

*African, American, and Latino: Where Do
They Fit In?*
A Discourse in Internal Ethnoracial
Identities

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Land Acknowledgment


We want to begin this event with a land acknowledgment. Iowa State University is located on the ancestral lands and territory of the Baxoje (bah-kho-dzhe), or Ioway Nation. The United States obtained the land from the Meskwaki and Sauk nations in the Treaty of 1842. We wish to recognize our obligations to this land, the people who took care of it, and the 17,000 Native people who live in Iowa today.





Mission

The NCORE-ISCORE Project supports Iowa State University's diversity efforts. The project provides positive interactions and dialogue regarding race, ethnicity, and multicultural relations through local and national initiatives, including participation in two conferences: NCORE (National Conference on Race & Ethnicity) and ISCORE (Iowa State Conference on Race & Ethnicity).



Agenda

- Research Statement
- Research Purpose
- Research Methods
 - a. African Immigration into the Americas
 - b. Miscegenation in the U.S.
 - c. Miscegenation in Latin America
 - d. Common Challenges Amongst Marginalized Groups
- Interview Questions and Results
- Conclusions
- Q&A



Research Statement

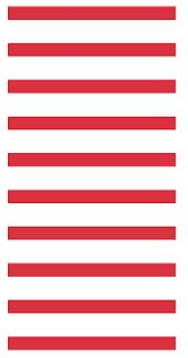


How does identifying as an African American and Afro-Latino impact students' sense of belonging at Iowa State University?

Research Purpose

- Find ways to increase belonging at Iowa State for students and staff who identify as Afro-Latino.
- To educate staff and students on the resources available and the history of the Afro-Latino identity.





Research Methods

- Literature review
- Interviews



Key Terms

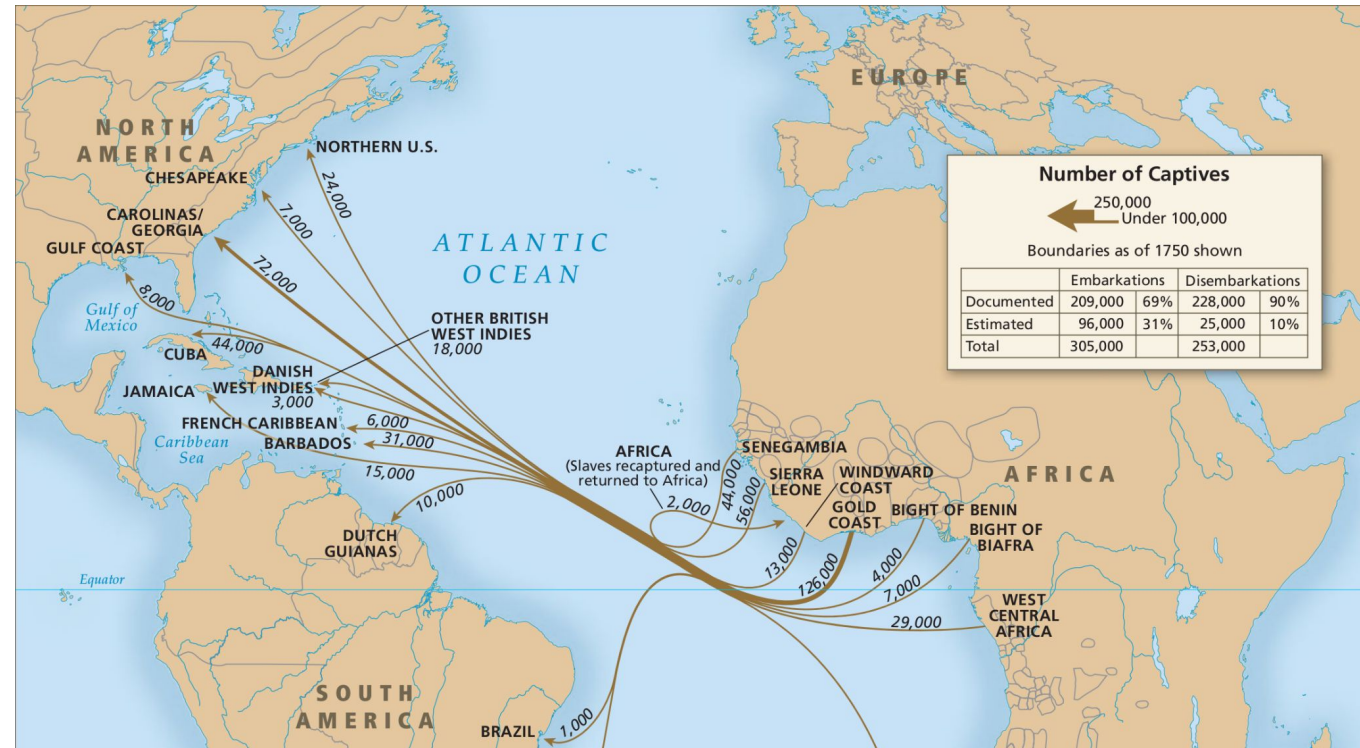
- **Diversity:** an instance of being composed of differing elements or qualities : an instance of being diverse.
- **Homogeneity:** the quality or state of being of a similar kind or of having a uniform structure or composition throughout : the quality or state of being homogeneous.
- **Afro-Latino:** a Black person of African ancestry who is a native or inhabitant of Latin America.
 - a Black person of Latin American origin and African ancestry living in the U.S.
- **Miscegenation:** a mixture of races.
 - *especially* : marriage, cohabitation, or sexual intercourse between a white person and a member of another race.
- **Negro:** Black in Spanish.
- **Español:** Spaniard/Spanish.

