



A LOOK AT THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON 60 YEARS LATER:

DREAMS AND PROMISES YET TO BE REALIZED

**2025
Update**

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SNAPSHOT

A COMPARISON OF PROGRESS SINCE 1963

In 2025, issues around economic insecurity, employment and housing are acutely felt by families. This snapshot outlines these key indicators between the March on Washington in 1963 through present day.

Unemployment Rate

	1963	Now
White Households	6%	4%
Black Households	12%*	7%

*Percentage applies to 'non-White' households.

Home Ownership Rate

	1963	Now
White Households	65%	74%
Black Households	38%*	46%
Hispanic Households	- Not Calculated	51%

*Percentage applies to 'non-White' households.

Federal Poverty Rate

	1963	Now (FPL)
White Households	10%	10%
Black Households	* 45%	21%
Hispanic Households	- Not Calculated	17%

*Percentage applies to 'non-White' households.

*The federal poverty rate is calculated annually using an inadequate federal poverty measure that doesn't fully capture the true cost of living, leaving millions who are struggling economically uncounted and unseen. The newly calculated TCES (True Cost of Economic Security) provides a more accurate view of need in the 21st century.

Read on for more information about how the dreams and promises from the March on Washington are yet to be realized through other domains of daily life.



JOBS AND WAGES



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES REMAIN ELEVATED FOR BLACK AND LATINO/A WORKERS

	Total
All workers	4.2%
White workers	3.7%
Black workers	7.2%
Latino/a workers	5.0%
Asian workers	3.9%

July 2025 unemployment data

- In 2025, Black and Latino/a workers experience unemployment at rates exceeding both the national average and the average for White workers.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

LABOR FORCE

Participation Rate

	Total	Men	Women
Hispanic or Latino/a	66.90%	79.20%	61.30%
Black	63.10%	68.60%	63.20%
White	62.30%	70.10%	57.60%

- Despite participating in the labor force at rates higher than White Americans, **Black and Latino/a Americans** still have **significant impediments to their employment opportunities and wages.**
- Latino men have the highest labor force participation of all racial groups and Black women have the highest labor force participation rate of all women.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE

THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE UNCHANGED SINCE 2009

\$7.25 an hour

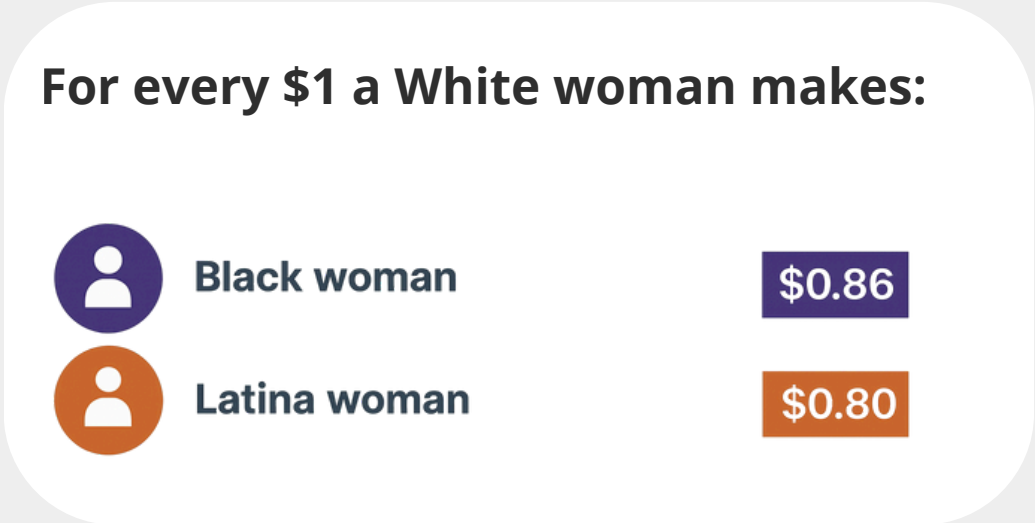
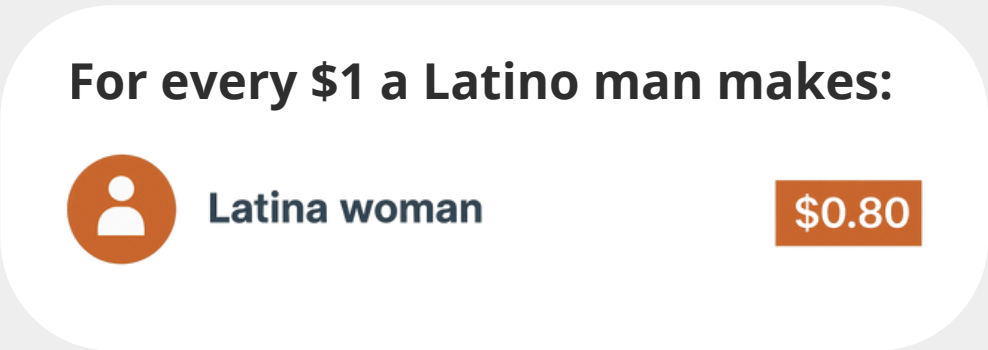
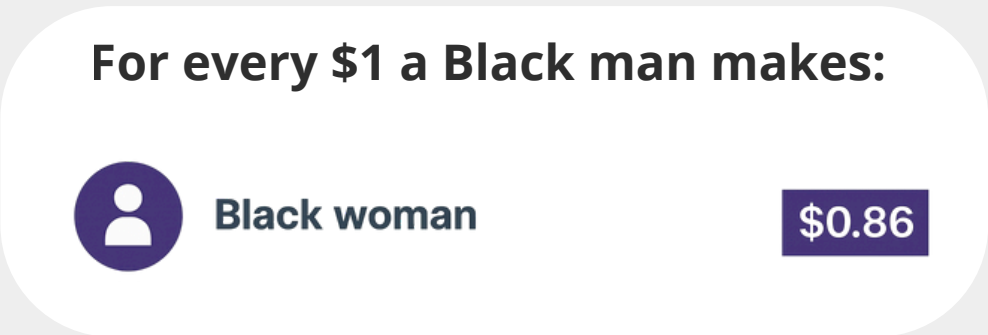
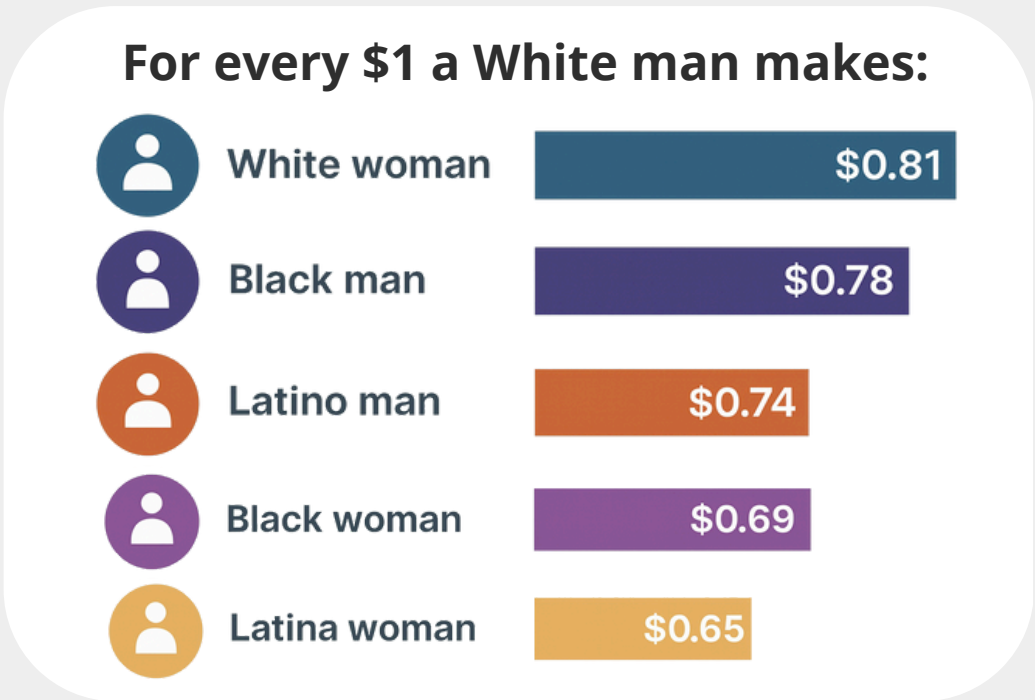
- When adjusted for inflation, today's federal minimum wage is \$6.01 lower than 1963 federal minimum wage

