

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Hart Research Associates

DATE: June 3, 2014

RE: 2014 How Housing Matters Survey Findings Show African Americans and Hispanics Feel Less Secure and Are Experiencing Housing-Related Challenges at Higher Rates

African Americans and Hispanics have been disproportionately affected by the housing crisis, and evidence indicates that the recovery is lagging for them. The challenges that African Americans and Hispanics face are reflected in the attitudes and experiences that were captured in the recent national MacArthur Foundation's How Housing Matters Survey.

1 At significantly higher rates than their white counterparts, African Americans and Hispanics believe that the housing market continues to be a serious problem. Perhaps not surprisingly given this, they also are less likely to think of the housing crisis as a thing of the past.

- A majority (56%) of African Americans and half (49%) of all Hispanics believe the housing market is a very or fairly serious problem, compared with 38% of whites.
- While 28% of whites believe the housing crisis is pretty much over, only 23% of African Americans and 18% of Hispanics feel the same. In fact, an equal proportion of African Americans believe the worst is yet to come (22%) as believe the crisis is behind us, and more Hispanics believe the worst is yet to come (24%) than believe the housing crisis is over (18%). More than seven in 10 (72%) African Americans and nearly four in five (78%) Hispanics believe that we are still in the midst of the crisis or the worst is yet to come, compared with 68% of whites.

2 The proportion of African Americans and Hispanics who feel secure in their housing is less than that of whites.

- While 59% of whites feel very stable and secure in their current housing situation, just under half of African Americans (49%) and Hispanics (48%) feel that level of security.
- In addition, African Americans and Hispanics have felt insecure in their housing situation at some point in their lives at higher rates, with 50% of

African Americans and 55% of Hispanics reporting they have felt unstable or insecure at some point, compared with 45% of whites.

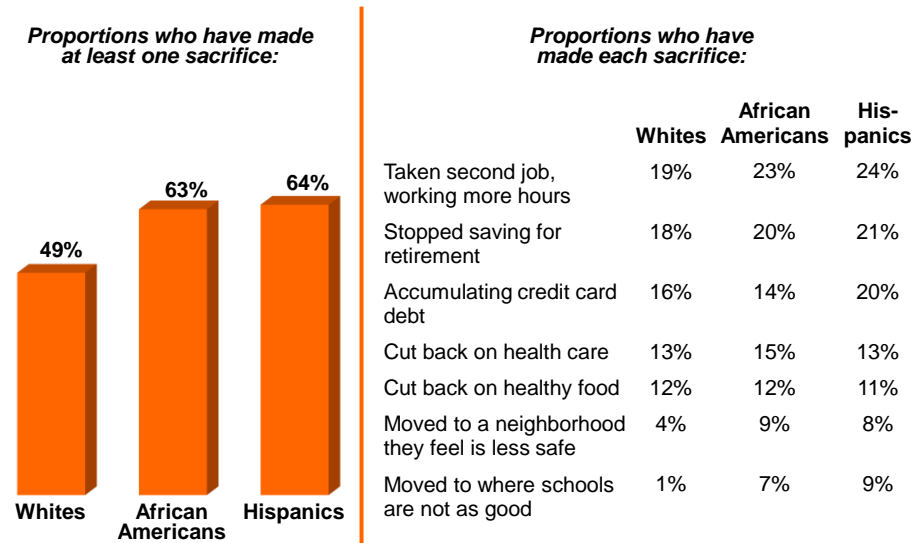
3 Hardships related to housing can take their toll on those who experience them. African Americans and Hispanics worry about financial and housing considerations at significantly higher rates than whites do.

- More than one in three (36%) African Americans and more than two in five (42%) Hispanics worry about struggling to keep up with their bills, compared with 29% of whites. One in five (21%) African Americans and one in four (26%) Hispanics worries about struggling to keep up with their rent or mortgage payments, compared with 16% of whites.
- African Americans and Hispanics also worry about having to move because they cannot keep up with their mortgage or rent, or about being evicted or foreclosed on, at more than double the rate of whites.

4 The housing-related hardships that many Americans face go beyond worry and concern to real sacrifices that affect the families of those who need to make them. At significantly higher rates than whites, African Americans and Hispanics have made at least one sacrifice in recent years to ensure they can cover their housing costs.

- More than three in five African Americans (63%) and Hispanics (64%) have made at least one such sacrifice in the past three years to ensure they can cover their rent or mortgage, compared with 49% of whites.
- Approximately one-quarter of both African Americans and Hispanics have taken on an additional job or more hours at work, and one in five have stopped saving for retirement. A similar proportion of Hispanics have taken on more credit card debt.
- African Americans and Hispanics have moved to neighborhoods that feel less safe or where the schools are not as good at double or more the rate of their white counterparts.

Have you had to make any of these sacrifices in the past three years because you were struggling to pay your rent or mortgage?



Hart Research conducted quantitative public opinion research to inform the work of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation’s How Housing Matters Initiative. Telephone interviews, including both landline and cell phones, were conducted from April 8 to 14, 2014, among a nationally representative sample of 1,355 adults. The complete 2014 How Housing Matters Survey is available at <http://www.macfound.org/programs/how-housing-matters/>.