



Pets for Life

Pets for Life Philosophy

Driven by social justice, PFL recognizes that a deep connection with pets transcends boundaries of socio-economics, race, ethnicity, and geography. No one should be denied the opportunity to experience the benefits and joy that come from the human-animal bond.



Pets for Life

- Address inequity in and lack of access to pet resources
- Increase community based animal welfare programming
- Start to dismantle discriminatory policies and systems

Pets for Life

- **DIRECT CARE** – Provide pet services and information at no charge to pet owners in underserved communities.
- **TRAINING & MENTORSHIP** – Deliver in-depth guidance and support to local organizations.
- **THOUGHT LEADERSHIP & POLICY/ENFORCEMENT REFORM** – Act as a catalyst for systemic solutions and make companion animal welfare more just, inclusive and fair.





**Animal welfare
is connected to
larger systemic
challenges for
people and
their pets**

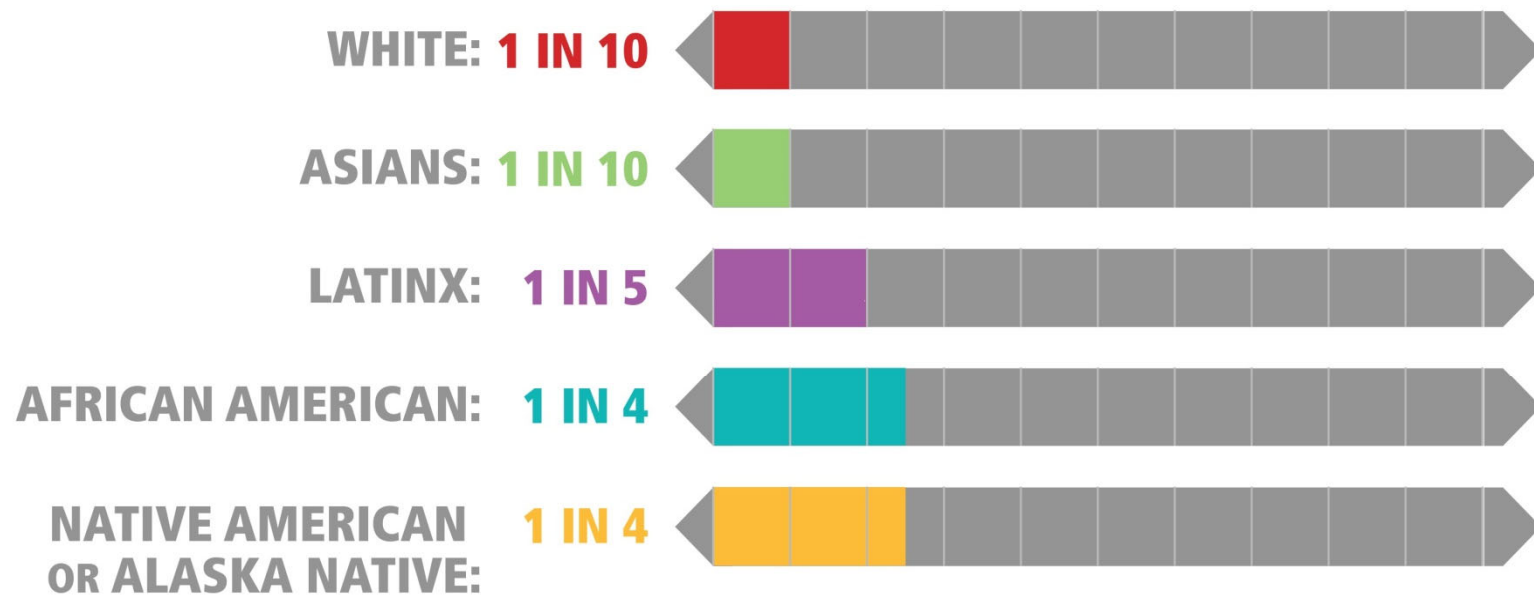




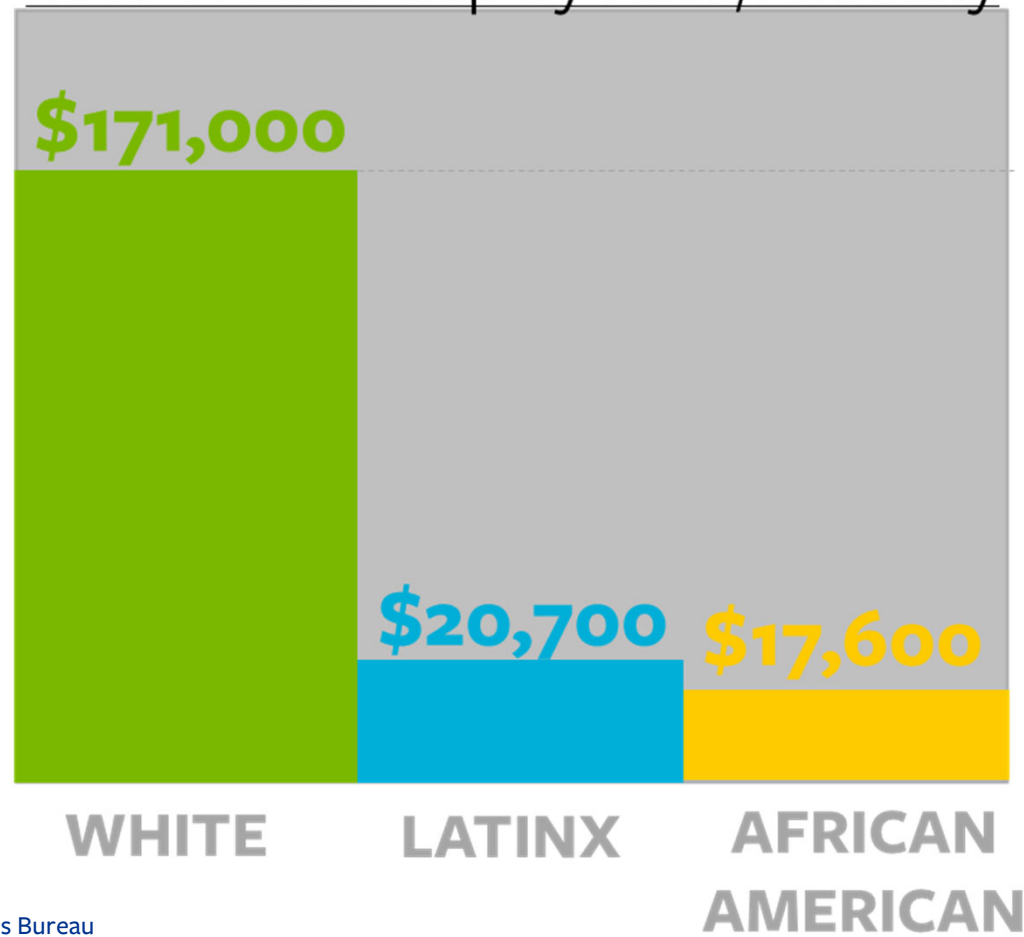
Oppression and Discrimination

- Income Inequality
- Wealth Disparity
- Racial and Economic Segregation
- Housing Insecurity
- Opportunity in Education Gap
- Uneven and Unfair Enforcement
- Mass Incarceration

