



JUNETEENTH – June 19, 2020

Juneteenth is both the oldest and most popular annual commemoration of emancipation in the United States, marking the June 19, 1865, reading of General Order Number 3 in Galveston, Texas, which included the following language:

The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor.

The date is critical to understanding the significance of Juneteenth: Although the Emancipation Proclamation, intended to free enslaved peoples in territories in rebellion to the United States, had officially gone into effect at midnight on January 1, 1863, the first notice of this provided to the approximately quarter-million enslaved peoples in Texas (and by extension, many parts of the South) was the June 19, 1865, announcement—some two and a half years later. As noted by Juneteenth.com:

Later attempts to explain this two and a half year delay in the receipt of this important news have yielded several versions that have been handed down through the years. Often told is the story of a messenger who was murdered on his way to Texas with the news of freedom. Another, is that the news was deliberately withheld by the enslavers to maintain the labor force on the plantations. And still another, is that federal troops actually waited for the slave owners to reap the benefits of one last cotton harvest before going to Texas to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation. All of which, or neither of these version could be true. Certainly, for some, President Lincoln's authority over the rebellious states was in question. For whatever the reasons, conditions in Texas remained status quo well beyond what was statutory.

Juneteenth was celebrated in Texas in 1866, and the annual observance spread to other states over the years. On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth officially became a Texas state holiday. As of this writing, Juneteenth is now observed in some 47 states and the District of Columbia, as well as in Coahuila, Mexico, by members of the [Mascogos Tribe](#), descendants of Black Seminoles who fled enslavement and persecution in the United States.

For more information about Juneteenth and resources honoring Black lives and voices, please see:

[Juneteenth: Fact Sheet \(Congressional Research Service\)](#)

[What Is Juneteenth—and What Does It Celebrate? \(National Geographic\)](#)

[History of Juneteenth \(Atlanta Journal-Constitution\)](#)
[African American History Timeline \(BlackPast\)](#)
[The 18 Best Black Books of All Time \(Black Enterprise\)](#)
[Black Stories Matter \(Libro.fm\)](#)
[Join Academics for Black Survival and Wellness Week](#)

#Academics4BlackLives

BEGINNING ON JUNETEENTH
 Friday, June 19 - Thursday, June 25, 2020

Schedule & Topics For non-Black Folx

- Day 1:** Foundations for Black Survival & Wellness
- Day 2:** Understanding Anti-Black Racism: History & Systems
- Day 3:** Appropriately Applying Intersectionality
- Day 4:** White Terror and Anti-Black Violence
- Day 5:** Exploring Whiteness in the Academy
- Day 6:** Practicing Black Allyship
- Day 7:** Committing to Black Liberation



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The following Racial Justice Resources were compiled by members of the Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee (DISC) at the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Emory University School of Medicine (with special thanks to Dr. Apryl Alexander for providing this information):

Events

- [Die-In for Black Lives: Reclaiming Space and Demanding Accountability](#) - Wednesday, June 17, 7:30pm ET
- [NAACP Juneteenth Black Family Reunion](#) - Friday, June 19, 4-6pm ET

Activities

- [Justice in June](#) - learning resources and schedule of activities
- [21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge](#) - America & Moore
- [26 Ways to Be in the Struggle Beyond the Streets](#) - list designed to celebrate all the ways our communities can engage in celebration
- [Bystander Intervention Training](#)

- [Emory Speak Up Campaign](#) - recent interactive newsletter which contains information on how to donate and become involved in campaigns
- [Street Medic Bridge Training for Medical Professionals](#) - Do No Harm Coalition
- [Harvard Implicit Association test](#) - assess implicit bias

Denver events include the [Denver Juneteenth Music Festival](#) (follow @BLM5280 on Twitter or Black Lives Matter 5280 on Facebook for updated local events).

PRIVILEGE, MARGINALIZATION, AND FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

Even as Juneteenth is celebrated this year, it is important to understand that freedom came neither quickly nor completely, and that the effects of systemic racism and disenfranchisement continue to play out in almost every aspect of the lived experiences of Black and Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) in the United States.

