Advancing Health Equity in the Digital Age

Seattle Town Hall: High Tech to High Touch
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Average differences in quality of care for Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians compared with Whites, by state, 2015-2016
2018 County Health Rankings
Key Findings Report
Discrimination in America: Final Summary

Structural racism and intervention

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Despite growing interest in pre-health education, little systematic research has been conducted on the impact of structural racism in medical education, health care, and public health policies and programs. This article reviews the evidence and discusses strategies for addressing structural racism.

Introduction

Racial and ethnic minority groups experience health disparities and are more likely to experience serious health outcomes. The health disparities are often linked to structural racism, which is defined as the institutional, structural, and cultural systems that disadvantage minority communities.

1. Introduction

A growing body of research has focused on the role of structural racism in health disparities. This research has highlighted the importance of addressing structural racism in order to achieve health equity.

Structural racism: a brief introduction

Structural racism refers to the institutional, structural, and cultural systems that disadvantage minority communities. These systems include policies, practices, and norms that systematically exclude or disadvantage minority communities. The effects of structural racism are often amplified by other forms of discrimination, such as income, social status, and education.

Nurses and structural racism

Nurses are on the front lines of health care and are often the first to witness the impact of structural racism on patients. However, nurses may also be suffering from the effects of structural racism and may benefit from training to develop cultural competency and sensitivity.

Conclusion

Addressing structural racism requires a collective effort from all members of the health care system. By recognizing the impact of structural racism, nurses and other health care providers can take steps to address the issue and work towards achieving health equity.

References


Recognizing Structural Racism

- Home visiting for families
- Partner for affordable housing
- Be socially inclusive
- Advocate for income supports
- Collaborate for healthy schools
- Support smoking bans
- TB treatment

Some examples are Upstream, The Broadbent Institute, Health Nexus, the Canadian Medical Association, and the Canadian Nurses Association.
Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
March 25, 1966