



CULTURAL AWARENESS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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Emergency Preparedness and Response Division
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Learning Objective

- The audience will be able to understand how important cultural awareness is in a public health emergency and will promote it in their area of work and in society.
- The audience will be able to list at least three tools that can be used in order to promote cultural awareness
- The audience will be able to explain a few facts on “Stop Asian Hate”, “Black Lives Matter”, and “Latino Hate” and relate them to cultural awareness



Agenda

- Defining cultural awareness
- Levels of cultural awareness
- Tools that are used to promote cultural awareness
- Cultural awareness training
- Cultural diversity in Los Angeles
- First responders during a public health emergency
- Demographics
- Health Disparities
- Recent events displaying the lack of cultural awareness



What is Cultural Awareness?

- “Cultural Awareness is the foundation of communication and it involves the ability of standing back from ourselves and becoming aware of our cultural values, beliefs and perceptions.” - *by Stephanie Quappe and Giovanna Cantatore (1)*





Levels of cultural awareness



Cultural Awareness in a Public Health Emergency

- Awareness
- Approach
- Acceptance of differences
- Respect
- Ability to adapt



What tools can be used or created in order to promote or practice cultural awareness?

- Social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat)
- Sit-ins
- Books
- Community gatherings
- Informational Pamphlets at local hospitals/banks/grocery stores
- Events that show appreciation for all cultures in that community
- Programs
- Educational classes
- Training
- Informational presentations
- Become an active member in several diverse communities
- Become socially aware of your surroundings



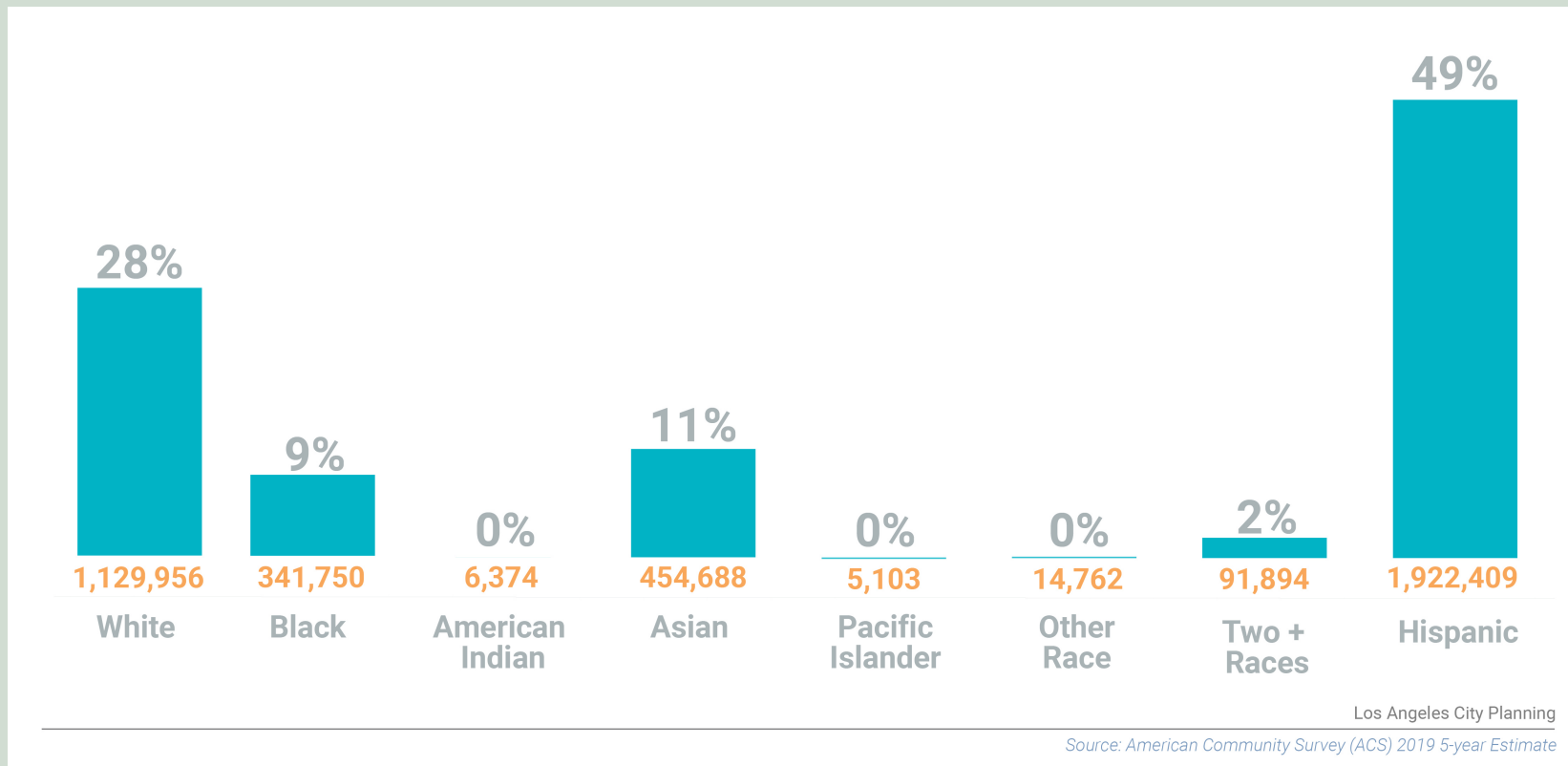
Cultural Competence Training Required by L.A. County's Department of Mental Health

