NIH Scientific Initiatives: Women’s Health and Intersections with Underserved Populations

Monica Webb Hooper, PhD
Deputy Director
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

Advisory Committee on Research on Women’s Health
National Institutes of Health
October 20, 2020
National Institute on Minority Health & Health Disparities
**Health Equity**

**Equality**

The assumption is that everyone benefits from the same supports. This is equal treatment.

**Equity**

Everyone gets the supports they need (this is the concept of "affirmative action"), thus producing equity.

**Justice**

All 3 can see the game without supports or accommodations because the cause(s) of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed.
Why is it important to understand the health of undeserved women?
Two Pandemics

1. Health Disparities (then and now)
2. COVID-19 (now)
## Social Determinants of Health

- Availability of resources
- Access to educational, economic, and job opportunities
- Access to health care services
- Quality of education and job training
- Transportation options
- Public safety
- Social support, norms
- Exposure to crime, violence
- Socioeconomic conditions
- Residential segregation
- Language/Literacy
- Access to mass media and emerging technologies
- Culture
- Natural environment, such as green space or weather
- Built environment
- Exposure to toxic substances and other physical hazards

[Link to Healthypeople.gov](https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-of-health)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Racial/Ethnic Group</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>76.5</td>
<td>81.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>72.0</td>
<td>78.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>79.2</td>
<td>84.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total in 2017</td>
<td>76.1</td>
<td>81.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Arias E., NCHS data brief, CDC, (2016), no 244
Murphy SL, et al., NCHS data brief, CDC (2018), no 328
Health Disparities: Women

- Breast Cancer
- Heart Disease
- Diabetes
- HIV/AIDS
- Maternal Mortality
Relative Risk of All-Cause Mortality by US Annual Household Income Level in 2016

## Race and Average Income: U.S. 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women by Racial/Ethnic Group</th>
<th>Mean income 2019 dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>46,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>37,964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>53,361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino/Hispanic</td>
<td>32,020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-income-people.html
For Native Americans, COVID-19 is ‘the worst of both worlds at the same time’

The Striking Racial Divide in How Covid-19 Has Hit Nursing Homes

Homes with a significant number of black and Latino residents have been twice as likely to be hit by the coronavirus as those where the population is overwhelmingly white.

Rural America Could Be the Region Hardest Hit by the COVID-19 Outbreak

Black Americans Face Alarming Rates of Coronavirus Infection in Some States

Data on race and the coronavirus is too limited to draw sweeping conclusions, experts say, but disparate rates of sickness — and death — have emerged in some places.

Many Who Need Testing For COVID-19 Fail To Get Access

COVID-19 in Prisons and Jails in the United States

Laura Hawks, MD1,2; Steffie Woolhandler, MD, MPH2,3; Danny McCormick, MD, MPH1,2

Author Affiliations | Article Information

Systemic Inequities

COVID-19 Cases and Outcomes

- Comorbidities
- Economic Security
- Occupational exposures
- Population Density
- Close Housing Quarters
- Public Transportation
- Food Security
- Digital Divide
- Healthcare Implicit Bias
- Testing Deserts
- Healthcare access
Emerging Issues: Women & Disparities

- Primary caregiving roles
- Impact on careers & employment
- Mental health – allostatic load & weathering
- Biological factor – obesity
COVID-19 Willingness Today: National Sample

GENDER
- 76% Men
- 69% Women

RACE/ETHNICITY
- 91% Asian*
- 74% Hispanic
- 54% White
- 32% Black

AGE
- 84% Ages 65+
- 72% 18-29
- 68% 50-64
- 67% 30-49

EDUCATION
- 84% Postgraduate
- 77% College grad
- 69% H.S. or less
- 68% Some college

* Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

https://www.pewresearch.org
COVID-19 Research Initiatives

- Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics-Underserved Population (RADx-UP)
- Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID-19 Disparities
RADx-UP: Testing

- Consortium of community-engaged research projects
- **Overarching goal:** reduce COVID-19 associated morbidity and mortality disparities
- **Research Testing Projects:** Increase COVID-19 testing among underserved and/or vulnerable populations across the US
  - Best methods to increase reach, access, uptake, and impact
- **Social, ethical, and behavioral implications**
  - What happens next when we test?
Priority Populations

- NIH-designated U.S. health disparity populations
- COVID-19 vulnerable populations
  - Known medical comorbidities, older adults; homeless populations; pregnant women; children; persons with disabilities, individuals with substance use disorders or serious mental illness; migrant communities; residents of tribal lands or reservations
Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID-19 Disparities
Overview - NIH-wide Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID-19 Disparities

• Lead urgent community engagement and outreach efforts to address misinformation and mistrust in underserved racial & ethnic minority communities disproportionately

  ▶ African Americans, Latinos/Hispanics, & American Indians

  ▶ Initial focus: counties in 11 States (Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas)
NIH Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID-19 Disparities

CEAL works with communities to respond to COVID-19 by addressing misinformation and promoting participation in clinical trials

**CEAL Objective 1**
Conduct urgent community-engaged research and outreach focused on COVID-19 awareness and education to address misinformation and distrust.

**CEAL Objective 2**
Promote and facilitate inclusion of diverse racial and ethnic populations in clinical trials (prevention, vaccine, therapeutics), reflective of the populations disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

**CEAL Activities:**
- Establish communication networks across multiple channels and through engagement with trusted organizations and trusted messengers in the communities.
Informing, Educating and Promoting Clinical Trial Participation

NIH COVID-19 Communities Responding Together

Download resources for use in talking to your communities about COVID-19, the vaccines under development, how they are developed, and the importance of being included in research studies.

Bookmark this page and return often for new resources to help you engage community organizations and individuals and encourage participation in clinical trials.

https://covid19community.nih.gov
Connect With Us

Visit us online www.nimhd.nih.gov

Connect with us on Facebook www.facebook.com/NIMHD

Follow us on Twitter @NIMHD

Join us on linkedin.com/company/nimhd-nih/