



AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS IN HIV/AIDS

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Disclosures

- ▶ The speaker of this CME activity has no relevant financial relationships with commercial interests to disclose.

Objectives

- ▶ Discuss the statistics regarding the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the AA community
- ▶ Discuss the historical context of the AA relationship with the health care and scientific community
- ▶ Discuss the socioeconomic and political issues that plague the AA community
- ▶ Discuss how stereotypes in the media affect the general mental, physical, and emotional health of those in the AA community
- ▶ Discuss possible solutions and strategies to help improve the state of AA health and reduce transmission of HIV

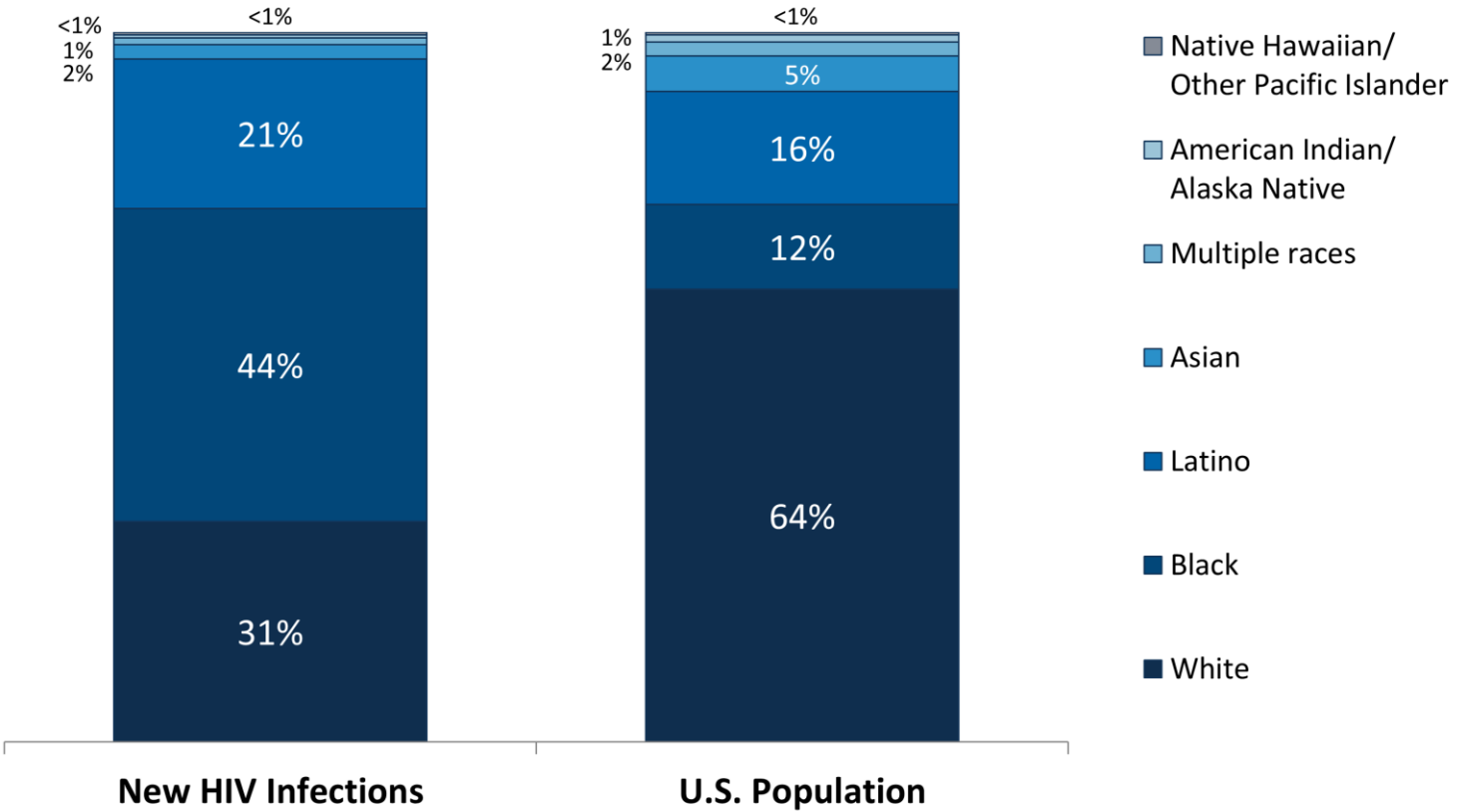
Healthcare Provider Tips

- ▶ Have a good knowledge and understanding of their own world views
- ▶ An understanding of the particular groups they work with
- ▶ Knowledge of sociopolitical influences
- ▶ Distinct skills needed in working with culturally diverse groups

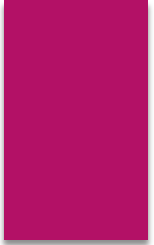
HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the AA Community

- ▶ Estimated 1.1 million people living with HIV/AIDS
- ▶ According to the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health (2010),
 - ▶ AA males have almost 7.8 times the AIDS rate as white males
 - ▶ AA females have 23 times the AIDS rate as white females
 - ▶ AA men are 7 times as likely to die from HIV/AIDS as Non-Hispanic White men
 - ▶ AA women are 15 times as likely to die from HIV/AIDS as Non-Hispanic white women