(6)

Title of Trainings
Mental Health Interpreter Training

Advanced Interpreter's Training--The Fine Art of Interpreting
Introduction to Interpreting in Mental Health Settings
English Speaking Providers: Bridging Language Gaps in your Clinical Practice
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community
Understanding Deafness and Mental Illness How Deaf Mental Health Is Unique
Justice System
Assessment and Treatment of AB109 Population
Co-occurring Disorders for the AB109 Population
Providing Effective Job Development, Placement, and Retention Services to Ex-Offenders and Expungement of Criminal Records
Reducing Jail Recidivism: Evidence Based Release Planning
DBT for Jail Clinicians
Motivational Interviewing as a Brief Intervention for Jail Clinicians
Approaches to Recognizing and Managing Compassion Fatigue, Burnout, and Vicarious Trauma in the Juvenile Justice System
HIV+/AIDS
Spirituality
Integrating Spirituality into Mental Health Recovery
Advanced Mental Health and Spirituality Training for Clinical Providers
Substance Abuse/Co-Occurring Disorders
Co-Morbidity of Personality Disorder, Homelessness, and Substance Abuse (Advanced Level)
Pathways Housing First: Ending Homelessness for Individuals with Dual Diagnosis
Gender and Sexuality
Understanding Maternal Mental Health Differential Diagnosis for the Women's Jail Integrating Incarcerated Women into Society
Client Culture
Hope & Recovery Conference - Asian and Pacific Islander Hope & Recovery Conference - Esperanza y Recuperación Hope & Recovery Conference - English

