400 Years of Inequality a Public Health Perspective to Eliminate Racial Disparities
Agenda

1. Learning Objectives & Introductions: Dr. Diane Marie St. George
2. Presentation: Dr. Thomas LaVeist
3. Presentation: Dr. Robert Fullilove
4. Q&A
Join the Conversation...

- You can ask questions in writing anytime during the webinar.
- Simply type them in the “Questions” field on the right side of your screen.
Moderator

Diane Marie St. George, PhD
Associate Professor, MPH Program Director, University of Maryland School of Medicine
Chair, ASPPH Diversity and Inclusion Committee
Learning Objectives

• Assess how historical federal government policies, beginning with chattel slavery, have produced inequality in the United States.
• Describe the connection between the 13th amendment and current practices and policies around mass incarceration.
• Describe how health is impacted by social factors such as discrimination, specifically focusing on incarceration in the US.
Thomas LaVeist, PhD
Dean and Professor
Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
Wyatt’s Legacy: How we got here
John Punch
1640 – Jamestown, Virginia Colony
John ran away with two white servants.

The two white servants got years added to their indentures.

John got a life sentence of slavery.

This strongly implies that being African was being used in determining the sentence, since his was different for the same crime.
“...serve his said master or his assigns for the time of his natural life here or elsewhere”
The Evolution of Slave Laws

- 1662 (Va.) – Child’s status was determined by mother’s status, biracial children could be slaves.
- 1670 (Va.) – All non-Christians servants arriving by ship were slaves-for-life.
- 1674 (NY) – Blacks who converted to Christianity after enslavement would not be freed.
- 1790 (USA) – Naturalization Act reserved citizenship for whites only.
Separate and Unequal
The 4 Great Race Disparities

- Health
- Education
- Wealth
- Criminal Justice
Racial Wealth Inequality

- 1862 Homestead Act
- 1933 Homeowners Loan Corporation
- 1935 Social Security Act
- 1944 Serviceman’s Readjustment Act (“GI Bill”)
Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.
Racial Wealth Inequality

- 1862 Homestead Act
- 1933 Homeowners Loan Corporation
- 1935 Social Security Act
- 1944 Serviceman’s Readjustment Act (“GI Bill”)

Racial Educational Inequality

- 1862 – Morrill Act
- 1890 – Morrill Act
- 1896 – Plessey v. Ferguson
- 1954 – Brown v. Board
Racial Criminal Justice Inequality

- 1969 – War on Drugs
- 1970 – Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act
- 1986 – Anti-drug Abuse Act
- 1988 – Anti-drug Abuse Act
- 2010 – Fair Sentencing Act
- 2014 – Clemency Initiative
Thank You
Robert Fullilove, EdD
Associate Dean, Community and Minority Affairs
Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health
400 Years of Inequality:
The 13th Amendment and Mass Incarceration
AMENDMENT XIII

Section 1.

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Passed by Congress January 31, 1865. Ratified December 6, 1865.
Modern Chain Gang
Racial Disparities in Incarceration

- 38% of people in state or federal prisons were black, 35% were white, and 21% were Hispanic in 2011.

- 1 in every 13 black males ages 30 to 34 was in prison in 2011, as were 1 in 36 Hispanic males and 1 in 90 white males in the same age group. Sentencing Project 2016
Racial Disparities in US prisons

- Nationwide, as of 2010, 3% of all adults and 10% of African Americans were currently or previously doing time in prison.

- Rates vary by state, ranging from 1% of the African American adults in Maine to 12% of such adults in California.
The Burden of Felony Convictions

- Nationwide, approximately 8% of all adults in the US had a current or past felony conviction

- By contrast, in 2010, 23% of African American adults had such a conviction with 33% of all African American males living with the consequences of a felony record
The Burden of Felony Convictions [2]

- Depending on the state, between 1 in 10 and 1 in 3 African American adults are confronting the daily reality of:
  - limited citizenship rights
  - diminished job prospects
  - limited education/training opportunities
  - significant stigmatization
The number of formerly incarcerated persons living in disadvantaged, “inner-city communities” has increased five-fold since 1980.

Fully 68 percent of all persons under “correctional supervision” are now supervised at home.
Approximately 19.8 million people in the US have a felony conviction.

