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Are We Colorblind? Perceiving Race on Campus

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Are We Colorblind? Perceiving Race on Campus

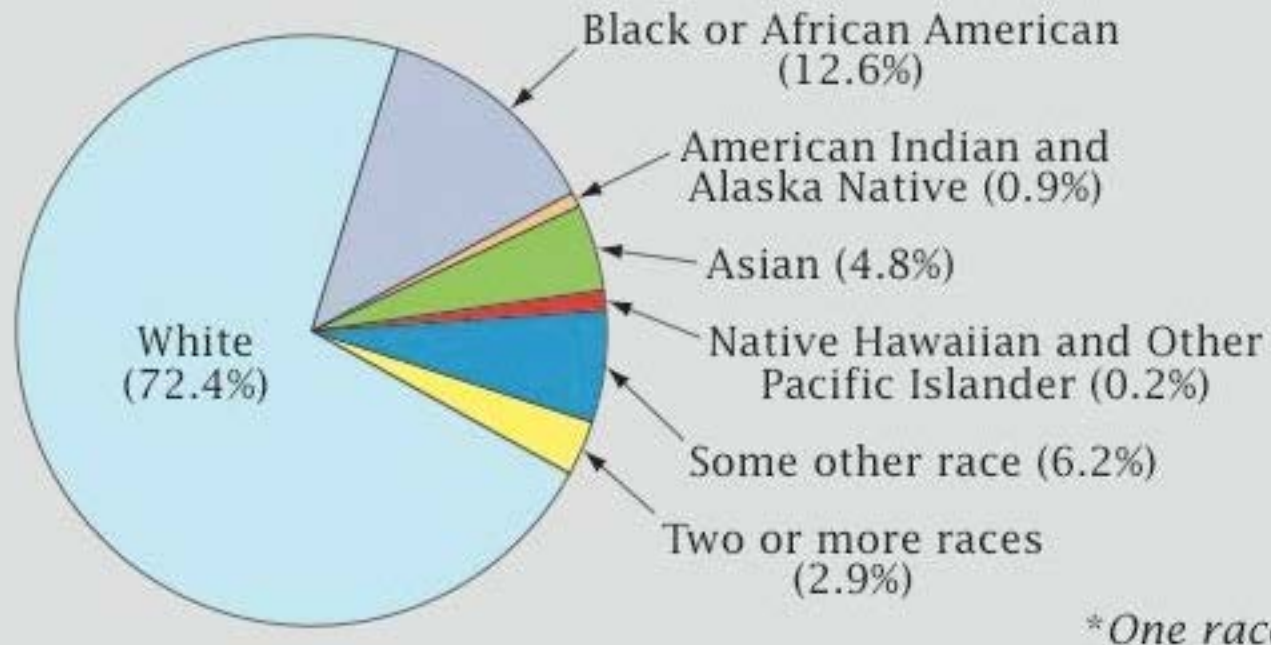
Explorer Café – January 29th, 2014

Chip Gallagher, Professor & Chair, Sociology & Criminal Justice

Maureen O'Connell, Associate Professor & Chair, Religion

Perceptions of who we are

U.S. Race* Breakdown



Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
makes up **16.3%** of the U.S. population.

