

Racism as a Social Determinant of Health in COVID-19 Outcomes

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Disclosure Information



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Session Learning Objectives

At the end of the session, you will be able to:

- Describe racial disparities in COVID-19 outcomes.
- Discuss contribution of social determinants of health and racism to COVID-19 disparities.
- Understand intersectional impact of race and substance use disorder (SUD) on COVID-19 outcomes.

Outline

- Definitions
- Racial disparities in COVID-19 outcomes
- Substance use disorder disparities in COVID-19 outcomes
- Intersectionality of race and SUD in COVID-19

Definitions

- **Race:**
 - A social construct involving a hierarchical classification of humans based on physical traits, ancestry, and social relations.
- **Racism:** **Race is the child of racism, not the father."**
 - The belief that all members of a purported race possess characteristics, abilities or qualities specific to race and is a particular form of prejudice directed toward a person or group of people based on their membership of a particular racial or ethnic group
- **Structural Racism:**
 - Public policies, institutional practices, cultural representations, and other societal norms that contribute to and perpetuate racial group inequity

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)



- Availability of resources to meet daily needs
- Access to quality educational, economic, and employment opportunities
- Access to health care services
- Transportation options
- Opportunities for recreational activities
- Exposure to crime, violence, and social disorder
- Socioeconomic conditions
- Social norms
 - (e.g., structural racism)
- Access to mass media and emerging technologies
 - (e.g., telehealth)

Social Determinants of Health
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 Healthy People 2030

Healthy People 2030, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Retrieved 9/23/22, from <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/social-determinants-health>

Structural Racism → SDOH

- Redlining/residential segregation
- Unequal educational opportunity
- Employment discrimination
- Unequal access to healthcare
- Disparate criminal legal enforcement and prosecution
- Consistent diminution of opportunities

Homeowning while Black: Md. couple alleges bias in appraisal



Print

Saturday, August 20 2022
AP

NEW YORK (AP) — How much does it pay to hide the photos of your family at your home, or anything else that shows your race? If you're Black and trying to find out how much your house is worth, one family suggests it could be hundreds of thousands of dollars.

A couple in Baltimore is suing an appraiser and a mortgage lender, alleging their home was severely undervalued because they are Black, blocking them from refinancing their mortgage. The couple says a separate appraisal, done after "whitewashing" the place by removing family photos and having a white colleague stand in for them, pegged the home's value higher by \$278,000.

The two "were shocked at the appraisal and recognized that the low valuation was because of racial discrimination," according to the suit filed earlier this week in U.S. District Court in Maryland.

US COVID-19 Racial Disparities Timeline

December 2019

- Cluster of patients in Wuhan, China with symptoms of atypical pneumonia
- WHO office in China notified

January 2020

- China reports 40 cases
- Chinese scientists identify genetic sequence and share online
- 282 cases reported outside China
- First US case identified
 - Person-to-person transmission first identified in US
- WHO: declares Public Health Emergency of International Concern
- HHS: US declares public health emergency

February 2020

- Worldwide deaths exceed 1,000 outpacing 2002-2003 SARS outbreak
- WHO announces official name of disease: "COVID-19"
- US announces first Covid-related death

