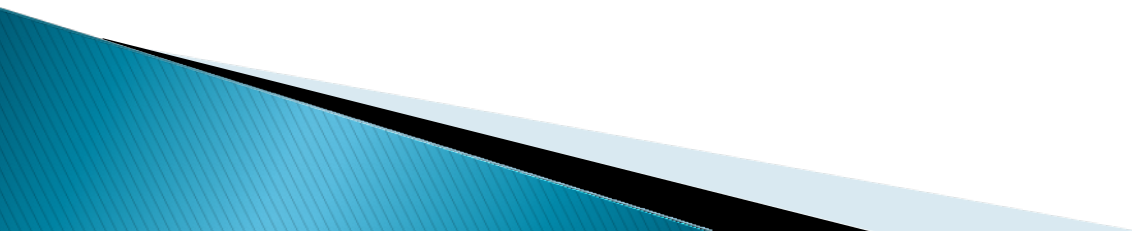


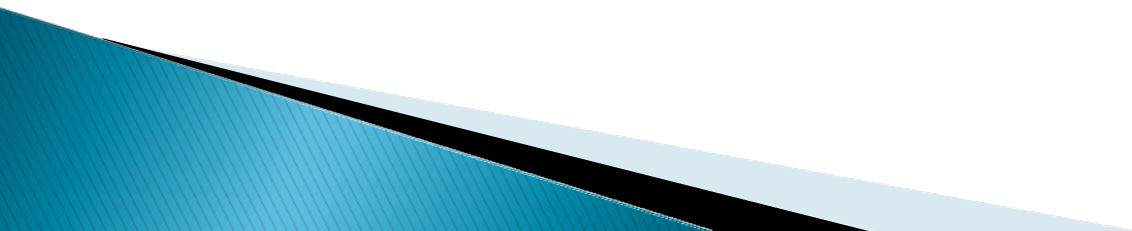
Racial Disparities in Justice System

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Outline of Presentation

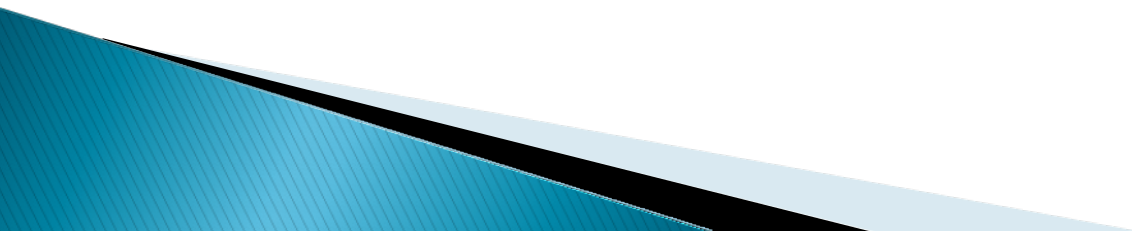
- ▶ Areas of ongoing allegations of Racial Disparities
 - ▶ Recent explanations for causes of racial disparity
 - ▶ Cambridge Police Illustration
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Ongoing Areas of Racial Disparity in Justice System

- ▶ Capital Punishment
 - ▶ Sentencing
 - ▶ Disproportionate Minority Contact
 - ▶ Police Use of Force
 - ▶ Racial Profiling
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Changes in racial disparity over time

- ▶ In this era with a Black President and Latina Supreme Court Justices and other notable accomplishments by people of color

 - ▶ Do these Racial and Ethnic Disparities continue?
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Capital Punishment

