

DISPARITIES 2011: Impacts of Institutional Racism

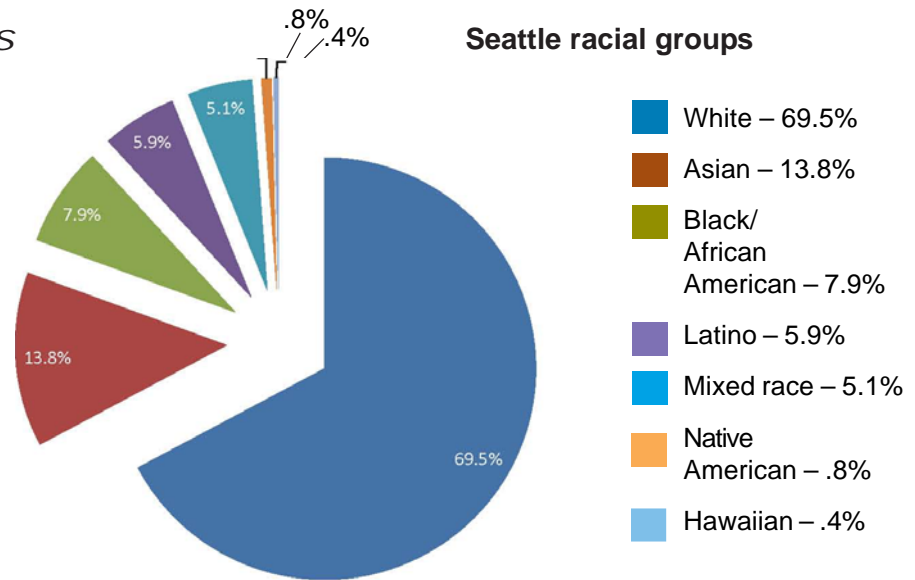
How does race matter? Does racism play a factor in the quality of life and access to opportunities and services in Seattle?

Seattle has worked for years to eliminate overt racist policies and practices in housing, employment and other areas. Yet people of color in our community continue to be impacted by systemic race-based biases. Institutional racism increases disparities in housing, employment, criminal justice, education, health care and other areas.

Snapshot of Seattle's racial composition

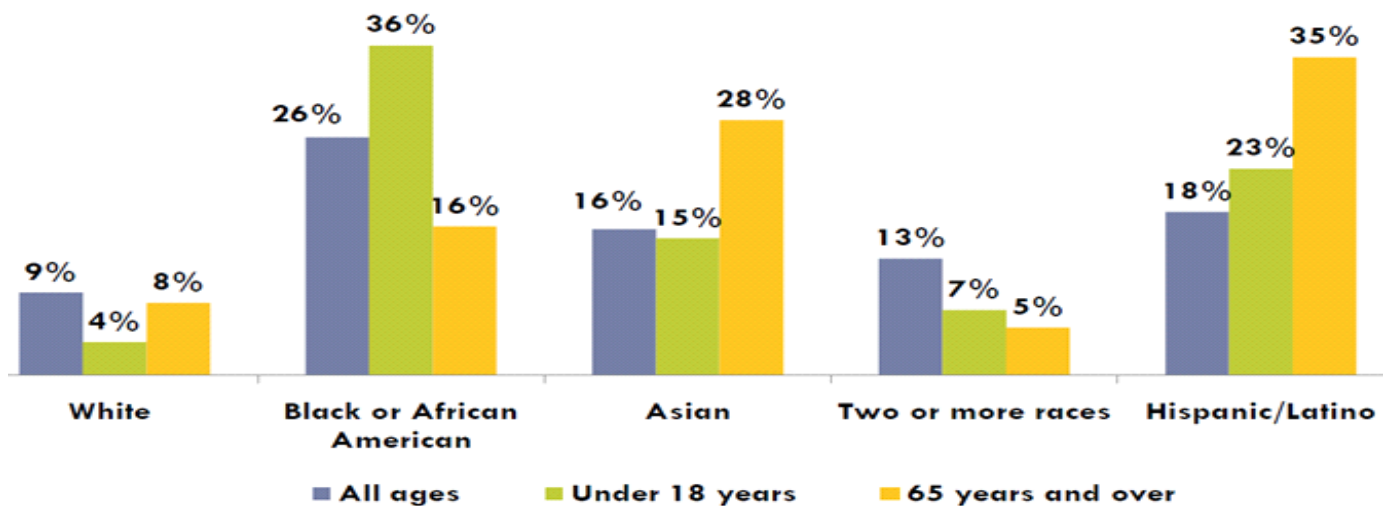
The populations of Seattle and King County are predominantly white. People of color account for just under a third of the total population.