US COVID-19 Racial Disparities Timeline

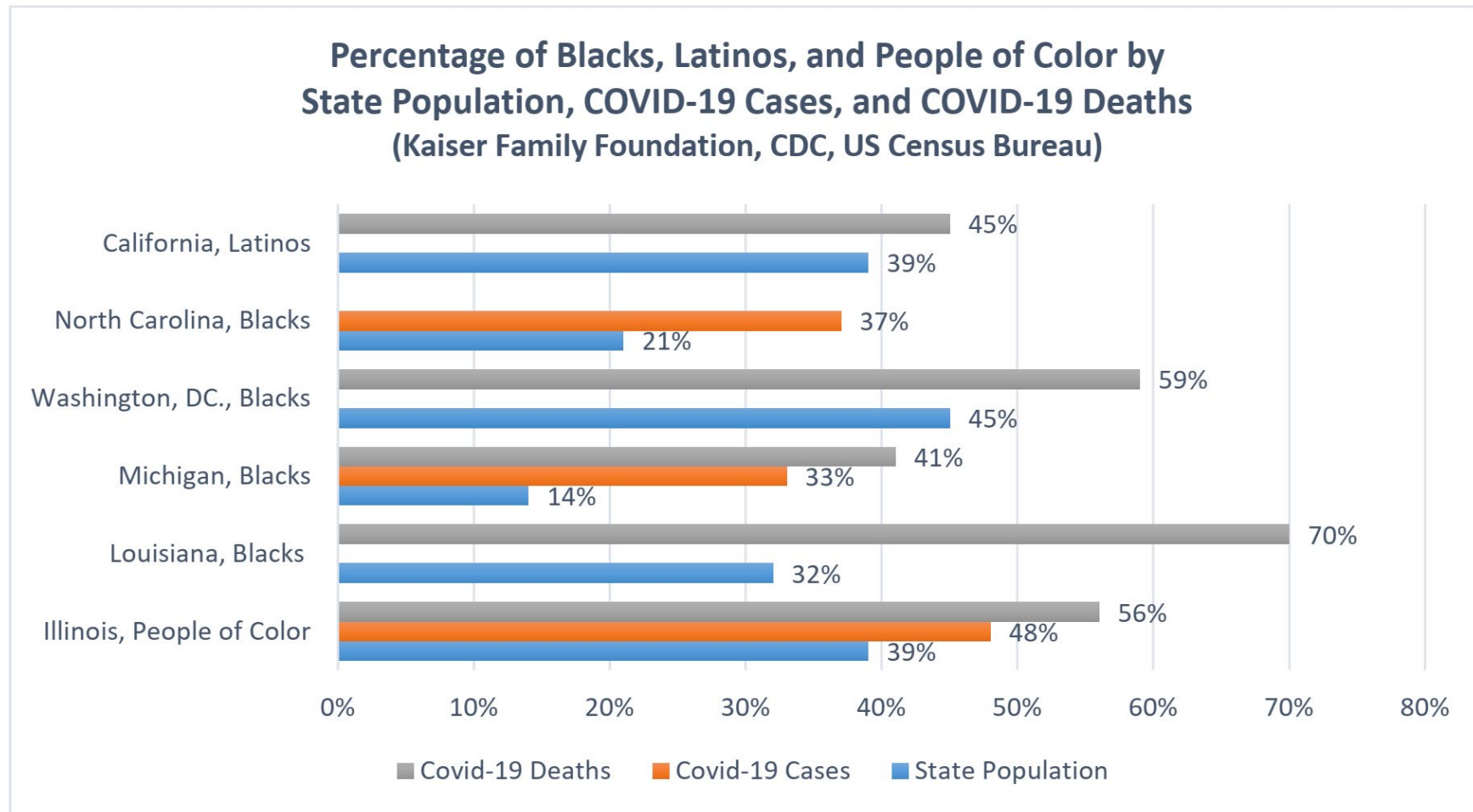
March 2020

- CDC creates COVID-NET
 - Reports 60 cases in 12 states
- WHO declares a pandemic
- First human vaccine trials begin
- US declares national emergency
 - States begin shutdowns
 - Coronavirus Aid and Economic Security Act
 - Social distancing measures extended through April 2020
- CMS expands telehealth services

April 2020

- CDC announces mask wearing guidelines
- Doctors and Civil Rights organizations urge CDC to release race and ethnicity data on COVID-19 cases
- Chicago Department of Public Health publishes data showing marked racial disparities in Covid-19 related deaths

COVID-19 Outcomes by Race & Ethnicity



COVID-19 Outcomes by Race & Ethnicity

Rate ratios compared to White, Non-Hispanic persons	American Indian or Alaska Native, Non-Hispanic persons	Asian, Non-Hispanic persons	Black or African American, Non-Hispanic persons	Hispanic or Latino persons
Cases ¹	1.5x	0.8x	1.1x	1.5x
Hospitalization ²	2.8x	0.8x	2.2x	2.1x
Death ^{3, 4}	2.1x	0.8x	1.7x	1.8x

Factors Associated with Disparities

- Racialized myths about the virus
 - “China virus” or the “Chinese virus”
 - Black immunity to COVID-19
- Distrust of medical profession and medical science



SDOH → COVID-19 Racial Disparities

- Disparities in prevalence of diseases associated with poor COVID-19 outcomes
 - Diabetes
 - Heart disease
 - Obesity
 - Pulmonary disease
- Lower health literacy
- Limited access to quality and affordable health care
- Criminal-legal disparities in arrest, prosecution, conviction and sentencing
 - Increased rates of poverty
 - Increased life stressors
 - Increased neighborhood density and disorganization
- Poor access to educational and employment opportunities
 - More likely to be essential workers

