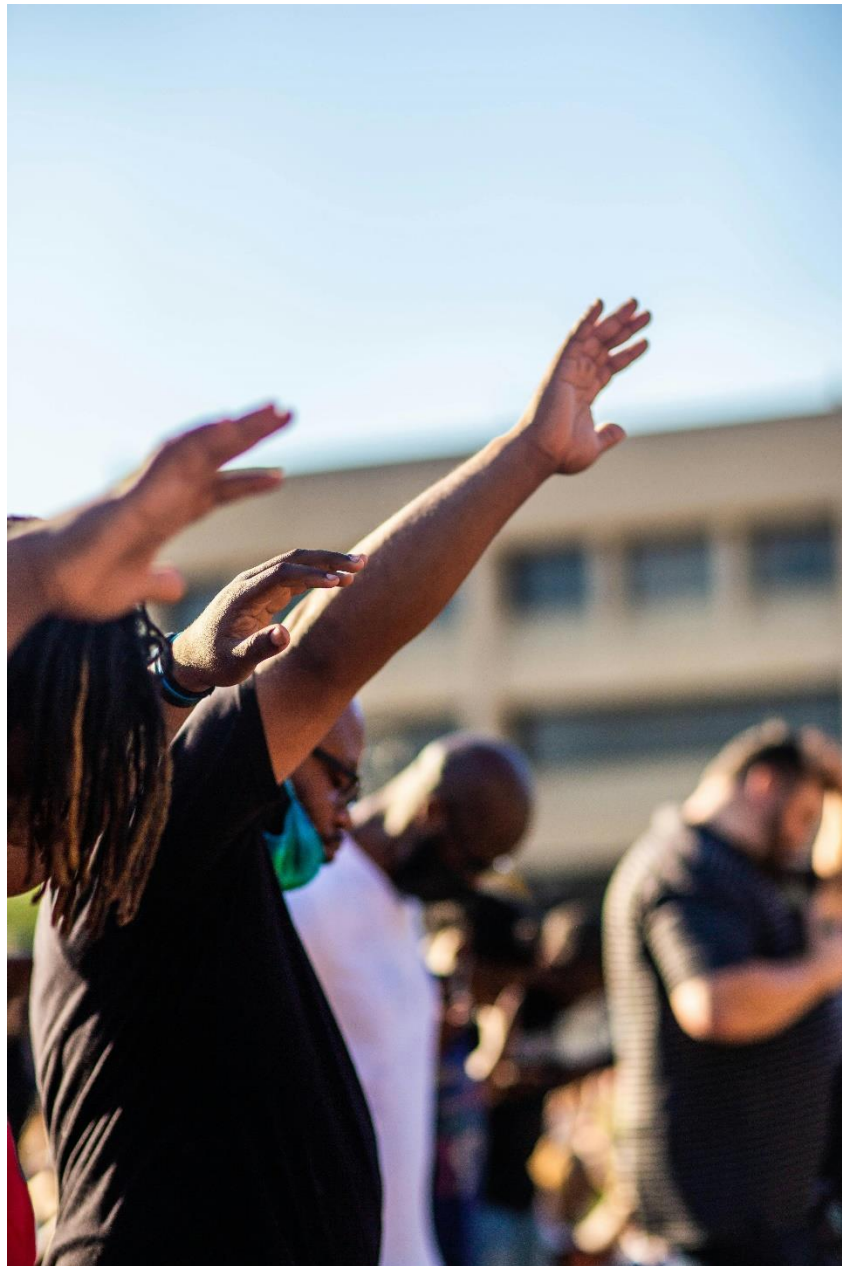


Distorted Data: The Facts & Lies Targeting Black America

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Introduction

Political rhetoric will no doubt amp up as the election nears this fall. For President Biden and the Democratic Party, messaging will especially be targeted towards one of their most vital voting blocs – black Americans.

However, the prevailing messaging from President Biden and the Party can diverge significantly from the true state of black America, the significant issues needing to be addressed, and the progress achieved thus far. Much of the liberal narrative tends to exaggerate their efforts to uplift the black community, often relying on data that is either decades old or misleading. Sometimes, there's simply no use of data at all.

