



THE
SAMUEL DUBOIS COOK
CENTER ON SOCIAL EQUITY
AT DUKE UNIVERSITY



dis·rupt·er

/dis'reptər/

noun

noun: **disruptor**

- someone or something that interrupts an event, activity, or process by causing a disturbance or problem.
 - "the film follows his evolution from Hollywood star to political disrupter"
- something that drastically alters or destroys the structure of something.
 - "if the endocrine disrupter stimulates the endocrine system, then increased amounts of hormone may be produced"

Duke University CTSI
A Call to Action: Identifying Next Steps
to Address Biomedical, Health Care, and
Social Drivers of
COVID-19 Disparities

COVID-19 as a Disruptor

Keisha L. Bentley-Edwards, PhD
Samuel DuBois Cook Center On Social Equity
General Internal Medicine
Clinical & Translational Science Award- Special
Populations Core

Structural or Institutional Racism

Policies, practices &
social norms that either
restrict opportunities or
perpetuate inequality

Cultural Mistrust

**Historical
Evidence**

**Personal
Experiences**

**Family
Experiences &
Socialization**

Cultural Mistrust: Historical Evidence

Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment



<https://www.cdc.gov/tuskegee/timeline.htm>

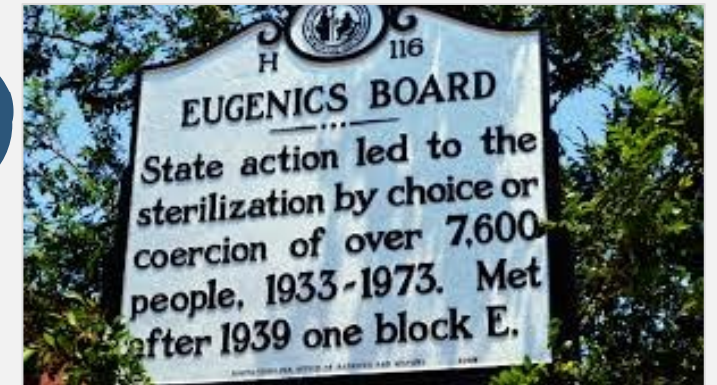
Puerto Rico Pill Trials



Photo researchers Inc.

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/pill-puerto-rico-pill-trials/>

Forced Sterilization Programs in NC



<https://www.npr.org/2011/12/28/144375339/a-brutal-chapter-in-north-carolinas-eugenics-past>

Cultural Mistrust: Personal/Family Experience & Socialization

- Avoid Going to the Doctor or seeking health care out of concern that they would be discriminated against or treated poorly
 - 32% of Black adults – personally & 22% report family members
 - 17% of Latinx adults
 - 9% of Asian Americans
 - 19% of low-income Asian Americans <\$25,000/year
 - 5% of high-income Asian Americans >\$75,000/year
 - 15% of Native Americans
 - 3% of White Americans
 - 9% of low-income White Americans <\$25,000/year
 - 0% of high-income White Americans >\$75,000/year

[Discrimination Pervades Daily Life, Affects Health Across Groups in the U.S., NPR/Harvard/RWJF Poll Shows](#)

“It takes faith to believe you are worthy of a level of care that you have never received. I hope a part of you can believe it.”

Dr. Thema Bryant-Davis



Ultimately,
Health Equity is
About How
Systems Support
People

Moving Forward

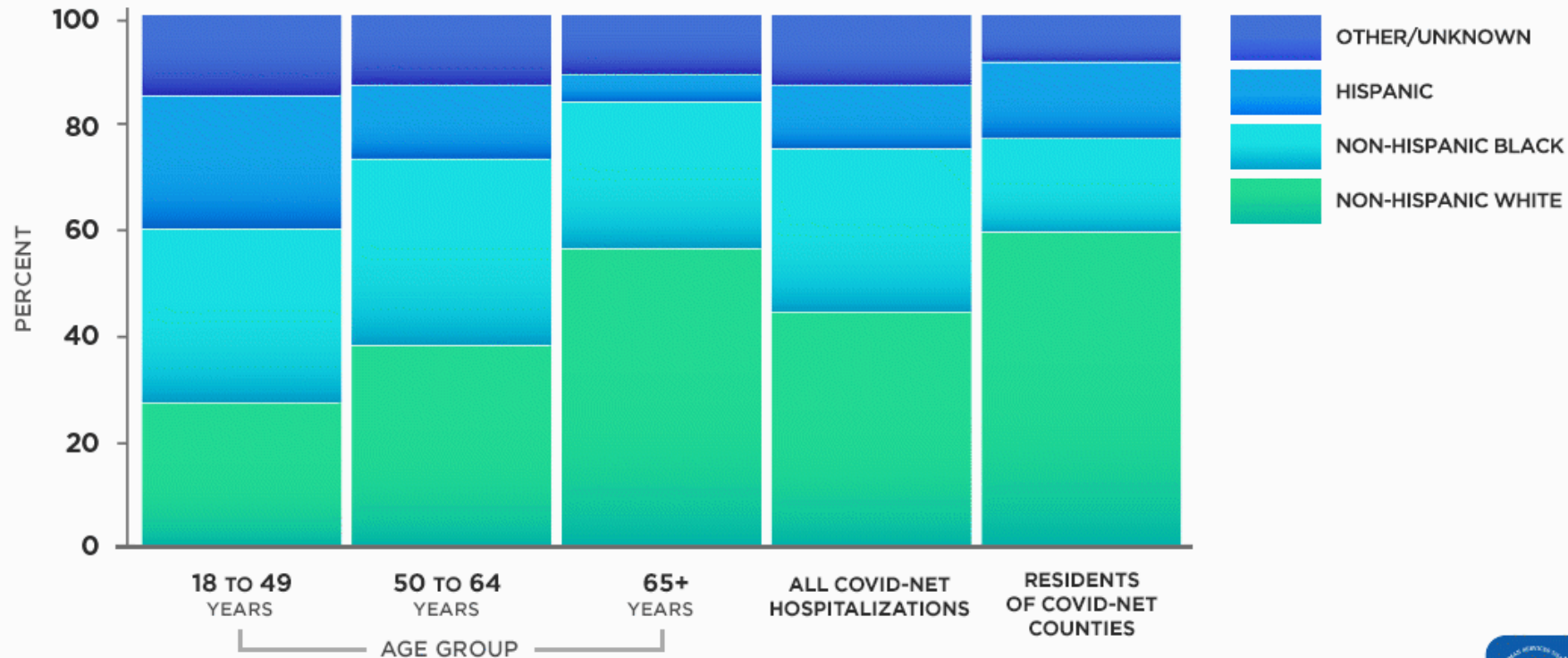
- Institutions & Systems vs Individual Behaviors
 - We know that systemic changes moves the needle on disparities
 - Interpersonal racism is supported by institutional policies and norms
 - Build *trustworthy* systems
- Know when to Advocate and when to Amplify
 - #Listen
- High Quality, Disaggregated data
 - What works for whom and under what conditions

The Importance of Disaggregated Data

LATEST DATA

MARCH 1 TO APRIL 18, 2020

COVID-NET reported **2,803 hospitalizations** with information on race/ethnicity.



COVID-NET is a surveillance system that tracks COVID-19 hospitalizations in selected counties in 14 states. Data from March 1-April 18, 2020.

*Note: Data are currently insufficient to draw conclusions about race in hospitalized patients that are <18 years old.



CS316472

When you don't consider institutional barriers and systemic racism, the burden of collateral damage rests on those who are already marginalized.



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Thank You