

Conditions of Possibility:
Harm Reduction as a Pathway to Healing the
Harms Caused by Racialized Drug Policies



harm reduction
COALITION

Latina Virtual Reunion
June 4, 2020



harm reduction COALITION

POLICY &
ADVOCACY

TRAINING &
CAPACITY
BUILDING

OVERDOSE
PREVENTION &
ADVOCACY

NATIONAL &
REGIONAL
CONFERENCES

RESOURCES &
PUBLICATIONS




Harm Reduction Coalition creates spaces for dialogue
and action that help heal the harms caused by
racialized drug policies.

Who is most vulnerable?



Photo Credit: 123RF Stock Photo

I'm a drug user and sometimes I face these issues...



People judge me because I am a sex worker

Healthcare workers don't trust me, as if I just want drugs

I get arrested for drug use instead of helping me find ways to cope

Sometimes I don't have a place to live

There are no friendly healthcare services where I live

Without access to clean equipment I have to share

MASIS

INCARCERATION



WITH ONLY 5% OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION, THE



U.S. HAS 25% OF THE WORLD'S PRISON POPULATION. **1**

★ World Population

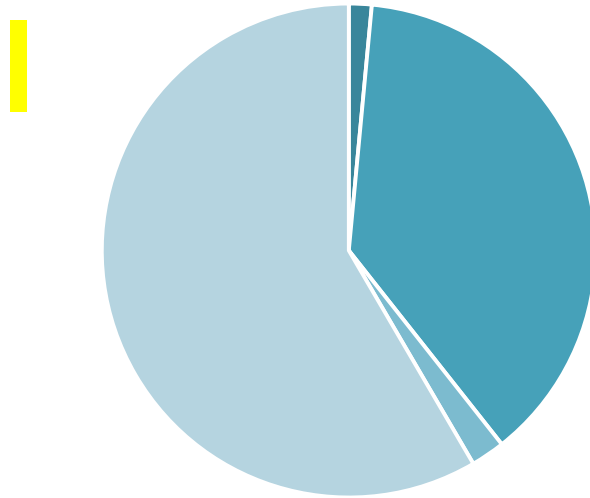
★ U.S.'s % of Overall Population

★ U.S.'s % of Prisoner Population

Inmate Race

Statistics based on prior month's data -- -- Last Update: Saturday, 28, April 2018