This not only distorts the current challenges facing black Americans but also undermines genuine analysis and problem-solving. How can effective solutions be formulated when the narrative is skewed by misinformation? How buried do the legitimate issues currently facing the black community become?

A journey through liberal consensus and rhetoric shows a path in which the destination for advancement can only be arrived at by presuming victimhood, devoid of empowering individualism and the firm foundations of community, where liberal policies are the only way forward. This takes the power of progress out of the hands of the individual and the community. Furthermore, the progress that has already been achieved, due to the hard work of individuals and the black community at large, is either absent from liberal messaging or the credit is claimed by the Party at large.

A recent [op-ed](#) by Antjuan Seawright, a Democratic political strategist, and CBS News political contributor, provides a succinct blueprint of the message liberals will seek to deliver to black voters. Comparing the argument to readily available data shows just how harmful that messaging is and will be.

Health

Beginning with healthcare, Seawright paints a grim picture for black America. Seawright begins by noting life expectancy. As far as health statistics go, life expectancy is too often used with the broadest of strokes. While analyzing different demographics in life expectancy is only a piece of the larger puzzle, it does help provide some insights. For example, the largest noticeable difference in life expectancy demographics is not between races, as many may claim. It's between genders. Women across the board have much higher life expectancies than men. A black woman still has a higher life expectancy than a white man.

However, if a breakdown is made amongst different race life expectancies, then it does no justice to solely make it white and black. By race, non-Hispanic Asians have the highest life expectancy in the U.S. at birth, followed by Hispanic men and women (74.4 and 81 years, respectively).¹

Table A. Expectation of life, by age, Hispanic origin and race, and sex: United States, 2021

Age (years)	Non-Hispanic																	
	All origins			Hispanic			American Indian and Alaska Native			Asian			Black			White		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
0	76.4	73.5	79.3	77.8	74.6	81.1	65.6	62.2	69.2	83.5	81.2	85.6	71.2	67.6	75.0	76.7	74.0	79.5
1	75.8	73.0	78.7	77.2	74.0	80.5	65.1	61.7	68.8	82.8	80.5	84.9	71.0	67.4	74.7	76.0	73.4	78.8
5	71.9	69.1	74.8	73.3	70.1	76.5	61.2	57.8	64.9	78.8	76.5	80.9	67.1	63.5	70.8	72.1	69.4	74.8
10	66.9	64.1	69.8	68.3	65.1	71.5	56.3	52.9	59.9	73.9	71.6	75.9	62.2	58.6	65.9	67.1	64.5	69.9
15	62.0	59.2	64.9	63.4	60.2	66.6	51.3	48.0	55.0	68.9	66.6	71.0	57.3	53.7	61.0	62.1	59.5	64.9
20	57.1	54.4	60.0	58.5	55.4	61.7	46.7	43.4	50.3	64.0	61.7	66.0	52.7	49.2	56.1	57.3	54.7	60.0
25	52.5	49.8	55.2	53.8	50.8	56.9	42.4	39.2	45.8	59.2	56.9	61.1	48.2	44.9	51.4	52.6	50.1	55.2
30	47.8	45.4	50.4	49.2	46.3	52.1	38.3	35.3	41.5	54.3	52.1	56.2	43.8	40.7	46.8	47.9	45.6	50.4
35	43.3	41.0	45.7	44.6	41.9	47.3	34.5	31.7	37.5	49.5	47.3	51.3	39.5	36.6	42.3	43.4	41.2	45.7
40	38.8	36.6	41.1	40.1	37.5	42.6	31.0	28.4	33.7	44.7	42.6	46.4	35.3	32.5	37.8	38.9	36.8	41.1
45	34.4	32.3	36.5	35.6	33.2	37.9	27.5	25.1	30.0	39.9	37.9	41.6	31.1	28.6	33.5	34.5	32.5	36.5
50	30.1	28.2	32.1	31.2	28.9	33.3	24.5	22.3	26.7	35.2	33.3	36.8	27.1	24.8	29.3	30.2	28.3	32.1
55	26.0	24.2	27.8	27.0	24.9	28.9	21.5	19.6	23.4	30.7	28.8	32.1	23.3	21.1	25.3	26.0	24.3	27.8
60	22.1	20.5	23.7	23.0	21.1	24.7	18.8	17.2	20.3	26.2	24.6	27.5	19.8	17.8	21.6	22.1	20.5	23.7
65	18.4	17.0	19.7	19.3	17.6	20.6	16.3	15.0	17.3	21.9	20.5	23.0	16.7	14.9	18.1	18.4	17.0	19.7
70	14.9	13.7	16.0	15.8	14.4	16.8	13.6	12.6	14.4	17.9	16.7	18.7	13.7	12.3	14.9	14.9	13.7	15.9
75	11.6	10.6	12.5	12.4	11.3	13.2	11.2	10.4	11.7	14.0	13.0	14.6	11.0	9.8	11.8	11.5	10.6	12.4
80	8.7	7.9	9.4	9.4	8.5	9.9	9.1	8.5	9.4	10.5	9.7	10.9	8.5	7.6	9.1	8.7	7.8	9.3
85	6.3	5.6	6.7	6.9	6.1	7.1	7.2	6.8	7.3	7.5	6.9	7.7	6.4	5.6	6.7	6.2	5.6	6.6
90	4.4	3.9	4.6	4.8	4.3	4.9	5.6	5.4	5.6	5.0	4.7	5.1	4.7	4.2	4.9	4.3	3.8	4.5
95	3.0	2.7	3.2	3.4	3.0	3.3	4.5	4.3	4.3	3.4	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.1	3.5	3.0	2.6	3.1
100	2.2	1.9	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.3	3.6	3.5	3.4	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.1	1.9	2.2

