

Racism in America: A 2024 Perspective

Racism continues to be a significant issue in the United States in 2024. Despite progress in some areas, racial disparities persist in various aspects of American life, including education, healthcare, economic opportunity, and the justice system. This report provides an in-depth look at racism in America in 2024, drawing on data and insights from various sources.

Methodology

To gather information for this report, a comprehensive research process was undertaken involving the following steps:

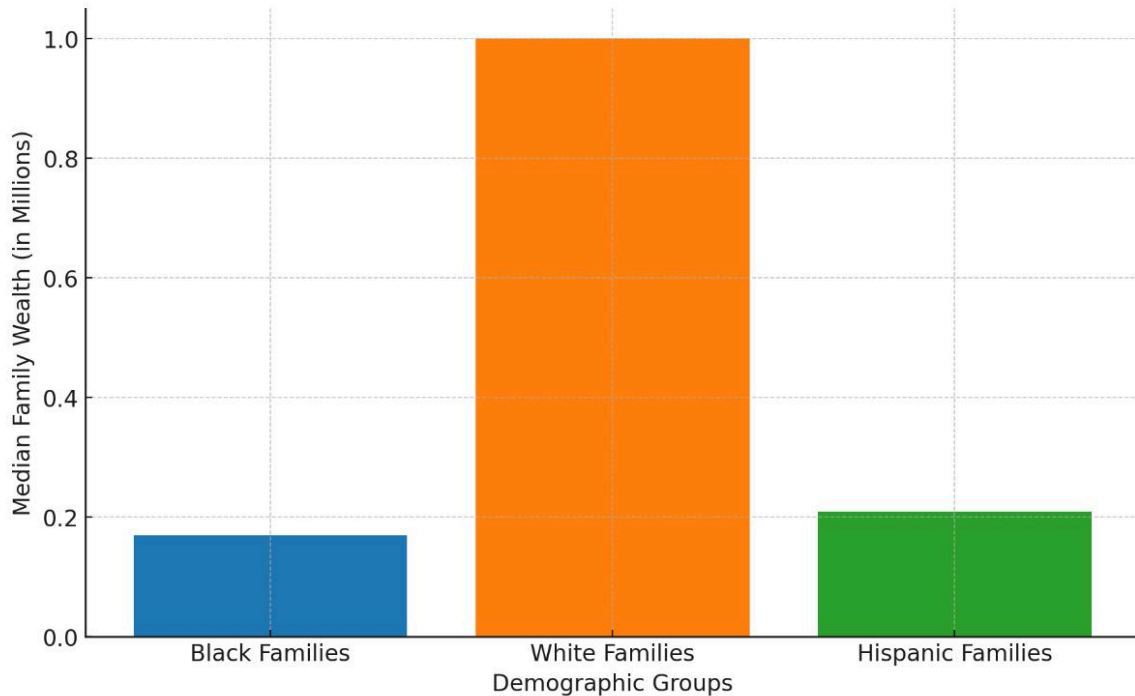
1. **Examination of Reports and Studies:** Reputable sources like the Pew Research Center, the American Council on Education (ACE), and the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) were consulted to find reports and studies on racism in America in 2024.
2. **Analysis of News Articles and Opinion Pieces:** News articles and opinion pieces from various media outlets, including Al Jazeera, BBC News, and the NAACP, were analyzed to understand different perspectives and current events related to racism.
3. **Review of Hate Crime Statistics:** Data on hate crimes and discrimination incidents were collected from the FBI and the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia (MPDC).
4. **Exploration of Impact on Communities:** Information on the impact of racism on different communities in America was gathered from sources like Salud America, Human Rights Watch (HRW), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
5. **Assessment of Progress and Challenges:** Information on the progress made in addressing racism and the remaining challenges was gathered from sources like the National Urban League, the American Psychological Association (APA), and the White House.
6. **Consideration of Diverse Perspectives:** Different perspectives and opinions on racism in America were explored through the Pew Research Center, the Associated Press, and Gallup polls.

