DISMANTLING STRUCTURAL RACISM IN PSYCHIATRY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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DISCLOSURE/DISCLAIMER

- THIS IS A DIFFICULT AND UNCOMFORTABLE TOPIC
- COMPLEX FEELINGS OFTEN EMERGE, INCLUDING GUILT, ANGER, RESENTMENT, AND DEFENSIVENESS
- YOU MAY PERCEIVE ME OF ACCUSING YOU OF BEING RACIST/SEXIST/ETC.
- YOU MAY FEEL I HAVE A SPECIFIC POLITICAL AGENDA OR THAT I LACK OBJECTIVITY

"I'M NOT INTERESTED IN ANYBODY'S GUILT.

GUILT IS A LUXURY THAT WE CAN NO LONGER AFFORD.

I KNOW YOU DIDN'T DO IT, AND I DIDN'T DO IT EITHER, BUT I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR IT BECAUSE I AM A MAN AND A CITIZEN OF THIS COUNTRY AND YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR IT, FOR THE VERY SAME REASON."



TALKING ABOUT STRUCTURAL RACISM IN PSYCHIATRY

 WE HAVE BEEN SOCIALIZED TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS NOT POLITE TO TALK ABOUT RACE

This begins early, as children in the US (and elsewhere)

 PHYSICIANS HAVE NOT BEEN TAUGHT ABOUT THE CONNECTION BETWEEN RACISM AND HEALTH

Medical school has a long tradition of teaching biological determinism

ARE THE TIMES A-CHANGIN'?

Some feel that there is an overemphasis and over-correction happening now

THE PROBLEM WITH RACE-BASED CLINICAL CARE

- RACE IS A SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONSTRUCT
- RACE IS A ROUGH AND IMPRECISE PROXY FOR CULTURE, GENETICS, AND SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

- RACE CANNOT BE ACCURATELY BIOLOGICALLY CATEGORIZED
- YET, WE USE RACE TO CONFIRM ASSUMPTIONS/PREJUDICES/BIASES ABOUT OUR PATIENTS

HOW DID WE GET HERE?



HISTORICAL ORIGINS OF PSYCHIATRIC PSEUDOSCIENCE

DRAPETOMANIA

"If any one or more of them, at any time, are inclined to raise their heads to a level with their master or overseer, humanity and their own good requires that they should be punished until they fall into that submissive state which was intended for them to occupy. They have only to be kept in that state, and treated like children to prevent and cure them from running away."

DYSAESTHESIA AETHIOPICA

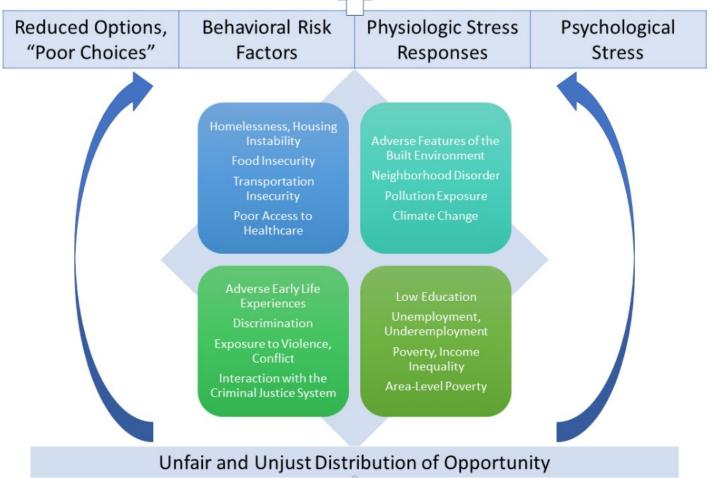
After the prescribed "course of treatment" the slave will "look grateful and thankful to the white man whose compulsory power...has restored his sensation and dispelled the mist that clouded his intellect."