NOTE: Life tables by Hispanic origin and race are based on death rates that have been adjusted for Hispanic-origin and race misclassification on death certificates; see Technical Notes in this report.
SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, mortality data file.

With that said, black men do have a lower life expectancy at birth than men of most other races. However, attributing certain health indicators solely to racial factors oversimplifies the issue. Other factors, such as age, income, and location provide significant differences as well. For example, any American male sees his life expectancy increase after the age of 30. Furthermore, a black man in Chicago will have a much different life expectancy than one in Irvine, California.

Life expectancy at birth provides a tangible snapshot of the current state of American health and society. That snapshot is a mixed bag of success and failure. On one hand, the racial demographic gap has continued to narrow. Between 2000 and 2019, black Americans saw the largest increase in overall life expectancy at birth (3.9 years)² On the other hand, life expectancy overall for Americans has lagged behind thus far in the rebound from the COVID pandemic.³

Analysis of the leading causes of death in the U.S. may provide some insight into the racial disparity. As reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention⁴, the leading causes of death by race share a lot of similarities. An analysis of pre-pandemic data provides a clearer picture, so 2018 is the year used here.

By Race and Hispanic origin¹, Male, All ages

Rank ²	Race ¹ and Hispanic Origin ³						
	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black	Non-Hispanic Asian	Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaskan Native	Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	All Races and Origins
1)	Heart Disease 24.8%	Heart Disease 24.1%	Cancer 24.7%	Heart Disease 18.9%	Heart Disease 25.9%	Heart Disease 20.2%	Heart Disease 24.3%
2)	Cancer 22.2%	Cancer 19.7%	Heart Disease 23.1%	Cancer 15.9%	Cancer 18.9%	Cancer 19.4%	Cancer 21.6%
3)	Unintentional Injuries 6.9%	Alzheimer's Disease 7.9%	Stroke 6.7%	Unintentional Injuries 13.7%	Unintentional Injuries 8.4%	Unintentional Injuries 11.3%	Unintentional Injuries 7.4%
4)	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease 5.8%	Stroke 5.0%	Unintentional Injuries 5.3%	Chronic Liver Disease & Cirrhosis 6.1%	Diabetes 7.7%	Stroke 4.7%	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease 5.2%
5)	Stroke 4.1%	Homicide 4.5%	Diabetes 4.2%	Diabetes 5.7%	Stroke 5.4%	Diabetes 4.5%	Stroke 4.3%
6)	Diabetes ⁴ 2.9%	Diabetes 4.4%	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease 3.3%	Suicide 4.2%	Suicide 3.4%	Chronic Liver Disease & Cirrhosis 4.1%	Diabetes 3.3%
7)	Alzheimer's Disease ⁴ 2.9%	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease 3.3%	Influenza & Pneumonia 3.2%	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease 3.6%	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease 2.7%	Suicide 3.1%	Alzheimer Disease ⁴ 2.6%
8)	Suicide 2.7%	Kidney Disease 2.7%	Suicide 2.6%	Stroke 2.9%	Homicide 2.0%	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease 2.6%	Suicide ⁴ 2.6%
9)	Influenza & Pneumonia 2.0%	Septicemia ⁴ 1.7%	Alzheimer's Disease 2.3%	Homicide 2.3%	Influenza & Pneumonia ⁴ 1.8%	Alzheimer's Disease 2.3%	Influenza & Pneumonia 2.0%
10)	Chronic Liver Disease & Cirrhosis 1.7%	Hypertension ⁴ 1.7%	Kidney Disease 2.1%	Influenza & Pneumonia 2.2%	Kidney Disease ⁴ 1.8%	Homicide 2.2%	Chronic Liver Disease & Cirrhosis 1.9%

