



The Opinion Pages | OP-ED COLUMNIST

# Is Everyone a Little Bit Racist?

AUG. 27, 2014

**Nicholas Kristof**

Let's start with what we don't know: the precise circumstances under which a white police officer in Ferguson, Mo., shot dead an unarmed black teenager named Michael Brown.

But here's what evidence does strongly suggest: Young black men in America suffer from widespread racism and stereotyping, by all society — including African-Americans themselves.

Research in the last couple of decades suggests that the problem is not so much overt racists. Rather, the larger problem is a broad swath of people who consider themselves enlightened, who intellectually believe in racial equality, who deplore discrimination, yet who harbor unconscious attitudes that result in discriminatory policies and behavior.

Scholars have found that blacks and Hispanics treated by doctors for a broken leg received pain medication significantly less often than white patients with the same injury. School administrators suspend black students at more than three times the rate of white students. Police arrest blacks at 3.7 times the rate of whites for marijuana possession, even though surveys find that both use marijuana at roughly similar rates.

Two scholars sent out nearly 5,000 résumés in response to help-wanted ads, randomly alternating between stereotypically white-sounding names and black-sounding names. They found that it took 50 percent more mailings to get a callback for a black name. A white name yielded as much benefit as eight years of experience, according to the study, published by the National Bureau of Economic

Research.

These doctors, principals, prosecutors and recruiters probably believe in equality and are unaware that they are discriminating. So any national conversation about race must be a vivisection of challenges far broader and deeper than we might like to think.

Joshua Correll of the University of Colorado at Boulder has used an online shooter video game to try to measure these unconscious attitudes (you can play the game yourself). The player takes on the role of a police officer who is confronted with a series of images of white or black men variously holding guns or innocent objects such as wallets or cellphones. The aim is to shoot anyone with a gun while holstering your weapon in other cases.

Ordinary players (often university undergraduates) routinely shoot more quickly at black men than at white men, and are more likely to mistakenly shoot an unarmed black man than an unarmed white man.

I'm typical. The first time I took the test, years ago, I shot armed blacks in an average of 0.679 seconds while waiting slightly longer — 0.694 seconds — to shoot armed whites. I also holstered more quickly when confronted with unarmed whites than with unarmed blacks.

In effect, we have a more impulsive trigger finger when confronted by black men and are more cautious with whites. This is true of black players as well, apparently because they absorb the same cultural values as everyone else: Correll has found no statistically significant difference between the play of blacks and that of whites in the shooting game.

“There’s a whole culture that promotes this idea of aggressive young black men,” Correll notes. “In our minds, young black men are associated with danger.”

Further evidence for these unconscious attitudes toward race come from implicit association tests, a window into how our unconscious minds work. You can take them online at <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/>.

One finding is that we unconsciously associate “American” with “white.” Thus, in 2008, some California college students — many who were supporting Barack Obama for president — unconsciously treated Obama as more foreign than Tony Blair, the former British prime minister. Likewise, Americans may be factually

aware that Lucy Liu is an American actress and Kate Winslet is British, but the tests indicated that Americans considered Liu as more foreign than Winslet.

Yet we needn't surrender to our most atavistic impulses. Prejudice is not immutable, and over all the progress in America on race is remarkable. In 1958, 4 percent of Americans approved of black-white marriages; today, 87 percent do.

There's some evidence that training, metrics and policies can suppress biases or curb their impact. In law enforcement, more cameras — police car cams and body cams — create accountability and may improve behavior. When Rialto, Calif., introduced body cams on police officers, there was an 88 percent decline in complaints filed about police by members of the public.

Yet an uncomfortable starting point is to understand that racial stereotyping remains ubiquitous, and that the challenge is not a small number of twisted white supremacists but something infinitely more subtle and complex: People who believe in equality but who act in ways that perpetuate bias and inequality. I invite you to visit my blog, **On the Ground**. Please also join me on **Facebook** and **Google+**, watch my **YouTube** videos and follow me on **Twitter**.

A version of this op-ed appears in print on August 28, 2014, on page A25 of the New York edition with the headline: Is Everyone a Little Bit Racist?.

**SundayReview** | OP-ED COLUMNIST

# When Whites Just Don't Get It

After Ferguson, Race Deserves More Attention, Not Less

AUG. 30, 2014

**Nicholas Kristof**

MANY white Americans say they are fed up with the coverage of the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. A plurality of whites in a recent Pew survey said that the issue of race is getting more attention than it deserves.

Bill O'Reilly of Fox News reflected that weariness, saying: "All you hear is grievance, grievance, grievance, money, money, money."

Indeed, a 2011 study by scholars at Harvard and Tufts found that whites, on average, believed that anti-white racism was a bigger problem than anti-black racism.

Yes, you read that right!

So let me push back at what I see as smug white delusion. Here are a few reasons race relations deserve more attention, not less:

- The net worth of the average black household in the United States is \$6,314, compared with \$110,500 for the average white household, according to 2011 census data. The gap has worsened in the last decade, and the United States now has a greater wealth gap by race **than South Africa did during apartheid**. (Whites in America on average own almost 18 times as much as blacks; in South Africa in 1970, the ratio was about 15 times.)
- The black-white income gap is roughly 40 percent greater today than it was in 1967.
- A black boy born today in the United States has a life expectancy five years shorter than that of a white boy.

- Black students are significantly less likely to attend schools offering advanced math and science courses than white students. They are three times as likely to be suspended and expelled, setting them up for educational failure.

- Because of the catastrophic experiment in mass incarceration, black men in their 20s without a high school diploma are more likely to be incarcerated today than employed, according to a study from the National Bureau of Economic Research. Nearly 70 percent of middle-aged black men who never graduated from high school have been imprisoned.

All these constitute not a black problem or a white problem, but an American problem. When so much talent is underemployed and overincarcerated, the entire country suffers.

Some straight people have gradually changed their attitudes toward gays after realizing that their friends — or children — were gay. Researchers have found that male judges are more sympathetic to women's rights when they have daughters. Yet because of the de facto segregation of America, whites are unlikely to have many black friends: A study from the Public Religion Research Institute suggests that in a network of 100 friends, a white person, on average, has one black friend.

That's unfortunate, because friends open our eyes. I was shaken after a well-known black woman told me about looking out her front window and seeing that police officers had her teenage son down on the ground after he had stepped out of their upscale house because they thought he was a prowler. "Thank God he didn't run," she said.

One black friend tells me that he freaked out when his white fiancée purchased an item in a store and promptly threw the receipt away. "What are you doing?" he protested to her. He is a highly successful and well-educated professional but would never dream of tossing a receipt for fear of being accused of shoplifting.

Some readers will protest that the stereotype is rooted in reality: Young black men are disproportionately likely to be criminals.

That's true — and complicated. "There's nothing more painful to me," the Rev. Jesse Jackson once said, "than to walk down the street and hear footsteps and start thinking about robbery — then look around and see somebody white and feel relieved."

All this should be part of the national conversation on race, as well, and prompt a drive to help young black men end up in jobs and stable families rather than in crime or jail. We have policies with a robust record of creating opportunity: home visitation programs like **Nurse-Family Partnership**; early education initiatives like **Educare** and **Head Start**; programs for troubled adolescents like **Youth Villages**; anti-gang and anti-crime initiatives like **Becoming a Man**; efforts to prevent teen pregnancies like **the Carrera curriculum**; job training like **Career Academies**; and job incentives like the earned-income tax credit.

The best escalator to opportunity may be education, but that escalator is broken for black boys growing up in neighborhoods with broken schools. We fail those boys before they fail us.

So a starting point is for those of us in white America to wipe away any self-satisfaction about racial progress. Yes, the progress is real, but so are the challenges. The gaps demand a wrenching, soul-searching excavation of our national soul, and the first step is to acknowledge that the central race challenge in America today is not the suffering of whites.

