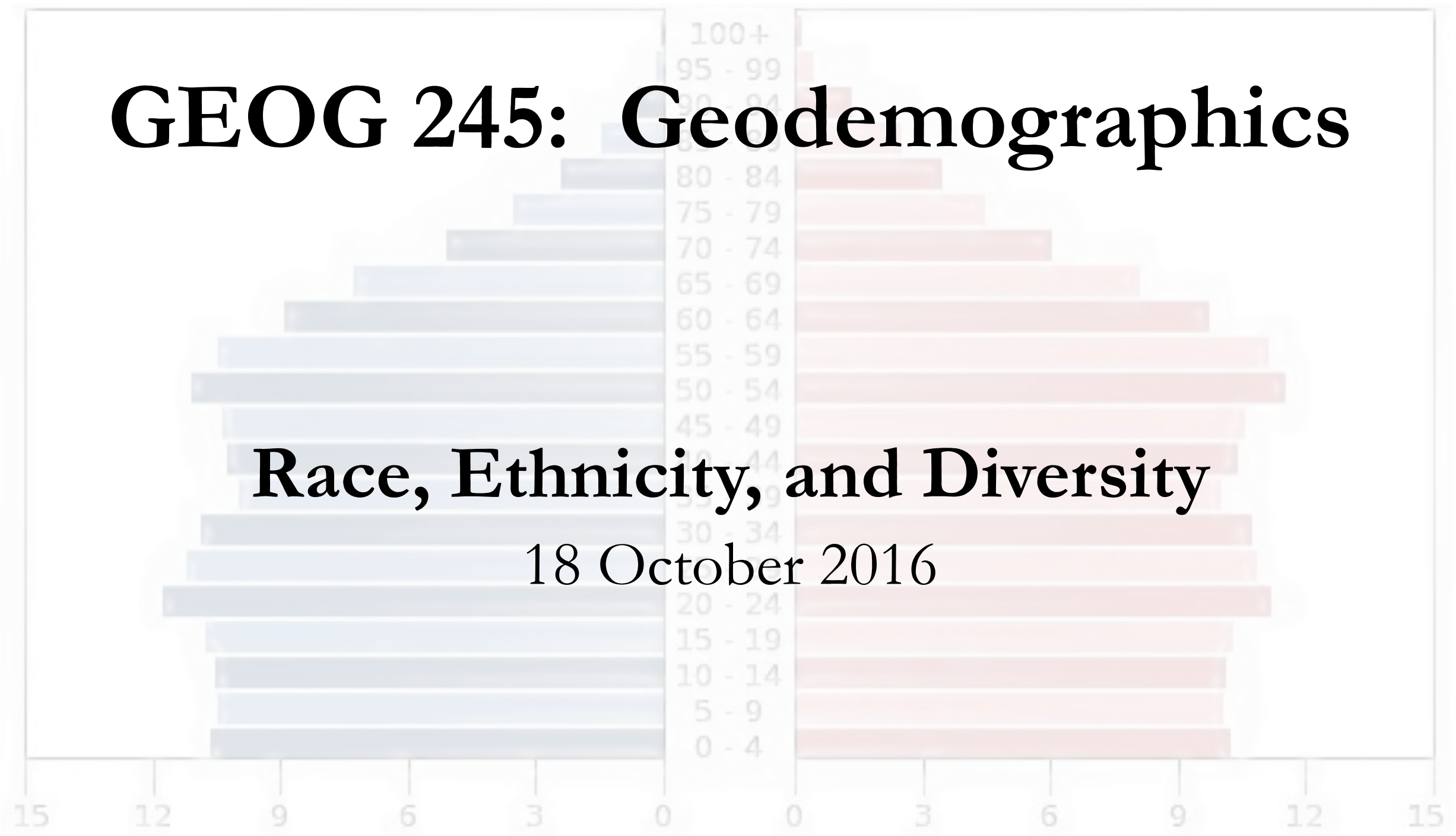


# GEOG 245: Geodemographics

## Race, Ethnicity, and Diversity

18 October 2016



# Announcements

- Reminder: Assignment 1 due Thursday by midnight
- Talk this afternoon that might be of interest...

# WHY RACE MATTERS: U.S. POLITICS IN THE 2016 ELECTIONS

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**TUESDAY  
OCT 18  
4PM**

Join us for a  
conversation about  
the role of race in  
this autumn's  
elections.

Faculty from the Departments of  
American Ethnic Studies, History  
and Political Science will  
participate:

Arbella Bet-Shlimon HISTORY

Megan Francis POLITICAL SCIENCE

Moon-Ho Jung, HISTORY

LaTasha Levy AES

Carolyn Pinedo-Turnovsky AES, LSJ

Joshua Reid HISTORY

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Ethnic Cultural Center  
3931 Brooklyn Ave NE  
[history.uw.edu](http://history.uw.edu)  
RSVP on Facebook @historyuw



**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

# Plan for Today

- Lecture
  - Short Reflection
  - Introduction to Race and Ethnicity
  - White Privilege
  - Race in America
  - Diversity
- Film: White People
  - Discussion

# On a piece of paper...

- What is race?
- Is race still a relevant marker in the US today? Why or why not?

# Discuss with your neighbors...

- What is race?
- Is race still a relevant marker in the US today? Why or why not?

# What is Race?

# Race is a Reification

- Race and ethnicity are social constructions.
- They are defined and maintained through interaction.
- They *do not* exist biologically.



