

CCRHP Joins the Call to Action for Racial Justice and Equity

The Center for Clinical Research and Health Promotion (CCRHP) stand in solidarity in the fight against injustice and against the multiple health crises that disproportionately affect the Black community. Black Lives Matter should be undeniable.

Public health research and advocacy groups have for many decades discussed the cascade of detrimental effects that individual and systemic racism have had on Black communities in America over the last 400 years. Racism is detrimental to health, whether through overt police violence or covert discrimination. The connections between structural racism, social determinants of health, and health disparities are well-documented in the public health literature. For example, hypertension is higher among Black communities. In 2017, White females had the highest life expectancy at birth (81.2 years), followed by 78.5 for Black females, 76.4 for White males, and the lowest at 71.9 years for Black males (National Vital Statistics Report). These disparities in mortality rates may increase in time without more interventions as COVID-19 has already taken 2.3 times higher percent of lives of Black individuals compared to White individuals in the United States. CCRHP remains committed to reducing health disparities and works towards developing and disseminating free and low-cost interventions aimed towards helping disadvantaged populations.

The vision of CCRHP is to improve global health and reduce health disparities, many of which are deeply affected by racism. The type of discriminatory behavior exposed during and since the 2020 unfortunate events in Minneapolis and elsewhere are just a few examples of the brutal reality that many Black individuals face every day of their lives. We believe that racism in any form, is a public health crisis that desperately needs to be addressed and eradicated. Although making just laws and policies is a step, it needs to be implemented, supported, and complied with in order to ensure justice and the optimal health of people in all communities, especially those who are most vulnerable. CCRHP urges the global community to talk openly about racism and to send clear unified messages of intolerance towards individual and systemic racism and injustice.

Given the long history of discrimination and injustice, equality is not enough to ensure equitability. We need to do more. (picture credit: <https://www.aasa.org/equity.aspx>)



The links below give more information and ideas of how each of us can contribute to condemning racist thought and behavior. Let's all work towards a healthier, truly free and equitable world for everyone, so that we can all breathe easier.

1. American Public Health Association (APHA) on [Racism and Health](#)
2. American Journal of Public Health (AJPH) [Commentary on Black Lives Matter, Racism, and Public Health](#)
3. Harvard University Countway Library News and Resources on [Black Lives Matter: Antiracism and Health Suggested Resources](#)
4. Global Citizen on [Ways to Step Up for Racial Justice](#)
5. US Department of Minorities
(<https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/content.aspx?ID=147&lvl=1&lvlID=3>)
6. Racial Equity Tools: <https://www.racialequitytools.org/home>
7. This is an exhaustive document about educational efforts to combat racism at children and youth levels. It describes racist activities and different anti-racists practices in different schools around the world. <https://iearn.org/assets/general/racismreportfinal.pdf>
8. The Century Foundation has an article about Racism, Inequality and Health Care for African Americans. It presents data on the disadvantages African Americans face including in health outcomes. <https://tcf.org/content/report/racism-inequality-health-care-african-americans/?agreed=1>
9. This article intertwines the susceptibility of the black community of having higher rates of COVID-19 infections due to disparities and its social determinants and what can be done. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2764789>