This multi-faceted approach ensured a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the complex issue of racism in America in 2024.

Reports and Studies on Racism in America in 2024

Several reports and studies shed light on racism in America in 2024, often highlighting a complex interplay of progress and persistent challenges. The American Council on Education (ACE) released its "Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education: 2024 Status Report," which shows increased diversity in undergraduate programs. However, significant disparities remain in attainment levels among underrepresented groups by race and ethnicity. This suggests that while access to higher education may improve, systemic barriers hinder equal opportunities for academic success ¹.

Racial Wealth Gap in the U.S. (2023)



Data Source: Pew Research Center (2023)

This finding aligns with the concerns raised in a report by Human Rights Watch (HRW), which points to the persistence of racism and the widening racial wealth gap as pressing human rights concerns in the United States. The report emphasizes the overrepresentation of Black people in prisons and jails, indicating that racial bias continues to permeate the criminal justice system ².

The link between educational disparities and economic inequality is further underscored by the HRW report's observation that Black families have significantly less wealth compared to white families. This disparity has persisted for decades. This suggests that systemic racism creates a cycle of disadvantage that limits opportunities for economic mobility and reinforces racial inequality ².

The Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) conducted a comprehensive survey on racism, discrimination, and health in 2024. Their findings highlight the impact of racism on various aspects of health, including mental health, access to healthcare, and experiences of discrimination in healthcare settings ³.

This underscores the pervasive nature of racism and its detrimental effects on the well-being of individuals and communities.

The Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report on Business and Racial Justice (2024) reveals a

climate of distrust and division fueled by concerns about racism and the perceived failure of institutions to address systemic injustice ⁴. This points to a broader societal challenge where institutions are not meeting the expectations of the public in addressing racial inequality, leading to erosion of trust and increased social fragmentation.

On a more positive note, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Racial Equity Progress Report (2024) highlights the Biden administration's efforts to foster an inclusive economy and address racial disparities in investment and opportunities ⁵.

This suggests a growing recognition at the governmental level of the need for proactive measures to dismantle systemic racism and promote racial equity.

News Articles and Opinion Pieces

News articles and opinion pieces in 2024 provide diverse perspectives on the state of racism in America, reflecting both the ongoing struggles and the efforts toward progress. An Al Jazeera opinion piece argues that America's promises of racial justice remain unfulfilled, citing a Pew Research survey where three out of four African Americans reported experiencing discrimination regularly.

This highlights the lived experiences of Black Americans and the persistent reality of discrimination in their daily lives ⁶. The article further emphasizes the need for systemic change to address the root causes of racial inequality and ensure true equality for all.

Adding to this narrative, the NAACP condemned racist text messages sent to Black Americans across the country, emphasizing the need to combat hate speech and discrimination. This incident serves as a stark reminder of the persistence of overt racism and the importance of actively challenging and condemning such acts ⁷.

Pew Research Center published articles on racial discrimination and its impact on Black Americans' views on their progress and U.S. institutions ⁸. These articles delve into the complexities of racial attitudes and how historical and ongoing discrimination shapes the perceptions and experiences of Black Americans.

The BBC News has a dedicated section on racism in the U.S., featuring articles on various race-related incidents and issues.

One article, for instance, tells the story of Khizra Bano, who is taking a police force to a tribunal, claiming there is racism on a "huge scale." This case exemplifies the challenges faced by individuals in confronting racism within institutions and seeking justice against discrimination ⁹.

Another article discusses the apology demanded for a Black boxer who was denied a title shot in the past because both his parents were not white, highlighting the historical legacy of racism in sports and the ongoing fight for equality ⁹.

HRW published a news article on the Supreme Court's decision to allow racial discrimination in electoral maps, highlighting the ongoing challenges to voting rights. This decision raises concerns about the potential for voter suppression and the erosion of democratic principles through racially biased practices ¹⁰.

