Advancing Racial Equity Through Research

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Some news headlines...

“Data show that Black, Hispanic, and AIAN people are at increased risk of hospitalization due to COVID-19”

“Multiple analyses of available federal, state, and local data show that people of color are experiencing a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 cases and deaths.”
How can you use data to understand and combat racial inequities?

- Identify underlying causes
- Move beyond documenting disparities
- Engage those most impacted by inequity
- Propose informed solutions

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"Multiple analyses of available federal, state, and local data show that people of color are experiencing a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 cases and deaths."

It is important to connect data to context now.

Why Racism, Not Race, Is a Risk Factor for Dying of COVID-19
Moving beyond documenting disparities

COVID Disparities
Ex: BIPOC 2-4x hospitalization due to Covid

- BIPOC more exposed to COVID
  - More frontline jobs
  - Crowded housing

- BIPOC less protected
  - Less access to healthcare, testing/PPE, fear of vaccinations

- BIPOC more chronic illness
  - “Fast food swamps”
  - Polluted air
  - Lack of safe space to exercise

Limited Employment Opportunities
- Poorly Funded Schools
- Educational Segregation
- Residential Segregation
- Live in poorer neighborhoods

RACISM

Initial solutions to address COVID

**Individual solutions:**

- Social distancing
- Mask use
- Get vaccinations
System solutions to address COVID

- more PPE for frontline workers
- hazard pay for frontline workers
- free testing and prioritized vaccinations for more exposed
- seek to understand and address mistrust of vaccines
Why does context matter?

• It gives policymakers the full story
• It might prompt different policies
• It helps move away from harmful narratives about people who are impacted by inequity

**Recommendation:** do this upfront in presenting research findings
Guiding Principles for Integrating Racial Equity

1. Examine our backgrounds and biases.
2. Commit to digging deeper into the data.
3. Know our work has an impact on communities.
4. Partner with community in research and credit their contribution.
5. Guard against the assumption that White is the normative or default position.
5 Guiding Principles

Stages of the Research Process

- Landscape
- Research Design
- Data Collection
- Data Analysis
- Dissemination
Thank you!

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