



DIASPORA DYNAMICS

An Annotated Bibliography of
Black Migrants' and Immigrants'
Experiences in the U.S.

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OHIO IMMIGRANT
ALLIANCE

CONTENTS

- 01. ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT
- 02. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES
- 03. DETENTION & DEPORTATION
- 04. EMPLOYMENT
- 05. HEALTH & LANGUAGE ACCESS
- 06. HOUSING
- 07. IMMIGRANTS WITH DISABILITIES
- 08. MIGRATION THROUGH LATIN AMERICA
- 09. OTHER IMMIGRATION LEGAL ISSUES
- 10. RACISM
- 11. SOCIAL INCUSION
- 12. STUDENTS & EDUCATION
- 13. IN THEIR OWN WORDS
- 14. COMING SOON

1 - ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

"Diaspora Dynamics" examines research on the diverse experiences, circumstances, and policy concerns affecting Black migrants and immigrants across the United States. Drawing from a compilation of over 80 publications (dating as far back as 1925), with research reports, academic articles, policy briefs, and guides, this bibliography sheds light on the growth, geographic distribution, demographic profiles, and socioeconomic outcomes of major Black immigrant groups. Its purpose is to serve as a resource for policymakers, advocates, service providers, and researchers seeking to understand critical issues that impact these varied communities.

Embedded within the texts are several overarching themes. Notably, despite many Black immigrants attaining high levels of education, they encounter economic marginalization evident in underemployment, lower incomes, and lower rates of homeownership compared to other immigrant groups. Instances of discrimination, xenophobia, excessive policing, detention abuses, and deportation risks are recurrently highlighted.

Simultaneously, the annotations highlight significant within-group disparities based on factors such as country of origin, recency of arrival, immigration status, and motivations for migration. Distinctions in outcomes are stark between voluntary immigrants and asylum seekers and refugees fleeing violence, as well as between those settling in established versus newer national and ethnic enclaves and hubs. This diversity cautions against oversimplified portrayals of a uniform "Black immigrant" experience and underscores the necessity for policy frameworks that acknowledge distinct community characteristics and structural vulnerabilities.

Regarding recommendations, numerous sources advocate for expanding language access services, employing multilingual staff, and translating documents to promote fairness in healthcare, education, housing, and other sectors. Suggestions for workforce development initiatives that recognize foreign credentials and skills frequently emerge to tackle underemployment. Additionally, there is a consistent emphasis on expanding service capabilities, funding, and political backing for Black-led, culturally specific community organizations due to their pivotal roles as resource centers and advocates for vulnerable migrant groups.

On a systemic level, urgent policy goals outlined in these reports call for immigration reforms aimed at reducing family separation and deportations,

About This Document, Continued

restoring asylum access, ending detention abuses, and providing pathways to citizenship. Public education campaigns challenging anti-Black discrimination and regulating exploitative practices in sectors like housing, labor, and finance could also facilitate greater inclusivity.

Overall, this bibliography unveils multifaceted challenges alongside displays of resilience, contributions, and impassioned calls to action from diverse Black immigrant communities. These aspects warrant heightened attention within public discourse and policy formulation. It underscores the necessity for nuanced, intersectional approaches that consider within-group diversity across various social categories. Ultimately, it seeks to inform advocacy efforts and policies that champion the dignity, well-being, and complete societal integration of the Black immigrant population in the United States.

Navigating This Document

Each of these resources discuss multiple areas of life and research. For ease of navigation, they have been categorized according to one primary topic: Demographic Profiles; Detention and Deportation; Employment; Health and Language Access; Housing; Immigrants with Disabilities; Migration Through Latin America; Other Immigration Legal Issues; Racism; Social Inclusion; and Students and Education. The document concludes with In Their Own Words, a set of resources that center first-person narratives.

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To read this online, go to bit.ly/3vpxKzp or scan the code.



2 - DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES

Capps, Randy, Kristen McCabe, and Michael Fix. (2011). New Streams: Black African Migration to the United States. Migration Policy Institute. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/new-streams-black-african-migration-united-states>

This report provides a comprehensive analysis of African immigration trends, top origin countries, legal status, geographic distribution, human capital, English proficiency, employment, and earnings. Findings show high education but underemployment for many skilled immigrants. The report examines future emigration pressures and potential immigration policy impacts.

Dain, B. and Batalova, J. (2023) “Haitian Immigrants in the United States.” Migration Policy Institute. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/haitian-immigrants-united-states>

This report provides an overview of Haitian immigration to the U.S., analyzing population growth, geographic distribution, socioeconomic characteristics, immigration pathways, and remittances. As of 2022, nearly 731,000 Haitian immigrants resided in the U.S., concentrated in Florida, New York, and Boston. Most gain permanent residence through family reunification.

Galdámez, M., et al. (2023). Centering Black Latinidad: A Profile of the U.S. Afro-Latinx Population and Complex Inequalities. UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Initiative. <https://latino.ucla.edu/research/centering-black-latinidad/>

This is a multidimensional analysis of the diverse Afro-Latine population in the U.S., including origins, demographics, outcomes, discrimination experiences, political representation, and identity. It centers overlooked experiences shaped by intersecting racism, xenophobia, and gender/sexuality biases. Recommendations focus on expanding economic opportunities, political power, and cultural visibility.

Institute for Immigration Research. (2022). Black Immigrants in the United States. George Mason University. https://iir.gmu.edu/idod/idod_immigrantprofiles/national-database

This fact sheet offers statistics on the characteristics, employment, income, and geographic distribution of Black immigrants in the U.S. It finds that Black immigrants increased 39% in the past decade and have lower incomes and home ownership rates than other immigrants. Black immigrants comprise 9% of all immigrants in the U.S., with top states of residence being North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

Demographic Profiles, Continued

Institute for Immigration Research. (2019). Black Immigrants in the United States: A Comparison of Black Immigrants and All Other Immigrants. George Mason University.

https://iir.gmu.edu/idod/idod_immigrantprofiles/national-database

This fact sheet compares Black immigrants to all other immigrants in the U.S. It finds that in 2018, Black immigrants accounted for 9% of the total immigrant population. The top countries of birth for Black immigrants are more dispersed than for other immigrants. Compared to other immigrants, Black immigrants have lower home ownership rates, similar median income, and slightly lower employment rates. The fact sheet provides statistics on the characteristics and outcomes of Black immigrants.

Institute for Immigration Research. (2016) African Immigrants Across the United States: New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Texas. George Mason University. https://iir.gmu.edu/idod/idod_immigrantprofiles/national-database

This report provides data on African immigrant populations in the United States, with a focus on New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Texas. It includes statistics on population size, year of immigration, geographic distribution, citizenship status, marital status, income, educational attainment, and employment by industry and occupation. Key findings are that over half of African immigrants arrived in 2000 or later, there is wide variation in income and educational attainment across states, and the top industries are education, health, and social services. This source would be useful for understanding characteristics and socioeconomic outcomes of African immigrant groups across different parts of the United States.

Institute for Immigration Research. (2016) Immigrants From Eritrea in the United States. George Mason University.

https://iir.gmu.edu/idod/idod_immigrantprofiles/national-database

This brief report provides data on immigrants from Eritrea living in the United States. It includes population totals, top states of residence, and breakdowns of educational attainment. The report shows that Eritrean immigrants have lower educational attainment compared to other immigrant groups, with only 23% holding a bachelor's degree or higher. The top states for the Eritrean immigrant population are California, Texas, and Washington. While the report provides useful baseline data on the demographic characteristics of Eritrean immigrant communities in America, more research would be needed to better understand this group's history and experiences.

Demographic Profiles, Continued

Jones, B. (2022). A Closer Look: Black Immigrants to Virginia's Economy and Communities. The Commonwealth Foundation. <https://thecommonwealthinstitute.org/research/a-closer-look-black-immigrants-to-virginias-economy-and-communities/>

This report examines the demographics, employment industries, and entrepreneurial activity of Black immigrants in Virginia. It highlights their economic contributions and higher business ownership rates. Recommendations include language and health insurance access, workforce development, small business assistance, and anti-discrimination protections.