# What does reification mean?

- Something abstract or imaginary that is actively made real or brought into being through concrete actions

# Race is a Reification

- Race and ethnicity are social constructions.
- They are defined and maintained through interaction.
- They *do not* exist biologically.

# Race and Ethnicity Defined

- ***Race*** is a socially defined category, based on perceived biological differences between groups of people.
- ***Ethnicity*** is a socially defined category based on common language, religion, nationality, history, or another cultural factor.

# Race and Ethnicity Defined

- Demographers see race and ethnicity as social constructions because they are not rooted in biological differences, they change over time, and they never have firm boundaries.

- This woman is not real.
- She was created by a computer from a mix of several races.



Why is the distinction between race and ethnicity important?

# Why is the distinction between race and ethnicity important?

- Because ethnicity can be displayed or hidden, depending on individual preferences, while racial identities are always on display

# Symbolic Ethnicity

- An ethnic identity that is only relevant on specific occasions and does not significantly impact everyday life.



Example: Crowds of Irish Americans who turn out for St. Patrick's Day



# What Is a Minority?

# What Is a Minority?

- A *minority group* is made up of members of a social group that is systematically denied the same access to power and resources available to the dominant groups of a society, but who are not necessarily fewer in number than the dominant group.
- Sometimes also called the *subordinate group*

# What is a Dominant Group?

- A *dominant group* is a group of people that is advantaged and has superior resources and rights in a society.

# What is Racism?

# What is Racism?

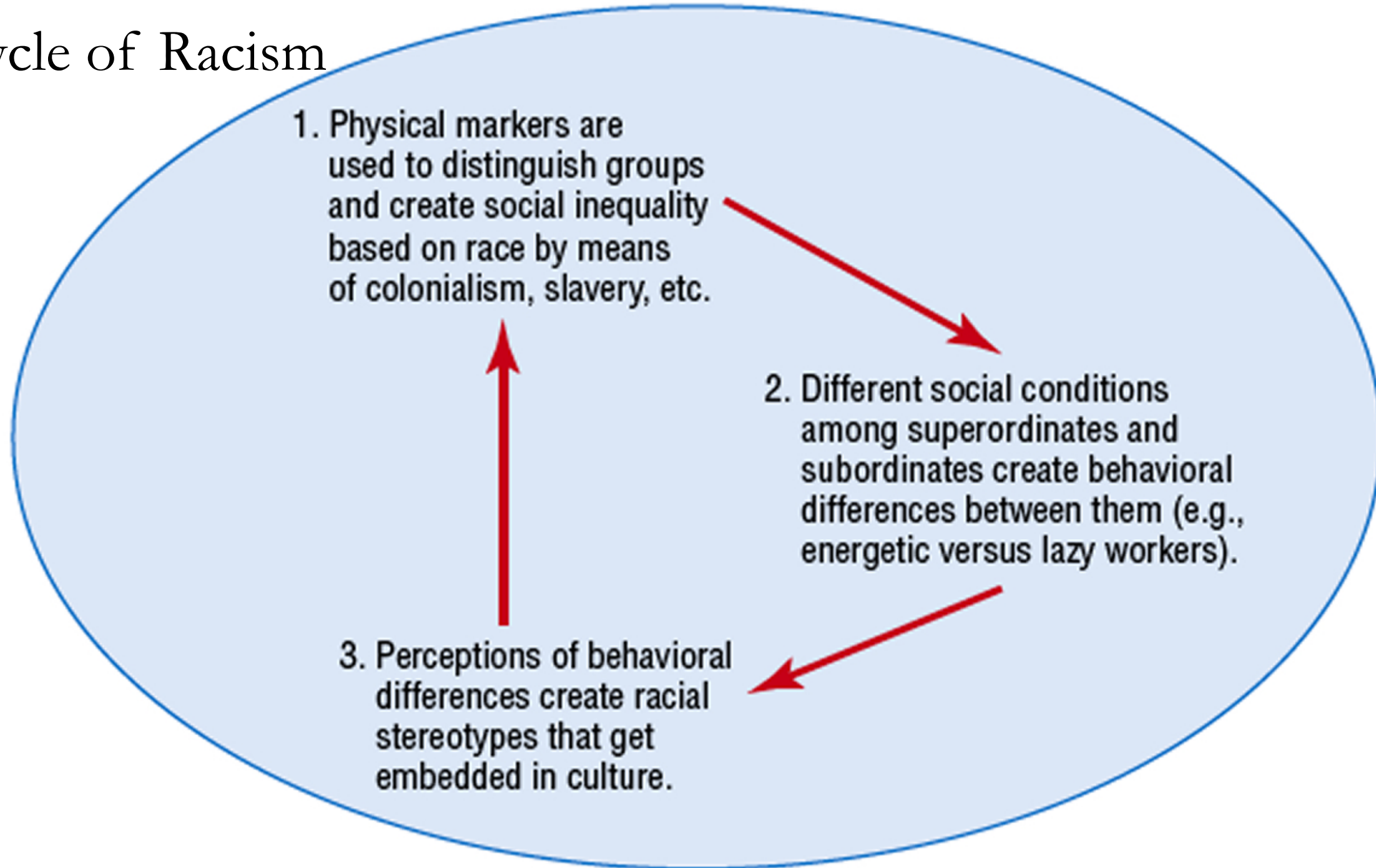
- ***Racism***: a set of beliefs about the superiority of one racial or ethnic group.
  - Used to justify inequality
  - Often rooted in the assumption that differences between groups are genetic.
- It is an ideology.

