COVID-19 as a Disruptor

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**dis·rupt·er**

_noun_

noun: disruptor

- someone or something that interrupts an event, activity, or process by causing a disturbance or problem.
  - "the film follows his evolution from Hollywood star to political disrupter"
- something that drastically alters or destroys the structure of something.
  - "if the endocrine disrupter stimulates the endocrine system, then increased amounts of hormone may be produced"
Structural or Institutional Racism

Policies, practices & social norms that either restrict opportunities or perpetuate inequality

James Jones, 1972
Cultural Mistrust

- Historical Evidence
- Personal Experiences
- Family Experiences & Socialization
Cultural Mistrust: Historical Evidence

Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment

Puerto Rico Pill Trials

Forced Sterilization Programs in NC

https://www.cdc.gov/tuskegee/timeline.htm

https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amERICANEXPERIENCE/FEATURES/PILL-PUERTO-RICO-PILL-TRIALS/

Avoid Going to the Doctor or seeking health care out of concern that they would be discriminated against or treated poorly

- 32% of Black adults – personally & 22% report family members
- 17% of Latinx adults
- 9% of Asian Americans
  - 19% of low-income Asian Americans <$25,000/year
  - 5% of high-income Asian Americans >$75,000/year
- 15% of Native Americans
- 3% of White Americans
  - 9% of low-income White Americans <$25,000/year
  - 0% of high-income White Americans >$75,000/year

Cultural Mistrust:
Personal/Family Experience & Socialization

Discrimination Pervades Daily Life, Affects Health Across Groups in the U.S., NPR/Harvard/RWJF Poll Shows
“It takes faith to believe you are worthy of a level of care that you have never received. I hope a part of you can believe it.”

Dr. Thema Bryant-Davis
Ultimately, Health Equity is About How Systems Support People
Moving Forward

• Institutions & Systems vs Individual Behaviors
  • We know that systemic changes moves the needle on disparities
  • Interpersonal racism is supported by institutional policies and norms
  • Build trustworthy systems

• Know when to Advocate and when to Amplify
  • #Listen

• High Quality, Disaggregated data
  • What works for whom and under what conditions
The Importance of Disaggregated Data

COVID-NET reported 2,803 hospitalizations with information on race/ethnicity.

COVID-NET is a surveillance system that tracks COVID-19 hospitalizations in selected counties in 14 states. Data from March 1-April 18, 2020.

*Note: Data are currently insufficient to draw conclusions about race in hospitalized patients that are <18 years old.
When you don’t consider institutional barriers and systemic racism, the burden of collateral damage rests on those who are already marginalized.
Thank You