HEALTH DISPARITIES:

SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION INCLUDING DIFFERENCES THAT OCCUR BY GENDER, RACE OR ETHNICITY, EDUCATION OR INCOME, DISABILITY, OR LIVING IN VARIOUS GEOGRAPHIC LOCALITIES

HEALTH INEQUITIES: DISPARITIES IN HEALTH THAT ARE A RESULT OF SYSTEMIC, AVOIDABLE, AND UNJUST SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES AND PRACTICES THAT CREATE BARRIERS TO OPPORTUNITY

Adverse Mental Health Outcomes





Social Norms

KEY CONCEPTS

TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION















PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL INJUSTICE

ESSENTIALISM

The belief that there are distinct, unchanging, and natural characteristics that define social groups and facilitate their categorization

ERASURE OF CONTEXT

Failure to consider sociohistorical context when seeking to understand the etiology of inequities

BIOLOGICAL DETERMINISM

The false belief that racial groups are biologically and genetically different

CULTURAL DETERMINISM

The false belief that differences in racial groups are the result of cultural factors (e.g., ethnocentrism)

TYPES OF OPPRESSION

EXPLOITATION

The unequal exchange of one group's labor and energies for another group's advantage and advancement

CULTURAL IMPERIALISM

Establishing the ruling class culture as the norm; othering of groups that are not part of the dominant culture

POWERLESSNESS

Oppressed groups lack power and are blocked from routes to gaining power

MARGINALIZATION

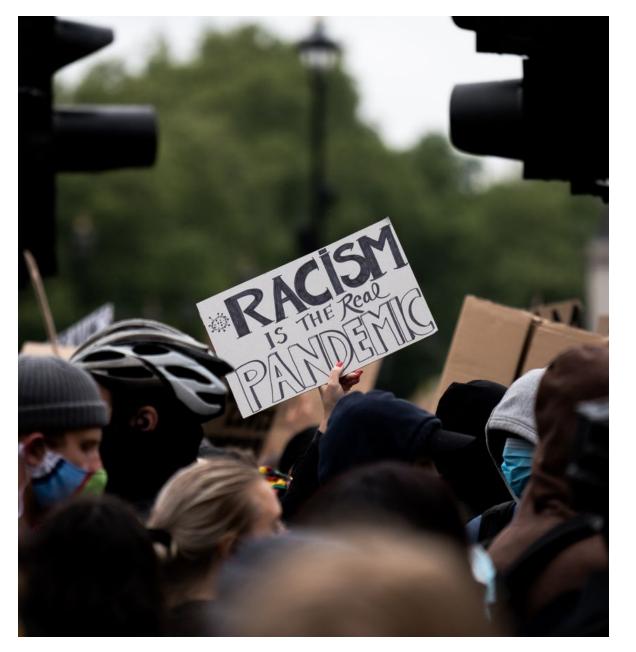
Expelling specific groups from meaningful participation in society

VIOLENCE

Threats and experiences of physical and structural violence

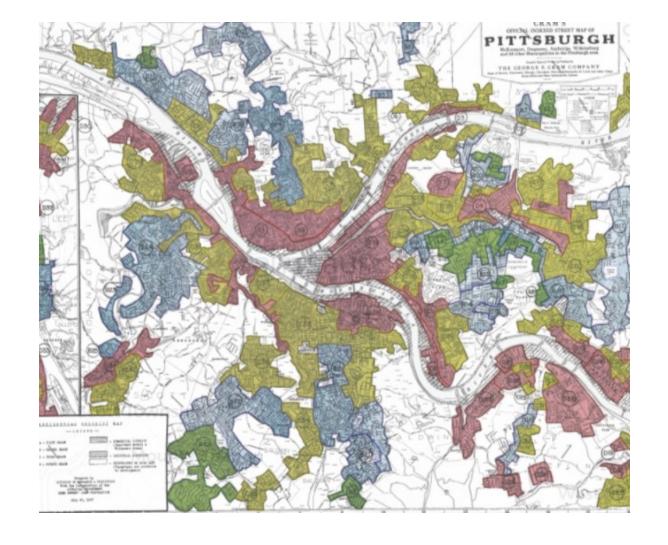
STRUCTURAL RACISM

A SYSTEM IN WHICH PUBLIC POLICIES, INSTITUTIONAL PRACTICES, CULTURAL REPRESENTATIONS, AND OTHER NORMS WORK IN VARIOUS, OFTEN REINFORCING WAYS TO PERPETUATE RACIAL GROUP INEQUITY.



https://www.aspeninstitute.org/blog-posts/structural-racism-definition/

THIS SYSTEM IDENTIFIES
DIMENSIONS OF OUR HISTORY AND
CULTURE THAT HAVE ALLOWED
PRIVILEGES ASSOCIATED WITH
"WHITENESS" AND DISADVANTAGES
ASSOCIATED WITH "COLOR" TO
ENDURE AND ADAPT OVER TIME



