance the patients Blackness has for the African American families. This can also ignore the impact of the social worker culture on the African American families. Helping to detract from racism, known as aversive racism which is characterized by harboring of unconscious negative racial feelings and beliefs towards people of color, even though the person may perceive him or herself as egalitarian, fair and demeaning messages to people of African American decent.

It is vitally important that social workers who work with African Americans be self-aware in addition to taking courses to learn about the African American experience. Social workers should identify any sources of uncertainty, discomfort anxiety, Bias, or cultural baggage that they might have towards people of color. African Americans are very cautious about seeking mental health services. Historically, those individuals who sought services were pathologized, overmedicated, given long term inpatient treatment rather than outpatient treatment and was exposed to insensitive therapists who did not believe African Americans could benefit from verbal therapy. When African Americans obtain assistance and meet with a White therapist, they are often fearful that these therapists will be biased, use stereotypes, minimize the African American clients experiences of discrimination, and not understand cultural traditions. It is important for social workers to connect with clients on the basis of the African American reality rather than the social workers agenda. When the social worker connects with the clients perceptions in the beginning of the counseling process. The social worker might lessen the

African American resistance. Also, important is to have mutually agreed upon goals it is all too easy for social workers to establish a goal for the African American client that the client either is not aware of or does not agree with. Most current training programs do not integrate exploration of social workers attitudes regarding race, class, and their personal bias, discrimination into the curriculum if future social workers had to examine and confront their views regarding racism and discrimination early on in their training and reflect on evidence about such attitudes affect the development of therapy and the outcomes of African American clients outcomes. Training programs might generate social workers more in tune with the realities and perspectives of African American clients. Initiatives to make training programs more accessible to the non-White populations and increase diversity into the lives of the African American communities can provide a long-term solution to facilitating dialogue about techniques to best establish trust and understanding between social workers and their African American clients.

There is nothing new in the neighborhood that I am from. The positive effects of afterschool programs for African American male development and the educational progress. So many Black youth today are suffering from single parent housing whatever happened to the old saying that it takes a village to raise a child. Back in the 60s and 70s after school program were in school program. Children were given more opportunity to succeed in their schools not necessarily their neighborhood for once you reach the third grade it was mandatory to learn how to play the violin and your after school program was taking your violin home to practice for homework and this was in predominately Black schools, they taught proper etiquette and table manners, ballroom dancing, how men should be gentleman opening up doors for woman. Looking up the statistics during that time in the 60s and 70s you had a more successful graduation rate than you have now. School offered a support system when you walk through the door with so many in school positive activities that it helps to shape the generation. The school system at that time understood that the majority of Black students came from single parent homes, so the teachers really cared about them. So many examples of statistics and charts that show the success and failures of those with a support system and those who do not have one yes afterschool program can help, and a good positive environment is also key.

The academic engagement of Black male student athletes. Once again hear comes the statistic we all know that if you put Black children in a predominately White college institution. They will either succeed or they will feel so out of place they will fail. There is pressure on every

university to win the championship, so academics are starting to take a lessor role. This is also happening in HBCU they want the fastest and the strongest and the best athlete they can get education have been coming secondary, but this failure have been happening to the Black athlete for years. Some people who had glory in their youth are still struggling with reading and writing today so one- on one hand we want to win but at what cost? Black men do not have many male role models growing up since most came from homes with single mothers raising them not saying that mother are not role models. There is nothing new in the neighborhood. Things seem the same today as they did yesterday other than the fact that teachers really did care about their students. Most African American males are more successful and doing well than what is out there, so it really does not matter, and it do not seem right that they label me as a failure who gives them the right are you a friend of mine or are you, my destroyer?

The term shorty is one that is most interesting because of the different meanings that come with the term shorty boy's shorty girls, shorty friend, shorty side chick, it is amazing how in the African American community how one word can be used for so many different meanings, but it makes you wonder how everyone who is doing studies and research is so quick to always include drugs, drug dealing, crime, sexual activity as a way of life for the African American male although there can be some truth in it but it should not always be a leading factor when describing the African American male. The Black male have so many stereotypes place upon him at birth even before they get started in life that he has so many hurdles to get over before he can find his direction and purpose in life all these studies but no results or conclusion on the how and the way.

Incarceration, jail, or the criminal justice system concerning the African American male, do we fully understand the disadvantage they have when facing a White judge who already have an opinion on the Black male before they are presented before him Dr. Johnson desires for social workers and human practitioners to know about working with African American males sound good from the start. Community without many role models it is amazing that most people do not know that the majority of role models for the African American male are their mothers who is out there working hard to provide to put food on the dinner table or trying to keep a roof over their children's head. Now concerning the reason why Black fathers do not take a more active role in the upbringing of their children can date back to slavery times when they were only use to breed with the women like live stock and was separated from their children in many cases this

could be systematic in itself along with modern day reason like incarcerations, prison times, not having any examples themselves of how a father should be in their household or in their children's lives coming from the same upbringing in life as their on children there are playing the card or the same card that have been dealt to them. There will always be a disadvantage when it comes to education and opportunities afforded to White counterparts who have a more no male and stable family environment and two-family parents than the Black race of course the graduation rates would be higher among the White race the system is designed for them to succeed. Have you ever heard of White privilege? Black men do not have the same opportunities as their counterparts some men have to dropout of school to help with the family some feel that crime and drug dealing is the only way out the only way to help mama it is a sad fact but a fact as well. (Hurwitz & Peffley, 2005)

Family roles really do depend on the household and the values that are taught in their lives as stated before most Black men. Examples of family come from single parent homes meaning that mama is the sole provider and role model and teacher. Educational issues- most African American males are successful more so than how society wants to portray them it is not all crime, and drugs, and broken-down homes. Black men have pulled themselves up by the boot stripes for many years to become productive citizens and professional judges, lawyers, doctors, teachers, business owners, etc. etc. So, at the end of the day, it is not all bad because greatness comes from within if you want to be great be great. Mental and physical health- given the fact that most African American males grow up in an atmosphere where there are no fathers, no economic opportunities gang violence, murders, and death among the Black man. This can cause a lot of mental and physical problems that should be addressed at all levels of growth in Black males but lack of healthcare and ways of receiving it in the Black community is hard to receive this is the reason that a lot of health issues go unnoticed and why mental health is overlooked just think about this statistic. The Black race life expectancy is only 65.8 years compared to over nationalities due to lack of healthcare and mental healthcare. Life chances, incarceration among African American males have been a problem for so many years the system is broken, and it needs to be fixed. Programs help the youth and the younger generation of Black males is a step in the right direction but until we address the justice system in overthrow the way it is right now nothing will change with 90% of prison being Black males compared to 10% White is a system that needs to be overhauled to make it fair for all. (Huber, 2021)

Masculine identity development in the African American male, it is a darn shame that society can only point to athletes as the only role models that the Black youth can look up to today. It put a whole lot of pressure on Black sport figures because you place them in situations that they would have to walk such a fine line in their lives almost living a mistake free life. Do not think anyone can do this no matter your race or ethnic background White or Black, back to only give the young African American male only a few choices to build their hopes on like becoming a professional football player, basketball player, baseball player, not knowing that the chances of making it into one of these sports is rare so this can only give this expectations for the African American males with a small measure to succeed in life. Should be willing to point out role models in the form of educators, judges, lawyers, doctors, business owners, pastors, policemen, strong positive father and yes racism and poverty do not seem to provide a way out but I believe that a responsible father or uncle can also be a way to identify with masculine identity development. (Parker & Lord, 1993)

Individual and personality development this is an interesting subject. African American males are face with so many obstacles in life one main factor is the color of their skin along with poor neighborhoods in poor impoverish family upbringing which may put the African American male at such a disadvantage even before he begins his start in life. Who do the Black man identify himself with when all odds are against him born into a system that was not develop for him or but in place for him a system that cannot help you but is designed to harm you. A justice system that is not fair to the Black man, an education system only designed to help the most privilege of people who live in the most privilege neighborhoods, with a mother and father of far skinned who do not even know or care about what the Black race face every day. So, who do we or how do our personalities develop? How can the African American become the best version of themselves? When they live among racism and stereotypes from birth. A better understanding of people like Fredrick Douglas, Marcus Garvy, W.E.B. Dubois, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X. Start to identify with these trail blazers maybe just maybe an identity can start to develop within oneself African American men if you cannot find a role model than become a role model and positive image that other African American men and young men can identify with.