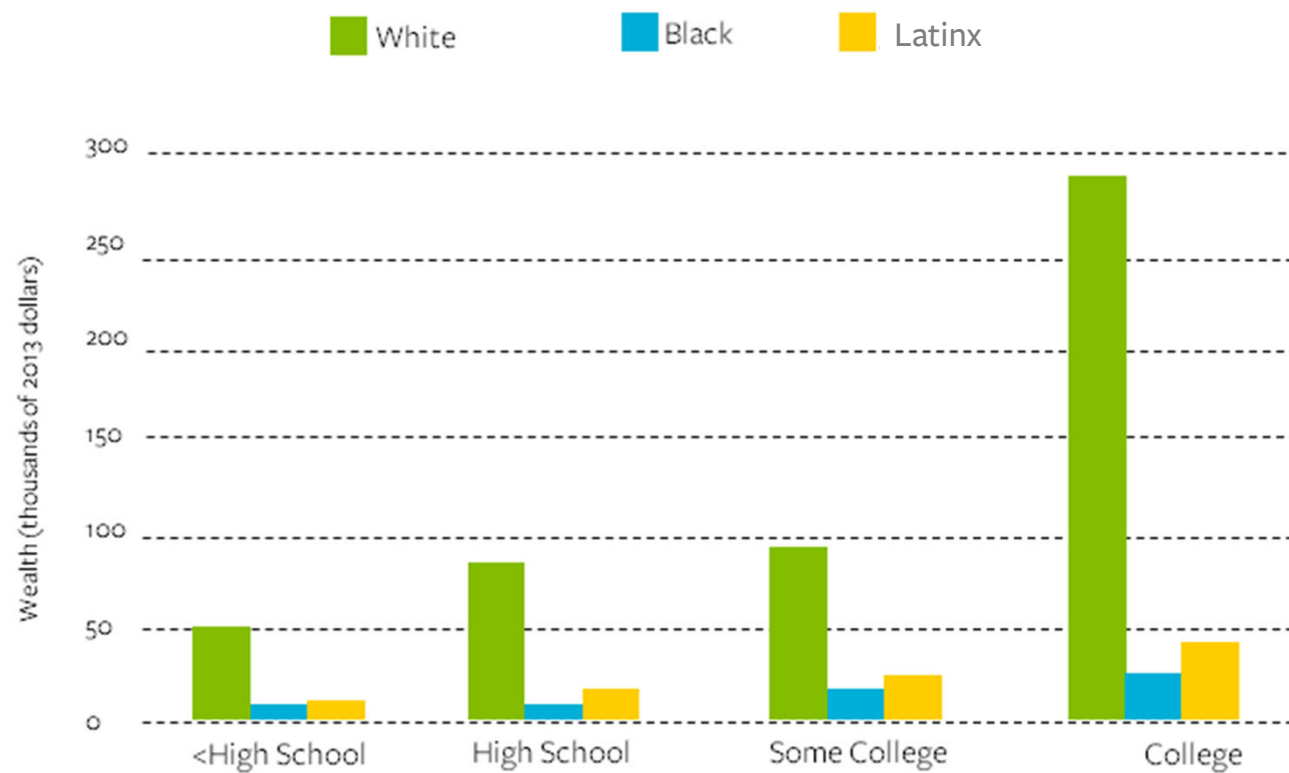
UNITED STATES RESIDENTS LIVING IN POVERTY (BY RACE/ETHNICITY)



2016 Wealth Gap by Race/Ethnicity

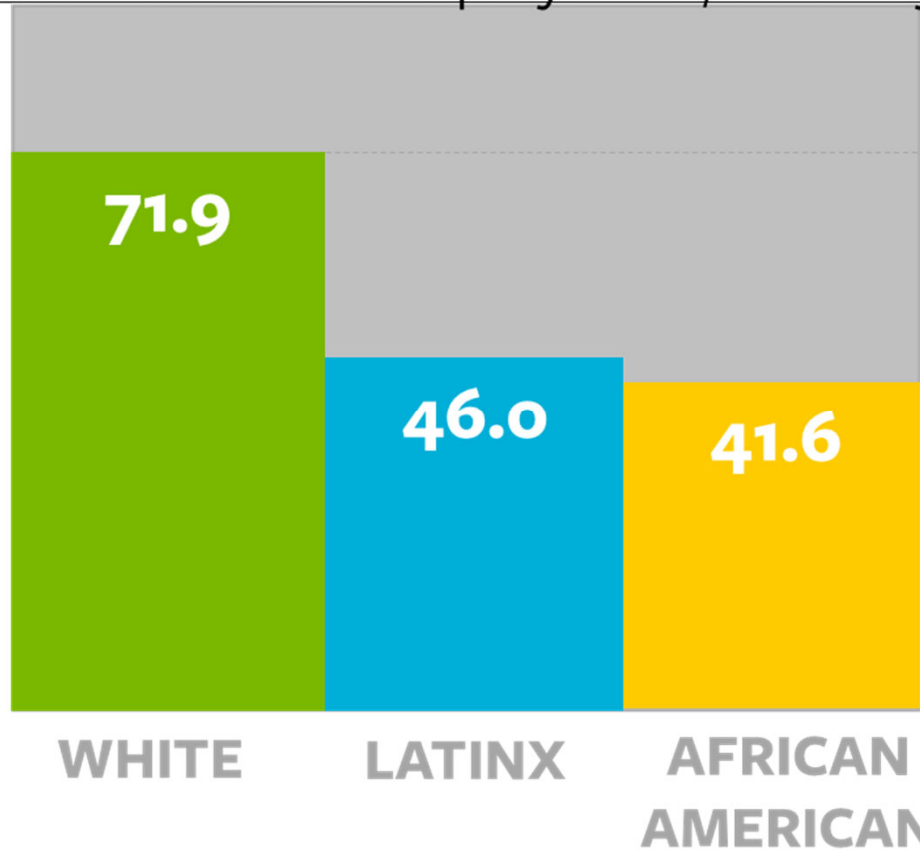


Median Wealth by Race & Education (2013)



