**WHAT ARE SOCIAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN RACE?**

Throughout history, the African American population has encountered many difficulties, such as institutionalized racism, discrimination, and injustice. African Americans' physical, social, and economic well-being have been significantly impacted by these challenges. We'll talk about some of the most important challenges confronting African Americans in this presentation.

Let us begin.

**disparities in health**

In comparison to other racial and ethnic groups in the US, African Americans have considerable health disparities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that African Americans have higher rates of HIV/AIDS, infant mortality, and chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. Poverty, limited access to healthcare, and prejudice within the healthcare system are just a few of the many interrelated variables that contribute to these discrepancies.

**Racism and Discrimination**

The African American race is significantly harmed by racism and discrimination, both psychologically and physically. The two types of racism that can affect African Americans are interpersonal racism, which describes prejudice and discriminatory actions directed at people based on their race or ethnicity, and institutional racism, which describes formal and informal policies and practices that deny people with rights due to their race or ethnic group affiliation. Racism can have an impact on African Americans' mental health by forcing them to internalize the racial stereotypes that their oppressors held about them and by allowing society to discount their value as individuals. Racist stressors may also enhance physiological response, which over time might result in diseases and disorders of the cardiovascular system.

The stress of coping with structural racism can contribute to increased disease and early death, and long-term exposure to racism and unfair treatment is associated with higher rates of morbidity and mortality. People of color are more likely to experience discrimination, one of the social determinants of health, which increases their chance of developing Covid-19 as well as other diseases like Type 2 diabetes, stroke, cancer, and renal disease.

Although they might not be aware of it, African Americans frequently face daily challenges that could harm their psychological or physical health. Stress can have a severe physiological and psychological impact as a result of racism and discrimination. For instance, African Americans who encountered prejudice while sitting at a lunch counter felt a great deal of stress.

 Inequality in access to healthcare and impediments to economic opportunity are further effects of racism, which is also pervasive in the healthcare system.

Despite the advancements, persisting inequality is still a big concern. If racism were the main issue, racial-conscious solutions could be suitable. White racism was formerly at the center of the narrative, but things are much more complicated now. Closing the skills gap is the first step towards black growth, and education is the name of practically every route on the map of racial progress. The whole question of racial preferences is resolved by achieving educational parity.

**Electoral Rights**

Voting rights in the US have been a difficult topic for generations, especially for African Americans. Voting rights for citizens were not explicitly stated in the original U.S. Constitution, and until 1870, only white men were permitted to cast ballots. African Americans were still denied the right to vote by state constitutions and laws, poll taxes, literacy tests, the "grandfather clause," and outright intimidation after the Fifteenth Amendment (ratified in 1870) granted voting rights to men of all races.

Despite the 14th and 15th amendments protecting African Americans' civil rights, white supremacist state governments in the South regularly removed their ability to vote. For instance, in 1940, fewer than 1% of black men in Mississippi were registered to vote.

It was only until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were the policies that denied African Americans in Southern states the right to vote abolished.

States have continued to pass legislation that impose new restrictions on voting rights, such as voter ID requirements and early voting restrictions, notwithstanding these constitutional amendments and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Those who have historically been marginalized, such as African Americans, are disproportionately impacted by these policies.

**Opioid Crisis**

Urban neighborhoods and Black Americans are being disproportionately affected by the opioid problem. Of all the races examined, African Americans saw the largest increase in opioid overdose deaths (OODs) between 2015 and 2017. While the rates for other racial and ethnic groups remained stable or even fell, the number of opioid overdose deaths among non-Hispanic Black people increased by 38% in four U.S. states between 2018 and 2019. Across the nation, African Americans are dying at a quicker rate than White people. The change prompts inquiries into the factors that are behind the widening gap in addiction treatment and prevention. In Minnesota, African Americans and American Indians die from drug overdoses at rates that are higher than those of white people.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, the African American community continues to face numerous challenges, including health disparities, racism and discrimination, voting rights, and the opioid crisis. These issues are deeply rooted in our society and require a multifaceted approach to address. It is important that we work together to promote equality and justice for all, and to ensure that the African American community has access to the resources and support they need to thrive.

**POLICIES THAT WILL HELP TO STOP THIS ISSUES**

Numerous initiatives could aid in addressing the social and economic problems that African Americans face. Here are a few instances:

1. Systemic Alterations: In order to combat institutionalized racism and sexism, systemic changes are required. Politicians must be deliberate in their support of Black boys and men and pay close attention to how institutionalized racism and sexism intertwine in society. Anything less than a comprehensive overhaul in the system will allow it to carry on operating the way it was intended to, to the detriment of Black males.
2. New Approaches: African American communities should be included in new initiatives that were previously shunned, demonized, or ignored by policymakers. These initiatives should address the injustices experienced by these communities and advance a racial and economic justice agenda.
3. Eliminating Discriminatory Practices: In order to increase homeownership rates, policies should improve homeownership access, lower homeownership costs, and do away with discriminatory practices and laws that deny black families the same benefits as white families.
4. Promoting equality: To promote equality for all people and build a more equitable society, the federal government should adopt a comprehensive strategy.
5. Support for Black Businesses: In order to promote Black communities, Black Americans support Black businesses.
6. Reparations: Black Americans are in favor of financial aid for education, businesses, and homes.

These policies are just a few examples of what could be done to address the issues affecting African Americans. It is important to note that direct action must be taken to change an American system built on suppression, oppression, and the concentration of power and wealth. Changing U.S. institutions such as policing, courts and prison systems is also important.