Heart disease and cancer are the leading causes of death for all male Americans, regardless of race. Looking further down the list at other causes of death, there is one issue that stands out for black men. Homicide is the fifth leading cause of death for black men in America.

At 4.5%, and above any other racial demographic, homicide is an essential issue in any discussion concerning the health and life expectancy of a young black man (again, when not considering other significant factors, such as what region of the country or what city a black man lives in).

If there is a serious effort to better advance the health, wellness and life expectancy of black Americans, particularly young black men, then the issue of homicide cannot be ignored. The rising issue of crime in many major U.S. cities, as well as the impact of recent actions by the left to weaken America's law enforcement system, must be considered as well.

Another health issue that warrants attention is cancer. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation,⁵ black Americans have similar or lower rates of cancer incidence overall compared to white Americans, and black Americans have lower rates of new cancer cases. Among all racial demographics, cancer appears to impact black and white Americans at a much higher rate than Hispanic and Asian Americans.

It's worth noting that each race is impacted by certain cancers and diseases differently. Some of these are based on genetic factors, and some are a mix of societal and environmental factors. For instance, Hispanic and Asian women are far more likely to be affected by lupus.⁶ To date, it is not fully understood why, although genes are theorized as a leading factor. Instead of blanketly declaring the system as racist for a particular cancer or disease, the true solution requires dedicated research as to the root causes, as well as education and prevention provided to the particular groups notably at risk. Not acknowledging this reality puts those individuals deeper at risk and robs them of the knowledge and resources to address it head on with their healthcare providers.

As for mental illness and substance abuse, in 2020, people of color were generally less likely to report experiencing any mental illness or substance use disorders compared to their white peers. Just over a quarter of black (28%) and Hispanic (27%) nonelderly adults reported having a mental illness or substance use disorder in 2020, compared to 36% of white nonelderly adults.⁷

Furthermore, as of 2020, American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) and white Americans had the highest rates of deaths by suicide compared to all other racial and ethnic groups (23.9 and 16.8 per 100,000, respectively). Data on drug overdose deaths among adolescents showed that while white adolescents account for the largest share of drug overdose deaths, black and Hispanic adolescents accounted for a growing share of these deaths over time. In 2018, drug overdoses were higher among white Americans than black Americans. The rate was almost identical in 2019, and in 2020, when drug overdoses increased across the board, the rate for black Americans was slightly higher than white Americans by just over two percent.⁸

But what about the health of black women? Data shows that black (41.4 per 100,000) and AIAN (26.5 per 100,000) women had the highest rates of pregnancy-related mortality (deaths within one year of pregnancy) between 2016-2018.⁹ This suggests a need to provide more resources and services in the community to assist expectant black mothers.

Finally, we should not underestimate the significant impact the state of the U.S. economy has on rising health care prices. With American families already struggling due to inflation on all other products and services, and health care insurance costs expected to leap from 5.4% to 8.5% this year¹⁰, this puts American families in a tight bind where they may neglect needed care to offset the rising costs of other family necessities. According to March 2024 polling data from the Kaiser Family Foundation¹¹, about half (48%) of insured adults worry about affording their new monthly health insurance premium, and one in four adults say that they have skipped or postponed getting healthcare they needed in the past year because of cost. Inflation, arguably exacerbated by government policies in this administration, is routinely cited as a leading cause for the rising unaffordability of healthcare.¹²

Education

The landscape of K-12 education has dramatically changed in the last few years. While it's essential to recognize areas for improvement, it's equally important to avoid misrepresenting data to fit a particular narrative.