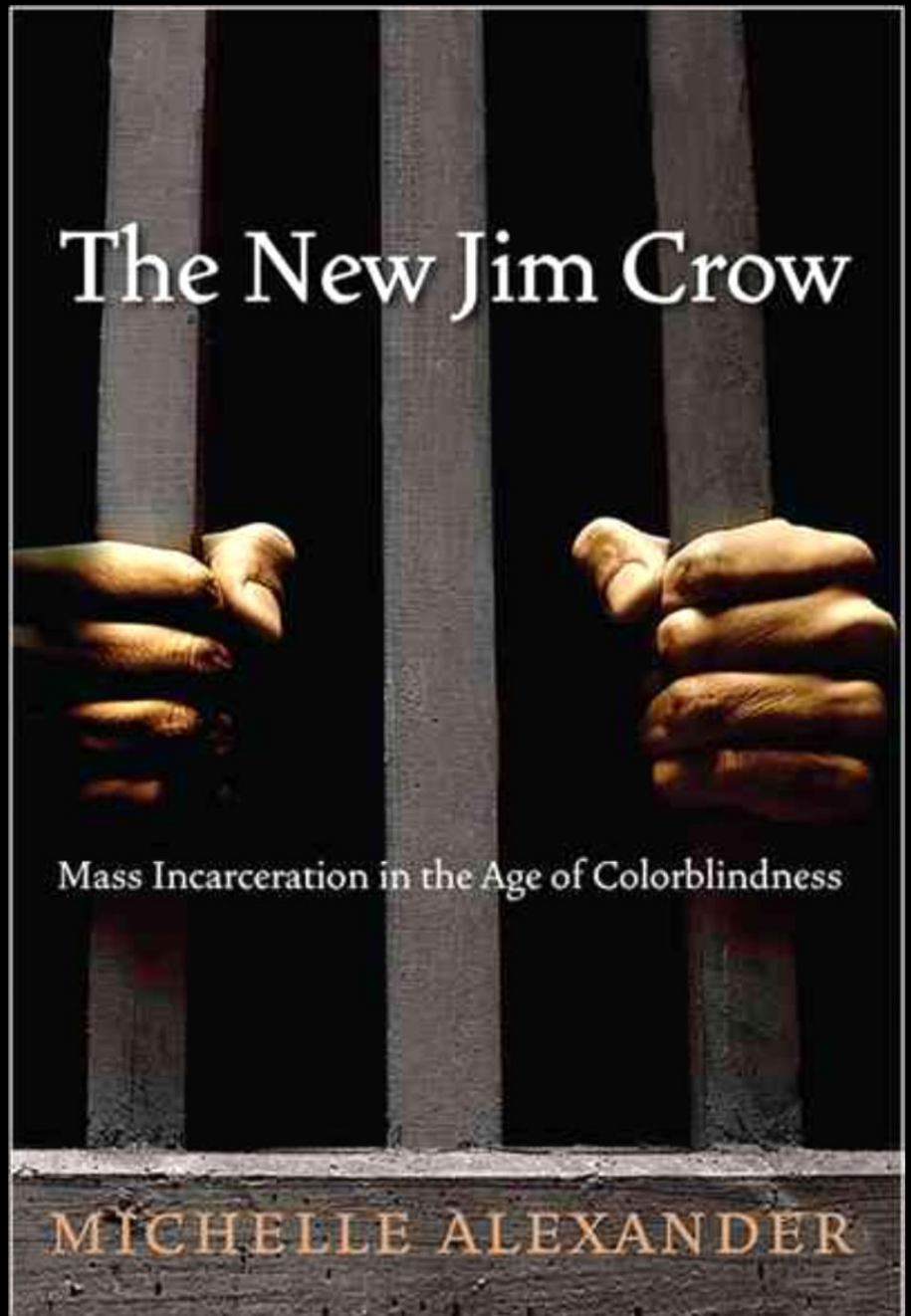
of Inmates



Blacks comprise nearly 40% of inmates but only 12% of total US population

Race	% of Inmates
Asian	1.50%
Black	37.90%
Native American	2.20%
White	58.40%

**SLAVERY
BY
ANOTHER
NAME...**

