

# The Necessity of a Public Health Response to the Eradication of Critical Race Theory

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## Introduction

The term Critical Race Theory (CRT) originated from scholars like Derrick Bell, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Cheryl Harris, Richard Delgado, Patricia Williams, Gloria Ladson-Billings, Tara Yosso (2)

Kimberly Crenshaw was able to mainstream the tenets through her social media campaign #TruthBeTold

The legislative response to CRT has been divisive and aggressive. For example, in 2020 multiple legislatures banned diversity training.

Public Health Officials (PHO) need to scrutinize the federal absolution of CRT lest incidences of racism increase in educational systems and institutions alike.

This is a Public Health concern because Public Health Officials (PHO) job descriptions are to protect populations. Banning diversity training dramatically impacts minority groups as it exposes them to higher risks of discrimination and harm.

## Methods & Materials

- Establishing clear definitions for CRT
- \* Dissolving misinformation
- Informing the public
- In-depth scholarly review or resources
- An extensive annotated bibliography



Protesters against CRT in schools

## Discussion

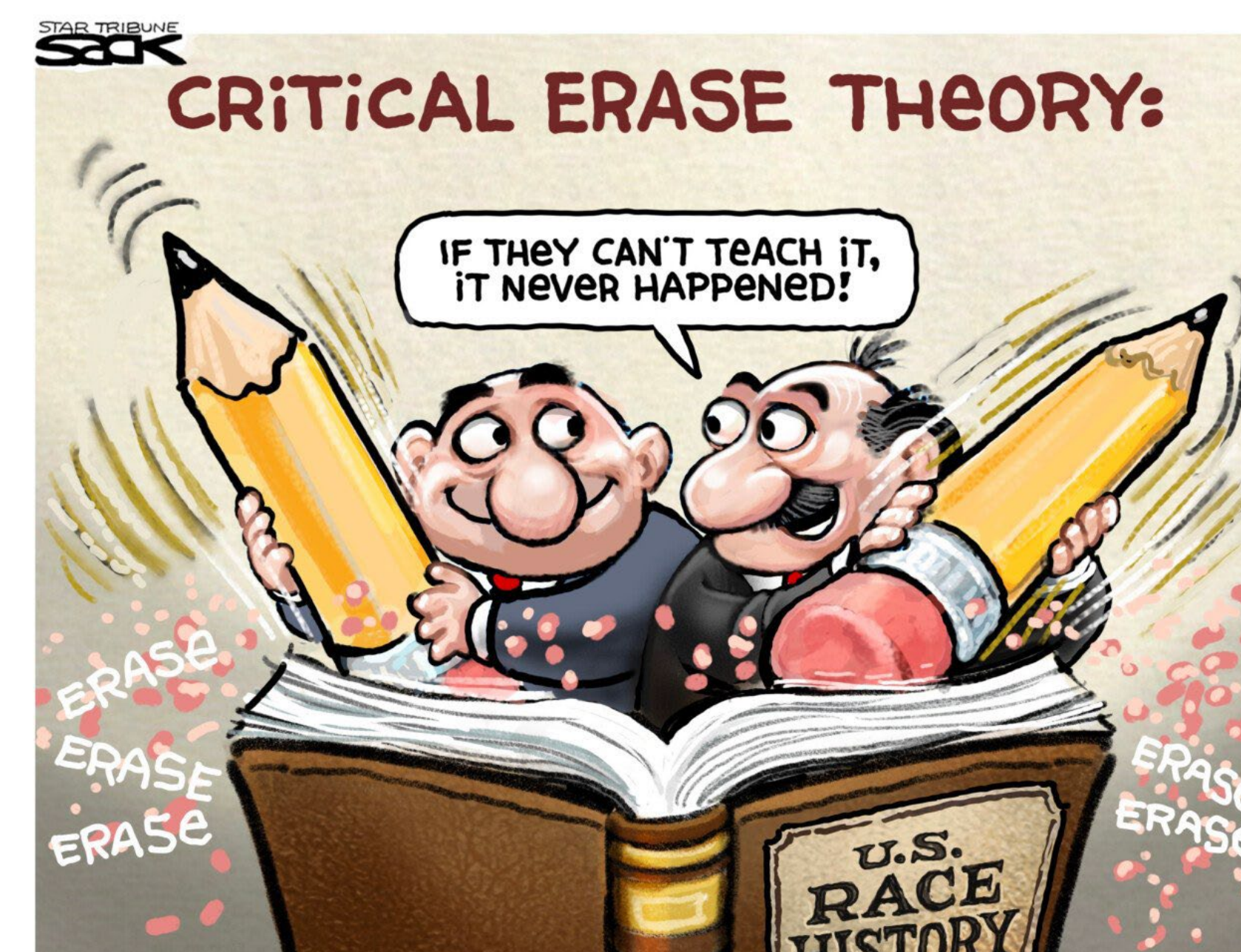
Legal policies tie into aspects of Public Health because our approaches focus on improving the health, safety, and wellbeing of entire populations. (7) PHO begin the process of evaluation when a population faces physical or psychological harm.

Condemning and outlawing CRT to be taught within public educational systems, the government is immobilizing the vital education on diverse backgrounds to majority students. Erasing negative portions of US History or uncomfortable truths leaves many students feeling invisible or disenfranchised.