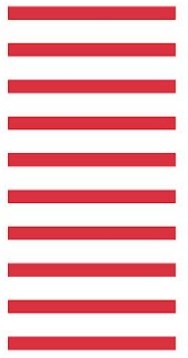
Source: Merriam Webster Dictionary



African Immigration into the Americas

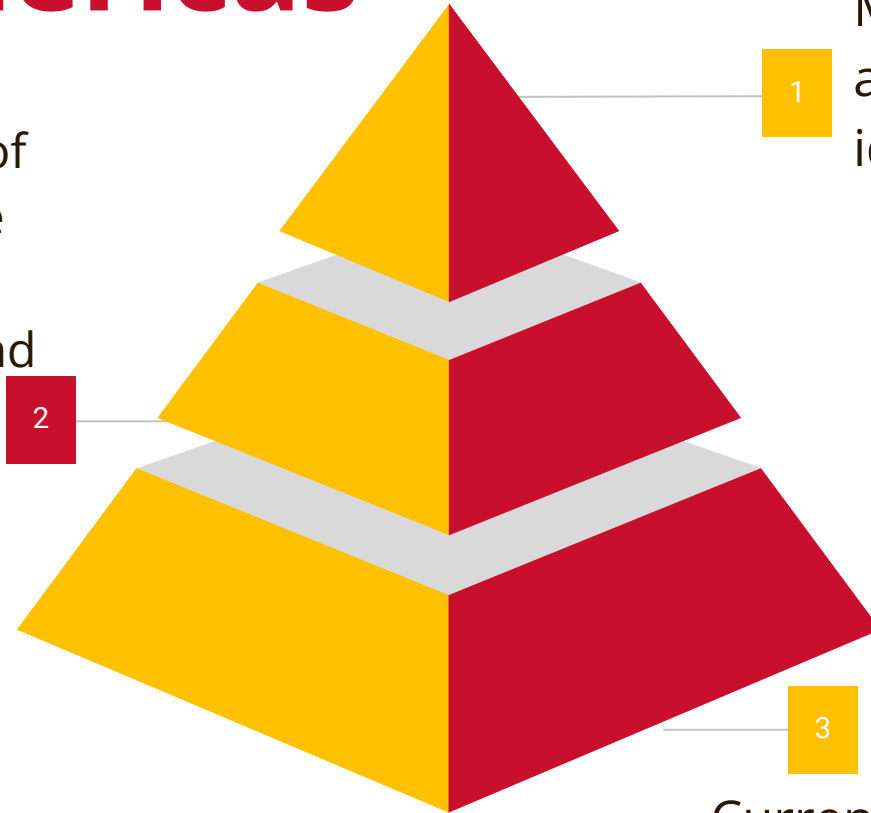
- The transatlantic slave trade, the internal slave trade, and the rural south to the urban north.
- Initially seeking gold and spices, leading to the forced migration of ~**11-12 million Africans to the Americas**.
- Fostered diversity rather than homogeneity.
- Creation of new African-American Cultures.





Current Immigration into the Americas

Emphasizes the importance of black ethnicity alongside race and highlights the interplay between racial oppression and ethnic conflict.



1 Multi-dimensional and transnational identities.

2


3

Current reality of diversity in black beliefs in the United States.





Afro-Latinos In America



The concept of Afro-Latinos has gained increased attention in the United States.



Competition for demographic dominance as the 'largest minority'.




Afro-Latinos play a vital role in contemporary racial and ethnic relations.



Individuals of African descent within diverse historical contexts advocate for a more comprehensive global perspective on Blackness and Latinos.



Miscegenation in the U.S.