Kent, M. (2007). Immigration and America's Black Population. Population Bulletin 62(4), 1-16. <https://www.prb.org/resources/immigration-and-americas-black-population/>

This article from the Population Reference Bureau provides an overview of trends in black immigration to the United States, focusing on immigrants from Africa and the Caribbean. It discusses the growth in black immigration since the 1980s, demographic characteristics of black immigrant groups, geographic settlement patterns, and cultural adaptation. It also covers changes in U.S. immigration law that facilitated increased black immigration. The article draws on a range of data sources including Census data, immigration statistics, and existing research.

Lorenzi, J., & Batalova, J. (2022). Caribbean Immigrants in the United States. Migration Policy Institute. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/caribbean-immigrants-united-states>

This article analyzes Caribbean immigrant demographics, geographic distribution, socioeconomic outcomes, and migration trends. Cubans, Dominicans, Jamaicans, and Haitians account for 90% of the 4.5 million Caribbean immigrants in 2019. Comparisons are made regarding educational attainment, income, poverty, health insurance coverage, and other indicators relative to all U.S. immigrants.

Lorenzi, J., & Batalova, J. (2022). Sub-Saharan African Immigrants in the United States. Migration Policy Institute. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/sub-saharan-african-immigrants-united-states-2019>

This comprehensive report analyzes key aspects of sub-Saharan African immigration to the U.S., utilizing recent government data from the Census Bureau and Department of Homeland Security. Analysis of the 2.5 million sub-

Demographic Profiles, Continued

Saharan African immigrants in 2019 shows leading origin countries were Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Africa. College completion rates were high but household incomes were lower than other immigrant groups when controlling for education. Geographic settlement patterns demonstrated dispersal to new destinations like Minnesota and Ohio, beyond traditional states like New York, California, and Texas. The report concludes by examining the significance of sub-Saharan African remittances totaling \$41.7 billion in 2020.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools Department of Social Sciences. (2016). National Caribbean-American Heritage Month Instructional Resource Guide. Miami-Dade County Public Schools. http://briefings.dadeschools.net/files/87039_2016_National_Caribbean-American_Heritage_Instructional_Resource_Guide.pdf

This comprehensive instructional guide provides resources for educators to teach students about Caribbean history and culture. It includes background information, lesson ideas, classroom activities, and character education connections. The activities and lessons support the celebration of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month in June. The guide has useful facts, maps, and details on Caribbean countries, territories, dependencies, population, language, economy, and history. It is a valuable resource for teaching about the diversity of the Caribbean region and its influences.

Migration Policy Institute (2015). The Ghanaian Diaspora in the United States. RAD Diaspora Profile. Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/select-diaspora-populations-united-states>

This report about the Ghanaian diaspora in the United States finds that about 235,000 Ghanaian immigrants and their children live in this country, comprising 0.3% of the foreign-born population. The population grew from under 10,000 in 1980. Fifty-six percent arrived in 2000 or later, and they have a median household income of \$44,000. Most Ghanaians live in New York, Virginia, New Jersey, and Maryland, with the largest populations in New York City and Washington DC. Remittances from the US to Ghana totaled \$33 million in 2012.

Migration Policy Institute (2015). The Nigerian Diaspora in the United States. RAD Diaspora Profile. Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/select-diaspora-populations-united-states>

Demographic Profiles, Continued

This report about the Nigerian diaspora in the United States finds that about 376,000 Nigerian immigrants and their children live in the this country, accounting for 0.6% of the foreign-born population. The population grew from 25,000 in 1980. Forty-nine percent arrived in 2000 or later and they have a median household income of \$52,000. Most Nigerians live in Texas, Maryland, and New York, with the largest population in New York City. Remittances from the U.S. to Nigeria totaled \$6.1 billion in 2012.

Migration Policy Institute (2014). The Ethiopian Diaspora in the United States. RAD Diaspora Profile. Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/select-diaspora-populations-united-states>

This report is an overview of the Ethiopian diaspora in the United States. It states that about 251,000 Ethiopian immigrants and their children live in this country, accounting for 0.5% of the total foreign-born population. The population grew rapidly from 10,000 in 1980. Sixty percent of Ethiopians arrived in 2000 or later, and they have a median household income of \$36,000. Most Ethiopians live in California, Virginia, Maryland, Minnesota, and Texas, with the largest concentration in the Washington, DC area. Remittances from the U.S. to Ethiopia totaled \$181 million in 2012.

Migration Policy Institute (2014). The Haitian Diaspora in the United States. RAD Diaspora Profile. Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/select-diaspora-populations-united-states>

This report provides a profile of the Haitian diaspora in the United States. It states that about 915,000 Haitian immigrants and their children live in the U.S., making up 1.5% of the foreign-born population. The population grew from 90,000 in 1980. Sixty-one percent arrived before 2000 and they have a median household income of \$37,000. Most Haitians live in Florida and New York, with the largest populations in Miami and New York City. Remittances from the U.S. to Haiti totaled \$1.1 billion in 2012.

Ogunwole, S. U., Battle, K. R., & Cohen, D. T. (2017). Characteristics of selected Sub-Saharan African and Caribbean ancestry groups in the United States: 2008-2012. US Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, US Census Bureau. <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2017/acs/acs-34.html>

Demographic Profiles, Continued

This report discusses the characteristics of selected sub-Saharan African and Caribbean ancestry groups in the U.S. from 2008-2012. It provides insights into population size, growth, and demographics of Ethiopian, Nigerian, Haitian, Jamaican, and Trinidadian/Tobagonian ancestry groups. The report emphasizes the need for further research to understand these diverse populations' experiences and characteristics.

Peña, J.E., Lowe, R.H., & Ríos-Vargas, M. (2023). Understanding counts of Afro-Latino responses in the 2020 Census (Working Paper No.105). U.S. Census Bureau. <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/working-papers/2023/demo/Understanding-Counts-of-Afro-Latino-Responses-in-the-2020-Census.pdf>

This Census Bureau working paper informs interested parties about understanding counts of Afro-Latine responses in the 2020 Census. For the first time, the Census prompted for detailed race/ethnicity information allowing better reporting, including new codes for Afro-Latine and Garifuna responses. While numbers were small, this recognizes the Afro-Latine population exists and must be counted. The Census Bureau is engaging stakeholders to improve data collection on this population for 2030.

Pew Research Center. (2022). One-in-ten Black people living in the U.S. are immigrants. <https://www.pewresearch.org/race-ethnicity/2022/01/20/one-in-ten-black-people-living-in-the-u-s-are-immigrants/>

This comprehensive report examines key aspects of Black immigration to the United States using 2019 Census data. It finds 10% of Black people in the U.S., 4.6 million, were foreign-born, nearly double the percentage in 1980. African immigrants account for the most growth since 2000. Educational attainment is high but incomes lag other groups. Geographic analysis reveals settlement in the South and Northeast. The report projects continued growth in the Black immigrant population, reaching 9.5 million by 2060. It highlights needs for more nuanced, inclusive policies accounting for this diverse community.

Pew Research Center. (2021). The growing diversity of Black America. <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2021/03/25/the-growing-diversity-of-black-america/#the-black-immigrant-population-has-grown-in-number-and-share>

This report analyzes the increasing ethnic diversity among Black Americans driven by Black immigration. Using Census data, the report finds the Black immigrant population nearly doubled from 2000 to 2019 to reach 10% of the total Black population in the U.S., or 4.6 million people.

Demographic Profiles, Continued

African immigrants account for the largest growth. Educational attainment among Black immigrants is high but incomes lag. The report projects that one-fifth of Black people in the U.S. will be immigrants by 2060, increasing the need for nuanced public policy.

