

Social Problems

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliation

## Assignment 1: Social Problems

### **Introduction**

Racial inequality refers to the unequal treatment and opportunities afforded to individuals based on their race, deeply ingrained in societal structures and institutions. This systemic issue affects access to education, employment, justice, and healthcare, perpetuating cycles of poverty and marginalization. Addressing racial inequality is crucial for fostering societal equality and harmony, ensuring all individuals have equal opportunities and rights, thereby promoting social justice and cohesion within diverse communities.

### **Article Summary**

The article from the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (2022) investigates the systemic barriers to racial inequality in the United States, focusing on employment, healthcare, and education. Through quantitative analysis, it reveals significant disparities affecting minority groups, particularly African Americans and Hispanics, highlighting the role of institutional racism and socio-economic factors. The findings underscore the persistent gap in opportunities and outcomes between racial groups, advocating for policy reforms to address these inequalities. The study emphasizes the importance of targeted interventions to dismantle systemic barriers and promote equity across all societal domains.

### **Social Concepts**

The article (Jun et al., 2022) provides a compelling examination of racial inequality through the lens of systemic racism, privilege, discrimination, and social justice, offering poignant examples that underscore the depth of these issues. Systemic racism manifests in employment disparities, where minorities often occupy lower-wage positions and in healthcare, evidenced by the significant gaps in quality of care and health outcomes for African Americans and Hispanics (Lewis, 2024). The concept of privilege is highlighted by the differential access to educational opportunities and professional networks, predominantly favoring white individuals. Discrimination is vividly illustrated through racial profiling by law enforcement and the historical practice of redlining, severely

limiting minorities' access to housing and financial services. The study's call for policy reforms advocates for social justice measures aimed at dismantling these deep-rooted barriers, underscoring the urgent need for societal change to address and rectify the pervasive impact of racial inequality on various aspects of life.

The article (Jun et al., 2022) dives into racial inequality, showcasing systemic racism through entrenched employment, healthcare, and education disparities that disproportionately affect African Americans and Hispanics. These examples embody systemic racism, where institutional structures perpetuate inequality. Privilege is evident in unequal access to education and jobs, favoring predominantly white populations. Discrimination surfaces in practices like racial profiling and redlining, limiting minorities' access to fair justice and housing. The article's call for policy reforms mirrors the social justice concept, advocating for changes to dismantle these barriers. These findings not only highlight the article's alignment with social concepts of racial inequality but also stress the imperative need for comprehensive actions to combat these deep-rooted societal issues.

### **Conclusion**

The article presents compelling evidence of systemic racial inequalities in the United States, pinpointing significant disparities in employment, healthcare, and education primarily affecting African Americans and Hispanics. It underlines the crucial roles of systemic racism, privilege, discrimination, and the urgent need for social justice. Understanding these inequalities is pivotal for devising effective policy reforms and interventions aimed at dismantling the barriers that perpetuate racial disparities. This knowledge is indispensable in fostering a more equitable society where equal opportunities and justice are accessible to all, regardless of race.

References

- Jun, S., Chow, R. M., van der Veen, A. M., & Bleich, E. (2022). Chronic frames of social inequality: How mainstream media frame race, gender, and wealth inequality. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *119*(21), e2110712119. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2110712119>
- Lewis, T. L. (2024). *America's Black Homelessness Epidemic: Rooted in Systemically Racist Public Policies and Administration*.