Cultures in Los Angeles County



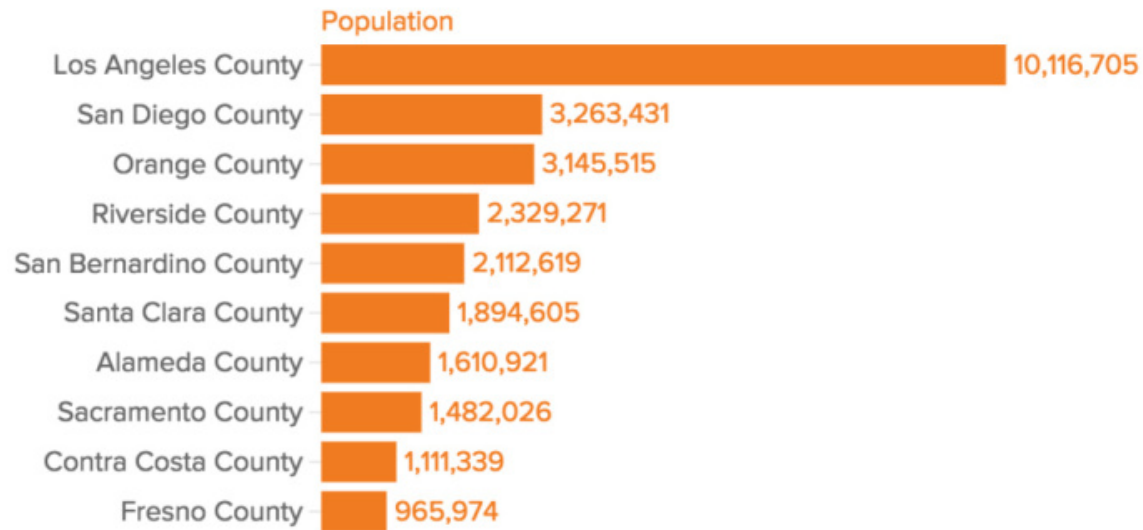
Languages spoken in Los Angeles County



224 Identified Languages

Cultural Values and Demographics in Los Angeles County & the United States

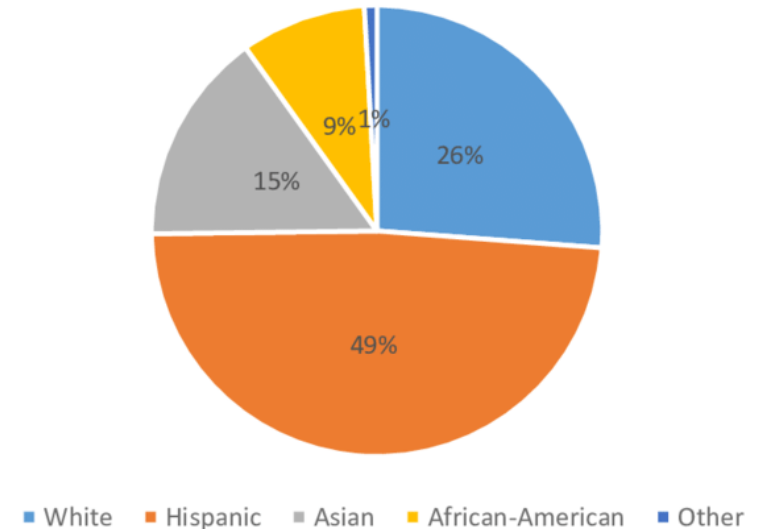
California's ten most populous counties



KPCC using Quartz's Chartbuilder

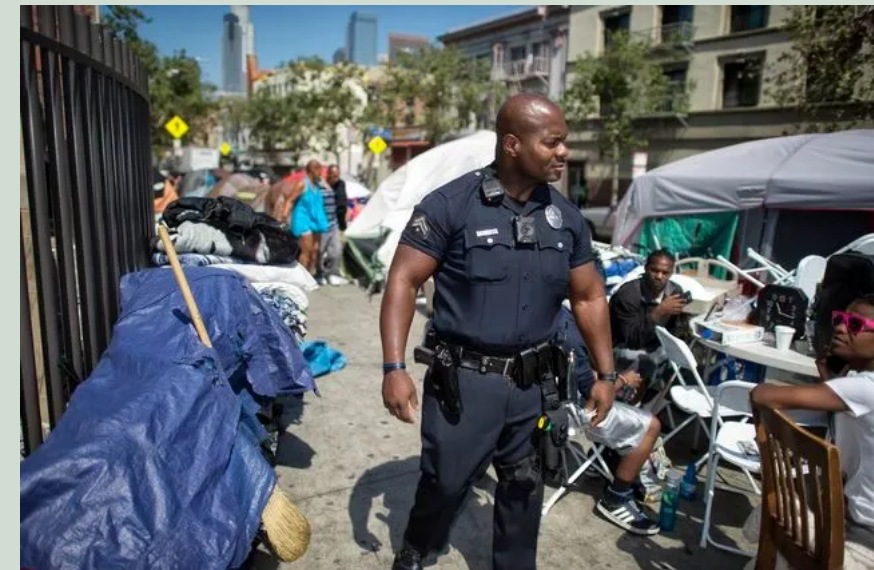
Data: Census Bureau

Los Angeles County Racial Breakdown



First responders in L.A. County

- 2,700 Firefighters
- Roughly 1,200 EMTs/ Paramedics
- Roughly 10,000 Police Officers



