



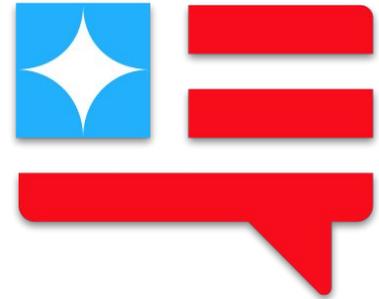
American Descendants of Slavery Advocacy Foundation

# ADOS Advocacy Foundation

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Reparations and a Transformative Black  
Agenda

March 2023



# American Descendants of Slavery Advocacy Foundation

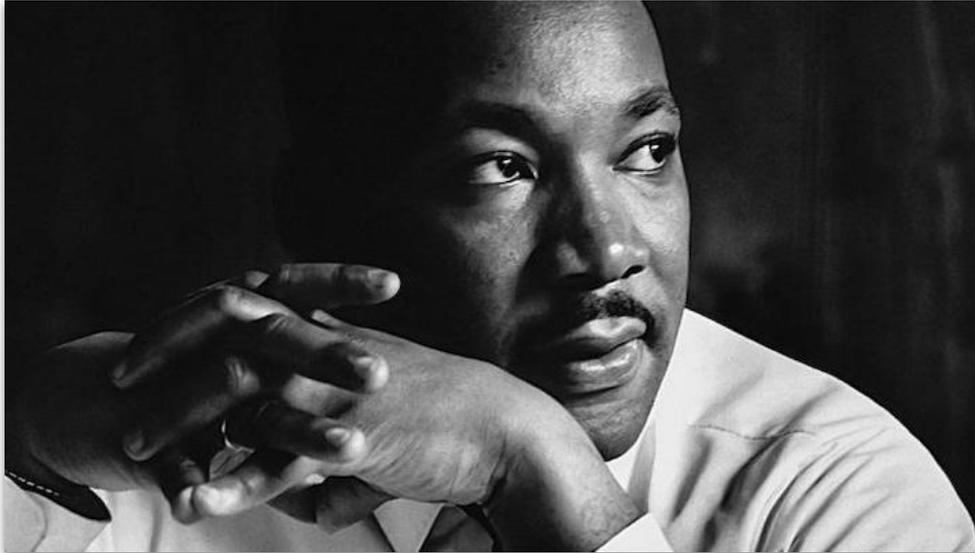


“

Every man must ultimately confront the question ‘Who am I?’ and seek to answer it honestly...The American Negro is neither totally African nor totally Western...[w]ho are we?’

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

# American Descendants of Slavery Advocacy Foundation



“

We are the **descendants of slaves**...I for one am not ashamed of this past...our destiny is tied up with the destiny of America [and] the Negro must face the fact that America is now his home, a home that he helped to build though 'blood, sweat and tears.'

# American Descendants of Slavery Advocacy Foundation





# The New York Times

By Farah Stockman

Published Nov. 8, 2019 Updated Nov. 13, 2019



## *'We're Self-Interested': The Growing Identity Debate in Black America*

Why a movement that claims to support the **American descendants of slavery** is being promoted by conservatives and attacked on the left.



# POLITICO

## Marianne Williamson puts spotlight on reparations

She is the first candidate in the field to go on the air with an ad about the issue.

By MAYA KING

11/02/2019 01:50 PM EDT

Updated: 11/04/2019 10:43 AM EST

Her plan has drawn the attention of a number of pro-reparations organizers, including members of the controversial **American Descendants of Slavery, or ADOS, movement**, which in the past **challenged the race's two black candidates**, Kamala Harris and Cory Booker, on the validity of their black heritage.

Of all the presidential candidates invited to first annual **ADOS** conference in October, Williamson was the only to attend. Since then, those affiliated with the **ADOS movement** have supported Williamson's candidacy and maintained a strong presence at her campaign events.



## Vox

### The 2020 Democratic primary debate over reparations, explained

Openly talking about reparations for the descendants of enslaved men and women is a notable shift for Democrats. But the conversation has often lacked substance.

By P.R. Lockhart | Updated Jun 19, 2019, 9:37am EDT

More recently, online calls for reparations have been driven by a grassroots movement of black activists specifically advocating on the behalf of American descendants of slavery (or ADOS, as the movement is called).

