**Title**

Student’s Name

Department

University Name

Course

Instructors Name

Due Date

**AFRICAN AMERICAN SOCIAL ISSUES**

African Americans in the United States continue to face significant social issues, including disparities in the criminal justice system, economic disparities, political underrepresentation, and health disparities. These issues are interconnected and influenced by structural, societal, and historical factors that have shaped African American experiences and opportunities. To address these issues, comprehensive and targeted strategies are needed, including removing systemic biases and barriers, equitable resource allocation, community empowerment, and policy reforms.

This study will explore the social issues that African Americans face, and it will discuss the interconnected nature of these issues. The study will also discuss the strategies that are needed to address these issues. The study will begin by providing an overview of the social issues that African Americans face. It will then discuss the interconnected nature of these issues, and it will explain how they are influenced by structural, societal, and historical factors. The study will then discuss the strategies that are needed to address these issues, and it will argue that comprehensive and targeted strategies are needed to achieve lasting change. The study concludes by arguing that the social issues that African Americans face are complex and interconnected. However, the study also argues that comprehensive and targeted strategies can be used to address these issues and achieve lasting change.

**Criminal Justice System**

African Americans are disproportionately affected by the criminal justice system, from biased policing to harsher sentencing and overrepresentation in prisons. African Americans are vulnerable to biased policing, which includes practices such as racial profiling that result in unnecessary stops, surveillance, and searches solely based on their race (Smith, 2019). This phenomenon not only erodes trust between the community and law enforcement agencies but also exacerbates tensions and hampers crime prevention efforts (Johnson, 2018). Furthermore, studies consistently reveal that African Americans receive harsher sentences compared to their White counterparts for similar offenses, highlighting the presence of racial disparities within the criminal justice system (Alexander, 2010). These disparities, fueled by mandatory minimum sentences that disproportionately affect nonviolent drug offenders, contribute to the overrepresentation of African Americans in the prison system (Tonry, 2017). Consequently, these policies perpetuate cycles of poverty, disrupt families and communities, and limit opportunities for African Americans (Western, 2018).

**Economic disparities**

Economic disparities in the African American community are a complex and systemic problem that has been perpetuated by discrimination, limited access to education and resources, and other factors. The African American community in the United States faces significant economic difficulties due to systemic barriers that impede their opportunities and perpetuate inequality, despite advancements in civil rights (Darity Jr. et al., 2020). These disparities are evident in higher unemployment rates among African Americans, which stem from factors such as limited wealth accumulation, unequal access to quality education and skills training, and discriminatory hiring practices (Williams, 2021). To address these disparities, targeted policies are essential, including initiatives that focus on skills development, education, small business growth, financial inclusion, wealth creation, anti-discrimination measures, and expanded access to financial services in underserved communities (Shaw, 2020; Cokley et al., 2019). By implementing these policy solutions, it is possible to narrow the economic gaps and promote greater equity and opportunity for the African American community.

**Political representation**

The political representation of African Americans in the United States is a critical social issue that has been shaped by a history of systemic barriers and discrimination. The African American community in the United States is significantly impacted by the critical social issue of political representation, with historical and ongoing barriers to full participation (Kousser, 2015). Systemic challenges such as discriminatory voter registration practices, poll taxes, and literacy tests have historically hindered African Americans' ability to engage in the political process (Kotzé & Visser, 2019). While the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was a milestone in securing voting rights, persistent obstacles to voting rights and underrepresentation in political offices still exist (Abramowitz & Saunders, 2019). Achieving proportional representation and removing barriers to political participation require a multifaceted approach, including the encouragement of diverse political leadership, protection of voters' rights, and promotion of inclusive electoral practices (Norrander, 2016; McClain & Stewart, 2020). Measures such as legislation to safeguard voters' rights, outreach and education initiatives, redistricting reform, affirmative action in candidate recruitment, campaign finance reform, civics education, candidate support programs, increased representation in appointed positions, and community-based political participation should be implemented and strengthened (Flavin & Keane, 2018; Burns et al., 2019). These policy solutions will help ensure African American voices are heard, promote community engagement in political activities, and foster transparency and inclusivity in the political process.

**Health disparities**

Health disparities between African American communities and white communities are a pressing social problem that is caused by a complex interplay of factors, including systemic racism, economic inequality, and environmental hazards. In the United States, health disparities between African American communities are a pressing social problem that persists, characterized by significant differences in health outcomes and access to healthcare services (Williams & Mohammed, 2013). African Americans often face challenges in obtaining high-quality healthcare, including issues with transportation, limited accessibility to healthcare facilities, and inadequate insurance coverage (LaVeist, 2017). Moreover, systemic racism, as evidenced by disparities in housing, employment, education, and criminal justice, contributes to the unequal health experiences of African Americans (Bailey et al., 2017; Williams & Cooper, 2019). For instance, studies have found disparities in mortgage lending practices, higher rates of hypertension, increased exposure to environmental hazards, and greater risks of workplace environmental dangers for African Americans (Emerson et al., 2019; Jones et al., 2017; Marmot et al., 2020). Addressing these health disparities requires comprehensive policy interventions to ensure access to comprehensive healthcare services, increase funding for community health centers, address social determinants of health, enhance cultural competency education, promote prevention programs, improve mental health services, invest in data collection and research, increase representation in the healthcare workforce, and foster community partnerships (Smedley et al., 2019; National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2017; Health Resources and Services Administration, 2021). These policy solutions aim to create a more equitable healthcare system that promotes accessible, culturally competent care and enhances health outcomes for all.

In conclusion, the findings of this study highlight the persistent inequalities and systemic difficulties that disproportionately affect African Americans. These disparities are rooted in a history of structural racism and discrimination, and they continue to shape the experiences and opportunities of African Americans today. The study findings indicate that African Americans are more likely to be arrested, incarcerated, and sentenced to longer prison terms than white Americans. They are also more likely to live in poverty, earn lower wages, and have less access to quality healthcare. These disparities have a profound impact on the lives of African Americans, and they contribute to a cycle of disadvantage that is difficult to break. To address these inequalities, comprehensive and targeted strategies are needed. These strategies should focus on removing systemic biases and barriers, equitable resource allocation, community empowerment, and policy reforms. African Americans must also take crucial steps towards achieving social justice and equity by supporting criminal justice reform, implementing economic policies that promote equality and opportunity, increasing political representation, and ensuring access to high-quality healthcare. The study findings provide important insights into the nature and scope of the challenges facing African Americans. They also highlight the need for concerted action to address these challenges and to create a more just and equitable society for all.

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