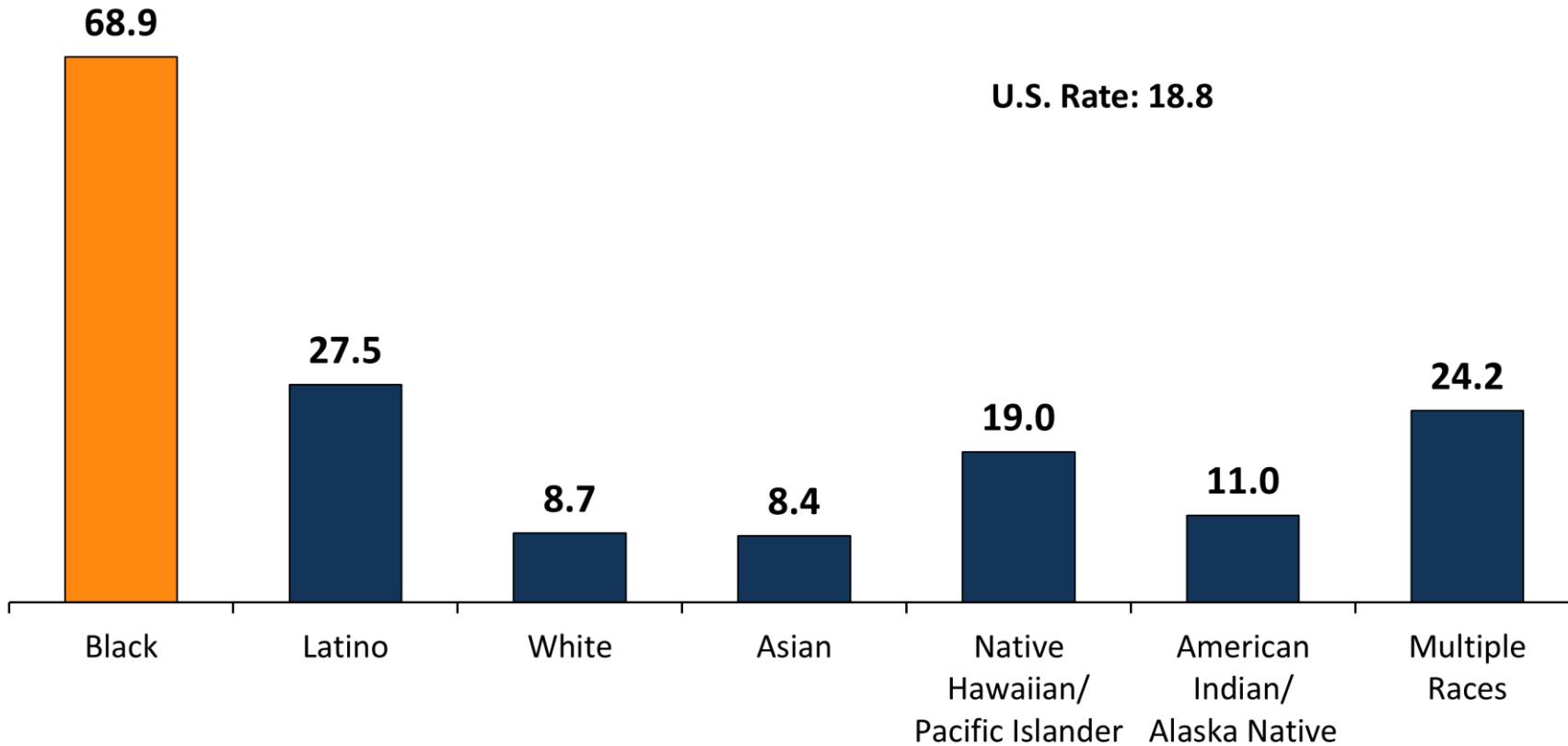
New HIV Infections & U.S. Population, by Race/Ethnicity, 2010



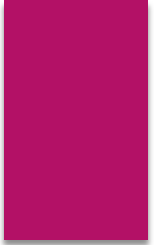
NOTE: HIV data are estimates and do not include U.S. dependent areas.
 SOURCES: CDC, HIV Surveillance Report, Vol. 23; February 2013. CDC, Fact Sheet: New HIV Infections in the United States; December 2012. U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Population Estimates.