How is Racism Different from Prejudice and Discrimination?

# How is Racism Different from Prejudice and Discrimination?

- ***Prejudice***: (a thought process)
  - an idea about the characteristics of a group
  - applied to all members of that group
  - unlikely to change regardless of the evidence against it.
- ***Discrimination***: (an action)
  - unequal treatment of individuals because of their social group
  - usually motivated by prejudice

# The Cycle of Racism





# Individual vs. Institutional Discrimination

- ***Individual discrimination*** (or racism) is discrimination carried out by one person against another.
- ***Institutional discrimination*** (or racism) is discrimination carried out systematically by social institutions (political, economic, educational, and others) that affect all members of a group who come into contact with it.

# Individual vs. Institutional Discrimination

- Institutional racism is pervasive
- If all racist people went away racism would still exist because it is in our institutions
- It does not reside in any one person but is in the fabric and patterned interactions (social structure)

# The Flipside to Disadvantage

- Racism and discrimination disadvantages some but benefits others in the form of an invisible unseen privilege.
- **Privilege** refers to the unearned resources that are not in broad view or intended to be seen.

“White privilege is like an invisible weightless knapsack of special provisions, maps, passports, codebooks, visas, clothes, tools and blank checks.”

# What privileges do you enjoy?

## What's in YOUR invisible knapsack\*?

McIntosh, P. (1988). White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack. *Peace and Freedom* (July/August), pp. 10-12.



# What privileges do you enjoy?

- \* I can be pretty sure that my neighbors will be neutral or pleasant to me.
- \* I can go shopping alone most of the time, pretty well assured that I will not be followed or harassed.
- \* I can turn on the television or open to the front page of the paper and see people of my race widely represented
- \* If a traffic cop pulls me over or if the IRS audits my tax return, I can be sure I haven't been singled out because of my race.

## What's in YOUR invisible knapsack\*?

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# What privileges do you enjoy?

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Questions?

# Theoretical Approaches to Understanding Race in America

- ***Functionalist theorists***

- Focus on the ways that race creates social ties and strengthens group bonds
- Acknowledge that such ties can lead to violence and social conflict between groups



# Theoretical Approaches to Understanding Race in America

- *Conflict theory* focuses on the struggle for power and control over scarce resources.

# Theoretical Approaches to Understanding Race in America

- *Symbolic Interactionists* focus on the ways that race, class, and gender intersect to produce an individual's identity.
- They see race as an aspect of identity established through interaction.
- There are several different ways that we project and receive our racial and ethnic identities.

**TABLE 9.1*****Theory in Everyday Life***

Perspective	Approach to Race and Ethnicity	Case Study: Racial Inequality
<b>STRUCTURAL-FUNCTIONALISM</b>	Racial and ethnic difference is a necessary part of society. Even racial inequality has functions that help maintain social order.	The functions of racial inequality and conflict for society could include the creation of social cohesion within both the dominant and minority groups.
<b>CONFLICT THEORY</b>	Racial and ethnic differences create intergroup conflict—minority and majority groups have different interests and may find themselves at odds as they attempt to secure and protect them.	Some members of majority groups (whites and men in particular) object to affirmative action programs that assist underrepresented groups. This can create conflict between racial groups in society.
<b>SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM</b>	Race and ethnicity are part of our presentation of self.	Some individuals—white ethnics and light-skinned non-whites in particular—have the option to conceal their race or ethnicity in situations where it might be advantageous to do so. This may allow them as individuals to escape the effects of racial inequality but does not erase it from the society at large.

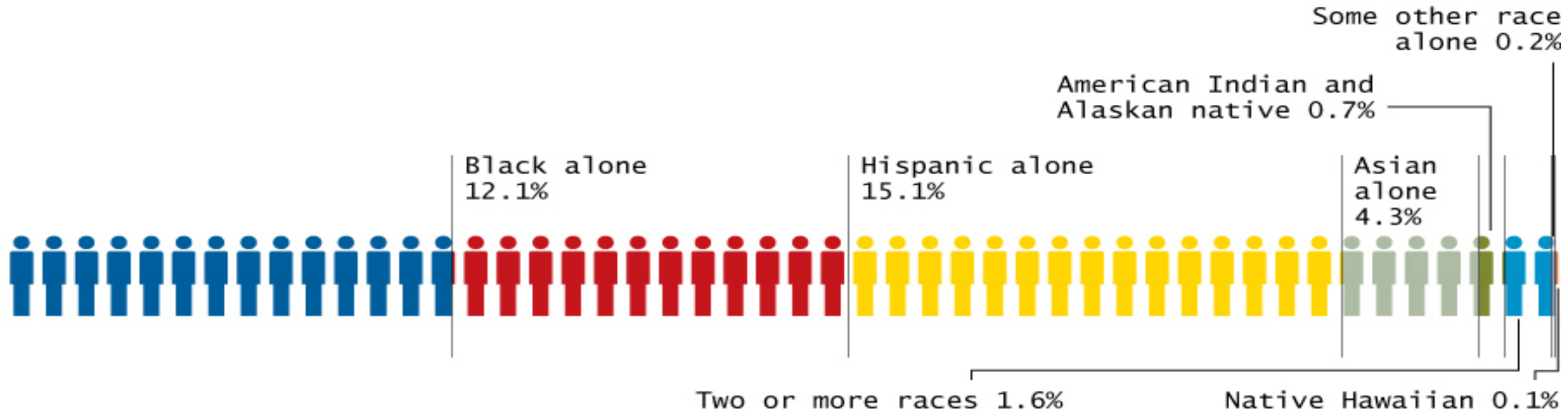
Questions?

