The Intersection of Race and Oral Health

2019 Virginia Oral Health Summit

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Appearance: Robert Noriega  (Petersburg Public Library)
If these teeth could talk,
what stories would they tell?
LeBron James
The Original Indicators of ACEs

- Physical, sexual and verbal abuse.
- Physical and emotional neglect.
- A family member who is:
  - depressed or diagnosed with other mental illness;
  - addicted to alcohol or another substance;
  - in prison.
- Witnessing a mother being abused.
- Losing a parent to separation, divorce or other reason.
A different way of looking at Adverse Childhood Experiences

The Philadelphia ACEs Study

- Looking beyond people’s brokenness to see their sea of strengths
- Effectively working with people dealing with their underlying trauma
- Understanding what lays beneath the surface of addiction
- Seeing trauma as an injury and helping people heal from injury
The Philadelphia Expanded ACEs questions look at Community-Level Adversity

| Witness Violence | – How often, if ever, did you see or hear someone being beaten up, stabbed, or shot in real life? |
| Felt discrimination | While you were growing up…How often did you feel that you were treated badly or unfairly because of your race or ethnicity? |
| Adverse Neighborhood Experience | Did you feel safe in your neighborhood? Did you feel people in your neighborhood looked out at each other, stood up for each other and could be trusted? |
| Bullied | How often were you bullied by a peer or classmate? |
| Lived in foster care | Were you ever in foster care? |
THE THREE “Rs”

RACE – A Social Construct

Race is not biological. It is a social construct. There is no gene or cluster of genes common to all blacks or all whites. Were race “real” in the genetic sense, racial classifications for individuals would remain constant across boundaries. 2016 NY Times

RACISM – Power Differential

Racism is the belief that a particular race is superior or inferior to another, that a person’s social and moral traits are predetermined by his or her inborn biological characteristics. Racial separatism is the belief, most of the time based on racism, that different races should remain segregated and apart from one another. www.ADL.org

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION - Behavior

Discrimination is the practice of treating one person or group of people less fairly or less well than other people or groups….Collins dictionary
Factors That Impact Health

- Environment
  - Environmental determinants of health

- Society
  - Social determinants of health

- Individual
  - Individual determinants of health
    - Personally acquired potential
    - Biologically given potential

  - Demands of life
Social Inequality
Racial Discrimination
Institutional Racial Discrimination

SORRY, MY CLIENTS DON'T LIKE THE COLOUR OF YOUR TIE...

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Protecting You and Your Environment
www.vdh.virginia.gov

PETERSBURG WELLNESS CONSORTIUM
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT. COLLABORATION. AND PARTNERSHIPS
Exposure To Racial Discrimination
Racial Socialization
Healthcare Inequities

2003-Institute of Medicine-Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare

- Cardiac medications or to undergo bypass surgery
- Kidney dialysis or transplants
- Treatments for HIV infection
- Less-desirable procedures, such as lower limb amputations

2016-University of Virginia Study

- White medical students and residents hold false beliefs about biology differences between Black and White people (e.g. Black people’s skin is thicker, Black people’s blood coagulates more quickly)
- More than half of the students and residents held one or more false beliefs about Black people
Conceptual Framework for Health Outcomes

Exposure to racial discrimination

Exposure at the microsystem (individual) level:
- Childhood experiences of racial discrimination (eg, teasing, bullying, isolation)
- Observation of parent, family member, and peer experiences of racial discrimination
- Quality of parenting and racial socialization

Exposure at the macrosystem (structural) level:
- Media
- Schools (eg, teachers)
- Social, political, and economic policies
- Police and other adults

Psychological and biological responses

Psychological distress:
- Decreased self-efficacy
- Depression
- Hopelessness
- Anxiety
- Anger/aggression
- Perceptions of injustice/lower levels of empathy

Changes in allostatic load:
- Decreased immune function
- Increased cortisol levels
- Increased blood pressure
- Increased heart rate

Child health outcomes and disparities

Health outcomes and disparities related to:
- Increased likelihood of low birth weight or premature birth
- Increased risk behaviors such as drug use and/or sexual risk-taking
- Increased aggression/violent behaviors
- Increased risk of chronic illness such as cardiovascular disease
- Increased susceptibility to infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS
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Trauma-Informed Care & Resilience

- **Realizes** the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery;
- **Recognizes** the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved with the system;
- **Responds** by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices; and
- Seeks to actively resist “re-traumatization.”
WHY WE DO THIS WORK?

CONCERNED
About the relationship of racial injustice

CHALLENGED
By the need to do something about it

COMMITTED
To Healing Our People Everyday (HOPE)
Racial Inequity

Trauma
RESOURCES

Southside Trauma Informed Community Network [www.yourunitedway.org/Petersburg]

International Listening Association
Resources: [https://listen.org/Listening_Resources_New]

The Theatre Lab School of the Dramatic Arts Life Stories: [https://theatrelab.org/content/life-stories]

Code of Virginia: [https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode]

ACEs Connection: [https://www.acesconnection.com/g/resource-center]

Veto Violence: [https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/acestudy/resources.html]

Youtube: [https://www.youtube.com/]

Virginia Department of Health: [http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/]
Questions?
Thank You!!!!

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