

Ethics and Race in Health Care

Sharon Davis-Murdoch, Co-President, Health Association of African Canadians (HAAC)

The following discussion questions are provided as an additional educational tool to accompany this fireside chat video. Please feel free to select the questions that are most relevant to your committee or group, revise and adapt them as needed, etc. As always, we welcome feedback on this or any other NSHEN resource.

Questions:

- What stood out to you the most in this interview? Why?
- Sharon gives some examples of how people of African descent have been negatively and specifically affected by interactions and relationships within health care. For example, she describes how people of African descent have not been included in health promotion efforts, funding priorities or health professional education programs.
 - Can you think of other examples that show how race affects patients' and communities' experience of health care?
 - Can you think of other examples that show how race affects health outcomes?
- Sharon describes how people of African descent have been excluded from discussions around health care priorities and health care policies. She talks about the need for an equitable approach rather than an equality approach. Discuss the difference between the two:
 - What might an equitable approach that appropriately acknowledged diversity look like in practice?
- What can health care providers do to name and address overt racism when they encounter it in practice?
- How can health care providers work to identify and address the way systemic racism affects health care?
- How might individual health care providers contribute to promote awareness of the ways that race matters in health care?
- What are the ethical obligations of health care organizations with regards to addressing race and racism in health care?

Resources

AL-Hakim, Aya . (2021) “Health Association of African Canadians addresses community mistrust of COVID-19 vaccine” Global News, January 16, 2021. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7580732/coronavirus-haac-town-hall-covid19-vaccine-mistrust/>

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Canadian Institute for Health Information. (2020). “Proposed Standards for Race-Based and Indigenous Identity Data Collection and Health Reporting in Canada.” <https://www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/proposed-standard-for-race-based-data-en.pdf>

Diangelo, R. (2018). White Fragility, Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism. Beacon Press, Boston, Mass. 2018

Government of Canada: Social determinants and inequities in health for Black Canadians: A Snapshot. [accessed February 2, 2021] <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/health-promotion/population-health/what-determines-health/social-determinants-inequities-black-canadians-snapshot.html>

Sullivan, Laura Specker (2020). Trust, Risk, and Race in American Medicine. The Hasting Center Report, Volume 50, Issue 1, January/February 2020:18-26. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/hast.1080>

Willsie, J. (2020, June 17). “When It’s Measured, it Matters: Disaggregated Race Data in Canada,” Canadian Politics and Public Policy: Policy Magazine. <https://policymagazine.ca/when-its-measured-it-matters-disaggregated-race-data-in-canada/>

Zimonjic, P. (2020, June 5). “Trudeau, Ontario health minister say they're looking at collecting race-based pandemic data,” CBC: National. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/trudeau-elliott-covid-19-race-based-data-1.5600824>

Websites:

Health Association of African Canadians: <https://haac.ca/>

Reports:

Black Experiences In Health Care Symposion: Bringing together community and health systems for improved health outcomes. Report published by Black Health Allianz, Health Commons Solution Lab, and Sinai Health, April 2020.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a0d40298dd041f9a60bb3a7/t/5ea9a317983eca78fd95ee6d/1588175652047/Full+Report+-+Black+Experiences+in+Health+Care+Symposium+2020.pdf>

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