Family development can be a tricky subject because in a single family home most African American mother try very hard to bring there children up in that right way also realizing that the deck is stack up against them-in general as a whole the mothers push the issue of education and

obeying the law and this aspect of the African American males life is somehow overlooked most single parent homes are close knit, safe, and secure environment. Yes, a lot of young African American males do have their children at a young with a lot of teenage pregnancy which can lead to a high number of teenage high school dropout and unwed teenage mothers and fathers. Also, not having a father in the household can lead to negative decision making in the thinking in African American males. Yes, family development with a strong foundation can help the African American male become a positive family member with a positive family environment but also this family development must begin within oneself if you want change be the change for a brighter future for the African American race. Mothers are trying to do their best to raise their African American boy to men. Teaching them at birth on how to be respectful, overachievers, good standing citizens, and an assist to not only the Black community but to society as well so although that plan sound good and top secret, the biggest secret is that for African American male their heroes are mothers.

For the African American athlete, the disadvantages today are that most White students are already starting out with a good education and two parent homes, so the emphasis is not put so much on making it as a pro athlete. When I was playing football in high school 75% of the players could not read or write but after four years of school all of them seem to graduate high school, why? Because they were great athletes, great football player, great basketball players, and most of them went on to college but less then 1% of them made it to the pros and the other 74% are living in poverty until today present time because the education system failed them in ways that most of society never know about.

Universities today only care about winning. I would like to use my education as a social worker to develop more outreach program, more afterschool programs, finding out ways to keep African American families held more accountable for the success of their children but that downfall do not hold true for all Black households. There are positive role models in homes today, Black families are trying to raise their children to achieve their goals.

African American males already have an uphill battle from the start of life with the environment most are raised in can already have such a profound negative impact on their lives from single parent homes to crime ridden neighborhoods that they are raised in or live in along with a lack of education. The fact that African American men and African Americans in general

are more likely not to live to age 65 or better is astonishing and horrible statistics. Healthcare should be the focus for all, but it is most differently losing the battle in the Black race. High blood pressure is such a silent killer with no symptoms that it can go undiagnosed for years until it is too late. Cardiovascular disease kills many young African American men as does homicides, the study in Harlem was shocking to know that African American males are three times more likely to die before 65 with homicides as the number 1 cause of death along with accidents. It is really shocking to learn that African American males ages 13 to 24 are more likely to contract HIV than other races in that age group. A fact that African Americans do not place going to the doctor a main priority in their lifestyles and would rather roll the dice than to find out if they have a serious health issue. African American males are less likely to visit primary care or to see a doctor even for those who are insured. And yes, African American men's mental health is a part of healthcare along with emotional wellbeing, economic stability, spirituality, stress, social support, racism, unhealthy neighborhoods, lack of income, but hold on for a minute some of these actions concerning African American healthcare should start with your family and social support. African American mothers and fathers should be willing to take the steps to insure a good and healthy environment for their children if you do not practice these things in your own households how do you expect your children when they are raising their own children to do the same healthcare should be as important to the African American as wanting to find affordable housing and putting food on the table. African American families should want to develop stress-free lives within their own homes instead of being less likely to visit a doctor it should become a number one priority along with helping to maintain mental health and making unhealthy neighborhoods. A safe place to live in such situations can impact African American males in a negative way if they do not begin with the strong mental social support, it could lessen the impact of racism and unhealthy lifestyles. African Americans must take stock in their own communities and take stock in their own homes if someone pushed you down into a hole you do not have to stay there you should want to live a healthy and long life and take away the stress of homicides as the leading cause of death in the African American male communities.

The rise and fall of the African American male are a sad state of affairs the death of Black males, one can say is eye-opening. The unmasking of cultural competence and oppressive practices in a micro-aggressive environment is also eye-opening. It is a darn shame that this world has advanced so much in its far-reaching abilities, but the African American is still stuck at

the bottom of the heap. Can only dream of a world where Black Americans are free from poverty, stress, racism, hatred look upon as bad and stop being research projects and begin to be pointed out as a force in society one to be reckon with. The African American male on paper and on statistics is so far removed from the cultural norms that our society place on its culture as a whole that the complications that the African American male face today. Are the same challenges he has faced for centuries and decades, notwithstanding some major accomplishments that seem to never be placed at the for front. Slavery systemic racism, color of your skin, voting rights, lack of education but we do have to start somewhere so many families are so caught up in this generational cycle of the welfare system that it has become a way of life for so many African Americans that it become the only things that they know. Mental health issues come into to place when a single mother raising her children not having a proper education of the skills to attain employment as the African American males are place in the same mental state that depressions starts at a young age with no father figure in their life able to conceive children but not giving opportunities to provide for their children or not really knowing how to provide since there was not a blueprint to help lead them on the right track anyway. American male on how to become that role model, that community leader a positive father figure in their families lives. Time to stop the talk and put in the world to make a change even if it takes knocking on every door in the African American community and asking everyone who opens that door what can we do to help make your life a little less depressing and a better way to find some reachable goals. The justice system is stack against people of color especially against African American males so we can talk all day long about activist, research and advocacy groups finding on how the system in sentencing African American male is a one sided or deal. Racism do speak how unaware many Whites are invisible from their own involvement in the continuation of racism toward people of color.

The state of the African American male and youth although it may seem like a daunting task and goal to address all these problems the African American males are facing some of the issues that need to be put in the forefront. Is the life expectancy of the African American male there are so many factors contributing to this fan able conclusions like the fact that most African American males are most likely to die by gun violence between the age of 14 to 25 not having reasonable guidance in positive role models leaving the youths to chose the life of the streets and becoming a gang member as their family structure instead of the one that they were born in with

the poverty level so high in the African American communities that the African American males may feel that they do not have much choice but to live a life of crime, selling drugs, and gang banging as a way to make ends meet and to feel a part of a family.

The healthcare issues that the African American males are facing is something that will continue. High blood pressure is one of the silent killers that place the African American males today. That has shortened their life expectancy with no reasonable healthcare or means to attain healthcare these issues will take some time to address to make it a necessary priority for the African American male. Mental health issues come along with their own problem like lack of a education, no positive role models, no positive influences in their lives, no able to attain reasonable employment, or able to provide for their own children along with racism plays a major role in the mental health of the African American male not to mention the unfair justice system that has systematically incarcerated African American at an astounding rates a system that is broken and that has failed the African American male in so many way justice reform should be a subject that need to be address immediately for the cause and affect way this is happening. (Copeland, 2005)

Success of the African American male which would be a great standard to lead by the blind and silent nature of racism in the White American communities around America is alarming if we are to grow as a nation, we cannot continue to act like racism is not a problem because it will remain a problem if we do not come together to solve them. It is time to put our words into actions and our resources into the African American male communities to help make it a better place to grow and to strive but on the other hand the progress and success of the African American males are so underreported that it does such an unjust to the African American male communities. There are Black judges, teachers, lawyers, doctors, professors, politicians etc.

