

Race, Racism & Health Equity: The Impact on Cancer Control

**Wisconsin Cancer Summit
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Wisconsin Cancer Plan 2020-2030

Overarching goals for the entire plan...

- Advance health equity as it relates to cancer
- Reduce the risk of developing cancer
- Detect cancer at the earliest stage possible

Overarching goals for the entire plan...

- Reduce death and suffering from cancer
- Improve the quality of life for cancer survivors
- Improve the quality and use of cancer-related data

Definitions are important

- **Equity – fair and impartial**
- **Health equity – “the opportunity to attain full health potential” (p10)**
- **Health inequity – “preventable and unjust differences in the burden of disease, injury, violence or opportunities...” (p10)**
- **Social determinants of health – the real world**
- **Race – a social construct**
- **Racism – belief that there are hierarchy in races AND the power to reinforce that belief**
- **Privilege - a right or advantage gained by birth, social position, or concession (reflected in structure/systems)**
 - *By definition privilege is never earned*
- **Access – the ability, right or permission to approach or enter**

<https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-of-health>

Bias and Racism

- **Bias: Implicit vs Conscious**
 - <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/education.html>
- **Racism**
 - **Structural**
 - **Systemic**
- **Why are we so “touchy?” Who is “we?”**
- **Applying a root cause analysis to “racism”**

Power of Humility & Ongoing Self-Reflection

Lived experience IS USEFUL EVIDENCE

Learning is an ACTION item

Basic Resources

- **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot**
- **Tears We Cannot Stop by Eric Michael Dyson**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFjZtzJz1Ug>
- **White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dwlx3KQer54>

Race, Racism & Health Equity

Structural Racism – (societal)

- Assumptions so embedded in a culture that they become the implicit “norm”
- Society is structured in a way that excludes substantial numbers of people (from minority backgrounds) from taking part in social institutions – *Carl E. James*
- Social culture affects how we develop systems

Wisconsin and Systemic Racism

- Education
- Employment
- Housing
- Nutrition
- Transportation
- Freedom of movement
- Psych/Social

Approaches to Cancer Care

Assumptions

- Trust
- Understanding
- Control/Provider Wisdom
- Stable environment
- Personal health is priority

Reality

- Generational distrust
- Confusion
- Acquiescence
- Trauma
- Well-being of family/loved –one unit is priority

Race, Racism & Health Equity

Understanding Policy, Systems & Environmental Change

(p5)

“Healthy behaviors never happen in a vacuum.” (p5)

How about: Behaviors never happen in a vacuum.

Health Equity & Race

- The paradox: the reality of our shared history and our separate history.
- If we prioritize those most burdened, how does that change our approach to cancer care?

Q&A Comments

Reflection

How do we engage the most burdened communities in co-creating new systems and structures via Wisconsin's Cancer Plan 2020-2030?