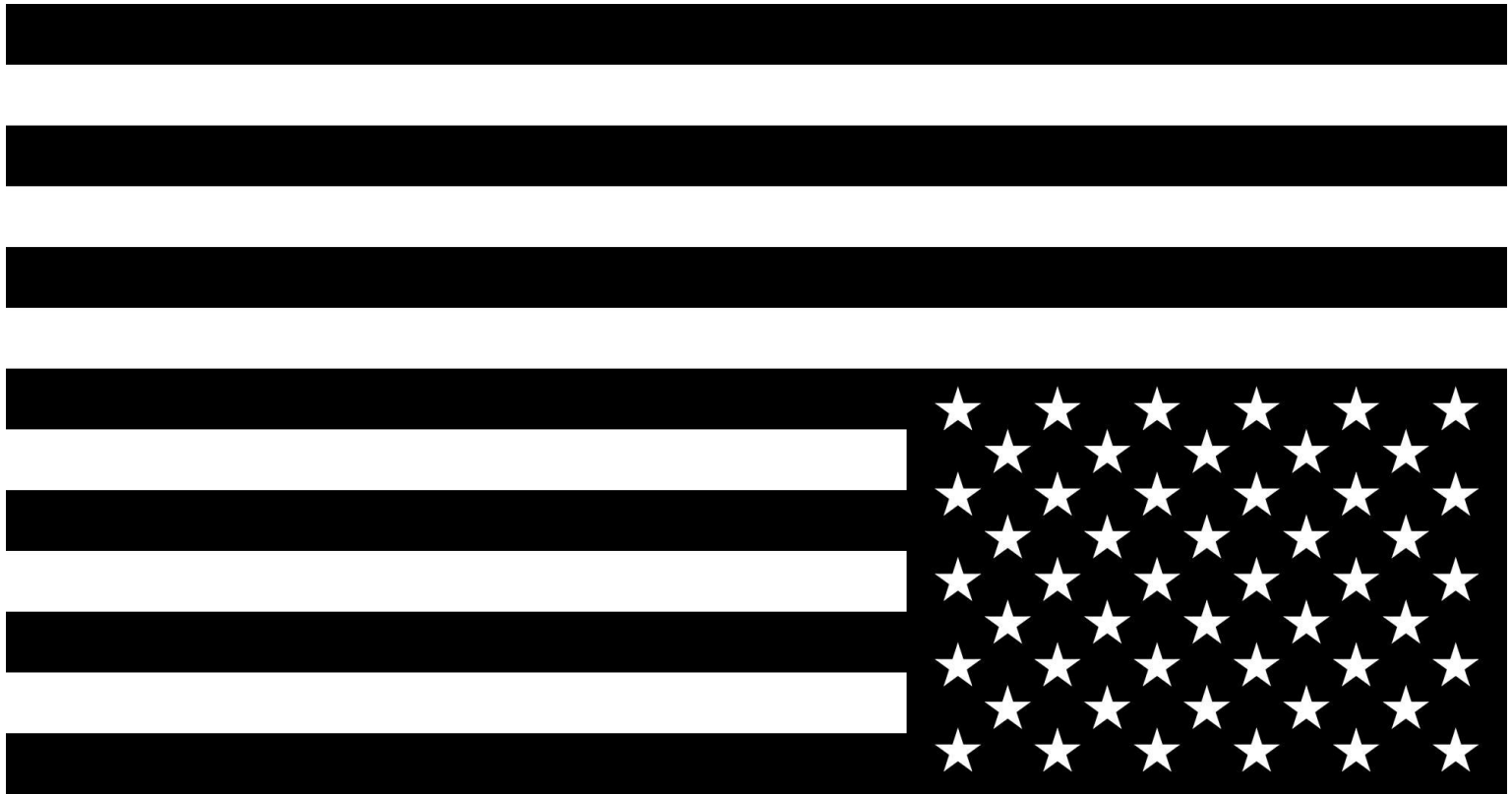


The New Jim Crow

Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness

MICHELLE ALEXANDER

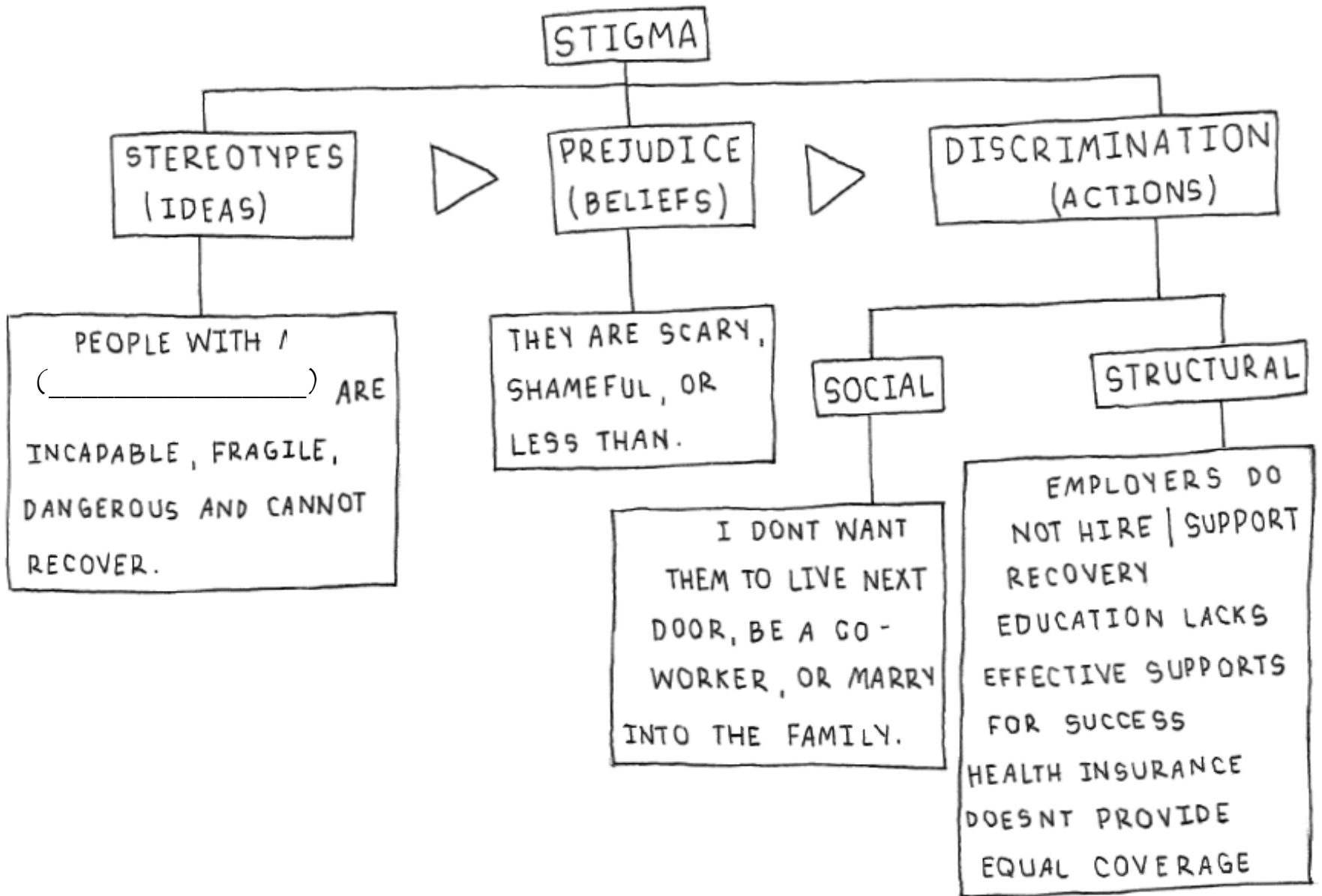
implicit bias: refers to the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner.