In an interview with Vox earlier this year, Antonio Moore and Yvette Carnell, the co-founders of and most prominent voices in the current ADOS movement, explained that they believe that ADOS should be seen as a specific identity.



# Forbes

## Reparations Now: Why White People Must Join The Call To Pay Reparations For Slavery

Seth Cohen Forbes Staff

*I write about leadership, politics, inclusion, and social change.*

Follow

Historically, the loudest calls for reparations have come from the Black community, specifically **American descendants of slavery (ADOS)**. Even now, at this moment of national reflection, it is largely Black leaders and legislators that have predominantly carried the call for federal reparations, with Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey and Representative Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas being the lead proponents of a commission to study the and prepare proposals for the payment of reparations. H.R. 40, as the legislation is titled in the House of Representatives, is a reference to the 1865 order of Union General William T. Sherman that promised 40 acres of land to former slaves. That early idea of reparations to be paid-in kind to slaves stemmed from a discussion Sherman and War Secretary Edwin Stanton held in Savannah with leaders of its Black community. Months later, however, President Andrew Johnson reneged on that promise, and the rest has been history.



Home // Radio // Here & Now



06:54

## Racial justice advocates call for American descendants of slavery to be included on 2030 Census

December 15, 2022



Here & Now's Deepa Fernandes speaks with [Yvette Carnell](#), president of the [ADOS Advocacy Foundation](#), about why American descendants of slavery should be counted on the Census.

*This segment aired on December 15, 2022.*



American Descendants of Slavery Advocacy Foundation



The New York Times  
Yale University



## Reparations for Black Americans Gain New Momentum

Number of co-sponsors for House legislation to create a commission studying reparations

**1989**

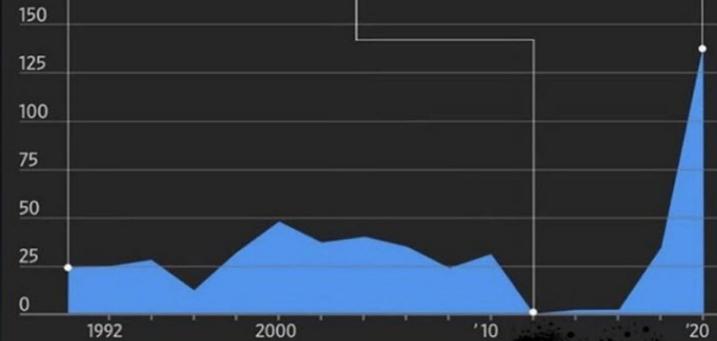
Reparations commission legislation introduced for first time.

**2011-2016**

President Obama's ambivalence on reparations damps support.

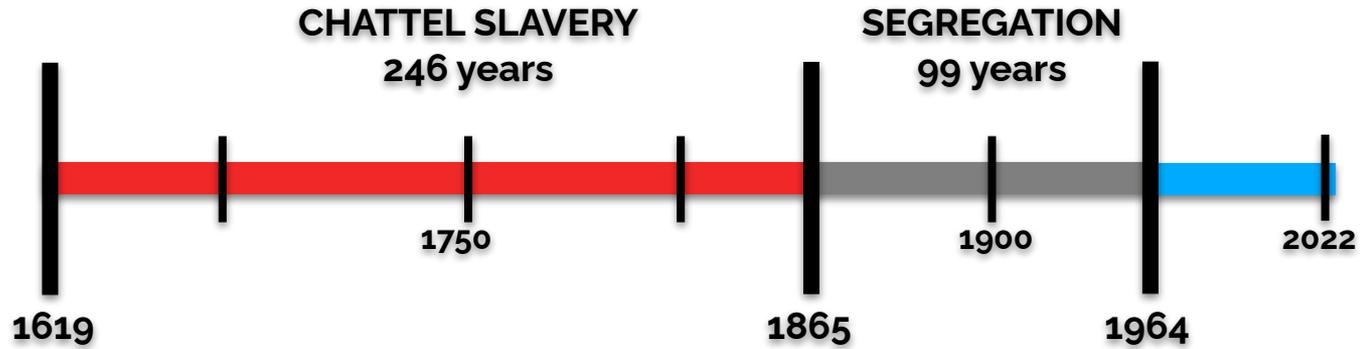
**2019**

Most Democratic presidential candidates endorse the bill.