Sanchez-Lopez, A. et al. (2018). State of Black Immigrants in California. USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII) & Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI). <https://stateofblackimmigrants.com/>

This report offers a multidimensional analysis of Black immigrants in California, including detailed statistics and analysis of demographics, education, economic status, health, criminal justice, political participation, and recommendations to advance human rights. Findings reveal high employment but lower median incomes compared to other groups. Incarceration and deportation rates are disproportionately high.

Schuster, L., Ciurczak, P., & Jennings, J. (2023). Great migration to global immigration: A profile of Black Boston. Boston Indicators. https://www.bostonindicators.org/black_boston

This is a nuanced analysis of the changing demographics and socioeconomic landscape of Boston's diverse Black population. It documents the major shift from U.S.-born Black residents concentrated in the city of Boston, to a majority now residing in the suburbs, as well as growth of foreign-born Black immigrants. Detailed data compare outcomes across multigenerational African Americans, Caribbean immigrants, and African immigrants, illuminating disparities in income, education, and homeownership. The report traces the role of public policies historically limiting opportunity, and calls for inclusive approaches to advance racial equity.

3 - DETENTION & DEPORTATION

African Bureau for Immigration and Social Affairs, Boston Immigration Justice and Accountability Network, Community Justice Exchange, Detention Watch Network, Envision Freedom Fund, Freedom for Immigrants, GLAHR, Just Futures Law, La Resistencia, Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition, Mijente, Organized Communities Against Deportations, and Youth Justice Coalition. (2022). Trapped and Tracked: Experiences from ICE Digital Prisons.

This report documents how ICE's rapidly expanded Intensive Supervision Appearance Program (ISAP) electronically shackles immigrants through ankle monitors, SmartLink phone apps, in-person check-ins, and surveillance. Based on analysis of ISAP participant records and 11 in-depth interviews, it reveals how ISAP inflicts trauma, separates families, hinders daily life, and extends the harms of immigration detention under the guise of an "alternative." The report demands terminating the program, releasing all individuals, deleting data, and terminating tech contracts enabling digital incarceration by ICE.

Brantuo, N. (2024). Dystopia, Then Deportation: Post-Event Insights and Action Items. Ohio Immigrant Alliance. bit.ly/3TRrFWL.

Over 60 advocates, community leaders, philanthropic partners, legal experts, and directly impacted individuals gathered (physically and virtually) at the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice for “Dystopia, Then Deportation,” an event that catalyzed a series of wide-ranging, solutions-oriented discussions about the systemic injustices and basic human rights violations experienced by Black migrants in the U.S. immigration enforcement system. This report summarizes key insights and recommendations from the event, including creating simplified, self-guided immigration application systems as an alternative to today’s adversarial processes; centering people who are directly impacted by policy change in funding decisions, and removing administrative barriers for developing leaders and organizations in need of foundation support; expanding certified interpreter services through trusted organizations to supply more language options; and training people who are directly impacted to conduct participatory research, among many other innovations.

Amnesty International. (2022). Shackled and Deported: The Human Cost of Restraints During Deportations from the United States. <https://www.amnestyusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Shackled-and-Deported-The-Human-Cost-of-Restraints-During-Deportations-from-the-United-States.pdf>

Detention & Deportation, Continued

This report analyzes the routine use of restraints during U.S. deportations, arguing this violates human rights. It documents a lack of transparency, oversight, and accountability by ICE and CBP, resulting in demeaning, unsafe, and cruel treatment. Recommendations include strengthening regulations, accountability mechanisms, and human rights training.

Goff, T., Mohamed, Z., Claude, R., Haba, M., Lafortune, F., & Diaz, A. (2022). Uncovering The Truth: Violence and Abuse Against Black Migrants in Immigration Detention. Black LGBTQIA+ Migrant Project, Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI), UndocuBlack Network, and Freedom for Immigrants (October 2022). <https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/report-uncovering-the-truth>.

This report analyzes the systemic violence and abuse experienced by Black migrants in the U.S. immigration detention system. The authors emphasize the need for collecting critical race and ethnicity data to fully comprehend the scope of anti-Black violence and abuse perpetrated against immigrants in ICE detention. The report advocates for the abolition of detention as the only true solution to alleviate the abuse and torture of Black migrants. The methodology and findings section outlines the approach taken to analyze data, including the use of Python and open-source libraries for data analysis and natural language processing. The report offers policy and movement recommendations to address pernicious aspects of the immigration detention system, particularly anti-Black abuse, including its abolition.

Haitian Bridge Alliance. (2023). Black Immigrants Bail Fund Impact Report 2023. <https://haitianbridgealliance.org/bibf-impact-report/>

This impact report provides a detailed analysis of the Black Immigrants Bail Fund activities and achievements between 2020-2022. Through grassroots campaigns, BIBF paid over \$5 million in immigration bonds, secured over \$1 million in bond payments, and obtained the release of over 230 individuals from immigration detention nationwide.

Haitian Bridge Alliance, UndocuBlack Network, Cameroon Advocacy Network, Center for Constitutional Rights, National Immigrant Justice Center, RFK Human Rights, Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti, & University of Miami School of Law Human Rights Clinic. (2023). Submission to the Human Rights Committee for the Committee's 139th Session on the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. https://ccrjustice.org/sites/default/files/attach/2023/09/HBA-Coalition%20Report_ICCPR_U.S.A_2023.pdf

Detention & Deportation, Continued

This extensive report documents human rights violations against Black immigrants in the U.S. immigration enforcement system for the UN Human Rights Committee's 2023 periodic review of the U.S. Detailed analysis with supporting data covers excessive force, detention abuses, deportations violating non-refoulement principles, due process violations, and discrimination in asylum processes. The report situates abuses within a broader context of systemic anti-Black racism and analyzes gaps between domestic laws and international human rights treaty obligations. It concludes with recommendations focused on ending detention, strengthening accountability, and applying human rights frameworks to protect immigrants.

Project South, Southern Poverty Law Center, & Center for Constitutional Rights. (2023). Briefing guide: The U.S. government's systematic mistreatment of Cameroonian and other Black migrants. <https://ccrjustice.org/home/what-we-do/our-cases/cameroonian-deportations-foia-requests>

This extensive briefing guide leverages FOIA documents to substantiate concerns about systematic mistreatment of Cameroonian asylum seekers by DHS, ICE, and other agencies including racist attitudes, lack of transparency, due process violations, disproportionate deportations, and collaboration with the Cameroonian government. It situates these abuses within a broader pattern of anti-Blackness and unaccountability in the U.S. immigration system. The intended audience includes policymakers, advocates, and the general public to bring awareness and demand reform.

Tramonte, L. and Setty. S. (2023). Broken Hope: Deportation and the Road Home. Ohio Immigrant Alliance. <https://bit.ly/ReadBrokenHope>

This report highlights the experiences of over 250 people who were deported from the United States, as well as their loved ones, based on interviews conducted by the Ohio Immigrant Alliance. It connects their stories to research demonstrating the harmful impacts of deportation on families, communities, and society. The report argues that deportation is an extreme policy response to civil immigration violations and details how racist historical policies created today's dysfunctional immigration system centered on deportation. It calls for changes including executive actions to support deported peoples' return, congressional repeal of punitive 1996 immigration laws, improved media coverage of deported peoples' experiences, and centering of deported individuals in the immigration reform movement. The ultimate goal expressed is transformation of immigration laws to focus on facilitating peoples' access to legal status rather than enforcement via incarceration and deportation.