# An Ethnic Snapshot of America Today

White, not Hispanic  
65.9%



Each symbol represents 1% of the U.S. population.



We have come along way as a country...



We have come along way as a country...

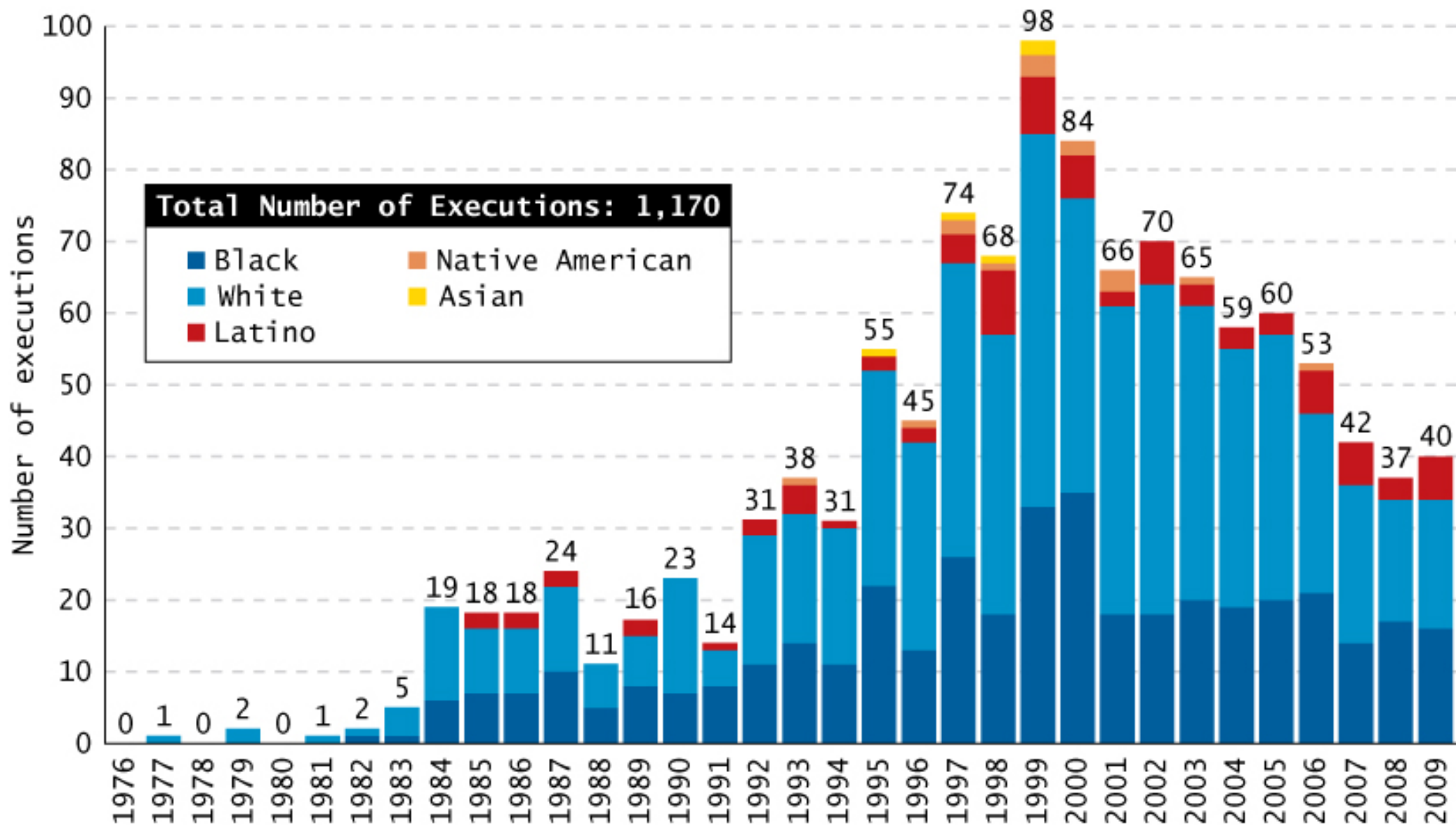


...but we have a long way to go!

Race and ethnicity influence all aspects of our lives, including health, education, work, family, and interactions with the criminal justice system.