Notes: Years indicate second year of a two-year congressional session. Data for 2019-2020 as of July 29 | Source: Congress.gov

# American Descendants of Slavery Advocacy Foundation





## An Unfulfilled Promise



Union General William T. Sherman issued Special Field Order No. 15, Jan 1865

On January 16, 1865, General Sherman issued Special Field Order No. 15 which confiscated land as Union property and redistributed the roughly 400,000 acres of land to newly freed Black families in forty-acre segments.

March 3, 1865, President Lincoln established the Freedmen's Bureau. It was authorized to give legal title for forty-acre plots of land to freedmen and white Southern Unionists.

Fall of 1865, After Lincoln's assassination, U.S. president Andrew Johnson overturned Sherman's directive and **returned most of the land to the planters** who had originally owned it.



# Slavery: A Continuation

## Black People Were Enslaved in the US Until as Recently as 1963

By Rafi Letzter February 28, 2018

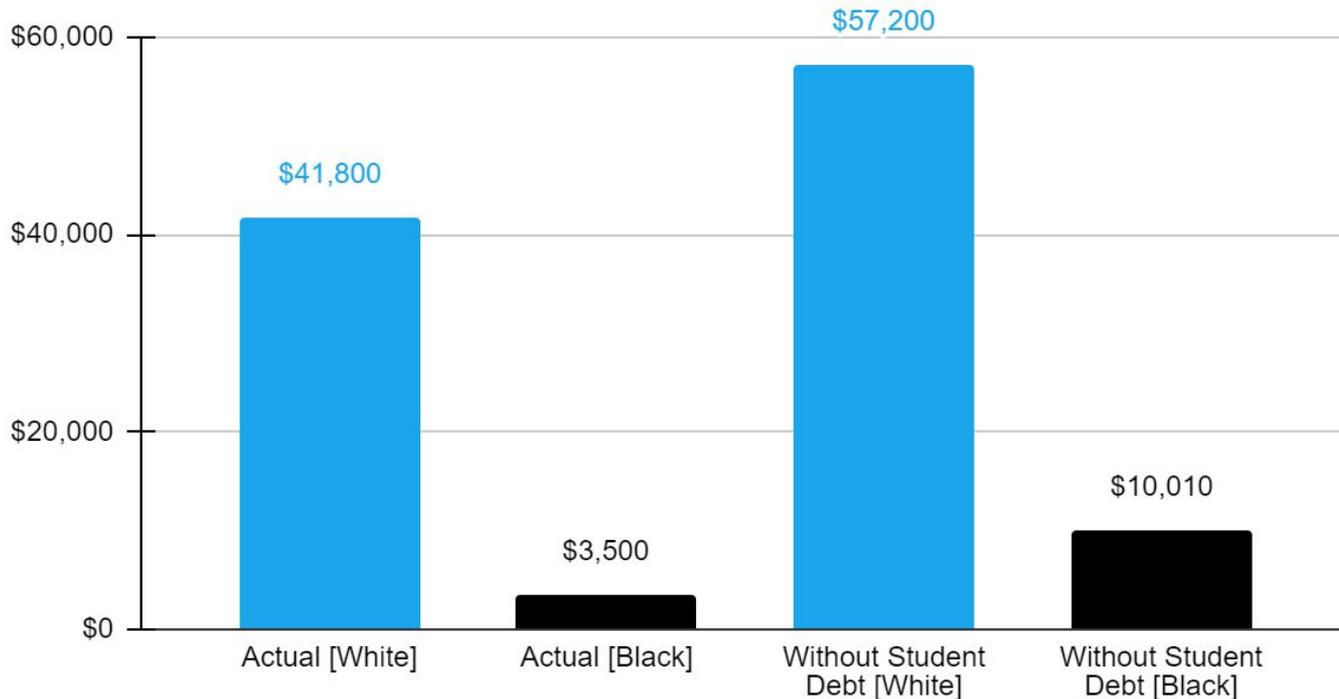
"I met about 20 people all who had worked on the Waterford Plantation in St. Charles Parish, Louisiana," Harrell told Vice. **"They told me they had worked the fields for most of their lives.** One way or another, they had become indebted to the plantation's owner and **were not allowed to leave the property."**

Harrell described the case of Mae Louise Walls Miller, who didn't get her freedom until 1963, when she was about 14.