U.S. Census Bureau,
2006 American Community Survey



Income Disparities:

Poverty rates for overall population, children and seniors



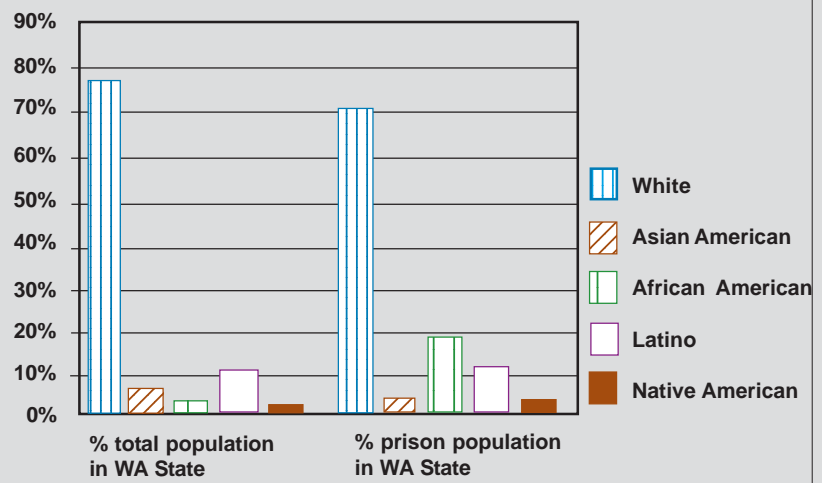
Percentage of people living below the federal poverty line.

Source: 2007-09 American Community Survey (ACS). Current data for Native American households is not yet available – we will update this table in 10/11. In 2006 the poverty rate for Native Americans in King County was over 30%.

Equal Access to Justice

Racial disparities persist throughout the criminal justice system due to racial disparities in arrest rates, conviction rates and sentencing terms. In Washington State African Americans comprise only a little more than 3% of the population yet account for over 19% of those in prison. Latinos account for 11.2% of the state's population but 12% of the state's prison population. Native Americans make up only 1.5% of the state's population yet comprise 4.4% of those in prison.

Prison population by race in WA State



Source: 2010 Census WA State population numbers; WA Dept of Correction's Quarterly Fact Sheet (June 2011)

Are we making the grade in education?

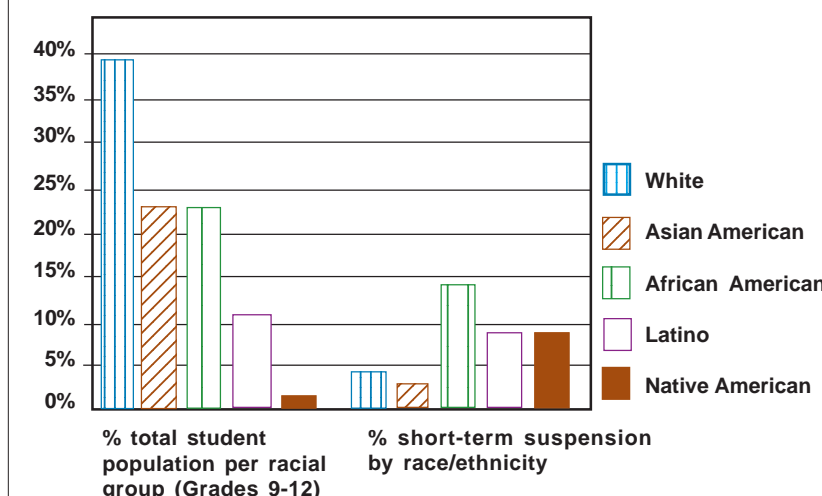
Are we making the grade when it comes to meeting the educational needs of young people? Research has shown that students will achieve if given the opportunity to be taught by numerous effective teachers in a row. Yet between 1999 and 2000, 32% of Washington's secondary classes in schools with high numbers of students of color were taught by teachers who did not specialize in the field they were

teaching. The impacts of these practices, along with the current level of investment in education, contribute to inequitable educational outcomes for our children.

In Seattle public schools, rates of high school completion are higher for white students than most students of color. In 2010, only 44% of Native American students, 48% of Latino students and 53% of African American students completed high school, compared to 79% of their white counterparts and 72% of Asian American students. The rates of graduation for Asian American students vary further if the data is broken down into ethnic groups.

Rates of discipline also are racially disproportionate in Seattle public high schools. (See accompanying chart.)

Short-term suspensions in Seattle schools



Source: 2010 Seattle Public School District Profiles