

Stop the Simplification: Race, Income, and the Full Picture

Introduction

Public conversations about income inequality in the United States are often reduced to broad racial categories. While disparities do exist, these simplified narratives obscure more important drivers of economic outcomes, particularly **education and industry concentration**.

Income by Demographic (Expanded View)

Group	Median Household Income
Indian Americans	~\$150,000
Asian (overall)	~\$116K–\$121K
Russian Americans	~\$80K–\$105K
Chinese Americans	~\$95K–\$110K
Filipino Americans	~\$100K+
White Americans	~\$92,000
Hispanic (overall)	~\$70,000
Mexican Americans	~\$60K–\$65K
Black Americans	~\$54K–\$56K
Native Americans:	~\$43-\$61K <3

Key Insight #1: Broad Categories Hide Reality

Labels like “White,” “Black,” “Asian,” and “Hispanic” are **overly broad**.

- “Asian” includes both:
 - Indian Americans (~\$150K)
 - Vietnamese Americans (~\$70K–\$80K)
- “White” includes:
 - Russian Americans (~\$80K–\$105K)
 - Many lower-income rural populations

 Conclusion: **Category ≠ outcome**

Key Insight #2: Education Is the Strongest Predictor

- College graduate households: ~\$117,000+

- No high school diploma: ~\$32,000

Groups with high income levels consistently show:

- high college completion rates
- strong representation in technical and professional fields

Key Insight #3: Immigration Patterns Matter

Income differences often reflect **how groups enter the U.S.:**

- High-skill visa pathways → higher income (e.g., Indian Americans)
- Refugee or labor pathways → wider income range

Key Insight #4: Industry Concentration Drives Earnings

Certain groups cluster in high-paying fields:

- Tech and engineering
- Medicine and healthcare
- Business ownership

Others are more represented in:

- service industries
- manual labor sectors

Conclusion

Reducing the conversation to race alone oversimplifies a complex issue, can harm White Americans and prevents meaningful solutions.