

# Systemic Racism in the United States Criminal Justice System

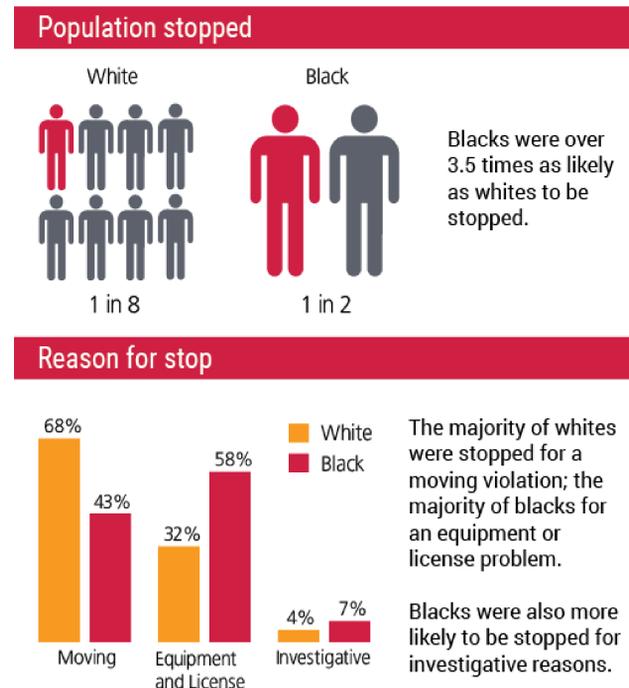
By Sara Corbett

## What is racial profiling?

- Racial profiling is the practice of targeting or stopping an individual based primarily on his or her race rather than any individualized suspicion. (Warren and Farrell, 2009)
- A law enforcement practice of using race, ethnicity, national origin, or religious appearance as one factor, among others, when police decide which people are suspicious enough to warrant police stops, questioning, frisks, searches, and other routine police practice. (Harris, 2000)

## Jury Duty

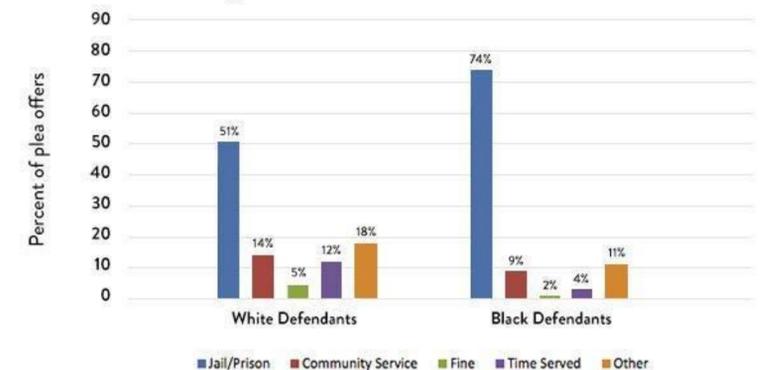
- If you are a convicted felon, you are unable to serve in a jury.
- This is a vicious cycle because more people of color are convicted felons, so there is a higher chance that there is going to be more whites on a jury, and there is an issue of implicit bias when it comes to convicting someone of a crime when they are a different race than you.



## What is systemic racism?

- Systemic racism is a form of racism that is embedded in the laws and regulations of a society or an organization.

## Plea Offer Types for Felonies

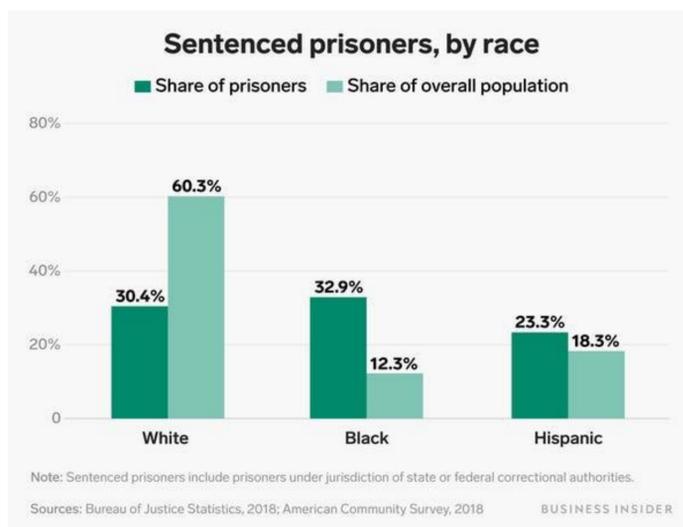


## Plea Bargaining

- Plea bargaining is also used to put more people in prison, because they would be guaranteed a shorter sentence, and some people may not want to take that chance of going to a courtroom where they can be found guilty on charges even when they may be innocent.
- Innocent people may take plea bargains because they would rather have a permanent record and a shorter sentence instead of taking the chance of going to jail for a longer period of time.
- One reason for this is because once someone takes a plea bargain and has a permanent record of being a felon, especially if they are black, they have a harder time finding a job, getting housing, and they may become stuck in the cycle of going to prison, and getting out of prison only to go back into it.
- This relates to the Jim Crow Laws because black men had to pass literacy tests in order to vote, and many times they were rigged so that they were unable to pass them, resulting in them not being able to vote.

## How can systemic racism be stopped?

- Revise policies and laws with disparate racial impact
- Address implicit racial bias among criminal justice professionals
- Reallocate resources to create a fair playing field
- Revise policies that exacerbate socioeconomic inequalities and redirect public spending towards crime prevention and drug treatment



## Voting

- When you are a convicted felon, you are unable to vote.
- This is also a vicious cycle because more people of color are convicted felons than whites, and so they are not able to vote for who they want in office.