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I invite you to visit my blog, **On the Ground**. Please also join me on **Facebook** and **Google+**, watch my **YouTube** videos and follow me on **Twitter**.

A version of this op-ed appears in print on August 31, 2014, on page SR11 of the New York edition with the headline: When Whites Just Don't Get It.

# When Whites Just Don't Get It, Part 2

SEPT. 6, 2014

**Nicholas Kristof**

IN my column a week ago, “When Whites Just Don’t Get It,” I took aim at what I called “smug white delusion” about race relations in America, and readers promptly fired back at what they perceived as a smugly deluded columnist.

Readers grudgingly accepted the grim statistics I cited — such as the wealth disparity between blacks and whites in America today exceeding what it was in South Africa during apartheid — but many readers put the blame on African-Americans themselves.

“Probably has something to do with their unwillingness to work,” Nils tweeted.

Nancy protested on my Facebook page: “We can’t fix their problems. It’s up to every black individual to stop the cycle of fatherless homes, stop the cycle of generations on welfare.”

There was a deluge of such comments, some toxic, but let me try to address three principal arguments that I think prop up white delusion.

***First, if blacks are poor or in prison, it’s all their fault. “Blacks don’t get it,” Bruce tweeted. “Choosing to be cool vs. getting good grades is a bad choice. We all start from 0.”***

Huh? Does anybody really think that we all take off from the same starting line?

Slavery and post-slavery oppression left a legacy of broken families, poverty, racism, hopelessness and internalized self-doubt. Some responded to discrimination and lack of opportunity by behaving in self-destructive ways.

One study found that African-American children on welfare heard only 29

percent as many words in their first few years as children of professional parents. Those kids never catch up, partly because they're more likely to attend broken schools. Sure, some make bad choices, but they've often been on a trajectory toward failure from the time they were babies.

These are whirlpools that are difficult to escape, especially when society is suspicious and unsympathetic. Japan has a stigmatized minority group, the *burakumin*, whose members once held jobs considered unclean. But although this is an occupational minority rather than a racial one, it spawned an underclass that was tormented by crime, educational failure, and substance abuse similar to that of the American underclass.

So instead of pointing fingers, let's adopt some of the programs that I've cited with robust evidence showing that they bridge the chasm.

***But look at Asians, Mark protests on my Google Plus page: Vietnamese arrived in poverty — and are now school valedictorians. Why can't blacks be like that?***

There are plenty of black valedictorians. But bravo to Asians and other immigrant groups for thriving in America with a strong cultural emphasis on education, diligence and delay of self-gratification. We should support programs with a good record of inculcating such values in disadvantaged children. But we also need to understand that many young people of color see no hope of getting ahead, and that despair can be self-fulfilling.

A successful person can say: "I worked hard in school. I got a job. The system worked." Good for you. But you probably also owe your success to parents who read to you, to decent schools, to social expectations that you would end up in college rather than prison. So count your blessings for winning the lottery of birth — and think about mentoring a kid who didn't.

***Look, the basic reason young black men are regarded with suspicion is that they're disproportionately criminals. The root problem isn't racism. It's criminality.***

It's true that blacks accounted for 55 percent of robbery arrests in 2012, according to F.B.I. statistics. But, by my calculations, it's also true that 99.9 percent of blacks were not arrested and charged with robbery in 2012, yet they are still



tarred by this pernicious stereotype.

Criminality is real. So is inequity. So is stereotyping.

The United States Sentencing Commission concluded that black men get sentences one-fifth longer than white men for committing the same crimes. In Louisiana, a study found that a person is 97 percent more likely to be sentenced to death for murdering a white person than a black person.

Mass incarceration means that the United States imprisons a higher proportion of its black population than apartheid South Africa did, further breaking up families. And careful studies find that employers are less likely to respond to a job inquiry and résumé when a typically black name is on it.

Society creates opportunity and resiliency for middle-class white boys who make mistakes; it is unforgiving of low-income black boys.

Of course, we need to promote personal responsibility. But there is plenty of fault to go around, and too many whites are obsessed with cultivating personal responsibility in the black community while refusing to accept any responsibility themselves for a system that manifestly does not provide equal opportunity.

Yes, young black men need to take personal responsibility. And so does white America.

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I invite you to visit my blog, **On the Ground**. Please also join me on **Facebook** and **Google+**, watch my **YouTube** videos and follow me on **Twitter**.

A version of this op-ed appears in print on September 7, 2014, on page SR11 of the New York edition with the headline: When Whites Just Don't Get It. Part 2.



## When Whites Just Don't Get It, Part 3

OCT. 11, 2014

Nicholas Kristof

SOME white Americans may be surprised to hear Archbishop Desmond Tutu describe Bryan Stevenson, an African-American lawyer fighting for racial justice, as “America’s young Nelson Mandela.”

*Huh? Why do we need a Mandela over here? We’ve made so much progress on race over 50 years! And who is this guy Stevenson, anyway?*

Yet Archbishop Tutu is right. Even after remarkable gains in civil rights, including the election of a black president, the United States remains a profoundly unequal society — and nowhere is justice more elusive than in our justice system.

When I was born in 1959, the hospital in which I arrived had separate floors for black babies and white babies, and it was then illegal for blacks and whites to marry in many states. So progress has been enormous, and America today is nothing like the apartheid South Africa that imprisoned Mandela. But there’s also a risk that that progress distracts us from the profound and persistent inequality that remains.

After the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., I wrote a couple of columns entitled “When Whites Just Don’t Get It.” The reaction to those columns — sometimes bewildered, resentful or unprintable — suggests to me that many whites in America don’t understand the depths of racial inequity lingering in this country.

This inequity is embedded in our law enforcement and criminal justice system, and that is why Bryan Stevenson may, indeed, be America’s Mandela. For decades he has fought judges, prosecutors and police on behalf of those who are

impoverished, black or both. When someone is both and caught in the maw of the justice system — well, Stevenson jokes that “it’s like having two kinds of cancer at the same time.”

“We have a system that treats you better if you’re rich and guilty than if you’re poor and innocent,” he adds.

Stevenson, 54, grew up in a poor black neighborhood in Delaware and ended up at Harvard Law School. He started the Equal Justice Initiative, based in Montgomery, Ala., to challenge bias and represent the voiceless. It’s a tale he recounts in a searing, moving and infuriating memoir that is scheduled to be published later this month, “Just Mercy.”

Stevenson tells of Walter McMillian, a black Alabama businessman who scandalized his local community by having an affair with a married white woman. Police were under enormous pressure to solve the murder of an 18-year-old white woman, and they ended up arresting McMillian in 1987.

The authorities suppressed exculpatory evidence and found informants to testify against McMillian with preposterous, contradictory and constantly changing stories. McMillian had no serious criminal history and had an alibi: At the time of the murder, he was at a church fish fry, attended by dozens of people who confirmed his presence.

None of this mattered. An overwhelmingly white jury found McMillian guilty of the murder, and the judge — inauspiciously named Robert E. Lee Key Jr. — sentenced him to die.

When Stevenson sought to appeal on McMillian’s behalf, Judge Key called him up. “Why in the hell would you want to represent someone like Walter McMillian?” the judge asked, according to Stevenson’s account.

Stevenson dug up evidence showing that McMillian couldn’t have committed the crime, and prosecuting witnesses recanted their testimony, with one saying that he had been threatened with execution unless he testified against McMillian. Officials shrugged. They seemed completely uninterested in justice as long as the innocent man on death row was black.

Despite receiving death threats, Stevenson pursued the case and eventually won: McMillian was exonerated and freed in 1993 after spending six years on death

row.