BASED ON 2010 CENSUS DATA

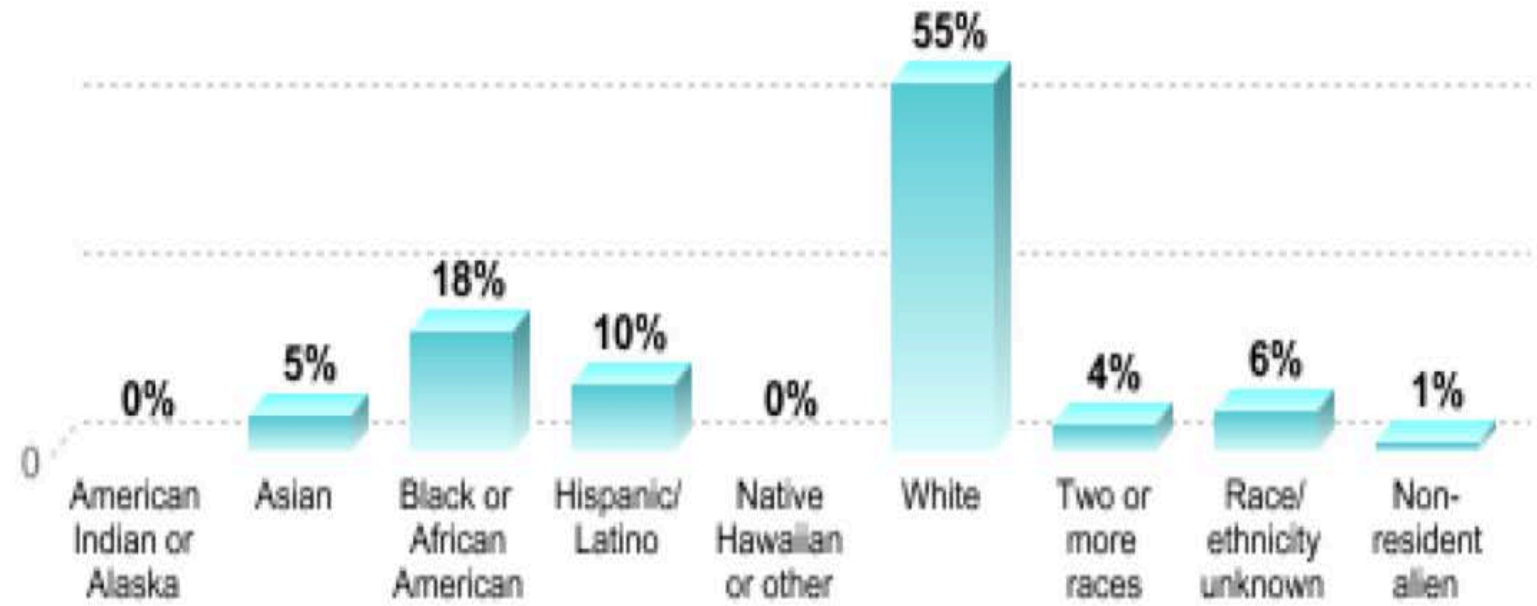
<http://thinkamerica.eye-for-image.com>



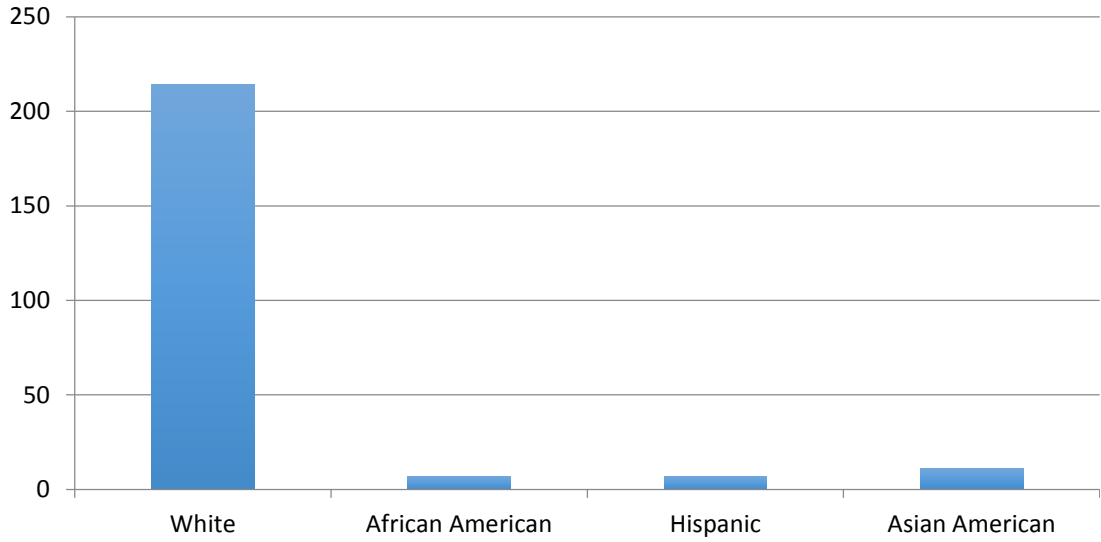
National Center for Educational Statistics - 2012