The cost of incarceration for African American males can affect the Black community for generation. It is already a disadvantage in the justice system as well as the courtrooms for African American males when it comes to the overwhelming rates that they are sentence and incarcerated although we do understand that the African American male is already starting from birth behind the eight-ball living in single parent homes, poor communities, and poor households along with a lack of education. No positive role models our peers to lookup too not saying that every African American male is going through this, but the vast majority are suffering through

this fate with many setbacks in life although the system is not designed to help him the African American must come to realize that they must chose a different direction for the while being of the African American communities. Even though there are many successful African American males in society. Emphases should and have been placed on the how and the way for the high rate of incarceration and how it keeps being passed down to generations to generations and why do the Black males want to continue to suffer this fate is a profound mystery. (Hurwitz & Peffley, 2005)

Once the African American get incarcerated and have a felony placed on his name it does become a marker that will follow him for the rest of his life. A criminal history will make employers reluctant to hire them, but each case and each African American males situation is different people do make mistakes and can change their course of life by begging to make the right choices in their life. You can not blame employers for being reluctant on hiring anyone with a criminal history or records this issue is still a tough situation for the African America male to navigate through sometimes as people we need people to believe in us and who are willing to give us a chance and a second chance to be productive people in society no matter your race or ethnic group that you may belong too. But for employers to hold these major setbacks against the African American males and not give them a chance at employment will always keep the African American male caught in a loop of incarceration and a life of crime but it also do not mean that if one door close on you does not mean that another door won't open up for you. The system may not be fair but the African American male must take on responsibility to but is life in a better light to achieve success and employers should not be so reluctant to not give chance to those who are willing to make a positive change in their lives sometimes meeting people face to face to get a genuine feel for them and just might help to make a decision on whether or not to hire them in the first place. Something must change so this cycle can stop on behalf of the African American male, on behalf of the justice system, and on behalf of employers who are opened minded enough to give them an opportunity for employment and a chance but on the other hand the African American male must be willing to give himself a chance.

The African American uncle does play a leading role in the lives of at risk African American male youth. This really should not come as a surprise since this is common knowledge in the African American community with so little father support. The uncle may at times be the only role model these young men see in their life from birth to adulthood. Many uncles have

already experience racism, the injustice in the court system, lack of education, as well as no gainful employment throughout the course of life. African American uncle if they care about their sisters children and their nephew's they are willing to share their struggles to assure that the next generation of at-risk African American males do not follow the same path that they went down. Because so many young Black males only see the gang bangers, the drug dealers, and the criminal minded in the images of their own family members like their uncles who continues to go down that road notwithstanding the few who care enough to lead the young men in the right direction but it does not just stop with the uncles it also begins with the grandmother who grow up in a time when your neighbors also paid attention to Black youths in the inner cities, keeping a watchful eye on those young Black children who hold the future in there hands to make good for the young Black Americans that follow behind them. Belief that the situation in the Black communities have more positive influences then negative influences this social network start with mothers who want the best for all of their children and the grandmother who understand that family is the best support network that the at-risk African American male can have to start something that can be a lasting positive for decades to come. Uncles yes you are your brothers keepers, uncles yes you are your sister keepers, mothers you are the backbone and the real superheroes of the Black communities at large and grandmothers must continue to remain positive in situations that may seems tough but a grandmothers love wisdom and insight can go along way in the African American males lives. (Matsuda et al., 2013)

For those uncle that do care enough to help raised these young men to become strong and educated to help build a better positive community please, please, please continue to do so the at-risk African American male may not have a say in what household or community that they were born in but they can have a say in how that community can change to encourage Black youth to do better and to want better for their lives and for the lives of others bringing the whole community together as one family with one goal to be a beacon of light to the world around them. Yes, uncles matter but cousins, brothers, in-laws also play major roles. The African American communities and or villages can do more to steer the African American male in the right direction to make more sound and better choices in their lives. It is amazing that most African American homes and communities are led by a female figure, many are mothers and grandmothers who are the real hero's to some degree. Notwithstanding that there are many positive Black males role models that go unreported throughout the communities and village that

need to be put on the forefront being born into this cycle and be trying to overcome but change do start from within and they should all want the same opportunities for their children to succeed like other nationalities wants for their children and yes Black churches can play a major role in the lives of all African Americans both men and females. The success of the Black communities is the success of America slavery did play an important role in the lives of early African American males who was stripe of their manhood in ways that are unimaginable for one to fathom emotional scars that have carried on for generations to generations. The cause and effect of the fall of the African American male. (Parker & Lord, 1993)

We must have a meeting of the minds to understand that every weakness that we may think we have not to succeed in life is an opportunity to show the strengths that are hidden in the Black communities as in the lives of the African American male by stepping in and helping to create a positive way. Life in the African American male may just help them overcome the obstacles and pitfalls that they are facing in their villages. The African American male can be more than conquer with a will to build a strong village and community as a blueprint for positive change in their lives, but people all over the world no matter your race must be willing to want to make a change to turn a negative outlook that is placed upon the African American male into a positive outlook the old saying goes it take a village to raise a child. One of the most concerning problem's that we have in our society is how other races view African Americans, if we build a picture of negativity always as if the African American male is the buggy man hiding in your closet or under your bed giving you reasons to fear it. Also, become a big problem and if society and other ethnic groups continue to look down on the Black race with hate and racism on the rise. The situation in the African American community will never change but if more of the positive things are mentioned in the media like we have many Black lawyers, judges, teachers, firefighters, police officers, actors, politician advocates that are doing their part in the African American community that also can make a difference.

An education plays a significant part in a person's life. Cultural considerations should also be considered in grade school for pre-to-12th grade. To help close the gap with the learning and education disparities in the African American schools. Government is trying to do what they can to make internet more accessible to African American families. With education one should also reflect the social backgrounds that we are raised in, understanding where you come from and where you are going is an important aspect of the African American culture. Poverty has

long been a significant barrier to educational attainment for African Americans in the United States. In history of poverty and the impact on African Americans in education can be traced back to slavery and segregation. During these periods, African Americans were denied access to quality education and were systematically oppressed, resulting in generations of poverty and limited opportunities for advancement. One of the key figures in the fight against poverty and its impact on African American education was W.E.B. Du Bois. Du Bois was a prominent civil rights activist and sociologist who cofounded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He emphasized the importance of education in uplifting African Americans from poverty and discrimination. Du Bois believed that education was the key to economic and social progress for African Americans, and he advocated for equal access to quality education for all. Despite the efforts of figures like Du Bois, poverty continues to disproportionately affect African Americans in education. (Gregory, 2017) According to the National Center for Education Statistics, African American students are more likely to attend high-poverty schools and have limited access to resources and opportunities compared to their white counterparts. Forty-five percent of African American attend high poverty schools compared with 8% of White students. Recent data show 88% of African Americans have a high school diploma, but according to higher learning the percentage is lower but growing continuously, more African Americans are striving to get a higher learning (College). (National Center for Education Statistics, 2023) This lack of access to quality education perpetuates the cycle of poverty and limits the future prospects of African American students. One influential individual who has contributed to addressing the impact of poverty on African American education is Geoffrey Canada. Canada is the founder of the Harlem Children's Zone, a comprehensive educational program that provides support for children and families in poverty. The program offers a range of services, including early childhood education, after-school programs, and college preparation, with the goal of breaking the cycle of poverty and improving educational outcomes for African American Students. Canada's work with the Harlem Children's Zone has been recognized for its innovative approach to addressing the root causes of poverty and its impact on education. By providing a holistic support system for children and families in poverty, Canada has demonstrated how targeted interventions can make a significant difference in improving educational outcomes for African American students. (akloosterman@hcz.org, 2023) Despite the efforts of individuals like Canada, the impact of poverty on African American

education remains a complex and persistent issue. In addition to limited access to resources and opportunities, African American students also face systemic barriers such as racial discrimination and bias in the educational system. These factors contribute to widening achievement gaps and perpetuate the cycle of poverty for generations. Looking ahead, it is essential to continue addressing the impact of poverty on African American education through comprehensive and targeted interventions. Investing in early childhood education, expanding access to high-quality schools, and providing support services for families in poverty are critical steps in breaking the cycle of poverty and improving educational outcomes for African American students. By prioritizing equity and inclusion in education policy and practice, we can work towards a future where all students have the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their socioeconomic background. (akloosterman@hcz.org, 2023)

Theoretical perspective which can be solely based on how one see outside of him or herself looking through a lens to come up with their own question's and sometimes to develop their own answers to this question or why we have these questions African Americans can see through a lens in America that place behind the 8 ball when it comes to race relations and racism in American but that same Len's in the household can place a different outlook in the lives of the African American family especially if they come from a loving kind a supportive family which in itself will develop a strong foundation to the one they will be facing in society in general. A theoretical perspective can weakness through this lens as well as to show opportunity to show strength through this same lens. Okay let's mention the genograms concept, it is a outstanding tool to work with African American families being able to go deeper into the generations and where they come from along with if there culture or generations have a mix of Chinese, Italian, Poland, or just West Africa decent is a very good way to point out generational interaction and the geographic proximity of the African American culture. Developing ways to share pride and shame issues from poverty to middle class is a good outlook and a great lens to look through but the genograms also seem to be an effective way to root out the systematic problems that the African Americans are facing today, but on the bright side it can also point to some great traditions and pride that may be discovered. When looking at the culture diversity and finding out that they may be descendants of kings and queens or great leaders of the past being able to embrace cultural identity or to reject it or embrace it is one God given choice. Being able to think critically about oneself as a cultural being is a good thing knowing that these genograms have

been shaped by the culture you may come from. Know what conditions that your family arrived in America or even if they face oppression compared to the oppression that the African American families could be facing today.