## Median Household Wealth Among 25—40 Year Olds

Source: Marshall Steinbaum/Matt Bruenig Federal Reserve 2016 Survey of Consumer Finances Analysis

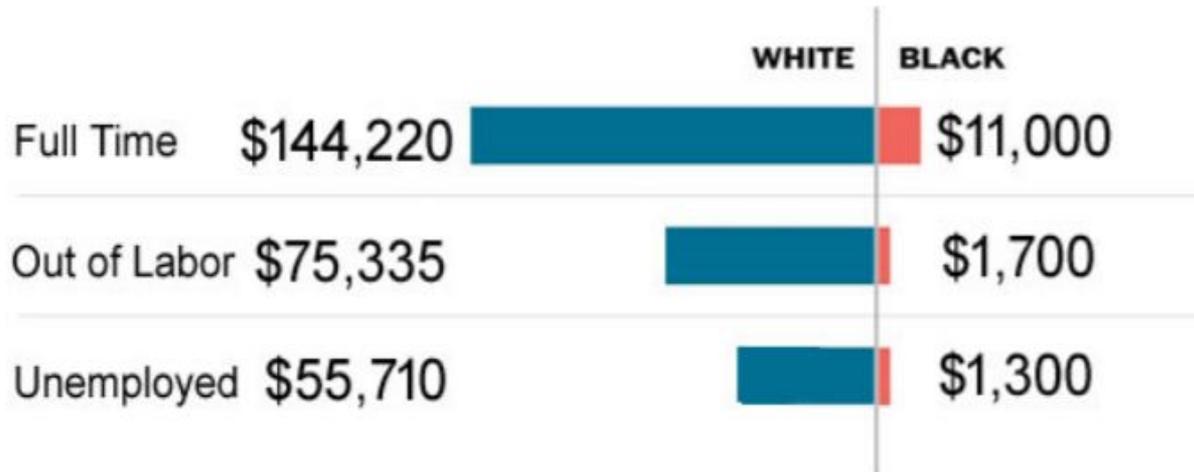


**Racial  
Wealth  
Gap**

# Racial Wealth Gap



Figure 2: Median Household Net Worth by Race and Employment Status

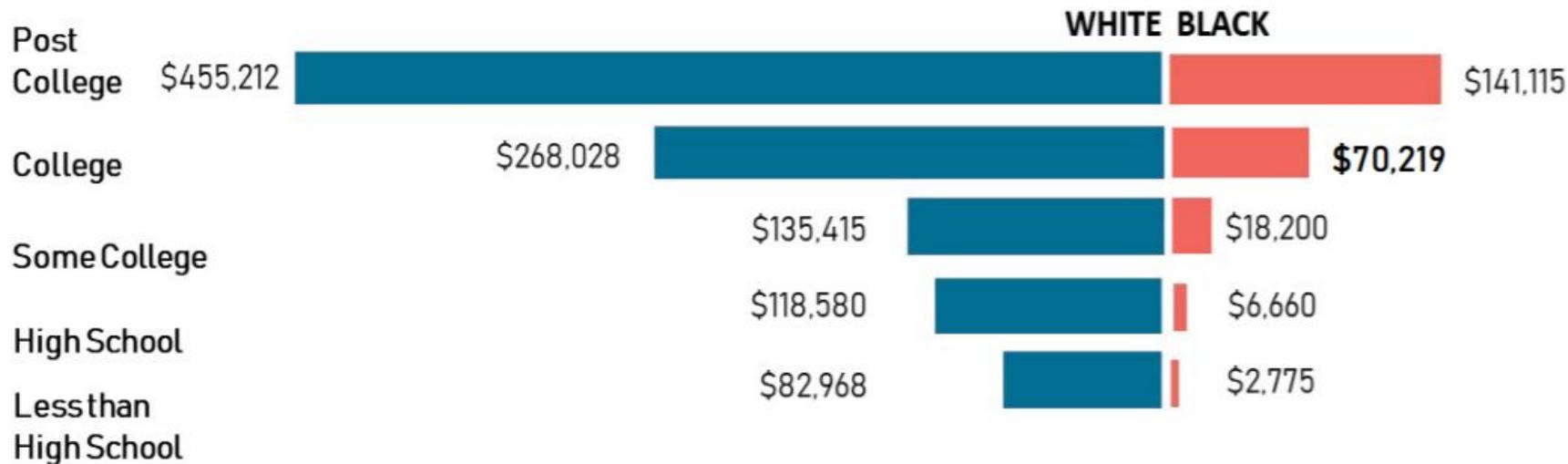


*Source:* Authors' calculations, SIPP, 2014.

