

Trends of Implicit Biases about Disabilities among College Students Over the Past Few Years

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Spring Individual Research Project**

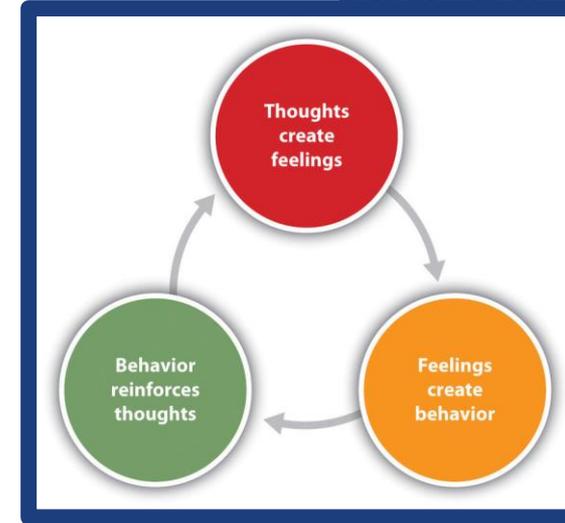


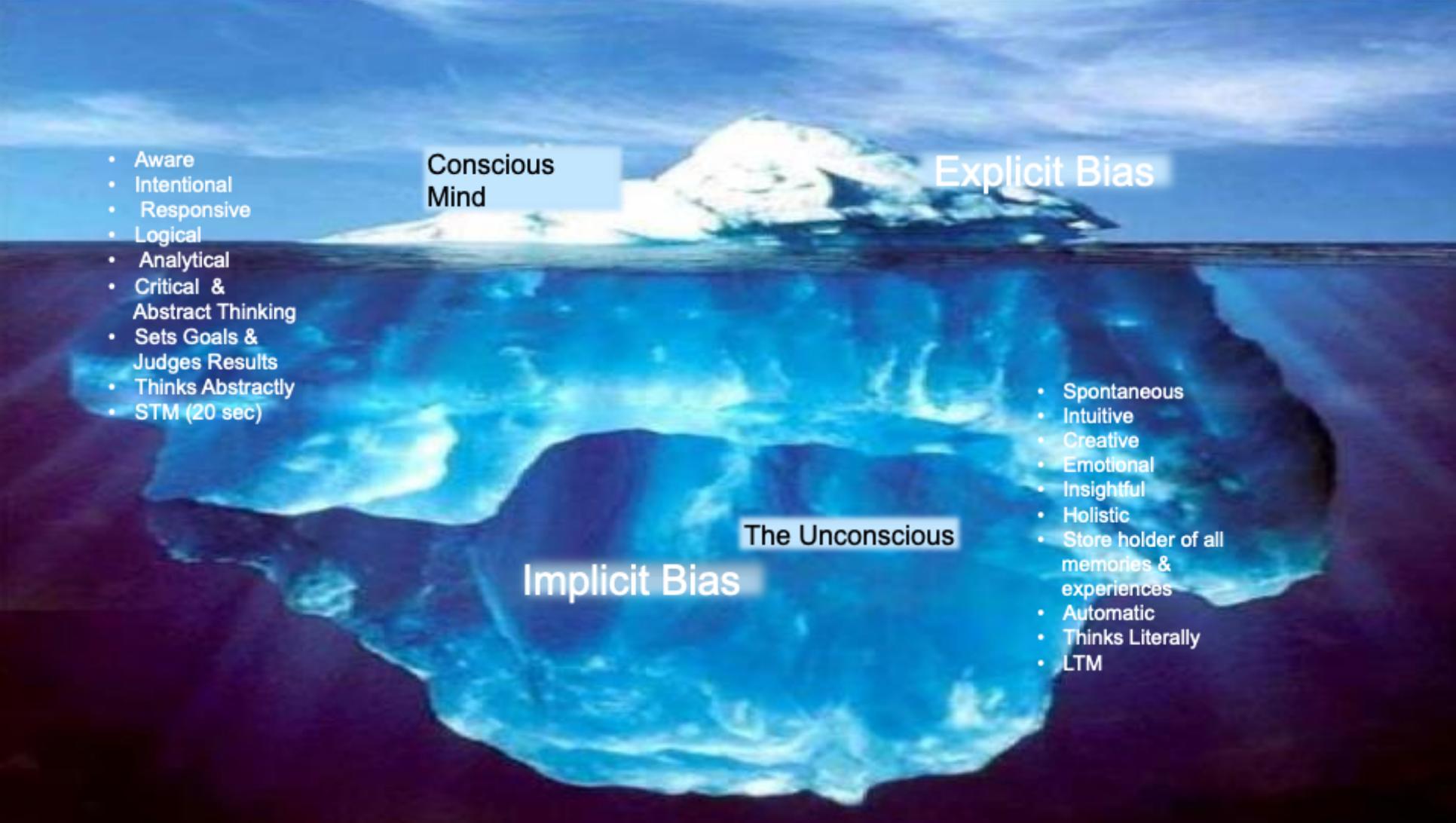
RAISE YOUR
HAND IF YOU
DO **NOT** HAVE
ANY BIASES



IMPLICIT BIAS

- Individuals' process 11 million bits of information every second
- A prejudiced subconscious process that constantly influences individual's feelings, thought patterns, actions, and behaviors.
- It is usually rooted in prejudices about specific groups of people and is often subtle and **unintended**





**Conscious
Mind**

Explicit Bias

- Aware
- Intentional
- Responsive
- Logical
- Analytical
- Critical & Abstract Thinking
- Sets Goals & Judges Results
- Thinks Abstractly
- STM (20 sec)

The Unconscious

Implicit Bias

- Spontaneous
- Intuitive
- Creative
- Emotional
- Insightful
- Holistic
- Store holder of all memories & experiences
- Automatic
- Thinks Literally
- LTM

Defeating Unconscious Bias

Project Implicit, Harvard University

<https://www.projectimplicit.net/index.html>

The Implicit Association Test (IAT)