Perhaps nowhere is this more apparent than in the legal and criminal systems currently in place in this country. The Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified December 6, 1865, provides that, “neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.” From long before those words were written—from colonization, genocide, and enslavement, to Reconstruction and Jim Crow, and continuing into the modern school-to-prison-pipeline and ongoing institutionalized violence against BIPOC—racism and oppression have been woven into the systems of power that exist today. They are even built into the words of the Thirteenth Amendment, which themselves carve out an exception to the definitions of slavery and involuntary servitude for criminal punishments. Recognizing and working to address the mental health implications of these privilege and marginalization dynamics lies at the heart of our program’s mission.

According to [The Sentencing Project](#), between federal and state prisons and local jails, some 2.2 million people are currently incarcerated in the United States, a 500% increase over the past 40 years. Importantly,

One in 17 Black men aged 30 to 34 was in prison in 2015, as were 1 in 42 Hispanic males and 1 in 91 White males in the same age group.

Black males born in 2001 had a 32% chance of serving time in prison at some point in their lives; Hispanic males had a 17% chance; White males had a 6% chance.

In 2015, the rate of prison incarceration for Black women was double the rate for White women; the rate for Hispanic women was 1.2 times higher.

Black youth were more than five times as likely to be detained or committed compared to White youth.

Black youth placement rate was 433 per 100,000, compared to a White youth placement rate of 86 per 100,000.

Overall, the racial disparity between Black and White youth in custody increased 22% since 2001.

This month (June 2020), [Statistica](#) reported that African Americans were 2.5 times more likely to be killed by police than White people, finding that, in 2019, 24% of all police killings were of Black Americans (who made up 13% of the U.S. population during the same time period). A 2019 [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Report](#) estimated police use of force as the sixth leading cause of death for Black men between the ages of 24 and 29, with models predicting that 1 in 1,000 Black men and boys “can expect to be killed by police.” That is a chilling sentence for any reader, and a call to action for those in the field.

There is no question that exposure to these acts of violence have negative [physical and mental health implications](#) for BIPOC and communities exposed to these daily traumas. To cite one of many examples, in 2016, [Dr. Raja Stagers-Hakim](#) conducted [focus groups around police brutality and police shootings with African American/Black high school boys](#). The themes that emerged from her interviews included the concepts that Black men are being killed and are also seen as a threat; fear of the police; the need for Black boys to be careful and the need to “get home alive,” and the idea that it could happen here. [One group of researchers](#) has estimated the population mental health burden experienced by Black Americans exposed to the killing of an unarmed Black person within the respondent’s state of residence to be about three-quarters of the population mental health burden associated with diabetes.

To understand the intersection of law and psychology in the present moment, it is critical to understand both the relevant history and its current context. It especially important for White people to understand the continuing legacy of racial violence and oppression, and for those in the field of forensic psychology, it is non-negotiable. One essential component to crafting effective interventions at the individual, group, organizational, or policy level is understanding the ways in which “the legacy of slavery and racism, as well as the current realities of racial oppression and violence, has uniquely impacted the mental health of African Americans”; this in turn warrants a unique focus during clinical training, as Dr. Morgan Medlock and her colleagues (2017) have noted within the field of psychiatry.

The list below includes a selection of foundational resources, as well as links to additional materials and information (with special thanks to Drs. Apyrl Alexander and Lavita Nadkarni for providing much of this information):

[The 1619 Project](#)

The 1619 Project is an ongoing initiative from The New York Times Magazine that began in August 2019, the 400th anniversary of the beginning of American slavery. It aims to reframe

the country's history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of our national narrative.

[13th](#)

Ava DuVernay's award-winning 2016 documentary explores the criminalization of African Americans and the U.S. prison-industrial complex.

[The Sentencing Project](#)

The Sentencing Project compiles state-level criminal justice data from a variety of sources and provides interactive maps with state-by-state data.

[Support Racial Justice \(DU Mental Health and Wellness Collaborative\)](#)

Resources for BIPOC community members who are experiencing traumatic reactions to recent, highly publicized events of racial violence in the context of longstanding, systemic oppression, as well as resources for clinicians and those wanting to learn more about anti-racism.

[Self-educate with audiobooks about racism and antiracism, and amplify black voices \(Libro.fm\)](#)

[Racism as a unique social determinant of mental health: Development of a didactic curriculum for psychiatry residents \(Medlock et al., 2017\)](#)