

## Health Disparities Abstract Readings

### COVID-19 and the Widening Gap in Health Inequity

by Helene J. Krouse, PhD, RN

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has brought to light significant health inequities that have existed in our society for decades. Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans, and immigrants are the populations most likely to experience disparities related to burden of disease, health care, and health outcomes. Increasingly, national and state statistics on COVID-19 report disproportionately higher mortality rates in blacks. There has never been a more pressing time for us to enact progressive and far-reaching changes in social, economic, and political policies that will shape programs aimed at improving the health of all people living in the United States.

Reflect on the reading:

What questions do you have?

What do you want to know?

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### COVID-19 Pandemic Highlights Racial Health Inequities

by Crystal Johnson-Mann, Monique Hassan, and Shaneeta Johnson

In 1966, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stated, “Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.” These words remain ever true and relevant in our current climate of health care. The COVID-19 pandemic has substantially affected health care on a global scale and has magnified the inequities in access to health care that existed before. This pandemic has highlighted the equity gap in outcomes for marginalized communities, specifically the Black community, as starkly shown by the disparate morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 in individuals from these communities compared with the majority white population.

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