UNDERGRADUATE RACE/ETHNICITY

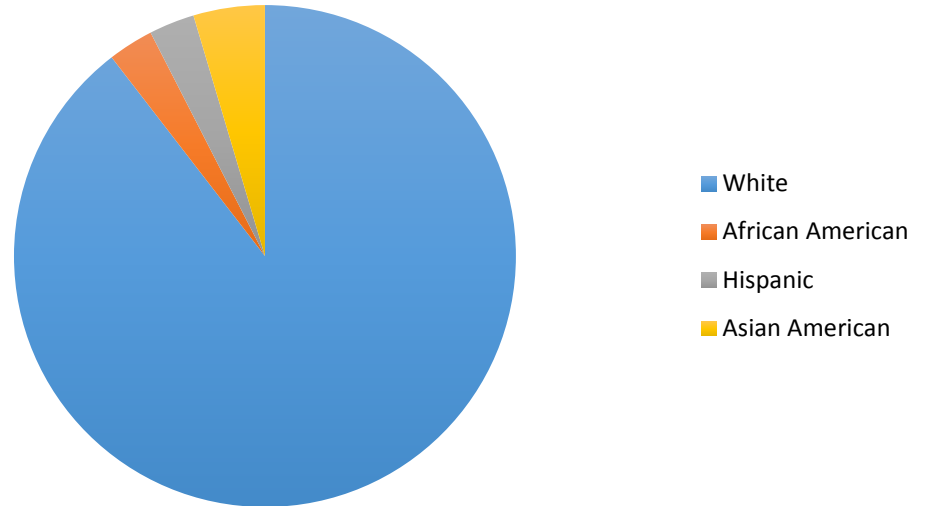
100



Number of LaSalle Faculty of Color



Percentage of Total Faculty