STRUCTURAL RACISM IS NOT SOMETHING THAT A FEW PEOPLE OR INSTITUTIONS CHOOSE TO PRACTICE. INSTEAD, IT HAS BEEN A FEATURE OF THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS IN WHICH WE ALL EXIST

STRUCTURAL MECHANISMS DO NOT REQUIRE THE ACTIONS OR INTENTIONS OF OTHERS

EVEN IF INTERPERSONAL DISCRIMINATION WAS ELIMINATED TODAY, RACIAL AND ETHNIC INEQUITIES WOULD REMAIN DUE TO PERSISTENCE OF STRUCTURAL RACISM

STRUCTURAL RACISM IN PSYCHIATRY

HOW STRUCTURAL RACISM IMPACTS HEALTH











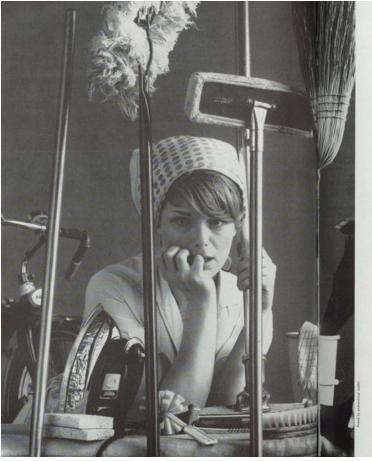
PRIOR TO THE EARLY 1960S, PSYCHIATRISTS ASSESSMENTS OF SYMPTOMS OF MENTAL ILLNESS AT IONIA STATE HOSPITAL INCLUDED:

"WASN'T ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF HER FAMILY AS SHE SHOULD"

"CAN'T DO HER HOUSEWORK"

"TALKED TOO LOUDLY AND EMBARRASSED HER HUSBAND"

"PERHAPS ISHEI REBELLED AGAINST A PATRIARCHAL SYSTEM, AND A PATRIARCHAL DIAGNOSIS, THAT ALLOWED WHITE MALE DOCTORS AND HER WHITE MALE HUSBAND TO BE THE ARBITERS OF HER MENTAL HEALTH.... HOWEVER,THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT...IS THAT IHERIDEFIANCE WAS INTERPRETED AS A SYMPTOM BUT NOT AS A THREAT."



You can't set her free. But you can help her feel less anxious.

You know this woman.

She's anxious, tense, irritable. She's felt this way for months.

Beset by the seemingly insurmountable problems of raising a young family, and continued to the home most of the time, he symptoms reflect a sense of inadequacy and isolation. Your reassurance and guidance may have helped some, but not enough. SERAX (oxazepam) cannot change her environment, of course. But it can help relieve anxiety, tension, agitation and irriability, thus strengthening her ability to cope with day-to-day problems. Eventually—as she regains confidence and composure—your counsel may be all the support she needs.

Indicated in anxiety, tension, agitation, irritability, and anxiety associated with depression.

May be used in a broad range of patients, generally with considerable dosage flexibility.

Contraindications: History of previous hypersensitivity to oxazepam. Oxazepam is not indicated in psychoses.

Precautions: Hypotensius reactions are rars; but use with caution where complications could ensure from a fail in blood pressure, especially in the idder), One patient exhibiting ratio dependency by taking a chronic overdose developed upon cessation questionable withdrawal symptoms. Carefully supervise dose and amounts prescribed, especially for patients per to overdose; excessive prolonged use in succeptible patients (alcoholics, ex-adotts, etc.) may require in dependence or harbitations. Neduce desegg gradually after prolonged excessive machinery until absence of drowliness or dizziness is ascertained. Warn patients of possible reduction in adoubt olderance. Safety for use in pregnancy has not been established.

Not indicated in children under 6 years; absolute dosage for 6 to 12 year-class not established. Side Effects: Therapy-interrupting side effects are res. Transition trial drowniess is considerable of infraguently years, and headache have also occurred infraguently yearsoon, rarely. Mall paradioscal reactives (exclientes in thirulation of affect) are infraguently yearsoon, rarely. Mall paradioscal reactives (exclientes in thirulation of affect) are largy are rare. Nausee, lethargy, edems, storred speech, themor and attended todo are rare and generally controllate by doogse reduction. Although rare. Revisionely and hipparts dysfunction including justices have been reported during thertapy. Personal sold course and transition of the control of the