Hate Crimes and Discrimination Incidents

Data on hate crimes and discrimination incidents provide a stark picture of racism in America, quantifying the extent of prejudice and violence motivated by racial bias. The FBI released hate crime data for 2023, reporting 11,862 hate crime incidents involving 13,829 offenses ¹¹.

This data reveals a concerning trend of increasing hate crimes in recent years, underscoring the urgent need for effective measures to prevent and address such incidents.

The following table, based on FBI data, shows the breakdown of hate crime motivations:

| Motivation | Percentage of Hate Crime Incidents |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry | 52.5% |
| Religion | 22.5% |
| Sexual Orientation | 18.4% |
| Gender Identity | 4.1% |
| Disability | 1.6% |
| Gender | 0.9% |

This table clearly shows that race/ethnicity/ancestry remains the most common motivation for hate crimes in the United States ¹¹.

Statista published a chart showing the timeline of hate crime incidents reported to the FBI, indicating a two percent increase in 2023 compared to 2022 ¹². This continued upward trend in hate crimes is alarming and suggests that existing efforts to combat hate and prejudice are not sufficiently effective.

Data from the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia (MPDC) provides a more detailed look at hate crime trends across different bias categories. The data, spanning from 2011 to 2024, shows fluctuations in the number of hate crimes motivated by ethnicity/national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, and other categories ¹³.

Notably, hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation have consistently been among the highest

reported categories, while those motivated by religion have shown significant variation over the years. This data highlights the diverse manifestations of hate and the need for targeted interventions to address specific forms of bias and discrimination.

The Leadership Conference Education Fund published a report titled "Cause for Concern 2024: The State of Hate," which highlights an alarming rise in hate crimes since 2014, particularly during presidential election period ¹⁴. This suggests a correlation between political discourse and hate crimes, with heightened social and political tensions potentially contributing to an increase in bias-motivated violence.

The report also notes that 2022 had the highest number of reported hate crimes since the FBI began publishing the data in 1991 ¹⁵. This underscores the severity of the issue and the need for comprehensive strategies to address the root causes of hate and promote tolerance and understanding.

Impact of Racism on Different Communities

Racism has a profound and multifaceted impact on the health and well-being of different communities in America, manifesting in various forms of disparity and disadvantage. Salud America highlights the public health crisis caused by racism, emphasizing its impact on access to healthcare, education, housing, and nutritious food ¹⁶.

This perspective recognizes racism as a fundamental cause of health inequities, hindering access to essential resources and opportunities for individuals and communities of color.

The detrimental effects of racism on health are further emphasized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which recognizes racism as a root cause of racial and ethnic health inequities ¹⁷. The CDC points to the historical and ongoing impact of racism on social determinants of health, such as access to quality healthcare, safe housing, and economic stability, which contribute to disparities in health outcomes.

The HRW report provides specific examples of these health disparities, pointing to the racial inequality in overdose deaths, with Black Americans experiencing higher rates due to bias in policies and access to treatment ². This highlights how racism can manifest in healthcare systems and policies, leading to unequal access to care and ultimately contributing to worse health outcomes for minority groups.

The White House Council of Economic Advisers published an issue brief on racial discrimination, highlighting its economic impact and the persistence of both explicit and implicit biases ¹⁸.

The brief emphasizes that discrimination harms individuals and hinders economic growth by preventing a significant portion of the population from reaching their full potential. This economic perspective underscores the importance of addressing racism not only as a moral imperative but also as a crucial factor in promoting economic prosperity for all Americans.

A KFF report found that a third of the public view racism as a major problem in healthcare, with Black adults more likely to perceive racism in healthcare settings ¹⁹. This finding suggests that experiences of racism in healthcare are a significant concern, particularly for Black Americans, and that addressing these experiences is crucial to building trust and ensuring equitable

healthcare for all.

Progress in Addressing Racism

Despite the persistent challenges, there have been notable efforts and some progress in addressing racism in America in 2024. The National Urban League's 2024 Equality Index shows a slight increase in African Americans' social and economic status relative to whites²⁰. While the increase is modest, it indicates a positive trend towards greater equality, though much work remains to achieve parity.

