



**THE REALITY OF RACIAL  
INJUSTICE IN THE AMERICAN  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

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**Black people had  
220% higher odds of  
suffering a botched  
lethal injection  
execution than white  
people from 1976 to  
2023.**



**The likelihood of a case resolution is 3.4 to 4.8 percent lower for homicides involving Black victims, and this race effect is slightly higher for males and that racial disparity has moderately but significantly increased over time.**



**Between 2016 and 2022, Black and Latino people made up just under 50 percent of New York city's population but consistently comprised more than 80 percent of people charged with low-level offenses.**



**As of August 8, 2022, the National Registry of Exonerations listed 3,200 defendants who were convicted of crimes in the United States and later exonerated because they were innocent; 53% of them were Black, nearly four times their proportion of the population, which is now about 13.6%**



**More than half of the 3,300 people  
who were exonerated between  
1989 and 2022 are Black, despite  
the fact that Black people account  
for just 13.6% of the U.S.  
population.**



**Extreme sentences for violent crimes and reliance on criminal histories as a basis for determining prison sentences are drivers of racial disparities in imprisonment.**





**Prosecutors and judges often treat Black and Latinx people more harshly in their charging and sentencing decisions. Bias also affects the work of juries, correctional officers, and parole boards. Police and prosecutors, via their unions and professional associations, often lobby, litigate, and engage in public advocacy against reforms.**





**Black people are  
disproportionately stopped on the  
street by police, while white people  
are much more likely to call the  
police for help.**





**Among individuals who have  
any contact with police,  
people of color  
disproportionately experience  
the use of force.**



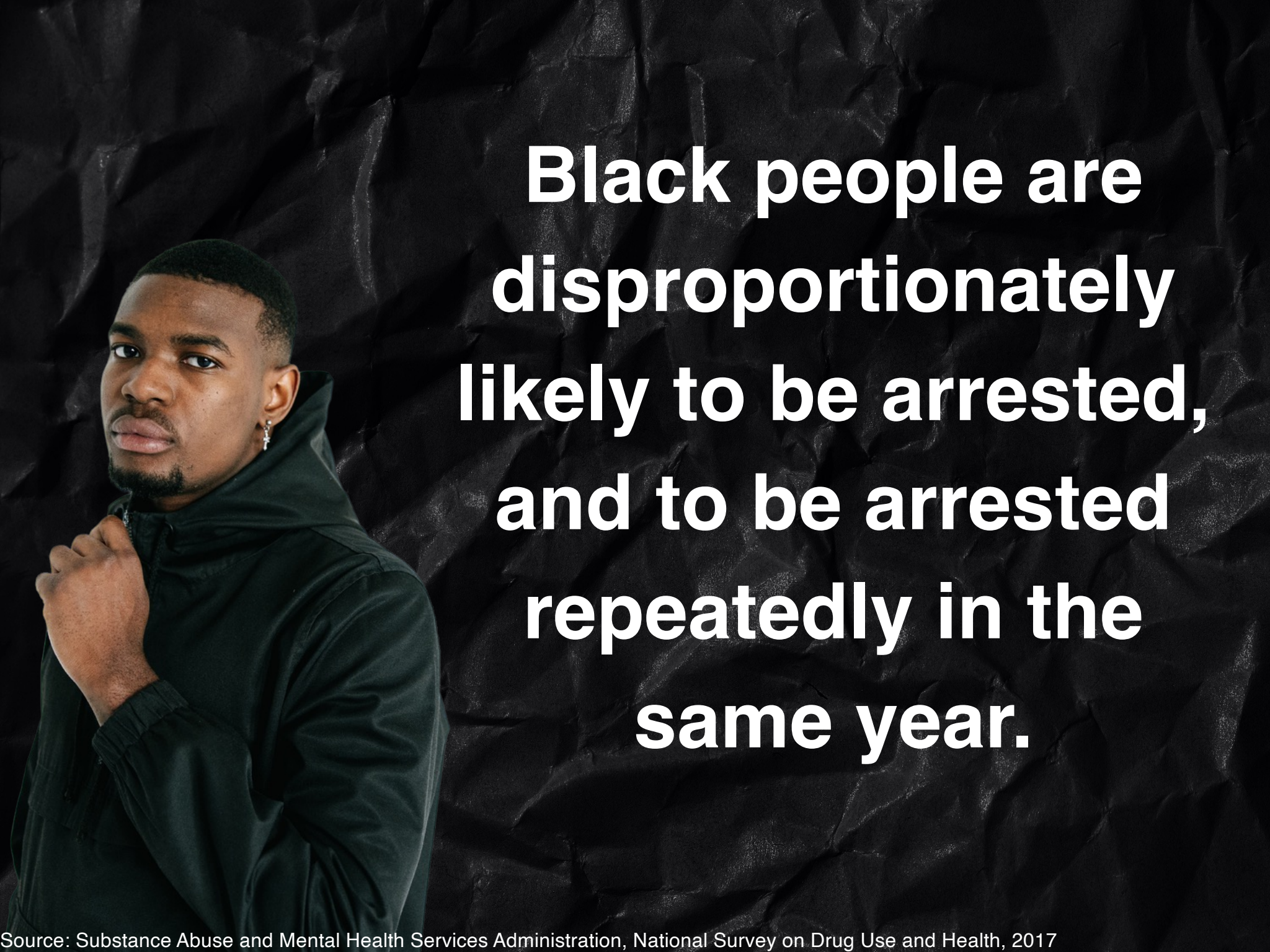
**Innocent Latinx immigrants are more vulnerable to pleading guilty to crimes they didn't commit under threat of deportation and law enforcement officers have used witnesses' immigration statuses to manipulate their testimony.**



