

Discrimination in the 21st Century:  
*How Civil Rights Policies Can Best Embrace  
the Growing Mixed-Race Population*

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## **Executive Summary**

This report catalogues the growth of the modern mixed-race population in the United States and highlights the many complications this population presents for the future of civil rights law and policy. What is most distinctive of today's mixed-race individuals is their assertion of a mixed-race identity which they claim embodies a different experience compared to those who report to be a single race such as "white" or "black." This emphasis on personal identity presents a new dimension that must be considered in the development of new civil rights policy.

### **Key findings about today's mixed-race individuals include:**

- Mixed-race individuals assert a distinctive identity, but evidence shows that their experiences of racial discrimination often mirror those who are single-race minorities (i.e., those who are only "Black" or "Asian").
- Mixed-race individuals often change their asserted racial identity and may downplay their mixed-race identity in response to their social or political surroundings.
- Mixed-race individuals do not share the same experiences of racial discrimination. There is significant variation depending on the person's racial combination (e.g., those who identify as Black-White have different experiences from those who are Asian-White or Latino-White).

## Demographic Summary

- Multiracials experienced a 276% growth in population between 2010 and 2020. (Census, 2020).
- Multiracials total 33.8 million, or 10.2% of the total U.S. population in 2020 (up from 9 million [2.9% of population] in 2010).
- Largest mixed-race subgroups are (Census, 2020):
  - White and Some Other Race (19.3 million)
  - White and American Indian/Alaska Native (4 million)
  - White and Black (3.1 million)
  - White and Asian (2.7 million)
- Intermarriage trends (Pew, 2017):
  - Latino/White partnerships account for 42% of all new heterosexual intermarriages (22% involve White husbands, 20% involve Latino husbands).
  - Asian/White partnerships account for 15%... (11% involve White husbands, 4% involve Asian husbands).
  - Black/White partnerships account for 11%... (3% involve White husbands, 7% involve Black husbands).

## Policy Recommendations

- Abstain from developing one uniform policy towards remedying needs for mixed race populations—It may cause more harm rather than improve equity.
- Increase compliance with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines for race data collection among state and local governments.
- Build better consensus on how to “count” Mixed-Race individuals when identifying target populations in public policy.

- Allocate more resources toward measuring and monitoring Mixed-Race Individuals' experiences with discrimination, feelings of racial identity and relevant civil rights markers.