The American Psychological Association (APA) released its Racial Equity Action Plan Progress Report (2024), highlighting its efforts to increase the representation of historically marginalized groups in its leadership and membership²¹. This demonstrates a commitment within professional organizations to address racial disparities and promote diversity and inclusion.

The White House published updated Equity Action Plans for federal agencies at the governmental level, outlining over 100 new commitments and strategies to advance racial equity and support underserved communities²². This signifies a proactive approach to embedding racial equity in government policies and programs.

The Treasury Department's Racial Equity Progress Report (2024) highlights its efforts to address disparities in investment and opportunities for communities of color⁵. This focus on economic empowerment and addressing systemic barriers to financial inclusion is crucial for closing the racial wealth gap and promoting economic justice.

Challenges that Remain

While progress is being made, significant challenges remain in addressing racism in America. The HRW report highlights the persistence of racism, economic inequality, and the overrepresentation of Black people in the criminal justice system². This underscores the deep-rooted nature of systemic racism and the need for sustained efforts to dismantle these systems of oppression.

The NAACP identifies environmental racism as a significant concern, with a disproportionate number of Black Americans living near coal-fired power plants and toxic waste sites. They also point to the considerable racial wealth gap and disparities in mortgage denials²³. This highlights the intersectional nature of racism, where environmental injustice and economic inequality converge to create compounded disadvantages for communities of color.

A Brookings Institution article discusses the role of race in the 2024 presidential election, highlighting the spread of misinformation regarding immigrants and the scapegoating of minorities during challenging economic times²⁴. This points to the political dimensions of racism and how racial bias can be exploited for political gain, further fueling division and prejudice.

The Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report emphasizes the gap between expectations and perceived performance in addressing racism, particularly for government and media²⁵. This suggests a need for greater accountability and transparency from institutions in their efforts to address racial inequality and build trust with communities of color.

The White House Council of Economic Advisers acknowledges the persistence of discrimination

and the need for continued efforts to achieve racial equity ¹⁸. This recognition of the ongoing nature of the challenge emphasizes that addressing racism is a long-term commitment that requires sustained action and vigilance.

Different Perspectives and Opinions

Public opinion on racism in America is diverse and often reflects the deep divisions within society. A Pew Research Center study found significant differences in views on racial issues between supporters of Joe Biden and Donald Trump in the 2024 election ²⁶. For example, a majority of Biden supporters believe that white people benefit from societal advantages that Black people do not have. In contrast, a much smaller percentage of Trump supporters share this view. This disparity in perspectives highlights how political affiliation can influence attitudes toward race and racism, contributing to political polarization and hindering constructive dialogue on racial issues.

An Associated Press poll revealed that Americans of different racial backgrounds largely agree on the importance of economic and foreign policy issues. Still, their views diverge on topics like racism and immigration ²⁷. This suggests that while there may be common ground on specific policy areas, fundamental differences in understanding and acknowledging the reality of racism persist across racial groups.