Anthony Greenwald et. Al

Measures the strength of automatic associations people have in their minds.

DISABILITY - IMPLICIT ASSOCIATION TEST

Good Words

Pleasure
Glad
Happy
Cheerful
Enjoy
Fantastic
Triumph
Terrific

Bad Words

Yucky
Nasty
Disgust
Awful
Despise
Selfish
Abuse
Helpful



(Xu, F.K., Nosek, B. A., Greenwald, A. G., Lafora, N., & Axt, J, 2019)

Research Question: Using the Disability - IAT, what are the trends of college students implicit biases towards disabilities? Are implicit biases increasing, decreasing, or remaining the same?

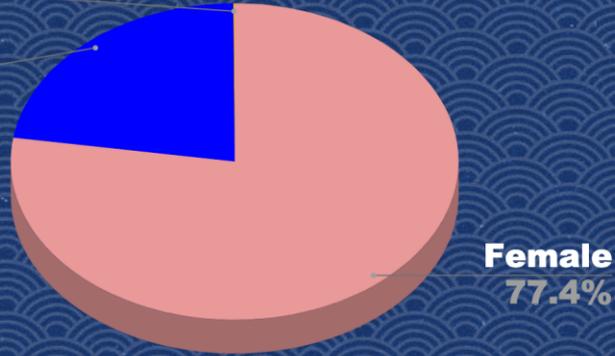
Hypothesis: Implicit biases towards disabilities will decrease because there is more access to education around disabilities. Thus, the more college students become informed and exposed to differences, the less biases they possess.

Methods

- **Secondary Data**
- **Only participants from ages 18 to 22 years old considered**
 - **Must have stated reason for taking test as “assignment for school”**
- **Data from 2016 to 2018**
- **Ran One Way ANOVA for the past 3 years**

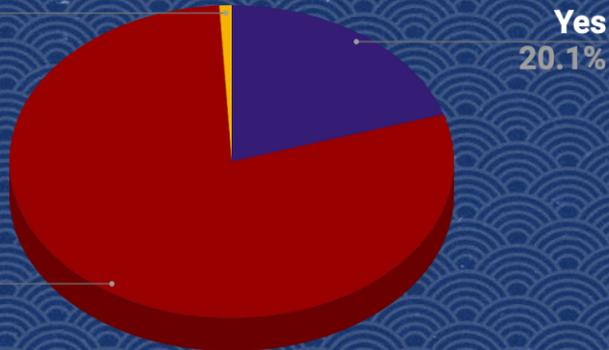
DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS!