When it comes to African Americans and how poverty has affected African Americans, education, slavery, segregation, and culture all play a part in why poverty is happening within the African American community. Another aspect that needs to be talked about is women in poverty. Depending on how we are looking at the differences in women in poverty not to mention that the color of your skin can play a major part in the system of poverty depending on your race, culture, and background and what side of the tracks that you are from poverty is affecting more women of color than any other women in this country. Women have been working outside the home for centuries although not until the early 1970s did women work receive recognition as policy issue in the United States. Also issues such as sexual harassment and unequal pay is widely debated. Also, the 1964 civil rights act provided legal grounds for adults to fight sexual harassment. Being born into certain communities and family structures can play a role in the how and why women experience poverty differently. Gender roles are some of the reasons why. Equal pay for women is another reason. Society and those who are in power are not doing enough to bring these issues to a promising conclusion for fair wages for women who are much more likely and even more worthy to receive if not equal pay but more pay a woman worth is not defined by gender but by the person who is able to do the job no matter the gender. African American women are put into a deeper cycle of poverty than their counterparts being single parents trying to raise a family on their own without any help from the fathers who are incarcerated on who just do not want to help which will continue to place the African American women in need of government assistance and help. Feminization of poverty is women living in poverty are often denied access to critical resources such as credit, land, and inheritance. Their labor goes unrewarded and unnoticed. It also refers to a trend of increasing inequality in living standards between men and women due to the widening gender gap, that women have a higher incidence of poverty than men, that their poverty is more severe than that of men. The tendency for more women to live in poverty compared to men. A feature of a society with fixed social norms or a rigid class system such that movement from one social class system to another is virtually impossible. One way to reduce poverty among African American women is to look upon them as a very important piece in society, yes, we can say working towards a career and setting goals are good along with higher

education but just taking woman more serious in the working class of people can change the perception in equal earning. 12.9% of women live in poverty and nearly ten million women live in deep poverty.

History of Black women in higher education is a subject worth learning about, in 1636 only a handful of years for over 300 years Harvard admitted only White men from prominent families until the 19th century when women turned the tide in their fight for a place at America's universities, but by the 1980s the barriers have been to some degrees have even out. Women make up the majority of bachelor's degree holders, a victory or a much-needed victory that was only made possible after centuries of battling sexist education system. Some barriers may still exist in some ethnic groups to do race and color of skin along with some historic supreme courts decisions that have turned the clock back on affirmation. Women have come a long way in the education system through their own hard work and goal setting eliminating barriers that use to hold them back. We come so far from the single sex education was rooted in the idea that women did not need a degree to pursue socially acceptable roles like homemakers, mother, and domestic servant. As such gender norms effectively excluded women from higher education for centuries. (Ewert, 2010)

Midlife women, it is not enough that women are facing so many health issues before entering this midlife stage that if you do not look at women as the real superheroes you need to look no further than your own mothers. Midlife is the period of the lifespan between younger and older adulthood in women has been described as a period of transition in women lives between 40 and 65 years old. As women found themselves searching for balance in the midst of multiple co-occurring stressors while coping with losses and transitions. Research is helping to understand midlife in women, every weakness they may feel they have during these crises is a great opportunity for them to show their strength in all situations of midlife and the issues it may bring. The impact of poverty in midlife can have wide-ranging implications for women's health, well-being, and prospects. Financial insecurities can contribute to increased stress, anxiety, and mental health issues, as well as limited access to healthcare and other essential resources. Women in midlife who experience poverty may also face barriers to achieving their long-term goals and aspirations, such as pursuing higher education, starting a business, or saving for retirement. All these issues that can arise can result in women living in poverty. By working together to address

the root causes of poverty and inequality, we can help ensure that all women could thrive and succeed at every stage of life and get up out of poverty.

Mass incarceration is something that still need to be discussed that have something to do with poverty and its impact on African Americans. Mass incarceration statistics in African American communities have been a pressing issue for decades, with a profound impact on individuals, families, and society as a whole. Let us dive into the historical context, key figures, and the significant impact mass incarceration has had on African American communities. The issue of mass incarceration in African American communities can be traced back to the legacy of slavery and Jim Crow laws in the United States. The criminal justice system has disproportionately targeted Black individuals, leading to higher rates of incarceration among African Americans. The War on Drugs initiated in the 1980s and 1990s exacerbated this trend, with harsh sentencing laws and policies contributing to the mass incarceration of Black people. Michelle Alexander, author of “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness.” Fought against mass incarceration in African American communities. Alexander argues that the criminal justice system perpetuates racial inequality, leading to disproportionate rates of incarceration among African Americans. Her work has sparked much-needed conversations about structural racism and mass incarceration in the United States. (Alexander, 2010) The impact of mass incarceration statistics in African American communities is far-reaching and devastating. Families are torn apart, individuals face barriers to employment and housing upon release, and communities suffer from the loss of productive members. Moreover, the cycle of incarceration perpetuates a system of inequality that disproportionately affects African Americans. The trauma and stigma associated with being incarcerated can also have long-lasting effects on individuals and their families. Some influential individuals in the fight against mass incarceration is Bryan Stevenson, founder of the equal Justice Initiative, another influential figure in the fight against mass incarceration in African American communities. Stevenson has dedicated his career to advocating for criminal justice reform and addressing the racial disparities in the system. His work has led to important legal challenges and policy changes that aim to reduce the impact of mass incarceration on minority communities. From a positive perspective, efforts to address mass incarceration statistics in African American communities have led to increased awareness and activism around criminal justice reform. Organizations such as the ACLU and Black Lives Matter have mobilized communities to

demand change and advocate for policies that address the root causes of mass incarceration. Additionally, there have been some legislative reforms at the state and federal levels aimed at reducing harsh sentencing laws and supporting reentry programs for formerly incarcerated individuals. However, from a negative perspective, the systemic issues that contribute to mass incarceration in African American communities remain deeply entrenched. Structural racism, economic inequality, and lack of access to resources continue to play a significant role in perpetuating the cycle of incarceration. Additionally, the privatization of prisons and the profit motive behind mass incarceration pose significant challenges to reform efforts. Moving forward, it is essential to continue advocating for policies that address the root causes of mass incarceration in African American communities. This includes investing in education, job training, and mental health services to prevent individuals from entering the criminal justice system. Additionally, efforts to dismantle systemic racism and create a more equitable justice system are crucial to reducing the disproportionate impact of mass incarceration on minority communities. Mass incarceration statistics in African American communities are a complex and deeply ingrained issue that requires sustained attention and action. By understanding the historical context, key figures, impact, and perspectives on this topic, we can work towards creating a more just and equitable society for all. The contributions of influential individuals and ongoing efforts to address the root causes of mass incarceration are crucial in shaping future developments and creating a more just criminal justice system for African American communities. (Horowitz, 2019)

