SURVIVOR LEADERSHIP SERIES



Session Twelve

Racism & the Anti-Trafficking Movement

Tuesday, June 15, 2021 1:00 pm EST | 6:00 pm BST



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SYSTEMIC RACISM



A combination of systems, institutions and factors that advantage white people and, for Black Indigenious People of Color (BIPOC), cause widespread harm and disadvantages in access and opportunity.

It is:

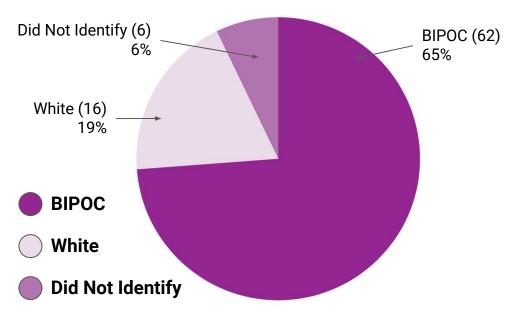
(1) is grounded in the history of our laws and institutions which were created on a foundation of white supremacy;

(2) exists in the institutions and policies that advantage white people and disadvantage BIPOC; and

(3) takes places in interpersonal communication and behavior (e.g., slurs, bullying, offensive language) that maintains and supports systemic inequities and systemic racism.



Survivor Respondents (87 total)



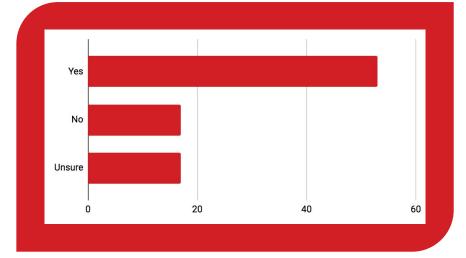
Definition of BIPOC:

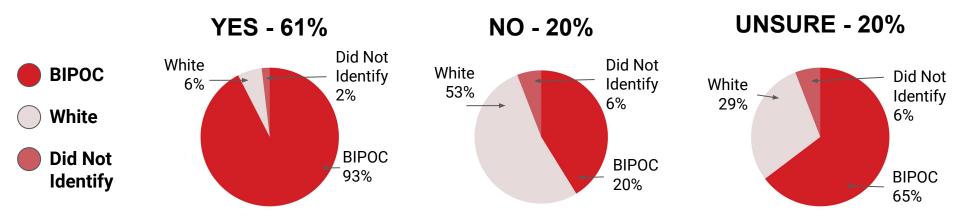
An acronym of for Black, Indigenous, People of Color.

The term is used to "highlight the unique relationship to Whiteness that Indigenous and Black (African Americans) people have, which shapes the experiences of and relationship to white supremacy for all people of color within a U.S. context." *Credit: BIPOC Project*



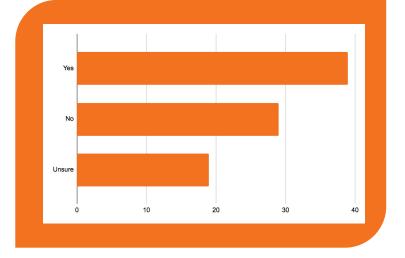
Did racism make you more vulnerable to trafficking?

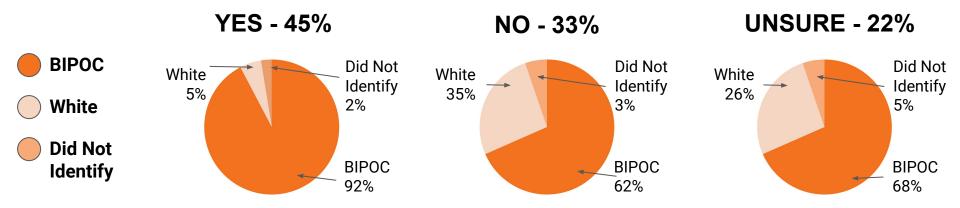






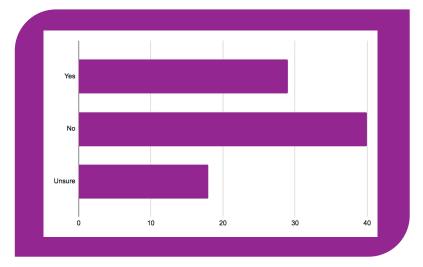
Did racism make it more difficult for you to access services such as housing, case management, or legal representation?