- First recorded interracial relationship in the U.S.
 - Laws that banned interracial marriage and relationships were set in place
 - Interracial marriage was made legal in the U.S. in 1967.
 - The U.S. did not see a jump in interracial marriages until much later
 - Studies have shown statistical significance between the presence of interracial relationships and hate crimes.
 - The most looked down upon were Black-White relationships.
 - U.S. Census and Other population taking programs have mishandled the classification of races.
- 


Miscegenation in Latin America

- The distinctive Afro-Latino identity has its origins in colonial Latin America.
 - There were more than forty classifications at the most extreme of the system of castas, with **Negro** being the least desirable and **Español** being the most ideal from a sociopolitical standpoint.
- This was reflected in Latin American society a few centuries later when most colonies had found their independence.
 - Some intellectuals, inspired by books like The Origin of Species by Charles Darwin and his theory of evolution, considered **mestizaje** among the **inferior races** an obstacle to progress.





The Twentieth Century

- Many intellectuals felt the need to distinguish Latin Americans from Europeans to affirm and reestablish their distinctive identity and independence.
 - **Mestizaje** became, to many, the basis upon which many people founded their optimism about the future of Latin America.
 - Many scholars became enthusiastic about “**miscegenation**,” which would create a new type of “stock.”
 - They believed miscegenation would contribute to the process of “**whitening**” Latin America.
- 

The Whitening of Latin America



- The whitening of Latin America is a concept that, nowadays, still affects the way people view others and themselves.
- ***The lack of acknowledgment for Black Ancestry has affected past generations of Latinos who immigrated to the U.S. and how they raised and taught their children about their identities.***

Activity

1. Split into groups.
2. There will be pictures of people and as a group make a decision on the people's race/ethnicity (Black, Afro-Latino, Mixed, etc.).



Guess by Appearance



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



Guess by Name



1 Mariah Carey



2 Colman Domingo



3 Miguel



4 Tessa Thompson



5 Balcalis Marlenis
Almanzar



6 Jhene Aiko



7 Carmelo Anthony



8 Katorah Kasanova
Marrero



9 Bill Kahan Kapri (Dieuson Octave)



10 Scott Mescudi



11 Miles Morales



1. Mariah Carey



"[My grandfather]'s last name was Nuñez," "My grandfather made up the name 'Carey,' when he came to America to be more accepted, I guess. But that was funny, because that's an Irish name and Irish people were discriminated against at that time too."

2. Colman Domingo



In an interview with EW, Domingo talked about his queer and Afro-Latino identities, noting that his Afro-Latino identity hasn't always been as recognized. "It's also been nice for people to recognize that part of my identity as well, because for a lot of times it's just gone by the wayside".

3. Miguel



"A lot of my audience didn't know I was Mexican," he once said in an interview with Viceland. "Most people think of me solely as a Black artist, but there's a reason why my name is Miguel."

5. Balcalis Marlenis Almanzar



"And a lot of people be attacking me because they feel like I don't be saying that I'm Black. Some people want to decide if you're Black or not, depending on your skin complexion, because they don't understand Caribbean people or our culture."

The Whitening of Latin America



A Conversation With Latinos on Race | Op-Docs by The New York Times


In the U.S.

- Concepts of Latino/as in the United States are based on stereotyped common characteristics, like cultural symbols and language.
- Additionally, because Black and Latino are distinct and mutually exclusive categories that contradict the romantic idea of mestizaje, Latinos of African heritage are excluded from this conceptualization, both in the U.S. and in Latin America.
 - ***Due to this, many Afro-Latinos feel like they have to choose between being Latino and Black.***





Reflection Time

- Have you ever taken into consideration other people's perspective on race when discussing the topic?
 - How have you perpetrated white supremacy?
 - In your perception, are Latino and Black mutually exclusive categories?
 - Have you ever thought about the challenges Afro-Latinos face as minorities within their communities?
- 

Common Challenges Amongst Marginalized Groups

- **Intersectionality:** The interconnectedness of things like race, class, and gender, and how they overlap.
- **Marginalized communities** a majority of the time face and are burdened with multiple challenges throughout their lives and careers.
- Afro-Latino is an **intersection** of Racial and Ethnic Identity, which could result in being affected by multiple challenges at a time.
- Most of these challenges are categorized into Social, Health, Political, and Economic disparities.





