



Life of a Black Boy

Jahad Marable



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My black skin

You say that all lives matter

That may be true

But all lives aren't in danger

It's me, my black life that I have to worry about

Every time I ride pass an officer

My heart skips a beat

Because I fear that they'll think I'm one of the ones that

Play the streets

So yes all lives matter

But my black life is the one that's always in danger

My black life is the one that's scary to a stranger



Systemic and structural racism are forms of racism that are pervasively and deeply embedded in systems, laws, written or unwritten policies, and entrenched practices and beliefs that produce, condone, and perpetuate widespread unfair treatment and oppression of people of color, with adverse health consequences. Examples include residential segregation, unfair lending practices and other barriers to home ownership and accumulating wealth, schools' dependence on local property taxes, environmental injustice, biased policing and sentencing of men and boys of color, and voter suppression policies. This article defines systemic and structural racism, using examples; explains how they damage health through many causal pathways; and suggests approaches to dismantling them. This article defines structural and systemic racism, explains how they damage health and provides illustrative examples. Racism is not always conscious, intentional, or explicit—often it is systemic and structural.⁴ Systemic and structural racism are forms of racism that are pervasively and deeply embedded in and throughout systems, laws, written or unwritten policies, entrenched practices, and established beliefs and attitudes that produce, condone, and perpetuate widespread unfair treatment of people of color.⁵ They reflect both ongoing and historical injustices.

. Systemic racism emphasizes the involvement of whole systems, and often all systems—for example, political, legal, economic, health care, school, and criminal justice systems—including the structures that uphold the systems.⁶ Structural racism emphasizes the role of the structures (laws, policies, institutional practices, and entrenched norms) that are the systems' scaffolding.⁵ Because systemic racism includes structural racism, for brevity we often use systemic racism to refer to both; at times we use both for emphasis. Institutional racism is sometimes used as a synonym for systemic or structural racism, as it captures the involvement of institutional systems and structures in race-based discrimination and oppression; it may also refer specifically to racism within a particular institution.

2022 state ballot initiatives on abortion rights. KFF. (2022, September 20). Retrieved October 4, 2022, from <https://www.kff.org/policy-watch/2022-state-ballot-initiatives-abortion-rights/#:~:text=On%20June%2024%2C%202022%2C%20the,policies%20banning%20or%20protecting%20abortion.>

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EVERYTHING

My creative submission was the artist/photo collage and it compliments the poem I wrote because I chose to add pictures to the collage that correlates to the poem.

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