

Social Determinants of Health and Tackling Health Disparities

Link: [Social Determinants of Health: What are they and how do they impact the health of populations? - YouTube](#) Developed in partnership by Clinical Scholars and the UNC Center for Health Equity Research [March 2021 (7 mins)]

YouTube description: “this video explains the foundational impact of structural racism, social determinants of health and their impact on historically marginalized populations and steps necessary to achieving health equity in affected communities.”

“Tackling Health Disparities” Lisa Cooper MD,

Link: [Tackling ethnic health disparities: Lisa Cooper at TEDxBaltimore 2014 - YouTube](#) (21 mins)

Dr Cooper, MD, MPH, a MacArthur “genius” award grantee, is a Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Public Medicine at Johns Hopkins University and the Director of Health Equity. She has devoted her research career to Health Disparities with a focus on doctor-patient communications, and the role that race and ethnicity play in the delivery and quality of care that a patient receives. Dr. Cooper grew up in Liberia as the privileged daughter of a surgeon and librarian, and descendent of freed slaves and rural farmers. Her parents were community activists who ran the Cooper Clinic that served a culturally and economically diverse patients. On Dr. Cooper’s 17th birthday, her world was upended. The government was overthrown and families like hers—privileged in class—were terrorized and killed. Her family survived but her early experiences informed her life and work. In this 2014 video, Dr. Cooper describes the communication gaps in the United States between white doctors (and nurses and health care workers) and their Black, less educated patients, and how it parallels the care she observed in Liberia with respect to a privileged class caring for an underprivileged one. Dr. Cooper shares a turning point in her own residency in a Baltimore hospital when her next patient was a Black woman with HIV; Dr. Cooper found herself making assumptions—based on the patient’s socio-demographics—about how the virus was contracted, but then met the woman who, “could have been one of my friends or family but for the fate of birth.”

Based on their experiences, Black patients have less trust in the health care and fewer opportunities to participate in decision making regarding their care. Dr Cooper reports that health care visits between white providers and Black patients are shorter than those with white patients and less friendly, and both the patients and physicians are rushed. She created a study using the Implicit Assessment Test that demonstrated white physicians’ implicit or subconscious bias leading to poor communication with Black patients, as well as those patients rating the physicians poorly. To address this, her team successfully trained doctors in communications skills, and enlisted Community Health Workers to support Black patients in partnership skills. “We live in a class-conscious society,” and our programed very early to favor the “influential and powerful.” Her work proves, in terms of disparities, “Biases can be learned but they can be unlearned.”

[Social Determinants of Health: What are they and how do they impact the health of populations? - YouTube](#) (2017 [7 mins])

[Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare: Myths Busted - YouTube](#) [Sept. 2021 (3 mins)]
Dr. Minal Patel from the U-M School of Public Health describes 5 Common Disparity Myths

Myth 1: Health Disparities are a thing of the past

Myth 2: We will never close the gap

Myth 3: Disparities only appear in “urban settings”

Myth 4: Whites are the healthiest race

Myth 5: Health measurements for Blacks have not improved

Additional Resources:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PH4JYfF4Ns> The Social Determinants of Health—an introduction (June 2017 [6.5 mins]) Ranil Appuhamy, MPH, consultant to the WHO

Implicit Assessment Test <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>

COVID-19 and Health Equity—A New Kind of “Herd Immunity” David R. Williams, PhD, MPH; Lisa A. Cooper, MD, MPH www.chausa.org/docs/default-source/diversity-and-disparities/jama_williams_herd-immunity.pdf?sfvrsn=2

<https://www.who.int/teams/social-determinants-of-health>

<https://www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/>

“The Color of Health: The Devastating Toll of Racism on Black Lives” published by Common Ground is an excellent primer: [37712-common-ground-health-book-reader-spreads-fix.pdf](#)

[racial-disparities-COVID19_V5_April-July-2020.pdf](#)