Missing
0.1%
Male
22.5%



- ◎ **N: 26,247**
- ◎ **Age: 18 to 22 years old**
- ◎ **Males: 5,900 (22.5%)**
- ◎ **Females: 20, 323 (77.4%)**
- ◎ **Disability or Learning Difficulty Status**
 - ◎ **Yes (20.1%)**
 - ◎ **No (79.0%)**

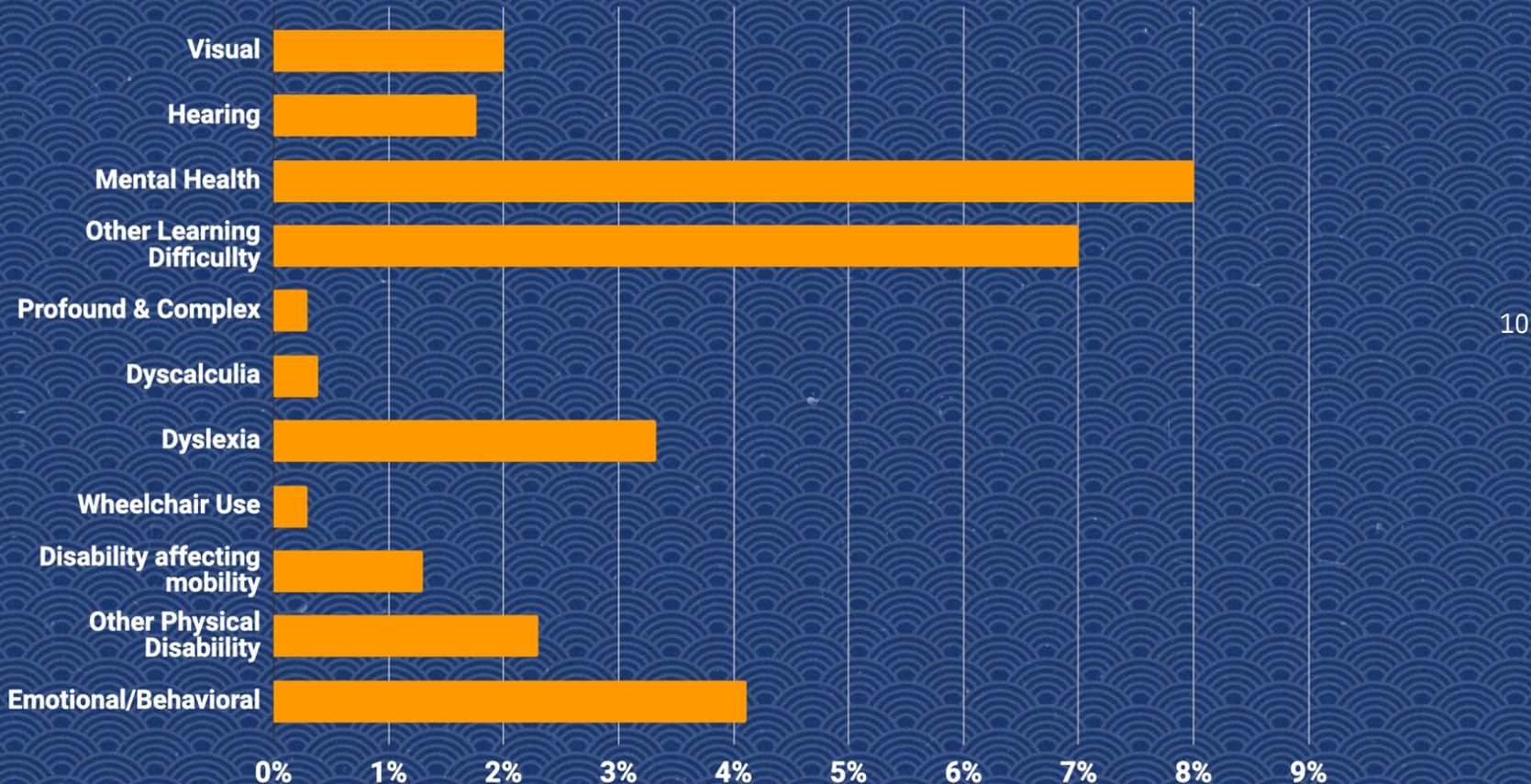
Missing
0.9%



No
79.0%

Yes
20.1%

COLLEGE STUDENTS' DISABILITY OR LEARNING DIFFICULTY TYPE



RACIAL MAKEUP OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

American Indian or Alaskan N...