Poverty has long been a persistent issue in the United States, particularly impacting African Americans. The historical context of poverty among African Americans can be traced back to the times of slavery and segregation, where systemic racism and discriminatory practices led to economic disadvantages for the Black community. Despite progress towards equality, African Americans continue to face disproportionately high rates of poverty compared to their White counterparts. The historical context of poverty among African Americans is rooted in centuries of slavery and segregation. (Horowitz, 2019) Slavery, which was abolished in 1865, left many African Americans without land, property, or means to support themselves. Following emancipation, discriminatory practices such as Jim Crow laws and redlining further exacerbated economic disparities between African Americans and Whites. This legacy of systemic racism continues to impact African American communities today, contributing to higher rates of poverty,

unemployment, and lack of access to resources. The impact of poverty on African Americans is multifaceted and pervasive. Economic insecurity has led to lower rates of homeownership, limited access to quality education, and higher rates of health disparities within the Black community. Studies have shown that poverty is not only a result of systemic inequalities but also perpetuates a cycle of disadvantage for future generations. Children growing up in poverty are more likely to experience poor health, limited educational opportunities, and a higher likelihood of remaining in poverty as adults. Several influential individuals have dedicated their lives to addressing poverty and its impact on African Americans. Civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X were vocal advocates for economic justice and equality. Their efforts to address systemic racism and discrimination laid the groundwork for policies such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which aimed to dismantle barriers to economic opportunities for African Americans. In contemporary times, figures such as Ta-Nehisi Coates and Michelle Alexander have brought attention to the intersection of race, poverty, and mass incarceration. Coates, a renowned writer, and journalist has focused on the structural barriers that perpetuate poverty and inequality for African Americans. His work “The Case for Reparations” argues for reparative justice to address the economic disparities resulting from centuries of discrimination. Michelle Alexander, a legal scholar, and civil rights advocate has shed light on the disproportionate impact of mass incarceration on African American communities. In her book “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness,” Alexander highlights how the criminal justice system perpetuates cycles of poverty and disenfranchisement for Black Americans. Their work has sparked important conversations about the need for systemic change to address poverty among African Americans. Addressing poverty among African Americans will require a multi-faceted approach that addresses not only economic disparities but also systemic injustices. Policies that focus on increasing access to affordable housing, quality education, and healthcare are essential to reducing poverty rates within the Black community. Also, addressing structural racism and discrimination in areas such as criminal justice, employment, and housing will be crucial in creating a more equitable society for all. Poverty continues to impact African Americans disproportionately, reflecting historical legacies of systemic racism and discrimination. And people in the past and present in the fight against poverty have highlighted the importance of addressing economic disparities within the Black community. It will be essential to implement

policies and practices that promote equality and opportunity for all, regardless of race or background. Only through a concerted effort to dismantle systemic barriers can we create a more just and equitable society for African Americans and all Americans.

Poverty has been a persistent issue in many societies throughout history, and people of color have often been disproportionately affected by economic inequality. The interplay between poverty and race has deep historical roots, dating back to the era of slavery in the United States and colonial exploitation in other parts of the world. People of color have been marginalized and subjected to systemic discrimination that has limited their economic opportunities. For example, during the era of slavery in the United States, African Americans were enslaved and deprived of basic rights, including the right to own property or pursue economic opportunities. Even after slavery was abolished, Jim Crow laws and other forms of segregation continued to limit the economic prospects of people of color. (Alexander, 2010) Structural racism has continued to play a significant role in perpetuating economic inequality among people of color. Studies have shown that African Americans and Hispanic/Latinx individuals are more likely to live in poverty, have lower wages, and face higher levels of unemployment compared to their White counterparts. This economic disparity is not simply a result of individual choice or merit, but rather a reflection of the structural barriers that exist in society. In the field of poverty and the economic impact of people of color have contributed to our understanding of these issues and have advocated for policy changes to address them. One such person is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who famously spoke about the interconnectedness of racism and economic injustice. In his famous speech, "I Have a Dream," Dr. King called for an end to racial segregation and economic exploitation, highlighting the need for a more equitable society. (Hansen, 2004) Another influential person is economist Dr. William Darity Jr., who has conducted extensive research on the economic disparities faced by people of color. Dr. Darity has proposed policies such as reparations for African Americans and targeted investments in education and job training programs to address the root causes of economic inequality. His work has helped to shape the debate on how to tackle poverty and economic injustice among marginalized communities. Grassroots organizations and activists have played a crucial role in raising awareness about the economic impact of poverty on people of color. Groups like Black Lives Matter and the NAACP have organized protests and campaigns to demand fair wages, affordable housing, and access to healthcare for communities of color. These efforts have helped to bring attention to the systemic

barriers that perpetuate poverty and economic inequality. (NAACP) There are both challenges and opportunities in addressing the economic impact of poverty on people of color. On the one hand, ongoing structural racism and discrimination continue to create barriers to economic success for marginalized communities. On the other hand, there is a growing awareness and momentum for change, with more people recognizing the need for policies that promote equity and justice. Poverty and the economic impact of people of color are complex issues that require a multifaceted approach. By examining the historical context, key figures, and current challenges in this field, we can better understand the root causes of economic inequality and work towards building a more equitable society for all. With continued advocacy and policy change, we can create a future where all people, regardless of race or ethnicity, have the opportunity to thrive economically. (Jones, 2019)

Poverty has long been a significant issue in the United States, with African Americans being affected by this societal problem. African Americans are more likely to experience poverty compared to other racial and ethnic groups in the United States. The poverty rate among African Americans is consistently higher than the national average, with factors such as discrimination in employment, education, and housing contributing to this disparity. Systemic issues such as unequal access to resources and economic opportunities further exacerbate the cycle of poverty within the African American community. W.E.B. Du Bois was one of the first to document the economic disparities faced by African Americans in his seminal work, "The Souls of Black Folk." He argued that systemic racism and economic injustice were major factors contributing to the poverty experienced by African Americans. Du Bois' analysis of the intersectionality of race and class laid the foundation for understanding the complex dynamics of poverty within the African American community. Studies have shown that poverty is associated with increased rates of chronic health conditions, higher levels of stress and mental health issues, and limited access to essential services such as healthcare and education. These challenges can create a cycle of poverty that is difficult to escape, perpetuating the cycle of disadvantage among African American communities. (Gregory, 2017)

Teenage pregnancies in poverty are a complex and sensitive issue that has far-reaching implications for individuals, families, and society as a whole. It is a topic that highlights the intersection of gender, socioeconomic status, and access to resources, and sheds light on the challenges faced by young people who are living in poverty. Teenage pregnancy is often seen as

a significant issue in low-income communities, where young people may lack access to comprehensive sex education, affordable contraception, and reproductive health services. This talk must start in the home, parents having a talk with their children about sex and contraception. In these settings, young people may also face additional barriers to accessing prenatal care, support services, and parenting resources, which can exacerbate the challenges they face during pregnancy and in the early years of parenting. Research has shown that teenage pregnancies in poverty are associated with a range of negative outcomes for young parents and their children. For example, teenage mothers living in poverty are more likely to experience poor maternal health outcomes, including higher rates of preterm birth and low birth weight babies. They may also face social stigmatization, lack of support from their families and communities, and increased risk of experiencing violence or abuse. Teenage parents living in poverty often struggle to access education, secure stable employment, and achieve economic stability, which can have long-term consequences for their own well-being and that of their children. The cycle of poverty and teenage pregnancy can perpetuate intergenerational patterns of disadvantage, limiting opportunities for young people and their families to break free from the cycle of poverty. Addressing teenage pregnancies in poverty requires a multi-faceted approach that addresses the underlying structural factors that contribute to social and economic inequities. This includes improving access to comprehensive sex education, affordable contraception, and reproductive health services for young people, as well as investing in programs that support young parents and their families, such as parenting classes, childcare services, and economic empowerment initiatives. It is also essential to destigmatize teenage pregnancy and provide non-judgmental support for young parents, so they can access the resources and care they need to thrive. By taking a holistic and empathetic approach to addressing teenage pregnancies in poverty, we can help young people navigate the challenges they face and build a brighter future for themselves and their children.