# Racial Wealth Gap



Figure 1: Median Household Net Worth by Race and Education



*Source:* Authors' calculations, Survey on Income and Program Participation (SIPP) 2014.

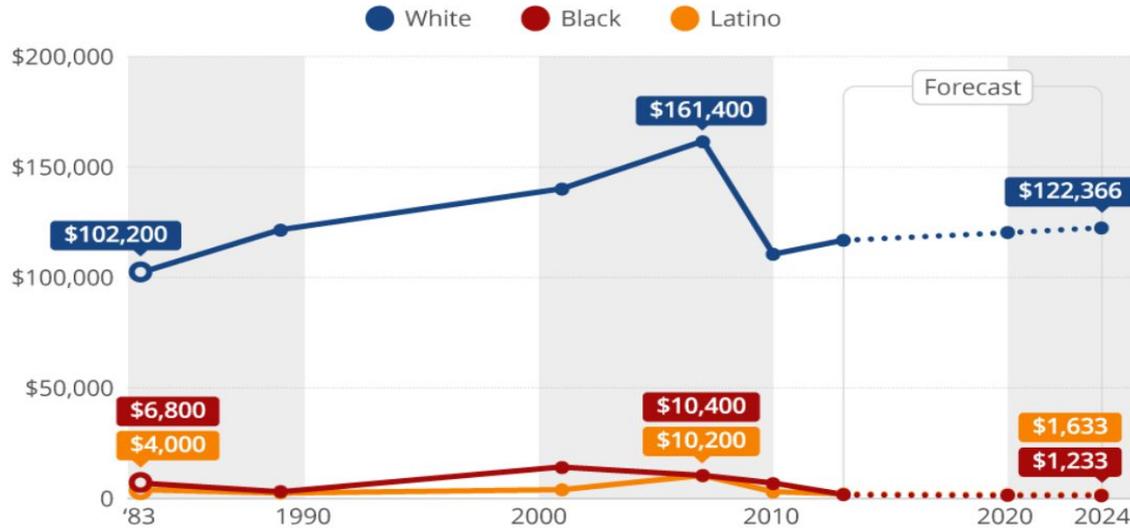
*Note:* Many of these figures were updated from a prior report entitled *Umbrellas Don't Make it Rain: Why Studying Hard and Working Hard Isn't Enough for Black Americans* (Hamilton et al. 2015).

# Racial Wealth Gap



## Racial Wealth Inequality Is Rampant In The U.S.

Median household wealth by race/ethnicity in the United States (1983–2024)



@StatistaCharts Source: Prosperity Now & Institute For Policy Studies

statista

# Racial Wealth Gap



Wealth component	White (US\$ Trillions)	Black (US\$ Trillions)	Hispanic (US\$ Trillions)	Other (US\$ Trillions)
Real estate	25.93	1.87	1.78	4.20
Consumer durables	5.02	0.43	0.41	0.51
Corporate equities and mutual fund shares	33.48	0.42	0.17	3.32
Pension entitlements	23.61	2.73	1.04	2.49
Private businesses	11.52	0.25	0.23	1.12
Other assets	21.31	0.98	0.41	2.52