- The current federal minimum wage is also 1/3 of the inflation-adjusted demand of a \$2.00 minimum wage made by the marchers in 1963, which would have been \$21.22 in 2025 inflation-adjusted dollars.
- On the positive side, 23 states plus DC have increased their minimum wage in the last year.
- While the federal minimum wage remains unchanged only 7 states either have no minimum wage laws or have a minimum wage set below the federal minimum wage.
- However, of those 7 states, 6 are in the South (Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee) where significant numbers of Black workers are located.

WAGE PARITY

SOMEWHAT IMPROVED BUT SIGNIFICANT GAPS REMAIN

Looking only at the data from quarter 2 of 2025, **significant gaps remain** in wage parity **between White Workers and Black and Latino/a Workers** and **between men and women**.



Asian workers, both men and women, have closed the wage parity gap with White men.

**The term "Asian" denotes a racial category that includes people with origins or ancestry from East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Central Asia. This aggregate data fails to capture specifics of particular Asian American nationalities and ethnicities.*

OCCUPATIONAL SEGREGATION

OCCUPATIONAL SEGREGATION NARROWED BUT PAY GAP REMAINS

When occupations are broken into five main categories and grouped by average wages, **Black and Latino/a workers have significantly greater representation in lower paid occupations** than White or Asian workers.

	Management, Professional, and Related Occupations (Avg. Wages \$84,512)	Natural Resources, Construction, and Maintenance (Avg. Wages \$51,113)	Production, Transportation, and Materials Moving (Avg. Wages \$44,350)	Sales and Office Occupations (Avg. Wages \$41,890)	Service Occupations (Avg. Wages \$38,758)
% of Black Workers	36%	5%	17%	20%	22%
% of White Workers	44%	10%	12%	19%	15%
% of Latino/a Workers	26%	16%	17%	18%	24%
% of Asian Workers	59%	2%	9%	15%	15%

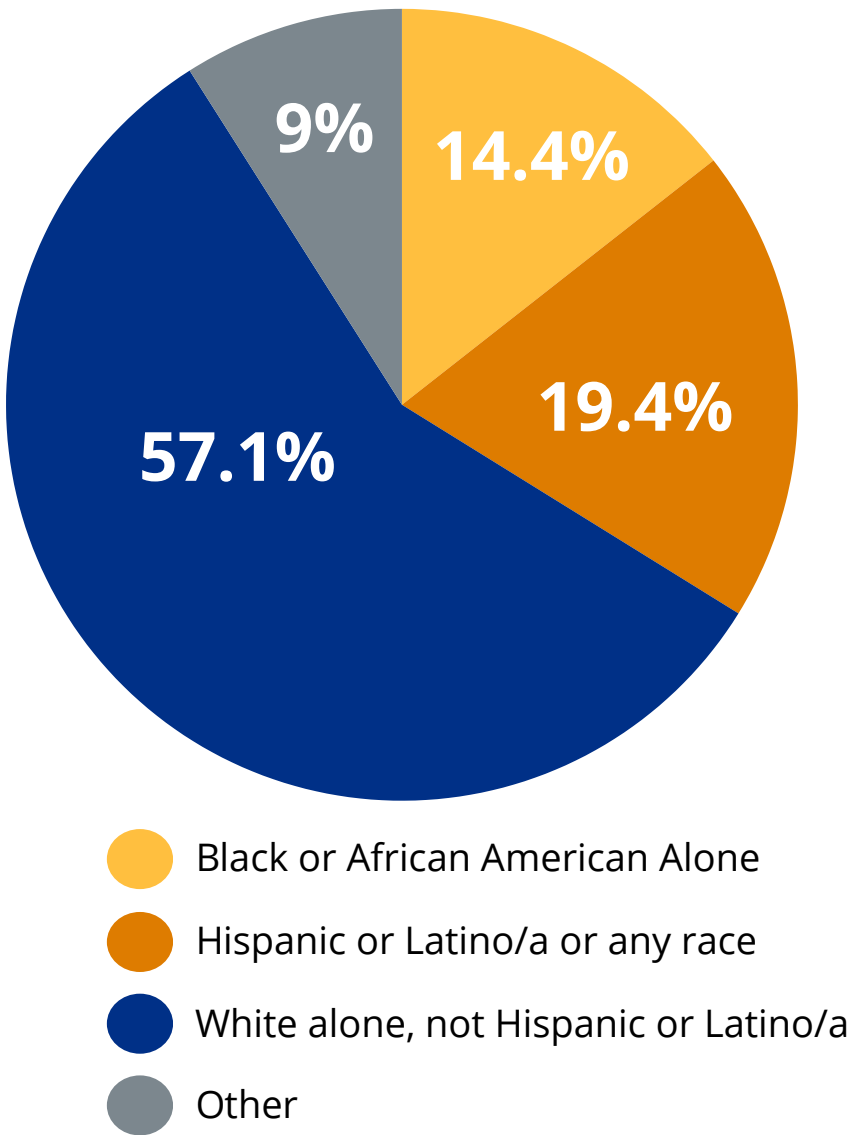
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