4 - EMPLOYMENT

National Domestic Workers Alliance. (2021). The other side of the storm: What do Black immigrant domestic workers in the time of COVID-19 teach us about building a resilient care infrastructure.
<https://www.domesticworkers.org/reports-and-publications/the-other-side-of-the-storm-what-do-black-immigrant-domestic-workers-in-the-time-of-covid-19-teach-us-about-building-a-resilient-care-infrastructure/>

This report examines the plight of Black immigrant domestic workers during COVID-19, based on a 2021 survey of over 1,000 workers in Miami, New York, and Massachusetts. It documents high rates of job loss, workplace hazards, lack of PPE, wage theft, housing insecurity, and barriers to relief aid. Worker stories reveal experiences of exploitation and deadly health risks. The report outlines policy recommendations focused on wage increases, free childcare and healthcare, labor protections, and a federal Domestic Workers Bill of Rights. It argues the pandemic has spotlighted the need to fundamentally transform the home care infrastructure to support essential workers.

National Domestic Workers Alliance. (2020). Notes from the storm: Black immigrant domestic workers in the time of COVID-19.
<https://www.domesticworkers.org/reports-and-publications/notes-from-the-storm-black-immigrant-domestic-workers-in-the-time-of-covid-19/>

This data brief illuminates the plight of Black immigrant domestic workers during COVID-19 based on a survey of over 800 workers. It reveals high rates of job loss, reduced hours, and financial hardship, exacerbated by pre-existing vulnerabilities like low wages, lack of benefits, and limited legal protections. The brief calls for urgent policy solutions to provide economic relief, healthcare, benefits, and strengthened labor rights to support this predominantly women essential workforce.

Partnership for a New American Economy Research Fund. (2018). Power of the purse: The contributions of Black immigrants in the United States.
https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/NAE_African_V6.pdf

This report delves into the socioeconomic profile of Black immigrants in the U.S., highlighting high levels of education but lower incomes than other immigrants. It underscores Black immigrants' propensity for entrepreneurship, over-representation in essential sectors like healthcare and transportation, and substantial purchasing power. Recommendations address challenges around discrimination, healthcare access, education, and upward mobility.

Employment, Continued

Rector, A.K. (2008). An Analysis of the Employment Patterns of Somali Immigrants to Lewiston from 2001 through 2006. Maine Department of Labor, Center for Workforce Research and Information. <https://www.maine.gov/labor/cwri/publications/pdf/LewistonMigrantReport.pdf>

This report analyzes the employment outcomes of Somali immigrants in Lewiston, Maine from 2001 to 2006. It finds that 49% of working-age Somali immigrants were employed at some point, taking an average of 2 years after arrival to find employment. Once employed, Somali immigrants work around 78% of the time. However, many experience inconsistent, unstable employment. The report concludes that more data is needed on education, language skills, and literacy to develop effective employment strategies.

TakeRoot Justice & African Communities Together (ACT). (2020). Licensing a Legacy: African Hair Braiders' Vision for Reforming Professional Licensure in New York City. <https://takerootjustice.org/resources/licensing-a-legacy/>

This report examines barriers faced by African hair braiders in obtaining required licensing to work legally in New York City, based on focus groups, interviews, and surveys with over 150 braiders. It reveals obstacles posed by high costs, language and literacy barriers, irrelevant curriculum, and bureaucratic hurdles in the licensing process. The report also highlights braiders' advocacy efforts, including lawsuits, to reform licensing regulations and gain recognition for their cultural livelihood practice. It provides several concrete policy recommendations to support African immigrant workers in New York City and beyond.

Vialet, J.C. (1978). The West Indies (BWI) Temporary Alien Labor Program, 1943-1977: A Study. Prepared for the Subcommittee on Immigration of the Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office. <https://original-ufdc.uflib.ufl.edu/UF00087215/00001>

This congressional report analyses the West Indies Temporary Labor Program from 1943-1977. It examines the bilateral agreements and legislative frameworks facilitating the migration of agricultural contract workers, predominantly from Jamaica and Barbados, to fill U.S. farm labor shortages. The report unpacks the program's evolution over decades, including its shifting size, geographical distribution, administration by federal agencies, and controversies related to domestic job displacement and working conditions. As a richly detailed case study, it remains highly relevant for understanding the dynamics surrounding temporary work visa programs.

5 - HEALTH & LANGUAGE ACCESS

Dyer, J. and Baksh L (2016). “A Study of Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes among African-Born Women Living in Utah.” Migration Policy Institute. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/study-pregnancy-and-birth-outcomes-among-african-born-women-living-utah>

This report compares pregnancy and birth outcomes of African-born refugee women and U.S.-born white women in Utah. It finds African women have significantly higher rates of inadequate prenatal care, cesarean delivery, and infant mortality than U.S.-born women. It recommends expanded services, cultural competence training, and assured access to combat barriers of communication, lack of transportation, and culturally incompetent care.

Lin, D., & Barnstone, J. (2021). Eligible but Excluded: How Systemic Inequities in Language Access are Impacting Asian, Pacific Islander, and African Immigrant and Refugee Communities During the Pandemic. New Mexico Voices for Children & New Mexico Highlands University. <https://www.nmvoices.org/archives/15665>

This report examines barriers for limited English proficient Asian, Pacific Islander, and African immigrants and refugees accessing COVID-19 relief and services in New Mexico. It connects language marginalization to economic hardships, and argues that language access inequities prevented many from readily utilizing government assistance early in the pandemic, leading to lost jobs/incomes, along with inability to understand relief options or school communications. Public agencies lacked adequate interpretation/translation services and multilingual materials. Underfunded community organizations helped fill gaps, but needed more capacity and resources. The report documents resulting economic hardships, social isolation, and mental health strains, and recommends policy changes.

Summit Health Institute for Research and Education, Inc. (March 2005). Giving Voices to the Voiceless: Language Barriers & Health Access Issues of Black Immigrants of African Descent. <https://www.issueLab.org/resources/9466/9466.pdf>

This report focuses on language/cultural barriers to healthcare access for African immigrants in California. Health providers' unfamiliarity with African cultures leads to poor communication and care. Use of untrained family members as interpreters is problematic and risks serious medical mistakes. The issues are amplified by socioeconomic vulnerabilities for immigrants and precarious legal status for some. Recommendations include expanded language services, data collection, and funding/training for community organizations and clinics serving this population.

6 - HOUSING

African Communities Together. (2021). Invested in Evictions by CIM Group, Southern Towers, and the Crisis of Publicly-Financed Displacement. https://africans.us/sites/default/files/Invested%20in%20Evictions%20with%20hyperlinks_0.pdf

This report examines how private real estate firm CIM Group pursued aggressive eviction filings against residents of a large apartment complex it purchased in Alexandria, Virginia in 2020. It details how CIM's actions threaten housing security for African immigrants, and contradict its purported commitment to corporate social responsibility. The analysis draws on original research and data on eviction patterns to recommend tenant protections, responsible investment, and changes to government lending practices.

Cornelissen, S., McCue, D., & Hanifa, R. (2023). Black Immigrant Homeownership: National Trends and the Case of Metro Boston. Joint Center for Housing Studies, Harvard University. <https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/research-areas/working-papers/black-immigrant-homeownership-national-trends-and-case-metro-boston>

Analyzing homeownership rates and patterns among Black immigrant groups in Boston and nationwide, this paper finds suburbs facilitated higher attainment for Black immigrants compared to cities over the past decade. It recommends tailored financial models, multilingual outreach, and supporting diverse settlement patterns to expand access to affordable homeownership.

Morris, S. (2023). Learning from lived experiences: Policy solutions from culturally specific communities to increase survivor access to and retention of safe housing. National Resource Center on Domestic Violence. https://safehousingpartnerships.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/Learning_from_Lived_Experiences_policy_brief.pdf

This brief reveals challenges faced by Black immigrant survivors of domestic and sexual violence in accessing safe housing. It notes that Black immigrants in the U.S. face adjusting to new sociocultural environments and gender role expectations, which can shift power dynamics in relationships. Barriers to help-seeking and safe housing include cultural values, immigration status, language, limited community representation, and lack of culturally-responsive resources. The brief stresses the need for inclusive policies and solutions tailored to Black immigrant survivors, such as language accessibility in their specific dialects, flexibility in family definitions to include cultural kinship networks, and increased funding for culturally-specific organizations. It argues policy changes are needed to increase Black immigrant survivors' access to safe, affordable, culturally-competent housing.

