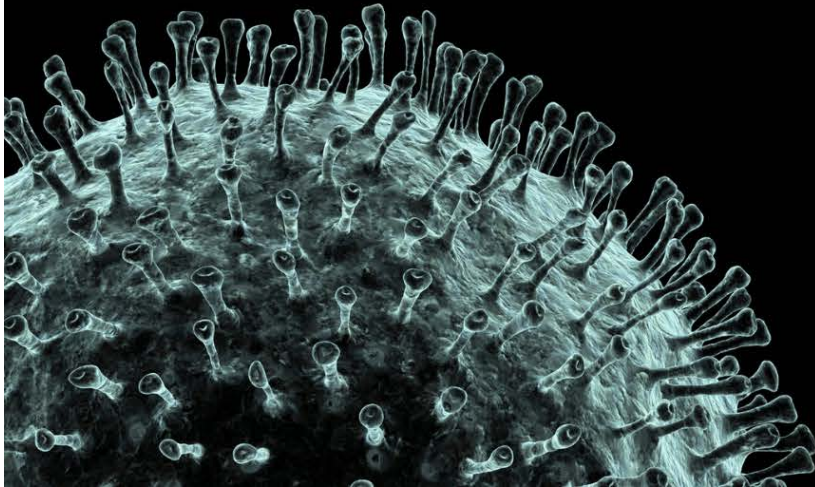


COVID-19 Conversations



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COVID19Conversations.org

[#COVID19Conversations](https://twitter.com/COVID19Conversations)



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FIXGOV

Why are Blacks dying at higher rates from COVID-19?

Rashawn Ray · Thursday, April 9, 2020

Local

An immigrant community faces a ‘catastrophic’ pandemic without help

NEWS CORONAVIRUS GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Indian Country faces higher risks, lack of resources in COVID-19 fight

Experts worry about the pandemic's impact on Native American communities.

By **Stephanie Ebbs** and **Cheyenne Haslett**

April 3, 2020, 2:06 PM · 12 min read



Hospitals in minority communities have long struggled - and then came Covid-19



By **Jasmine Wright**, CNN

Updated 7:09 AM ET, Fri April 17, 2020



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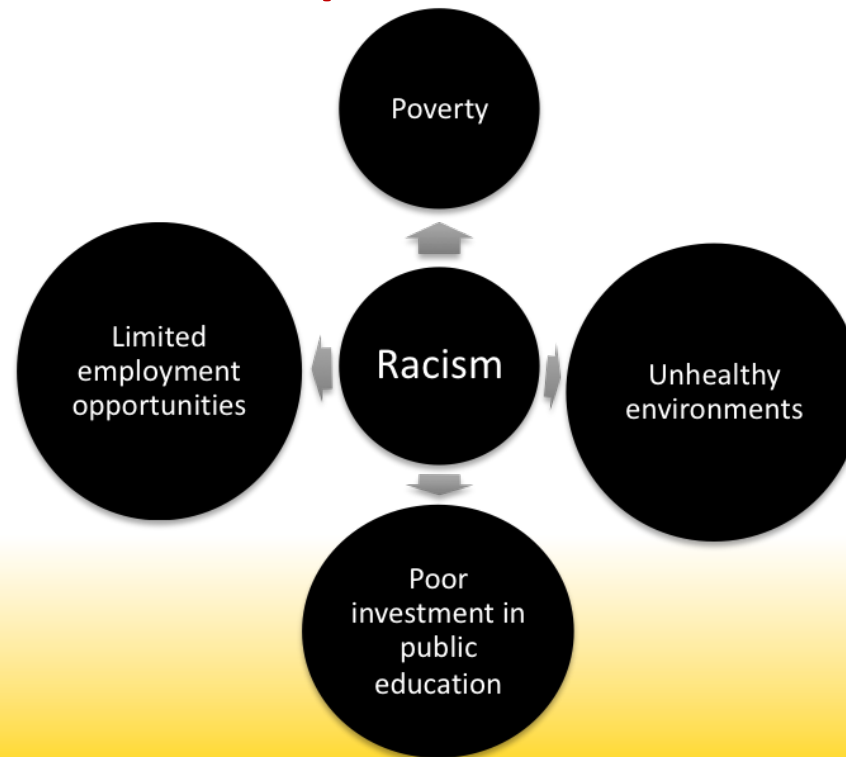
Social Determinants of Health Disparities in the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Call to Action