Social Challenges

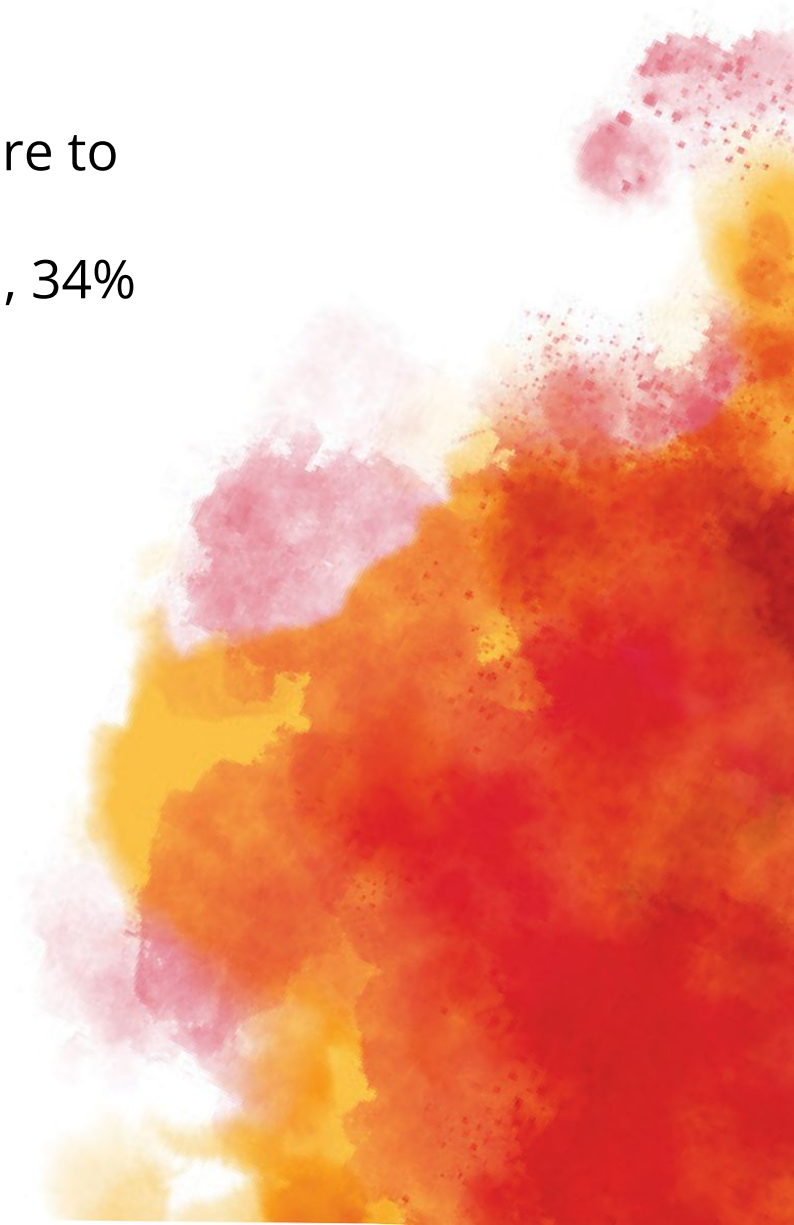
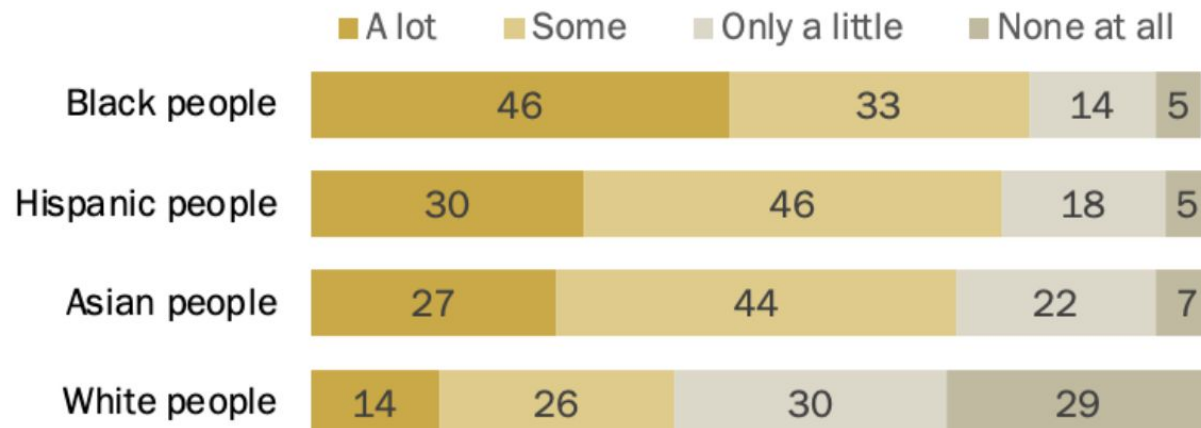
1. Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

- a. Sexual violence crimes are reported to happen more to women in marginalized communities.
 - i. 19% - Black Women, 24% Mixed Raced Women, 34% Indigenous Native Women.