7 - IMMIGRANTS WITH DISABILITIES

Echave, P., & Gonzalez, D. (2022). Being an Immigrant with Disabilities. Urban Institute. <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/being-immigrant-disabilities>

This brief analyzes the demographic and socioeconomic aspects of nonelderly immigrants living with disabilities in the U.S. Notably, it highlights that 10.2% of nonelderly Black Latine immigrants report having a disability, the highest among all racial and ethnic groups examined. This underscores the need for tailored strategies to address the unique challenges faced by Black immigrants with disabilities. Overall, the brief stresses the urgency for inclusive interventions considering this intersection to support Black immigrants with disabilities and mitigate disparities.

Human Rights First. (2023.). "YOU SUFFER A LOT": Immigrants with Disabilities Face Barriers in Immigration Court. <https://humanrightsfirst.org/library/immigrants-with-disabilities-face-barriers-in-immigration-court/>

This report outlines challenges encountered by disabled immigrants within the U.S. immigration court system. It emphasizes the adversarial nature of deportation proceedings, especially for those facing persecution or torture. The report highlights the lack of resources, information, accommodations, and prevalent discrimination faced by disabled immigrants. It also sheds light on specific challenges experienced by Black immigrants with disabilities, advocating for reforms within government agencies to enhance equity and accessibility in immigration court proceedings. Testimonies, such as that of a blind Ethiopian refugee, shed light on the difficulties faced while navigating court proceedings, emphasizing the lack of accessible materials like Braille documents, and the heightened risks faced by disabled individuals seeking asylum. The report underscores the urgent need for tailored policies that address the experiences of disabled immigrants from these communities, aiming for a fairer and more inclusive immigration system.

8 - MIGRATION THROUGH LATIN AMERICA

Adossi, N., et al. (2018). Black Lives at the Border. Black Alliance for Just Immigration. <https://baji.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/black-lives-at-the-borderfinal-2.pdf>

This report examines the increase in African and Haitian migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border after 2016, estimating over 10,000 were detained or deported that year. It documents harrowing journeys and criticizes U.S. border crackdowns denying asylum access. Recommendations include increased funding for Black-led nonprofits providing legal, housing, and other services to Black migrants at the border.

Haitian Bridge Alliance, et al. (2023). Lives at Risk: Barriers and Harms as Biden Asylum Ban Takes Effect. <https://humanrightsfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Barriers-and-Harms-As-Biden-Asylum-Ban-Takes-Effect31.pdf>

This delegation report documents hazardous, inhumane conditions for asylum seekers in Mexican border cities and lack of transparency regarding newly implemented U.S. asylum restrictions in May 2023. It argues the Biden administration's asylum ban violates international law.

Morley, S.P., et al. (2021). A Journey of Hope: Haitian Women's Migration to Tapachula, Mexico. Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración. <https://imumi.org/attachments/2020/A-Journey-of-Hope-Haitian-Womens-Migration-to%20-Tapachula.pdf>

This qualitative report examines the experiences of 30 Haitian women asylum seekers who journeyed overland to Tapachula, Mexico with the goal of reaching the United States. In-depth interviews reveal the complex factors spurring these women to leave Haiti, including endemic poverty, political instability, natural disasters, gender-based violence, and lack of opportunity. Their precarious multi-month journey to Mexico involved robberies, assault, lack of food and water, and even death of fellow travelers. In Tapachula, Haitian women faced language barriers, discrimination, immigration bureaucracy, and lack of work authorization hindering access to housing, healthcare, schooling for children, and meeting basic needs. Despite their circumstances and unawareness of recent asylum restrictions effectively closing the U.S. border, most still hoped to reach family in the U.S. The report calls for humanitarian policies to address asylum seekers' needs and rights in Mexico and the U.S.

Migration Through Latin America, Continued

Oxfam America & Tahirih Justice Center. (2022). Surviving Deterrence: How U.S. Asylum Deterrence Policies Normalize Gender-Based Violence. <https://www.tahirih.org/news/u-s-asylum-deterrence-policies-increase-risk-of-gender-based-violence/?emci=4f81a34d-4793-ed11-9d7b-00224832e811&emdi=ea000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000001&ceid=%7b%7bContactsEmailID%7d%7d>

This report scrutinizes the impact of U.S. asylum deterrence policies on immigrant survivors of gender-based violence, particularly focusing on the distinct challenges faced by Black immigrants. It highlights racial disparities within the implementation of Title 42 expulsions, revealing how Black, brown, and Indigenous asylum seekers are denied entry while individuals from Ukraine and Russia are granted asylum. Notably, it underscores the heightened vulnerability of Black migrants to gender-based violence due to discrimination, housing insecurity, and exploitation by cartels. Furthermore, the report emphasizes the struggles encountered by non-Spanish- and non-English-speaking Black migrants in accessing essential services and employment opportunities. Critiquing the U.S. asylum process for its hostility toward survivors of gender-based violence, the report condemns the rigorous questioning and skepticism regarding minor inconsistencies in trauma narratives. Its recommendations encompass ceasing Title 42 expulsions, dismantling the Remain in Mexico policy, offering legal representation and comprehensive support services for survivors, and advocating for a more empathetic approach within the asylum system.

Phillips, N., & Ricker, T. (2021). The Invisible Wall: Title 42 and its Impact on Haitian Migrants. Haitian Bridge Alliance, The Quixote Center, and UndocuBlack Network. <https://quixote.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/The-Invisible-Wall.pdf>

This report examines how Title 42, a COVID-19 related expulsion policy first implemented under the Trump administration, has disproportionately impacted Haitian asylum seekers attempting to enter the U.S. It reveals nearly 13,000 Haitians were expelled under Title 42 without due process protections or asylum screenings as of February 2021. The report argues Title 42 creates an invisible wall denying rights and protections, motivated by anti-Black racism within the immigration system. It calls for an immediate end to Title 42 given the lack of public health justification and the grave human rights impacts.

Migration Through Latin America, Continued

RFK Human Rights & Haitian Bridge Alliance. (2022). Beyond the bridge: Documented human rights abuses and civil rights violations against Haitian migrants in the Del Rio, Texas encampment. <https://rfkhumanrights.org/assets/documents/del-rio-report-2022-final.pdf>

This extensive report documents firsthand accounts and visual evidence of cruel human rights abuses committed by U.S. immigration authorities against Haitian asylum seekers at a squalid encampment under the Del Rio International Bridge in September 2021. Details include deprivation of food, water, sanitation, and medical care; physical abuse and family separation; lack of interpreters and due process; and summary expulsions to Haiti without asylum access. The report analyzes these abuses within the context of the U.S.'s long history of discriminatory anti-Black immigration policies and calls for investigation, prosecution, and termination of policies enabling such mistreatment.

Yates, C., & Bolter, J. (2021). African Migration through the Americas: Drivers, Routes, and Policy Responses. Migration Policy Institute. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/african-migration-through-americas>

This report examines the complex factors driving the surge in African migration through Latin America towards the U.S. southern border since 2013. It analyzes the main origin countries, including Eritrea, Cameroon, DRC, Somalia, and Ghana, citing conflicts, repression, and lack of economic opportunity. Detailed mapping of common migration routes highlights the treacherous Darien Gap crossing from Colombia to Panama. The report also evaluates transit countries' ad hoc policy approaches to managing the spike in African migrants and analyzes the barriers to integration including language, discrimination, and inadequate social services. It concludes with pragmatic policy recommendations for governments and aid agencies to address African migration flows in a coordinated, humane manner focused on expanding protections, combating xenophobia, and improving data tracking.