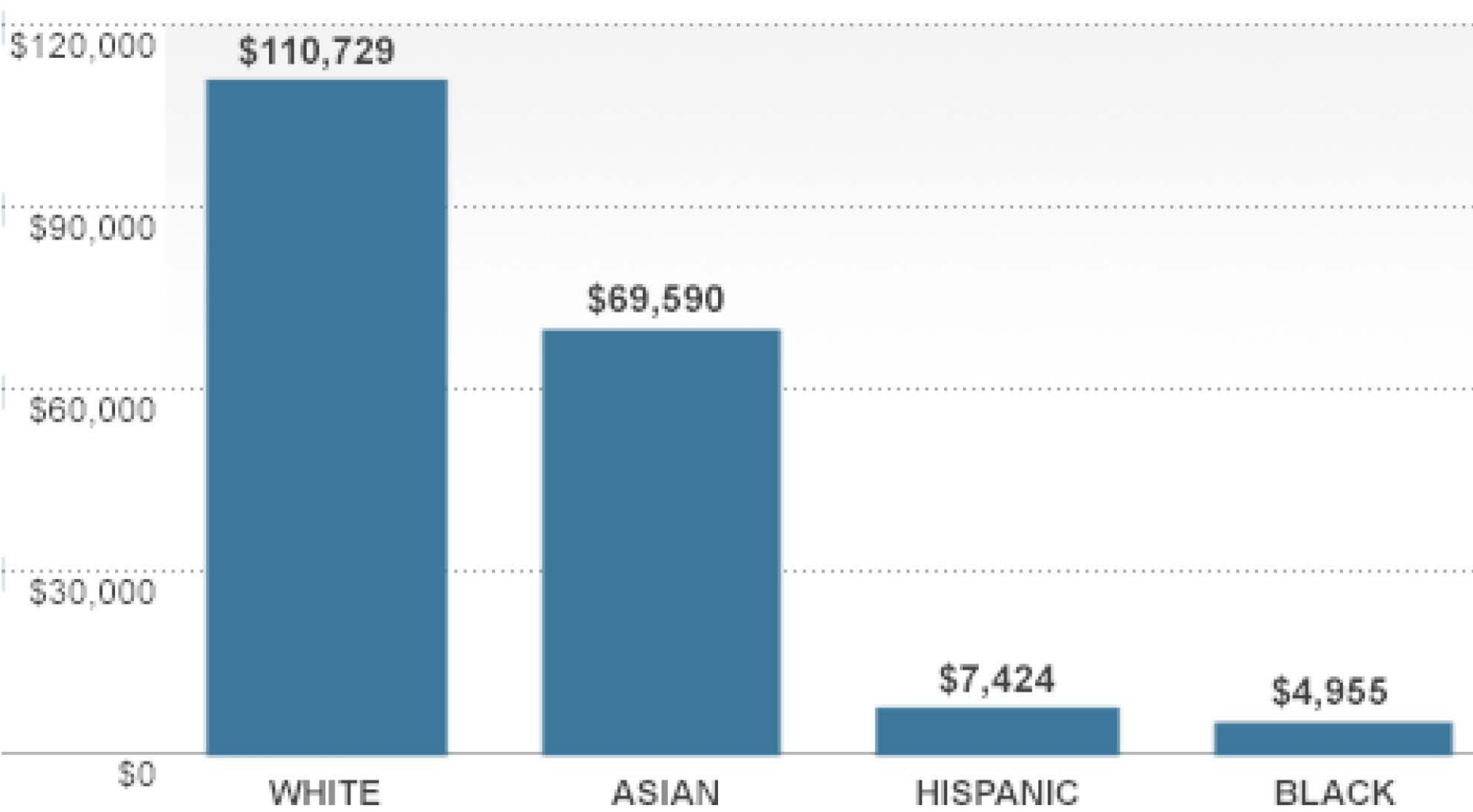


Where do these misperceptions
come from?

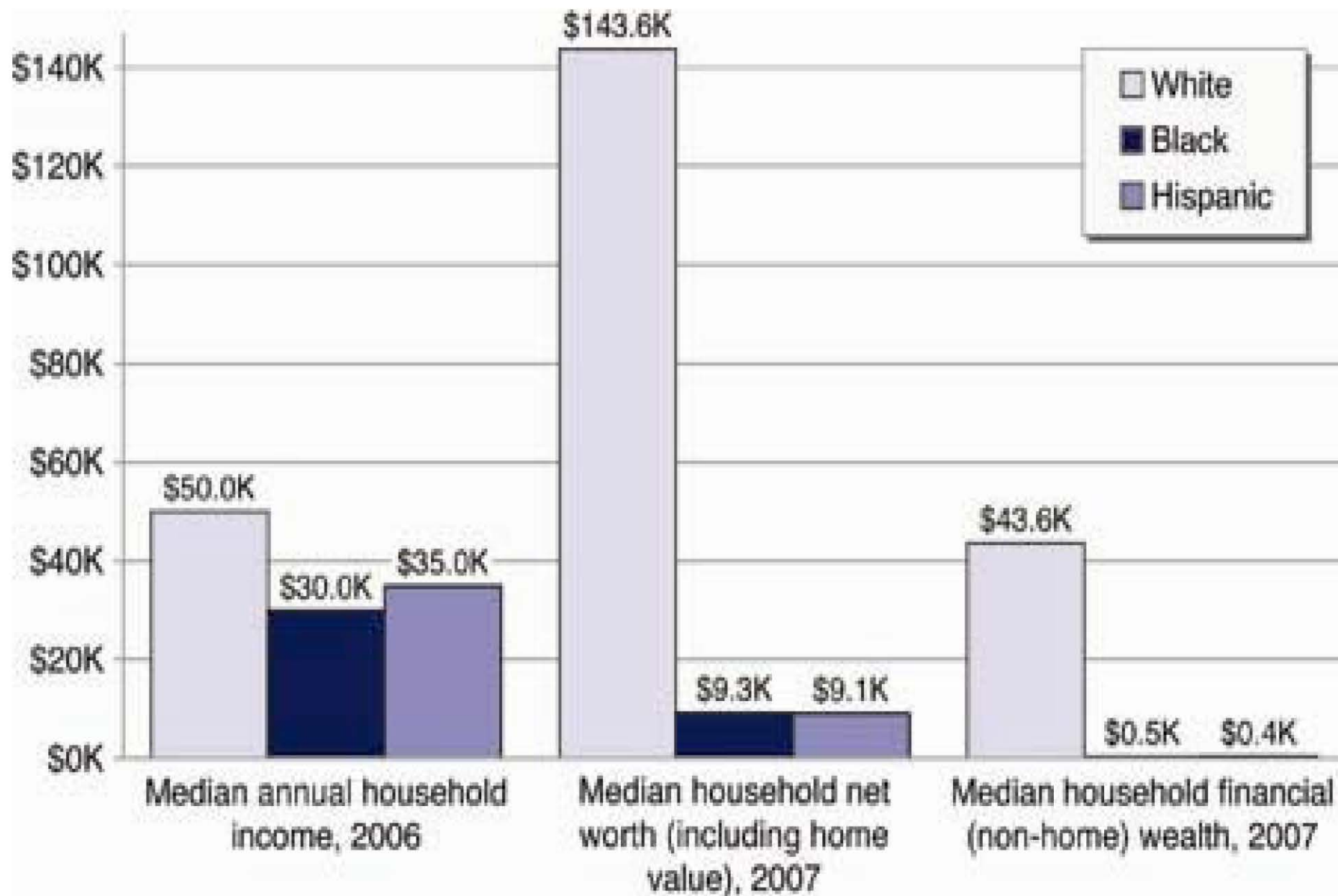
How do you reconcile fiction or
fantasy from the facts?