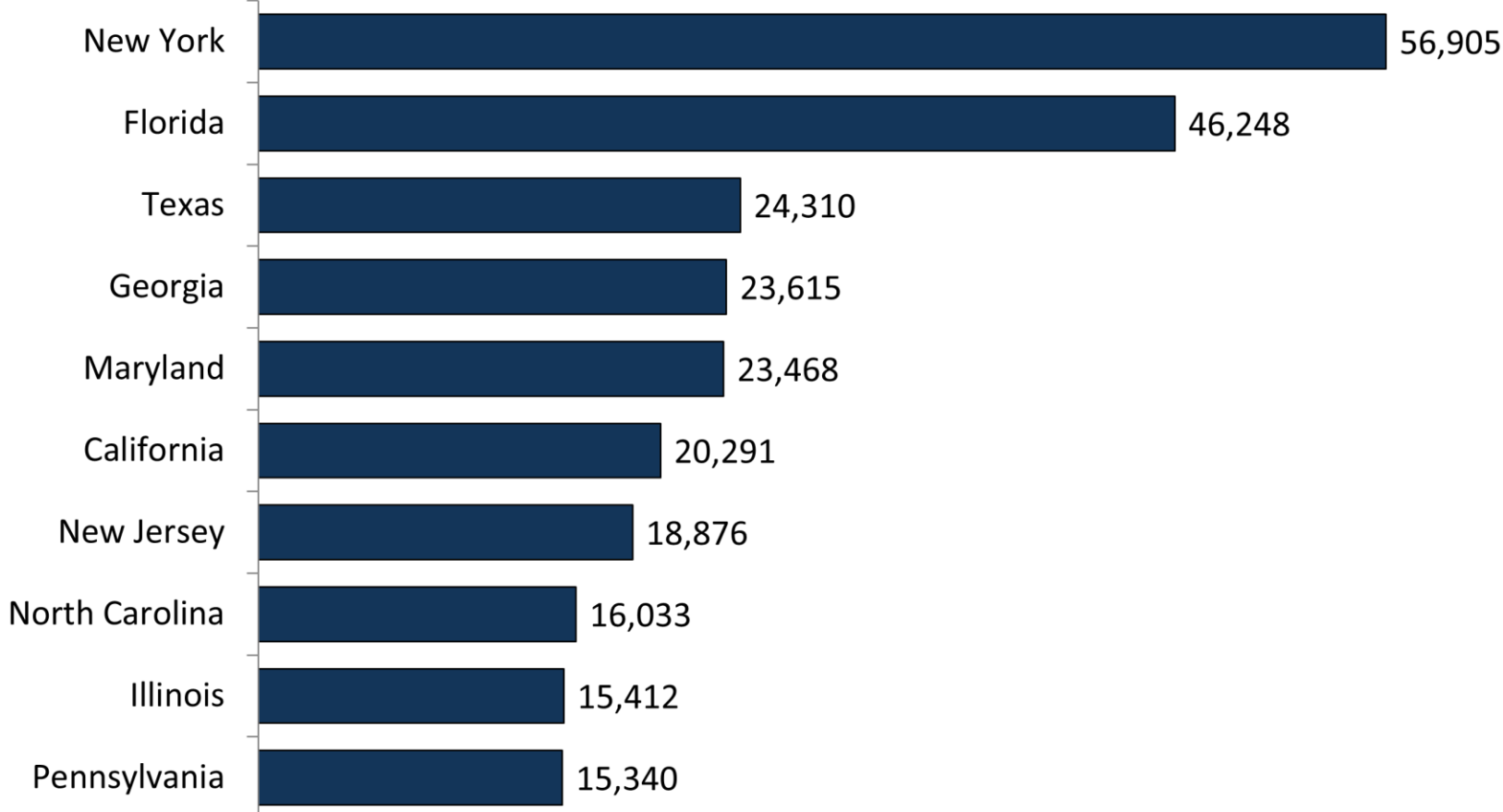
Rates of New HIV Infections per 100,000, by Race/Ethnicity, for Adults/Adolescents, 2010



NOTE: Data are estimates for adults/adolescents aged 13 and older and do not include U.S. dependent areas.
SOURCE: CDC, HIV Surveillance Supplemental Report, Vol. 17, No. 4; December 2012.



Number of Black Adults/Adolescents Estimated to be Living with an HIV Diagnosis, Top 10 States, year-end 2010



NOTES: Data are estimates for adults/adolescents aged 13 and older in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.
SOURCE: CDC, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention Atlas.



Important Variables

- ▶ Likelihood of having unprotected sex with someone who is either infected with HIV or at high risk for infection
- ▶ Injection drug use
- ▶ Having another sexually transmitted disease
- ▶ Unknown HIV status
- ▶ Social stigma associated with being a man who has sex with men
- ▶ Socioeconomic factors that contribute to poor health care



Mistrust of the Healthcare Institution

Conspiracy Theories and Rumors

- ▶ “Affirmative action was designed to keep women and minorities in competition with each other to distract us while White dudes inject AIDS into our chicken nuggets” —Tracy Morgan

Conspiracy Theories and Rumors

- ▶ “AIDS was part of a “clean up America campaign” intended to hit ‘target markets’ of homosexuals and racial minorities. I think they definitely have the cure already and I think it was definitely created by some sick person” — Rap musician on Arsenio Hall show (1990)

Historical Scientific Exploitation

- ▶ Dr. Samuel Cartwright
 - ▶ Drapetomania
 - ▶ Dysaesthesia Aethiopica
- ▶ Dr. Marion J Sims
 - ▶ “Founder of Modern Gynecology”
- ▶ Dr. Benjamin Rush
 - ▶ Negritude

History of Scientific Exploitation

- ▶ Henrietta Lacks
 - ▶ 30 year old AA woman with cervical cancer
 - ▶ Her cells were used to create the first immortal human cell line
 - ▶ 2013—family made a deal with the NIH.

Tuskegee Experiment

- ▶ 1932--399 men with syphilis and 201 without.
- ▶ Receive free medical exams, free meals, rides to the clinic, and burial insurance
- ▶ 1972--Assistant Secretary for Health and Scientific Affairs to appoint an Ad Hoc Advisory Panel to review the study.
- ▶ Conclusion—ethically unjustified
- ▶ 1973—Class action lawsuit filed
 - ▶ 10 million dollar settlement out of court



