

Equal Justice Initiative

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://eji.org/reports/race-and-the-jury-overview/>

Policy Issue Resources

Criminal Justice Reform

Racial Justice

Anti-Poverty

Public Education

124 results for "**Prison**"

Illegal racial discrimination bars people of color from juries at every step of the jury selection process.

Today, Black people and other people of color are excluded from participating in our jury system at every step of the jury selection process:

EJIs new report explains how racial bias continues to infect our legal system.

Read the Report

EJIs new report documents persistent and widespread racial discrimination in jury selection in the American legal system.

The report documents the countrys long history of tolerating racial bias in jury selection and a continuing indifference to correcting widespread underrepresentation of people of color on juries.

Race-based discrimination in jury selection was outlawed nearly 150 years ago. But as we detailed in our [2010 report](#) on illegal racial discrimination in jury selection, the problem is a continuing legacy of our history of racial injustice.

The problem persists because those who perpetrate or tolerate racial biasincluding trial and appellate courts, defense lawyers, lawmakers, and prosecutorsact with impunity. Courts that fail to create jury lists that fairly represent their communities face no repercussions. Prosecutors who unlawfully strike Black people from juries dont get fined, sanctioned, or held accountable.

Several states, including California, Washington, Connecticut, and New Jersey, have recognized the problem and implemented reforms or initiated studies. But other states have hesitated to address the problem. Most states have done nothing.

How to cite

Equal Justice Initiative, Race and the Jury: Illegal Racial Discrimination in Jury Selection (2021).

Illegal Racial Discrimination in Jury Selection: A Continuing Legacy

122 Commerce Street Montgomery, AL 36104 [\(334\) 269-1803](tel:334-269-1803) [\[emailprotected\]](#)

[Subscribe to our newsletter](#)

Equal Justice Initiative 2022