9 - OTHER IMMIGRATION LEGAL ISSUES

ASISTA & Ujima, Inc: The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community. (2023). Practice advisory: Anti-Blackness and immigrant survivors of gender-based violence. <https://asistahelp.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/ASISTA-Ujima-Anti-Blackness-Practice-Advisory-Final.pdf>

This practice advisory examines obstacles faced by Black immigrant survivors of gender-based violence in obtaining immigration relief, including biases related to perceived credibility, sexuality, anger, and criminality. It provides guidance to avoid perpetuating anti-Blackness through changes in intake screening, finding police report alternatives, and partnering with Black-led organizations.

Happel, E., & Yaffe, N. (2017). Extraordinary Conditions: A Statutory Analysis of Haiti's Qualification for TPS. Global Justice Clinic, 1-37. <https://chrgj.org/focus-areas/global-justice-clinic/temporary-protected-status/>

This report argues that several "extraordinary and temporary conditions" continue to exist in Haiti, preventing the safe return of Haitian Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders. The conditions cited include ongoing displacement, inadequate housing and infrastructure, the continued threat of cholera, and increased food insecurity since Hurricane Matthew. The report contends these factors make Haiti unprepared to receive a potential influx of 50,000 TPS returnees, and requests an 18-month extension of TPS. It acknowledges some progress, but states that dire conditions remain.

Immigration Equality (2023). Country Conditions Materials. <https://immigrationequality.org/legal/legal-help/resources/country-conditions-index/>

This website contains a comprehensive set of country conditions materials related to LGBTQ and/or HIV asylum claims for individuals from various nations. The materials include country conditions packets with indices highlighting important details as well as the full text of reports and articles. Countries covered include Antigua and Barbuda, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Haiti, Ghana, Uganda, and many others spanning Africa, the Caribbean region, Latin America, and beyond. These materials are a starting point for research to support asylum claims, but should be reviewed to ensure conditions cover the specific issues relevant to each case.

Other Immigration Legal Issues, Continued

Paoletti, S.H. (2023). Temporary protected status in the United States: An incomplete and imperfect complementary system of protection. World Bank. <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/dc29fa681f62de1c14c57e93a65cdbbd-0050062023/original/TPS-in-the-US-Report-FORMATTED.pdf>

This report examines the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program in the U.S. and how TPS serves as a complementary system of refugee protection. It includes case studies on El Salvador and Liberia to illustrate the challenges and limitations of TPS as a relief program. The report notes that many African and Haitian immigrants have benefitted from TPS over the years, but there are drawbacks to the temporary nature of the status. It argues more permanent complementary protection systems are needed to fully meet humanitarian obligations. This source is useful for understanding the role and limitations of TPS in protecting vulnerable migrant groups.

The Georgetown University Law Center Federal Legislation Clinic & The UndocuBlack Network. (2021). Life On Hold: Black Immigrants & the Promise of Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness. <https://www.masslegalservices.org/content/life-hold-black-immigrants-promise-liberian-refugee-immigration-fairness>

This report examines how Black immigrants face disproportionate criminalization and barriers within the U.S. immigration system. Focusing on Liberians as a case study, it analyzes how the Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness program offered potential legal status for long-term undocumented Liberians, but bureaucratic obstacles and implementation delays have left applicants in limbo. The report situates issues faced by Liberians within broader anti-Black racism in immigration policies and enforcement, calling for protection of Black immigrants.

10 - RACISM

Black Alliance for Just Immigration, Haitian Bridge Alliance, Human Rights First, Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services, & Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights. (2022). United States of America Shadow Report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 107th Session: Anti-Black discrimination against non-citizens and ongoing violations of international protections for migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers of African descent. https://rfkhr.imgix.net/asset/US-Coalition_anti-Black-Discrimination-in-Immigration_CERD-Report_072222.pdf

This shadow report to the UN documents racist and discriminatory treatment of Black immigrants under U.S. law, including border crackdowns disparately impacting Haitians and Africans. It argues these are violations of anti-discrimination protections. Recommendations focus on ending detention and deportation, restoring asylum access, and using human rights frameworks.

Benjamin, T. (2021). Black Immigrant Invisibility within Immigration Advocacy and Policy. Journal of the Center for Policy Analysis and Research. https://issuu.com/congressionalblackcaucusfoundation/docs/africa-america_2021_re-envisioning_liberation_for

This paper discusses how Black immigrants are often invisible and marginalized within immigration advocacy and policy debates due to anti-Blackness. It argues contemporary immigrant rights advocacy often excludes Black experiences. Organizations like UndocuBlack Network are working to address anti-Blackness and represent Black immigrants' distinct needs. The paper calls for addressing anti-Black racism and how it intersects with immigration, rather than relying on dichotomies of good/bad immigrants.

Cuban and Haitian Immigration: Hearing Before the Subcommittee on International Law, Immigration, and Refugees of the Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, 102nd Congress, First Session, November 20, 1991. (1992). United States: U.S. Government Printing Office. https://www.google.com/books/edition/Cuban_and_Haitian_Immigration/licMG8sGnZMC?hl=en&gbpv=0

This hearing investigates the impact of foreign policy considerations on the admission of political refugees, specifically Cuban and Haitian individuals. Witnesses discuss racial bias and preferential treatment for Cubans over Haitians, and other discrimination faced by Black refugees, particularly Haitians. The historical context of policies like the Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966 and the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1998 is also explored.

Racism, Continued

Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees and TakeRoot Justice. (2022) How Racist Policies and Practices Deny Haitian Refugees Work Authorization: Humanitarian Parole Crisis. <https://haitianrefugees.org/humanitarian-parole-crisis/>

This report reviews obstacles faced by Haitian immigrants in the U.S. Focusing on the struggles related to work authorization and humanitarian parole, it presents firsthand narratives gathered through interviews conducted in Haitian Creole, demonstrating the systemic impact of U.S. immigration policies on this population. The report underscores the urgency for comprehensive policy reforms, emphasizing the persistence and relevance of its findings despite evolving policies. It advocates for equitable treatment, highlighting racial injustices and the imperative for extended humanitarian parole terms. The report is a compelling call to action, urging sustainable policy changes to alleviate the hardships experienced by Haitian migrants in the U.S.

Morgan-Trostle, J., Zheng, K., & Lipscombe, C. (2016) The State of Black Immigrants. Black Alliance for Just Immigration. <https://stateofblackimmigrants.com/>

This report offers a statistical portrait of Black immigrants in the U.S., using Census data on demographics, education, employment, income, immigration status, and deportation. It also analyzes the criminalization of Black immigrants, revealing disproportionate policing, incarceration, immigration detention, and deportation supported by anti-Black biases. The report aims to center Black immigrants within immigration policy debates and discourse, arguing they face challenges distinct from African Americans and other immigrant groups that must be recognized and addressed.

Morley, S.P. (2021). “There is a Target on Us” – The Impact of Anti-Black Racism on African Migrants at Mexico’s Southern Border. Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración. <https://imumi.org/attachments/2020/The-Impact-of-Anti-Black-Racism-on-African-Migrants-at-Mexico.pdf>

This report documents the pervasive anti-Black racism and discrimination experienced by African migrants from countries like Cameroon, the DRC, and Angola as they attempt to transit through Tapachula, Mexico and seek asylum in the United States. Based on interviews with 20 African migrants stuck at Mexico's southern border, the report reveals deeply entrenched social racism, barriers to housing, employment, education, healthcare, and highly restrictive immigration policies inhibiting transit to the U.S. It provides recommendations focused on anti-racism training, increased aid, alternatives to immigration detention, and regional cooperation.

