



# FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

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***America in 2020 was America unmasked!***

The coronavirus disease epidemic that upended every aspect of American life exposed the naked face of institutional and interpersonal racism.

Outlined in the 2020 State of Black America®, Unmasked, the National Urban League in partnership with John Hopkins Center for Health Equity exposes the human toll and economic devastation of the global pandemic on Black America.

Findings in the report paint a chilling tale of a nation divided along racial fault lines that first erupted upon the arrival of enslaved Africans in 1619. Specifically recounting the birth of a nation whose institutions and laws were built on top of racist ideologies that continue to oppress, terrorize, and disenfranchise the descendants of the enslaved today.

More importantly, reveals the common denominator in the alarming and disproportionate ratio of Black people left gasping for air in emergency rooms and at the hands (and knees) of law enforcement: centuries of systemic racism.

When America caught the coronavirus, Black America caught hell; as states began to collect race-based data, a bleak picture emerged displaying the number of Black, Latino, and Indigenous people getting sick and dying in higher numbers.

Source:

The National Urban League. (2020). The State of Black America Unmasked. *The National Urban League*. <https://soba.iamempowered.com/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=0d1a7b47-d32e-45dc-8cb6-a9db12e91911>

African Americans are reportedly three times as likely to contract the coronavirus and nearly twice as likely to die from COVID-19 as whites. Given this, the report also examines the racial underpinning of the pandemic, uncovering the indisputable link between our nation’s legacy of systemic racism and higher rates of Black deaths to COVID-19.

Authors tackle the reach of the outbreak into how we live, work and vote; specifically, delving into the erasure of Black wealth and job gains in the wake of the historic economic collapse and record-setting unemployment.

They also analyze our interconnectedness, reminding us that prisoner health is indeed public health; in addition, the fate of HBCUs come fall is debated, along with the increased risk for disinformation and voter suppression in our November 2020 election.

The pandemic has forced Americans to grapple with the enduring consequences of slavery and the prevalence of systemic racism in our society. Our public and private institutions and political systems have all been infected by this insidious disease—and must be remedied.

Even at record lows, in recent years the Black unemployment rate consistently remained twice as high as the rate for whites. The Great Recession wiped out 50 years of rising Black homeownership, with the rate now as low as it was before the Fair Housing Act.

The net worth of a typical Black family is about one-tenth that of a white family. Black household incomes still have not returned to pre-recession levels. Economic policies that don’t specifically address racial disparity do not reduce racial disparities.

ACF stands untied with the National Urban League and all people committed to the monumental task of reckoning with our nation’s racist past—and present.

We stand resolute and ready to leverage our influence and resources to break the pattern of papering over injustice with hollow reforms and symbolic gestures.

# 2020 EQUITY INDEX REPORT

## KEY / WEIGHTED INDEX CATEGORIES

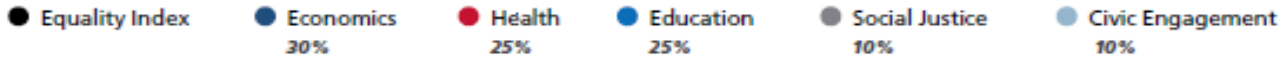


FIGURE 1A. BLACK-WHITE EQUALITY INDEX BY CATEGORY

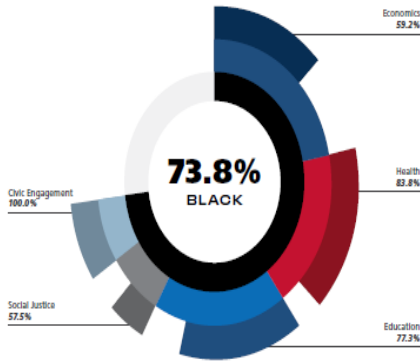


FIGURE 2A. BLACK-WHITE EQUALITY INDEX COMPARISON 2006 VS 2020

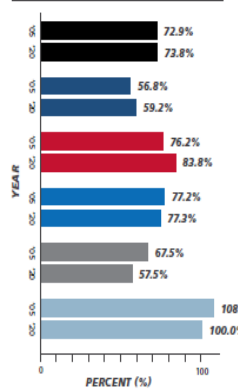


FIGURE 1B. HISPANIC-WHITE EQUALITY INDEX BY CATEGORY

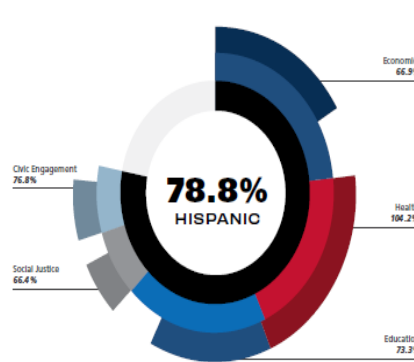
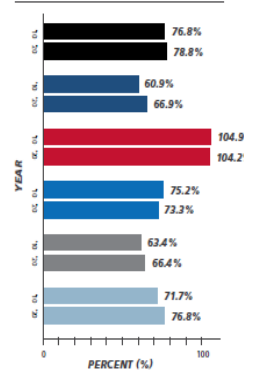


FIGURE 2B. HISPANIC-WHITE EQUALITY INDEX COMPARISON 2010 VS 2020



While the 2020 Equality Index does not capture the effects of the coronavirus pandemic or the resulting economic recession that began in February 2020, it does reflect longstanding racial and ethnic disparities across nearly every area of American life than what have been “unmasked” during these concurrent crises

It also demonstrates that the progress made during more than 10 years of economic expansion was not sufficient to significantly close gaps in economic outcomes or in the area of social justice. In many ways, the persistent racial and ethnic disparities documented in the Equality Index are predictive of what we now see.

Unless significant changes are made to dismantle anti-Black racism in our society, it will continue to shape disparate social and economic outcomes for Black Americans and other people of color.

The 2020 Equality Index of Black America stands at 73.8%, an improvement of 1.6 percentage points from the revised 2018 index of 72.2%.

Source:

The National Urban League. (2020). The State of Black America Unmasked. *The National Urban League*. <https://soba.iamempowered.com/?eType=EmailBlastContent&cId=0d1a7b47-d32e-45dc-8cb6-a9db12e91911>

Revisions to the previous year’s index are done for greater comparability across years and reflect data points that have been corrected, removed from the current year’s index, or re-weighted so that less emphasis is placed on older data.

Ironically, the two categories that contributed most to the overall improvement in the Equality Index between 2018 and 2020 were health (from 79.3% to 83.8%) and social justice (from 55.9% to 57.5%), indicating greater equality.

There were also modest improvements in the economic (from 58.2% to 59.2%) and civic engagement (from 99.7% to 100%) indexes.

It is important to note, however, that these improvements reflect data that predates the coronavirus pandemic, recession and social justice uprisings that hit the country during the first half of 2020.

Further, economics and social justice remain the areas where we observe the least equality between Blacks and whites. Education equality was essentially unchanged (from 77.4% to 77.3%).

*Honoring the Past*  
*Celebrating the Present*  
*Inspiring the Future*

# Black History 2021

**“We have come too far to be discouraged, lose hope or to stop believing in the dream”**

**- Coretta Scott King**

**Quote of the Month**

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

Barack Obama

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

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