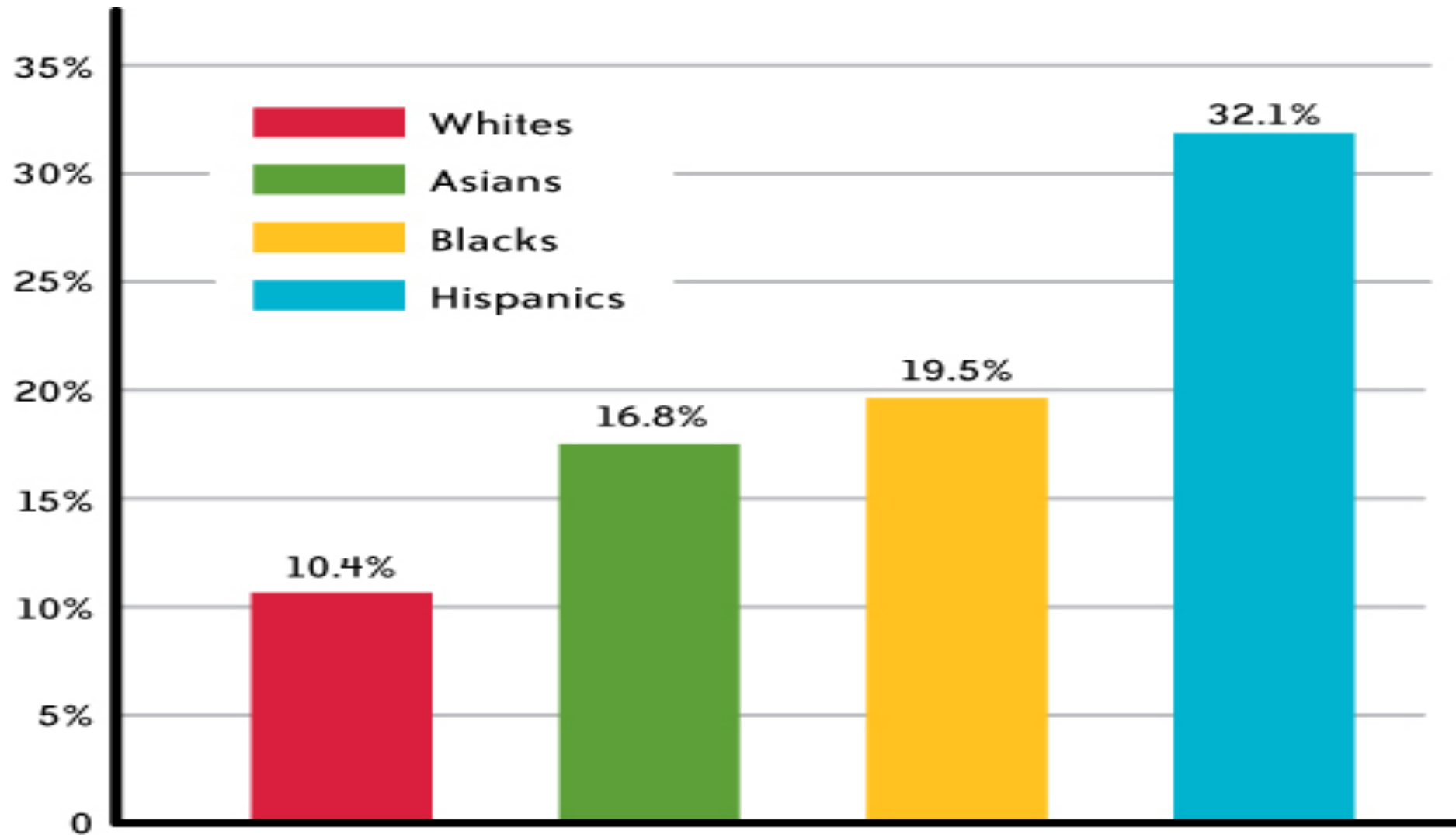
# Number of Executions and Race of Prisoners Executed



