



# Health and Social Justice in Long-term Care

## Presenters:

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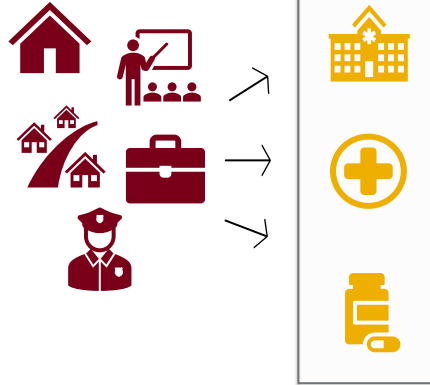
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# Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

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**Systemic racism and discrimination** negatively impact historically minoritized and marginalized people throughout their lifetime.



Source: Gee & Ford, (2011); Powell, 2007; Ford, C. L., & Airhihenbuwa, C. O. (2010); Hardeman, R. R., Medina, E. M., & Kozhimannil, K. B. (2016)

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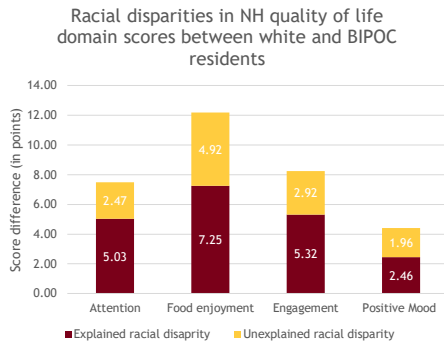
## Racial disparities in long term care

- Nursing home (NH) care outcomes
  - Segregated care
  - Low tier, under resourced settings
  - Racial disparities in quality of care
- Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) quality

Smith et al, 2007 , Towne et al., 2015, Mor, 2005; Sengupta et al., 2012; Smith et al., 2008; Travers et al., 2017

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## Racial disparities in nursing home quality of life



Bowblis, Ng, Akosionu, Shippee, 2020

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## Long-term care (LTC) and COVID-19 challenges

### COVID-19 trends

- NHs serving high-BIPOC population ( )
- LTC in urban areas ( )
- Dual eligibles - Medicaid & Medicare funded ( )

### Direct care workers

- 1 in 4 are Black
- Low-income families
- Undercompensated & undervalued
- Work related stress ( )
- Staff shortages ( )

Various sources: Mack et al., 2020; Smith et al., 2008; Fabius et al., 2018; Rahman & Foster, 2015; Buchmuller et al., 2016; Konezka & Werner, 2009; Grabowski & McGuire, 2009; Cai et al., 2011; Luo et al., 2014; Hunnicutt et al., 2017; Bliss et al., 2014

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## Recommendations



Research, policies & programs  
Medicaid



Wages and benefits



Prioritize COVID-19 testing and protection (PPE)

Shippee, Akostonu, Ng et al., 2020



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## History repeating itself?



### Latest Data on COVID-19 Vaccinations Race/Ethnicity

Nambi Ndugga, Olivia Pham, Latoya Hill, Samantha Artiga, Raissa Alim, and Noah Parker  
Published: Mar 17, 2021



As noted in previous analysis, preventing racial disparities in the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines will be important to help mitigate the disproportionate impacts of the virus for people of color and prevent widening racial health disparities going forward. Moreover, reaching high vaccination rates across individuals and communities will be key for achieving broader population immunity through a vaccine.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is reporting demographic characteristics, including race/ethnicity, of people receiving COVID-19 vaccinations at the national level. As of March 15, 2021, CDC reported that race/ethnicity was known for just over half (53%) of people who had received at least one dose of the vaccine. Among this group, nearly two thirds were White (66%), 9% were Hispanic, 8% were Black, 5% were Asian, 2% were American Indian or Alaska Native, and <1% were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, while 11% reported multiple or other race. However, to date, CDC is not providing state-level demographic data for people vaccinated.

Ndugga, N., Pham, O., Hill, L., Artiga, S., & Mengistu, S. Latest data on COVID-19 vaccinations race/ethnicity. Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF). 2021.



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## Health and social justice

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### Acknowledgements

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# Minnesota Diverse Elders Coalition

Alana Wright, BSc  
*Director of Equity and Operations,  
 MN Leadership Council on Aging*

<https://www.mnlcoa.org/MNDiverseEldersCoalition>

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## Minnesota Diverse Elders Coalition

Formed by the Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging in 2019

### Purpose:

*To create healthy communities where older adults are valued and have improved access to high quality and culturally diverse supports for all older Minnesotans to live well.*

### Advocating Priorities:

- **Elevate the voices** of diverse older adults and those who care
- **Build capacity** of our diverse communities and Coalition partners
- **Ensure strength and sustainability** via non-dues revenue strategies

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## Community forum on racial equity in services for older adults - Purpose

- [Event Summary](#)
- Build collaboration
- Share findings
- Create a dialogue

### Additional Resource

- [Community Needs Assessment of Older Adults in Minnesota's Diverse Communities](#)

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## Community forum on racial equity in services for older adults - Lessons

1. *What are your experiences with finding long-term care for you or a loved one?*
2. *What are your recommendations for provision of culturally sensitive aging services?*
3. *What is the role of providers in ensuring health equity in aging services?*

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## Implications

- Institutional and system level change
- Need for culturally sensitive care, educational curricula and advocacy, including by providers
- Invest in quality-of-life initiatives for indigenous residents and those from communities of color
- More resources for NHs with high proportion of Black, indigenous, and other residents of color
- More support for staff, including providers, especially those from communities of color
  - Educational interventions
  - Advocating for BIPOC staff/providers

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## Gwen Ellis

**Program Participant, Volunteers of America's Culturally Responsive  
Caregiving Support and Dementia, Caregiver Support Group**

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**Q&A**

**Thank You!**

