Responding to Structural Racism

A new American Heart Association presidential advisory declares structural racism a major cause of poor health and premature death from heart disease and stroke. Here’s a look at some AHA plans to combat structural racism, as part of the organization’s new 2024 Impact Goal to help everyone enjoy full, healthy lives.

Advocacy
Seeking expansion of public health infrastructure to better understand and address structural racism; quality, affordable and equitable education and housing for all; federal funding to establish a national research agenda on the impact of racism on health.

Quality Improvement
Aiming to boost quality of health care with programs that will improve data collection on race, ethnicity and the social factors that affect your health.

Leadership
Serving as a catalyst, convener and collaborator, in particular within the realm of cardiovascular science, medicine and health care.

Human Resources/Business Operations
Continuing education, training and focus on diversity policies.

Science
Building an antiracism research agenda; recruiting and developing members from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups; reorganizing scientific councils to prioritize diversity.

Sources: Call to Action: Structural Racism as a Fundamental Driver of Health Disparities: A Presidential Advisory from the American Heart Association/American Heart Association 2024 Impact Goal
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