2. Racial Discrimination

- a. Stereotyping, prejudice bias, etc.

% who say there is ____ of discrimination against each group in our society



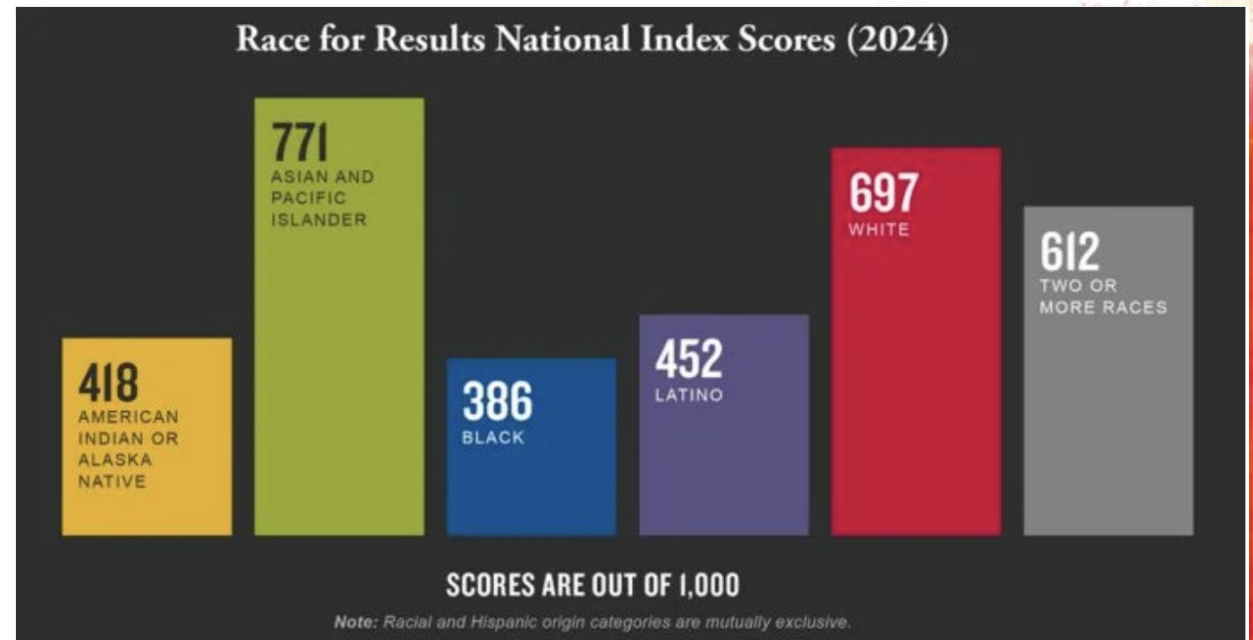
Social Challenges Cont.

3. Education

- a. Traveling, affordability.
 - i. Index Score - calculated based on high school performance.
- b. Expelling/suspending rates.
- c. Gifted programs.

4. Immigration

- d. Stereotyping.
- e. Immigration law.
 - i. DACA
- f. Hard to socially connect.
 - i. language barriers.



Health Challenges



1. PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)

- a. Most severe.
- b. Experience waves of negative feelings (anxiety, helplessness, insecurity, grief, and flashbacks).

2. Mortality

- a. Maternal Mortality.
 - i. 3x
- b. History
 - i. J. Marion Sims "Father of Gynecology."
 - ii. Health Care Segregation.
- c. Maternal Sepsis.



Health Challenges Cont.