These side reactions, noted with related compounds, are not yet reported: paradoxical exists ion with severe rage reactions, hallutimations, menstrual irregularities, change in EEQ pattern should dyscrasias (including agranulocytosis), blurred vision, diplopis, incontinence, stuper that is a study of the control of t

Availability: Cansules of 10, 15 and 30 mg, oxazepan

To help you relieve anxiety and tension



"AT THE TIME, COMMON CONCEPTUALIZATIONS OF SCHIZOPHRENIA DID NOT INCLUDE SYMPTOMS OF PARANOIA, AGGRESSION, OR HOSTILITY. INSTEAD, SCHIZOPHRENIA WAS CONCEPTUALIZED AS A DISEASE RESULTING FROM EARLY-LIFE PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA, OFTEN COMMITTED AT THE HANDS OF A SCHIZOPHRENOGENIC MOTHER."

The "Protest" Psychosis

A Special Type of Reactive Psychosis

Walter Bromberg, MD, and Franck Simon, PhD, Brooklyn, NY

THE PURPOSE of this paper is to identify a specific type of reactive psychosis related in part to recent social-political events. It is well known that of the external stresses that trigger many psychotic reactions, the content of the clinical picture may be colored by or formed of political events of national or international import. Thus, delusional schizophrenics complained of Bolshevik persecution in the 1920's and interference by space figures in the 1960's. In the reactive psychosis particularly, a close relation exists between external stresses and the explicated clinical syndrome.

criminal trial, or following conviction and sentencing in a criminal trial. The particular symptomatology we have observed, for which the term "protest psychosis" is suggested, is influenced by social pressures (the Civil Rights Movement), dips into religious doctrine (the Black Musslim Group), is guided in content by African subcultural ideologies and is colored by a denial of Caucasian values and hostility thereto. This protest psychosis among prisoners is virtually a repudiation of "white civilization."

The cases to be presented characteristically arise among American Negroes who TERM COINED TO DESCRIBE A REACTIVE PSYCHOSIS ARISING IN BLACK MALES AS A RESULT OF "THE STRESS OF ASSERTING CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE US."

SYMPTOMS TO SCHIZOPHRENIA,
PARANOID TYPE, BUT ALSO DESCRIBED
HALLUCINATIONS OF AFRICAN THEMES,
ADOPTION OF ISLAMIC DOCTRINE, AND
PROMOTION OF ANTI-WHITE MINDSETS

THE PROTEST PSYCHOSIS, BIOLOGICAL DETERMINISM, AND ERASURE OF CONTEXT

- RESEARCHERS CLAIMED THAT BLACK PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS HAD HIGHER MEASURES OF HOSTILITY THAN WHITE PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS, STEMMING FROM "DELUSIONAL BELIEFS THAT THEIR CIVIL RIGHTS WERE BEING COMPROMISED OR VIOLATED."
- LARGE-SCALE PATHOLOGIZING OF THE TENETS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS **MOVEMENT BY EQUATING THESE IDEAS WITH PARANOID DELUSIONS ALLOWED CERTAIN SECTORS OF SOCIETY A MECHANISM FOR** REMOVING THREATS TO THE STATUS QUO IN THE NAME OF SAFETY AND MENTAL HEALTH

Assaultive and belligerent?



Cooperation often begins with HALDOL (haloperidol)

a first choice for starting therapy

Acts promptly to control aggressive, assaulting behavior

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Usually leaves patients relatively alert and responsive

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Reduces risk of serious adverse reactions

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ORIGINAL REPORT

Persistence of racial disparities in prescription of first-generation antipsychotics in the USA

Thomas B. Cook¹*, Gloria M. Reeves², James Teufel¹ and Teodor T. Postolache^{2,3,4}

ABSTRACT

Purpose The aim of this study was to estimate the prevalence of first-generation antipsychotics (FGA) prescribed for treatment of psychiatric and neurological conditions and use of benztropine to reduce extrapyramidal side effects (EPS) by patient race/ethnicity in a nationally representative sample of adult outpatient visits.

Methods The study sample included all outpatient visits (N=8154) among patients aged 18–69 years where a prescription for one or more antipsychotics was recorded across 6 years of the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey and National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (2005–2010). Use of FGA was compared by race/ethnicity using multiple logistic regression models accounting for patient and clinical characteristics stratified by neighborhood poverty rate. Frequency of EPS was determined by use of benztropine to reduce or prevent EPS.