I suggested to Stevenson that such a blatant and racially tinged miscarriage of justice would be less likely today. On the contrary, he said, such cases remain common, adding that he is currently representing a prisoner in Alabama who has even more evidence of innocence than McMillian had.

“If anything, because of the tremendous increase in people incarcerated, I’m confident that we have more innocent people in prison today than 25 years ago,” Stevenson said.

Those of us who are white and in the middle class rarely see this side of the justice system. The system works for us, and it’s easy to overlook how deeply it is skewed against the poor or members of minority groups.

Yet consider drug arrests. Surveys overwhelmingly find that similar percentages of blacks and whites use illegal drugs. Yet the **Justice Department** says that blacks are arrested for such drug offenses at three times the rate of whites.

One study in Seattle found that blacks made up 16 percent of observed drug dealers for the five most dangerous drugs and 64 percent of arrests for dealing those drugs.

Likewise, research suggests that blacks and whites violate traffic laws at similar rates, but blacks are far more likely to be stopped and arrested. The **Sentencing Project**, which pushes for fairer law enforcement, cites a New Jersey study that racial minorities account for 15 percent of drivers on the turnpike, but blacks account for 42 percent of stops.

THE greatest problem is not with flat-out white racists, but rather with the far larger number of Americans who believe intellectually in racial equality but are quietly oblivious to injustice around them. Too many whites unquestioningly accept a system that disproportionately punishes blacks and that **gives public schools serving disadvantaged children many fewer resources than those serving affluent children**. We are not racists, but we accept a system that acts in racist ways.

Some whites think that the fundamental problem is young black men who show no personal responsibility, screw up and then look for others to blame. Yes, that happens. But I also see a white-dominated society that shows no sense of

responsibility for disadvantaged children born on a path that often propels them toward drugs, crime and joblessness; we fail those kids before they fail us, and then we, too, look for others to blame.

Today we sometimes wonder how so many smart, well-meaning white people in the Jim Crow era could have unthinkingly accepted segregation. The truth is that injustice is easy not to notice when it affects people different from ourselves; that helps explain the obliviousness of our own generation to inequity today. We need to wake up.

And that is why we need a Mandela in this country.

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I invite you to visit my blog, **On the Ground**. Please also join me on **Facebook** and **Google+**, watch my **YouTube** videos and follow me on **Twitter**.

A version of this op-ed appears in print on October 12, 2014, on page SR1 of the New York edition with the headline: When Whites Just Don't Get It. Part 3.

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**SundayReview** | OP-ED COLUMNIST

# When Whites Just Don't Get It, Part 4

NOV. 15, 2014

**Nicholas Kristof**

WHEN I write about racial inequality in America, one common response from whites is eye-rolling and an emphatic: *It's time to move on.*

"As whites, are we doomed to an eternity of apology?" Neil tweeted at me. "When does individual responsibility kick in?"

Terry asked on my Facebook page: "Why are we still being held to actions that took place long ago?"

"How long am I supposed to feel guilty about being white? I bust my hump at work and refrain from living a thug life," Bradley chimed in. "America is about personal responsibility. ... And really, get past the slavery issue."

This is the fourth installment in a series of columns I've written this year, "When Whites Just Don't Get It," and plenty of white readers have responded with anger and frustration at what they see as the "blame game" on race. They acknowledge a horrific history of racial discrimination but also say that we should look forward, not backward. The Supreme Court seems to share this view as it dismantles civil-rights-era rulings on voting rights.

As Dina puts it: "I am tired of the race conversation. It has exasperated me. Just stop. In so many industries, the racial ceiling has been shattered. Our president is black. From that moment on, there were no more excuses."

If only it were so simple!

Of course, personal responsibility is an issue. Orlando Patterson, the eminent black sociologist, notes in a forthcoming book that 92 percent of black youths agree that it is a "big problem" that black males are "not taking education seriously

enough.” And 88 percent agree that it’s a big problem that they are “not being responsible fathers.” That’s why President Obama started “My Brother’s Keeper,” to cultivate more prudent behavior among men and boys of color.

But we in white society should be equally ready to shoulder responsibility. In past articles in this series, I’ve looked at black/white economic inequality that is greater in America today than it was in apartheid South Africa, at ongoing discrimination against African-Americans in the labor market and at systematic bias in law enforcement. But these conversations run into a wall: the presumption on the part of so many well-meaning white Americans that racism is a historical artifact. They don’t appreciate the overwhelming evidence that centuries of racial subjugation still shape inequity in the 21st century.

Indeed, a wave of research over the last 20 years has documented the lingering effects of slavery in the United States and South America alike. For example, counties in America that had a higher proportion of slaves in 1860 are still more unequal today, according to a scholarly paper published in 2010. The authors called this a “persistent effect of slavery.”

One reason seems to be that areas with slave labor were ruled for the benefit of elite plantation owners. Public schools, libraries and legal institutions lagged, holding back working-class whites as well as blacks.

Whites often don’t realize that slavery didn’t truly end until long after the Civil War. Douglas Blackmon won a Pulitzer Prize for his devastating history, “Slavery by Another Name,” that recounted how U.S. Steel and other American corporations used black slave labor well into the 20th century, through “convict leasing.” Blacks would be arrested for made-up offenses such as “vagrancy” and then would be leased to companies as slave laborers.

Job and housing discrimination also systematically prevented blacks from accumulating wealth. The Federal Housing Administration and other initiatives greatly expanded home ownership and the middle class but deliberately excluded blacks.

That’s one reason why black families have, on average, only about 6 percent as much wealth as white households, why only 44 percent of black families own a home compared with 73 percent for white households.

The inequality continues, particularly in education. De jure segregated schools have been replaced in some areas by de facto segregation.

Those of us who are white have a remarkable capacity for delusions. A majority of whites have said in opinion polls that blacks earn as much as whites and are as healthy as whites. In fact, black median household income is \$34,598, compared with \$58,270 for non-Hispanic whites, according to census data. Black life expectancy is four years shorter than that of whites.

Granted, race is just one thread in a tapestry. The daughters of President and Michelle Obama shouldn't enjoy affirmative action preference (as their dad has acknowledged), while disadvantaged white kids should.

Yet one element of white privilege today is obliviousness to privilege, including a blithe disregard of the way past subjugation shapes present disadvantage.

I've been on a book tour lately. By coincidence, so has one of my Times Op-Ed columnist colleagues, Charles Blow, who is African-American and the author of a powerful memoir, "Fire Shut Up in My Bones." I grew up in a solid middle-class household; Charles was primarily raised by a single mom who initially worked plucking poultry in a factory, and also, for a while, by a grandma in a house with no plumbing.

That Charles has become a New York Times columnist does not mean that blacks and whites today have equal access to opportunity, just that some talented and driven blacks manage to overcome the long odds against them. Make no mistake: Charles had to climb a higher mountain than I did.

WE all stand on the shoulders of our ancestors. We're in a relay race, relying on the financial and human capital of our parents and grandparents. Blacks were shackled for the early part of that relay race, and although many of the fetters have come off, whites have developed a huge lead. Do we ignore this long head start — a facet of white privilege — and pretend that the competition is now fair?

Of course not. If we whites are ahead in the relay race of life, shouldn't we acknowledge that we got this lead in part by generations of oppression? Aren't we big enough to make amends by trying to spread opportunity, by providing disadvantaged black kids an education as good as the one afforded privileged white kids?



Can't we at least acknowledge that in the case of race, William Faulkner was right: "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

I invite you to visit my blog, **On the Ground**. Please also join me on **Facebook** and **Google+**, watch my **YouTube** videos and follow me on **Twitter**.

A version of this op-ed appears in print on November 16, 2014, on page SR1 of the New York edition with the headline: When Whites Just Don't Get It, Part 4.