Perceptions of fairness

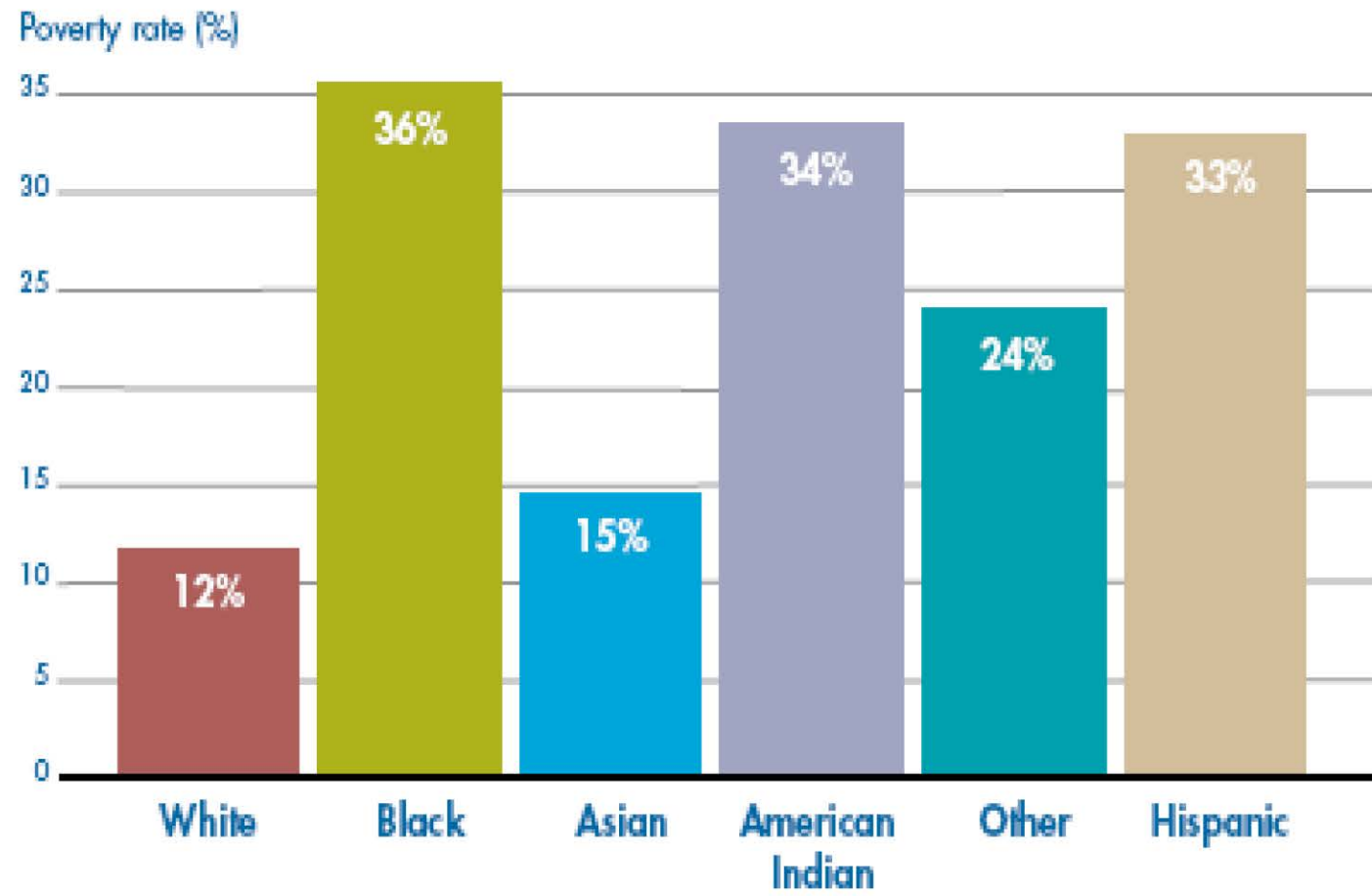
RACIAL WEALTH GAP



SOURCE: CENSUS BUREAU