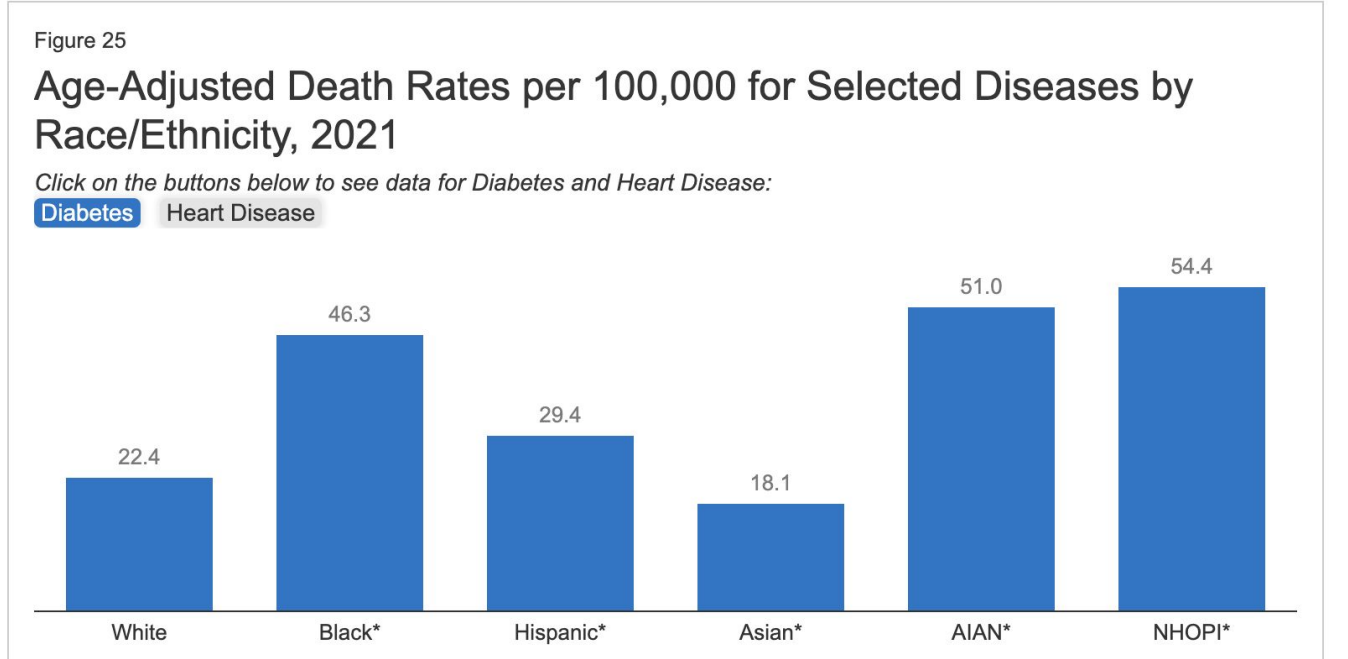


3. Service

- a. Health Coverage
 - i. Insurance.
- b. Availability
 - i. Transportation.
- c. Respectful Care
 - i. Listening, Caring, Connection.
- d. Quality
 - i. Undermine the health of a patient.

4. Illness

- e. Death Rates.
 - i. Diabetes.
- f. Higher Rates.
 - i. COVID-19
 - ii. Obesity.



Economic Challenges

1. Finance

- a. Banking.
- b. Money Management/Savings.
- c. Investing.

2. Employment

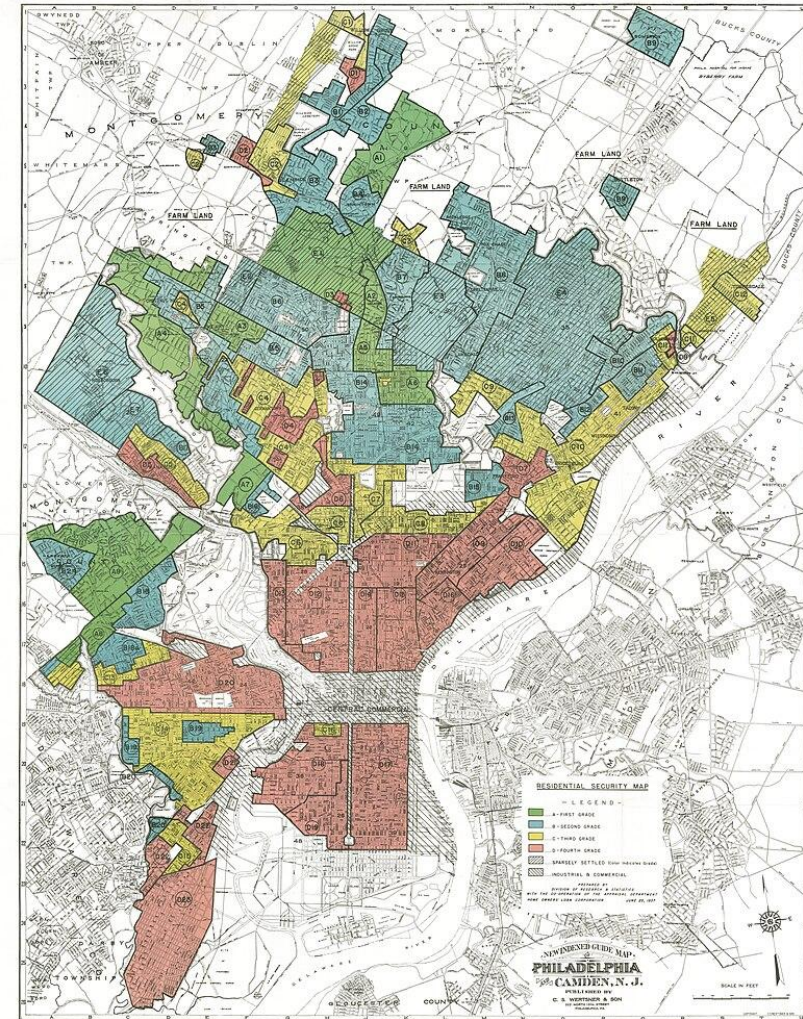
- a. Income.
- b. Unemployment.
- c. Wage Gaps.
 - i. Black/Hispanic Men; \$14-\$15/per hour; \$7 less than white males.
 - ii. Black/Hispanic Women; \$12-\$13/per hour; \$6 less than white women.



