

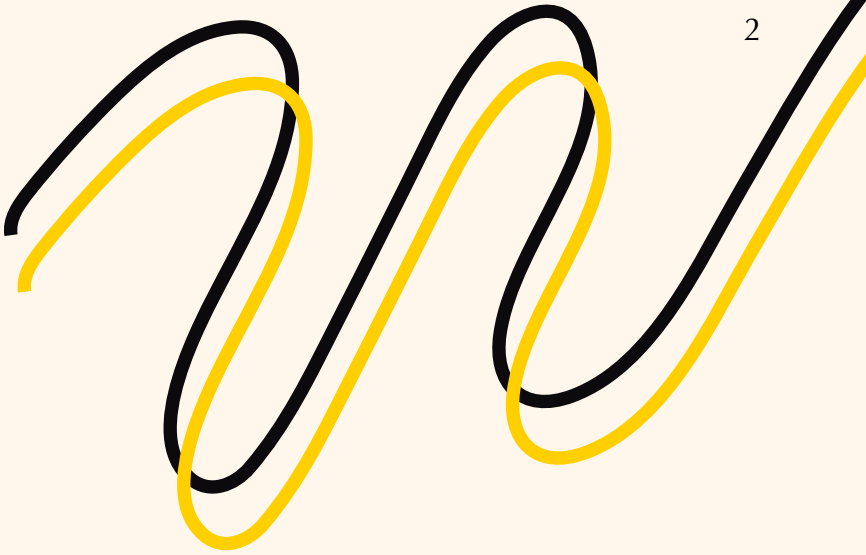
Towards a battery of factual indicators of Systemic Racism against people of African descent



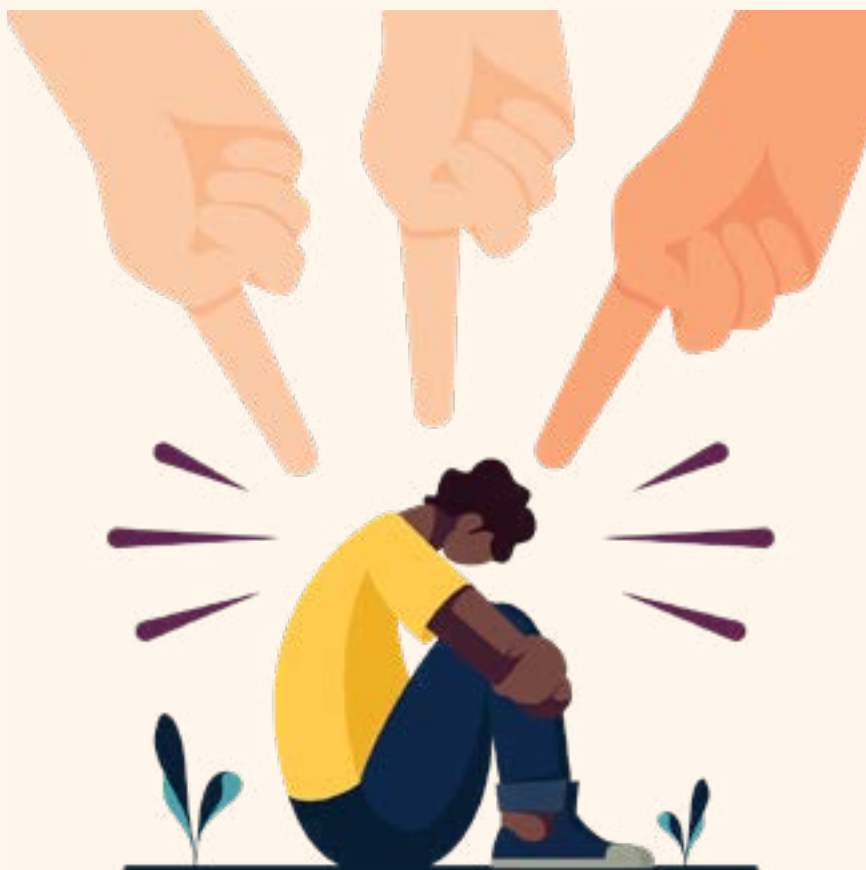


What is systemic racism?

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“The concept of systemic racism against Africans and people of African descent, including as it **relates to structural and institutional racism, is understood to be the operation of a complex, interrelated system of laws, policies, practices and attitudes in State institutions, the private sector and societal structures that, combined, result in direct or indirect, intentional or unintentional, de jure or de facto discrimination, distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference on the basis of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.** Systemic racism often manifests itself in pervasive racial stereotypes, prejudice, and bias and is frequently rooted in histories and legacies of enslavement, the transatlantic trade in enslaved Africans and colonialism.” ([Human Rights Council, 2021, A/HRC/47/53, para. 9](#))





As implied from the definition above, systemic racism encompasses a wide range of situations that disproportionately affect people of African descent, **including poverty, unemployment, disparities in the justice system, higher homicide and incarceration rates, police violence, including racial profiling, the highest rates of hate crimes, asymmetries in access and enjoyment of essential services**, such as education, health, drinking water, among others.¹

An approximation to a **battery or set of indicators that would account for the existence of systemic racism against people of African descent could include**, among others, the verification of the following:



Parceros United [@ParcerosUnited]. (5 jun. 2020).