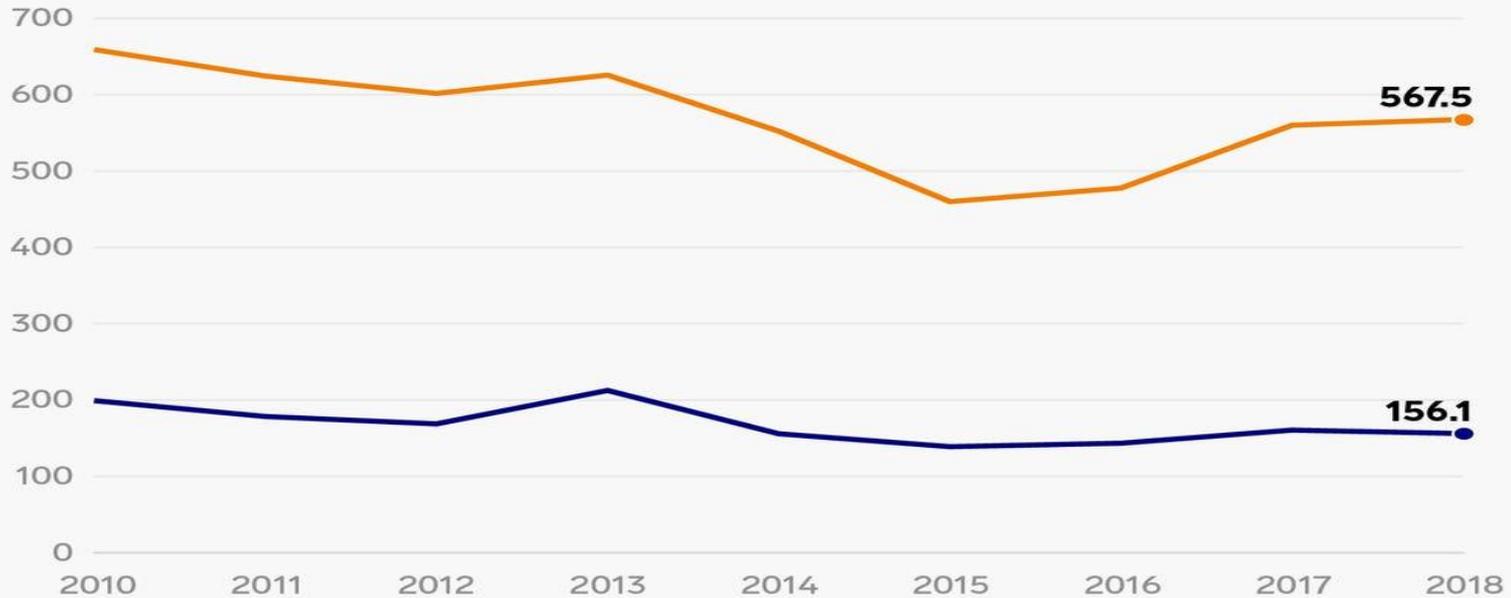
# Marijuana Arrest



## Marijuana possession arrest rates, by race

■ White ■ Black

Marijuana possession arrest rates per 100K



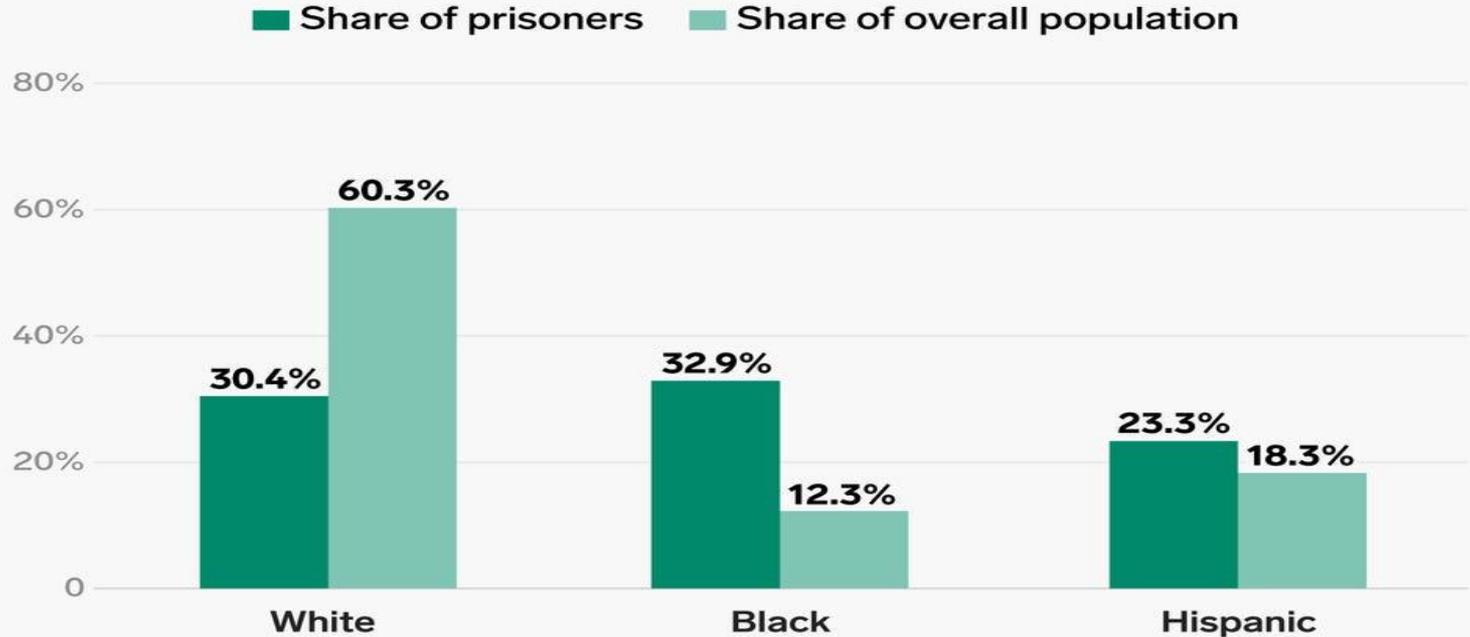
Sources: FBI/Uniform Crime Reporting Program; US Census