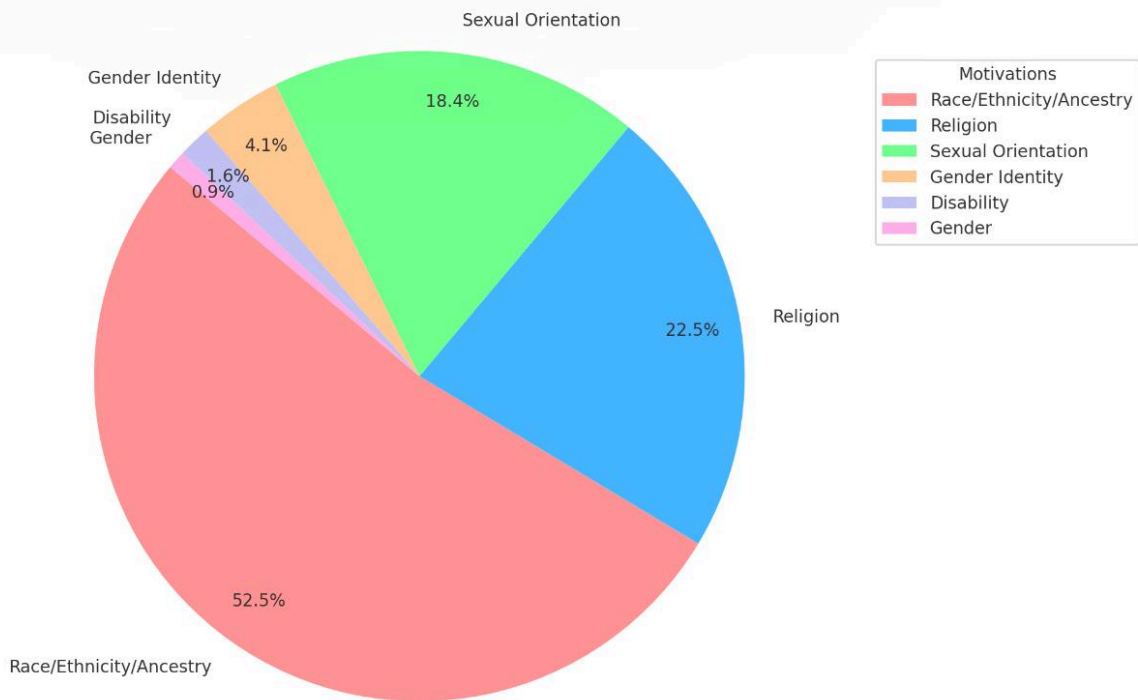
Gallup polls on race relations show varying perceptions of race relations among different racial groups ²⁸. These polls consistently show that Black Americans are more likely to perceive race relations as bad compared to white Americans. This difference in perception underscores the lived experiences of racial inequality and the need to center the voices and perspectives of those most affected by racism.

Visualizing Hate Crime Trends

To better understand the trends in hate crimes, let's examine some visual representations of the data.

Hate Crime Motivations (FBI Data 2023)

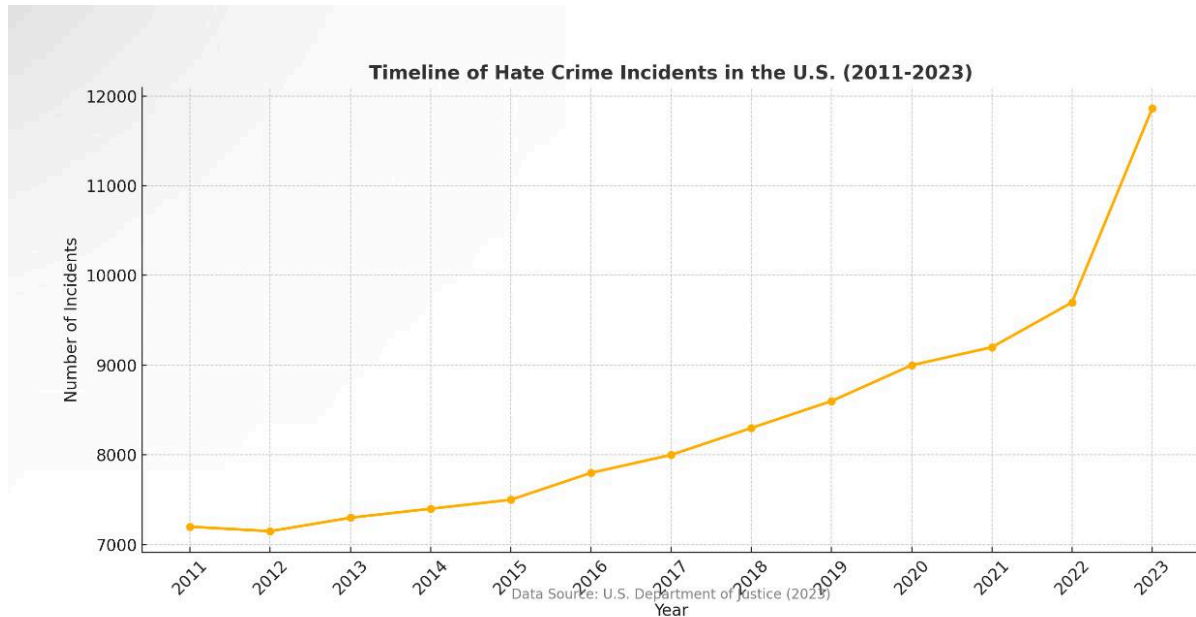
Motivations for Hate Crimes in the U.S. (2023)