¹Although there are still gaps, recent studies provide an approximation of the state of the matter: Afro-descendant Inclusion in Education: An Anti-Racist Agenda for Latin America from the World Bank, which will be published by the end of 2022; [Promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officials](#), report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2021); [Regional Report on the State of Situation of People of African Descent and on the Progress of the Situation of the Plan of Action for Afro-descendants in the Americas \(2016-2025\)](#) of the OAS (2021); [Afro-descendants and the Matrix of Social Inequality in Latin America: Challenges for Inclusion](#) of ECLAC (2020); [Just Societies: Equity in Health and a Dignified Life](#), Report of the Commission of the Pan American Health Organization on Equity and Health Inequalities in the Americas (2019); Afro-descendants in Latin America: Towards a World Bank [Inclusion Framework \(2018\)](#); [Analysis of the health situation of Afro-descendants in the Andean countries](#) of ORAS-CONHU, with the support of PAHO (2018), as well as the [periodic reports](#) of the United Nations Working Group on Afro-descendants.

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- Unsplash
1. Persistence of the close link between **poverty and racism**;
 2. Absence or marked disparity in access to basic services, including **housing, especially decent housing, drinking water, sewerage, and energy service**;
 3. **Scarce and poor quality of roads** and means of communication;
 4. Lack of service or **disparity in Internet access**;
 5. **Limited access to land ownership**, especially the most productive and best quality land;
 6. **Higher illiteracy rates**;
 7. **Low access to higher education in public and private universities**, including universities with high accreditation;
 8. Overrepresentation in the number and percentage of the **least qualified jobs**;
 9. Disproportionately higher **unemployment rates**;

10. **They tend to spend significantly more time looking for work**, gain less work experience, and experience less stable employment than white men with equivalent characteristics;

11. **Lower remuneration** compared to non-Afro-descendant people in the performance of the same activity;

12. **Higher rates of household** dependency rates;

13. Little or no representation at the decision-making levels of the different branches and bodies of public power;

14. **Little or no participation at management levels**, including company boards and unions in the public and private sectors;

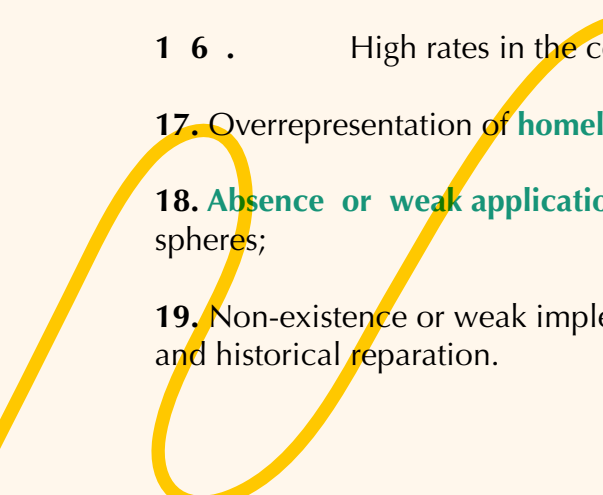
15. **Lower percentage of population** that contributes to the pension system and professional risks;

16. High rates in the condition of **displacement, migration, and statelessness**;

17. Overrepresentation of **homeless people**;

18. **Absence or weak application** of public policies in their legal, institutional, and instrumental spheres;

19. Non-existence or weak implementation of special measures or affirmative action and historical reparation.






20. Deficit situation concerning the main social determinants of health;

21. More significant registration in the subsidized health system, in contrast to the low number of people in the said group in the contributory health systems;

22. High number affected by communicable diseases, as well as high rates of those who die from preventable diseases;

23. Persistence of diseases, such as malaria and yellow fever, which in other non-Afro-descendant contexts have already been eradicated;

24. High rates of **suffering from chronic diseases**;

25. High number of Afro-descendant boys and girls who **die from malnutrition**;

26. High percentage of victims of **attacks perpetrated by law enforcement officers** (CERD, RG 31, 2006, para. 1a);

27. High rate of victims of **racial profiling and algorithmic bias**;

28. Shortage in the number of **complaints, prosecutions, and sentences for acts of racial discrimination** (CERD, RG 31, 2006, para. 1b);

29. Insufficient information on the conduct of the bodies **responsible for the application of the law** (CERD, RG 31, 2006, para. 1c);

30. High rates of **attribution of criminal acts** (CERD, RG 31, 2006, para. 1d);

31. High rates of **criminal or administrative detention** (CERD, RG 31, 2006, para. 1e);

32. Imposition of more **severe or inadequate sentences** (CERD, RG 31, 2006, para. 1f);

33. Insufficiency of people of African descent in the services responsible for **applying laws** (CERD, RG 31, 2006, para. 1f).



This proposal does not constitute an exhaustive list of factual indicators of systemic racism against people of African descent. However, they are presented as an indicative tool to determine the situation of people of African descent in different contexts and the different systems of exclusion and oppression that affect them.



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