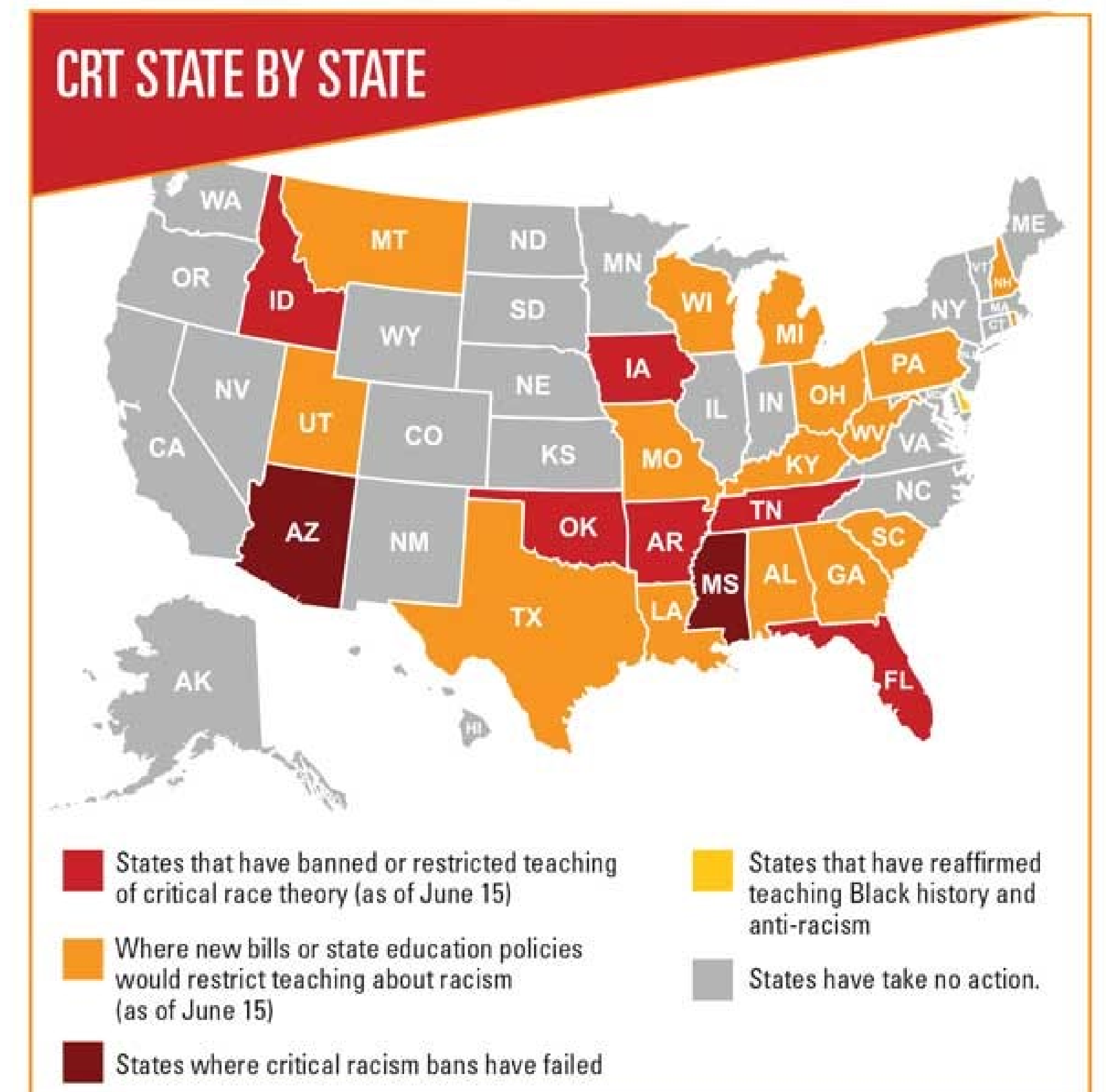
In order to highlight the opportunity for a Public Health response to this sociological pandemic, PHO must follow a set of procedures. We must define quantitative factors of the problem of institutional race relations deteriorating; identify risk and protective factors; develop and test prevention strategies; implement widespread adoption of strategies. (6)

## Findings

- CRT tenets (6):
  - Race isn't biological, it's a social concept
  - Racism is embedded within systems and institutions
  - CRT recognizes that racism is codified in law, embedded in structures, and woven into public policy. (Racist incidents aren't accidents, they're learned behaviors)
  - Recognition of the relevance of people's everyday lives to scholarship



Political cartoon where two people are erasing a textbook titled "US Race History" and captioned "If they can't teach it, it never happened"



Map of states with current or pending CRT legislation



Photo showing students in a library of racial social constructs

## Acknowledgements

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## References

- (1) <https://districtadministration.com/critical-race-theory-tracker-banned-schools-education/>
- (2) <https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/metrocenter/perspectives/understanding-disproportionality-part-2-measuring-disproportionality-2019>
- (3) <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator/a13>
- (4) <https://www.statista.com/statistics/222109/us-students-who-carried-a-weapon-to-school-by-gender-and-ethnicity/>
- (5) [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/crjs/publications/human\\_rights\\_magazine\\_home/civil-rights-remaining-policing-a-lesson-on-critical-race-theory/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/crjs/publications/human_rights_magazine_home/civil-rights-remaining-policing-a-lesson-on-critical-race-theory/)
- (6) <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/opinion-critical-race-theory-isnt-a-curriculum-its-a-practice/2021/05>
- (7) [The Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention | Violence Prevention | Injury Center | CDC](#)