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# Incarceration



## Sentenced prisoners, by race



Note: Sentenced prisoners include prisoners under jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities.

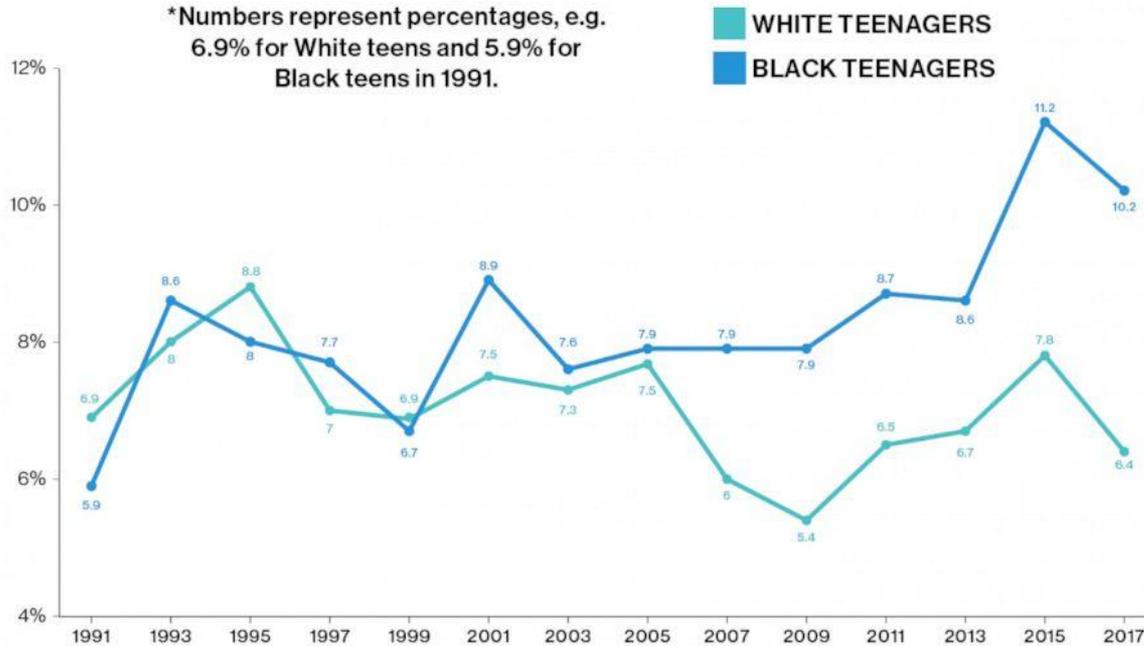
Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2018; American Community Survey, 2018

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# Suicide



## SUICIDE ATTEMPTS FOR BLACK TEENAGERS AND WHITE TEENAGERS BETWEEN 1991 AND 2017





rep·a·ra·tion

/,repə'rāSH(ə)n/

The repayment for Slavery and multigenerational plunder and oppression.