0.6%

Missing

8.0%

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Isl...

0.6%

Other or Unknown

5.4%

Multiracial

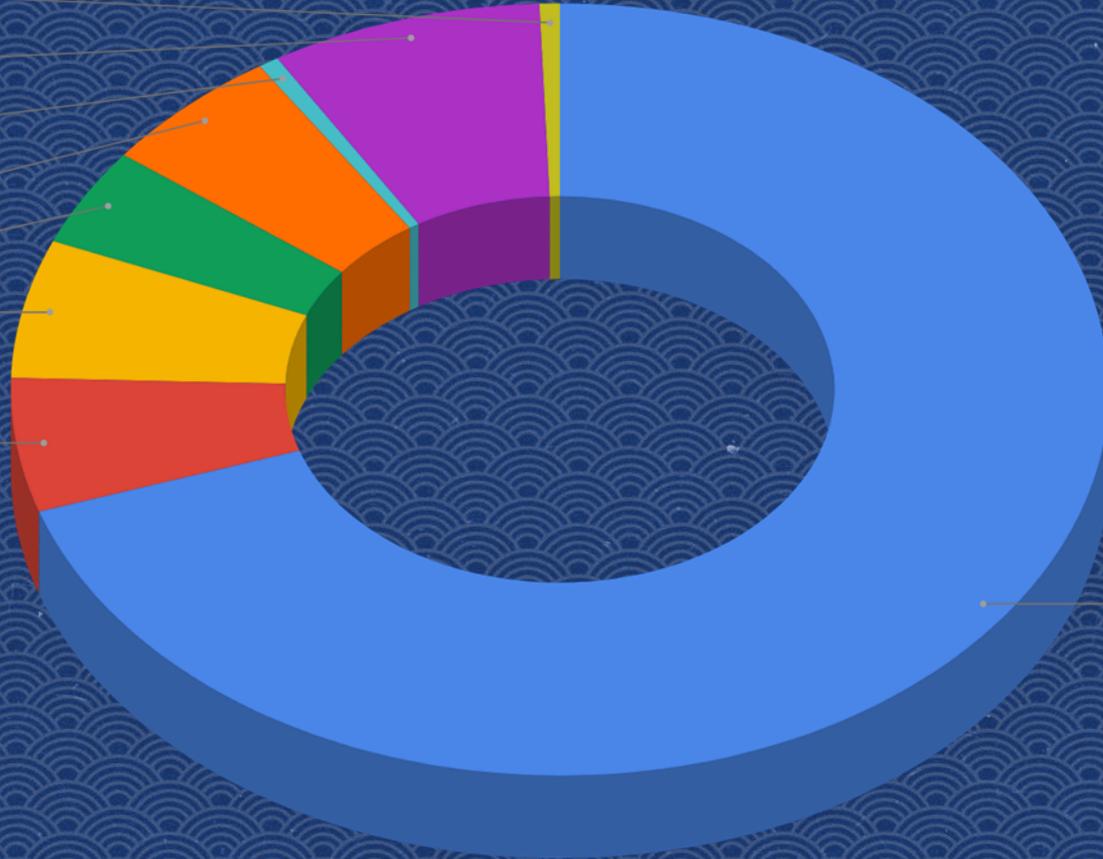
4.1%

Asian

5.8%

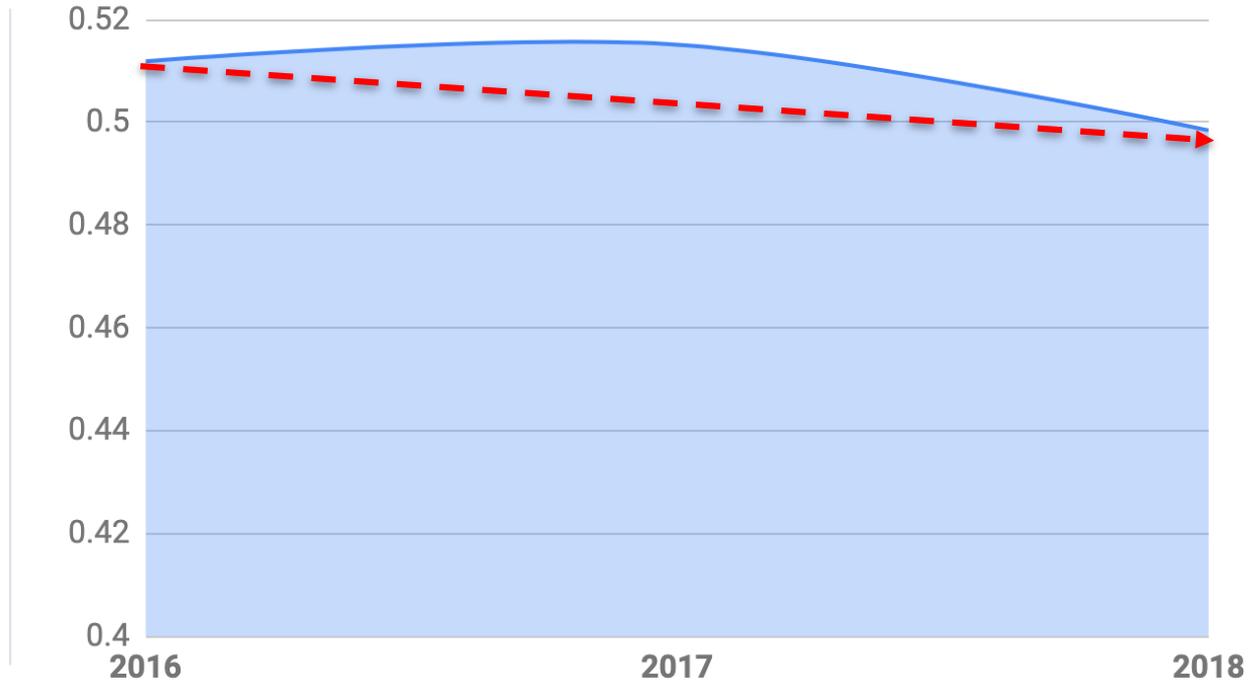
Black

5.6%



Overall Implicit D Scores

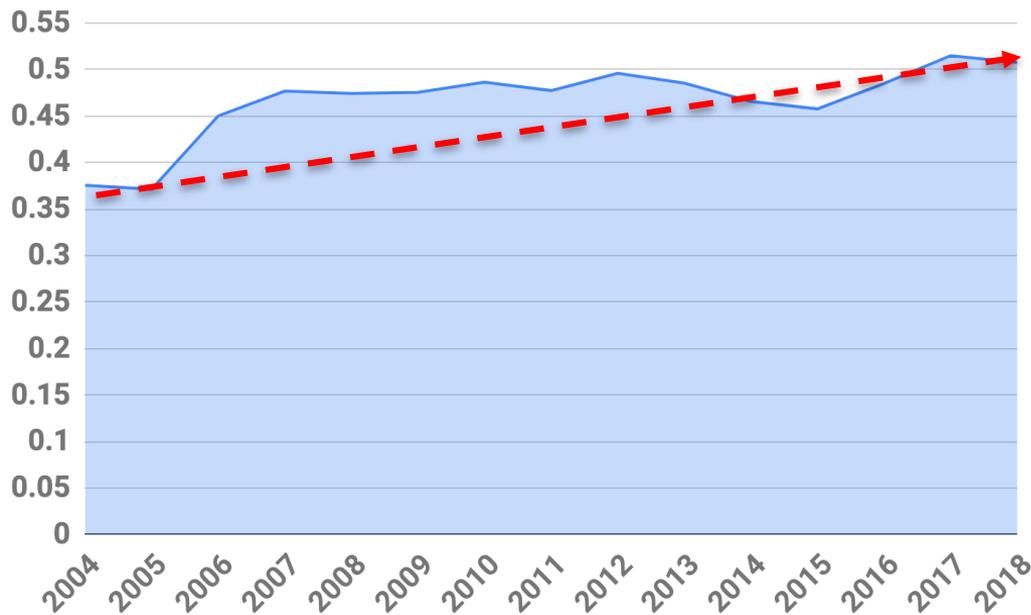
Results Of College Students



$P < .021^*$ only from 2017 to 2018

Overall Implicit D Scores in the Last 14 years

Results
Of
Entire
Population



13

$P < .0001^*$ except from
year 2004 to 2005

Discussion

- ◎ **Implicit biases are pervasive and automatic thoughts, feelings, and behaviors about individuals with disabilities**
- ◎ **Implicit biases about disabilities is trending downward in college students, but upward for the general population.**
- ◎ **Evidence-based education interventions to inform and educate people about disabilities is important to reduce biases.**