Source: Federal Reserve

% Home Ownership by Race/Ethnicity



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

“Residential segregation is the glue that holds the whole system of racial oppression together.” – Douglas Massey





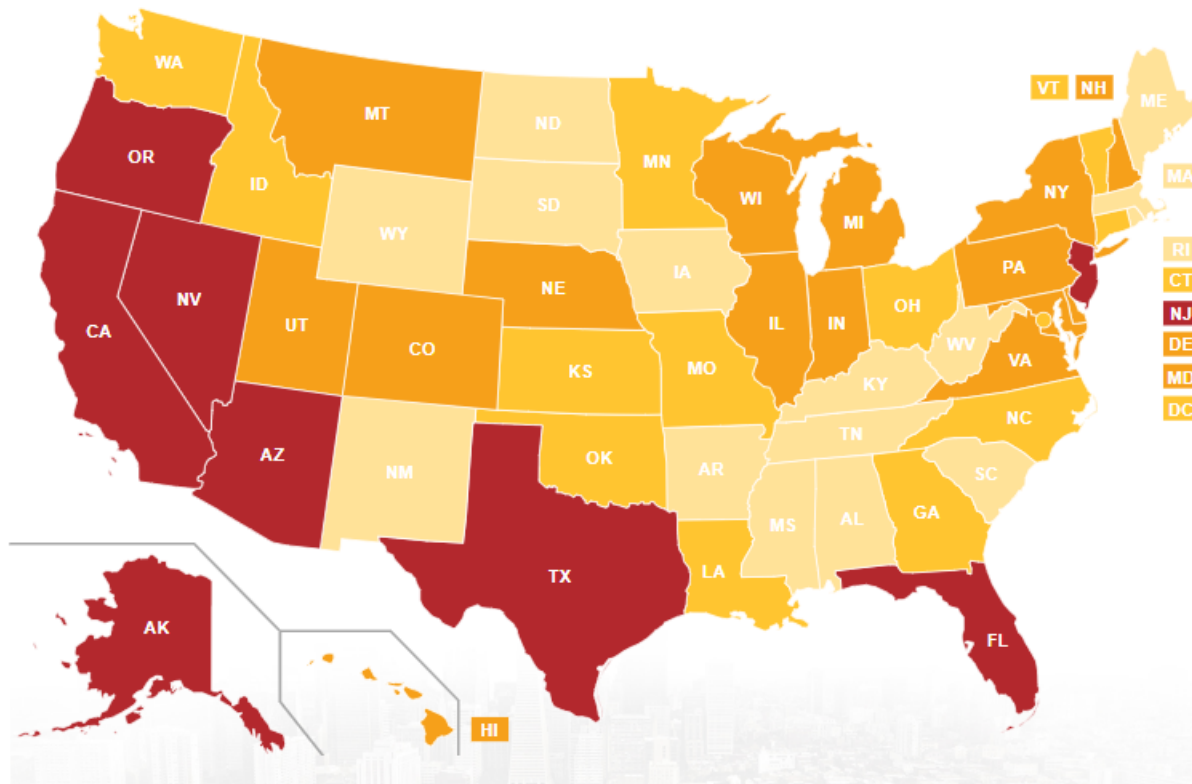
Lasting Impact of Redlining

- 75% of redlined areas are still the most economically distressed today
- 66% of redlined areas have mostly minority residents today
- 91% of areas marked as 'best' are middle to upper class today
- 85% of areas marked as 'best' are still predominantly white today