FEDERAL POVERTY RATE

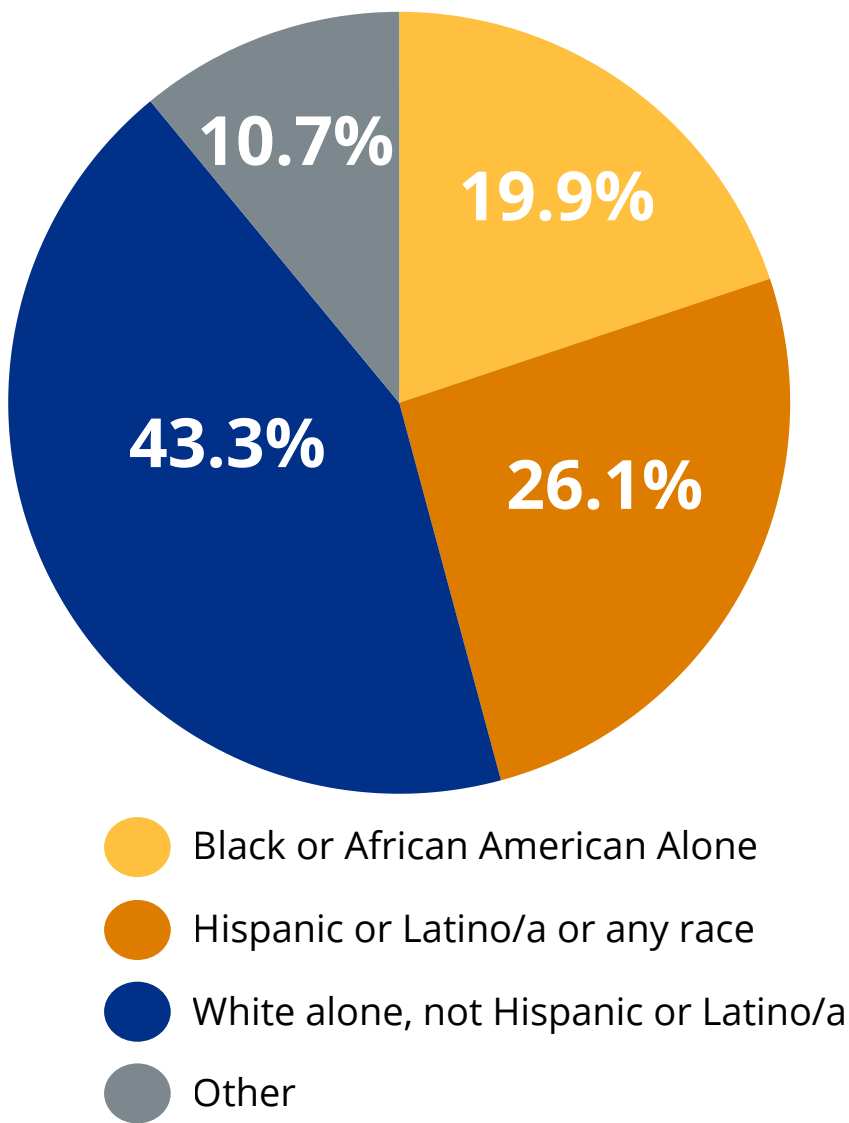
RACIAL GAP PERSISTS

Population below the Official Poverty Measure (OPM)
is 40,763,043 or 12.5%

Total Population



Population Below Poverty by Racial Group



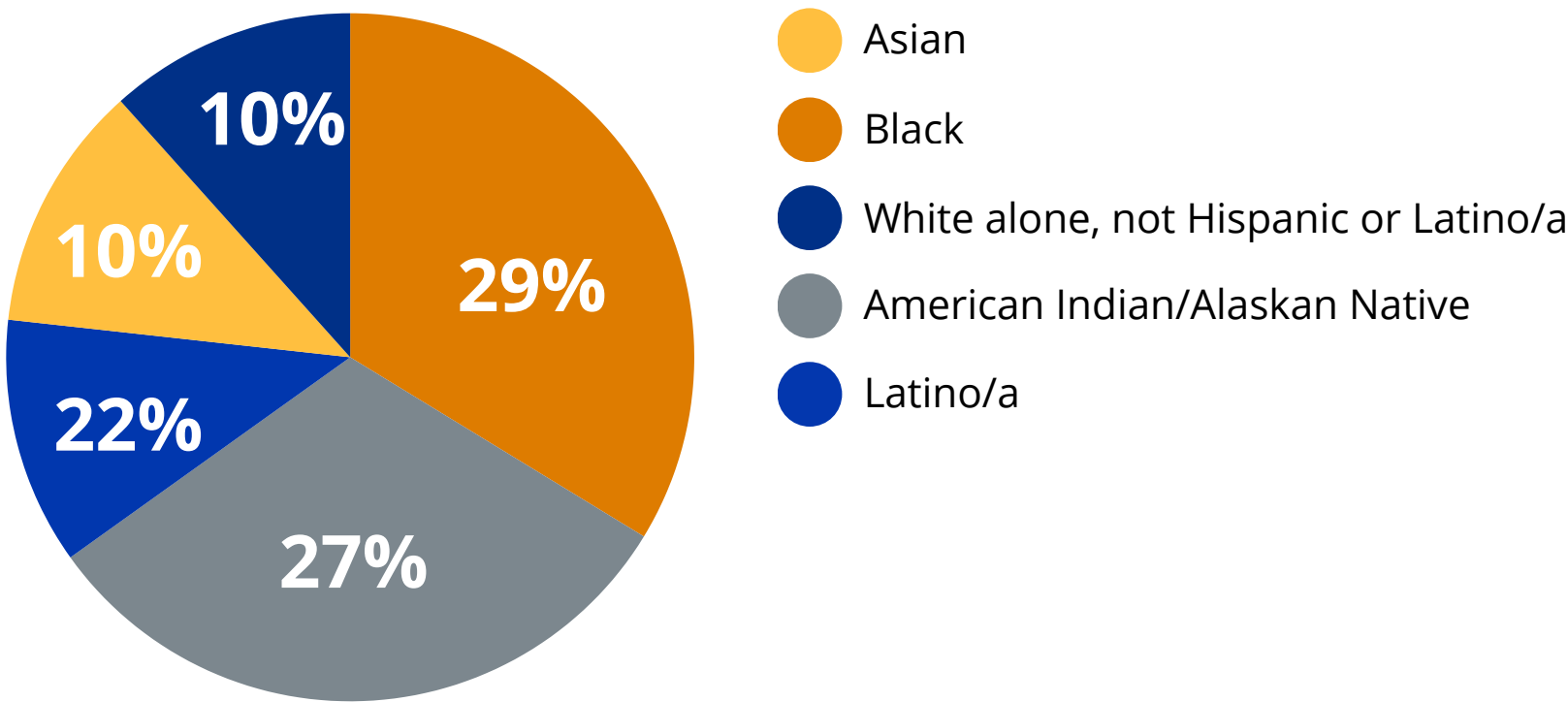
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

CHILD POVERTY

RACIAL GAP PERSISTS

Of the population for whom poverty status is determined, 11,445,264 individuals—representing 16% of the population—are under the age of 18.

Child Poverty by Race



RACIAL WEALTH GAP

WORSE

As of the Q4 2024:

	Average Wealth
Black households	had about \$352,000 in average wealth
Hispanic households	had about \$285,000 in average wealth
White households	had about \$1.5 million in average wealth

Note: Average, rather than median, is used to reflect the most recently available data. White households hold the equivalent of 5x the wealth of Hispanic households and 4x the wealth of Black households.