Barriers to Reducing Transmission

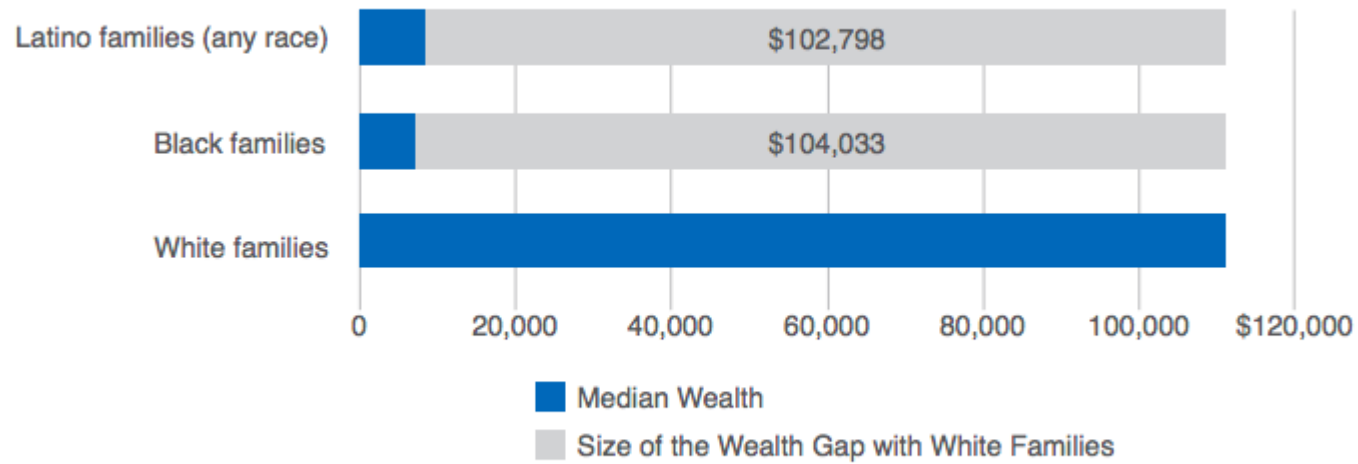
Poverty

- ▶ Wealth gap
 - ▶ ½ of all African Americans live below 200% of the poverty line
- ▶ Residential discrimination
 - ▶ 1934 National Housing Act
 - ▶ Federal Housing Authority
 - ▶ The Department of Housing and Urban Development
- ▶ “Bandwidth Scarcity”

Poverty

- ▶ Study by Bowleg et. al (2014)
 - ▶ Direct pathway between negative neighborhood context, depression, substance abuse, and sexual risk
 - ▶ Indirect pathways between negative neighborhood context and sexual risk via substance abuse

Figure 1. Wealth Accumulation and Size of the Racial Wealth Gap, 2011



Source: Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel Wave 10, 2011

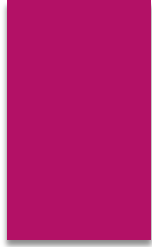
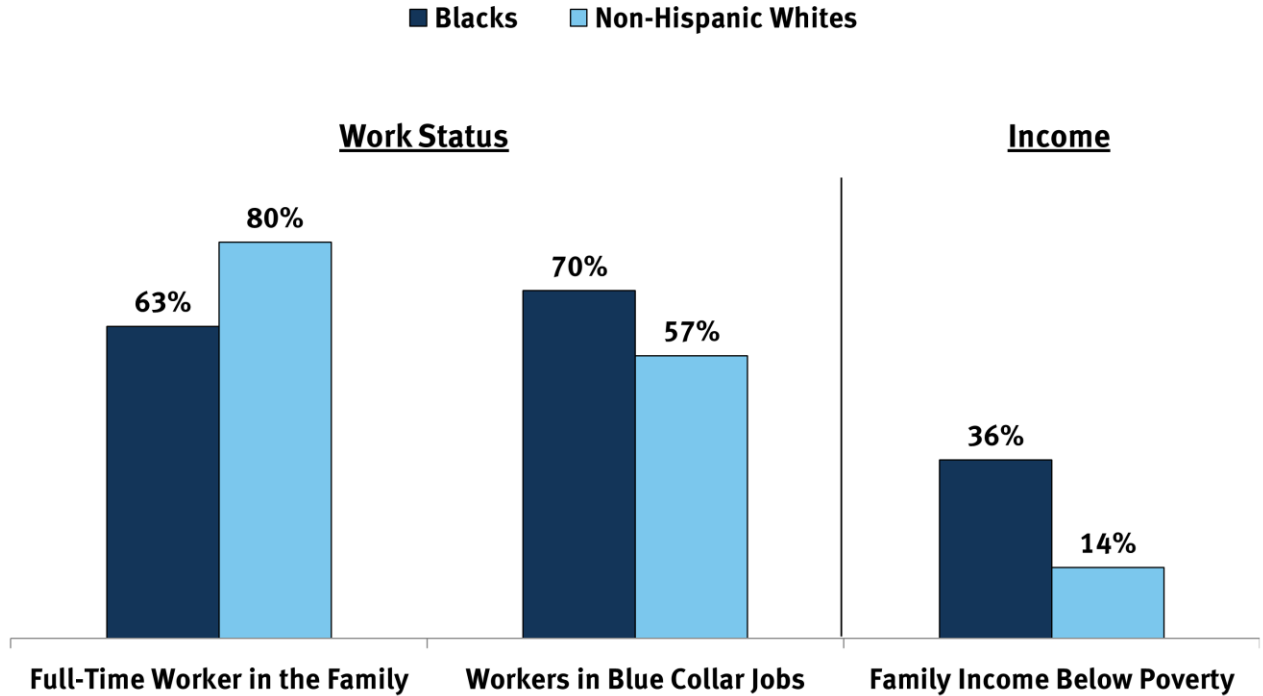


Figure 3

Income and Work Status for Nonelderly Blacks, 2011



Includes nonelderly individuals 0-64.
SOURCE: KCMU/ Urban Institute analysis of 2012 ASEC Supplement to the CPS.