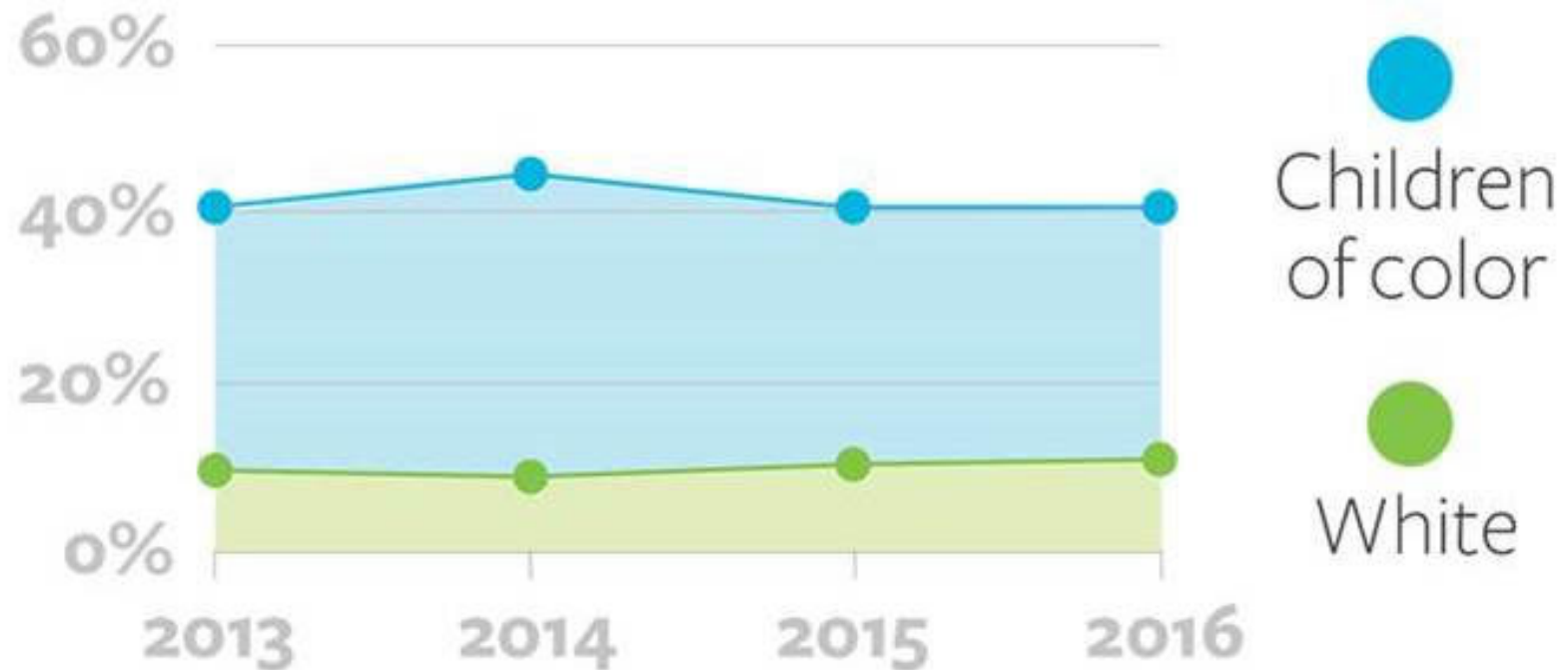
No State Has an Adequate Supply of Affordable Rental Housing for the Lowest Income Renters

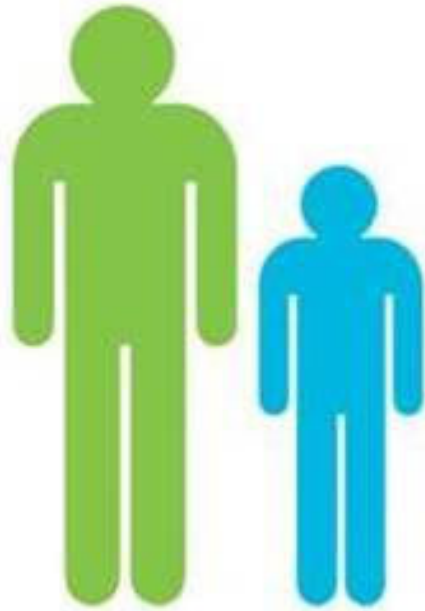
Affordable and Available Rental Homes per 100 Extremely Low Income Renter Households

