

Bowen ([00:04](#)):

I went to school for my undergraduate degree at Tuskegee University in Alabama. And so that school is located in Macon County, Alabama, which is still one of the poorest counties in the state. And I was in the midst of health disparities and health equity when I was a student.

Dr. Lawson ([00:27](#)):

For too long all across America people have faced health disparities. They haven't had equal opportunity or equal access to receive the care they need.

Bowen ([00:37](#)):

And so going out, especially for community health, and going into people's homes where you went down dirt roads to get to them, or they were bed bound and who was going to come and see them? Or they didn't have food in their home, no transportation to get to a provider, gaping wounds, pressure wounds, because they couldn't afford the special beds or the mattresses.

Hassmiller ([01:03](#)):

Our country lags behind other developed nations on many important indicators, such as life expectancy, infant mortality, and maternal mortality, despite spending much more on healthcare than any other country.

Dr. Lawson ([01:19](#)):

Health is driven by many factors outside of medical care, such as the neighborhood you live in, your socioeconomic status, your education, and your access to healthy food and reliable transportation. The roots of health inequities run deep. They're complex and understanding them is critical. There are people who play a pivotal role in addressing these inequities, nurses. Nurses serve a highly diverse population on the front line. Therefore, to advance health equity for all it's critical to strengthen the nursing workforce capacity and expertise.

McGinnis ([01:53](#)):

They're the catalyst for progress in many ways. So from the perspective of the nation, there is no question that the nursing profession is critical to progress.

Dr. Lawson ([02:06](#)):

This is the future of nursing, a series from the National Academy of Medicine based on their recently published report, *The Future of Nursing 2020 to 2030: Charting A Path To Achieve Health Equity*. In this series, we'll be hearing the stories of nurses and other experts who are confronting health disparities, and together we'll learn specific strategies for how nurses can use their unique skills, knowledge, and dedication to address health inequities and overall improve health and wellbeing for all.

This podcast is for nurses, those involved in any health sector, those in academia, or anyone who wants to know how we can create more equitable health outcomes for all people in America, no matter their experience or background. Subscribe now to *The Future of Nursing* on Apple podcasts, Spotify, or wherever great podcasts are found.