**About 40% of Latinx exonerees who falsely confessed to crimes said that they “did not fully understand spoken English,” according to the study published in the UCLA Law Review.**





A Black man with short hair and a goatee, wearing a black hoodie, is shown from the chest up. He is looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression, his hand near his chin. The background is a dark, crumpled black fabric.

**Black people are  
disproportionately  
likely to be arrested,  
and to be arrested  
repeatedly in the  
same year.**



**The 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution abolished slavery, with one critical exception: slavery remains legal to do to prisoners. Today, prisons operate as modern-day forced labor camps where inmates, often paid mere cents per hour, generate profits for private industry and the government. In this way, slavery still exists in America—within the prison system. While African Americans make up only 13% of the U.S. population, they account for 37% of the incarcerated population.**



**Pretrial populations,  
disproportionately Black and  
Hispanic, have more than  
doubled over 15 years.**



**Formerly  
incarcerated  
people have  
very high rates  
of  
homelessness,  
especially  
women and  
people of color.**





**Black youth are arrested far  
out of proportion to their  
share of all youth in the U.S.**





**For the lowest level offenses,  
Black and Native American youth  
are confined at rates over 3 times  
the rate of white youth.**






**The population of Asian Americans in federal and state prisons has increased appreciably in recent years. Recent estimates suggest that nearly 10,000 Asian-Americans offenders are in prison yet there is a significant lack of attention paid to the treatment of Asian-American groups in the criminal justice system**





**Asians make up just 1%  
of people exonerated to  
date, but wrongly  
convicted Asians may  
face several unique  
challenges, from overt  
racism to language  
barriers to lack of  
community support.**





# **SAMPLES OF ACTUAL RACIAL INJUSTICES IN AMERICA**



**Miguel Roman, arrested for a 1988 murder in Connecticut, was read his Miranda rights in Spanish, but his interrogation was mostly in English, a language he was not fluent in. His conflicting statements led to his conviction, and he spent 20 years in prison until DNA evidence proved his innocence, leading to his release in 2008 and exoneration in 2009. While in prison, Roman faced additional violence and brutality due to his lack of English fluency.**

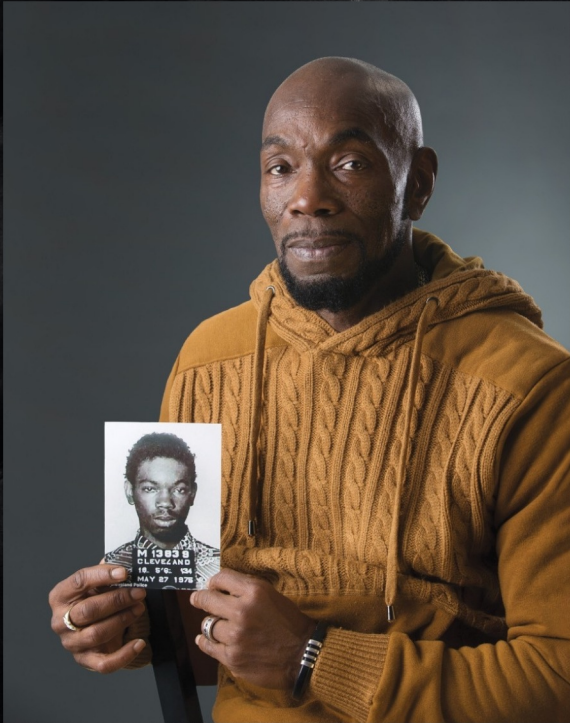


**Born in South Korea, Chol Soo Lee emigrated to San Francisco at age 12 and was wrongfully convicted of murder at 21, despite not matching the shooter's description. Convicted again for a prison yard altercation, he became the first Asian American on death row in San Quentin. Journalist K.W. Lee's investigation and the efforts of the Korean American community led to the overturning of his conviction in 1979 and his eventual acquittal in 1982. After spending 10 years in prison, Lee was released and died in 2014. His case is the focus of the documentary "Free Chol Soo Lee," which premiered on PBS.**





**Ricky Jackson was wrongfully convicted at 18 for a murder he didn't commit and spent 39 years in prison—the longest sentence of any exonerated U.S. inmate. Convicted based on the coerced testimony of a 12-year-old witness, Jackson maintained his innocence and never took plea deals that required him to admit guilt. In 2014, the witness recanted his testimony, leading to Jackson's release. Today, he embraces life, choosing forgiveness over resentment, and advocates for justice reform while rebuilding his life and staying connected with the friends who endured the wrongful conviction with him.**





**America's disfunctional criminal justice system is clearly racist, and it should not be this way.**

***"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."***

**- Martin Luther King, Jr.**