Data Source: U.S. Department of Justice (2023)

This pie chart clearly illustrates that race/ethnicity/ancestry remains the most prevalent motivation for hate crimes in the United States, accounting for over half of all reported incidents.

Timeline of Hate Crime Incidents (FBI Data)



This line graph reveals a concerning upward trend in hate crime incidents over the years, highlighting the need for continued efforts to combat hate and prejudice.

Conclusion

Racism remains a profoundly ingrained issue in American society in 2024 ². While progress has been made in some areas, significant disparities and challenges persist. Addressing this complex issue requires a multi-faceted approach beyond simply acknowledging the problem. It necessitates a commitment to dismantling systemic racism through policy changes, institutional reforms, and a fundamental shift in societal attitudes.

Historical factors, such as the legacy of slavery and segregation, continue to shape the present, contributing to ongoing racial disparities in wealth, education, healthcare, and the justice system. Systemic issues, such as implicit bias and discriminatory practices within institutions, perpetuate these inequalities and create barriers to equal opportunities. Individual biases and prejudices, often fueled by misinformation and stereotypes, further contribute to the problem.

Effectively combating racism requires a comprehensive strategy that addresses these interconnected factors. This includes promoting racial equity in all sectors of society, from education and healthcare to housing and employment. It also involves investing in communities of color, addressing historical injustices, and fostering dialogue and understanding across racial divides.

Furthermore, it is crucial to hold individuals and institutions accountable for racist actions and policies. This requires strengthening anti-discrimination laws, promoting diversity and inclusion in leadership positions, and creating mechanisms for redress and reconciliation.

Ultimately, addressing racism is not just about achieving equality; it is about creating a society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their race. This requires a collective

commitment to justice, fairness, and a shared vision of a future where racism is relegated to the past.

References

1. ACE Releases 2024 Update to Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education Project, accessed December 17, 2024, <https://www.acenet.edu/News-Room/Pages/ACE-Releases-2024-Update-to-REHE.aspx>
2. World Report 2024: United States | Human Rights Watch, accessed December 17, 2024, <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/united-states>
3. Survey on Racism, Discrimination and Health - KFF, accessed December 17, 2024, <https://www.kff.org/racism-survey/>
4. 2024 Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report: Business and Racial Justice, accessed December 17, 2024, <https://www.edelman.com/sites/g/files/aatuss191/files/2024-07/2024%20Edelman%20Trust%20Barometer%20Special%20Report%20Business%20and%20Racial%20Justice.pdf>
5. 2024 Racial Equity Progress Report - U.S. Department of the Treasury, accessed December 17, 2024, <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/306/24-Racial-Equity-Progress-Report-FINAL-update-508.pdf>
6. America's promises of racial justice remain unfulfilled and untrustworthy - Al Jazeera, accessed December 17, 2024, <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2024/8/9/americas-promises-of-racial-justice-remain-unfulfilled-and-untrustworthy>
7. NAACP President Condemns Racist Text Messages Sent to Black Americans Across the Country, accessed December 17, 2024, <https://naacp.org/articles/naacp-president-condemns-racist-text-messages-sent-black-americans-across-country>
8. 1. Racial discrimination shapes how Black Americans view their progress and U.S. institutions, accessed December 17, 2024, <https://www.pewresearch.org/race-and-ethnicity/2024/06/15/racial-discrimination-shapes-how-black-americans-view-their-progress-and-u-s-institutions-2/>
9. Racism - BBC News, accessed December 17, 2024, <https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/cmj34zmxw21t>
10. US Supreme Court Allows Racial Discrimination in Electoral Maps - Human Rights Watch, accessed December 17, 2024, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/05/24/us-supreme-court-allows-racial-discrimination-electoral-maps>
11. Hate Crimes | Facts and Statistics - Department of Justice, accessed December 17, 2024, <https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/hate-crime-statistics>
12. Chart: FBI Sees Upward Trend in Reported Hate Crimes | Statista, accessed December 17, 2024, <https://www.statista.com/chart/33302/timeline-of-hate-crime-incidents-reported-to-the-fbi/>
13. Bias-Related Crimes (Hate Crimes) Data | mpdc - DC.gov, accessed December 17, 2024, <https://mpdc.dc.gov/hatecrimes>
14. Cause for Concern 2024: The State of Hate (Updated May 2024) - The Leadership Conference Education Fund, accessed December 17, 2024, <https://civilrights.org/edfund/resource/2024-the-state-of-hate-updated/>
15. Cause for Concern 2024: The State of Hate - The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, accessed December 17, 2024,