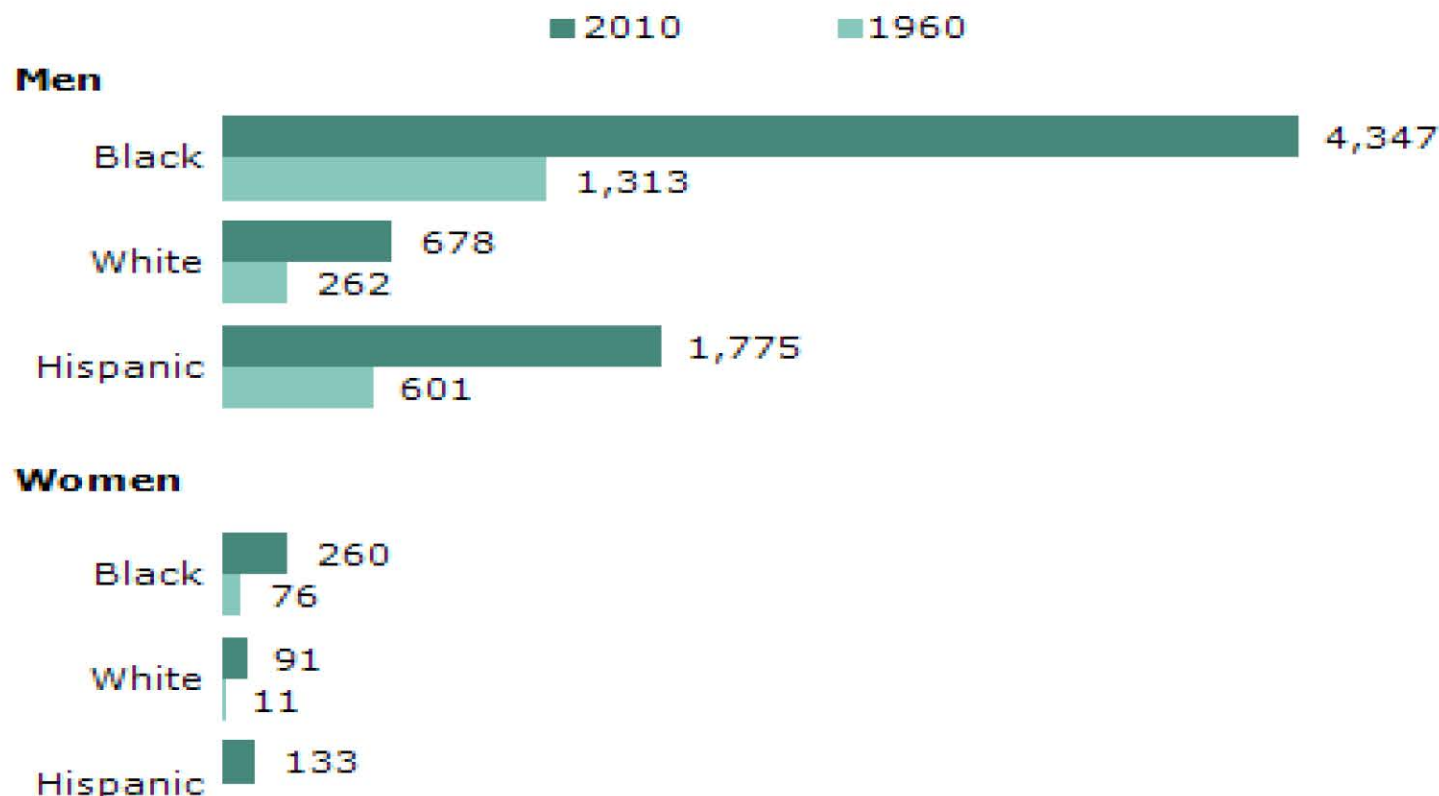
Child poverty rates by race/ethnicity, 2009