FREEDOMS



VOTING RIGHTS

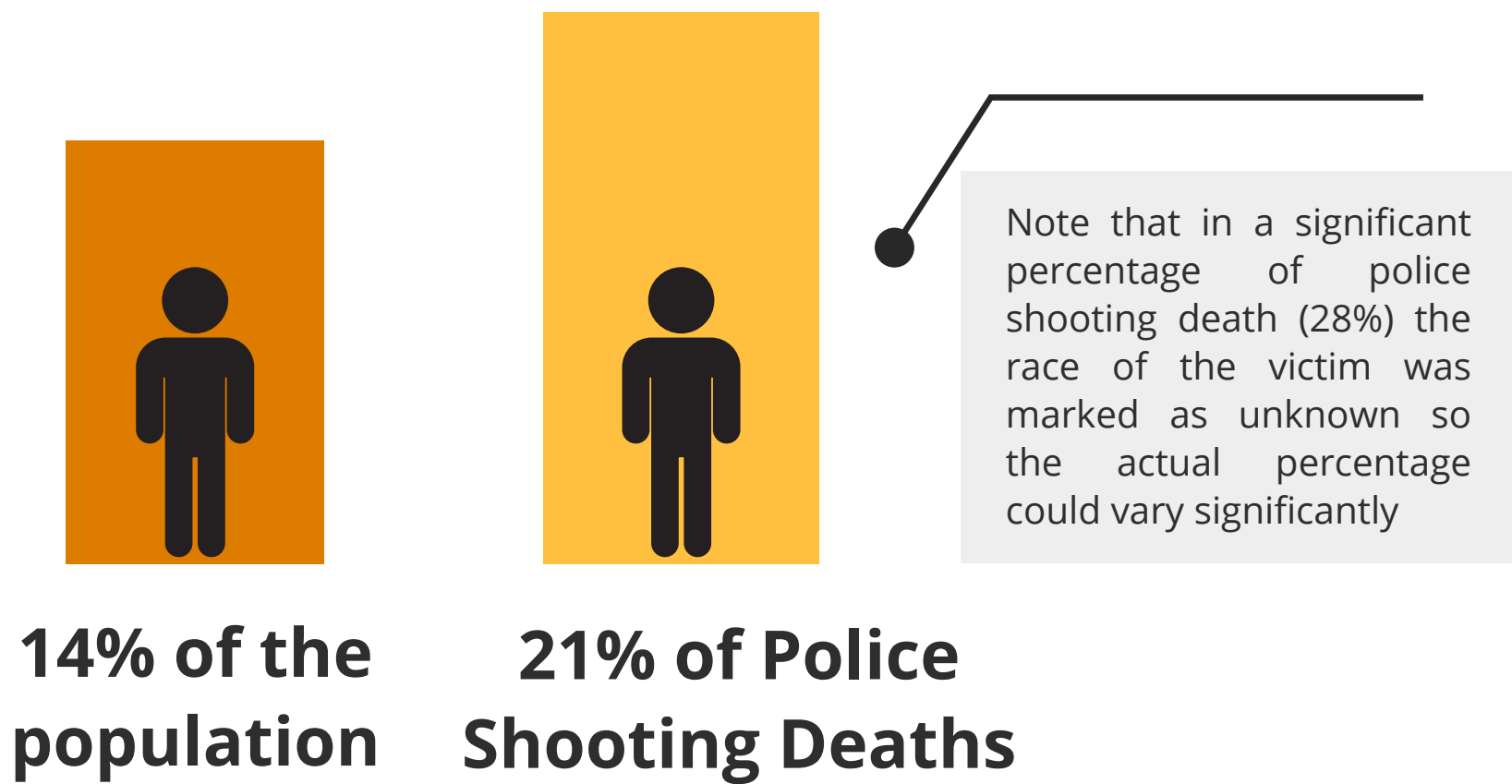
ENDANGERED

- States enacted more restrictive voting laws in 2024 than in any year in the last decade except for 2021.
- Between 2021 and 2024, states passed a total of **79 restrictive voting laws**, a significantly higher total compared with similar stretches over the previous decade. This represents nearly three times the number of restrictive laws passed between 2017 and 2020, and more than four times the total between 2013 and 2016.
- Between January 1 and December 31, 2024, at least 10 states enacted 19 restrictive voting laws.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

STAGNANT

Black people account for 14% of the US population but accounted for 21% of those shot to death by police in 2024.



The rate of **fatal police shootings** among **Black Americans** was much **higher** than that for any other ethnicity, **standing at 6.1 fatal shootings per million of the population** per year between 2015 and 2024.

INCARCERATION

WORSE FOR BLACK MEN

	Total Country Population	Percentage of People Incarcerated in Federal Prison
Black	14.4%	38.2%*
White	57.1%	57.2%*
Latino/a	19.4%	29.8%

• **Prison population by race statistics may include people who identify as Latino/a*

SOCIAL INDICATORS

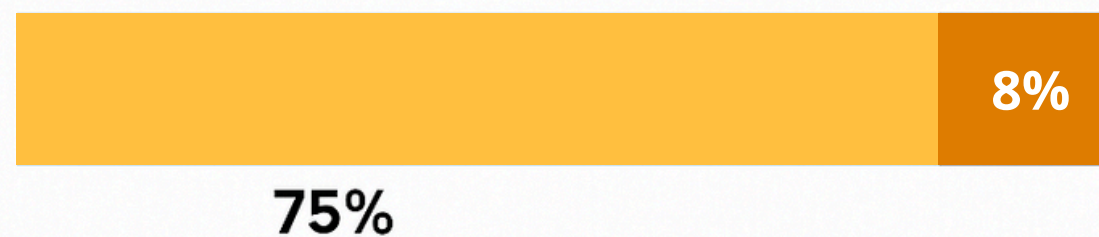


HOUSING SEGREGATION

STAGNANT

- Racial segregation stunts house price appreciation and consequently reduces wealth accumulation among Black and Brown homeowners.
- Children who grow up in more racially segregated metropolitan areas experience less economic mobility than those in less segregated ones.

A typical White person lives in a neighborhood that is 75% White and only 8% Black



A typical Black person lives in a neighborhood that is only 35% White and 45% Black