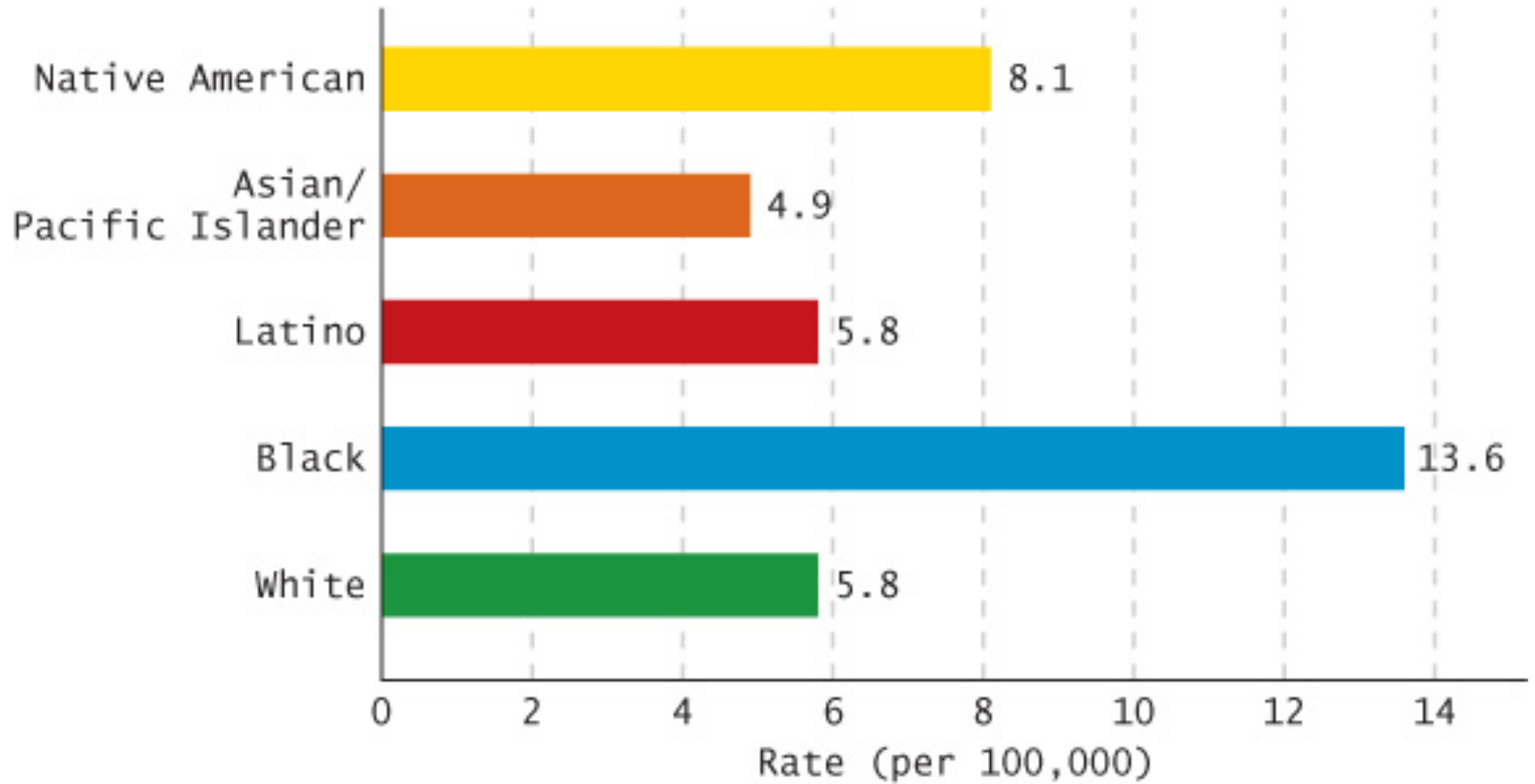
# Race and Health

- Health care is an area in which we find widespread disparity between racial and ethnic groups.
- Disparities in access to health care may help explain the life expectancy rates for men and women of different races.

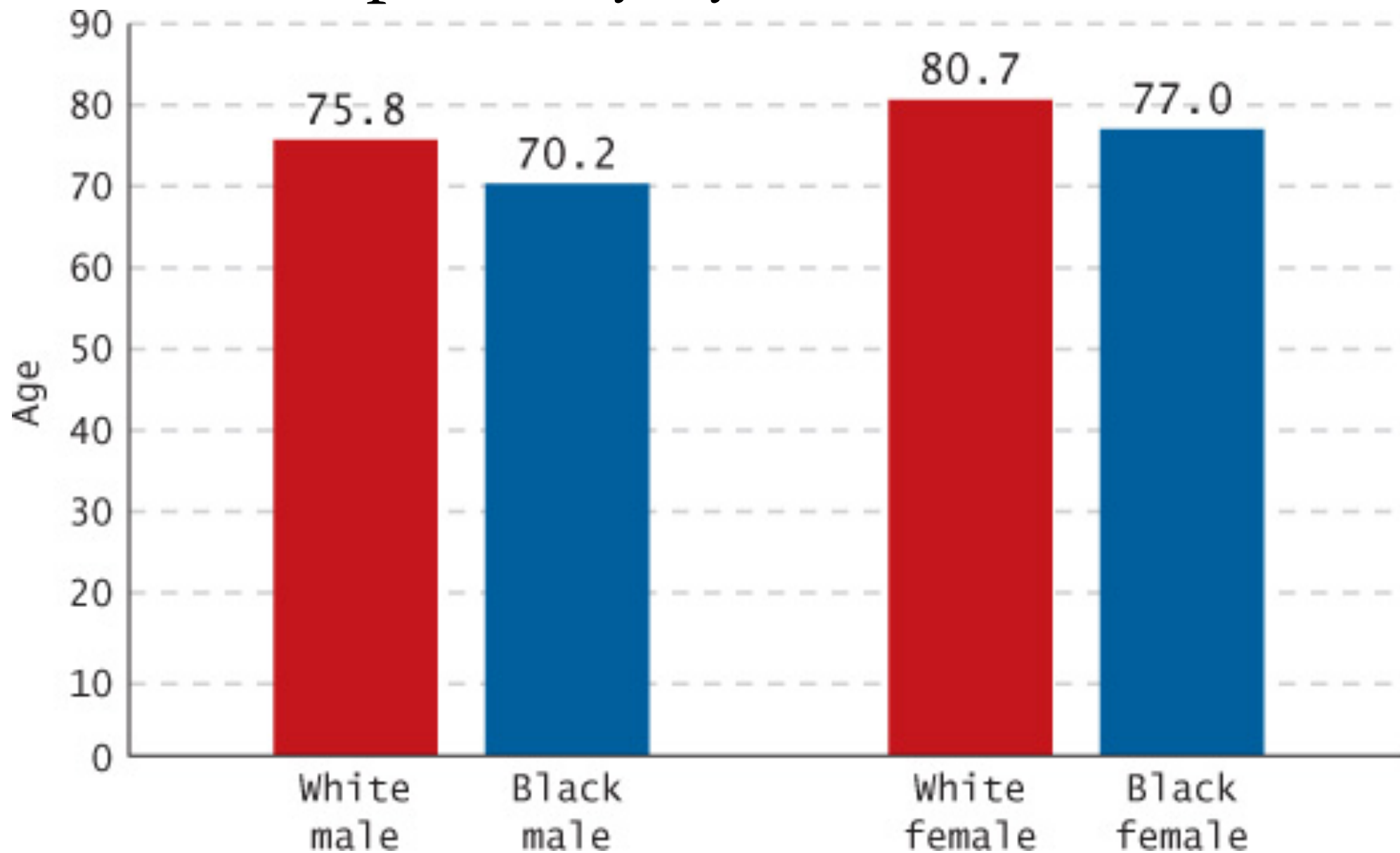
# Americans without Health Insurance by Race