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# When Whites Just Don't Get It, Part 5

NOV. 29, 2014

**Nicholas Kristof**

WE Americans are a nation divided.

We feud about the fires in Ferguson, Mo., and we can agree only that racial divisions remain raw. So let's borrow a page from South Africa and impanel a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to examine race in America.

The model should be the 9/11 commission or the Warren Commission on President Kennedy's assassination, and it should hold televised hearings and issue a report to help us understand ourselves. Perhaps it could be led by the likes of Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush and Oprah Winfrey.

We as a nation need to grapple with race because the evidence is overwhelming that racial bias remains deeply embedded in American life. Two economists, Joseph Price and Justin Wolfers, found that white N.B.A. referees disproportionately call fouls on black players, while black refs call more fouls on white players. "These biases are sufficiently large that they affect the outcome of an appreciable number of games," Price and Wolfers wrote.

If such racial bias exists among professional referees monitored by huge television audiences, imagine what unfolds when an employer privately weighs whom to hire, or a principal decides whether to expel a disruptive student, or a policeman considers whether to pull over a driver.

This "When Whites Just Don't Get It" series is a call for soul-searching. It's very easy for whites to miss problems that aren't our own; that's a function not of being white but of being human. Three-quarters of whites have only white friends, according to one study, so we are often clueless.

What we whites notice is blacks who have “made it” — including President Obama — so we focus on progress and are oblivious to the daily humiliations that African-Americans endure when treated as second-class citizens.

“In the jewelry store, they lock the case when I walk in,” a 23-year-old black man wrote in May 1992. “In the shoe store, they help the white man who walks in after me. In the shopping mall, they follow me.”

He described an incident when he was stopped by six police officers who detained him, with guns at the ready, and treated him for 30 minutes as a dangerous suspect.

That young man was future Senator Cory Booker, who had been a senior class president at Stanford University and was a newly selected Rhodes Scholar. Yet our law enforcement system reduced him to a stereotype — so young Booker sat trembling and praying that he wouldn't be shot by the police.

My sense is that part of the problem is well-meaning Americans who disapprove of racism yet inadvertently help perpetuate it. We aren't racists, yet we buttress a system that acts in racist ways. It's “racism without racists,” in the words of Eduardo Bonillo-Silva, a Duke University sociologist.

This occurs partly because of deeply embedded stereotypes that trick us, even when we want to be fair. Researchers once showed people sketches of a white man with a knife confronting an unarmed black man in the subway. In one version of the experiment, 59 percent of research subjects later reported that it had been the black man who held the knife.

I don't know what unfolded in Ferguson between Michael Brown, a black teenager, and Darren Wilson, a white police officer. But there is a pattern: a ProPublica investigation found that young black men are shot dead by police at 21 times the rate of young white men.

If you're white, your interactions with police are more likely to have been professional and respectful, leaving you trustful. If you're black, your encounters with cops may leave you dubious and distrustful. That's why a Huffington Post/YouGov poll found that 64 percent of African-Americans believe that Officer Wilson should be punished, while only 22 percent of whites think so.

That's the gulf that an American Truth and Reconciliation Commission might

help bridge just a little. In 1922, a Chicago Commission on Race Relations (composed of six whites and six blacks) examined the Chicago race riots of 1919. More recently, President Clinton used an executive order to impanel an advisory board on race that focused on how to nurture “one America.”

A new commission could jump-start an overdue national conversation and also recommend evidence-based solutions to boost educational outcomes, improve family cohesion and connect people to jobs.

White Americans may protest that our racial problems are not like South Africa’s. No, but the United States incarcerates a higher proportion of blacks than apartheid South Africa did. In America, the black-white wealth gap today is greater than it was in South Africa in 1970 at the peak of apartheid.

Most troubling, America’s racial wealth gap, pay gap and college education gap have all widened in the last few decades.

There are no easy solutions. But let’s talk.

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A version of this op-ed appears in print on November 30, 2014, on page SR9 of the New York edition with the headline: When Whites Just Don’t Get It, Part 5.



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# We Stand Together—Black and Brown—for the Young People of Chicago and Central America

**Your Take:** Youths in Central America—and Chicago—are all survivors of violence rooted in failed policies like the war on drugs. And all of us should matter to our president and policymakers.

**BY: PHILLIP AGNEW AND ISABEL SOUSA-RODRIGUEZ**

Posted: July 15 2014 3:00 AM

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## EDITOR'S PICKS



Fired McDonald's Employees: We Were Told, 'Too Many Black People' Working in the Store





Pro-immigrant demonstrators hold a sign during a demonstration in Washington, DC, in April 2014.

SAUL LOEB/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



### Shocking French Video

If you don't know French, you've got to see this shocking video before it's gone

You'll be absolutely blown away after!

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Last week *The Root's* Keli Goff **wrote about the child refugees** fleeing violence and poverty in Central America and seeking refuge at our border. Unfortunately, she argued that we shouldn't protect these brown children and supports deporting them—while claiming that we have our own black children to care about first, citing **recent violence** in the streets of Chicago.

Well, we are those black and brown children she's talking about.

One of us—Phillip—grew up in the same Chicago that Goff says she wants to protect, while the other—Isabel—is a young immigrant who came to this country as an undocumented child fleeing violence in Colombia. And in our life journeys seeking justice for all young people, we have committed ourselves to building united social movements that fervently proclaim, "Our lives matter."

Every one of our lives matters, whether we are black, white or brown, queer or straight; whether we crossed the border or our ancestors came here as indentured servants or on slave ships.

We reject the notion that black lives should matter to our president and policymakers while the lives of the unaccompanied child refugees fleeing devastation in Central America shouldn't. Because in both cases, they're surviving or fleeing violence rooted in our own failed policies, like the so-called **war on drugs**.

In fact, young people across this country are suffering because most of our politicians do not act as if any of our lives matter. If they did, education would be a primary investment over the failed foreign

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and domestic policies that have only contributed to our criminalization. If our lives mattered, America's immigration policy would prioritize family safety and unity instead of prioritizing border militarization and profits for the private prison industry.

In the 1980s, families fleeing Central American civil wars between guerrillas and U.S.-backed dictators landed in cities like Los Angeles. Youths who had just witnessed the horrors of war in their home countries now faced the reality of America's streets during the height of the war on drugs. Many joined gangs feeling that they had no other recourse to protect themselves.

“  
**We reject the notion that black lives should matter to our president and policymakers while the lives of the unaccompanied child refugees fleeing devastation in Central America shouldn't.**  
 ”

Instead of being treated as if their lives and their trauma mattered, these young people were deported back to countries where the only people they knew were other young gang members. As a number of researchers have observed, **the U.S. deportation regime** helped turn two small **street gangs started by young refugees** into transnational criminal organizations operating across Central America with partners in the U.S., **eventually creating the ripples of refugees** we continue to see today.

The story of young African Americans on the South Side of Chicago is not that different. Since the early 1900s, black families had fled the lynching and racial violence of the Jim Crow South, only to be met with redlining, unemployment and refined racial segregation in Chicago. Without adequate jobs and political power, many young people who had witnessed the horrors of Jim Crow also began forming gangs to protect themselves from the violence of a society that continued to degrade them as either criminal or cheap labor.

Instead of being offered adequate education and opportunities to thrive, these young people were subject to mass incarceration. The criminal-justice system, also fueled by the war on drugs, turned Chicago's small street gangs into national organizations by releasing inmates into a society with no adequate infrastructure for their reintegration and rehabilitation.

Both of these groups—and youths across this nation—rely on policymakers and our president to prove to them that their lives do, in fact, matter.