Results Black patients were significantly more likely than White patients to use FGA (odds ratio = 1.48, p = 0.040) accounting for psychiatric and neurological diagnoses, treatment setting, metabolic factors, neighborhood poverty, and payer source. Black patients were more than twice as likely as White patients to receive higher-potency FGA (haloperidol or fluphenazine), particularly in higher-poverty areas (odds ratio = 2.50, p < 0.001). Use of FGA, higher among Black than White patients, was positively associated with use of benztropine to reduce EPS.

Conclusions Racial disparities in the pharmacological treatment of severe mental disorders persist 30 years after the introduction of second-generation antipsychotics. The relatively high frequency of FGA of use among Black patients compared with White patients despite more Food and Drug Administration-approved indications and lower EPS risk for second-generation antipsychotics requires additional research. Copyright © 2015 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

KEY WORDS—antipsychotics; racial disparities; prescribing patterns; pharmacoepidemiology

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Ethnicity and Diagnosis in Patients With Affective Disorders

Stephen M. Strakowski, M.D.;
Paul E. Keck, Jr., M.D.; Lesley M. Arnold, M.D.; Jacqueline Collins, M.D.;
Rodgers M. Wilson, M.D.; David E. Fleck, Ph.D.; Kimberly B. Corey, M.A.;
Jennifer Amicone, M.S.W.; and Victor R. Adebimpe, M.D.

Background: Clinically, African American psychiatric patients are disproportionately diagnosed with schizophrenia compared with white patients. Why this occurs is unknown. Extending prior work, the authors hypothesized that first-rank symptoms distract clinicians so that they fail to identify affective disorders in African Americans.

Method: 195 African American and white patients with at least 1 psychotic symptom (delusions, hallucinations, or prominent thought disorder) at admission were recruited from January 1, 1998, through May 31, 2001. Each patient received 3 independent DSM-IV diagnoses: a clinical diagnosis, a structured-interview diagnosis, and an expert-consensus diagnosis. The expert-consensus diagnoses were derived from the structured interviews, which were audio-

Received July 11, 2002; accepted Nov. 12, 2002. From the Bipolar and Psychotic Disorders Research Program, Department of Psychiatry, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Cincinnati, Ohio (Drs. Strakowski, Keck, Arnold, Collins, Wilson, and Fleck and Mss. Corey and Amicone); and the Department of Psychiatry, Rush Medical College (Dr. Wilson) and Mercy Providence Hospital (Dr. Adebimpe), Pittsburgh, Pa.

Supported by National Institute of Mental Health award MH56352. Dr. Keck is a consultant for Abbott, AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen, Ortho-McNeil, Pfizer, and Shire and has received grant/research support from AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Ortho-McNeil, Merck, Pfizer, and UCB Pharma.

The authors thank Mary Fariello, who organized the data collection for this project, and Kelly Wilder-Willis, Ph.D., for help with some diagnostic assessments.

Corresponding author and reprints: Stephen M. Strakowski, M.D., Director, Bipolar and Psychotic Disorders Research Program, Department of Psychiatry, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Cincinnati, OH 45267-0559 (e-mail: strakosm@email.uc.edu).

In 1980s and 1990s, Black men were diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia at a rate 5-7 times that of White men

A Naturalistic Study of Racial Disparities in Diagnoses at an Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic

Michael A. Gara, Ph.D., Shula Minsky, Ed.D., Steven M Silverstein, Ph.D., Theresa Miskimen, M.D., Stephen M. Strakowski, M.D.

Objective: The authors examined electronic medical record (EMR) outpatient data to determine whether African Americans with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder were more likely than non-Latino whites to screen positive for major depression.

Methods: EMR data for 1,657 patients at Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care certified community outpatient clinics were deidentified and accrued for 9 months starting July 1, 2017. A Fisher's exact test was used to compare differences in the proportion of patients with positive screens for major depression (cutoff score of ≥15 on the nine-item Patient Health Questionnaire) among African-American and

