

# Ten Shocking Facts about the Baltimore Protests

By [Prof. Bill Quigley](#)

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[CounterPunch](#)

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Poverty & Social Inequality](#)

*Were you shocked at the disruption in Baltimore? What is more shocking is daily life in [Baltimore](#), a city of 622,000 which is 63 percent African American. Here are ten facts that tell some of the story.*

- 1: Blacks in Baltimore are more than [5.6 times more likely to be arrested for possession of marijuana](#) than whites even though marijuana use among the races is similar. In fact, Baltimore county has the fifth highest arrest rate for marijuana possessions in the USA.
- 2: Over [\\$5.7 million has been paid out by Baltimore](#) since 2011 in over 100 police brutality lawsuits. Victims of severe police brutality were mostly people of color and included a pregnant woman, a 65 year old church deacon, children, and an 87 year old grandmother.
- 3: White babies born in Baltimore have [six more years of life expectancy](#) than African American babies in the city.
- 4: African Americans in Baltimore are [eight times more likely to die](#) from complications of HIV/AIDS than whites and twice as likely to die from diabetes related causes as whites.
- 5: [Unemployment](#) is 8.4 percent city wide. Most estimates place the unemployment in the African American community at [double that of the white community](#). The [national rate of unemployment](#) for whites is 4.7 percent, for blacks it is 10.1.
- 6: African American babies in Baltimore [are nine times more likely to die before age one](#) than white infants in the city.
- 7: There is a [twenty year difference in life expectancy](#) between those who live in the most affluent neighborhood in Baltimore versus those who live six miles away in the most impoverished.
- 8: 148,000 people, or [23.8 percent of the people in Baltimore](#), live below the official poverty level.
- 9: [56.4 percent of Baltimore students graduate](#) from high school. [The national rate is about 80 percent](#).
- 10: [92 percent of marijuana possession arrests in Baltimore were of African Americans, one of the highest racial disparities in the USA](#).

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