



**THE POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION OF  
SOCIETAL RACIAL BIAS TO  
DISPARITIES IN HEALTH CARE AND  
HEALTH STATUS**

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# Source

## **Racial Bias in Health Care and Health Challenges and Opportunities**

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# Misleading Stereotypes of Blacks

- **The negative stereotypes of Black Individuals**[violent, lazy, dangerous] reflect, in part, how often US Adults have seen these words paired with *black* over their lifetime
- **Implicit Bias by Clinicians** has also been associated with poorer quality of patient- physician communication and lower patient ratings of the quality of the medical encounters.
- Racial/ ethnic disparities in HC are costly to Society in terms of loss of life in the most productive years. **E.g. Black-White differences in mortality have been estimated to account for the premature deaths of 260 African Americans every single day**

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- **Although Racial disparities in access to care, as well as in the quality and intensity of care, contribute to racial/ethnic disparities in the severity and course of the disease, most racial disparities in the onset of the illness occur prior to the presentation of patients to receive health care.**
- The opportunities to be healthy in the environments in which individuals live, learn, work, play and worship are key determinants of health.
- When the health of black and white people are compared at equivalent levels of income and education, racial disparities are **reduced but remain evident at all levels of SES.**

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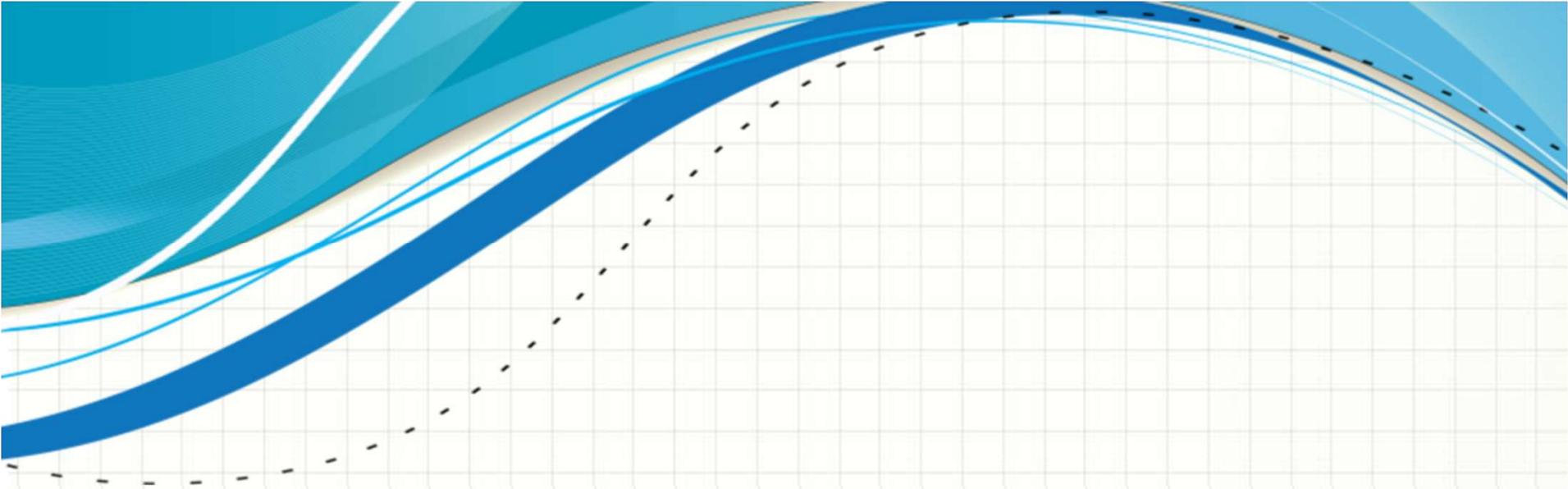
- **Racial bias also affects health through Institutional mechanisms.** Segregation also leads to residence in poorer-quality housing and in neighborhood environments with elevated risk of exposure to toxic chemicals and reduced access to resources and amenities to enhance health, including medical care.
- **Successfully addressing** the possibility of Clinician Bias begins with awareness of the pervasiveness, of disparities, the ways in which bias can influence clinical decision making and behavior, and a commitment to acquiring the skills to minimize these processes
- **Medical Schools , HCO, and Credentialing** bodies should pay greater attention to disparities in health and HC as a High National Priority.

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- HC professionals need to collaborate with other sectors of society to increase awareness about health implications of social policies in domains far removed from traditional medical and public health interventions.
- Focusing only on racial disparities in health, in which the health of white people is used as reference, obscures a major challenge that the US faces in improving Health Status.
- Large social inequities in health are unacceptable in a nation founded on the principles of liberty, equality and justice for all, and there is inadequate recognition that **dismantling racial bias in all its forms is likely to a potent healthy intervention.**

# Summary

- Define your challenges
  - As well as personal
- Set realistic expectation
- Keep your eye on the goal
  - Reduce Health Disparity



**QUESTIONS?**