Statistics on diversity amongst first responders

Racial Statistics of Firefighters in the United States

- White, **75.0%**
- Hispanic or Latino, **13.6%**
- Black or African American, **6.9%**
- Asian, **1.8%**
- Unknown, **1.5%**
- American Indian and Alaska Native, **1.2%**

Racial Statistics on Paramedics in the United States

- White, **71.7%**
- Hispanic or Latino, **14.5%**
- Black or African American, **6.9%**
- Asian, **3.5%**
- Unknown, **2.5%**
- American Indian and Alaska Native, **0.9%**

Racial Statistics on Police Officers in the United States

- White, **64.9%**
- Hispanic or Latino, **16.9%**
- Black or African American, **12.1%**
- Asian, **3.0%**
- Unknown, **2.2%**
- American Indian and Alaska Native, **0.9%**



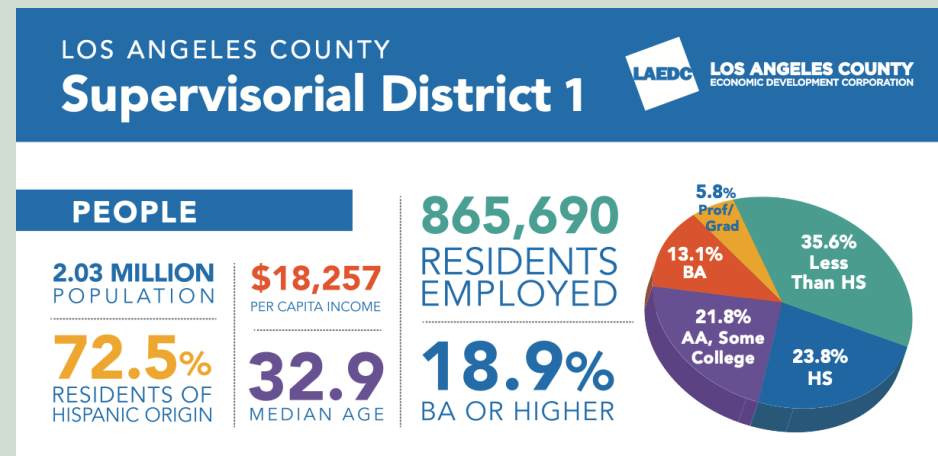
Discuss why is it important to have diversity amongst first responders