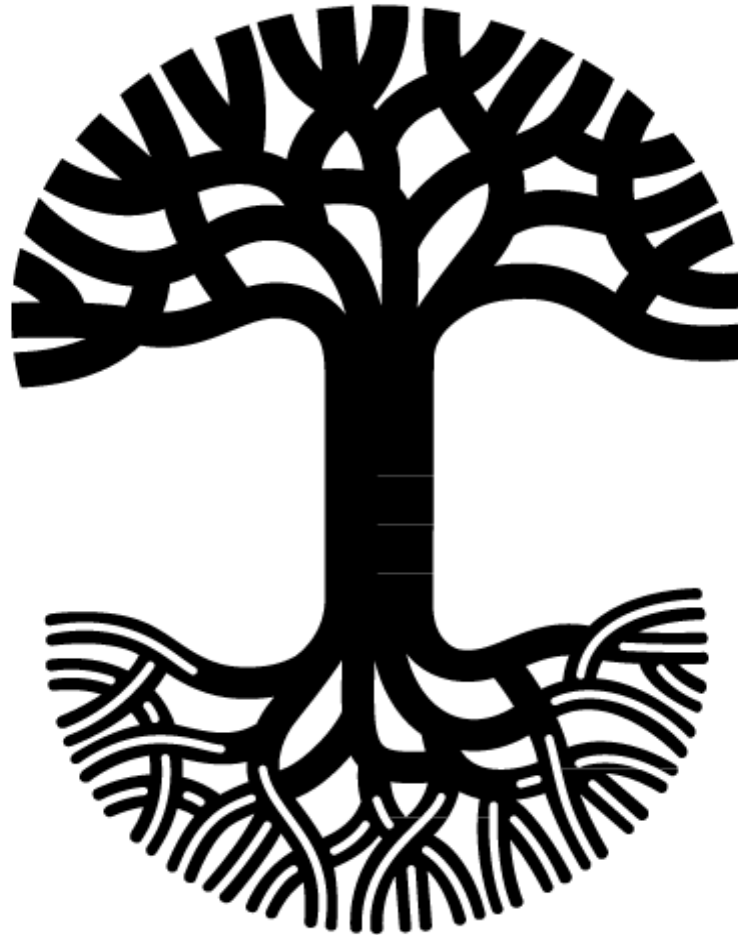
We are not okay...

Stigma threatens safety
and survival.

Support builds internal
motivation for change.



The opposite of addiction is connection



recovery is a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential

SAMHSA working definition of recovery, 2012

Dimensions of Recovery

Health

Home

Purpose

Community

Principles of Harm Reduction

Health and Dignity

Participant-Centered

Participant Involvement

Participant Autonomy

Sociocultural Factors

Pragmatism/Realism

Harm reduction is a **holistic approach** to working with people who experience stigma based on their behaviors

Harm reduction **practitioners are**
accessible - positive - honest -
productive - client-centered - pragmatic -
non-judgmental

Harm Reduction is only a part
of the solution...



Thank You!

Contact Info:

tula@harmreduction.org

Twitter: @ms.monique_tula

Instagram: @mochulabish



harm reduction
COALITION