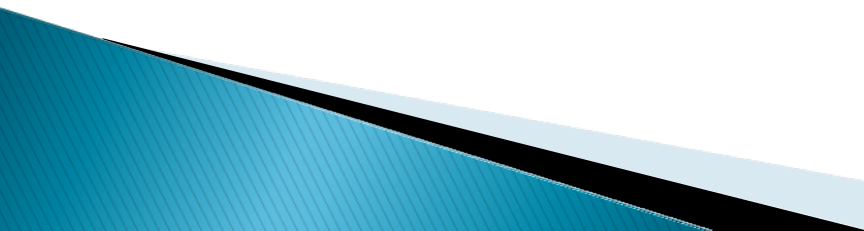
- ▶ Executions since 1976 Race of Defendant
 - Blacks 35% (12.4%)
 - Latinos 7% (12.5%)
 - Whites 56% (73%)
- ▶ Executions since 1976 Race of Victims
 - Blacks 15%
 - Latinos 5%
 - Whites 78%
- ▶ Race of Defendant Currently on Death Row
 - Blacks 41%
 - Latinos 12%
 - Whites 44%

*source Death Penalty Information Center (2010)

Sentencing

- ▶ Jail and Prison Population
 - Blacks 38% (12.4%)
 - Latinos 19% (12.5%)
 - Whites 37% (73%)
- ▶ Causes include:
 - Sentencing for drugs
 - Three strike legislation
 - Increase in use of incarceration
 - Sentencing Guidelines and Presumptive Sentencing

Disproportionate Minority Contact

- ▶ The incarceration rate for Latinos is twice that of whites
 - ▶ African American youth are 16% of the population of Country but 40% of the incarcerated youth
 - ▶ African-American youth are twice as likely as White youth to be sent to a secure facility.
 - ▶ Latino Youth are incarcerated twice as long as White your for Drug Offenses
 - ▶ Source: Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Council 2010
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Police Use of Force

- ▶ Race of those who had contact with the Police in 2005 and reported that police used force
 - Whites 1.2%
 - Latinos 2.3%
 - Blacks 4.1%

- Source Police Public contact survey 2007

Racial Profiling

- ▶ Interest in topic has waned
 - No consistent finding as to racial disparities in traffic stops
 - Consistent finding involving post stop activities
 - Blacks and Latinos were more likely to get citations than Whites
 - Blacks and Latinos were more likely to be searched than Whites
 - No racial difference in rates in which racial groups are found to be in possession of contraband

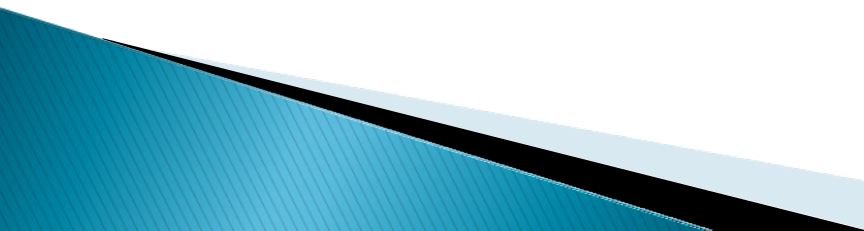
Reasons for ongoing disparities

- ▶ We have functioned under a “bad apple” philosophy
 - These disparities are caused by a few bad police, judges, etc.
- ▶ Those who are studying Unconscious Bias are finding that Racial and Ethnic stereotypes affect large numbers of people
 - In way they do not perceive


Unconscious Bias

- ▶ Research (e.g. Eberhardt) finds that our stereotypes effect our perception and behavior in unconscious ways.
 - Shoot don't shoot test

Gates Crowley Incident

- ▶ July 16 2009 Sgt James Crowley responded to call about potential breaking and entering in progress
 - ▶ Differing perceptions of same reality
 - Crowley fear of being vulnerable
 - Gates fear of historic police harassment
 - ▶ Description of Incident
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Description of Incident

- ▶ Crowley feel vulnerable
 - Alone, and on porch in front of open windows
 - ▶ Ask Gates to step outside
 - ▶ Gates is looking for help but is treated as a suspect
 - ▶ Crowley “can’t back down”
 - ▶ Gates was angry and loud
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Lessons learned

- ▶ People bring many stereotypes or biases to any encounter
 - ▶ In the Gates Crowley incident either side could have deescalated the incident at multiple points. Each person behaved badly
 - ▶ Race did play a role but the role is very complex
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