



**MEMBERSHIP
MOVES
MEDICINE™**

Collaborative Leadership: The Path Forward for an Equitable Mental Health System

Patrice A. Harris, MD, MA
Immediate Past President
American Medical Association

Spring 2021

About me

- Born and raised in West Virginia; graduated from WVU undergrad and medical school
- Practicing psychiatrist in Atlanta, GA
- Experience as a public health administrator, patient advocate and medical society lobbyist
- Held leadership positions in the AMA and APA
- First Black woman to serve as AMA president
- Chair, AMA Opioid Task Force since 2014



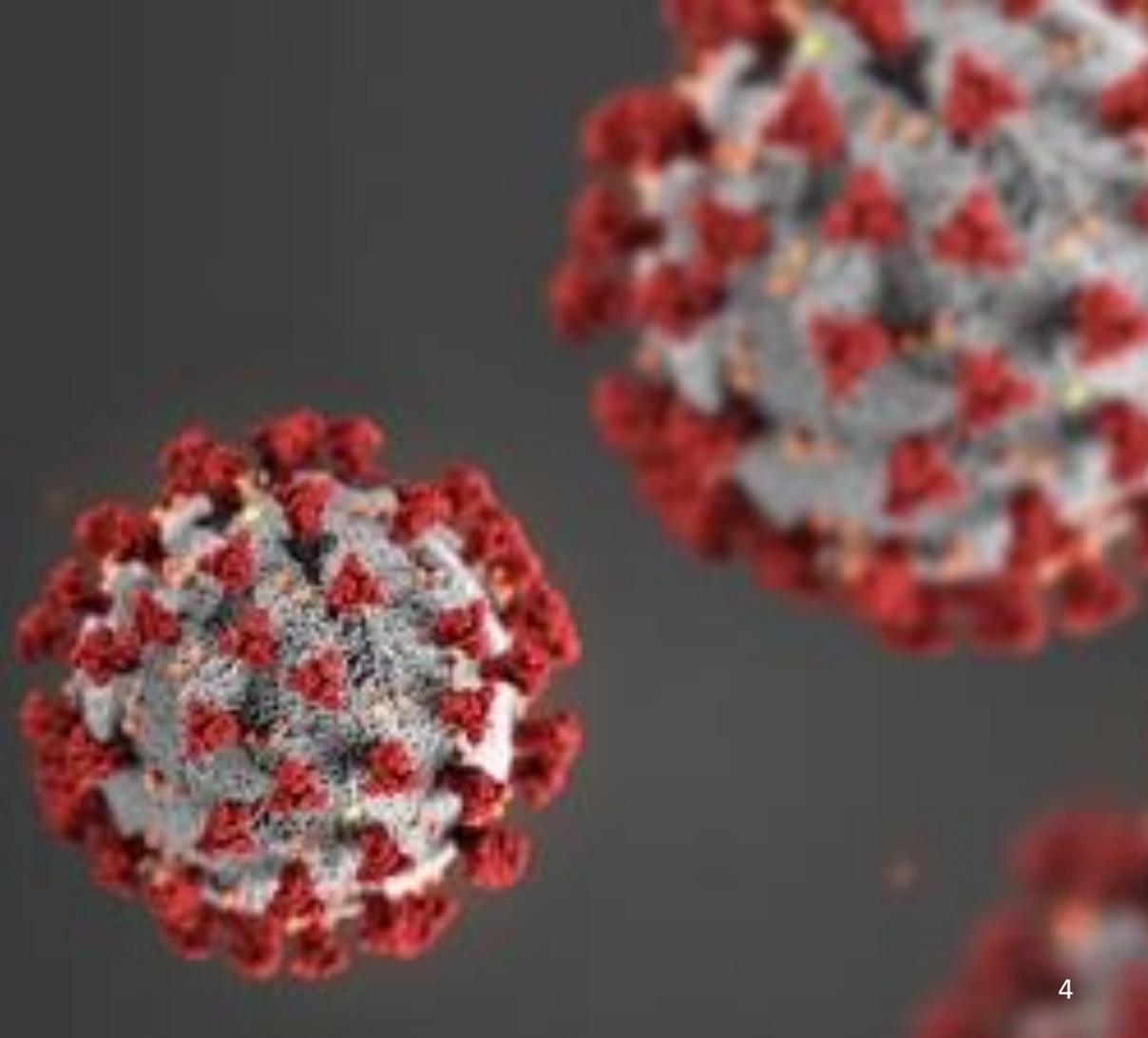
Lessons learned

- Advocacy
- Teamwork
- Partnerships/allies
- Broad perspective
- Vision for the future
- Stand in your authentic voice



America's Health Crisis is Deeper than COVID-19

- Chronic disease
- Mental health
- Job insecurity
- Substance use disorders
- Systemic racism
- Social/racial injustice
- Mistrust in science and health institutions



Persistent health disparities and their impact on communities

A portrait of Lase Ajayi, MD, a Black woman with curly hair, wearing a white lab coat over a colorful patterned top. She has a stethoscope around her neck and is smiling. The background is a blurred hospital hallway with bokeh light effects.