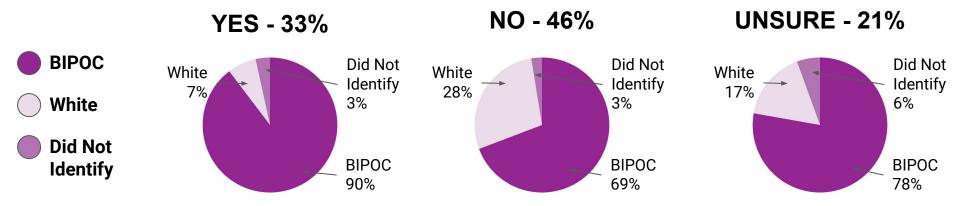






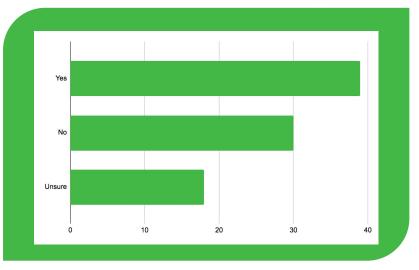
Did racism make it more difficult for you to access healthcare?

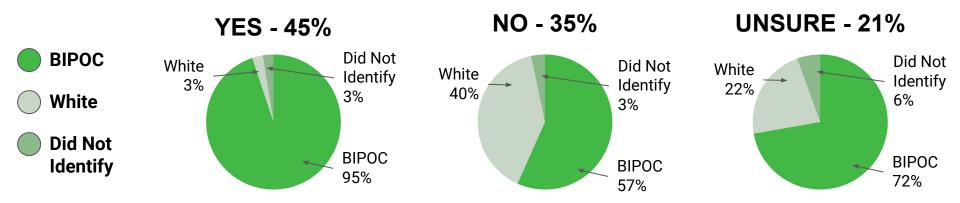






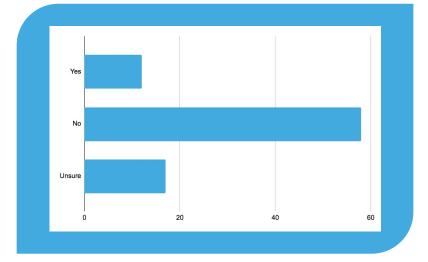
Did racism impact your ability to be a leader in the anti-trafficking movement?

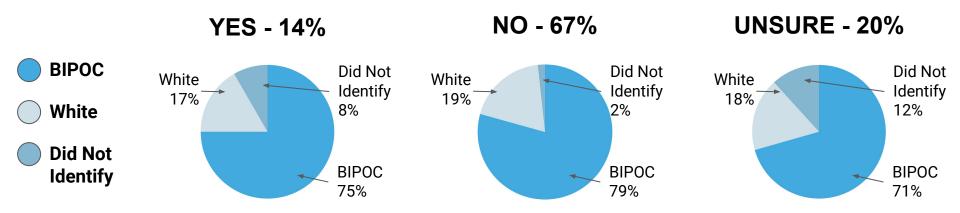






Do you think the anti-trafficking movement is doing enough to address racism?





Not centering chattel slavery's legacy as the pipeline for the over-representation of Black, Brown, and Indigenous bodies as victims but co-opting the word "slavery" for shock value is another way that anti-trafficking movements perpetuate racism.

Racist policies are the driving force behind the anti-trafficking movement.

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White survivors, knowing that racism exists, could be more generous in de-centering themselves so that **BIPOC** survivors can also have a seat at the table. They can also be advocate voices on behalf of **BIPOC** survivors with the larger anti-trafficking orgs who generally don't consider our voices.

When you look at survivor leaders, the white survivors get access to more opportunities while the black survivors are looked upon as the answer black girl.

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The anti-trafficking movement needs to do more to uplift black survivor voices. This means being more intentional in reaching out, mentoring, and providing supports to Black survivors so they can develop the skills needed to move into leadership positions.

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Being exploited by the perpetrator in a culture that does not use race makes it more difficult for victims to escape and be saved. Pay attention to understanding the cultural background and historical reasons of different races, which will help improve resistance.



Really, none of this is rocket science. We are meant to empower one another. So when you look at your own table or your own sphere of influence..what do you see. Start there. Because, after all, someone surely empowered you. Wouldn't you want that for another soul?



As a survivor leader, I see the micro aggression when working with people are not part of my culture. In fact, it is also present sometimes from AA to AI.



The fact that we have the lived experiences receives a lot of stigma and makes it difficult for a survivor to be considered a professional. Also the movement needs to change the narrative to be more solution focused.



White girls are the desire of the pimps because we make more money, black girls are the desire of the trick. I was picked by my trafficker because I was white.



Human Trafficking





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