30 or fewer 31 to 40 41 to 45 46 or greater



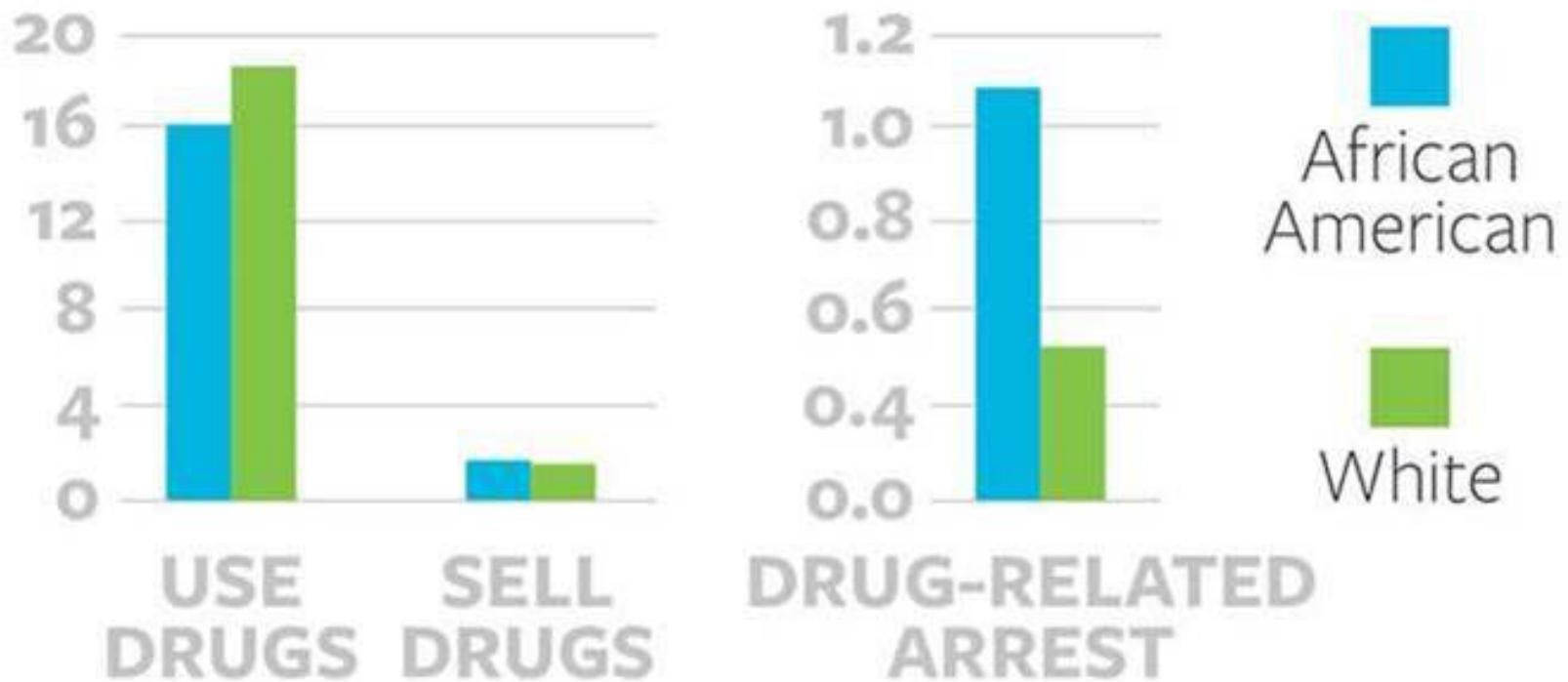
% U.S. Students in High-Poverty Public Schools