Lase Ajayi, MD
Member since 2013

What creates health?

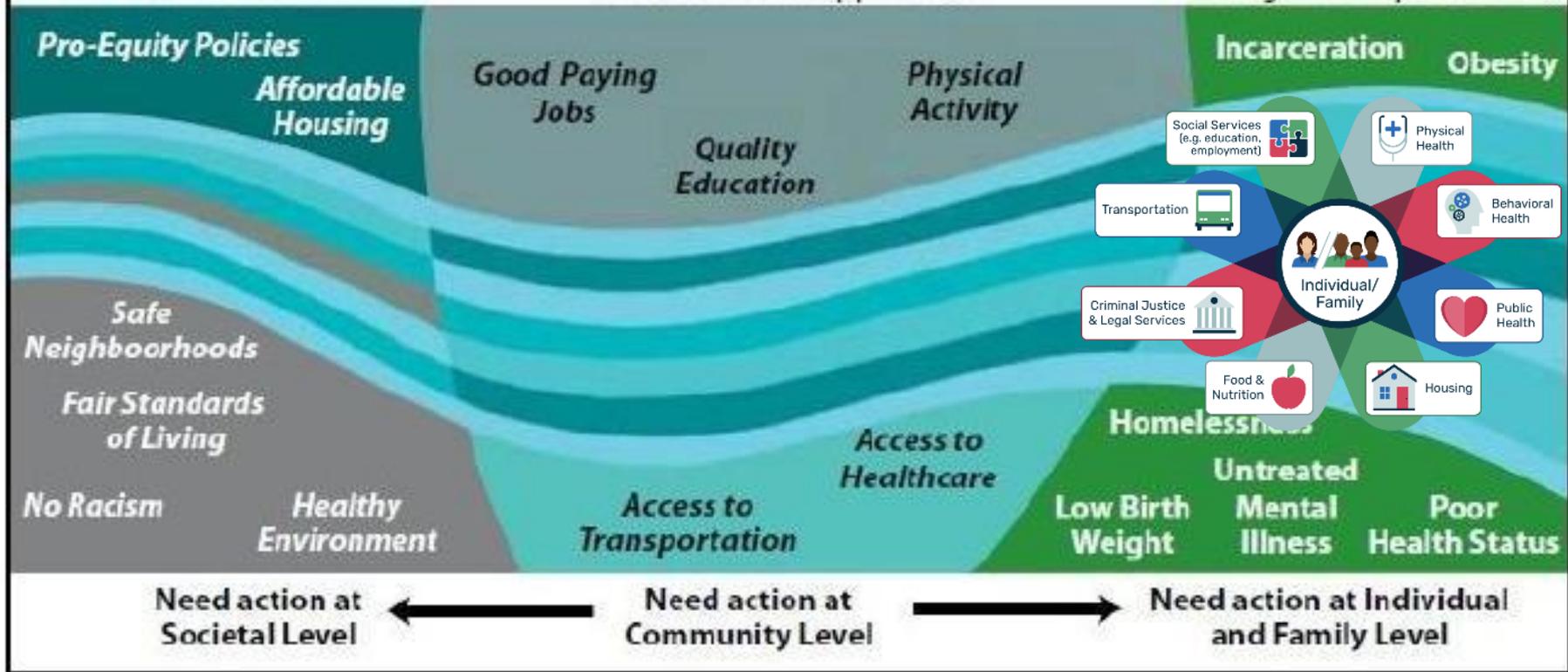


Source: Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII) Conceptual Framework, 2006.