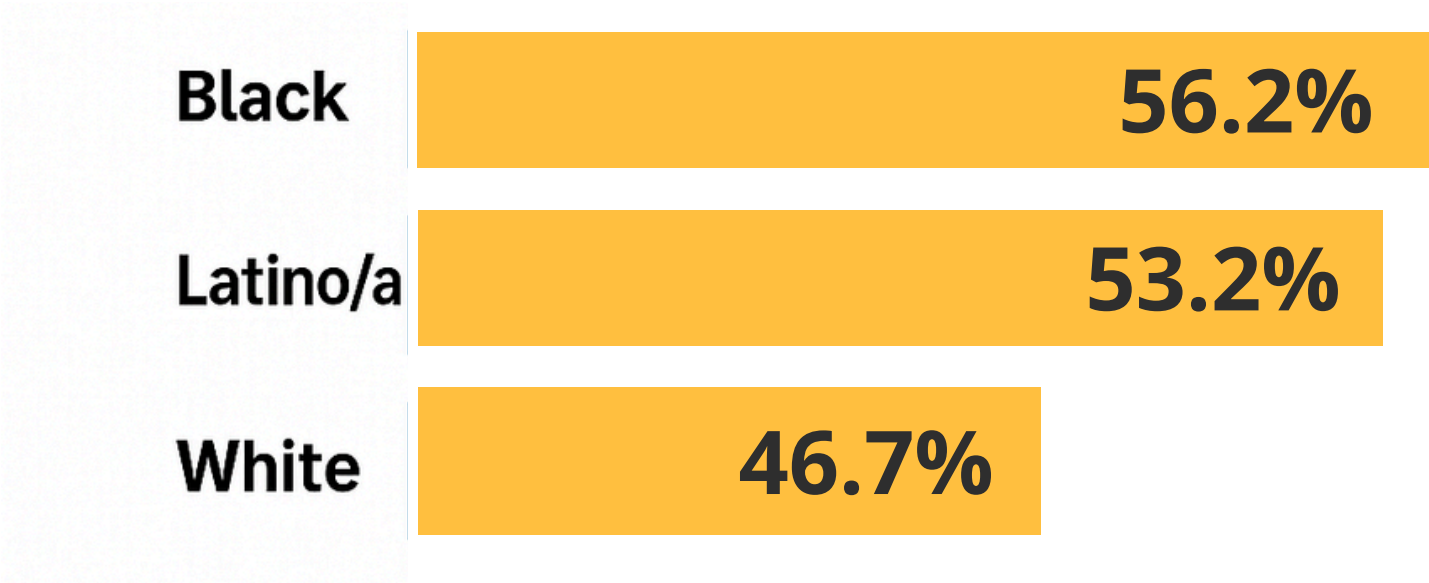


RENT BURDENED

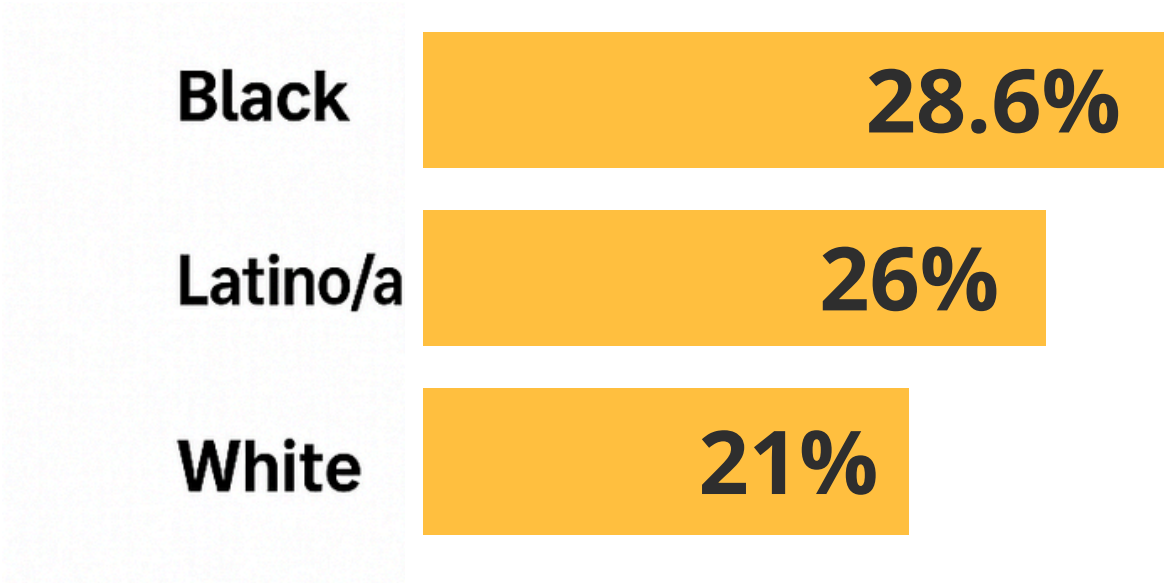
SIGNIFICANT GAPS REMAIN

Gross rent as a percentage of household income

% of Household paying more than 30% of their income in rent



% severely cost-burdened paying 50% or of their income

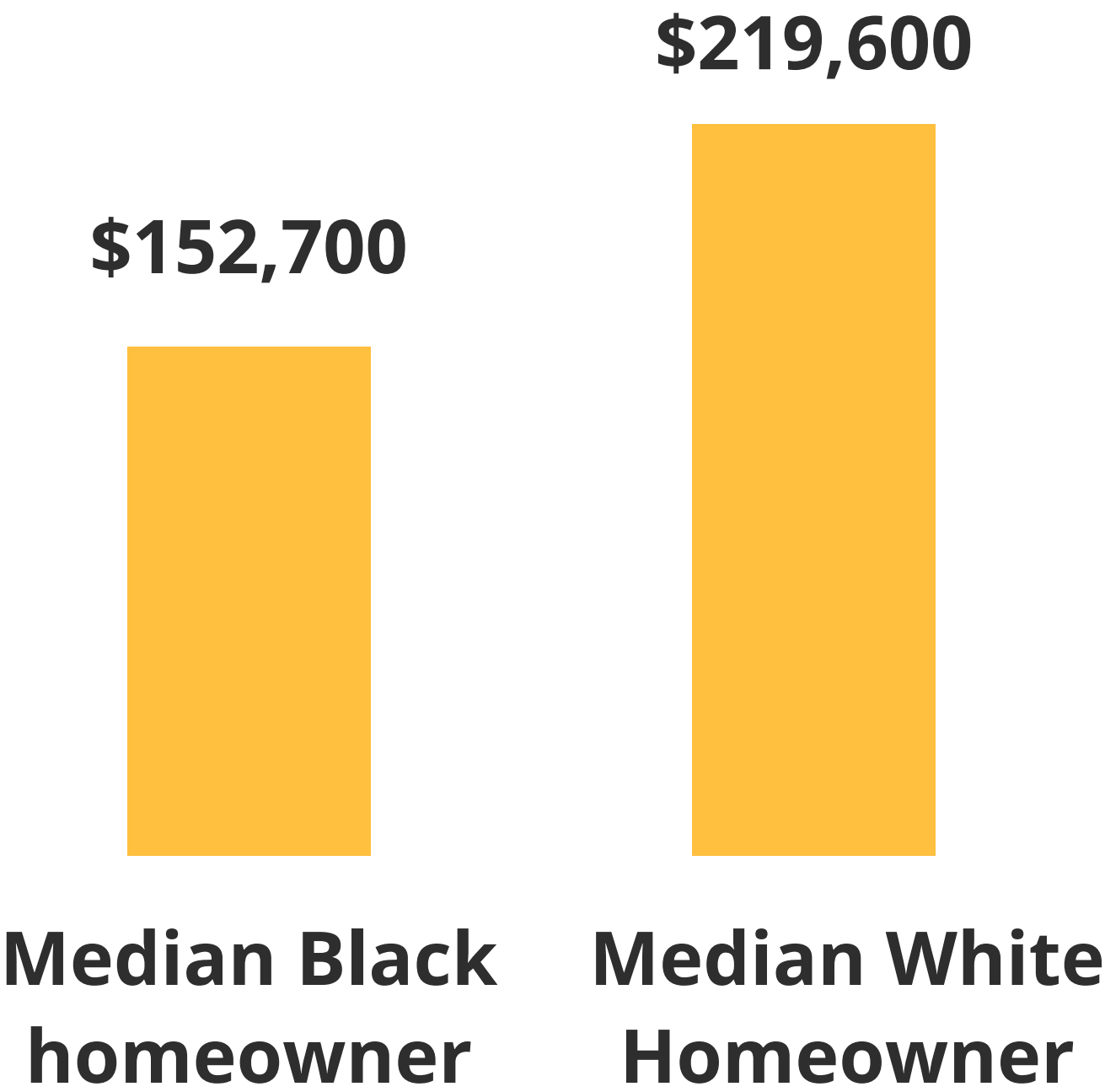


Source: U.S. Census

HOMEOWNERSHIP

SIGNIFICANT GAPS REMAIN IN PROPERTY VALUE

Property Value



Homeownership rates

	Homeownership rates
Non-Hispanic, White American	74%
Asian Americans	63%
Latino/a Americans	50%
Black Americans	46%

Source: Center for American Progress and National Association of Home Builders

HOMELESSNESS

SIGNIFICANT DISPARITIES REMAIN WITH NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS EXPERIENCING THE HIGHEST RATES OF HOMELESSNESS BY FAR

People experiencing homelessness per 10,000 population

Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	159.80
American Indian/Alaskan Native	66.6
Black	55.20
Hispanic	21.70
White	11.50
Asian	4.10

Source: National Association of Home Builders

EDUCATION

STAGNANT

Funding

Black students are twice as likely as White students to be in districts with funding **below estimated adequate levels**, and **3.5 times more likely to be in “chronically underfunded” districts.**



Black Students

2X

as likely to be in districts below
estimated adequate levels



Black Students

3.5X

more likely to be in “chronically
underfunded” districts

EDUCATION

SLIGHTLY IMPROVED FOR BLACK AMERICANS, BUT WIDE GAPS
REMAIN FOR LATINO/A AMERICANS

High School Attainment/College Attainment

- Researchers from the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco estimate that **removing racial gaps in educational attainment** alone—separate from any effect on employment or hours—would **have increased GDP in 2019 by \$190 billion**.
- While **Black Americans have closed the gap in high school attainment with White Americans** (having both a larger portion of high school graduates and fewer people who have not graduated from high school), **there is still an 8-percentage point gap in college attainment between White and Black Americans**.
- Despite participating in the labor force at higher rates than any other group, **Latino/a Americans have lowest rates of educational attainment** of any racial group.
- The **proportion of Latino/a Americans who have not graduated** from high school is nearly **3X greater than the next higher group (White Americans)**.