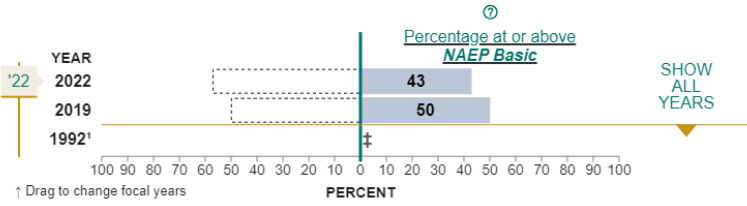
Seawright cites an Annie E. Casey Kids Count report that 84% of black fourth graders are scoring below grade level for reading proficiency.¹³ This makes it sound as if 84% of black fourth graders are behind the curve, which would certainly be alarming if it was true.

The Annie E. Casey Kids Count is simply reporting data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Test measures are measured here by Basic, Proficient, and Advanced. Only 33% of all American fourth graders performed at or above the NAEP Proficient reading level in 2022. In fact, that number has never been higher than 37% (reported in 2017). Most American adults today, well over two-thirds, performed at a lower than NAEP Proficient reading level when they were fourth graders.¹⁴

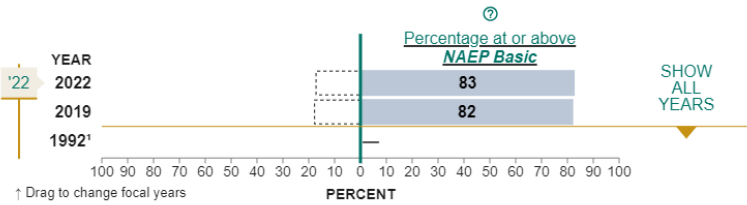
However, there's still a gap in the demographics of these students. For 2022, 44% of black students performed at or above a NAEP Basic reading level. You can see the breakdown by race below, with Hispanic and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students a bit higher than black fourth graders (both 50%). Only American Indian/Alaska Native students performed lower, at 43%.

FIGURE | Trend in fourth-grade NAEP reading achievement-level results, by race/ethnicity

