

Systemic Racism in the Aloha State

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A. Racism

- ▶ 1. Belief, perception or attitude that races are inferior (or superior) to one another
2. Historically, belief was racial minorities were innately inferior in terms of intelligence, personality, morality, and other socially significant attributes
3. Besides inferiority, racism also emphasizes
 - Denial of national belonging
 - Denial of common humanity
4. Colorblindness (colorblind racism) denies the significance of race in society and argues America already is or should be a colorblind society in which race has no formal role

B. Discrimination

1. Unfair or unequal treatment that denies an individual or group same rights, benefits, and opportunities enjoyed by others
2. Institutional discrimination occurs through policies, practices, and laws that result in unfair/unequal treatment in government, law, economy and education
3. May be legal, unintentional, and covert
4. Since 1970s, discrimination has been redefined as the denial of individual (not only group) rights, e.g., anti-affirmative movement

C. Institutional Racism

1. Stokely Carmichael and Charles Hamilton, *Black Power* (1967)
2. Individual racism consists of overt acts by individual Whites against individual Blacks
3. Example of long-term practice of underfunding of medical facilities and schools serving Black children in Birmingham, Alabama

D. Structural Racism

1. Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, "Rethinking Racism: Toward a Structural Interpretation" (1997)
2. Racism is "fundamentally about racial domination" among groups in a racialized society in which differential economic, political and social rewards are allocated along racial lines

D. Systemic Racism

1. Joe Feagin, "Toward an Integrated Theory of Systemic Racism" (2004)
2. Refers to "foundational and large-scale hierarchical system of racial oppression maintained by Whites"
3. As system, includes:
 - a. Discriminatory practices of Whites (also policies and laws)
 - b. Resources and power for Whites institutionalized in the racial hierarchy
 - c. Maintenance of material and other inequalities by White-controlled social reproduction mechanisms (economy & education)
 - d. Racial stereotypes, representations, and narratives of "White racial frame"

E. Social Determinants of Health Disparities: Socioeconomic Status (SES) Inequalities

1. Systemic racism results in a highly unequal Hawai'i based on SES (occupational status, income level, and educational attainment)
2. Whites, Chinese Americans, and Japanese Americans share dominant SES; socioeconomic power shared among groups that marry and live with each other
3. Filipino Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Samoans hold subordinate SES; Korean Americans and African Americans have intermediate status
4. Groups have maintained their relative SES since 1970s and likely to continue because of overdependence on tourism as largest source of jobs and state tax revenues

Mahalo for Attending

Questions Please