African Americans have a long and complicated history when it comes to healthcare in the United States. From slavery to segregation to systemic racism, African Americans have faced significant barriers to accessing quality healthcare. Despite advances in medical technology and healthcare policy, disparities persist in terms of access to care, quality of care, and health outcomes for African Americans. One of the biggest barriers to healthcare access for African Americans is financial. Studies have shown that African Americans are more likely to be

uninsured or underinsured compared to their White counterparts. This lack of insurance can prevent African Americans from seeking necessary medical care, leading to untreated conditions and worse health outcomes. In addition, African Americans are more likely to live in poverty, which can limit their ability to afford healthcare services even if they do have insurance. Another barrier to healthcare access for African Americans is systemic racism within the healthcare system itself. Studies have shown that African Americans are less likely to receive appropriate treatment for their conditions compared to White patients, even when controlling for factors such as insurance status and income. This lack of quality care can lead to worse health outcomes for African Americans, including higher rates of chronic conditions, disability, and premature death. Furthermore, African Americans face cultural and language barriers when seeking healthcare. The lack of diversity in the healthcare workforce means that African Americans may not have access to providers who understand their unique cultural and health needs. In addition, African Americans are more likely to experience discrimination and bias from healthcare providers, which can lead to mistrust of the healthcare system and reluctance to seek care. In order to address these disparities, it is crucial that the healthcare system work to eliminate systemic racism, increase access to care for African Americans, and improve the quality of care they receive. This includes increasing diversity in the healthcare workforce, providing cultural competency training for providers, expanding insurance coverage, and implementing policies to address social determinants of health such as poverty and housing instability. Transportation has definitely been a hinder for African Americans to get from doctor appointments and to get the quality care they need. In smaller towns and cities like Paducah KY and Metropolis IL, the towns have made and continually to make changes to better the communities. For instance, they do have hospitals and each hospital is dedicated and thrives on certain healthcare needs but on the other hand the healthcare system still needs some work. In these towns they cannot treat pneumonia in children, and they must transfer those miles away to get treatment, near death experiences but must travel miles and this bring so much stress on the families in the communities. Overall, African Americans continue to face significant barriers to accessing quality healthcare in the United States. It is imperative that policymakers, healthcare providers, and communities work together to address these disparities and ensure that all individuals have equal access to the care they need to live healthy, fulfilling lives. For example, like having healthcare facilities that will take Medicaid among other medical cards, having pediatrics and

other doctors required within your community, and having bus transportation for those who do not have any other means of transportation. Healthcare has come so far but still needs some work, with a community coming together will bring the change.

Let us talk about pandemics. Pandemics have long been known to have a significant impact on various aspects of society, including the issue of poverty. The worldwide effects of pandemics on poverty have been particularly devastating, leading to increased economic hardship and exacerbating existing inequalities. One of the most immediate effects of pandemics on poverty is the disruption of economies. When a pandemic hits, many businesses are forced to shut down temporarily or even permanently, leading to a loss of income for workers and business owners alike. This can result in a sharp increase in unemployment rates and a decrease in overall economic activity, pushing more people into poverty. Furthermore, pandemics can also strain healthcare systems, leading to increased healthcare costs and a decrease in access to essential medical services. This can result in financial hardship for individuals and families, as they struggle to afford necessary medical treatment and care. In some cases, individuals may be forced to choose between seeking medical care and providing for their basic needs, further deepening the cycle of poverty. Additionally, pandemics can also exacerbate existing inequalities within society. People living in poverty are often more vulnerable to the effects of pandemics, as they are more likely to have underlying health conditions and limited access to healthcare. This can result in higher mortality rates among the poor, further widening the gap between the rich and the poor. Moreover, pandemics can also lead to social unrest and instability, further impacting the issue of poverty. As resources become scarce and governments struggle to contain the spread of the virus, social tensions can escalate, leading to conflicts and disruptions in society. This can have a direct impact on the livelihoods of those living in poverty, as they may be disproportionately affected by the resulting social disruptions. African Americans struggles with the concept of going to get their mental together because the feel ashamed, do not see the signs, and just been conditioned to think Black people should not go to get mental health help. This thought that Black people have about mental health need to change. African American overall health is important and having an all-around healthy outlook on life will make a substantial change within the African American community. Pandemics can affect African Americans mental because what comes with pandemics being isolated from others and being closed in with your kids and who ever in your home every day for extended periods of time so

realizing and paying attention to your mental health is important. Pandemics have far-reaching effects on the issue of poverty worldwide. From disrupting economies to exacerbating existing inequalities, pandemics can have a devastating impact on vulnerable populations, pushing more people into poverty and deepening the cycle of deprivation. It is crucial for governments and policymakers to address the unique challenges that pandemics pose to the issue of poverty and work towards implementing effective strategies to mitigate their impact on society as a whole.

Poverty on the LGBTQ community is an urgent issue that deserves more attention and understanding. Despite advances in LGBTQ rights and equality, many face disproportionate levels of poverty compared to their heterosexual and cisgender counterparts. There are several reasons why poverty is more common in the LGBT community. Discrimination and stigma play a key role in limiting employment opportunities and access to housing for LGBT people.

According to a report by the Williams Institute, LGBT people are more likely to experience employment discrimination, leading to higher rates of unemployment and underemployment. A lack of economic stability can increase poverty rates in a community. LGBTQ individuals face unique challenges accessing and affording health care. Many LGBT people are more likely to experience mental health problems, substance abuse and chronic illness, all of which can contribute to financial instability. In addition, discrimination in health care can prevent LGBT people from seeking the medical care they need, leading to new health problems and financial pressures. Family rejection can also increase poverty in the LGBT community. Many LGBT people are estranged from their families, which can lead to a lack of emotional and financial support. Without a strong support system, LGBT people can struggle to overcome financial challenges and build financial stability. Wealth also affects poverty in the LGBT community. LGBTQ people who are people of color, people with disabilities, or transgender people face additional barriers to economic stability. These people can be discriminated against and marginalized on several fronts, leading to higher poverty rates and economic hardship.

Advocating for policies that protect LGBT people from discrimination in the workplace is essential to combating poverty in the LGBT community., housing and health care. Supportive and inclusive workplaces can help LGBT people achieve economic stability and financial security. In addition, access to affordable health and mental health services is important to the well-being of LGBTQ people and can help prevent economic hardship. Community organizations and support networks can also play an important role in fighting poverty in the

LGBTQ community. By providing resources, support and assistance, these organizations can help LGBT individuals overcome economic challenges and build a stronger foundation for economic stability. Overall, fighting poverty in the LGBT community requires a multifaceted approach that addresses the root causes of poverty. Economic instability. And provides support and resources for LGBTQ individuals in need. By advocating for equality, inclusion, and support, we can work towards a future where all LGBT people have the opportunity to succeed and thrive.

Gun violence is a pervasive issue that plagues many communities across the United States, and African American communities are often disproportionately affected by this epidemic. The prevalence of gun violence among African Americans is a complex issue that is influenced by a myriad of factors, including systemic racism, socioeconomic disparities, and access to firearms. One of the primary drivers of gun violence in African American communities is the presence of systemic racism that has historically disenfranchised and marginalized this demographic group. African Americans have long been subjected to discrimination and inequality in various aspects of society, including housing, education, and employment. These systemic injustices contribute to the cycle of poverty and lack of opportunities that can lead individuals to turn to violence as a means of survival or retaliation. Additionally, socioeconomic disparities play a significant role in the prevalence of gun violence in African American communities. Studies have shown that poverty and lack of access to resources are strongly correlated with higher rates of violent crime, including gun violence. African American neighborhoods are often disproportionately affected by poverty and lack of economic opportunities, which can create fertile ground for the proliferation of firearms and the escalation of violent conflicts. Furthermore, easy access to firearms is another contributing factor to the high rates of gun violence in African American communities. The United States has some of the most lenient gun laws in the world, making it relatively easy for individuals to obtain firearms, including illegal guns. This easy access to weapons increases the likelihood of gun violence, particularly in communities that are already grappling with other social and economic challenges. Addressing the issue of gun violence in African American communities requires a multi-faceted approach that addresses the root causes of this problem. This includes implementing gun control measures that restrict access to firearms, investing in social programs that provide economic opportunities and support for at-risk individuals, and addressing

systematic racism and inequality that perpetuate cycles of violence. African American gun violence is a complex issue that requires a comprehensive and holistic approach to address. By tackling the root causes of this problem, including systemic racism, socioeconomic disparities, and access to firearms, we can work towards creating safer and more equitable communities for all individuals. It is crucial that we prioritize the well-being and safety of African American communities and work towards ending the scourge of gun violence that disproportionately impacts these communities.