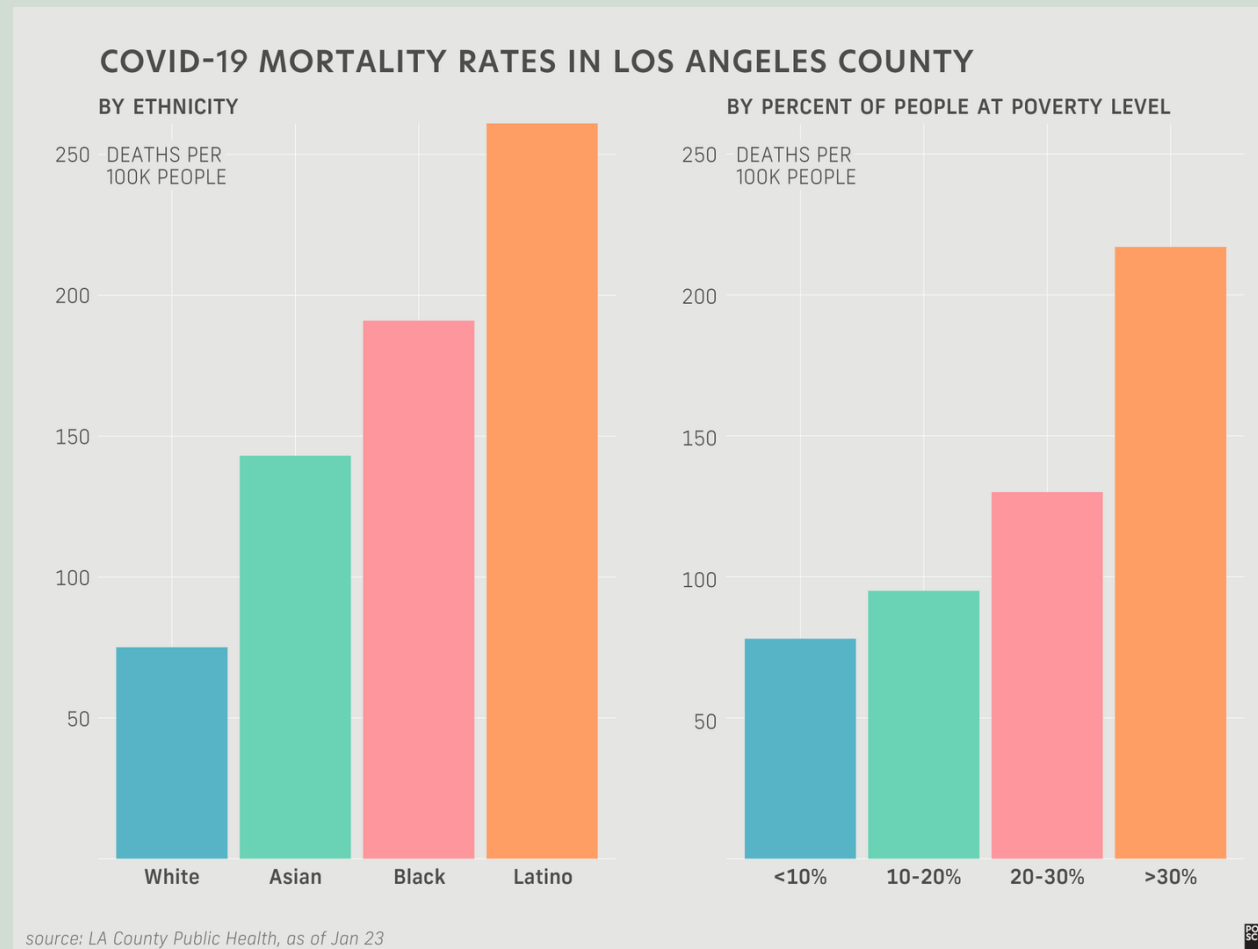
Culture Awareness during COVID-19

- Those who reside in lower income communities were harshly affected by COVID-19
- Black and Latino residents of L.A. County were hit hard
- Racial and ethnic disparities in Public Health is the main reason lower income communities suffer
- Less resources are available in lower income communities
- According to L.A. Times, “Between Jan. 29 and Feb. 11, for every 100,000 unvaccinated residents in each racial or ethnic group, 74 Latino and 60 Black residents were hospitalized for COVID-19, while 43 white and 30 Asian American residents were.”

(9,10)



Statistics on Cultural Awareness during the COVID-19 Pandemic



Health Disparities in L.A. County

- [Covid Vaccine Health Disparities Video](#)



Have you ever experienced or witnessed racism during a public health emergency? How can this impact the community?



How Asian hate/ Latino hate/ BLM made cultural awareness an important topic

Stop Asian Hate Movement

- Began March 2021
- Goal: End hate crimes against Asian Americans
- Xenophobia and Racism against Asians got worse during the pandemic
- The racist remarks were related to the Covid-19 pandemic

Latino Hate

- There is yet to be a movement
- In 2018, the hate crimes against Latinos reached its highest
- Racist remarks regarding undocumented individuals
- Street vendors being harassed
- Lack of resources available for Latinos especially undocumented

Black Lives Matter Movement

- BLM has been a movement since July 2013
- The protest began in 2020 after the George Floyd incident and the protests are ongoing
- 19 related deaths related to this movement
- Goal: to end police brutality, fight for equal rights, demand equality for mental health, LGBT community, and voting rights



How could we have avoided these events from happening? What can we do to avoid this in the future?



The Importance of Cultural Awareness



- Cultural awareness provides insight on cultures including their: practices, beliefs, language, access to healthcare, and more
- It helps you be alert of cultural differences and similarities
- Be sensitive and understanding
- Creating meaningful interactions with those of other cultures
- Offers different viewpoints and solutions to issues whether it is in a public health emergency or not
- Creates equal opportunities
- Builds a level of trust which is important during a public health emergency