Upstream: Everyone in all communities should have these conditions

Midstream: Move people from conditions that decrease health & well-being to conditions that support them

Downstream: Act to change behaviors or conditions causing stress & poor health



INVERT THE BURDEN OF NAVIGATION AWAY FROM INDIVIDUAL TO THE SYSTEM

Infrastructure to Drive Equity

MEET PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE



Patients



Families and children

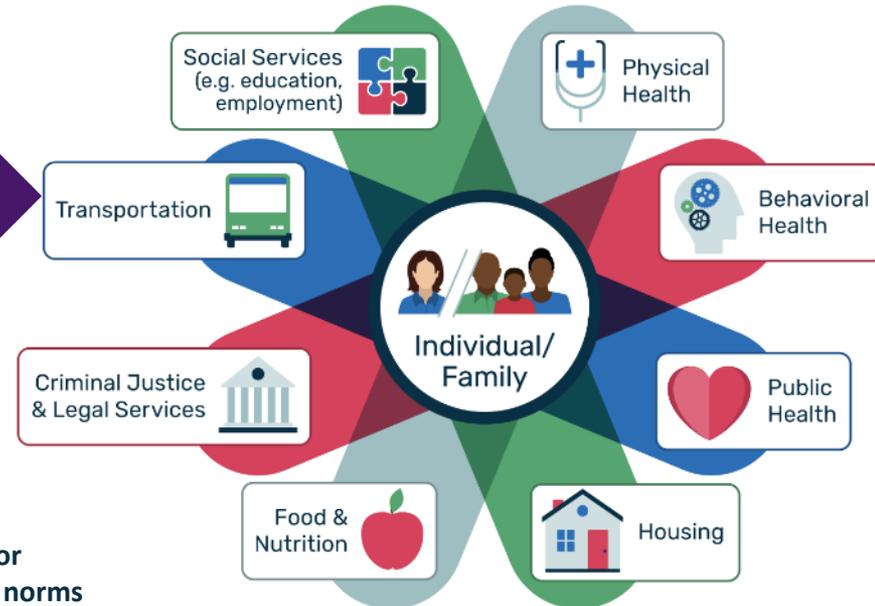


Families and individuals in target communities or industry sectors



- Bi-directional data sharing
- Warm to “hot” hand offs
- CHW/navigator/care coordinator
- Clear governance structure and norms
- Impact tracking over time
- Aligned & mutually reinforcing incentives
 - every organization has a “win”

COORDINATE CARE



Why police brutality is a matter of public health

AMA policy recognizes that physical or verbal violence between law enforcement officers and the public, particularly among Black and Brown communities where these incidents are more prevalent and pervasive, is a **critical determinant of health.**



LEADERSHIP

Police brutality must stop

MAY 29, 2020



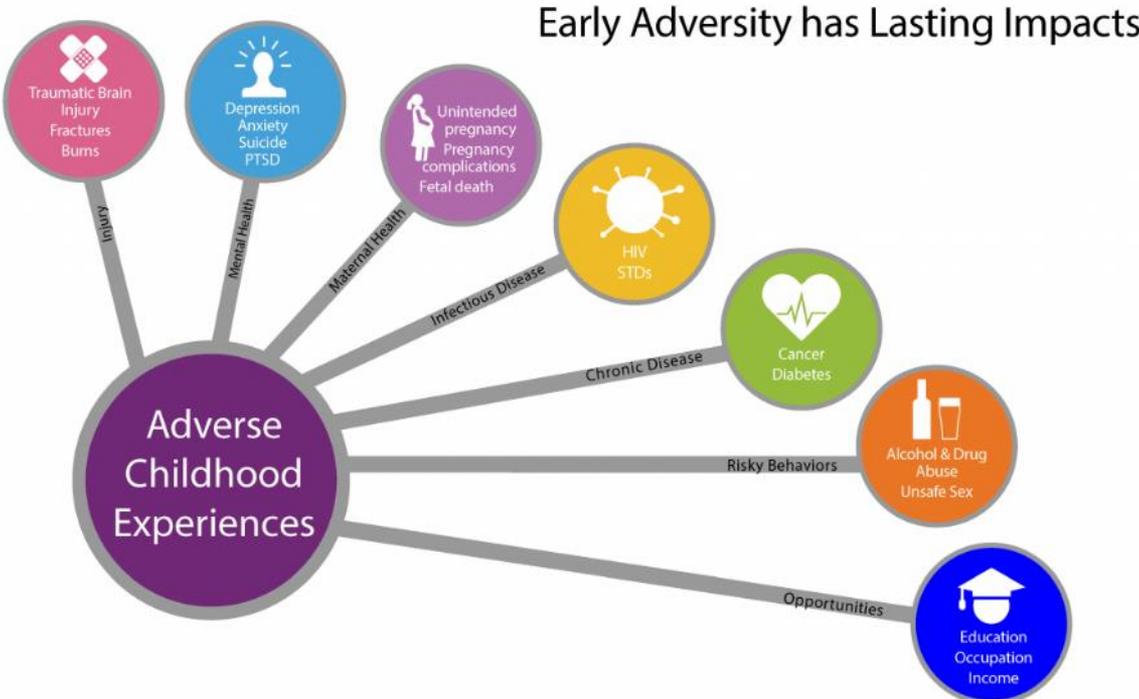
Jesse M. Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH
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AMA policy recognizes that physical or verbal violence between law enforcement officers and the public, particularly among Black and Brown communities where these incidents are more prevalent and pervasive, is a critical determinant of health and supports research into the public health consequences of these violent interactions.

The Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences



Source: CDC

Children's mental health

- 9.4% of children aged 2 – 17 have diagnosed ADHD
- 7.1% of children aged 3 – 17 have diagnosed anxiety
- 3.2% of children aged 3 – 17 have diagnosed depression
- Co-occurring conditions are common
- Depression and anxiety have increased over time

Source and photo: CDC.gov



Disparities and children's mental health

- African American and Hispanic children and young adults less likely to visit a psychiatrist or any other mental health professional than whites.
- Mental health issues among minority youth often disproportionately result in punishment or incarceration rather than mental health care.
- While African Americans are less likely than non-Hispanic whites to die from suicide as teens, they are more likely to attempt suicide than white teens.

Sources: International Journal of Health Services; Mental Health America



Photo: AMA Journal of Ethics

The impact of COVID-19 on children

- COVID-19 is a crisis of public health, social isolation and economic recession.
- Children are experiencing disruption and feelings of loss as much as adults.
- Disruption intensifying anxiety in an era when teens are already experiencing stress at unhealthy levels.

The screenshot displays the JAMA Network website interface. At the top, a red navigation bar contains the 'JAMA Network' logo and links for Home, Publications, JN Learning / CME, Mobile, and Subscribe. Below this, a secondary navigation bar highlights 'Coronavirus Resource Center' and 'COVID-19 Q&A'. The main content area features several articles and a featured content section. On the right, there is an advertisement for the 'Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resource Center' with the text 'The latest coronavirus information and multimedia from the JAMA Network'. The featured content section includes three items: 'New! JAMA Health Forum™' (an online health policy channel), 'Conference Publications' (a collection of JAMA Network articles), and 'Guidelines for Management of High Blood Pressure in Adults' (reading the 2014 JNC8 Report and 2017 ACC/AHA and 2018 ESC/ESH Guidelines). A 'JOB LISTINGS ON JAMA CAREER CENTER' section is also visible on the right side of the page.

Mental health inequities and COVID-19

- The COVID-19 pandemic is precipitating higher prevalence rates of depression across all severity levels.
- Depressive symptoms are more pronounced for certain populations.
- Interconnected social determinants of health (racism, poverty, job and housing insecurity, etc.) contribute to COVID-19-associated trauma.
- Source: Shim, R. (2020) Mental Health Inequities in the Context of Covid-19. *JAMA Network Open*





Advancing health equity

Kevin McKinney, MD
Member since 1989

AMA Board pledges action on racism

- The AMA recognizes that **racism is an urgent threat to public health**, the advancement of health equity, and a barrier to excellence in the delivery of medical care.
- The AMA opposes all forms of racism and denounces police brutality and all forms of racially-motivated violence.
- The AMA will actively work to dismantle racist and discriminatory policies and practices across all of health care.

WE, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, STATE THAT:

The AMA recognizes that racism in its systemic, structural, institutional, and interpersonal forms is an urgent threat to public health, the advancement of health equity, and a barrier to excellence in the delivery of medical care.

The AMA opposes all forms of racism.

The AMA denounces police brutality and all forms of racially motivated violence.

The AMA will actively work to dismantle racist and discriminatory policies and practices across all of health care.



AMA HOD – new health equity policy

- Recognizes racism as a major public health threat;
- Urges multi-faceted approach to Social Determinants of Health;
- Recognizes police brutality as a product of structural racism;
- Recognizes race as a social, not biological construct.



