Faculty & Staff Friday Discussion

4/17/20

COVID-19 AND STIGMA

Racial & Ethnic Disparities

- 29 States have released the racial demographics of COVID-19 (still highly incomplete).

- CDC analysis of 1,500 hospitalizations across 14 states found Black/African Americans represented 33% of the hospitalizations relative to 18% representation across those states, and an Associated Press Analysis revealed that they suffered for 42% of the deaths, despite accounting 20% of the populations studied.

- In Louisiana 70% who have died from COVID-19 were Black/African American, more than twice of their 32% share of the state's population and 60% representation in New Orleans. .

- NYC Latino/a/x make up 34% of the deaths, higher than the 29% representation within the city's population.

- New York, Black/African American people comprise 9% of the State's population and 17% of the deaths.

- Two small Native American pueblos in New Mexico have a higher percentage of positive persons than any other US county.

- Article in the Atlantic: "Stop Blaming Black People for Dying of the Coronavirus" Ibram X. Kendi https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/04/race-and-blame/609946/

Racism and Bias Behind the Disparities

- The racism behind these disparities is deniable.
- Politicians and commentators are blaming poverty, but refusing to acknowledge how racism distinguishes the poverty that underrepresented people experience from the poverty that White people experience.
- Pointing to higher rates of underlying health conditions, but failing to explain or validate why those underlying conditions exist (decades of systematic and structural racism).
- Higher rates of at-risk conditions are unquestionable: hypertension, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, lung disease, obesity, and asthma.
- Lack of access to prevention, testing, and treatment and environmental risk factors are undeniable.
- Blaming for food deserts
- Pew survey found the opposite – Black people are taking COVID-19 more seriously than their White counterparts and are more concerned.