Centering Racial Equity in Health & Housing Partnerships

The Health & Housing Consortium

Peggy Bailey (she, her)
Vice President for Housing Policy
pbailey@cbpp.org
@PeggyBaileyDC
Presentation Overview

Affordable housing need and scarcity of federal resources

Racial disparities in housing and health

Intersection of Housing and COVID-19 pandemic

Health and Housing Partnerships

Charge to us all for the future
Renters’ Incomes Haven’t Caught Up to Housing Costs

Percent change since 2001, adjusted for inflation

Source: CBPP tabulations of the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey
16 Million Households Needing Federal Rental Assistance Do Not Receive It Due to Funding Limits

15.8 million

In need but unassisted

5.3 million

Assisted

Note: In need = households earning 80 percent or less of the local median household income and paying more than 30 percent of monthly income for housing and/or living in overcrowded or substandard housing.

Source: Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) custom tabulations of 2017 American Housing Survey and CBPP tabulations of HUD and Agriculture Department data.
Racism and Housing

• Segregating people allows leaders to neglect those communities

• Policy decisions examples (The Color of Law)
  • Redlining
  • Locating environmental hazards – highways, landfills, factories
  • Exclusionary zoning
  • Racist lending practices
  • Disinvestment in public housing
  • Lack of proactive actions by gov’t entities and housing agencies to diversify neighborhood access for people of color
  • Lack of intentional investment in neighborhoods with residents who are primarily people of color

• These aren’t only past transgressions. **Discriminatory practices still take place today.**
Inequities in Self-Reported Health

People of Color Generally Report Poorer Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Percent Reporting Fair or Poor Health</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more races</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The race groups white, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 2 or more races include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin.
Source: National Center for Health Statistics, 2016
Inequities in Health Outcomes

Black People Fare Worse Than White People on Health Measures

- **Lower life expectancies**
  - Black: 74.8 years
  - White: 78.5 years

- **More low birthweights**
  - Black: 13.7%
  - White: 7.0%

- **Higher infant mortality (per 1,000 births)**
  - Black: 11.4
  - White: 4.9

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, 2016
Health Disparities - COVID

• Hospitalizations compared to whites
  • AI/NA = 5.3 times more likely
  • Black people = 4.7 times more likely
  • Latinx people = 4.6 times more likely
  • Asian people = 1.3 times more likely

• Death rates compared to whites
  • Black people = 2.1 times more likely
  • AI/NA people = 1.4 times more likely
  • Latinx people = 1.1 times more likely
  • Asian people = no difference

Health and Housing Are In This Together – Why?
Because Housing Can:

**Improve Health Outcomes** (appealing to our public health friends)
- Correct unsafe or unhealthy housing or neighborhood conditions
- Improve mental health
- Reduce incidences of alcoholism, drug abuse, family violence

**Address Health System Concerns** (such as cost, utilization, etc.)
- Reduce over-institutionalization (nursing homes, mental health facilities)
- Address overuse of crisis care (emergency rooms, detox, 911)
- Stabilize chronic health conditions due to homelessness
Understanding Housing and COVID-19 Risks

Housing Impacts

▪ Ability to shelter in place safely

▪ How close someone lives to a doctor or hospital

▪ Exposure to environmental hazards (asthma)

▪ Proximity to a grocery store or access to healthy food (diabetes)

▪ Stress – worry about paying housing costs (immune system)
Innovative Strategies and Partnerships

Managed Care Organizations
- Investing in Tax Credits (United Healthcare, Kaiser Permanente, Anthem)
- Engaging service providers (Texas, Arizona, Louisiana)

Hospitals
- Community Benefit Program (Florida Hospital, Dignity)
- Bon Secours Hospital (Baltimore, MD)
- Nationwide Children’s Hospital (Columbus, OH)

Primary care and behavioral health clinics
- Service providers to free up housing resources
- Come in to help stabilize residents (Camden Health)
How Housing and Health Care Systems Can Reverse Negative Impact of Racism

▪ Disrupt racial bias
  ▪ Messaging of segregation that Black and brown people can’t live together
  ▪ Assumptions that bad outcomes are inherit to Black and brown people

▪ Study current programs and policies for ways they perpetuate racism and unjust outcomes
  ▪ Messages around work and people with low-incomes
  ▪ Need to ‘teach’ or ‘educate’ people on how to live better

▪ Mission is lowest income people – call for rental assistance
Conclusion