**Social issues affecting the African American race**

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African Americans builds up 13.4 % of the U.S. population ( Quick Facts, U. S. Census Bureau, 2019) Over a number of years , amicably, since the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968. According to the Economic Policy Institute, educational facilities have widely increased, with more than approximately 90% of African Americans ahaving graduated from high school. It has also been noted that African Americans are also living longer, since by now, a vast number of them have some form of health insurance coverage. However, most of them are still experiencing illness and infirmity at extensively higher proportions and have lower life expectancy than other racial and ethnic groups. In additionally, They are also one of the most economically disadvantaged group of people in this American Continents.

Firstly, Despite coverage gains, the issue of Healthcare Service still remains a major challenge among the African Americans. Lack of Medicaid expansion in key states, health gaps , and health care provider shortages make it more harder to address their health care needs in a comprehensive dimension. And while these challenges are components that touch a great number of Americans in various parts of the country, the gravity of them is uniquely visible in the South, and among the African-American population.

Due to residential segregation, a huge number of African-American areas are more vulnerable of lacking hospitals and other health care facilities (Darell J. Gaskin et al., 2012). When health care providers and facilities are centralized within majority of African-American and Hispanic neighborhoods, they tend to offer lower-quality care services.. Traveling outside along the immediate geographic settlement to access health care services may be an option for some people, yet this can be a challenge due to lack of transportation fee for those with limited incomes or for those living in rural areas, under a low standard of living.

Poverty, income inequality, wealth inequality, food insecurity, and the lack of affordable housing are among the major challenges that revolves around this group of people, just after discussing the issue of health care and service providence. Moreover, another important social factor with a great disadvantage among the African Americans is racism, not only is it a stressor, but also impacts who gets what in America.

African Americans have endured racism within American society for hundreds of years now. Many studies and researches conducted over time have been consistent in proving that racism not only impacts social stratification, but also the pact of African Americans to be healthy—both mentally and physically( University of Southern California, May 31st, 2019). This tragedy —a burden that is indeed inescapable for black and brown people in this country—causes many African Americans to die prematurely and experience chronic illnesses and mental health challenges at higher rates than white Americans. It creates many obstacles to economic opportunity and uneven access to health care and other Social services . As per the say, Racism cannot be sidelined from the other social factors outlined in this study, which give reasons to why African Americans are disproportionately affected by them.

In additionally, according to the research that was done, the poverty rate among African Americans was 20.8 percent in 2018, higher than of any other racial or ethnic group in the United States, and more than twice the poverty rate of the white Americans(US. Census Bureau, 2018-2019). Growing up in poverty is also associated with toxic stress. When majority of African Americans are able to attain work, they are more likely to work in lower salary jobs that have little benefits on them. Their poverty rate also indicates how critical public programs such as Medicaid are established, helping to ensure access to health care for this population.

Food insecurity is also an issue affecting many African Americans and has important implications for social/health outcomes and economic well-being. Food insecurity occurs when a household or family lacks access to adequate nutritious food (Craig Gundersen et al., 2015) This manifests due to inadequate financial means to purchase healthy food. Among the ten U.S. counties with the highest food insecurity rates, at least 60 % are those of the African-Americans

(African American Hunger and Poverty Facts,” Feeding America, accessed October 1, 2019) African Americans experience hunger more higher than the white Americans.Hunger makes them vulnerable to chronic illness and has been responsible for low-birth weight, diabetes, cancer, pregnancy complications, and mental distress.

Unfortunately, many African Americans have to grapple with neighborhood violence and environmental elements such as a lack of clean water, exposure and pollution that can negatively affect both their mental and physical health. Furthermore, A relative lack of affordable housing continues to cripple the African-American community, largely due to a long-term racist practices in relation to subprime mortgages. The lack of affordable housing installs a financial struggle on families which hinders them from acquiring majority of basic necessities.

**Policies**

Unfortunately, current health reform plans fall short in adequately addressing racism in the health care system. This stands in the way of ensuring health equity, namely full insurance coverage and quality health care access for African Americans. This policy will timidly help to cope up with the issues of health service providence.

On the other hand, Improving employment rates and opportunities as a policy will help in fighting poverty among the African American communities. On average, these people experience higher unemployment rates, lower labor force participation rates, and lower earnings than their fellow counterparts. These trends are not only indicative of lower economic power, but also lower the access to quality healthcare, and fewer social connections. To highly address this, the policy should promote and foster better employment opportunities for them. As a starting point, improving their educational outcomes will largely improve their chances in the labor market. But beyond that, this policy should aim to match unemployed individuals with gaps in the labor market.

Viably , there is a rapid growth within the health, education, administration, and literacy sectors. The Policy should respond by providing scholarships, sponsorship and other incentives to encourage more African Americans to become nurses, teachers, social workers, and other similar professions.

Furthermore, to cope up with the challenge of poor housing, more projects should be introduced i. E. Housing projects and many more. Not only will it create more job opportunities but also curb this challenge by ensuring that everyone is stable and well off when it comes to housing management hence improving their living standards.

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