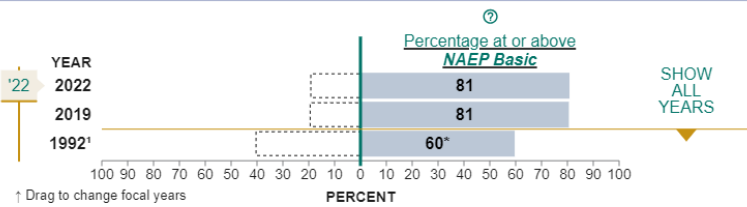
American Indian/Alaska Native



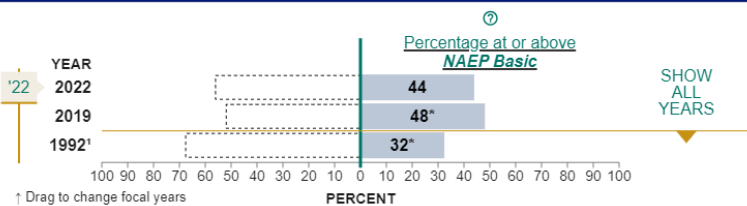
Asian



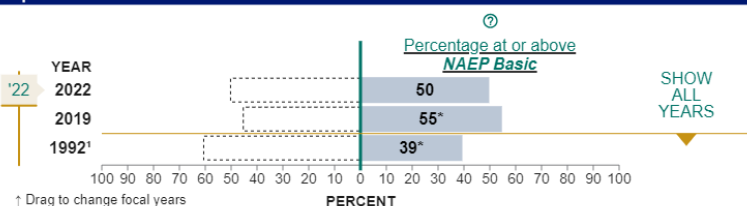
Asian/Pacific Islander



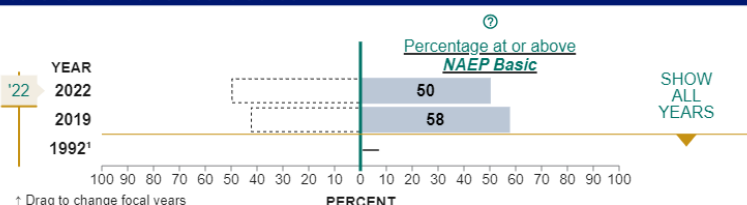
Black



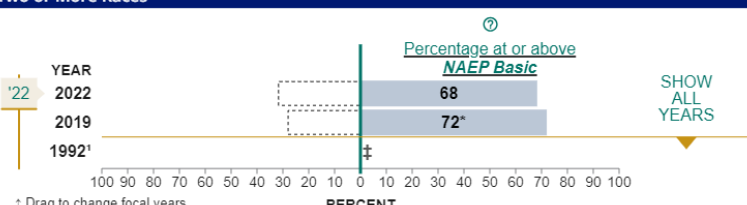
Hispanic



Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander



Two or More Races



LEGEND

- Not available.
- † Reporting standards not met. Sample size insufficient to permit a reliable estimate.
- * Significantly different ($p < .05$) from selected focal year.
- ¹ Accommodations not permitted.

NOTE: NAEP achievement levels are to be used on a trial basis and should be interpreted and used with caution.

Meanwhile, black fourth graders performed better in the mathematics metrics, with 55% performing at or above the NAEP Basic level. This still falls lower than most other racial demographics.¹⁵

Seawright points to a few factors that could be contributing to this discrepancy. He notes that fewer than 7% of teachers are black. While this is true, that doesn't mean correlation equals causation. After all, only 9.4% of teachers are Hispanic, and only 2.4% are Asian.¹⁶

He adds that one out of ten black children grow up where the head of the household has no high school diploma. According to his own citation¹⁷, this is not an area where black children experience a discrepancy either. While it is one out of 10 for black children, that's far better than Hispanic children, for whom it is one out of four. At 10%, black children are just as likely as Asian and Pacific Islander children, who are also at 10%. Non-Hispanic white is the lowest category at 5%. It's also worth noting that the rate for black children has been trending downwards from 12% in 2015. That trend is projected to continue.

Seawright asks "where are the role models?" and in that, he has a point. The impact of parents, and the makeup of the family structure, has an obvious and significant impact on the educational success of a child. The family structure and the solid foundation it provides, has unfortunately deteriorated in the modern American culture. Looking at the data, it is here that a racial discrepancy exists, highlighting a significant problem particularly affecting the black community.

In 2022, 24% of non-Hispanic white children lived in a single-parent home. For Hispanic or Latino children, it was 42%. The only racial demographic to have more than 50%, meaning a majority, was black children – 63% of black children lived in a single parent household.¹⁸

Children in single-parent homes are far more likely to experience a wide range of detrimental factors impacting their education. They are more likely to live in poverty, and they have fewer economic, social, and parental resources. This family instability leads to lower health and educational outcomes, including test scores and even dropping out of school.¹⁹

Seawright says the divergent academic success of black students is not surprising because of how few black teachers there are, but the true issue at the heart of these problems does not begin in the classroom – it begins at home. Policies that promote marriage, fatherhood, and family stability can help address the root causes of academic underachievement in black communities, providing children with a supportive home environment conducive to learning.

Furthermore, the importance of faith-based and community organizations in supporting education initiatives, particularly in underserved communities, must not be ignored. Partnering with churches, nonprofits, and community groups can provide additional resources, mentorship, and support services to black students and their families, particularly those in great need of such support, like children in single parent households.

Black students in K-12 education were particularly impacted by school closures during the COVID pandemic. In December 2020, black (66%) and Hispanic (64%) students were almost

twice as likely as white (34%) students to be fully remote. In March 2021, just 2% of majority-white districts offered no in-person schooling while 18% of majority-black districts and 24% of majority-Hispanic districts remained totally remote.²⁰

It was during this time, when dining rooms doubled up as a child's classroom, that differences in family structure between students was even more impactful. As previously noted, a majority of black students were living in single-parent households. School closures placed additional strain on black families, many of whom were already facing economic challenges that were made even worse by the pandemic. Many parents had to juggle both work and supervising their child's remote learning. The increased levels of stress, economic instability, and deep concern for their child's future were devastating, and many of these families are still desperately trying to recover.

