A Legacy of Racism

Race-based treatment in healthcare

@DrLaurenP
Slavery & Exploiting Black Bodies

1619
First enslaved Africans arrive in America

1807
The Act Prohibiting the Importation of Slaves
Eugenics & Scientific Racism
Some people are born to be a burden on the rest.

Every 16 seconds, a person is born in the United States.

Every 7 minutes, a high-grade person is born in the United States who will have the ability to do creative work & be fit for leadership. About 4% of all Americans come within this class.
Eugenics & Scientific Racism

1868

Apollo Belvidere
Greek
Creole Negro
Negro
Young chimpanzee
Young chimpanzee

1933


Modern Medicine
A History of Experimenting on Black Bodies
ABSTRACT

Racial and ethnic minorities tend to receive a lower quality of healthcare than non-minorities, even when access-related factors, such as patients' insurance status and income, are controlled. The sources of these disparities are complex, are rooted in historic and contemporary inequities, and involve many participants at several levels, including health systems, their administrative and bureaucratic processes, utilization managers, healthcare professionals, and patients. Consistent with the charge, the study committee focused part of its analysis on the clinical encounter itself, and found evidence that stereotyping, biases, and uncertainty on the part of healthcare providers can all contribute to unequal treatment. The conditions in which many clinical encounters take place—characterized by high time pressure, cognitive complexity, and pressures for cost-containment—may enhance the likelihood that these processes will result in care poorly matched to minority patients' needs. Minorities may experience a range of other barriers to accessing care, even when insured at the same level as whites,
Mistrust is not just about what happened 40+ years ago.
The Impact of Biased Treatment in Healthcare

Racial bias in pain assessment and treatment recommendations, and false beliefs about biological differences between blacks and whites

Kelly M. Hoffmann*, Sophie Trawalter*, Jordan R. Axt*, and M. Normen Oliver*++

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Medical Mistrust, Racism, and Delays in Preventive Health Screening Among African-American Men

Wisdom Powell 2, Jennifer Richardson, Dinushika Mohottige, Irene Yen, Allison Joslyn & Giselle Corbie-Smith

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Why Black Men in America Have Worse Health than White Men—and What Needs to Change

Multiple factors including socioeconomic status and access to health care have confirmed this Black men’s health.
Black Doctor Dies of Covid-19 After Complaining of Racist Treatment

“He made me feel like a drug addict,” Dr. Susan Moore said, accusing a white doctor of downplaying her complaints of pain and suggesting she should be discharged.

If a well-educated Black woman who is also a physician is treated this way, what will the rest of us experience?
This Happens Everywhere
Not Just in Healthcare

Reminder: It's racism, not race that's the culprit here
What can we do to stop racism in healthcare treatment?

- **Detection** - leverage data to highlight the problem
- ** Discipline** - real accountability for healthcare leaders
- **Dedication** - time, resources, personnel to combat
- ** Determination** - long-term commitment to change
Thank You

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