Economic Challenges Cont.

3. Housing

- a. Poverty.
 - i. Black 19.3%, Hispanic 17.1%
- b. Transportation.
- c. Quality housing.
 - i. lead, mold, overcrowding.
- d. Red-Lining
 - i. Denying credit/loan.
 - ii. Real estate.



Political Challenges

1. Representation

a. Rare.

2. Democracy

a. Lack of information.

i. Language.

b. Discriminatory laws.

i. Jim Crow.

ii. Literacy Test.

iii. Immigration laws.

c. Barriers.

i. Felons.

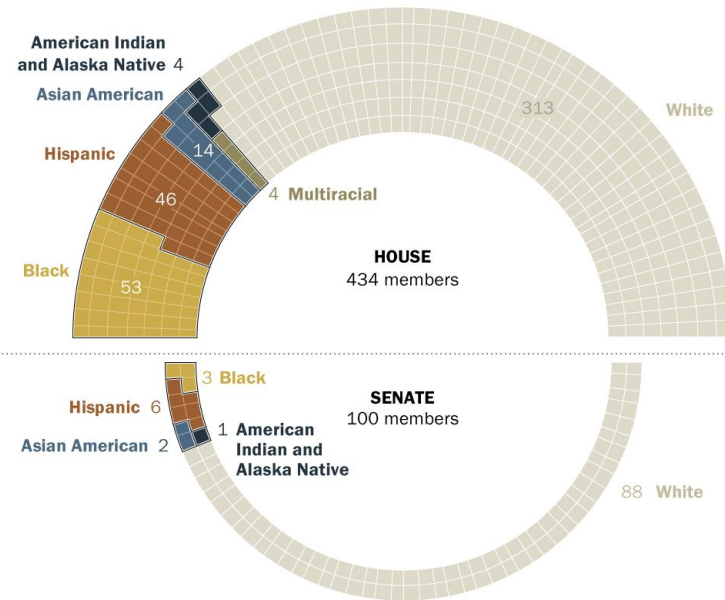
ii. Language.

iii. Voting Hours.

iv. Dilution of Minority Vote.

In the 118th Congress, the U.S. House is more racially and ethnically diverse than the Senate

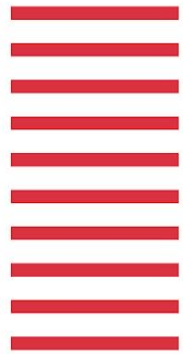
Number of U.S. members of Congress who are ...



Interviewee's

- **Interviewee A**, 38, She/Her, Afro-Latina, Iowa State Staff: Residence Hall Director, Iowa State Residency 2 years, Attends the Sister Monthly Luncheon.
- **Interviewee B**, She/Her, Afro-Latina, Former Iowa State University Undergraduate Student.
- **Interviewee C**, 22, He/Him, Afro-Latino, Iowa State University Undergraduate Student.



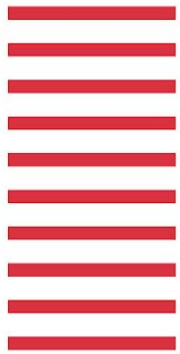


Responses & Participant Quotes

Do you identify as an Afro-Latino/a, why or why?

- "I **didn't** consider myself to be Afro-Latino before this conversation because I have **no** connection to my Cuban culture."
- "My identity means a lot to me because of everything my culture has been through. It shows proof of being **resilient** and **hardworking**."
- "I **have struggled with identity at times**, but I don't show it. I'm pretty confident in myself, **but I struggle because of how others perceive me**."

