





## RACE: A LEGAL DEFINITION

- ❖ **FROM THE U.S. CODE:** “the term ‘racial group’ means a set of individuals whose identity is such as distinctive in terms of physical characteristics or biological descent.”
- ❖ **FBI:** race summarizes the general appearance (skin color, hair texture, eye shape, and other such easily noticed characteristics) of individuals whom they are attempting to apprehend.
- ❖ **U.S. CENSUS AND OFFICE OF BUDGET MANAGEMENT (OMB):** “The racial categories included in the census questionnaire generally reflect a social definition of race recognized in this country and not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically. In addition, it is recognized that the category of the race item include racial and national origin or subcultural groups.”
  - ❖ **REASONS FOR COLLECTING INFORMATION ON RACE:** “Information on race is required for many Federal programs and is critical in making policy decisions, particularly for civil rights. States use these data to meet legislative redistricting principles. Race data also are used to promote equal employment opportunities and to assess racial disparities in health and environmental risks.”



## DOROTHY ROBERTS FATAL INVENTION

- ❖ Why does she find “scientific racism” and “racial pseudoscience” problematic?
  - ❖ **scientific racism:** a “pseudoscientific” belief that empirical evidence exists to justify racism, racial inferiority, or racial superiority.
- ❖ If we believe there is little scientific proof in racial differences, why do we continue investing in it?
- ❖ What is really at stake here? What other questions *should we think about* instead of racial differences in health outcomes?





