EDUCATION

SLIGHTLY IMPROVED FOR BLACK AMERICANS, BUT WIDE GAPS REMAIN FOR LATINO/A AMERICANS

High School Attainment / College Attainment (cont.)

- **White Americans** also are **55 percent more likely** to graduate from college *than Latino/a Americans*.

Race	Less than High School	High School Only	Bachelors or Higher
White	7%	25%	44%
Black	5%	30%	36%
Latino/a	20%	32%	25%

- **Individuals with higher levels of education** *are more likely* to be **employed in higher paying jobs**—such as those in management, professional, and related occupations—than are individuals with less education and the median earnings of people 25 years and older increased with educational attainment across all the major race and ethnicity groups.

EDUCATION

GAP WIDENED

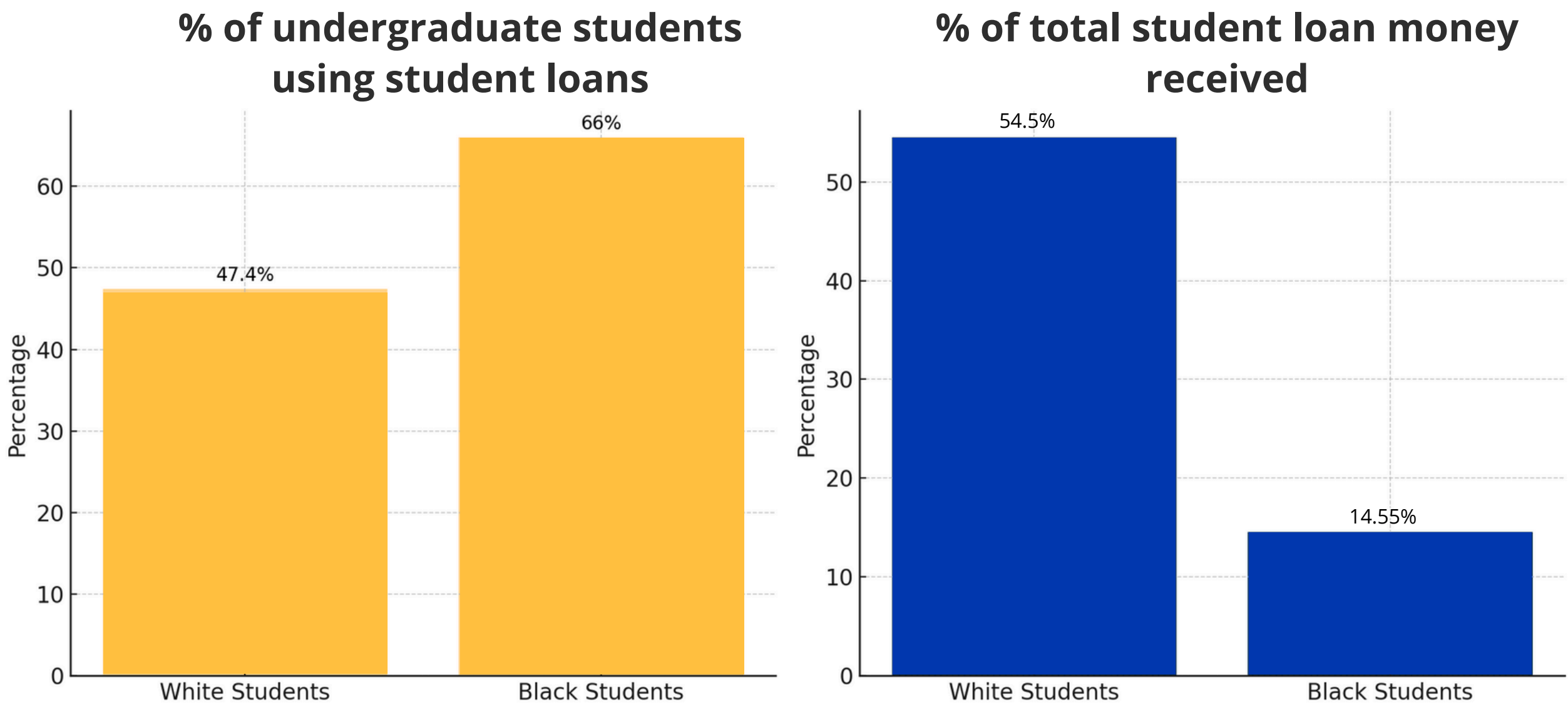
Student Debt

- **Black and African American college graduates owe an average of \$25,000 more** in student loan debt than **White college graduates**.
- Four years after graduation, **Black students owe an average of 188% more than White students** borrowed.
- Black student borrowers owe the highest monthly payments.
- **40% of Black graduates have student loan debt** from graduate school, **while 22% of White college graduates have graduate school debt**.
- **White college graduates** *have over 7 times the amount of wealth than* **Black college graduates**.

EDUCATION

BLACK STUDENTS RECEIVE FAR LESS OF THE TOTAL STUDENT LOAN FUNDING

Student Debt



Source: Education Data Initiative

EDUCATION PROFICIENCY

ACHIEVEMENT GAP WIDENED

- In 2025, Black students posted the largest test score increases in reading and math in the city's public schools of any racial group. But they still lag their White and Asian American peers.
- About 75% of Asian American students and 73% of White students were proficient in reading compared with 43.5% of Latino/a children and 47% of Black students. (Black students' proficiency jumped about 8 percentage points.)