© National Center for Children in Poverty (www.nccp.org)
Who Are America's Poor Children? The Official Story

Incarceration Rates, 1960 and 2010

Inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents



Note: Incarceration rates are for total prisoners in local, state and federal correctional facilities. Total prisoners includes persons under age 18. Hispanics are of any race. Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. In 2010, whites and blacks include only those who reported a single race. Asians, Native Americans and mixed-race groups not shown. A figure for Hispanic women in 1960 is not shown due to small sample size.

Source: For 1960, Pew Research Center analysis of Decennial Census data (IPUMS); for 2010, Bureau of Justice Statistics data <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cpus10.pdf>

National Drug Facts Awareness Week

- About 14M Whites and 2.6M African Americans report using an illicit drug
- 5 times as many Whites are doing drugs as African Americans, yet African Americans are sent to prison for drug offenses 10 times the rate of Whites
- African Americans represent 12% of the total population of drug users, but 38% of those arrested for drug offenses, and 59% of those in state prisons for drug offense
- African Americans serve virtually as much time in prison for a drug offense (58.7 months) as Whites do for a violent offense (61.7 months)

Where do these misperceptions come from?

How do you reconcile fiction or fantasy from the facts?

So what's wrong with being colorblind?

So now what?



~ AFFIRMATION ~

I choose to be a member of
the La Salle University community.

I conduct myself with
honesty, integrity, civility, and citizenship.
I respect people, property, our University,
and its Lasallian and Catholic heritage.

I celebrate our many cultures.
I promote the free exchange of scholarly ideas.
I commit to my personal involvement in
learning for the greater good.

In all my actions, I am La Salle.
In association, we are La Salle.

Colorblind Racism

An ideology that explains contemporary racial inequality as the outcome of nonracial dynamics, such as the product of market forces, naturally occurring phenomenon, and imputed cultural limitations of people of color (Bonilla-Silva, *Racism without Racists*).

In other words, a view of race relations where one's skin color is now viewed as being irrelevant to one's like chances, educational achievement, or socio-economic mobility (Gallagher).

Racism

Refers to the assigning of attitudes, behaviors, and abilities to individuals or groups based on skin color and includes the institutional arrangements that privilege one group over another and the ideological apparatus that perpetuates and makes those arrangements possible (Gallagher)

White Privilege

Unearned access to resources only readily available to white people as a result of their advantaged social group membership, which benefit whites and disadvantage people of color.

Microaggression

A brief and commonplace daily verbal, behavioral, or environmental indignity, whether intentional or unintentional, that communicates hostile, derogatory, or negative racial slights and insults toward people of color.

Ally

Members of an advantaged group who act against the oppression/s from which they derive power, privilege and acceptance. (Barnes, *Love, Race & Liberation*)