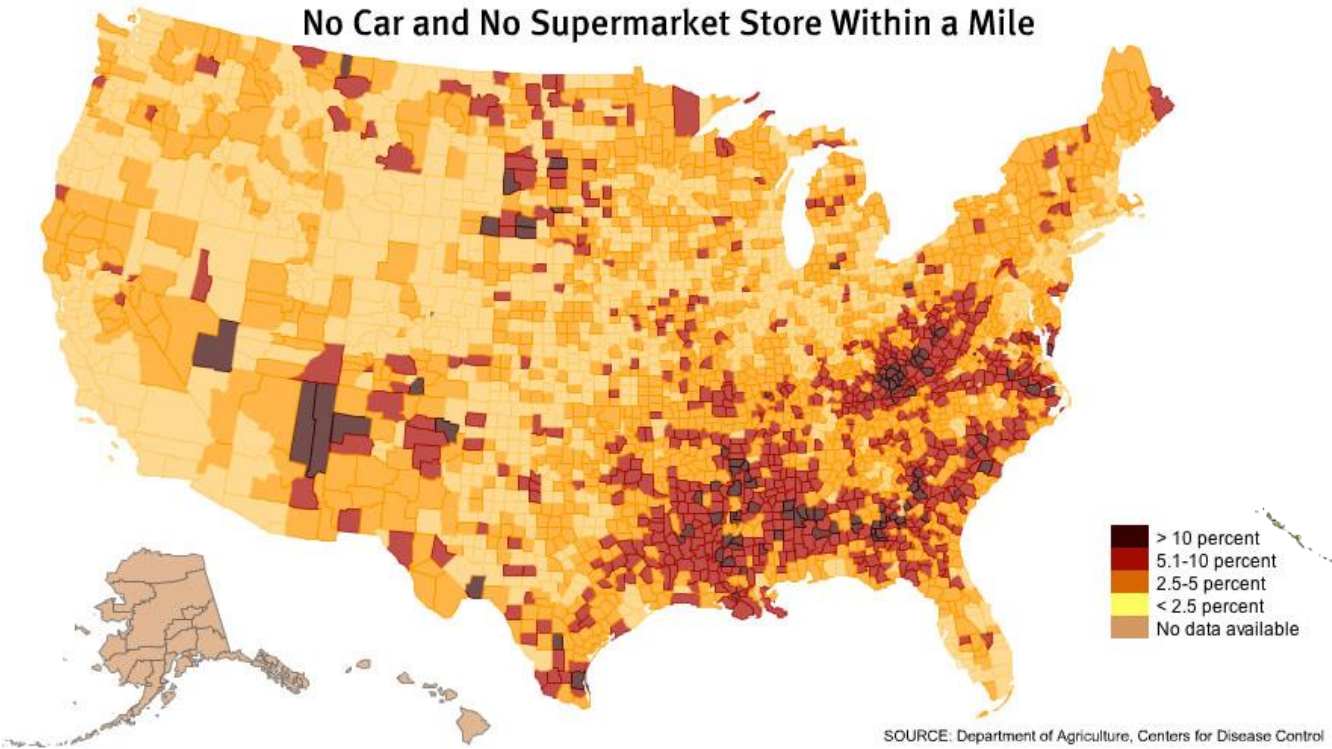
Food Deserts

- ▶ Low-income communities
 - ▶ 23.5 million live in these areas more than 1 mile from a supermarket
 - ▶ 30% more convenience stores
- ▶ 2.3 million people live more than 1 mile from a supermarket
- ▶ 8% of African Americans live in an area with a supermarket compared 31% of Caucasian Americans

