



# **Unequal Treatment Revisited: The Current State of Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare**

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**National Academies of Science,  
Engineering and Medicine**

**Virtual Public Session**

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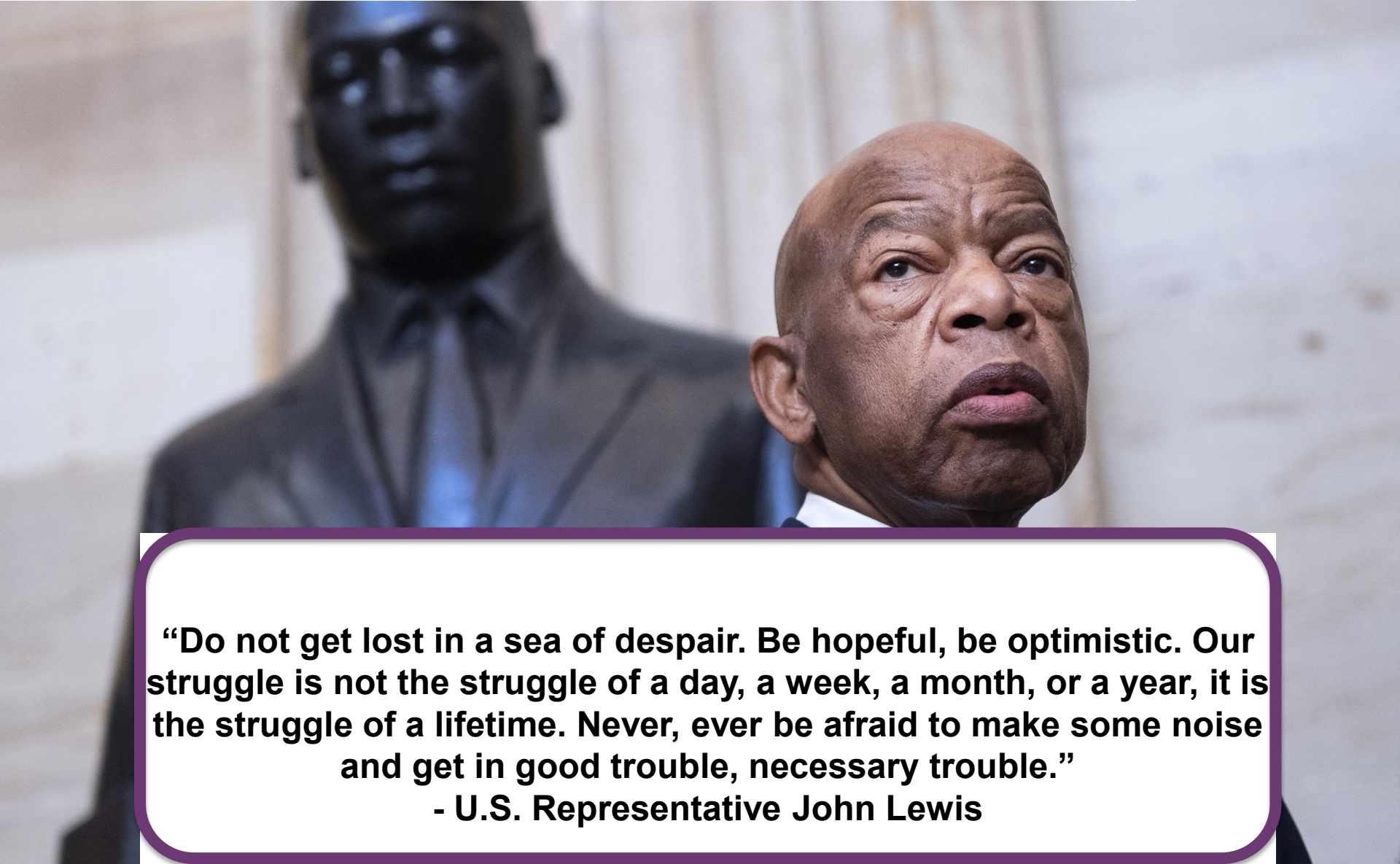
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- **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality**
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- **National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases**



# Black History Month **Acknowledgment**



**“Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble.”**

**- U.S. Representative John Lewis**



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# Health Disparities: Race, Ethnicity, & SES