Racism, Continued

New York City Commission on Human Rights. (2019). Black New Yorkers on their experiences with anti-Black racism. https://www.nyc.gov/assets/cchr/downloads/pdf/publications/AntiBlackRacism_Report.pdf

This report summarizes 19 focus groups conducted with Black residents of New York City, including a significant number of Black immigrants, documenting their experiences of racism in everyday public interactions. Participants described having their American identity and belonging challenged through questions and statements implying they are uneducated, foreign, and should "go back" to Africa. Black immigrants felt doubly targeted based on both their race and immigrant status. The report concludes by calling for concrete action to combat anti-Black racism affecting both U.S.-born and immigrant Black populations.

UndocuBlack Network. (2022). Criminalizing Blackness: An analysis of the impacts of the 1994 Crime Bill and 1996 Immigration Bill on Black people and Policy Recommendations to Address the Harms Caused. <https://undocublack.org/press-releases/2022/12/8/criminalizing-blackness-new-report-analyses-the-impact-of-criminal-bill-and-immigration-bill-on-black-people>

This report analyzes the impact of the 1994 crime bill and 1996 immigration law on Black individuals in the United States and proposes policy recommendations to alleviate the harm. It covers historical context and the bills' effects on Black individuals, including mandatory minimum sentences, increased law enforcement and correctional facility funding, and expanded mandatory detention and deportable offenses for Black immigrants. Additionally, it explores how these laws collectively contribute to the criminalization of Black individuals. Recommendations include advocating for criminal legal system reform, immigration reform, and reparations for the damages inflicted.

11 – SOCIAL INCLUSION

Balahadia, A. (2016). Voices of Seattle’s East African Communities: An Overview of Community Issues and Opportunities. City of Seattle, Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.
<https://www.somalifamilysafetytaskforce.org/research-reports/>

This report summarizes focus groups with Seattle's East African communities identifying critical issues like barriers to services, discrimination, and lack of cultural integration. Recommendations include citywide translation policies, a customer service bureau, improved communication strategies, and integrating community needs into emergency preparedness.

Capps, R., & Fix, M. (Eds.). (2012). Young children of Black immigrants in America: Changing flows, changing faces. Migration Policy Institute.
<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/mpi-childrenblackimmigrants-2012-final-webversion.pdf>

This edited volume examines the circumstances, development, and academic outcomes of children in African and Caribbean immigrant families in the U.S. It provides overviews of demographics and analyzes health, cognitive development, and educational achievement. Outcomes vary based on heterogeneity across immigrant groups. The book provides groundwork for future research on this population.

Curry-Stevens, A. & Coalition of Communities of Color (2013). The African Immigrant and Refugee Community in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile. Portland, OR: Portland State University.
<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/oehr/article/713236>

This report is a groundbreaking resource that sheds light on the often overlooked experiences of the African immigrant and refugee community in Multnomah County, Oregon. The report reveals that the African community faces significant economic and social challenges, including a poverty rate that is more than twice the county average, difficulties in accessing affordable housing and healthcare, and barriers to employment due to discrimination and lack of recognition for foreign credentials. Furthermore, the report highlights the presence of institutional racism in various systems, such as child welfare, policing, education, and healthcare, which have historically subsumed African experiences within that of African Americans. The report's recommendations offer actionable steps for improving the well-being and opportunities for the African community, making it an essential reference for advocates, policymakers, and researchers interested in promoting racial equity and addressing the needs of immigrant and refugee communities.

Social Inclusion, Continued

Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization (IRCO). (2017). Community Needs Assessment 2017 Report: Key findings from Oregon's immigrant and refugee communities. <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/oehr/article/713231>

This report highlights pressing economic and housing affordability concerns for African immigrants and refugees in Oregon. Additional barriers noted include difficulties with foreign credentials recognition, language access, systemic racism/discrimination, and trauma. Refugees face compounded needs. African respondents cited problems attaining higher education, as well as shortages of Black educators, interpreters, and culturally competent health providers. Others emphasized recreation, mentoring, and cultural connectedness needs for African youth. The report amplifies community-defined priorities for policy and service interventions.

Kassa, A. (2013). Dimensions of the New Diaspora: African Immigrant Communities & Organizations in New York, Washington, D.C., and Atlanta - Working Paper 189. Prepared for Nunu Kidane, Priority Africa Network. <https://ccis.ucsd.edu/files/Working%20Papers/wp189-Kassa.pdf>

This working paper analyzes the demographics, sociocultural adaptation experiences, and civic participation patterns of African immigrant groups in major U.S. metropolitan hubs. It utilizes American Community Survey and other data, with insights from immigrant/refugee service organizations. Findings about bifurcated education/poverty levels among African immigrants, social integration challenges, and deficiencies in research/policy attention. It advocates ethnic organizing that engages African immigrants around shared experiences, and resources to remedy marginalization.

King County Immigrant and Refugee Task Force. (2016). Advancing Equity and Opportunity for King County Immigrants and Refugees: A Report from the King County Immigrant and Refugee Task Force. <https://kingcounty.gov/en/legacy/elected/executive/equity-social-justice/immigrant-and-refugee/immigrant-refugee-commission/taskforce-report-and-recommendations.aspx>

This report examines the experiences of African immigrants and refugees in King County, emphasizing the layers of racism, profiling, and marginalization they face. It highlights the need for culturally and linguistically appropriate services, including access to interpretation and translation services, and recommends investing in the capacity of community-based organizations that serve African communities. The report also underscores the importance of building trust and strong bridges between the County and African immigrant and refugee communities to address their unique challenges and needs.

Social Inclusion, Continued

Lacarte, V. (2022). Black Immigrants in the United States Face Hurdles, but Outcomes Vary by City. Migration Policy Institute. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/black-immigrants-united-states-hurdles-outcomes-top-cities>

This article highlights how outcomes for Black immigrants vary significantly across U.S. cities due to local policies, economic conditions, and residential segregation patterns. It notes disparities faced nationwide but smaller gaps in cities with immigrant-inclusive policies on healthcare, IDs, and language access. It concludes local policy choices play a key role in fostering inclusion and modifying disparities.

Reid, I. D. A. (1939). The Negro immigrant: His background, characteristics and social adjustment, 1899–1937. Columbia University Press. <https://archive.org/details/negroimmigranthi0000reid>

Reid's 1939 study examines the social integration and challenges faced by Black immigrants in the late 19th to early 20th century United States. Delving into migration patterns, socio-economic factors, and cultural adjustments, the book illuminates their resilience amid racial discrimination and societal barriers. It remains a crucial sociological exploration, offering insights into the complexities of the Black immigrant experience during this era.

12 - STUDENTS & EDUCATION

Immigrants Rising. (2022). "Effectively Supporting Black Undocumented Students Through Higher Education."
<https://immigrantsrising.org/resource/effectively-supporting-black-undocumented-students-through-higher-education/>

This guide offers insights and actionable recommendations to bolster the support system for Black undocumented students in higher education. It delves into their distinct challenges, with findings from focus groups about structural barriers and discriminatory experiences. Recommendations span financial aid, inclusive scholarships, and fellowship opportunities tailored for students without DACA status. The guide advocates against campus collaboration with immigration authorities, emphasizes the importance of inclusive syllabi, and underscores the emotional vulnerabilities faced by this community. It is a resourceful tool including strategies to empower Black undocumented students to thrive, despite their immigration status.

Institute of International Education. (1960). African Students in the United States: A Guide for University and Organizational Sponsors. 1960.
<https://archive.org/details/africanstudentsi00inst>

This 1960 guide published by the Institute of International Education's Committee on Educational Interchange Policy provides background and guidance for U.S. sponsors of African student exchange programs. It discusses trends in student enrollment and fields of study in the U.S., financing issues, challenges in African higher education capacity, as well as social and academic concerns. The guide raises important considerations for planning African student exchanges, including selection criteria, country focus, academic level, financial support, degree recognition, and discrimination issues. While arguing exchanges can serve development needs if structured considerately, the guide raises long-term concerns about brain drain. Its advice for building mutually beneficial partnerships remains applicable today.