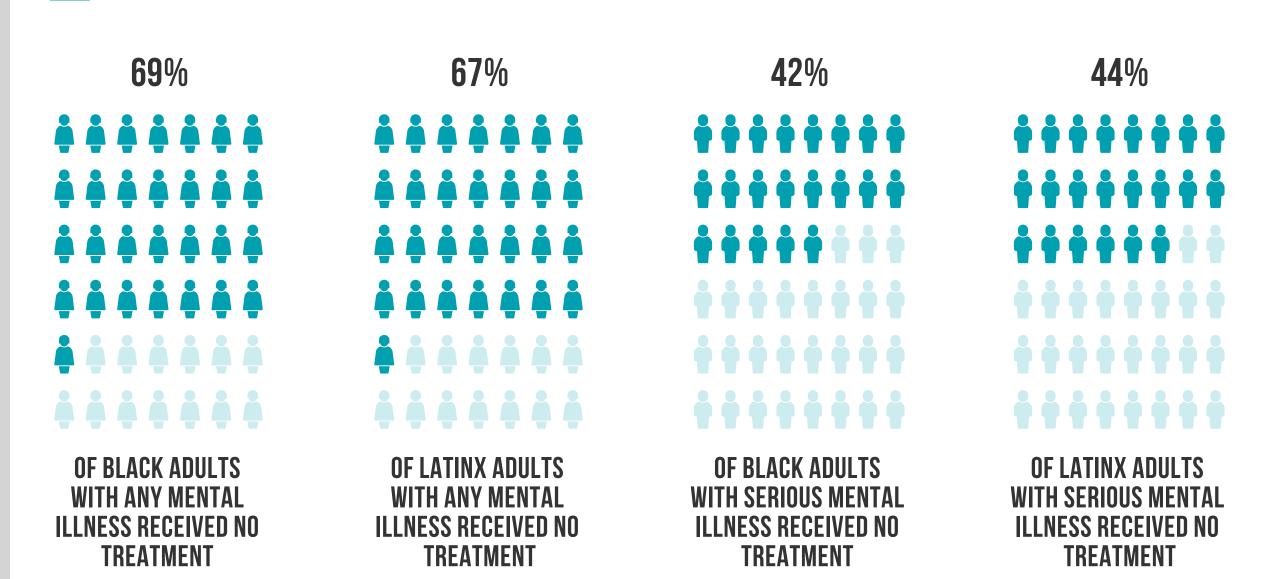
(p<.003) to screen positive for major depression. The between-group difference in positive screens was not significant among patients diagnosed as having schizoaffective disorder.

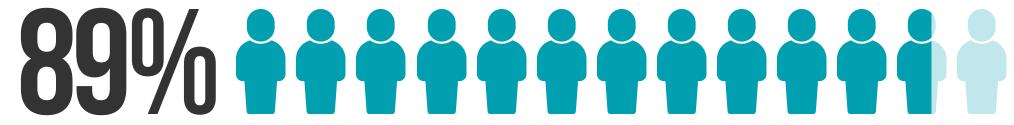
Conclusions: The results are consistent with findings from a large body of literature suggesting that racial differences in the diagnosis of schizophrenia in the United States result in part from clinicians underemphasizing the relevance of mood symptoms among African Americans compared with other racial-ethnic groups. If the results are replicated, a case could be made that routine screen-

TODAY...BLACK PATIENTS ARE MORE LIKELY THAN WHITE PATIENTS TO BE:

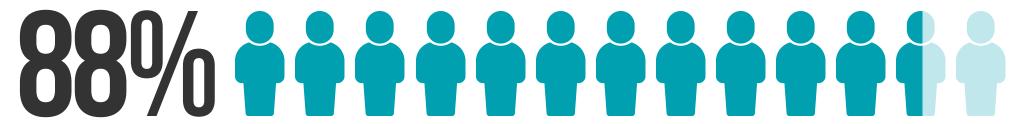
- HOSPITALIZED INVOLUNTARILY
- ADMINISTERED HIGHER DOSES OF ANTIPSYCHOTICS
- ADMINISTERED MEDICATIONS AGAINST THEIR WILL
- SECLUDED AND RESTRAINED

IN 2018:





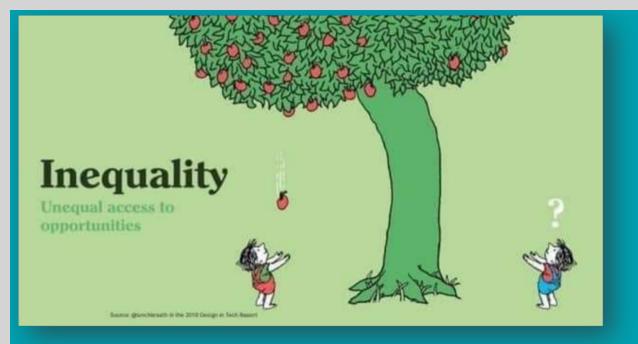
of Latinx adults with substance use disorders reported receiving no treatment