And as José Luis Vilson, writing for *The Root*, **also noted** last week, deporting child refugees who are victims of the same failed policies will never reopen even one of the 50 schools that the president's former chief of staff, and current Chicago mayor, Rahm Emanuel has closed. Believing this lie only caters to the whims of pandering politicians.

As young people who have grown tired of politicians pitting us against each other, we stand together here in Florida to build up our collective power. Our communities are not pawns to be picked up and maneuvered whenever it fits political strategy. Our work and our vision are not anchored to the politics of scarcity that are perpetuated by those who live

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Randall Jackson, Assistant US Attorney for the Southern District of New York



Hakeem Jeffries, US Congressman



Benjamin Crump, Attorney

in abundance.

We will not be divided. We will continue fighting together--from Chicago's South Side to the Gaza Strip to Central America's Northern Triangle—holding accountable all who help to line the pockets of those who profit from our suffering.

5 Takeaways From the President's Muscle-Flexing SOTU

I Spent MLK Day With Presidential Hopeful Ben Carson. Here's What I Learned

State of the Union, Part 6: What Obama Will Say and Why

**Phillip Agnew** is executive director of **Dream Defenders**, and **Isabel Sousa-Rodriguez** is youth organizer for the **Florida Immigrant Coalition**.

**The Root** aims to foster and advance conversations about issues relevant to the black Diaspora by presenting a variety of opinions from all perspectives, whether or not those opinions are shared by our editorial staff.

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FRI AUG 22, 2014 AT 03:42 PM PDT

# "But What about Black-on-Black Crime?" is not a valid answer to Ferguson or Anything.

Frank Vyan Walton

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It's a dodge, it's a smokescreen, it's a red herring, it's bullshit.

I'm frankly sick of it. Every time we get into this, we get the "What about Chicago?" and "What about Black guys that Kill Black guys?" We always get into the proportional argument, but people who want to bring this up *only want to pay attention to proportions when it looks bad for black people.*



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**@Vyan1 @Honolulu\_Trader @blogdiva** That's great, but the average black guy walking down the street is much more likely to rob, kill, steal...

— Neral Fegro (@Whelp177) **August 22, 2014**

"The Average Black Guy Walking down the Street is more likely to Rob, Kill, Steal"...

That's the position that those who repeatedly deny that Racism has anything to do with the Killing of someone like Michael Brown. He was Black, so he was "more likely" dangerous - "more likely" a potential killer - so it's automatically justified to *kill him first*.

Can't you tell he was gonna kill Officer Wilson if he could? He "Charged". He was "On Dope". He Fled, then he didn't Flee. He broke the cop's "Orbital Bone" - somehow, while 35 Feet away, but not fleeing. And this Fake **X-Ray Proves it**. And this **Blank Incident Report**. See, it's clear as day. Obvious as the nose on your face.

But it's Not Racial. Nope. Just Facts and Figures.

The first problem that they have is that the actual FBI stats don't prove what they claim it proves. The FBI Uniform Crime Stats for Robbery and Theft and Assault *Aren't Broken Down By Race*.

They just aren't. I've been looking at them for 20 years, and they aren't.

Here is the **Robbery Data**, which as a matter of fact is separate from **Burglary** and **Larceny Theft**.

None of them are broken down by Race of the Offender.

So where does this "Blacks Commit more Crime" stuff come from?

Well, there is a Racial Breakdown on Murder. And **it goes like this**.

Expanded Homicide Data Table 6								
Murder								
Race and Sex of Victim by Race and Sex of Offender, 2012								
[Single victim/single offender]								
Race of victim	Total	Race of offender				Sex of offender		
		White	Black	Other	Unknown	Male	Female	Unknown
White	3,128	2,614	431	36	47	2,800	281	47
Black	2,648	193	2,412	12	31	2,366	251	31
Other race	183	42	36	103	2	168	13	2
Unknown race	59	26	17	1	15	41	3	15
Sex of victim	Total	Race of offender				Sex of offender		
		White	Black	Other	Unknown	Male	Female	Unknown
Male	4,208	1,804	2,257	85	62	3,725	421	62
Female	1,751	1,045	622	66	18	1,609	124	18
Unknown sex	59	26	17	1	15	41	3	15

NOTE: This table is based on incidents where some information about the offender is known by law enforcement; therefore, when the offender age, sex, and race are all reported as unknown, these data are excluded from the table.

The first immediate problem is that this data is *Incomplete*. This chart only reflects Murders where a) Both Victim and Perpetrator's Race are Identified and b) there were only **One of Each**.

One Single Victim and One Single Perpetrator.

So if you have One Perpetrator who kills multiple people, like say for example White Guys like Adam Lanza or James Eagan Holmes, or Jared Loughner, or James David Addikison or Eric Harris or Dylan Kleibold or John Wayne Gacy or Ted Bundy or Jeffry Dahmer, or the Boston Strangler, or the Zodiac Killer, or The Unibomber - none of them **have ever been included on this chart**. It doesn't cover spree killings, mass murders or murder suicides. Every time some distraught guy guns down his ex, and his kids, and his in-laws, and his dog and the neighbors dog, and then himself - it's doesn't show up on this chart. It doesn't include Serial Killers, and

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shouldn't there be bonus points awarded for being a Serial Killer? Shouldn't Tim McVeigh kinda *tip the scales a bit all by himself?* [Ed. Aren't most Serial and Spree Killers - generally speaking - White? I mean, they are - aren't they? Ain't that weird? Why y'all gotta shot the dog too? What's the matter with White Spree Killing People anyway? Why is it they're "Misunderstood" and must be "Insane", but Kunta Jr's obviously a "Killa!"] Shouldn't all that start to add up? But this chart wouldn't include any of them or the killings of the Hillside Stranger, because there were TWO of them, not just one. They were a Team. Not single. Not on the chart.

You can verify this by looking at the totals. The Racial Breakdown Chart has the "Total Murders" at 6018.

But the total number of Murders in 2012 wasn't 6018. **It was 12,765**

**Expanded Homicide Data Table 1**

Murder Victims by Race and Gen., 2012					
Download Excel					
Race	Total	Sex			Unknown
		Male	Female	Unknown	
Total	12,765	9,917	2,834		14
White	5,856	4,000	1,762		0
Black	6,454	5,838	916		1
Other race	378	204	122		0
Unknown race	130	62	35		13

So about half the Murders *Are Missing* from the Race Breakdown chart because they involve either multiple offenders or multiple victims who may be of multiple races and/or genders. So it's not really possible to draw a direct line from the Murder Victim/Race chart to "Black Guys are More Likely to Rob, Kill, Steal.." because that straight line *doesn't exist*.

That line is wavy, it circles and loops and doubles back on itself. And you can tell because the way people tend to draw the line start by establishing a Populational *Quota*.

**@Vyan1 @Honolulu\_Trader @blogdiva** Yeah, only because we, once again, outnumber them about 5:1. With %s, blacks win in crime.

— Neral Fegro (@Whelp177) **August 22, 2014**

The argument here is that since Black people are outnumbered by White people 5 to 1 then the Murder Rate - and all other Crime Rates - for Blacks should also be 5 to 1 or else something **MUST BE WRONG** with them.

And I guess they should be 16% of the Rich People, and 16% of the Employed People and 16% of the Students and Professors and 16% of the Basketball Stars and 16% of the Baseball Stars and 16% of the Hockey Players and 16% of the Musicians and Actors because everything always works out to exact population proportions now doesn't it?

When exactly has that ever worked out in precisely that manner? Never, that's when.

Why is it when we point out that none of those percentage *ever* match up to population exactly that these guys claim it's "no big deal" and not the result of anything - even when Police are Stopping, Searching and Citing Blacks Guys *two or three times their existence in the population without any cause, and without Finding any Guns or Drugs* it means nothing as has "no impact or relevance", Cops have "No Choice" but to focus on people who aren't armed or doing anything wrong, but when they find a criminal conviction differential [even when their getting it all wrong] it's the biggest thing in the world?