<https://civilrights.org/edfund/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2024/05/CauseforConcernStateofHate-2024.pdf>

16. New Year, Same Concerns: Why Racism is Still a Public Health Crisis in 2024, accessed December 17, 2024,

<https://salud-america.org/new-year-same-concerns-why-racism-is-still-a-public-health-crisis-in-2023/>

17. Impact of Racism on our Nation's Health | Minority Health - CDC, accessed December 17, 2024, <https://www.cdc.gov/minority-health/racism-health/index-1.html>

18. Racial Discrimination in Contemporary America | CEA | The White House, accessed December 17, 2024,

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/cea/written-materials/2024/07/03/racial-discrimination-in-contemporary-america/>

19. A Third of the Public View Racism as a Major Problem in Health Care; Larger Shares See Racism as a Major Problem in Politics, Criminal Justice, and Other Areas | KFF, accessed December 17, 2024,

<https://www.kff.org/health-misinformation-and-trust/press-release/a-third-of-the-public-view-racism-as-a-major-problem-in-health-care-larger-shares-see-racism-as-a-major-problem-in-politics-criminal-justice-and-other-areas/>

20. 2024 State of Black America - "The Civil Rights Act of 1964: 60 Years Later" Examines Impact of Landmark Legislation, accessed December 17, 2024,

<https://nul.org/news/2024-state-black-america-civil-rights-act-1964-60-years-later-examines-impact-landmark>

21. Racial equity action plan progress and impact report - American Psychological Association, accessed December 17, 2024,

<https://www.apa.org/about/apa/addressing-racism/racial-equity-action-plan-progress-2024>

22. Advancing Equity and Racial Justice Through the Federal Government | The White House, accessed December 17, 2024, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/equity/>

23. Know the Issues - NAACP, accessed December 17, 2024, <https://naacp.org/know-issues>

24. Race is a key factor in the 2024 presidential election - Brookings Institution, accessed December 17, 2024,

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/race-is-a-key-factor-in-the-2024-presidential-election/>

25. 2024 Edelman Trust Barometer - Special Report: Business and Racial Justice, accessed December 17, 2024,

<https://www.edelman.com/trust/2024/trust-barometer/special-report-business-racial-justice>

26. 1. Racial attitudes and the 2024 election - Pew Research Center, accessed December 17, 2024, <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2024/06/06/racial-attitudes-and-the-2024-election/>

27. US adults across racial groups agree the economy is a top priority, AP-NORC and AAPI Data polls show, accessed December 17, 2024,

<https://apnews.com/article/poll-race-ethnicity-economy-immigration-foreign-policy-dbf7ec76f8b1caa2ba44a3078ca2e6fe>

28. Race Relations | Gallup Historical Trends, accessed December 17, 2024,

<https://news.gallup.com/poll/1687/race-relations.aspx>