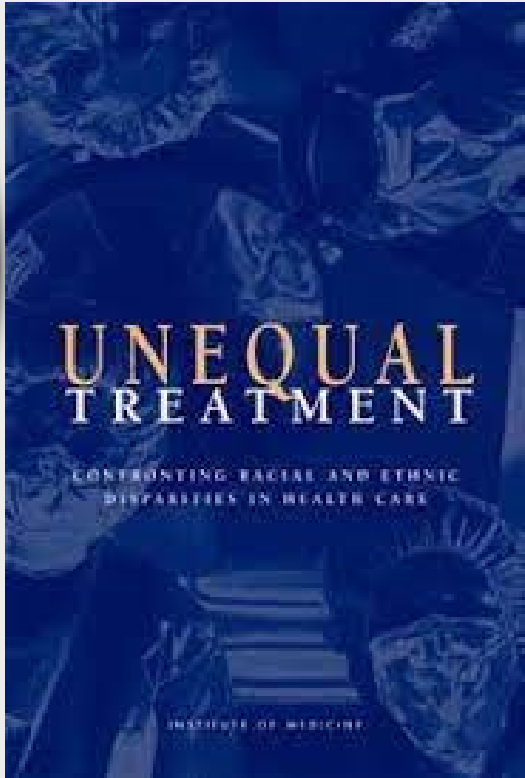
Stroke  
Cancer  
Heart  
Disease  
  
Diabetes  
Hypertension  
Infant  
Mortality  
  
COVID-19



**Most chronic diseases are more common among persons with less privileged SES**



## Racism and (Poor) Health



- Inferior medical care
- Physician implicit bias associated with biased recommendations
- Fewer and less aggressive medical treatments
- Less likely to be selected for organ transplantation
- More likely to be excluded from clinical trials



# Unequal Treatment Revisited

**The charge for  
the committee**



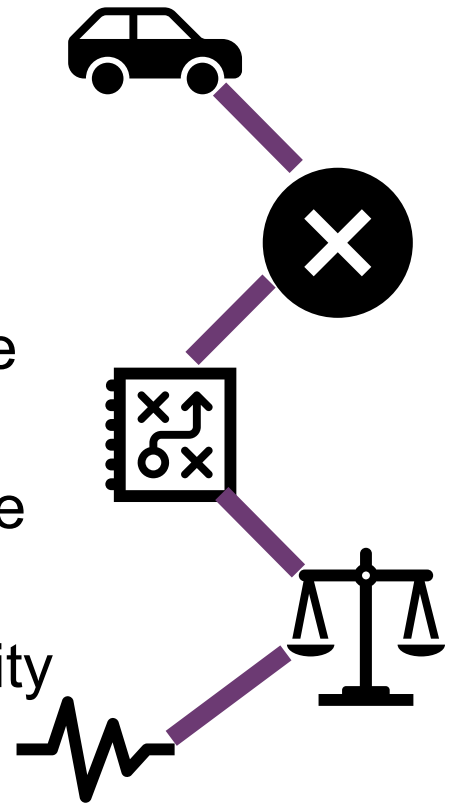
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# Overview: Update the 2003 Institute of Medicine Unequal Treatment report

Conduct a literature review on racial and ethnic healthcare disparities for 2003-2022

- Highlight the major drivers of healthcare disparities
- Identify successful and unsuccessful interventions
- Identify gaps in the evidence base and propose strategies to address these
- Consider methods to scale and spread effective interventions
- Offer recommendations to advance health equity







# Workplan Overview

- **Task 1:** Convene an interdisciplinary committee of ~15 experts; meet at least five times over the course of the study
- **Task 2:** Plan and conduct a scoping review and prepare a report with findings, conclusions, and recommendations.
- **Task 3:** Organize virtual public sessions to obtain insight on racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare, current and new approaches to alleviate disparities
- **Task 4:** Publish a final consensus report appropriate for dissemination to various audiences

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## Task 2: Conduct a Scoping Review

- Provide status update on:



- Implementation of IOM recommendations
- Whether specific healthcare disparities have improved, remained the same, or worsened



- Focus on OMB defined racial and ethnic groups
- Consider socioeconomic status as the second pillar to address unequal treatment
- Report disaggregated findings by family country of origin where available



# Key Topics for the Scoping Review

- **Societal** factors such as bias, racism and discrimination, intersectionality
- **Policy** factors at the federal, state and local levels
- **Technological** factors such as bias in diagnostic tools and algorithms, access to internet, digital literacy
- **Healthcare System** factors
- **Geographic** factors such as variability in SDOH, Limited English Proficiency, access to social services for acute and chronic conditions
- Clinical training and education and **diversity** of the **workforce**



# Key Topics for the Scoping Review

- Insurance coverage, **access**, utilization and quality of care
- **Primary care** in the continuity of outpatient settings
- Disparities across the **lifespan**
- **Interventions** that have been most effective at the local, state, and federal levels
- **Community-based** approaches that have addressed access, utilization and quality of care
- **Community engaged research** approaches that are replicable and scalable





# Task 3: Organize Virtual Public Sessions

To collect information and input from interested parties.

Topics can include:

- **Social determinants of health** in clinical care, ways of taking social context and social needs into consideration
- **Policy changes** that have reduced disparities in healthcare
- **Role of primary care physicians** in addressing disparities
- **Resources necessary** for addressing upstream determinants of healthcare disparities



# Task 4: Publish a Final Consensus Report

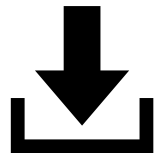
## Will include:

- Methods section clearly outlining the approaches taken
- Evidence from the literature review, focus groups, listening sessions, and public sessions
- Recommendations for future research



## Will be available for free download and disseminated to:

- NIH and other HHS staff
- Academic research community
- The press
- Key agencies and organizations in affected communities
- Other interested parties



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