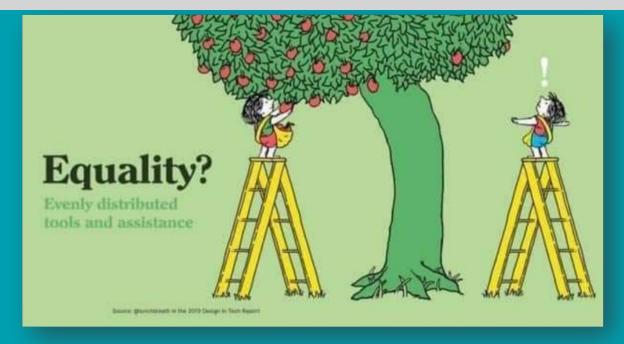


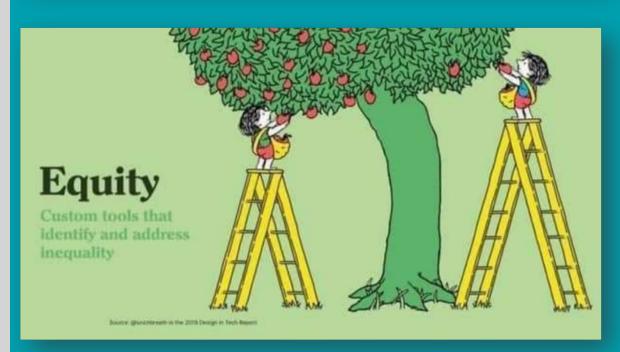
of Black adults with substance use disorders reported receiving no treatment

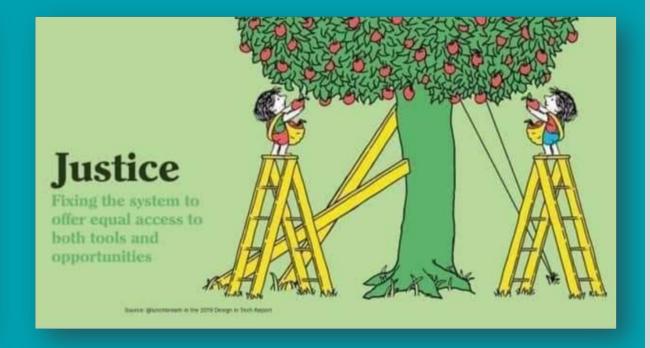
COST IS THE MOST COMMONLY CITED REASON FOR NOT SEEKING CARE TWICE AS OFTEN AS MINIMIZATION OF SYMPTOMS AND NEARLY FIVE TIMES AS OFTEN AS STIGMA

WHERE DO WE NEED TO GO?









DISMANTLING STRUCTURAL RACISM AND SOCIAL INJUSTICE IN MENTAL HEALTH

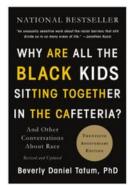
- 1 EDUCATION AND SELF-REFLECTION
- 2 PROMOTE SOCIAL NORMS OF INCLUSION, EQUITY, AND RESPECT
- 3 ADVOCATE FOR RACIALLY EQUITABLE PUBLIC POLICIES