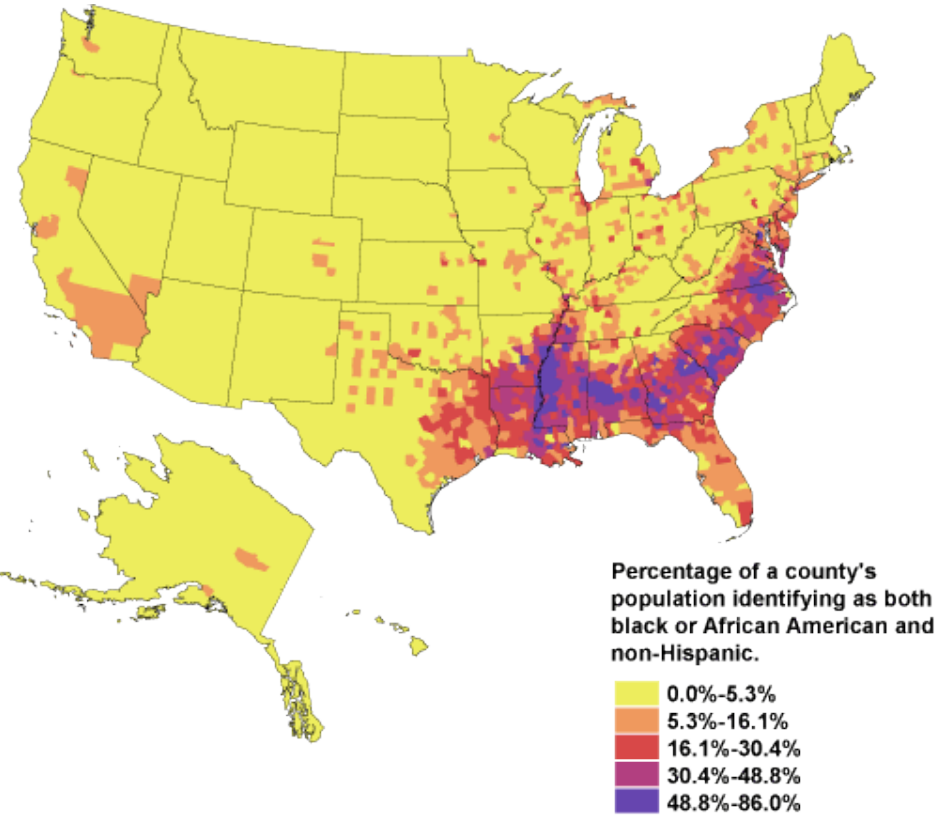


Food Deserts

No Car and No Supermarket Store Within a Mile



SOURCE: Department of Agriculture, Centers for Disease Control

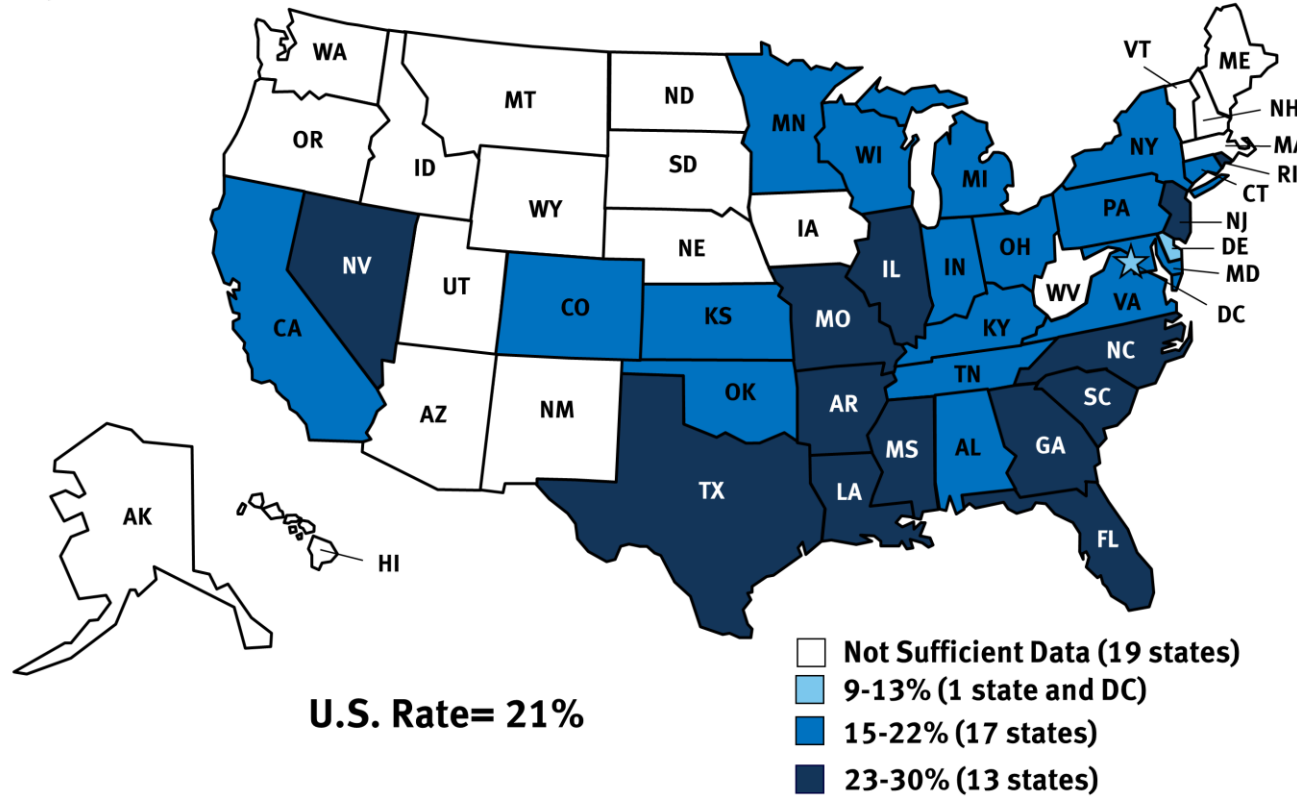


Lack of Access to Healthcare

- ▶ Greater proportion of Medicaid recipients vs private insurance
- ▶ Unemployment
- ▶ Low health literacy

Figure 5

Uninsured Rates for Nonelderly Blacks, by State, 2010-2011



NOTE: Percent of Total State Population

SOURCE: KCMU/Urban Institute analysis of March 2011 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement



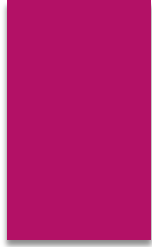
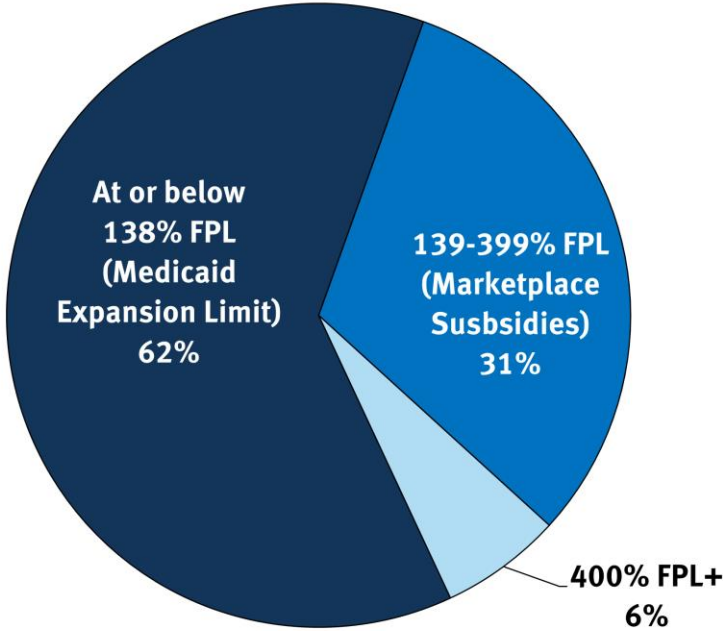