APHA/NAM COVID-19 Conversations

April 29, 2020



The risks of COVID-19 exposure are not evenly distributed



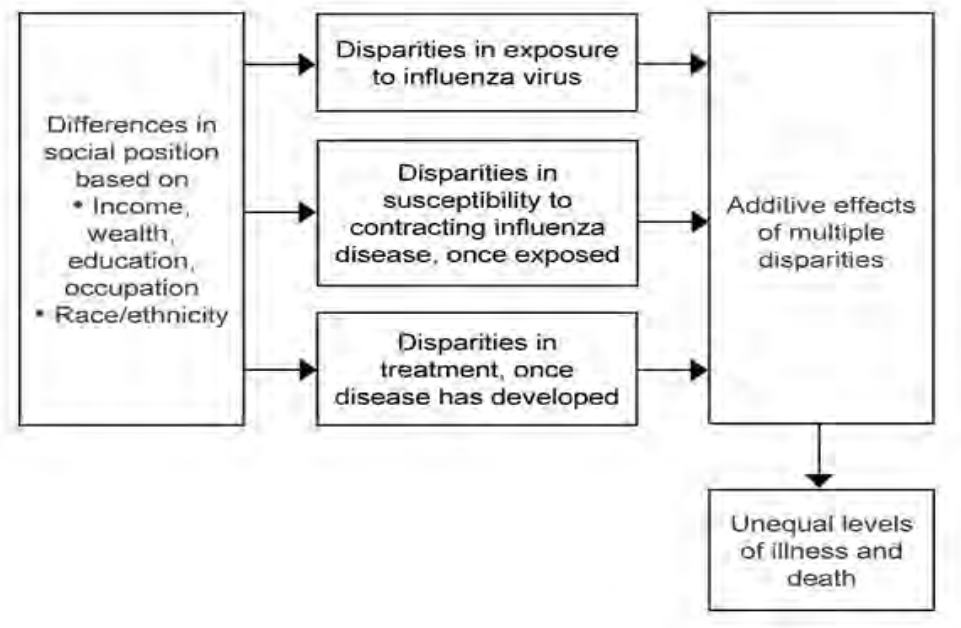


Other contributing factors

- Rising number of uninsured
- Inadequate investment in public health infrastructure
- Closing hospitals in rural areas
- Racial bias and discrimination in health care



A Conceptual Model: Health Disparities during Influenza Pandemic



Blumenshine, P., et al., *Pandemic influenza planning in the United States from a health disparities perspective*. Emerging Infectious Diseases, 2008. 14(5): p. 709-15.



Key Results ¹⁴	
<i>Measure</i>	<i>At higher risk of disease</i>
Geographic and living situation	All minorities
Larger household size	Spanish-speaking Hispanics
Work-related inability to social distance	Spanish-speaking Hispanics
Difficulty accessing individual daycare	African Americans, Spanish-speaking Hispanics
Difficulty avoiding public transportation	All minorities
Prevalence of chronic conditions (susceptibility to complications)	African Americans marginally higher
Difficulty accessing health care	Spanish-speaking Hispanics
Discrimination when accessing health care	All minorities
Key Results from a Second Wave of Data Collection ¹⁵	
▪ Higher incidence of influenzalike illness (ILI) was associated with greater inability to social distance at work and greater number of children in the home.	
▪ Latinos had significantly higher ILI incidence associated with these determinants.	
▪ Absence of workplace policies (sick leave) contributed to population attributable risk of 5M additional ILI cases in general population and 1.2M among Latinos.	



What are the lessons we should have learned from H1N1?

1. Pass a national sick leave policy
2. Recognize and address entire groups in our workforce at risk in a pandemic
3. Expand access to health care
4. Address racial bias and discrimination in health care
5. Strengthen partnerships between communities, health departments and health care systems
6. Develop a pandemic plan informed by a health equity lens and health in all policies approach



Bring a health equity and health in all policies lens to the COVID-19 response and recovery

- Institutionalize reporting of racial and ethnic data for testing, cases, hospitalizations and deaths
- Review the use of scarce medical resources
- Examine all safety net and other programs to ensure they adequately protect vulnerable communities during the pandemic (e.g. prohibiting evictions)
- Integrate leaders from affected communities in task forces preparing for re-opening and recovery
- Integrate health equity data to foster planning for re-opening and recovery



Community Engagement

- Engage communities on locations of testing, educating community members about testing, and prepare all new contact tracers to work effectively
- Engage affected communities to identify barriers to seeking COVID-19 testing and care and implement feasible changes now
- Establish listening posts/community forums to hear their concerns and needs
- Mobilize community assets (i.e. faith communities, sororities and fraternities)



Increase Vaccine Uptake

- Mobilize community health workers/leaders on education and outreach about the flu vaccine in the fall
- Ensure adequate supplies in trusted community settings
- Begin dialogues about clinical trials for a COVID-19 vaccine
- Initiate education about the COVID-19 vaccine ahead of its release



Quinn, 2014



“We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there "is" such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action.”





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