

Institutionalized discrimination is coming to an ugly head in America, and it's all due to the pandemic that is ravaging the country right now.

COVID-19 is speeding up the damage that individual and policy-based discrimination is doing to marginalized groups in America. In Michigan, as of May 29, black Americans make up [40% of the recorded COVID-19 deaths](#), despite only making up [14.1% of the population](#). In Illinois, as of June 4, black Americans make up [29% of recorded COVID-19 deaths](#) despite only making up [14.6% of the population](#), according to both state and Census data.

[A study conducted by Rubix Life-Sciences](#) found that black-Americans, especially those of a lower socioeconomic status, are disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Other underrepresented minority communities—Hispanic-Americans, Native-Americans, and others— were also affected more than white communities, but out of the 67,610 patients who screened positive for COVID-19 systems in the test group, black-Americans had the highest number of cases at 21,034. They conducted their study based on 103 hospital groups in Virginia, Maryland, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Florida, New Jersey and New York from February 7th, 2020 to March 20th, 2020.

Since then, COVID-19 has rapidly evolved in its path of death and destruction. According to the [CDC](#) as of May 12th, 2020, symptoms extend into discoloration of extremities, such as the lips or face. People dying of COVID-19 range in age from five to people into their 70s. No one is truly safe from the pandemic, especially not those who already experience a lack of medical care and resources in their marginalized communities. The [current number of cases in America](#), as of June 4, 2020, is 1,842,101, with 107,029 total recorded deaths in the country.

The institutionalized discrimination has been a long-standing trend in America. White supremacy and the view of black individuals being inferior has been around since the foundation of the America, with a new spark in racism and discrimination during Trump's presidency as according to [Lawrence D. Bobo](#). Within the timeline of his presidency, he has specifically targeted and marginalized undocumented immigrants. In a [White House statement](#) involving COVID-19, he condemns China as "Communist" and an American journalistic organization for not writing in support of America and praising the COVID-19 efforts that successfully brought China out of its first wave of COVID-19. Instead of taking responsibility for the lack of legislation and the disbanding of groups that could have prepared the country better for the pandemic, Trump and his staff turn to hateful propaganda that diverts the blame from them.

Trump regularly releases propaganda that deems undocumented immigrants trying to enter the country from America's southern border as "[dangerous criminal](#)

[aliens](#)” in White House releases and statements. Trump’s America is waging a war against immigrants, on those fleeing persecution and oppression, argues [Omar Jadwat of the American Civil Liberties Union](#).

Trump’s legislation has seen undocumented immigrants thrown in cages and trapped in tent cities surrounding the southern border, but COVID-19 is running rampant in these communities. According to [one report by the BBC](#), Immigration Customs and Enforcement has reported 490 cases of COVID-19, but they have only tested 1,030 out of 31,000 detainees. A Salvadorian asylum seeker interviewed in the BBC article recounted that no medical care was given to the detainees at the Otay Mesa of San Diego, California, where she stayed. They are fed bread and water as the employed cooks at the center have stopped working due to the virus. Social distancing is basically impossible, as she recalls sleeping in a cell “with eight beds, one on top of the other at a distance of about a meter.” All of the individuals detained in Otay Mesa use the same bathroom, and she directly stated that they “are not in an environment where you can have social distancing.” Every protocol that citizens of America are held to—social distancing, quarantining, being forced to stay at home—is unachievable for those incarcerated at the border. The effects of this can only be disastrous, but it is too early to see the true impact until it is too late. Likewise, tent cities and camps found at our southern border may easily spread disease as they lack basic resources that any citizen in America has regular access to: clean water, medical attention, plumbing or even walls that separate a person from their neighbors.

The ways that America has forced its minority citizens and noncitizens into oppression has been brought to light by the destruction of COVID-19. This pandemic has made very clear how the legislation in this country, whether it be redlining or Migrant Protection Protocols, is destructive and lethal. No one can deny the institutionalized discrimination in America after they see just how these communities have been impacted.