Figure 7

Income of Nonelderly Uninsured Blacks, 2011



Total Nonelderly Uninsured Blacks: 7 Million

NOTE: Data may not total 100% due to rounding. The federal poverty level was \$18,530 for a family of three in 2011. SOURCE: KCMU/Urban Institute analysis of 2012 ASEC Supplement to the CPS.

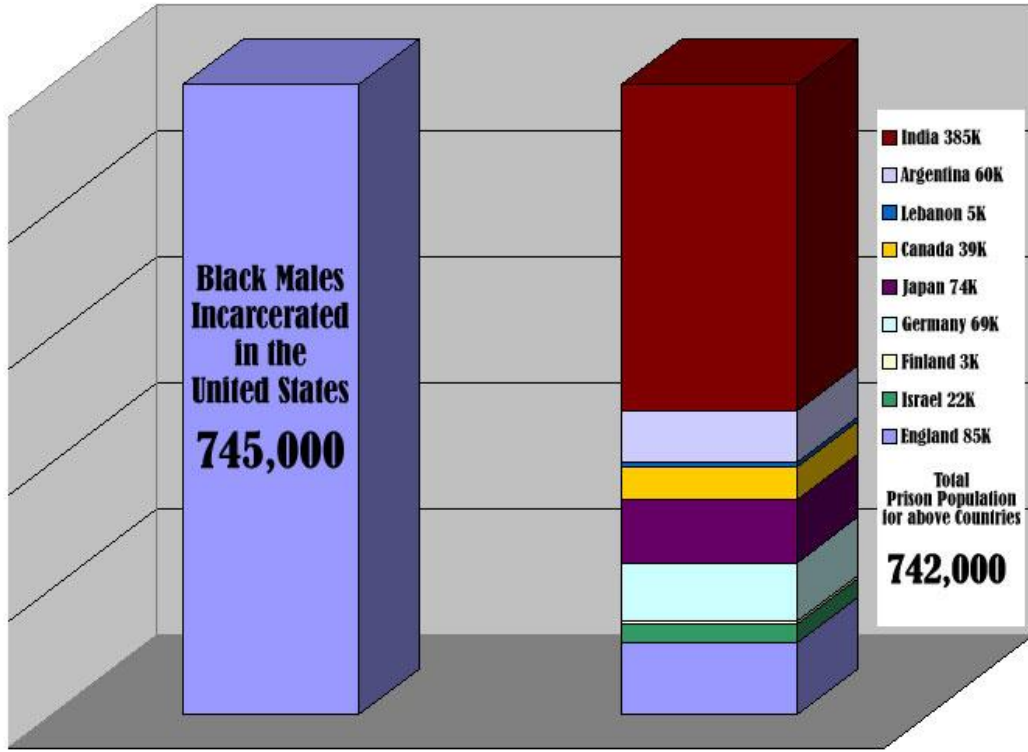


Crack Cocaine Epidemic

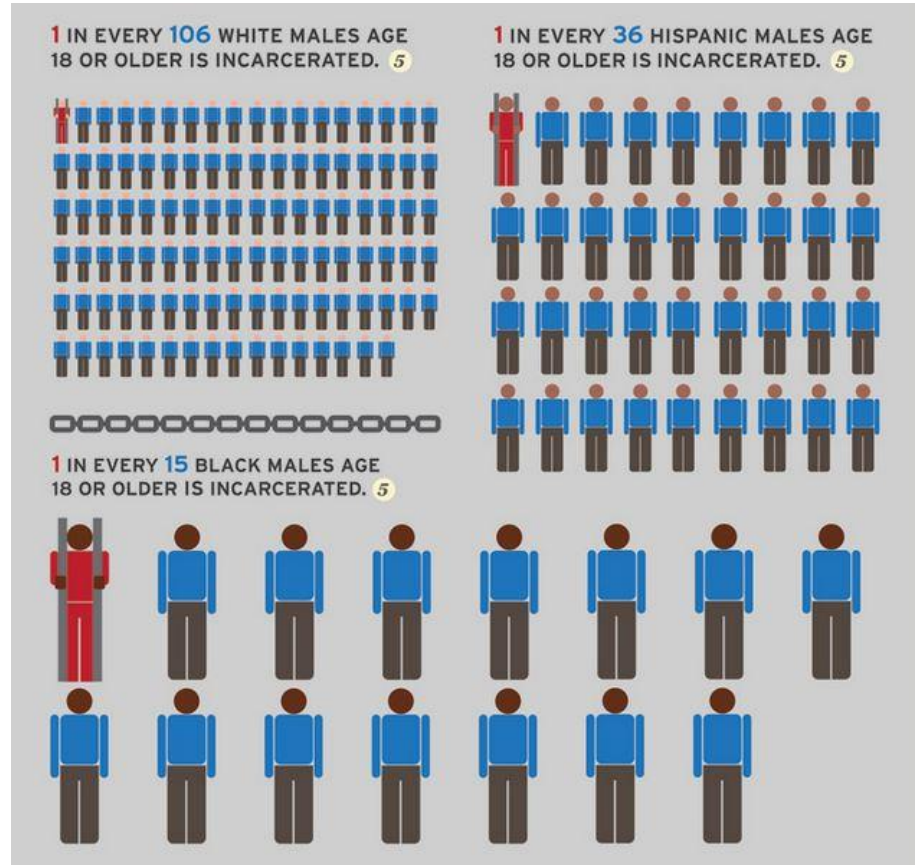
- ▶ Harsher penalties
- ▶ Increased sexual risk taking behaviors
 - ▶ Increased sex drive and libido
- ▶ Increased firearm related homicide