Employment Disparity: Essential Workers

<i>Occupation</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>Hispanic</i>	<i>Asian</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>% Difference (B/W)</i>	<i>% Difference (H/W)</i>	<i>Spearman Correlation</i>
Protective Service	1.92	3.25	1.49	0.58	1.97	1.33	-0.43	0.90
Transportation and material moving	5.33	10.58	8.65	4.74	7.32	5.25	3.32	0.87
Healthcare support	1.76	5.46	2.41	1.95	2.10	3.70	0.65	0.87
Office/Admin Support	11.22	12.76	10.75	8.38	12.69	1.50	-0.47	0.87
Food prep and serving	4.53	6.63	7.92	5.70	8.31	2.10	3.39	0.84
Maintenance	2.62	4.36	8.16	1.47	3.66	1.74	5.54	0.81
Personal care and service	3.28	4.84	4.15	6.14	4.75	1.56	0.87	0.85

Housing Disparity

- Wisconsin study of 2,595 consecutive patients
 - COVID-19 positivity: Blacks OR 5.37 (3.94-7.29)
 - 79% variability explained by zip code of residence
- US counties 1/22/20 – 10/28/20

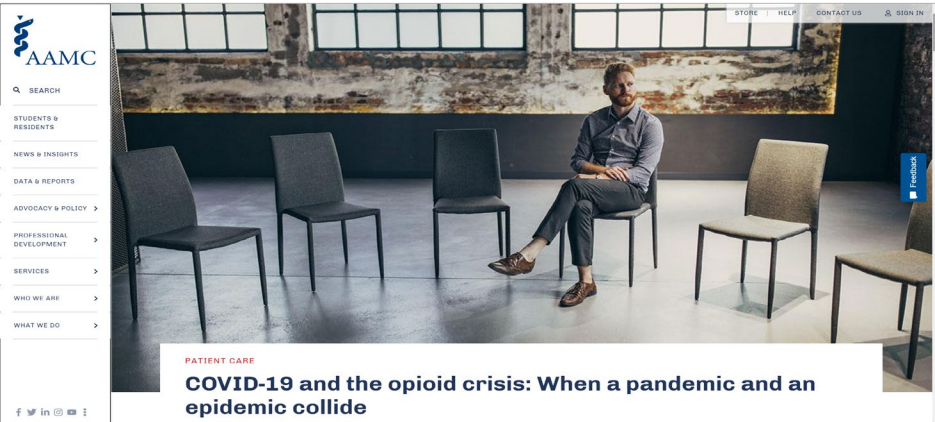
	<i>Lowest Quintile</i>	<i>Highest Quintile</i>
COVID-19 death rate/ 100,000	20.9	151.0
% Black residents	5.0%	22.7%
% Uninsured	10.7%	16.1%
% Adults w/o high school diploma	10.8%	17.7%

Intersectionality of Race and SUD in COVID-19 Outcomes

Impact of COVID-19 for Persons with SUD

- Increased stress
 - Fear of illness
 - Financial strain
 - Job loss
- Exacerbation of psychiatric symptoms
- Grief, loss and trauma
- Increased unstructured time/boredom
- Disconnected from recovery supports
 - Group counseling
 - Self/mutual help (NA, AA Smart Recovery)
 - Religious/Spiritual communities (church, mosque, synagogues)
- Social isolation
 - No one there to call 911 or administer naloxone

COVID-19 and Substance Use



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Research Letter | Substance Use and Addiction

Changes in Adult Alcohol Use and Consequences During the COVID-19 Pandemic in the US

Michael S. Pollard, PhD; Joan S. Tucker, PhD; Harold D. Green Jr, PhD

The New York Times

TheUpshot

In Shadow of Pandemic, U.S. Drug Overdose Deaths Resurge to Record

By Josh Katz, Abby Goodnough and Margot Sanger-Katz July 15, 2020

Drug deaths in America, [which fell](#) for the first time in 25 years in 2018, rose to record numbers in 2019 and are continuing to climb, a resurgence that is being complicated and perhaps worsened by the coronavirus pandemic.