Ok, sure. But if you look at the **Murder Offender Chart** besides breaking down for Race it also breaks down for Gender.

Male Offenders: 9,425  
Female Offenders: 1,098

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by Jen Hayden 35447  
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by Jen Hayden 4512  
53

If I'm not mistaken Women outnumber Men in this country, but Male Murder Offenders outnumber Women Offenders by over **9 TO 1**.

I don't hear anyone arguing that Men are inherently more Violent, Dangerous and more likely to "Rob, Kill, Steal" than Women. Do you? No you pretty much don't because that's *Hella Stupid*. What is the problem with MEN, and their propensity for Men on Men Crime?

Keep thinking that the next time you hear people complain about the next obsessive Jody Arias-styled Trial that takes over the airwaves. Or Female **Serial Killer Joanna Dennehy**. Or Cristal Richardson whose on trial for **stabbing a guy 130 Times**. Have you ever seen a single episode of "The Real Housewives of *Anywhere*?" Or Springer? Yeah, but Men are "more violent".

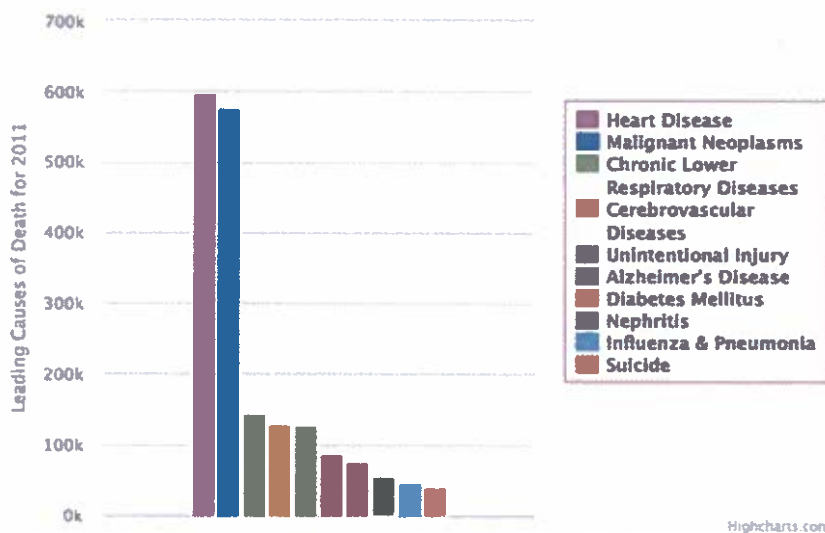
It's so interesting that these guys are such statistical and probability experts when they can't quote the actual numbers, and don't even know where those numbers come from or what else they would indicate if you were to follow that same - faulty - logic.

And these are the numbers that come out at the end of the Justice System, not at the beginning. Even the total of 12,765 "Murders" isn't complete. It's not the total number of Killings that took place that year.

The CDC's says something different. They say there were **39,518 Suicides** in 2011.

That's more than the number of "Murders" by almost 3.5 to 1, and Suicide is only the Tenth most likely cause of Death in America.

Leading Causes of Death for 2011



Murder isn't even on this chart. The average person is far more likely to die of Heart Disease or Cancer, then either Suicide or Murder.

Let's go back, just for the sake of argument to the Murder/Race Chart - incompletely though it is. Most Murders on this chart aren't interracial.

White Offender/White Victim: 2,614  
Black Offender/Black Victim: 2,412

So White guys are more likely to Kill White Guys. Same for Black Guys. How likely is that random black guy to murder some random white guy in a single-offender/single-victim situation? How likely is the reverse?

White Offender/Black Victim - 193.  
Black Offender/White Victim - 431.

This is a differential that the people who want to justice fear of Black Men love to jump all over. It's higher for Black Offenders **by 238**. That's just 1/10th of the non-interracial Murders, which is only a fraction of the total Murder but Ok, it's Bigger. But here's the problem with that - this

count doesn't include all the times that the shooting was deemed "Justified".

FBI includes a "Justified" Killing **by Law Enforcement chart**.

As shown it averages about 400 per year, which is **more than 238**, the difference between Black/White Interracial Killings.

**Expanded Homicide Data Table 14**

**Justifiable Homicide**  
by Weapon, Law Enforcement, 2008-2012

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Year	Total	Total Firearms	Handguns	Rifles	Shotguns	Firearms, type not stated	Knives or cutting instruments	Other dangerous weapons	Personal weapons
2008	378	373	305	30	13	25	1	2	2
2009	414	411	328	29	6	50	0	3	0
2010	387	386	323	29	6	38	0	1	0
2011	484	491	305	38	11	49	2	0	1
2012	418	408	328	38	7	38	0	1	0

Yet the Racial Breakdown on this isn't included. If, most of the shootings are by White Police, and most of the Victim are Black Men - that damaging 431 to 193 ratio could actually be more like 531 to 493 - or 600 to 200 - or something - but we can't confirm that because that exact number isn't being published anywhere. I've been looking for it 20 years, haven't found it yet.

But Isn't it interesting that exactly who Police are Killing regularly - despite their populational ratio - isn't published with all the other Murder data? How convenient.

And then when you look at "Justifiable Homicide" by Citizens who aren't part of Law Enforcement - the numbers are nearly double.

Justifiable Homicides:

Year	Police	Citizen
2007	398	252
2008	378	265
2009	414	266
2010	397	285
2011	393	260
2012	409	330

So we're really not talking about 400 Killings that are deemed "justified" - we're talking about **700 of them per year..** And according to a report on Democracy Now from last year about half of those "Justified" killings were of **Unarmed Black People**.

AMY GOODMAN: For more, we're joined by Kali Akuno, a longtime organizer with the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, author of Let Your Motto Be Resistance: A Handbook on Organizing New Afrikan and Oppressed Communities. His organization's report is called "Operation Ghetto Storm," **documenting the extrajudicial killing of 313 black people in 2012**. Michelle Alexander is still with us, author of The New Jim Crow.

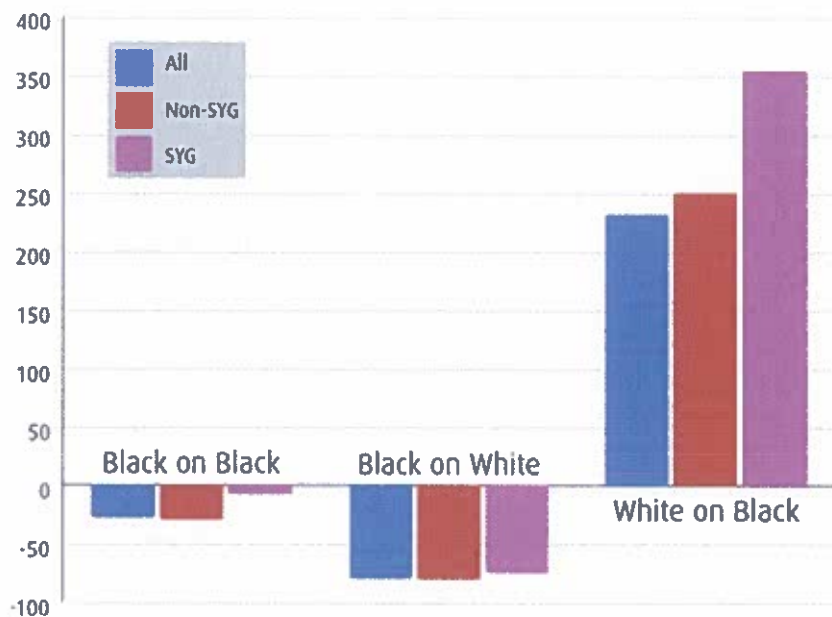
It's great to have you both with us. Kali Akuno, very quickly, just go through what you found.