Many black students lacked access to solid and reliable internet connections, especially for video communications such as Zoom. For other low-income families, especially those with more than one child, having enough computers, or a computer at all, became a nightmare for parents and a huge obstacle for students. These actions to mandate remote learning for such a long period of time, pushed largely by liberal leaders and teachers unions, exacerbated the academic achievement gap.

While the disparity in academic achievement for young black students is exaggerated by the left, there still is a notable disparity. It's essential to contextualize this within the broader national context, however, and the impact of recent major events, such as the COVID pandemic. Moreover, attributing educational disparities solely to racial factors overlooks other contributing factors, such as family structure and socioeconomic status. Even then, liberals tend to attribute inconsequential factors that ignore the serious issues at hand. By adopting a more nuanced approach, policymakers can develop targeted strategies to address the root causes of educational inequities.

School choice and education reform have been increasingly pursued as a means to improve educational outcomes, particularly for disadvantaged communities that include many black students. School choice initiatives, such as voucher programs and charter schools, are often supported by conservatives as alternatives to traditional public schools. School choice is overwhelmingly supported by black parents (81%), while the Democratic Party policy platform remains steadfast in its opposition.²¹

These programs provide parents with greater options and empower them to choose the best educational opportunities for their children. Conservatives are also advocating for policies aimed at improving school accountability, school safety, teacher quality, and access to resources in distressed communities.

Jobs & Economy

There is perhaps no issue that public officials are quicker to take credit for (and simultaneously absolve themselves of blame for) than the economy. Aside from the interruption of the COVID pandemic, black unemployment has been on the decline for a decade. That's the good news.

President Biden and the liberal establishment have pointed to a single month in April 2023 as a record low for black unemployment; the previous record was reached in 2019 under President Trump. If the data trend continues (and hopefully it will), then the next president will be able to claim the record.

The unfortunate reality, however, is that the spending power of the black worker, and Americans as a whole, is drastically different than what it was just a few years ago. Groceries for the family's dinner table, gas in the car, childcare and more are harder to attain for more black families. Simply buying eggs at the grocery store in 2024 has made this evident to every American. Items and services simply cost much more now. The rapid growth of consumer prices has resulted in a steep decline in individual purchasing power. Year over year, the purchasing power of the dollar declined about 7.4 percent between 2021 and 2022 because of inflation.²²

The rising inflation brought on in part by the Biden Administration's policies has made life harder for many hardworking Americans. Through President Biden's first two years in office, the consumer price index, a metric measuring the average change in price paid by urban consumers, rose 17.1%. President Biden and Congress quickly began spending and the Federal Government printed trillions of dollars. The U.S. dollar has been devalued and we've experienced a level of inflation higher than anything the nation has seen in 40 years.²³

The government can play a role in improving the outlook for black workers. However, it should be part of the supporting cast and not seek to star in the play.

Policies that empower and uplift the individual must be the focus. For black workers, this means reforms that bolster the worker, instead of making the black community dependent on government policies, as liberals often do.

For the government's part, policies that prioritize free-market principles and entrepreneurship have a proven track record for bolstering the black community economically. By fostering an environment conducive to job creation, skill development, entrepreneurship, and incentivizing workforce participation, public policies can assist in unlocking the full potential of black workers and promote sustainable economic growth.

Furthermore, targeted economic development initiatives, such as Opportunity Zones, provide tax incentives and regulatory relief to attract investment and spur economic activity in distressed communities. By leveraging public-private partnerships and incentivizing investment in economically disadvantaged areas, conservatives aim to revitalize communities and create opportunities for black entrepreneurs to thrive.

Justice

One of the most repeated statistics in liberal talking points is that “one in every three black boys born today will spend time in prison.” It’s also completely false.

