

# Dictionary Definitions of Disparity

## A. Purely descriptive (difference, unequal or inequality)

<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/us/dictionary/english/disparity>

1. inequality or difference, as in rank, amount, quality, etc. 2. unlikeness; [incongruity](#)

<https://www.macmillandictionary.com/us/dictionary/american/disparity>

a [difference](#) between [things](#)

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/disparity>

a noticeable and usually significant difference or dissimilarity.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/disparity>

lack of similarity or equality; inequality; difference:

<https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/disparity>

inequality or difference in some respect

<https://mnemonicdictionary.com/word/disparity>

inequality or difference in some respect

<https://www.thefreedictionary.com/disparity>

1. The condition or fact of being unequal, as in age, rank, or degree; difference. 2. Unlikeness; incongruity.

<https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/disparity>

([uncountable](#)) The state of being [unequal](#); [difference](#). ([countable](#)) [Incongruity](#).

<https://www.lawinsider.com/dictionary/disparity>

**Disparity** means that the probability of receiving a particular outcome differs for different groups.

<https://diversity.social/disparity-definition/>

Etymologically speaking, “disparity” is usually synonymous with the word “difference.” Most dictionaries define it as a condition of having a noticeable difference between things or persons that are being compared with each other. It can be about taste, preference, aesthetics. Or it can be used when comparing products, models, objects. In this context, Disparity means simply difference.

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## B. Mainly descriptive (difference) but linked with an evaluation (unfair)

<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/definition/english/disparity>

a difference, especially one connected with unfair treatment

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/disparity>

a [lack](#) of [equality](#) or [similarity](#), [especially](#) in a way that is not [fair](#)

a [situation](#) in which two or more things are not [equal](#) or [similar](#), [especially](#) when this is [thought](#) to be [unfair](#):

<https://www.britannica.com/dictionary/disparity>

a noticeable and often unfair difference between people or things

<https://www.ldoceonline.com/dictionary/disparity>

a [difference](#) between two or more things, especially an [unfair](#) one

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## C. Evaluative (*due to or because of*)

<https://diversity.social/disparity-definition/>

In social sciences and economics, the word “disparity” is also used to denote differences. It is much more than that, however. The term gained currency to describe a situation or condition in which [unequal opportunities](#), rights, benefits, incentives are afforded to some, but not to others. This **due to** their membership, or non-membership, to a [particular class, gender, age group, or race](#). [Ed. bold added]

# Dictionary Definitions of Disparity

## DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DISPARITY AND INEQUITY

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18777609/>

Disparity implies a difference of some kind, whereas inequity implies unfairness and injustice.

## DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INEQUALITY AND UNFAIR

<https://ijhpr.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13584-019-0307-7>

In most countries worldwide, at least in public health circles, *'inequalities' refer to differences and 'inequities' to unfair differences,*

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20170706-theres-a-problem-with-the-way-we-define-inequality>

People typically prefer fair inequality to unfair equality”.

## DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DISPARITY AND DISCRIMINATION

[https://uk.sagepub.com/sites/default/files/upm-assets/27008\\_book\\_item\\_27008.pdf](https://uk.sagepub.com/sites/default/files/upm-assets/27008_book_item_27008.pdf)

**Disparity is a difference in treatment or outcome that does not necessarily result from intentional bias or prejudice.** For example, the fact that very few people over the age of 50 enroll at the typical college or university reflects a disparity but not discrimination.

Allegations of lawlessness in sentencing reflect concerns about both disparity and discrimination. Although these terms are sometimes used interchangeably, they do not mean the same thing.

Disparity is a difference in treatment or outcome that does not necessarily result from intentional bias or prejudice. Discrimination, on the other hand, is differential treatment of individuals based on irrelevant criteria, such as race, gender, or social class.

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## SYNONYMS FOR DISPARITY

<https://www.thesaurus.com/browse/disparity>

discrepancy, distinction, divergence, gap  
imbalance, inequality. Variation, disproportion  
dissimilarity, dissimilitude, divergency, diverseness  
incongruity, otherness, unevenness, unlikeness  
alterity, dissemblance, imparity

## ANTONYMS FOR DISPARITY

<https://www.thesaurus.com/browse/disparity>

Agreement, harmony, similarity, equality, likeness, likeness

## ETYMOLOGY OF DISPARITY

<https://www.etymonline.com/word/disparity>