AMA Center for Health Equity

Launched in 2019, the Center works to:

- Promote equity in care
- Advocate for health care access, research,
- Increase health workforce diversity and cultural awareness/competency
- Influence determinants of health
- Voice and model commitment to health equity

The Center's 2020 actions include:

- Raising awareness about health impact of police brutality
- Urging comprehensive tracking of COVID-19 data by race and ethnicity
- Influencing AMA work to advance med school curriculum
- Launched "Prioritizing Equity" online video series
- Helped launch national Release the Pressure campaign to improve heart health of Black women



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AMA policy supports healthy childhood development

- We support evidence-based primary prevention strategies for ACEs; and evidence-based trauma-informed care in medical settings (H-515.952)
- We believe all forms of family and intimate partner violence are major public health issues and urge the profession to work with other parties to prevent it. (H-515.965)
- We recognize that suspected child abuse is underreported by physicians. (H-515.960)
- We recognize bullying as a complex and abusive behavior with potentially serious social and mental health consequences. (H-60.943)



Efforts to protect patient access to care

- The AMA remains committed to protecting coverage for the 20 million Americans who acquired it through the ACA and expanding coverage for those who do not currently have it.
- AMA supports policies that would improve the coverage options for many who are underinsured and/or cite costs as a barrier to accessing the care they need.
- AMA supports Medicaid expansion as a means of reducing the number of uninsured individuals.



Fully integrating mental health

AMA policy:

Supports parity of coverage for mental illness, alcoholism, substance use and eating disorders; (H-185.974)

Supports health care policies that ensure access to and payment for integrated medical, surgical, and psychiatric care regardless of the clinical setting; (H-345.983)

Supports increasing public awareness, reducing stigma and expanding patient access to quality care for depression and other mental illnesses; (H-345.984)

Encourages all physicians to acquire the knowledge and skills to recognize, diagnose and treat depression and other mental illnesses; (H-345.984)

Supports competent mental health care and outreach for at-risk communities; (H-345.984)



The Ongoing Crisis of COVID-19

Reaching communities hit hard by pandemic

- Black, Latino and Native communities have been devastated by COVID-19.
- The push is on to vaccinate all communities, especially those with historic distrust in medical institutions.
- AMA has urged HHS to make existing all race and ethnicity data available in order to take on this crisis.



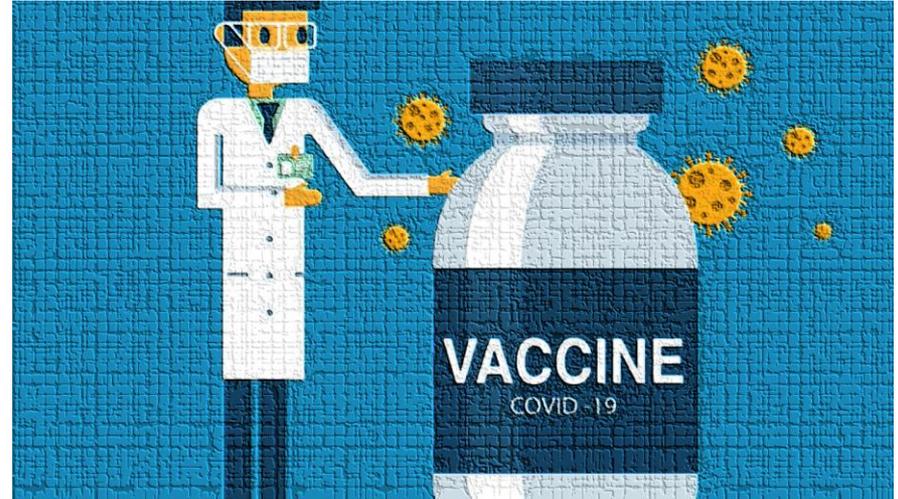
Factors contributing to greater disparities during COVID-19

1. Preexisting conditions that disproportionately impact communities of color.
2. Essential jobs that are not in the health profession are overrepresented by communities of color.
3. Structural inequities and social determinants of health that are influenced by implicit bias and racial discrimination.



Building vaccine confidence

- Only 60% of Americans say they would get a COVID-19 vaccine.
- 21% do not intend to be vaccinated.
- Mistrust is high in communities of color.
- Only 14% of Black residents and 34% of Latino residents trust that the vaccines are safe.



Keeping science at the forefront



The AMA calls on all elected officials to **affirm science, evidence and facts** in their words and actions.

- Dr. Patrice Harris
AMA Immediate Past President



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**IN TIMES OF CRISIS,
THE WISE BUILD BRIDGES,
WHILE THE FOOLISH
BUILD BARRIERS.**

Black Panther / King T'Challa

Marvel Studios/Walt Disney Studios



Amanda Gorman, America's Youth Poet Laureate

“This is the era of just redemption. We feared at its inception. We did not feel prepared to be the heirs of such a terrifying hour, but within it, we found the power to author a new chapter . . .

“So, while once we asked, ‘How could we possibly prevail over catastrophe?’ Now we assert, ‘How could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?’”



AP Photo/Patrick Semansky, Pool



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