KALI AKUNO: What we found is that this practice of extrajudicial killings is very systematic throughout the country. **We found that police officers rarely—or the security guards or those who are deputized, such as George Zimmerman—are rarely, if ever, persecuted for the crimes that they commit, for the killings that they commit.** And we found that overwhelmingly—as you mentioned some of the figures, overwhelmingly, **most of the folks who were killed do not have any weapons.** And the main reason—even 47 percent of those who were killed, the reasoning that was offered by the police **is that they felt threatened**—and so, a very similar argument that you hear in the Zimmerman case. And this was very systematic.

Yet again, 313 is **more than 238**.



This data is in conjunction to the report that White Guys who Kill Black Guys are about 225% more likely to have their situation "Justified" **than the other way around.**



The figures represent the percentage likelihood that killings will be found justifiable, compared to white-on-white killings

Yes, the rate of Black Murders is High, but so is the Rate of White Murders. In fact if you *include all the data such as mass killings* - which people usually don't - that rate is far higher than it appears. The Rate of MEN Murderers is Higher than the rate of Women Murderers but we don't call that a "crisis" of Man on Man killings that people must be forced to address.

And it's not like people aren't trying to stop Black Murders, particularly Black people who are far more likely to be on the receiving end of that Violence than White people are. I can understand that the 80% majority White population is probably tired of being blamed for the outcomes with the 16% minority Black population, but the best answer to that situation is NOT to justify and excuse treating the 70% majority of law abiding Black Men *as if they are the same, or responsible* for the 28% minority who ultimately wind up in Prison, or Dead.

Be that as it may here's the thing, the reason so many people get up in arms and go out in the streets when an Unarmed Black Man gets Killed by a Cop or a Cop Wannabe is because of that last chart.

The Murder of the Black Man is Far Less Likely to even be *considered a Murder*. The presumption that "the average black guy is more likely to Rob, Kill, Steal.." even when that isn't really supported by the complete numbers, is never-the-less *fully believed* by many people.

This is why Officers Stop, Search and Question Black Men far beyond their populational proportion and even more than the tendency to **commit any crimes** that would justify the stop in the first place. This is why they get **sentenced more severely** for the exact same offense. This is why they wind up in jails more often. That's why they end up Killed By Cops, even when they're unarmed and surrendering. The Officers, the Judges and the Juries are doing the same thing the guy I was arguing on twitter is doing. He's trying to calculate the "odds this Black Guy is Dangerous" in his head, on the fly, without even doing calculations of probability on the back of a napkin, when he's GOT THE WRONG NUMBERS and refuses to even realize it.

Even the worst number, that about 28% of black men are likely - at some point in their life - to be sent to State Prison or Federal Jail also says something else. That about 70% of them *Won't* Be. This shows that the *vast majority* of Black Men are in fact - law abiding - and not likely to Murder/Death/Kill you or anyone else. But when I present this argument (as shown above) was it accepted as a valid way to "calculate the odds"?

Nope. Not even. Cuz White guys are at 88% and that makes Black guys look bad [even if that's really because they don't just get caught or prosecuted due to the "presumption of innocence" that Black guys don't get.]

This is a biased process, one that generates biased results. Garbage In, Garbage Out.

And of course, they all swear they're not "Racist" even though presuming the outcome before you analyze the specifics of a unique situation and unique person is exactly how Racism works. It's exactly what make the System Racist.

And it's not going to change until we require what some Conservatives clamor for when we point out Income Inequality, and Job Inequality, and School Inequality. It's going to take the Courage to Ignore what the Stats seem to say, and find out what each individual has to say.

That requires taking a risk. The presumption and stats and generalities might be right, and they also *might be wrong*.

Do we have the courage to challenge our own perceptions on a day by day, minute by minute basis? Do we have the guts to question what the odds tell us might be and take the time and effort to find out what truly is?

Not yet, it seems - not yet.

Vyan

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\* [new] Tip Jar (70+ / 0-)

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by Frank Vyan Walton on Fri Aug 22, 2014 at 03:42:19 PM PDT

\* [new] Tipped & rec'd nt (20+ / 0-)

I voted Tuesday, May 6, 2014 because it is my right, my responsibility and because my parents moved from Alabama to Ohio to vote. Unfortunately, the republicons want to turn Ohio into Alabama.

by a2nite on Fri Aug 22, 2014 at 03:52:01 PM PDT

\* [new] Another diary rec'd, Rec'd, hotlisted. (17+ / 0-)

Great diary. Here's another article that might be of interest:

<http://www.alternet.org/...>

"It ain't so much the things we don't know that get us in trouble. It's the things we know that ain't so." (Artemus Ward)

by Silencio on Fri Aug 22, 2014 at 03:56:50 PM PDT

\* [new] Weird place for them, but (2+ / 0-)

Census.gov of all places has crime statistics.

Everybody's murder rates are coming down.

We can probably trust Mother Jones.

(Mass shootings represent only a sliver of America's overall gun violence.)

"states like VT and ID are not 'real america'" -icemilkcoffee

by Utahrd on Fri Aug 22, 2014 at 04:03:48 PM PDT

\* [new] The Census.gov numbers (7+ / 0-)

are a Reprint of the FBI Victim Numbers. Same data. Still missing racial breakdown of "justifiable" killings.

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by Frank Vyan Walton on Fri Aug 22, 2014 at 04:14:03 PM PDT

[ Parent ]

\* [new] Vyan - I think it is local news that (12+ / 0-)

causes people to "believe" that blacks commit more crime. Do an experiment and watch your local news for 2 or 3 weeks. Make note of the stories of crime that include mug shots on the screen, and those that don't. Being in South Carolina, I know there is a bias going in. But it is stark when you watch the news. White people busted for meth, or robbery, or hit and run hardly ever have a mug shot thrown up on the screen, but if it's a gas station hold up, or a shooting, the pic is

put up and it's invariably a black man.

It's insidious and pisses me off.

*"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.": Maya Angelou*

by **PsychoSavannah** on **Fri Aug 22, 2014 at 06:49:49 PM PDT**

[ **Parent** ]

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\* **[new]** **True This !! (5+ / 0-)**

Bad Boys, Bad Boys.. whatcha gon' do?

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by **Frank Vyan Walton** on **Fri Aug 22, 2014 at 07:08:51 PM PDT**

[ **Parent** ]

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\* **[new]** **Although actual crime is only one third (6+ / 0-)**

what it was three decades ago, local news devotes more time to violent crime today. And then there's cable news, running the same one incident over and over all day long.

*"The law is meant to be my servant and not my master, still less my torturer and my murderer." -- James Baldwin. July 11, 1966.*

by **YucatanMan** on **Fri Aug 22, 2014 at 11:13:17 PM PDT**

[ **Parent** ]

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\* **[new]** **" Bowling For Columbine " (1+ / 0-)**

Summed all that up some time ago , but the msm dismiss Moore as an out of touch extremist of course

*Beer Drinkers & Hell Raisers*

by **Patango** on **Sat Aug 23, 2014 at 04:11:59 AM PDT**

[ **Parent** ]

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\* **[new]** **I mention that in my new diary on the subject (1+ / 0-)**

here --> [http://www.dailykos.com/...](http://www.dailykos.com/)

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by **Frank Vyan Walton** on **Sat Aug 23, 2014 at 12:10:15 PM PDT**

[ **Parent** ]

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\* **[new]** **What gets me irked with this claim (14+ / 0-)**

is there is never any mention of the real root cause of the violence. It's not drugs, or gangs, or "black culture", it's poverty. Bone-crushing, soul-destroying poverty. And few of the people "concerned" about black on black violence want to fix that. Because it would take real social change, economic justice, and a strong federal government a generation or two to accomplish it.