Limitations

- ◎ **Secondary Data**
- ◎ **Generalizability of results should be taken with caution (e.g use of signs)**
- ◎ **Not enough years of data to establish a pattern with college students**
- ◎ **Missing Data**

Future Directions

- ◎ **Follow data to see if downward trend of implicit biases among college students continue**
- ◎ **Evaluate education interventions to teach the general population about individuals with disability**

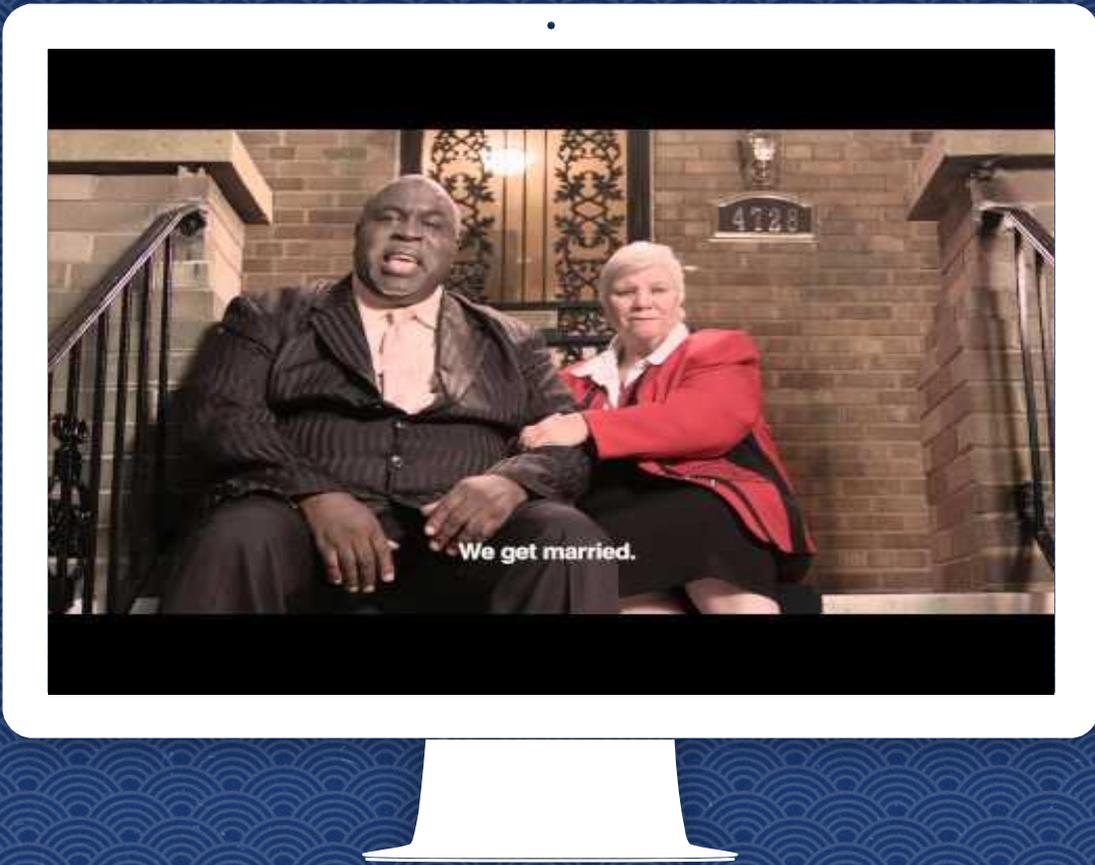
References

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Goff, P. A., Eberhardt, J. L., Williams, M. J., & Jackson, M. C. (2008). Not yet human: implicit knowledge, historical dehumanization, and contemporary consequences. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 94(2), 292.

Staats, C. (2016). Understanding implicit bias: What educators should know. *American Educator*, 29-43.

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Educational Video From Individuals with Disabilities