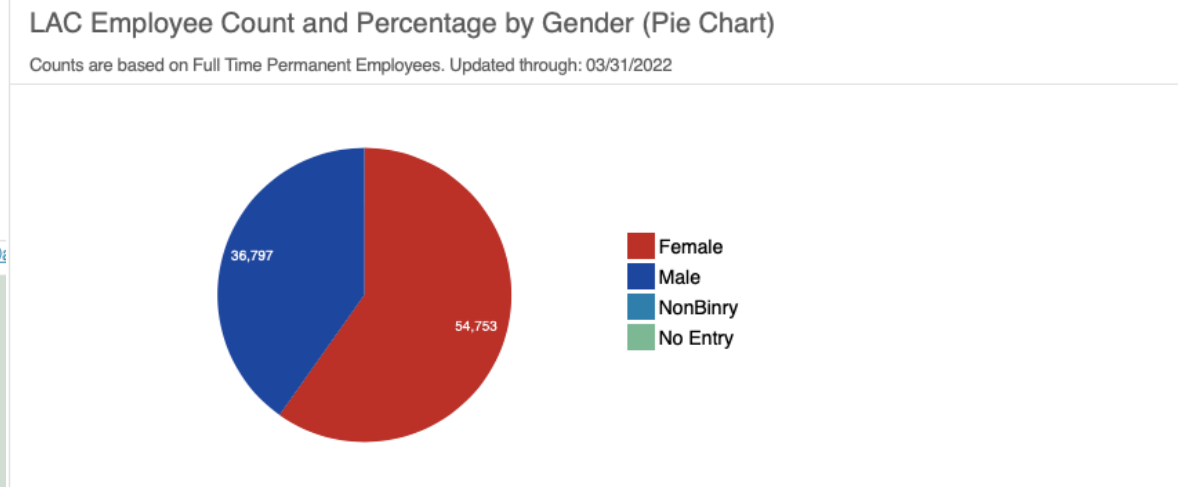
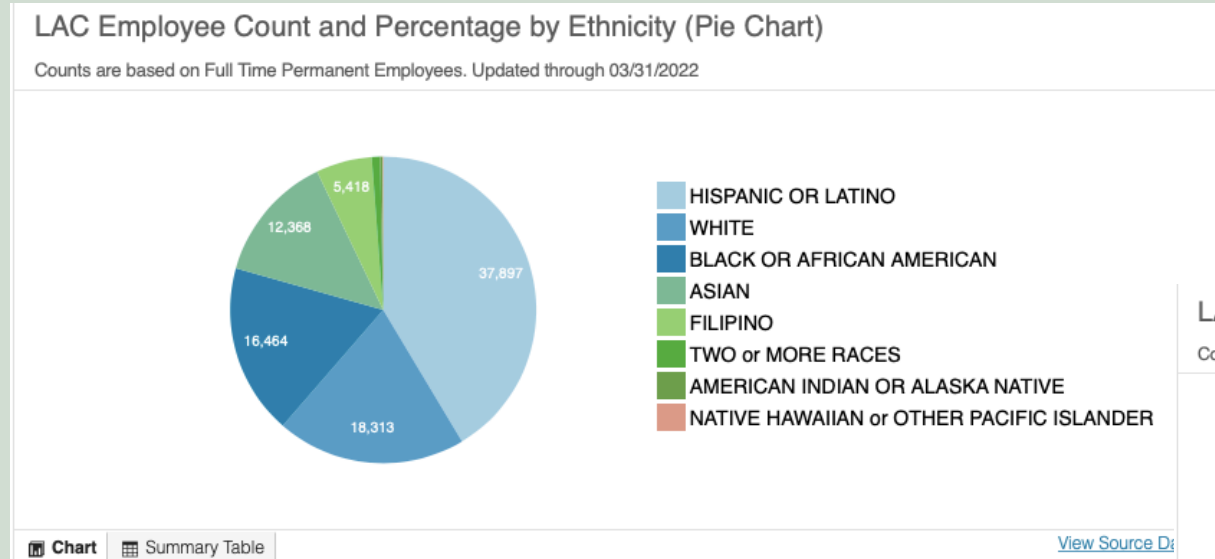
Why it is important to have diversity amongst city/ government workers

- Different view points
- Diversity = Inclusion
- Representation
- Cultural appreciation



Statistics on cultures within the city/ government workers

- According to “Policy 2020 Brookings”, 37% overall working for the federal workforce in the United States identifies as a minority



Discuss a time where the lack of cultural awareness effected you



Family Feud Activity- Cultural Awareness



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