# U.S. Infant Mortality Rate



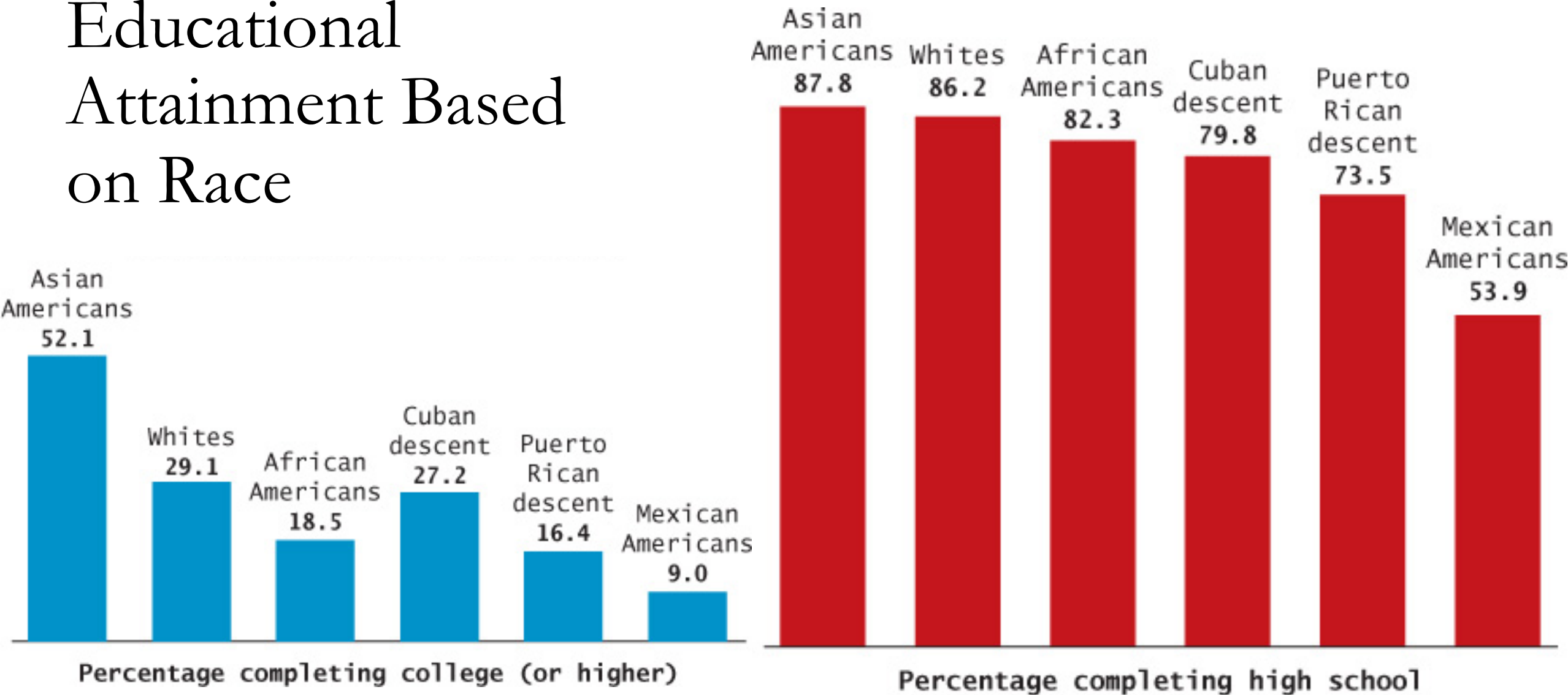
# U.S. Life Expectancy by Race



# Race and Education

- In U.S. education, the highest high school dropout rates are associated with those from economically disadvantaged and non-English-speaking backgrounds.