Domestic violence is a prevalent issue that affects individuals from all walks of life, regardless of race, gender, or socioeconomic status. However, African American women are disproportionately affected by domestic violence, with studies showing that they experience higher rates of abuse compared to women of other racial and ethnic backgrounds. The intersection of race and gender creates unique challenges for African American women in domestic violence situations, as they often face additional barriers in seeking help and support. There are several factors that contribute to the high rates of domestic violence among African American women. One of the key factors is the historical and systemic oppression that African American communities have faced in the United States. From slavery to Jim Crow laws to ongoing racial discrimination, African Americans have been disproportionately affected by poverty, unemployment, and lack of access to resources and support systems. These factors can contribute to increased stress, frustration, and conflict within relationships, leading to a higher likelihood of domestic violence. African American women may face cultural norms and societal expectations that discourage them from seeking help and speaking out about abuse. In some cases, there may be stigma surrounding mental health and therapy in African American communities, making it difficult for women to access the support they need. There is also a fear of retaliation or further harm from the abuser, as well as a lack of trust in the criminal justice system to provide protection and justice for survivors of domestic violence. Despite these challenges, it is crucial for African American women to have access to resources and support to break the cycle of abuse. This includes culturally competent services that are tailored to the unique needs of African American survivors, as well as outreach and education efforts to raise awareness about domestic violence in these communities. It is also important for advocates and allies to listen to and amplify the voices of African American women, and to work towards creating a society where all individuals are safe, respected, and empowered. The issue of

domestic violence among African American women is a complex and multifaceted issue that requires a comprehensive and intersectional approach. By addressing the systemic inequalities and barriers that contribute to high rates of abuse, and by providing tailored support and resources for survivors, we can work towards creating a society where all individuals are able to live free from violence and harm. (Jenkins, 2020)

Black homelessness is a critical issue that unfortunately often goes unnoticed or overlooked in our society. The lack of affordable housing, systemic racism, and economic disparities all contribute to the disproportionate rates of homelessness among Black individuals. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, Black Americans make up a significantly higher percentage of the homeless population compared to their representation in the general population. This stark disparity highlights the intersection of race and homelessness, with Black individuals facing unique challenges that contribute to their increased risk of homelessness. One major contributing factor to Black homelessness is the lack of affordable housing. Black communities have faced discriminatory housing policies such as redlining, which limited their access to safe and affordable housing options. As a result, many Black individuals are forced to live in substandard housing or are unable to afford housing at all, ultimately leading to homelessness. Systemic racism also plays a significant role in the high rates of Black homelessness. Black individuals are more likely to face discrimination in the job market, making it difficult for them to secure stable employment and obtain a livable income. The criminal justice system disproportionately targets Black people individuals, leading to higher rates of incarceration and further limiting their access to housing and employment opportunities. Moreover, economic disparities also contribute to Black homelessness. Black individuals are more likely to live in poverty and experience financial instability, making it challenging to afford housing and meet their basic needs. Without adequate support and resources, many Black individuals are at a greater risk of becoming homeless and struggling to escape the cycle of homelessness. Addressing Black homelessness requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes of this issue. This includes implementing policies that promote affordable housing, combating systemic racism, and investing in economic opportunities for Black communities. Additionally, providing support services and resources to help individuals experiencing homelessness rebuild their lives and secure stable housing is essential in addressing this issue. Ultimately, addressing Black homelessness requires a collective effort to dismantle the

systemic barriers that contribute to this issue. By recognizing and addressing the intersection of race, housing insecurity, and economic disparities, we can work towards creating a more just and equitable society where all individuals have access to safe and stable housing.

Poverty can contribute to many communicable diseases in the African American communities, including many acute and chronic infectious diseases. Poverty and the associated disadvantages that people of color are dealing with personal and social resources often lead to unsafe habitation and lack of cleanliness, unhealthy diets, and malnutrition including maternal fetal, poor water quality increased exposure to infectious disease morbidity and mortality in people of color who are living in a low resource reality along with poor communities there is much work still need to be done but with open and caring hearts a change can and will come, with the meeting of the minds and the gathering of resources. Our society can begin to enrich the lives of the African American families and communities. Giving hope for a better future and a better tomorrow may take some baby step's but this goal can be reached when all communities and races come together as one.

The movie "Baby Boy" puts forth a lot of provocative ideas regarding our cultures infantilization of African American men not least of these ideas being the young men's willing acceptance of their stunted emotional growth and their complicity in maintaining the status quo. This is happening in the lives of young men of color every day. The story of Jody a misguided 20-year-old African American young man who is really a baby boy finally forced kicking and screaming to face the commitments of real life, like many young African American males streetwise and jobless. Many of them seem to not strike a balance or find direction. This is a bold criticism of young Black men who carelessly father children, live off their mothers and do not even think of looking for work. This is a criticism of the way society pushes them into that niche. Yes, racism has contributed to their situation, but they do not have to give in to this way of life. The root of mental health stigma among Black people can be traced back to slavery. At that time, it was commonly thought that enslaved people were not sophisticated enough to develop depression, anxiety, or other mental health disorders. The overall suicide rate for Black or African Americans was 60 percent lower than the White population in 2018 Black females grades 9-12 were 60 percent more likely to attempt suicide. The concept of Black emotional intelligence emphasizes the importance of leaders within the Black community having the adeptness to both perceive and navigate their own emotions along with the rest of the African

American community. Money, racism, career, relationships, and family, along with health, these stressors are not very surprising in the African American community or with people of color. Barriers for people of color suffering with mental health is a different cultural perception about mental illness and well-being, racism, and discrimination and being more vulnerable to being uninsured. Society as a whole must find ways to transfer wealth to Black families, end housing segregation, invest in education for Black students and support Black men and cut child poverty in the Black communities. Black Americans make up 44 percent of those experiencing on generation of poverty even though poverty rates are higher among Black families. Two and three generations of poverty must end soon. Nearly 75 percent of African American homes are led by single Black women which have an average net wealth of one hundred, without a partner or second income or substantial savings. Most of these families never unlock the true meaning of a successful life. Black and White children are born into quite different economic circumstances. Almost half of Black boys and girls are in households in the bottom fifth of the income distribution, compared to just over one in ten White children. Black women face an exceedingly high risk of being stuck in poverty 62 percent surpassing even the 50 percent risk faced by Black men. Among all racial groups Black Americans are second most likely to experience poverty with 21 percent living below the poverty line threshold.

African Americans in the United States face higher poverty rates than the general population. Poverty is one of the most significant yet understudied social conditions of the 21st century. This social condition can be defined in a number of ways; however, it can be summarized as the lack of resources necessary to meet basic human needs. A common narrative and high prevalence of racial and racism have contributed to public health crises until structural racism and economic injustice can be resolved in the African American communities, the disadvantages will remain. However, poverty is much more than just a low household income. White supremacy policies, actions and beliefs leading to racism, discrimination, oppression, and more contributed to structural poverty and the increased levels of despair, disease, and death and mass incarceration, poor health status of low resources for African American families, communities is directly related to the unequal distribution of power, income, goods, and services. Social structures and institutions with unequal and unfair, social policies do play a role in the lives of people of color. Women of color are more likely than their White counterparts to work in low paying jobs and experience higher levels of poverty and remain disproportionately