100 million US residents are estimated to have a criminal record, that is some official documentation of engagement with the police, the courts, or both.
Pettit and Western (2004) argue that:

- High crime rates in poor communities explain high rates of police surveillance in these places.
- “Although crime rates may explain as much as 80% of the racial disparities in imprisonment…”
- A large residual of racial disparity in imprisonment thus appears to be due to the differential treatment of African Americans by police and the courts.”
Carceral Citizenship

“Carceral citizenship is a novel social arrangement produced by crime control practices born in the era of mass incarceration and its community analogue, mass supervision” Miller and Alexander (2013)
Mass Incarceration as a Neighborhood Phenomenon

- Community Loss Index: a measure of “the chronic exposure by neighborhood residents to multiple resource losses.”
  
  (Abramovitz and Albrecht, 2013)
Mass Incarceration as a Neighborhood Phenomenon [2]

- In the 1990s, as the HIV epidemic was experiencing rapid growth in New York City, the prison population grew as well.

- 7 neighborhoods in New York City were the home origins for 74% of the New York STATE prison population.

- Those 7 neighborhoods had some of the highest HIV infection rates in the nation.
The Justice Mapping Center Million Dollar Blocks: NYC

NYC Analysis 7

Men Admitted to Prison
New York City

Per 1000 Adult Males
(16–59)

Percent of City Total

These Districts are home to 17% of the City’s adult male residents, but account for over 50% of men sent to prison from the City.
Health Disparities in New York City

Selected Maps of New York City

Geography of health matches geography of poverty

Poverty in New York City neighborhoods

Deaths due to diabetes

Deaths due to AIDS

Diabetes deaths per 100,000 population (quantiles)

AIDS deaths per 100,000 population (quantiles)
• The answer is “agency”

• Such statistics encourage the view that both incarcerated persons and the communities from which they are taken are *victims*

• The possibility to become an actor with some agency here should not be underestimated
Bard Prison Initiative

- Established in 1999
- Offers AA and BA degrees for those in 6 NY State prisons
- By 2019, Bard granted nearly 550 degrees to BPI participants and enrolled more than 500 students per year in college classes
BPI and Public Health

- BPI offers a concentration in public health for men at Woodbourne, Fishkill, and Taconic State Correctional Facilities in New York State

- Objective: to train students to enter entry level jobs as community health workers
While the state struggles with an overall recidivism rate of 40 percent, only 4 percent of prisoners enrolled in the Bard program and 2.5 percent of those who completed a degree returned to prison.

Results like these would seem hard to dispute, but several Republican legislators are opposing Mr. Cuomo’s plan, calling it a “slap in the face” to law-abiding New Yorkers.
Mailman Student Journeys from Incarceration to a Master’s Degree in Public Health

• When Richard Gamarra was 16, a gun fell out of his backpack during class at a Catholic high school in Queens and he was arrested.

• It was the beginning of a 12-year journey in and out of prison that ultimately led to Columbia’s Mailman School of Public Health, where he will earn a master’s degree this month.
Richard Gamarra Will Receive a Master’s Degree from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
Credible Messengers

- Programs such as the Bard Prison Initiative (BPI) present unique opportunities for combatting health disparities.

- BPI graduates demonstrate that they are powerful change agents when armed with the tools of public health advocacy, community building, and successful program development.
Thank You
Method for Submitting Questions/Comments

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Additional Resources

• 400 Years of Inequality – Led by Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health
  http://www.400yearsofinequality.org/

• 1619 Project – The New York Times

• Four Hundred Years Since Jamestown: An AJPH Dossier – American Journal of Public Health (AJPH), October 2019 Issue
  https://ajph.aphapublications.org/toc/ajph/109/10
2020 ASPPH
ANNUAL MEETING

SAVE THE DATES

MARCH 18-20, 2020
CRYSTAL GATEWAY MARRIOTT, ARLINGTON, VA

UNDERGRADUATE
Public Health and Global Health Education
SUMMIT
18 MARCH

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY REPORT: 10 YEARS LATER
DR. JULIO FRENK
President, University of Miami

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY MUST BE CENTRAL TO PUBLIC HEALTH
SIR MICHAEL MARMOT
Director of the Institute of Health Equity, University College London

https://www.aspph.org/event/2020annualmeeting/
https://www.aspph.org/event/2020ugphsummit/
Thank You Attendees!

This webinar has been recorded and will be available on the webinar event page on the ASPPH website soon:


Contact: bbrickman@aspph.org