## Racing to Economic Equality:

## Income and Racial Disparities in Dane County

Minority groups in Dane County face disproportional challenges because of their race, both financially and otherwise. 85\% of Dane County's population identifies as non-Hispanic white, leaving little room for diversity and a lot of room for racial disparities for minority groups. On the other hand, $6.5 \%$ of Dane County identifies as non-Hispanic black and Hispanic, Asian, and Native American make up the remaining few percent. As a relatively small percetange of the population, these people face startling disparities when it comes to opportunities and quality of life.


For example, $\mathbf{5 4 \%}$ of Madison's black population reported living in poverty in 2011, compared to $\mathbf{9 \%}$ of white people. This disparity is even more stark when looking at children: $\mathbf{7 5 \%}$ of Dane County's children lived in poverty in 2011, compared to $\mathbf{5 \%}$ of impoverished white children. This dire statistic may be attributed - at least in part - to the fact that black people in Dane County are $\mathbf{5}$ times more likely to be unemployed.
While the Asian and Hispanic communities in Dane County have been less studied, a recent survey shows 29\% of Hispanics feel they are treated differently at work because of their race; this number jumps to $\mathbf{6 0 \%}$ for black people who feel racial discimination in the workplace.

People identifying as Asian present more varied trends because the multitude of cultural identities that falls under "Asian" contributes to a wide spectrum of demographics. However, those identifying as Asian reported having a median household income of about $\$ 40,000$ compared to whites' $\$ 63,000$. For Hispanics and blacks, the gap widens even further, with median incomes of $\$ 33,400$ and $\$ 20,600$, respectively.

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