Drug Overdose Deaths in the U.S. Top 100,000 Annually

For Immediate Release: November 17, 2021

Contact: CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, Office of Communication (301) 458-4800

E-mail: paoquery@cdc.gov

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March 18, 2022

Alcohol-Related Deaths During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Aaron M. White, PhD¹; I-Jen P. Castle, PhD¹; Patricia A. Powell, PhD¹; [et al](#)

Author Affiliations | Article Information

JAMA. 2022;327(17):1704-1706. doi:10.1001/jama.2022.4308

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COVID-19 Disparities in Persons with SUD

- ~73 million patients from 360 hospitals;
 - ~7.5 million (10.3%) with lifetime SUD diagnosis
 - ~722,00 (0.99%) with SUD diagnosis in past 12 months
 - ~12,000 with COVID-19 infection

	<i>COVID-19 Positivity OR (CI)</i>	<i>Hospitalization %, (p-value)</i>	<i>Mortality (%)</i>
Lifetime SUD	1.46 (1.42,1.50)	41.0% vs. 30.1%, (p <.0001)	9.6% vs. 6.6% (p <.0001)
Recent SUD diagnosis	8.69 (8.41, 9.00)	43.8% vs. 30.1% (p <.0001)	9.5% vs 6.6% (p =.003)
Blacks with lifetime SUD		50.7% vs. 35.2% (p <.0001)	13.0% vs. 8.6% (p =.003)
Blacks with recent SUD	2.17 (2.01, 2.35)	53.67% vs. 37.6% (p <.0001)	12.2% vs. 9.84% (p=.276)
Blacks with recent OUD	4.16 (3.13, 5.53)		

Race & SUD Intersectionality

- Minoritized patients in an opioid treatment program were:
 - More likely to report:
 - “Extremely concerned” about catching COVID-19 (29.5% vs. 9.1%)
 - Tried to get tested but could not (18.2% vs. 3.0%)
 - Know someone who died (43.2% vs. 22.7%)
 - Need to financially support others who lost jobs (31.8% vs. 13.6%)
 - Prepare own drugs (11.4% vs. 1.5%)
 - Decreased sharing of drugs or supplies with others (20.5% vs. 7.6%)
 - Less likely to report:
 - Increased alcohol consumption (9.1 % vs. 16.7%) or non-prescription drugs (11.4 vs. 13.6%)

Disparities in Access to Addiction Medications

- Segregation of methadone and buprenorphine clinics
 - Black resident: Each 1% ↓ in probability of interaction with a White resident was associated with 0.6 more facilities providing methadone
 - White resident: Each 1% ↓ in the probability of interaction with a Black resident was associated with 8.17 more facilities providing buprenorphine
- Disparities in access to buprenorphine
 - Black patients with an opioid use disorder were 72% less likely to be prescribed buprenorphine when compared to Whites.
- Medications for alcohol use disorder (MAUD)
 - Blacks less likely than Whites to be prescribed MAUD (OR 0.68)

Disparities in Access to Other Treatment

- Telehealth
 - Black patients less likely to have access to technology for telemedicine
 - Particularly synchronous audio-visual visits
- Mental Health (MH) treatment
 - MH/SUD visits pre-pandemic, during surge, clinic re-opening
 - Non-Hispanic Whites increased by 10.5% relative to pre-pandemic
 - Blacks decreased by 33.0% and Hispanics decreased by 24.6%
- Harm Reduction
 - Racial/ethnic minorities less able to access syringe exchange services (OR 7.8) and naloxone (OR 9.9)

Race and Ethnicity Disparities in Overdose

- California study
 - Age-adjusted death rates between 2006 – 2020
 - Used forecasting model to predict deaths in Q2 –Q4, 2020
 - Total: 15.0 to 22.4 between 2019 and 2020 (50% increase)
 - Blacks: 27.0 to 41.1 (52% increase)
 - Whites: 22.2 to 31.7 (43% increase)
 - Latinx: 10.3 to 17.3 (68% increase)
 - AAPI: 3.5 to 5.7 (62.1% increase)
 - Black-White overdose mortality gap
 - 2018: 0.7
 - 2019: 4.8
 - 2020 (Q2 – Q4): 9.9

Summary

- Notable racial and ethnic disparities in COVID-19 infection and outcomes.
- Disparities inextricably linked to the social determinants of health and racism.
- Intersectionality of race and substance use with worsening of outcomes.

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