Mass Incarceration of AA Males

- ▶ Federal Drug Abuse Act 1986
- ▶ 1994 Crime Bill
- ▶ Revolving Door



Source: International Centre for Prison Studies & Bureau of Justice National Prisoner Statistics



“

“We have too many people in prison. And we wound up spending — putting so many people in prison that there wasn't enough money left to educate them, train them for new jobs and increase the chances when they came out that they could live productive lives.”

”

Bill Clinton

Violence in the Community

- ▶ National Homicide Rate 2011
 - ▶ National--4.44 per 100,000
 - ▶ White—2.64 per 100,000
 - ▶ Black—17.51 per 100,000
- ▶ Avg age= 30
- ▶ 82% killed by handguns

Religion

- ▶ AA most religiously devout racial group
- ▶ Representation of hope and community
- ▶ Culture of Dissemblance

Homophobia

- ▶ Afrocentric View, Black Nationalism
 - ▶ Exaggerated sense of masculinity
- ▶ Disproportionate negative views toward homosexuals
- ▶ Exacerbation of the male shortage

Click on the Picture Below for a Short Clip Illustrating Internalized Homophobia in the African-American Community



*Clip from the 2010 film **For Colored Girls** (D: Tyler Perry) starring Janet Jackson and Omari Hardwick.
Courtesy of 34th Street Films, Tyler Perry Studios, and Lionsgate Films.*

The “Down Low” Brother

- ▶ Black men who have sex with men (MSM) more disproportionately affected by HIV
- ▶ Influences of sexual identity
- ▶ Specific stress coping mechanism

Hyper Masculine Narrative

- ▶ Stereotype
- ▶ Not allowed to express vulnerability and emotions
- ▶ Patriarchal Terrorism

Jezebel Stereotype

▶ Exotic Others

- ▶ Physically attractive
- ▶ Culturally deficient
- ▶ Socially deficient

▶ Pathetic Others

- ▶ Physically unattractive
- ▶ Unintelligent
- ▶ Uncivilized

Chasing the Illusion of the Standard of Beauty

- ▶ Illegal silicone butt injections
- ▶ Not FDA regulated
- ▶ Uterine leiomyomata 2-3 times higher in AA women
 - ▶ Lifetime risk 80% in AA women
 - ▶ American Journal of Epidemiology study linked increased risk for leiomyomata to hair relaxer use.

Sarah Baartman aka Hottentot Venus

- ▶ 1810--South African teenager orphaned and widowed
- ▶ Performed in Europe 1810-1815
- ▶ Died 1815

The Strong Black Woman Myth

- ▶ Depression
 - ▶ Not allowed to show vulnerability
 - ▶ “Black girls don’t cry”
 - ▶ Linked with emotional eating
- ▶ Taught to be self-sufficient early in life
- ▶ 80% of African American women affected by obesity
 - ▶ 1 in 4 AA women over the age of 55 has diabetes
 - ▶ Hypertension found in 80% of all African Americans
 - ▶ Incidence of End Stage Renal Disease is 40% higher than other ethnic groups

AA Community Solutions

- ▶ Decriminalization of drug use and possession
- ▶ Expand public funded substance use treatment programs
- ▶ Change zoning ordinances to reduce the number of alcohol stores in low-income neighborhoods
- ▶ Poverty reduction programs
- ▶ Programs to reduce disproportionate mass incarceration of Black men
- ▶ Increase quality education for Black boys and men

AA National Solutions

- ▶ End residential segregation for poor and working class families
- ▶ Increase affordable housing programs
- ▶ Revitalize neighborhoods with abandoned and vacant properties
- ▶ Community oriented policing practices
- ▶ End police violence and oppressive policies in AA communities
- ▶ Increase fulltime employment and job training
- ▶ Eliminate barriers to employment for men with criminal records

Sexual and HIV/AIDS Education

- ▶ Solution:
 - ▶ Provide comprehensive and free health and sexual health education.
 - ▶ Provide free condoms.

Healthcare Access Solutions

- ▶ Promote ease of navigating the healthcare system
- ▶ Try to provide as comprehensive one stop shop as necessary
- ▶ Extended hours
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Day care during time of office visit
- ▶ Discreet office locations

African American Solutions

- ▶ Dialogue
- ▶ Mental health counseling
- ▶ Promote healing in family dynamics
- ▶ Promote healing in male and female interpersonal relationships

Healthcare Provider Tips

- ▶ Address patient's formally
- ▶ Eye contact when making conversation
- ▶ Explanation when needing personal information
- ▶ Try to establish trust with the patient
- ▶ Have engaging interactions with the patients
- ▶ Make decisions collectively
- ▶ Be a good listener

In Conclusion

- ▶ Socioeconomic status and environment play a major role in the health of a community or ethnic group
- ▶ Poverty drains mental faculties
- ▶ Compassion is key

“ “

A human being is a part of the whole called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feeling as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.”

”

Albert Einstein

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