disadvantaged across a broad range of economic measures, including wealth. Families headed by women of color disproportionately bear a greater burden of poverty risk with women of color more likely to be working in jobs that pay below poverty wages. Although, the economic injustice of poverty continues to influence the discrimination and inequality of women rights across the nation, specifically women of color and regardless of socioeconomic status, Black women in the United States are three times more likely to die from pregnancy another issue that affect women of color living in poverty is depression and depression may look different in women of color being born into poverty and feelings of hopelessness or depressed mood may seem common but Black women may not be adequately assessed in clinical practice. For women of color taking care of their mental health often requires navigating a series of hurdles. Women of color experience both racial and gender discrimination constantly battling to care for their mental health and for those Black women working on the frontlines marching and protesting for justice and supporting their family and community needs must have mental health support now more than ever before. There is a false statement saying that women of color are expected to and present as physically and mentally strong regardless of past and ongoing stressors. Poverty, healthcare, mass incarceration, housing, teenage pregnancies, pandemics, and education are all interconnected issues that impact African Americans in the United States. These systemic problems have deep roots in historical and ongoing racial discrimination and disparities. Poverty is a persistent issue that disproportionately affects African Americans. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, African Americans have higher poverty rates than any other racial or ethnic group in the country. This can be attributed to numerous factors, including limited access to well-paying jobs, systemic racism, and lack of generational wealth. Healthcare disparities also play a significant role in the overall well-being of African Americans. Studies have shown that African Americans are more likely to suffer from chronic illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease. And asthma. Access to quality healthcare is often limited for many African Americans due to lack of health insurance, geographic barriers, and discrimination within the healthcare system. Mass incarceration is another issue that disproportionately affects African Americans. According to the NAACP, African Americans are incarcerated at more than five times the rate of Whites. The mass incarceration has devastating effects on families and communities, contributing to cycles of poverty, and perpetuating systemic racism. Housing insecurity is a critical issue for many African Americans, with high rates of homelessness and housing instability. Discriminatory practices

such as redlining and housing segregation have contributed to the lack of affordable and safe housing options for many African American families. Education is often touted as the great equalizer, but for many African Americans, access to quality education remains out of reach. Schools in predominantly African American communities are often underfunded and lack resources, resulting in lower graduation rates and limited opportunities for higher education and economic mobility. With all these problems are connected in some way and are reasons why African American people living in poverty. Addressing these systemic problems requires a comprehensive approach that includes policy changes, investment in communities, and a commitment to addressing racial disparities. By working towards a more equitable society, we can support the well-being and success of all African Americans.

References

- Affordable Housing as Local Reparations for Black Americans: Case Studies / Othering & Belonging Institute.* (n.d.). [Belonging.berkeley.edu](https://belonging.berkeley.edu).
<https://belonging.berkeley.edu/affordable-housing-local-reparations-black-americans-case-studies>
- akloosterman@hcz.org. (2023, November 13). *Geoffrey Canada Celebrates 40 years at HCZ.* Harlem Children's Zone. <https://hcz.org/our-stories/geoffrey-canada-celebrates-40-years-at-harlem-childrens-zone/>
- Alexander, M. (2010). *New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New Press.
- Alspaugh, J. W. (1998). The Relationship of School and Community Characteristics to High School Dropout Rates. *The Clearing House*, 71(3), 184-188.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/30189345>
- Breaking the Cycle of Poverty.* (n.d.). Harvard Graduate School of Education.
<https://www.gse.harvard.edu/hgse100/story/breaking-cycle-poverty>
- Clarke, J. (2017). *Resist, Restore, Rejuvenate: [Introduction]*. *Race, Poverty & the Environment*, 22(1/2), 6-7. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/44783189>
- Copeland, V. C. (2005). African Americans: Disparities in Health Care Access and Utilization. *Health & Social Work*, 30(3), 265-270. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.waterfield.murraystate.edu/10.1093/hsw/30.3.265>
- Ewert, S. (2010). Male and Female Pathways Through Four-Year Colleges: Disruption and Sex Stratification in Higher Education. *American Educational Research Journal*, 47(4), 744-773. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.waterfield.murraystate.edu/10.3102/0002831210374351>
- Gregory, D., & Carr, G. (2018). *Defining moments in Black history: reading between the lies*. Amistad, An Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.
- Hansen, D. D. (2004). *The Dream*.

- Holyfield, L. (2010). *Moving Up and Out: Poverty, Education & Single Parent Family*. (1 ed.). Philadelphia: Temple University Press.
- Horowitz, J. M. (2019, June 17). *Most Americans say the legacy of slavery still affects Black people in the U.S. today*. Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/06/17/most-americans-say-the-legacy-of-slavery-still-affects-black-people-in-the-u-s-today/>
- Huber, B. Rose. (2021). *Life Expectancy Gap Between Black and White Americans Closes 50% in 30 Years*. (n.d.). Princeton School of Public and International Affairs. <https://spia.princeton.edu/news/life-expectancy-gap-between-black-and-white-americans-closes-nearly-50-30-years>
- Human Rights Campaign . (n.d.). *Understanding Poverty in the LGBTQ+ Community*. Human Rights Campaign. <https://www.hrc.org/resources/understanding-poverty-in-the-lgbtq-community>
- Hurwitz, J., & Peffley, M. (2005). Explaining the Great Racial Divide: Perceptions of Fairness in the U.S. Criminal Justice System. *The Journal of Politics*, 67(3), 762-783. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2508.2005.00338.x>
- Jenkins, E. J. (2021). Community Insights on Domestic Violence among African Americans. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 30(6), 714-730. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.waterfield.murraystate.edu/10.1080/10926771.2020.1725207>
- Jones, J. C. (2019). Racism. *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, 52(3), 203-208. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.waterfield.murraystate.edu/10.5406/dialjmormthou.52.3.0203>
- Kaliszewski, Michael. (2022). *Substance Abuse Statistics for African Americans*. (n.d.). American Addiction Centers. <https://americanaddictioncenters.org/addiction-statistics/african-americans>
- Kincaid, C., Jones, D., Cuellar, J., & Gonzalez, M. (2011). Psychological Control Associated with Youth Adjustment and Risky Behavior in African American Single Mother Families. *Journal of Child & Family Studies*, 20(1), 102-110. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.waterfield.murraystate.edu/10.1007/s10826-010-9383-6>

- Kristy N. Matsuda matsudak@umsl.edu, Chris Melde, Terrance J. Taylor, Adrienne Freng & Finn-Aage Esbensen (2013) Gang Membership and Adherence to the “Code of the Street”, *Justice Quarterly*, 30:3, 440-468, DOI: 10.1080/07418825.2012.684432
- Meier, A., & Rudwick, E. M. (1996). *From plantation to ghetto*. Hill And Wang.
- NAACP. (2022). *NAACP*. NAACP; NAACP. <https://naacp.org/>
- Nakamura, Connor. (2022). *Affordable Housing as Local Reparations for Black Americans: Case Studies / Othering & Belonging Institute*. (n.d.). [Belonging.berkeley.edu](https://belonging.berkeley.edu).
<https://belonging.berkeley.edu/affordable-housing-local-reparations-black-americans-case-studies>
- National Center for Education Statistics. (2020). *National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Home Page, part of the U.S. Department of Education*. Ed.gov; National center for education statistics. <https://nces.ed.gov/>
- Ordway, D. -M., April 14, T.J.R., & 2017. (2017, April 14). *Crime and gender: A partial explanation for why men commit more crime*. The Journalist’s Resource.
<https://journalistsresource.org/criminal-justice/crime-gender-women-prison-heart-rate/>
- Parker, W. M., & Lord, S. L. (1993). Characteristics of Role Models for Young African American Men: An Exploratory Survey. *Journal of Multicultural Counseling & Development*, 21(2), 97-105. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.waterfield.murraystate.edu/10.1002/j.2161-1912.1993.tb00588.x>
- Saxena, S. (2020, December 9). *Peer Pressure: Types, Examples, & How to Respond*. Choosing Therapy. <https://www.choosingtherapy.com/peer-pressure/>
- Sierra, H., Swanston, B. What Are HBCU Colleges? Facts About Historically Black Colleges and Universities. (2023, October 19). *Forbes*.
<https://www.forbes.com/advisor/education/hbcu-colleges-and-universities/>
- Stevenson, B. Equal Justice Initiative. (2019). *About the Equal Justice Initiative*. Equal Justice Initiative. <https://eji.org/about/>

Stevenson, H. C. (1990). The role of the African American church in education about teenage pregnancy. *Counseling & Values*, 34(2), <https://doi-org.ezprozy.waterfield.murraystate.edu/10.1002/j.2161-007X.1990.tb00917.x>

Todd, C. (2014). *The Stranger*. Little, Brown.

West, C., & Anderson, E. (2011). *Against the Wall: Poor, Young, Black, and Male*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.