To begin with, the often-used statement takes great liberty with what the word “today” entails. Tracing the origin, the statement is a projected statistic from a single study back in 2001, regarding black men born that year, and based on the year’s imprisonment population - when imprisonment of black males was at its peak. It’s further dependent on 2001 data regarding black men born in 1981.²⁵

Ever since that singular study in 2001, the statistic has been recycled for more than two decades by liberal politicians. When Bernie Sanders used it in 2015, *The Washington Post* gave him two Pinocchios, and noted that even by 2013, the incarceration rate for black males had fallen more than 20 percent.²⁶

Nine years later, this statistic is still being used, and not just in Seawright’s article. In fact, it’s still quoted on the “Criminal Justice Fact Sheet” webpage of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.²⁷

According to research by the Center for Demography and Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, in a paper entitled “A Generational Shift: Race and the Declining Lifetime Risk of Imprisonment,” it states:

“These estimates of the lifetime risk of incarceration remain widely cited and highly influential. However, the empirical and social reality on which these estimates were based has shifted markedly. Since 2007, the national incarceration rate has declined by 20% —the first sustained reduction in incarceration in nearly a century. These declines were more pronounced and more enduring for black men, for whom incarceration rates dropped by 44% between 1999 and 2019. In short, the central assumption undergirding some of the most influential and commonly cited estimates of the lifetime prevalence of incarceration—that incarceration rates remain unchanged—has not held.”

Based on data as late as 2019, the Center for Demography and Ecology found that less than 1 in 5 black males born in 2001 will spend some time in prison. Further research affirms that this may be an overestimation.²⁸

Not surprisingly, the COVID pandemic greatly impacts this data as well. As prison populations and incarceration rates declined during the pandemic, these shifts further reduced the incarceration ratio for black males.

The truth of the matter is that there has been significant progress in lowering incarceration rates among black men in the past quarter of a century. To tell a young black man that he has a one in three chance of going to prison is demonstrably false, and it is a destructive falsehood to perpetuate. The reality is that black men today are more likely to graduate college than go to prison, a stark contrast from circumstances at the turn of the century.

Finally, Seawright states that the 6th leading cause of death for young black men is the police. Even when taking the statement at face value, the data tells a much different story. While many liberal news outlets have neglected and delegitimized data collected by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *The Washington Post* has been recording individual deaths by police force since 2015.

According to *The Post's* data, in 2019, 105 black men aged 18-29 were killed in police arrests. Almost all of them were in situations where the individual was armed, predominantly with a firearm. A few others were the result of a car chase. *The Post* determined that only two of them were unarmed. A police officer in one of those cases was found not guilty in court, based on evidence of the individual attempting to take the officer's firearm.²⁹

Dividing police officers and black Americans in the community is a growing phenomenon that's been evident to any American with a television or smart phone. In the last few years especially, it has been a bedrock of the liberal platform – one of the most frequently used depictions in their narrative. Adding to the other building blocks put in place by liberal messaging, young black men are led to believe that most of them will not achieve a quality education, that they can't adequately read, that they're likely to end up unemployed, that they're likely to be imprisoned, that they have a high chance of being shot by the police, and more.

In promoting the false messaging on unjustifiable police shootings, liberals sidestep serious issues impacting the black community that must be addressed in order to truly uplift the community going forward. The focus is put on inciting racial anger and division between law enforcement and the community, regardless of data and evidence, and shrouds real issues like homicide being the fifth leading cause of death for black men.

Addressing disparities in the criminal justice system requires a nuanced understanding of the underlying factors contributing to racial disparities. While the incarceration rate among black men remains a concern, it's essential to acknowledge the significant progress made in recent years.

Conclusion

Political motive, especially in an election season, should be the primary lens that all Americans look through when reading about issues and policies from political messengers. While it is understandably assumed that these writers and speakers (like most Americans) genuinely want to see these issues resolved and advancement achieved, it can't be ignored that there may be another mission and goal that takes precedence - election success in November. As in many matters of election marketing, fear and scare tactics are considered the best approach in motivating voters to go to the polls.

For political operatives to achieve this objective, a narrative must be crafted. That narrative is too often underpinned by disregarding data and evidence or using it misleadingly. In this instance, that effort is harmful to the overdue advancement of the black community at large. By avoiding oversimplifications and misrepresentations of data, honest efforts can be made to develop targeted solutions that address the root causes of disparities while promoting economic empowerment, educational opportunity, individual responsibility, and community resilience.

About the Author

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