

**TO: Interested Parties**  
**FROM: Hart Research Associates**  
**DATE: June 12, 2015**  
**RE: 2015 How Housing Matters Survey Findings Reveal African Americans and Hispanics Are Being Left Behind in Recovery**

---

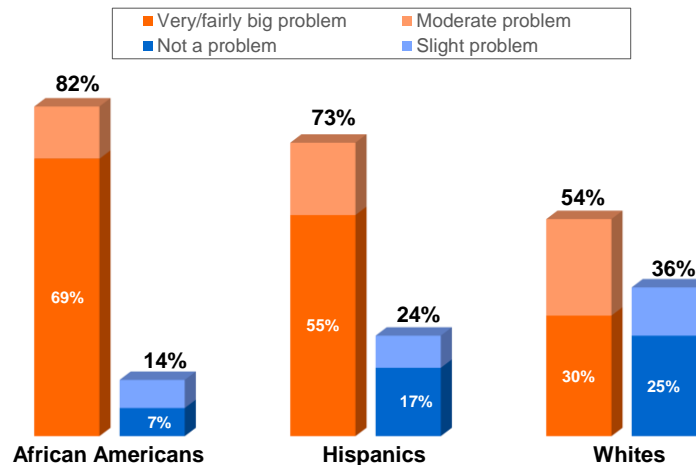
While indicators point to a housing market on the mend, African Americans and Hispanics are not feeling the improvements in their own lives. The challenges that they face and their perceptions of the housing market overall are captured in the recent national MacArthur Foundation's How Housing Matters Survey.

**1 African Americans and Hispanics have a bleaker perspective on the housing market recovery than do whites. Large majorities believe we have not yet weathered the storm and that African Americans and Hispanics are being left out of the recovery.**

- Only 27% of African Americans and 31% of Hispanics say that the housing crisis that started in 2008 is pretty much over. Though still only a minority, a higher proportion of whites (38%) say the same. And conversely, African Americans (68%) and Hispanics (67%) are more likely than their white counterparts (57%) to think that we are still in the middle of the crisis or that the worst is yet to come.
- African Americans (50%) and Hispanics (45%) are also more likely than white Americans (31%) to say that housing affordability is a serious problem in America today.
- Furthermore, African Americans and Hispanics see racial disparities in the degree to which the housing recovery is affecting Americans. Fully 69% of African Americans and 55% of Hispanics believe it is a very or fairly big problem that African Americans and Hispanics are being left behind in terms of homeownership after the housing crisis. Only 30% of white Americans say the same.

## African Americans and Hispanics see minorities being left behind in the housing market recovery.

*Some people say that African Americans and Hispanics are being left behind in terms of homeownership after the housing crisis. Do you think this is a ... ?*



## 2 The heightened challenges African Americans and Hispanics see in national housing trends reflect amplified hardships they face in their own lives maintaining secure housing. At higher rates than whites, African Americans and Hispanics report making sacrifices in order to cover their housing costs.

- More than three in five (62%) African Americans and nearly seven in 10 (68%) Hispanics report making at least one sacrifice in the past three years to ensure that they could cover their rent or mortgage, compared with 50% of whites.
- Twenty-five percent (25%) of African Americans and 32% of Hispanics have taken on an additional job or more hours at work in order to cover their housing costs, compared with 18% of whites.
- Cutting budgets elsewhere in order to afford their housing costs has contributed to greater unease among African Americans (68%) who are less likely than whites (80%) to say they feel stable and secure in their housing situation.

### **3 Despite challenges, African Americans and Hispanics remain optimistic about their personal prospects and many continue to aspire to own their own homes.**

- Large majorities (80%) of African Americans are optimistic about what the next five years hold for them and their families (including 43% who are very optimistic). Similarly, 78% of Hispanics are optimistic (including 38% very optimistic) while slightly fewer whites (71% overall, 31% very optimistic) are optimistic about their futures.
- African Americans (43%) and Hispanics (38%) are also more likely than whites (28%) to feel hopeful and confident about what the future holds for the country overall.
- Among those who do not already own their homes, African Americans (80%) are especially likely to say that they personally aspire to homeownership. Whites (67%) and Hispanics (69%) say the same at slightly lower rates.

*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 27 to May 5, 2015, among a nationally representative sample of 1,401 adults.*