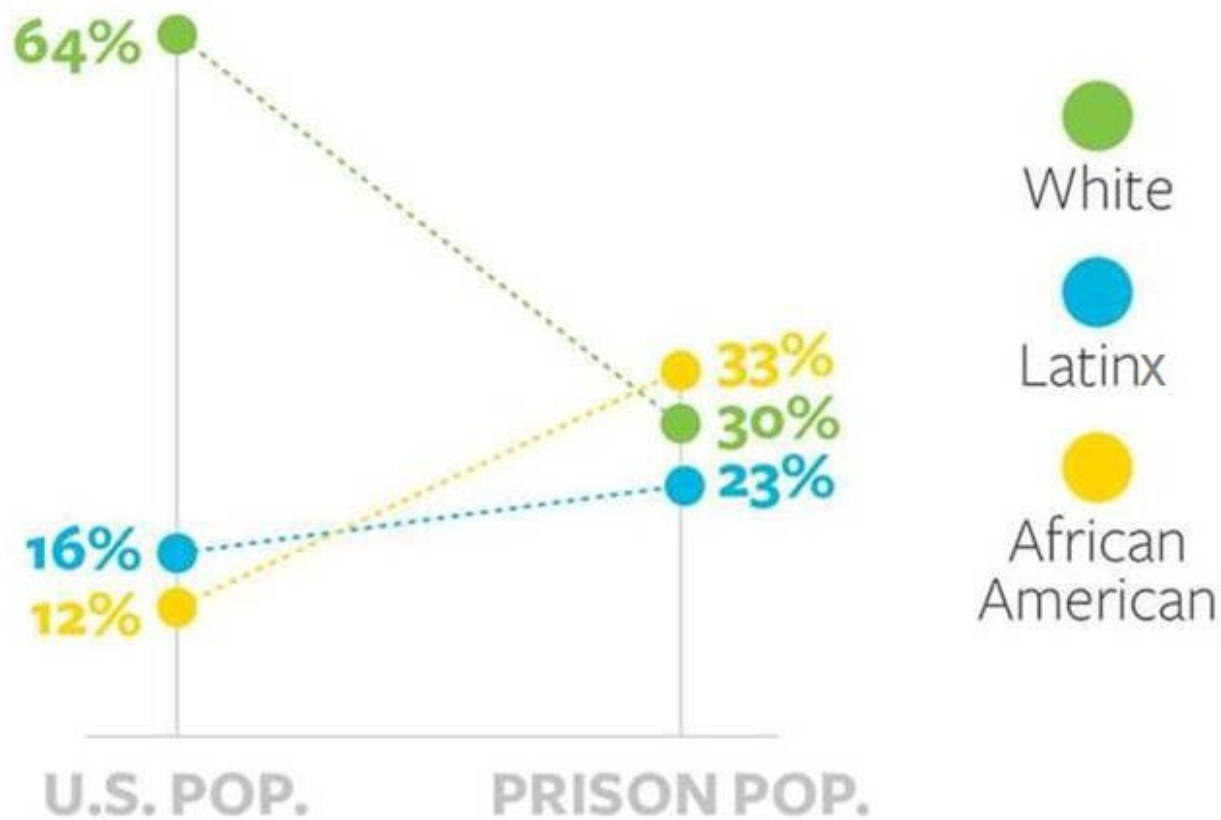


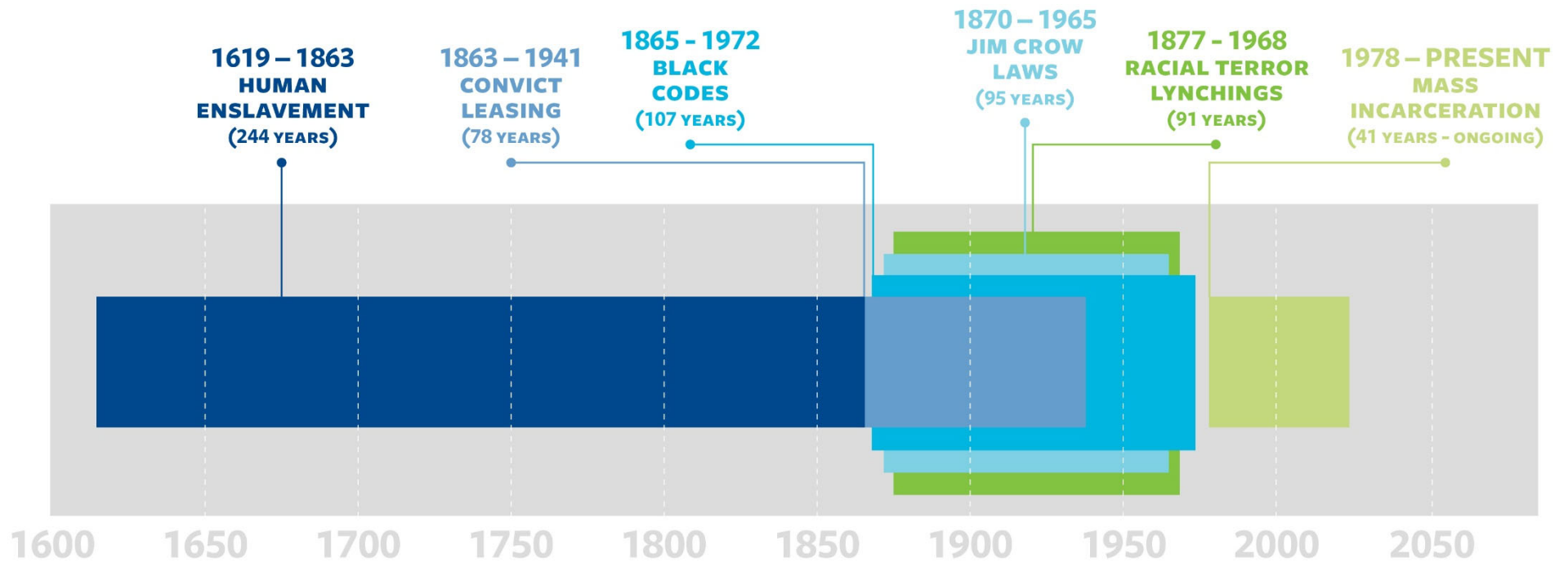
High-poverty school districts spend **15.6% less per student** than low-poverty districts

