Health Disparities

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Three part discussion

1. Health disparities defined
2. Family issues
3. Our response (action)
Our Situation

- Health advantages of the US
- Despite the advantages and abundance, there are disparities
Overview of disparities

• Affluent citizens enjoy better health than do minority and poor citizens (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences)
How Did This Happen?

Dr. Harold Freeman says there are 3 reasons:
1. Poverty
2. Culture/behaviors
3. Social injustice
What is the basis for it?

- Medical
- Social
Medical.....

• Access to health care
• Patient and Provider issues
Social....

- Patient and Societal issues
- Socio-economic status, socio-demographic factors and health
Part One
Definitions and descriptions
Definition(s) of Disparities
IOM Report

- “racial or ethnic **differences** in the quality of healthcare that are not due to access-related factors or clinical needs, preferences, and appropriateness of intervention…**differences** that remain after taking into account patient needs and preferences and the availability of health care.\(^3\).

- ~ Institute of Medicine's *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care* (pages 3-4; © 2003)
National Cancer Institute, NIH

- "...differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of diseases and other adverse health conditions that exist among specific population groups in the United States."

~ Strategic Research Plan to Reduce and Ultimately Eliminate Health Disparities (October 6, 2000)
• "...differences that occur by gender, race or ethnicity, education or income, disability, geographic location, or sexual orientation."

~ United States Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2010: Understanding and Improving Health (November 2000)
Health Disparities - range

- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Lead poisoning
- Lupus
- Sarcoidosis
- Cancer

- African Americans
- Native Americans
- Hispanic
Population Groups

- Gender
- Age
- Ethnicity
- Education
- Income
- Social class
- Exceptionality
- Geographic location
- Sexual orientation
Data from the National Vital Statistics System (Mortality)

• Life expectancy at birth for the U.S. population was 78.7 years in 2011.

• Non-Hispanic black males experienced the largest decrease in mortality (23%) during the period 2000–2011.

• States in the southeast region had higher death rates than those in other regions of the country.
Part Two

Family issues
Part Three

Responding by action
Alternatives Considered

- Pay attention!
- Ask questions.
- Use your local resources.
“Poverty is the worse form of violence.”

~ Gandhi ~
"He who has health, has hope; and he who has hope, has everything."

~ Arabian proverb ~
‘We cannot seek or attain wealth, learning, justice, or kindness in general. Action is always specific, concrete, individualized, unique.”

~ Benjamin Jowett ~
Summary

“It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human (her)history is shaped. Each time a (wo)man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out at any injustice, (s)he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope”.

~ Robert Francis Kennedy
My hope is built on....
Thank you!

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References

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- [www.omhrc.gov](http://www.omhrc.gov)
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