*GOP 2014 strategy -- Hire clowns, elephants, and a ringmaster and say "a media circus" has emerged and blame Democrats for lack of progress. Have pundits agree that "both sides are to blame" and hope the public will stay home on election day.*

by **ontheleftcoast** on **Fri Aug 22, 2014 at 04:07:08 PM PDT**

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**\* [new] Income inequality (2+ / 0-)**

Most Kossacks consider the state with the lowest income inequality rate to be unfit for human habitation.

And the next 4 after that aren't much better.

But they do have low murder rates.

*"states like VT and ID are not 'real america'" -icemilkcoffee*

by **Utahrd** on **Fri Aug 22, 2014 at 04:10:02 PM PDT**

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**\* [new] racists and wingers love that connection (0+ / 0-)**

Of course, they flip it around to argue that conservative white folks naturally create societies with broad prosperity, low crime rates, etc.

*Domestic politics is the continuation of civil war by other means.*

by **Visceral** on **Fri Aug 22, 2014 at 04:16:26 PM PDT**

[ **Parent** ]

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**\* [new] Anytime I hear about BvB violence I ask (5+ / 0-)**

What is the acceptable quota of cop killing blacks? Is that per cop, city, county? And I demand a answer from those racist fucks. Love to watch them squirm.

by **Kasoru** on **Fri Aug 22, 2014 at 04:34:55 PM PDT**

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**\* [new] Tipped, rec'ed republished (12+ / 0-)**

There are people here today on Dkos who are using that bullshit to deflect.

This comes in very handy - will just link to your diary :)

*"If you're in a coalition and you're comfortable, you know it's not a broad enough coalition." Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon*

by **Denise Oliver Velez** on **Fri Aug 22, 2014 at 04:40:01 PM PDT**

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**\* [new] Thank you (0+ / 0-)**

For putting that together. It was a lot of work. Sadly facts that don't fit their narrative are ignored and though of as a manipulation of statistics. Trying to reason with racists is about as effective as banging ones head against the wall.

That said we just can't give up. And must do our best to leave this a better world for the next generations. Lot of two baby steps forward one baby step back. Will I pray get us to where we need to be one of these day. May not be in my lifetime. But it's our responsibility to keep on keeping on.

*BeWell*

by **Joshua Bloxom** on **Fri Aug 22, 2014 at 05:05:05 PM PDT**

[ **Parent** ]

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**\* [new] They bring up the "black on black" crime bit (3+ / 0-)**

I say "how about white on white crime? Why is it different?"

Then they go into all the dog whistle language and try to cover but they know they've been caught.

*"You can't fix stupid" --Ron White -6.00, -5.18*

Follow **@BsnistPaul** 183 followers

by **zenbassoon** on **Fri Aug 22, 2014 at 05:54:09 PM PDT**

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\* [new] White on white murder (13+ / 0-)

is the topic of [this vox.com article by Matt Yglesias](#).

Yet the disturbing truth, according to the FBI's most recent homicide statistics, is that the United States is in the wake of an epidemic of white-on-white crime. Back in 2011, the most recent year for which data is available, a staggering 83 percent of white murder victims were killed by fellow Caucasians.

by [SoCalSal](#) on [Fri Aug 22, 2014 at 06:04:07 PM PDT](#)

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\* [new] I love the last sentence of that article (4+ / 0-)

Quite amusing.

*Two hundred fifty years of slavery. Ninety years of Jim Crow. Sixty years of separate but equal. Thirty-five years of racist housing policy. Until we reckon with our compounding moral debts, America will never be whole. - Ta-Nehisi Coates*

by [moviemeister76](#) on [Fri Aug 22, 2014 at 06:25:24 PM PDT](#)

[ Parent ]

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\* [new] It is supposed to parody Joe Klein's (9+ / 0-)

clueless article that Yglesias links in the beginning. The whole thing is a hoot.

Clearly, the social disaster of white violence has complicated roots. But the beginning of an answer is to admit that we have a problem. It's striking that President Obama, who's frequently found time to comment on the height of black men's waistlines, seems oblivious to this torrent of white killing. To be fair to the White House, however, it would be uniquely difficult for Obama to address this delicate issue. **The real tragedy is that none of Obama's 43 white predecessors have addressed it either. Indeed, looking back on America's political iconography, there are disturbing trends toward the glorification of white violence.** Peer inside the US Capitol building, and you'll find a monument to Confederate President Jefferson Davis — the leader of an insurgency that caused an unprecedented quantity of violent white deaths.

This is the Klein stupid piece:

Oddly, the election of Barack Obama—poor guy—has blunted the conversation about race relations, at least on the white side. We elected a black man with a Muslim name to be President. What other country would do that? The conversation has also been blunted, honorably, by the President himself in the face of some of the most tawdry race-baiting since Selma.

<https://time.com/...>

Really, read the Klein piece--it is one of the stupidest things I have ever read, outside of racist comments on newspaper articles.

It's \*Gandhi\*, not Ghandi

by [poco](#) on [Fri Aug 22, 2014 at 06:37:28 PM PDT](#)

[ Parent ]

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\* [new] Oh ew (6+ / 0-)

I will, but would really prefer not to. Klein has been an obvious racist asshat for years. I can't believe so many people take him seriously.

*Two hundred fifty years of slavery. Ninety years of Jim Crow. Sixty years of*

*separate but equal. Thirty-five years of racist housing policy. Until we reckon with our compounding moral debts, America will never be whole. - Ta-Nehisi Coates*

by [moviemeister76](#) on **Fri Aug 22, 2014 at 06:42:25 PM PDT**

[ [Parent](#) ]

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\* [\[new\]](#) **He failed upward nt (1+ / 0-)**

*I voted Tuesday, May 6, 2014 because it is my right, my responsibility and because my parents moved from Alabama to Ohio to vote. Unfortunately, the republicans want to turn Ohio into Alabama.*

by [a2nite](#) on **Sat Aug 23, 2014 at 09:11:40 AM PDT**

[ [Parent](#) ]

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\* [\[new\]](#) **This is why I'm addicted to this site (5+ / 0-)**

I learn so much.

Thanks Vyan.

*Daily Kos an oasis of truth. Truth that leads to action. UID: 9742*

by [Shockwave](#) on **Fri Aug 22, 2014 at 06:43:16 PM PDT**

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\* [\[new\]](#) **Excellent work, Vyan. (3+ / 0-)**

Thank-you. These stats - and your logic - will be quite useful.

by [travelerxxx](#) on **Fri Aug 22, 2014 at 07:03:43 PM PDT**

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\* [\[new\]](#) **This whole incident cost the town of Ferguson (0+ / 0-)**

the price of a state of the art high school and probably with enough left over to have tutored Michael Brown for his entire 4 years in high school and gotten him into an ivy league college. Not that he wouldn't have been the best refrigeration mechanic you ever did see.

This whole mess robs my joints. It makes me ache like arthritis.

*Protest that works comment by nomandates [Registration Table](#) Change the culture 100% registration.*

by [88kathy](#) on **Fri Aug 22, 2014 at 08:31:03 PM PDT**

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\* [\[new\]](#) **Doesn't it stand to reason... (1+ / 0-)**

...that in mostly segregated areas the people who live there would commit crimes against each other? I mean, whites don't travel to predominantly black areas to commit armed robbery do they? And I'm really sure the reverse applies. It's not exactly an equivalent comparison but Slick Willy Sutton said he robbed banks because that's where the money is.

by [mflinn](#) on **Sat Aug 23, 2014 at 05:31:54 AM PDT**

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