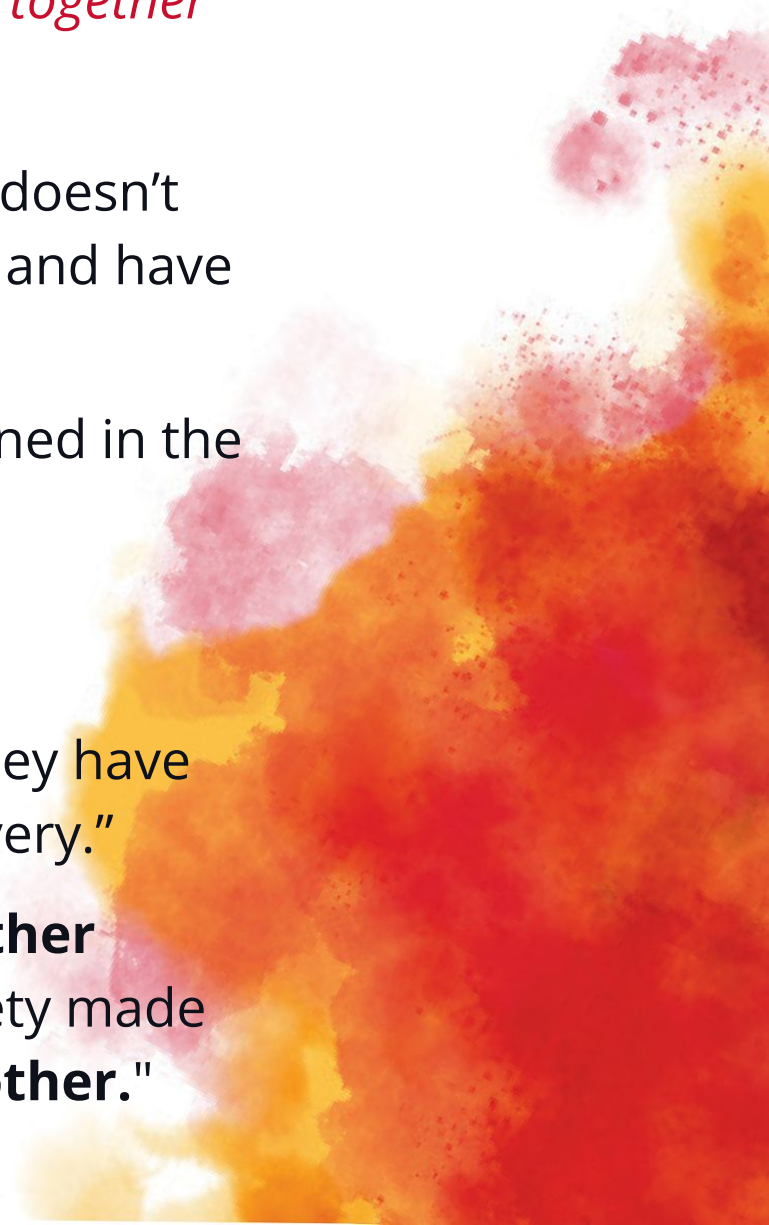




Responses & Participant Quotes

Why do you think Latinos and African Americans do not come together more around their shared needs.?

- “White-mediation has affected the relationship because it doesn’t allow us to be able to **come together**, they force a **divide** and have **successfully** done so.”
- “We have a **similar** history culturally with what has happened in the world, which allows us to be able to have similar unique experiences of **discrimination** and **oppression**, so I don’t understand why we don’t come together.”
- “Yes, there is something called **willie lynch syndrome**. They have **pinned us against each other** since the beginning of slavery.”
- “I think African Americans and Latinos **do not come together** around shared needs because the United States and society made us believe that each race and ethnicity is **against one another**.”





Responses & Participant Quotes

Do you feel represented in a positive way at Iowa State?

- “I **don’t feel represented** at all at Iowa State, I believe Iowa State is more showing of black students for **outside** views rather than focusing on black students at the school.”
 - “I felt like there was not enough positive representation for Afro-Latinos at ISU, whether it was staff or students.”
 - “I had heard and noticed incidents being ignored and swept under the rug, so I didn’t feel welcomed on campus.”
 - “No, I **do not feel represented at Iowa State**. Don’t get me wrong, it is **progressive** here, but **not as much** as it should be.”
- 

Conclusions



- While conducting these interviews there are similarities and differences. Most interviewees seemed to have a struggle with their identity in some sense.
- There also seems to be this joint collective thought that African Americans and Latino/a Americans do not come together and should due to their shared discrimination and oppression.
- There is also a collective understanding that even though Iowa State is progressive, there seems to be a lack of representation.

Q&A

What questions do you have?

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Gabriela Aponte, ga4@iastate.edu





Feedback



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