% of Population: Drug Use, Sales and Arrests



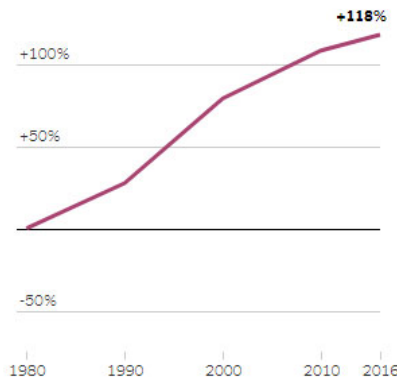
2016 U.S. Adult Population vs. Prison Population





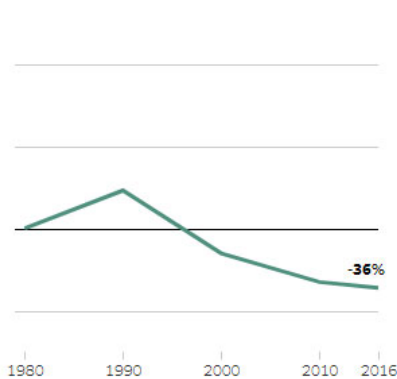
Immigrant population

Change since 1980



Violent crime rate

Change since 1980



- Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848)
 - US took 55% of Mexico's land – what is 10 US states now
 - Millions of people went to bed owning their land and living in their nation of birth and woke up immigrants
- In immigration court, people do NOT have the right to a government appointed attorney
 - 2/3 of detainees cannot afford an attorney
 - 10 times less likely to win without attorney



Native Genocide

- Indian Removal Act – 1830
- Homestead Act – 1862
 - Nearly 50 million adults today are direct descendants of recipients
- Indian boarding schools – to ‘assimilate and civilize’ to white culture and norms
 - First opened in 1860 and finally closed all in 2007
 - Not until 1978 were Native American parents given the right to deny placement of their children
- Removal and adoption until 1978
 - Estimated 25%- 35% of all native children have been removed from their families
 - 85% placed in white homes, even when suitable relatives were available



Policies and Enforcement

- Return-to-owner
- Adoptions
- Owner present euthanasia
- Owner surrenders
- Rethinking Cruelty and Neglect
- Intent does not negate impact or outcomes







The Stories We Tell

- We control the narrative
- Serious consequences
- Limiting the definition of compassion
- Creating a villain
- Complicit in or directly contributing to the perpetuation of myths and stereotyping



Considerations

- Are we criminalizing poverty
- Are we maintaining and perpetuating systems of discrimination and oppression
- Is animal welfare at odds with other social justice movements
- Can we apply criminal justice reform to animal welfare
- Can we shift to more support than punishment



What Works

- Extend compassion and understanding to people
- Become a friend, not the enemy
- Create a consistent community presence
- Identify and remove barriers
- Keep people and pets together
- Connect with other movements that are creating equity and access