EDUCATION FUNDING

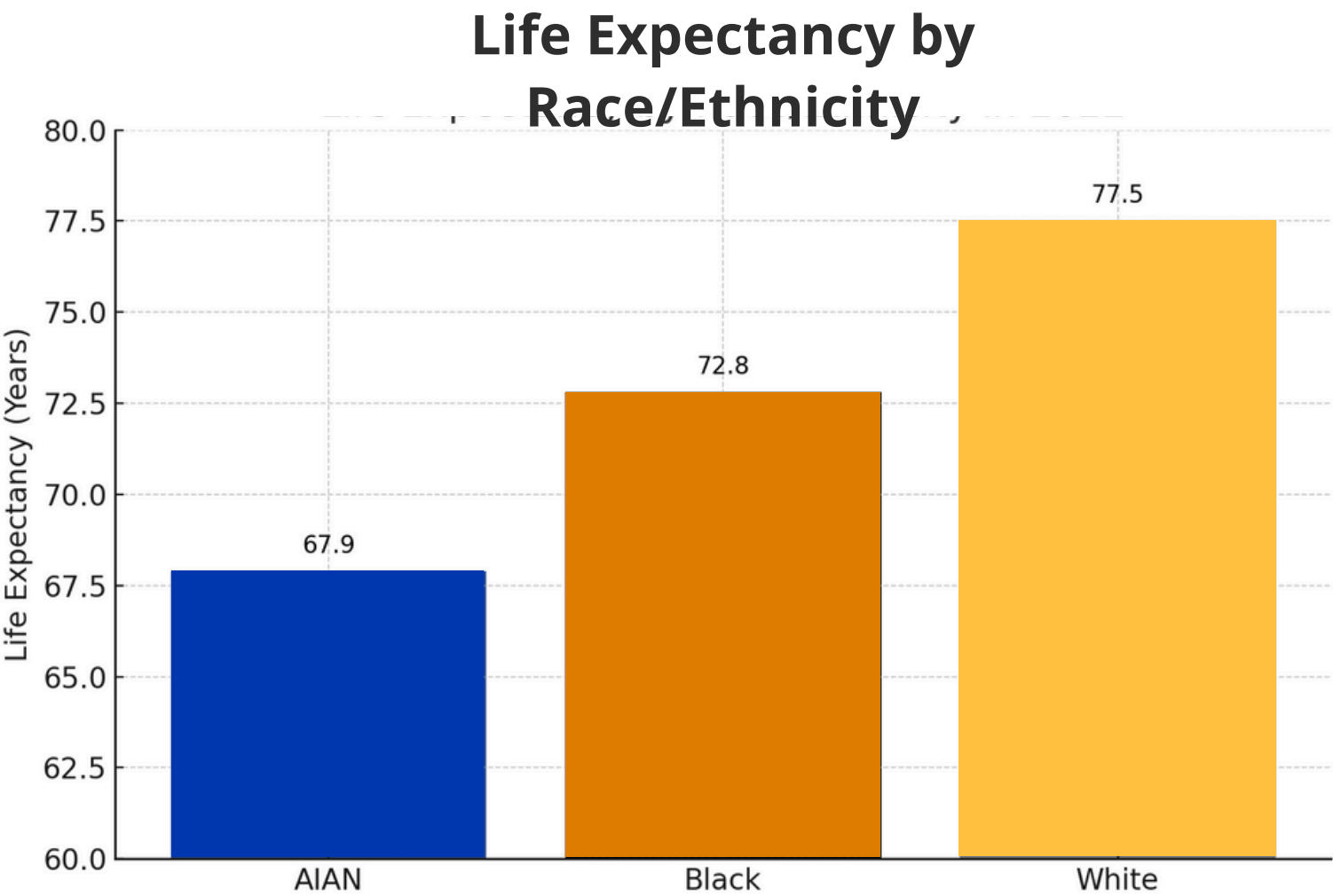
STAGNANT

- Black students are about **twice as likely** as their White peers to attend school in a district with below-adequate funding, while Latino/a students are about **75 percent more likely** to do so. Similarly, Black students are **over 3.5 times more likely** than White students to attend chronically underfunded districts (55 versus 15 percent, respectively), while Latino/a students are **over 150 percent** more likely (40 versus 15 percent).

HEALTHCARE

STAGNANT

- American Indians/ Alaska Natives (AIAN) (67.9 years) and Black (72.8 years) people had a shorter life expectancy compared to White people (77.5 years) as of the most recent data.
- AIAN, Hispanic, and Black people experienced larger declines in life expectancy than White people between as of the most recent data.
- AIAN people experienced the largest life expectancy decline of 6.6 years, followed by Hispanic (4.2 years) and Black people (4.0 years), and a smaller decline of 2.4 years for White people. Asian people had the smallest decline in life expectancy of 2.1 years.