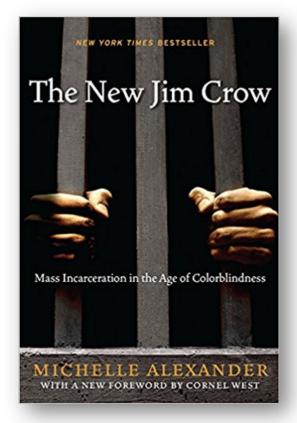
4 SPEAK UP AND TAKE A STAND

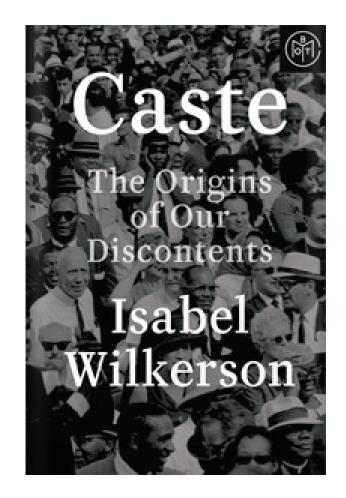
EDUCATION AND SELF-REFLECTION

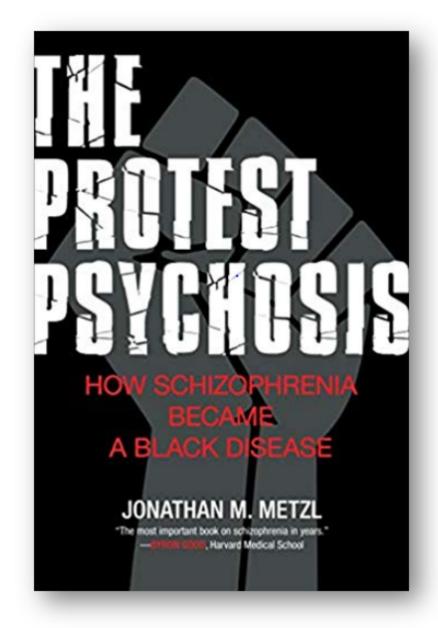


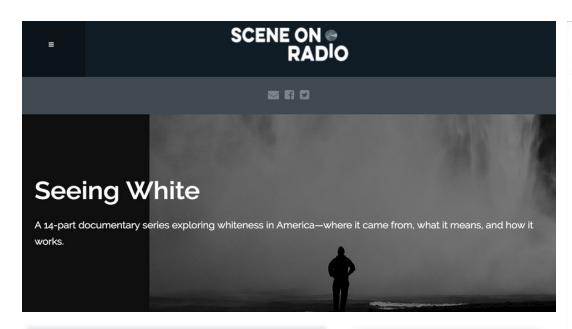




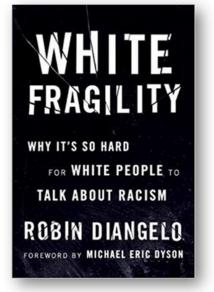


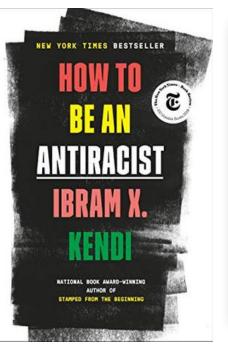


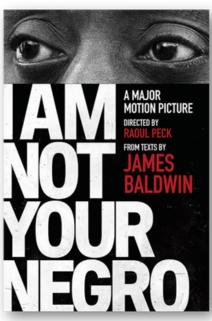














PRACTICING CULTURAL HUMILITY



- COMMIT TO A LIFELONG PROCESS OF SELF-EVALUATION AND SELF-CRITIQUE
- DESIRE TO FIX POWER IMBALANCES BETWEEN PROVIDERS AND CLIENTS
- DEVELOP COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS TO ADVOCATE WITHIN THE LARGER ORGANIZATIONS IN WHICH WE PARTICIPATE





PROMOTE SOCIAL NORMS OF INCLUSION, EQUITY, AND RESPECT



"WE CAN DISAGREE AND STILL LOVE EACH OTHER, UNLESS YOUR DISAGREEMENT IS ROOTED IN MY OPPRESSION AND DENIAL OF MY HUMANITY AND RIGHT TO EXIST."

-James Baldwin

PROMOTING SOCIAL NORMS OF INCLUSION, EQUITY, AND RESPECT

- 1 ENFORCE SOCIAL NORMS OF INCLUSION AND EQUITY
- 2 EDUCATE OR LEGISLATE TO CHANGE SOCIAL NORMS

- OBSERVE AND CHALLENGE YOUR IMPLICIT BIASES
- 4 EVALUATE AND BREAK DOWN UNNECESSARY HIERARCHIES

ADVOCATE FOR RACIALLY EQUITABLE PUBLIC POLICIES



"MEDICINE IS A SOCIAL SCIENCE, AND POLITICS IS NOTHING ELSE BUT MEDICINE ON A LARGE SCALE."
-RUDOLPH VIRCHOW

"ALL POLICIES ARE HEALTH POLICIES"

- TAKE ACTION BEYOND THE WALLS OF CLINICS, HOSPITALS, AND TREATMENT CENTERS
- ADVOCATE FOR POLICIES THAT ADDRESS SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF MENTAL HEALTH
- OFFICIALS AND PROMOTE EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION
- FORM CROSS-SECTOR
 COLLABORATIONS AND
 COMMUNITY COALITIONS

"IF YOU SEE SOMETHING THAT IS NOT RIGHT, NOT FAIR, NOT JUST, YOU HAVE A MORAL OBLIGATION TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT."