# Reparations

## **Federal Reparations:**

At minimum, a federal Reparations package should prioritize cash payments for lost wages, beginning at **\$20 trillion** to American Descendants of Slavery (ADOS). Together with targeted policies and protections, the redistributive measures will be ongoing and must remain in effect until—at the very least—the wealth gap between white Americans and ADOS is closed.

## **Local Reparations:**

Should support federal reparations by researching local harms against ADOS and apply political pressure for the federal government to support a comprehensive Reparations package.



# Reparations



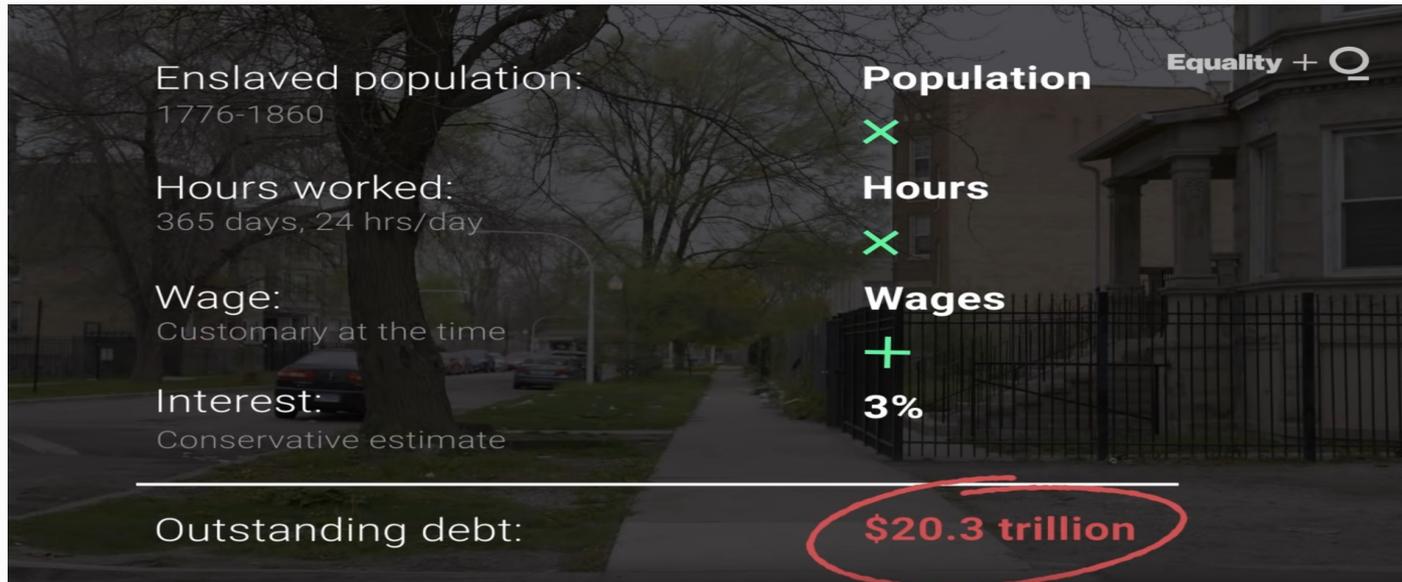
Thomas Craemer, Professor of public policy at the University of Connecticut

“My personal preference would be that there be a **substantial cash component...**

It will have to be paid back sooner rather than later because the wealth that was created is earning interest in more and more diffused hands. It’s earning compound interest which grows exponentially, so the debt grows exponentially. **Every year we wait, it’ll be more.**



# The Down-payment



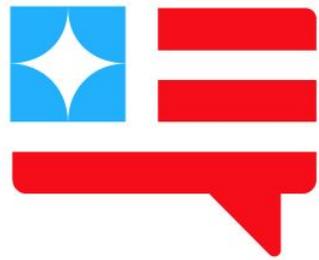
American Descendants of Slavery Advocacy Foundation



# How can the ADOS Advocacy Foundation Help?



- Local Proposals and Resolutions
- Policy Writing and Consulting
- Reparations Education Sessions
- Activist/Organizer Training
- Phone Banking



**ADOS**<sup>TM</sup>  
ADVOCACY FOUNDATION

# Thank you



[adosfoundation.org](https://adosfoundation.org)