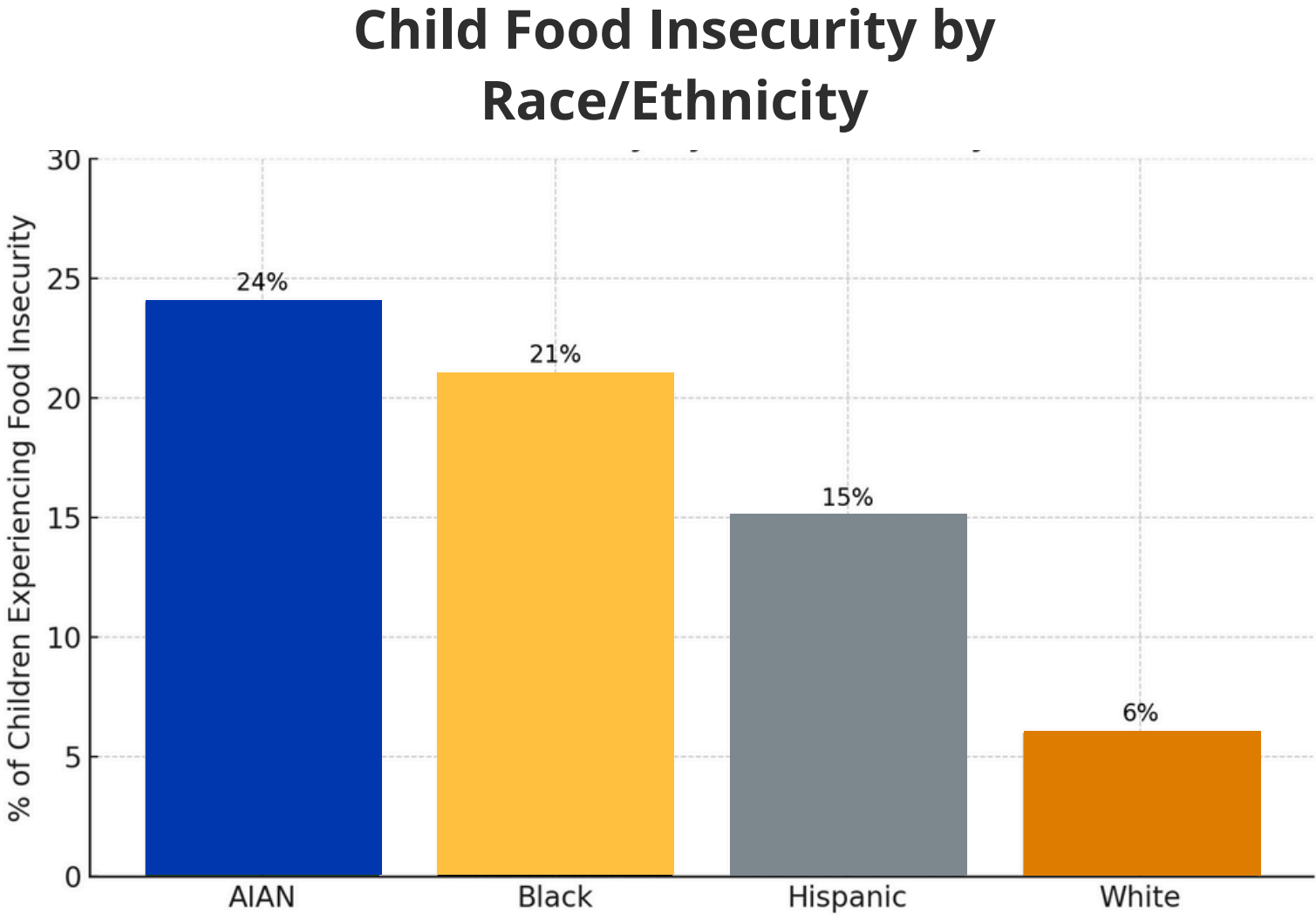


Source: KKF

HEALTHCARE

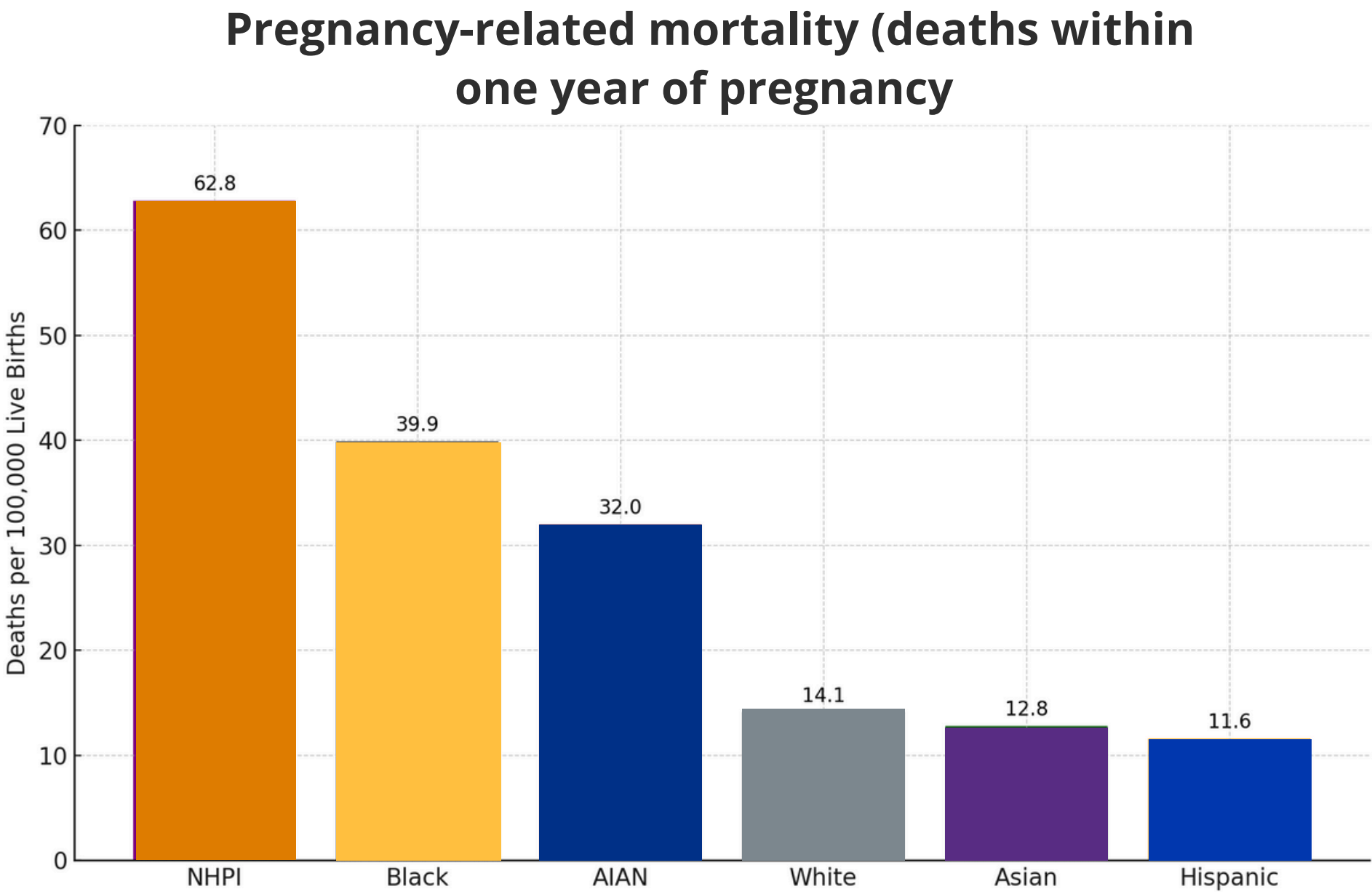
STAGNANT

- AIAN (24%) and Black (21%) children were more than three times as likely to have food insecurity as White children (6%), and Hispanic children (15%) were over twice as likely to have food insecurity than White children (6%) as of the most recent data.
- Nonelderly AIAN (19%) and Hispanic (18%) people have the highest uninsured rates. Uninsured rates for nonelderly Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islanders (NHPI) (13%) and Black (10%). Nonelderly White (7%) and Asian (6%) people have the lowest uninsured rates.
- Roughly half (56%) of White adults with any mental illness report receiving mental health services in the past year. In contrast, about four in ten (40%) Hispanic adults and just over a third of Black (38%) and Asian (36%) adults with any mental illness report receiving mental health care in the past year.



HEALTHCARE

STAGNANT



NHPI (62.8 per 100,000), Black (39.9 per 100,000), and AIAN (32 per 100,000), White (14.1 per 100,000); Asian (12.8 per 100,000); Hispanic women (11.6 per 100,000)

RACIAL IMPACTS OF FEDERAL SAFETY NET CUTS

On July 4, 2025, President Trump signed into law a wide-ranging federal budget reconciliation bill. The bill delivers significant tax cuts to the wealthy at the expense of working families across the country, worsening racial inequality. Deep reductions in federal jobs, support for Medicaid, SNAP, and state and local aid are particularly alarming for Black and Latino/a Americans.

The bill cuts SNAP, the nation's most important tool to combat food insecurity, by about \$186 billion or about 20 percent.



- This will disproportionately impact Black and Latino/a Americans who already face food insecurity rates that are at least twice the rate of White Americans.
- Twenty-six percent of SNAP households are headed by a Black person(s) and 22 percent are headed by a Latino/a person(s).
- These figures exceed their shares of the general U.S. population (14 percent and 20 percent, respectively).

RACIAL IMPACTS OF FEDERAL SAFETY NET CUTS

Eligibility for non-citizens without Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) status is also being eliminated which will have a disproportionate impact on Latino/a Americans.

The bill cuts Medicaid by about \$1 trillion over 10 years.



- Black and Hispanic individuals experience higher rates of Medicaid enrollment compared to White individuals and will bear the burden of the cuts.
- Medicaid plays a significant role in financing births, particularly for Black and Hispanic women. While Medicaid covers approximately 40% of all births nationally, it covers 64% of births to Black women and 58% of births to Hispanic women.
- The bill also imposes restrictions on Medicaid eligibility for lawfully present immigrants.

RACIAL IMPACTS OF FEDERAL SAFETY NET CUTS

Eligibility changes to the Child Tax Credit (CTC) would render ineligible many American children who currently receive the credit. The CTC impacts the capacity of families to afford nutrition, education, and health care – spending that has been shown to also boost communities.



- It does so by instituting a new requirement: each adult taxpayer, and their spouse, must have a valid SSN for the family to claim the credit.
- In practice, this would mean mixed-status families, many of who are Latino/a with US citizen children, would no longer be eligible for the CTC. As a result, the Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that approximately 2 million children with SSNs would be denied the CTC

RACIAL IMPACTS OF FEDERAL SAFETY NET CUTS

The cuts as part of the reconciliation bill will lead to job reductions in the public sector.



- For Black Americans, public sector employment has historically provided a pathway to better, more equitable job opportunities for skilled and often highly educated Black workers compared with available private-sector jobs.
- Today, Black employees make up 18.7 percent of the federal workforce.
- Given both the scale-back in enforcement at the EEOC and other federal agencies - whose responsibility it is to prevent labor discrimination - and reductions in the federal workforce and to state and local government as a result of the trickle-down impact of federal budget cuts, Black and Brown workers are now more exposed to the prevalent racism and hostility in private employment. This may further reduce wages and exacerbate the long-standing prevailing disparities highlighted elsewhere in this analysis.

The FPWA logo features a stylized 'F' with a curved underline, followed by the letters 'PWA' in a clean, sans-serif font.

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