Mwangi, C. A. G. (2020). Black International Student Lives Matter. International Higher Education, (104), 6–8.
<https://ejournals.bc.edu/index.php/ihe/article/view/14335>

This article discusses the experiences of Black international students in U.S. higher education, arguing institutions must recognize and address the racist nativism these students face. It outlines negative impacts on their wellbeing and sense of belonging, as well as their emerging role in anti-racism activism on campuses. Recommendations focus on disaggregating data by race/nationality, addressing racist nativism in resources/training, and intentionally recruiting and retaining Black international students.

Students & Education, Continued

Nkomo, S. M. (1925). Africa. In W. R. Wheeler, H. H. King, & A. B. Davidson (Eds.), The Foreign Student in America: A Study by the Commission on Survey of Foreign Students in the United States of America, Under the Auspices of the Friendly Relations Committees of the Young Men's Christian Association and the Young Women's Christian Association (pp. 93-96). United States: Association Press.

https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Foreign_Student_in_America/KOEXAAAAIAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0

This brief report examines African students who studied abroad in the U.S. and Europe from the 18th century to the early 19th century. These students worked to support themselves and navigated racism while studying abroad, yet maintained devotion to developing their home countries or building lives in their new American communities. Many students converted to Christianity. Upon completing their studies, some returned home to occupy roles in education, ministry, government and publishing. Others stayed in America, becoming pastors and professionals. The report highlights several students by name, detailing their academic accomplishments and career impacts, whether in Africa or the U.S. It concludes by noting that despite limited formal support systems, many African students succeeded in their academic pursuits abroad and went on to establish impactful careers, institutions and churches in both Africa and America.

Russell, F. S., & Rivarola, A. R. R. (2023). What does it mean to be undocublack? exploring the double invisibility of black undocumented immigrant students in U.S. colleges and universities. *New Directions for Higher Education*, 2023, 61–76. <https://doi.org/10.1002/he.20480>

This article presents an interpretative phenomenological study that explores the experiences of UndocuBlack students in U.S. colleges and universities. Through interviews with 15 UndocuBlack students, the study identifies the challenges faced by this student population, including difficulties in accessing support and resources on college campuses. The findings emphasize the need for colleges and universities to take proactive measures to support and increase the visibility of UndocuBlack students on campus. The article also provides recommendations for higher education institutions, such as centering UndocuBlack student voices in programming and collaborating with reliable organizations to widen support for this student population. Additionally, the article discusses the significance of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and its impact on UndocuBlack students.

Students & Education, Continued

United States Congress House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa. African Students and Study Programs in the United States: Report and Hearings of the Subcommittee on Africa Pursuant to H. Res.84 (89th Congress) A Resolution Authorizing the Committee on Foreign Affairs to Conduct Thorough Studies and Investigations of All Matters Coming Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee. United States, Washington: U.S. Govt. Print. Off, 1965.

https://www.google.com/books/edition/African_Students_and_Study_Programs_in_t/BTbDJCbELJoC?hl=en&gbpv=0

This government report provides a comprehensive overview of the Subcommittee's investigations and hearings regarding African students studying in the United States from 1958 to 1965. Through extensive investigations involving visits to African countries, dialogues with African students, and consultations with various organizations, the Subcommittee gathered insights on enrollment statistics, academic performance, and the challenges faced by African students. The report highlights the benefits of African students in U.S. educational institutions and recommends addressing financial constraints, cultural differences, and discrimination. The report concludes by stressing the importance of education in fostering understanding between the U.S. and Africa.

White, C. L. (2023). Race, Negative Acculturation, and the Black International Student: A Study of Afro-Caribbean and African-Born Students in U.S. Colleges. Robert Morris University.

<http://www.phibetadelta.org/pdf/IRR.FALL.2022.pdf#page=34>

This study on Afro-Caribbean and African-born students in U.S. colleges highlights challenges navigating racial microaggressions and racist nativism, which can negatively impact their academic success. It suggests universities can better support them through involvement of designated officials, cultural sensitivity training, safe spaces, and improving diversity office usage. The findings have important implications for inclusive policies to address the unique needs of these students.

13 - IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Kaiser Family Foundation and Los Angeles Times. (2023). 2023 KFF/LA Times Survey of Immigrants. <https://www.kff.org/report-section/understanding-the-u-s-immigrant-experience-the-2023-kff-la-times-survey-of-immigrants-findings/>

This report summarizes a 2023 survey of 3,358 immigrants in the U.S., with breakdowns by race/ethnicity. Nine percent identified as Black and 4% were from sub-Saharan Africa. A majority of employed Black immigrants (56%) reported experiencing discrimination at their workplace. Additionally, nearly four in ten (38%) Black immigrants stated they faced unfair treatment by the police. More than four in ten (45%) reported being told to "go back to where you came from," while nearly a similar set (38%) stated they have experienced differential or unfair treatment from healthcare providers. The survey touches on reasons for immigrating, economic status, healthcare access, government policy views, discrimination experiences, and deportation worries.

Labiran, C. (2020). Our Stories and Visions: Gender in Black Immigrant Communities (Rep.). Black Alliance for Just Immigration. <https://baji.org/our-stories-and-visions/>

This report centers narratives of Black immigrant women and femmes, revealing how the "strong Black woman" stereotype renders their mental health needs invisible. Based on interviews, it documents experiences of marginalization, discrimination, family separation, unstable status, gender-based violence, and access barriers. Recommendations focus on mental health services, leadership development, political empowerment, and protections for undocumented Black women.

Sesay, D. (2023). Written testimony of Dauda Sesay. Testimony presented at the Living Up to America's Promise: The Need to Bolster the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program Hearing before the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, & Border Safety of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/committee-activity/hearings/living-up-to-americas-promise-the-need-to-bolster-the-us-refugee-admissions-program>

This testimony was presented to the House Judiciary Committee by Dauda Sesay, a former refugee from Sierra Leone and now a refugee advocate in the United States. Sesay provides background on his experience fleeing civil war and trauma in Sierra Leone in the 1990s. He spent nearly 10 years in a refugee camp before being resettled to the U.S. in 2009. Sesay describes the extensive vetting process he underwent before resettlement approval. Once in the U.S.

In Their Own Words, Continued

he faced challenges, but earned an education and built a career while also supporting other refugees. Sesay argues for the immense economic, cultural, and humanitarian value of the U.S. refugee resettlement program. However, he notes the program faces cuts and struggles. Sesay urges Congress to increase oversight, resources, and legal protections to maintain the refugee program. His firsthand account provides a unique perspective on the refugee experience and the importance of the resettlement program.

Syed, M., Fish, J., Hicks, J., Kathawalla, U. K., & Lee, E. (2022). Somali migration to the United States: Understanding adaptation through digital stories. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 28(3), 361. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/357286951_Somali_migration_to_the_United_States_Understanding_adaptation_through_digital_stories

This research paper analyzes digital stories created by Somali immigrants/refugees in the U.S. to examine their migration experiences. Analysis found different narrative focuses between age groups—emerging adults structured stories around struggles for self-continuity while older adults focused more on finding meaning in current circumstances. The participatory methodology provided nuanced insights into Somali American adaptation pathways.

Wilder Research. (2015). Speaking for Ourselves: A Study with Immigrant and Refugee Communities in the Twin Cities. https://www.wilder.org/sites/default/files/imports/SpeakingForOurselves_ImmigrantExperience_12-15.pdf

This report summarizes a survey of immigrants/refugees in Minnesota, including Liberians and Somali people. Relevant findings include: over half experienced feeling not accepted due to their race/culture/status; top needs were employment, necessities, and cultural education; recommendations include addressing policies limiting refugee resources and building relationships to improve integration and quality of life.

14 - COMING SOON

“Diaspora Dynamics” is part of a larger project, *Behind Closed Doors: Black Migrants and the Hidden Injustices of U.S. Immigration Courts*, by Nana Afua Y. Brantuo, Ph.D. and published by the Ohio Immigrant Alliance.

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