# Educational Attainment Based on Race

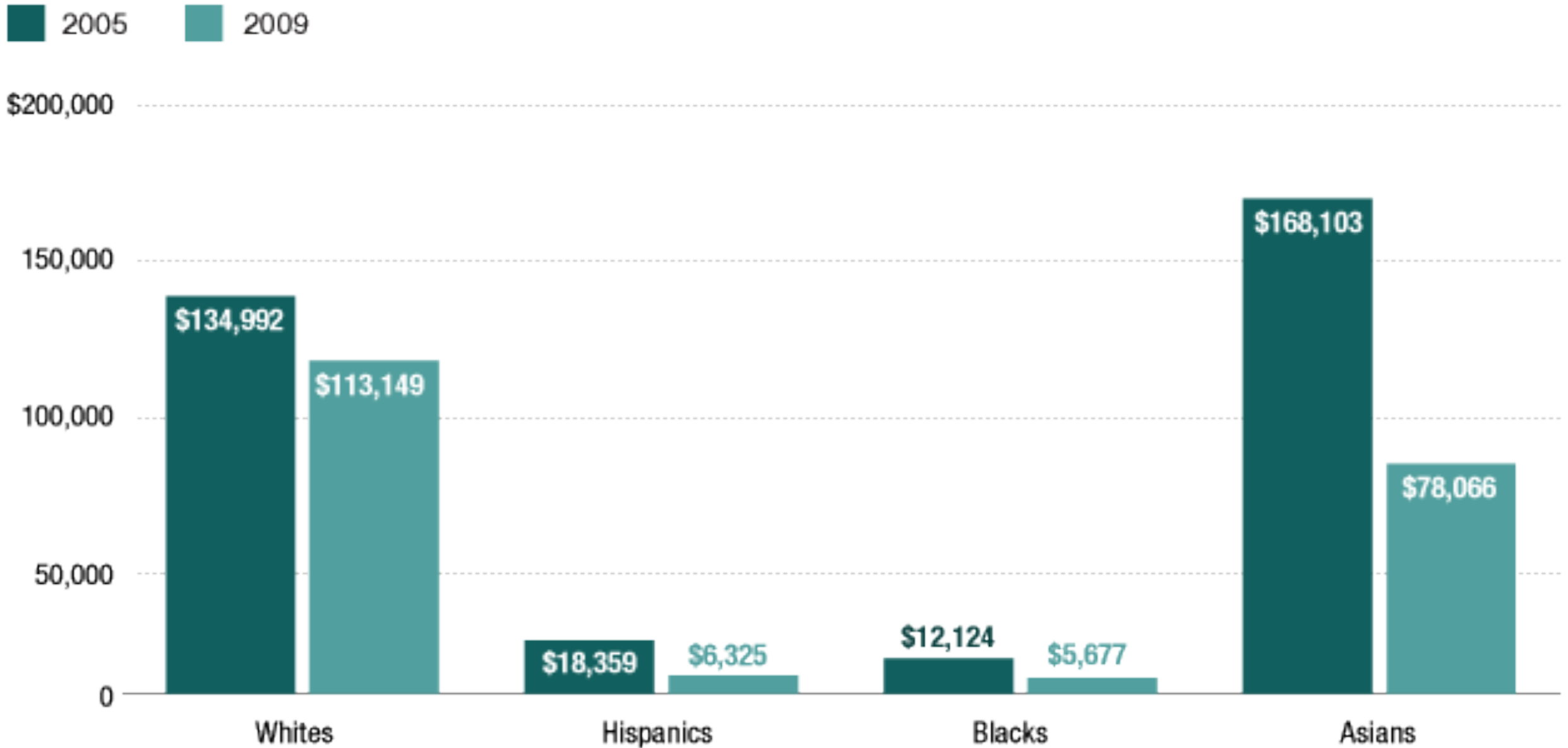


# Race and Money

- Inequality can also be seen in the workplace and in income distribution.
- People of color, who are less likely to achieve high levels of education, are more likely to have lower-paying jobs.



# Median Net Worth of Households



# Race and Law Enforcement

- Non-whites are more likely to interact with law enforcement.

**TABLE 9.2**

## **Federal Cocaine Offenders by Race/Ethnicity, 2000**

	POWDER COCAINE		CRACK COCAINE	
Race/Ethnicity	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
White	932	17.8	269	5.6
Black	1,596	30.5	4,069	84.7
Hispanic	2,662	50.8	434	9.0
Other	49	0.9	33	0.7
Total	5,239	100	4,805	100
SOURCE: U.S. Sentencing Commission 2000 Datafile				

Questions?

# Racial Conflict

- *Genocide*

# Racial Conflict

- ***Genocide*** is the deliberate and systematic extermination of a racial, ethnic, national, or cultural group.

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- *Population transfer*

# Racial Conflict

- ***Genocide*** is the deliberate and systematic extermination of a racial, ethnic, national, or cultural group.
- ***Population transfer*** the forcible removal of a group of people from the territory they have occupied.

# Racial Conflict

- ***Internal colonialism*** is the economic and political domination and subjugation of the minority group by the controlling group within a nation.
- ***Segregation*** is the formal and legal separation of groups by race or ethnicity.



# Change in America

- ***Assimilation*** the minority group is absorbed into the mainstream or dominant group, making society more homogeneous.
  - ***Racial assimilation*** racial minority groups are absorbed into the dominant group through intermarriage.
  - ***Cultural assimilation*** racial or ethnic groups are absorbed into the dominant group by adopting the dominant group's culture.

# Racial Cooperation

- *Pluralism* (or *multiculturalism*) is a pattern of inter-group relations that encourage racial and ethnic variation within a society.

# What is Diversity?

# What is Diversity?

- ***Diversity*** is the quality or state of having many different forms, types, or ideas



# A Brief History of being Mixed Raced in America

- ***Interracial Marriage*** was illegal for most of the US's history
- 1967 the US supreme court struck down laws banning interracial marriage (at the time 16 states still had such laws)
  - In 1998, South Carolina repealed its law (40% voted to keep it)
  - In 2000, Alabama repealed its law (32% voted to keep it)
- Today there are over 9 million Americans that report being of more than one race and 1 in 7 new marriages are between people of different racial or ethnic groups

Questions?

# Plan for Today

- Lecture
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# White People

- Film by Jose Antonio Vargas, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and filmmaker who is a person of color and an undocumented immigrant

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_zjj1PmJcRM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_zjj1PmJcRM)

Initial Reactions?

Is race still a relevant marker in the  
US today? Why or why not?

Questions?