

Thursday, May 7, 2020 | 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. EST



# COVID-19 Updates: Racial Disparities and Impacts on African Americans

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MIAMI-BNA WEBINAR MAY 7, 2020



## Acknowledgements

- Dr. Martha Dawson, the 13<sup>th</sup> President of the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA), Founded in 1971
- Patrise Tyson, President of the Miami Chapter Black Nurses Association
- Dr. Millicent Gorham, Executive Director of NBNA
- Board Members of NBNA & Miami-BNA Board Members
- All Chapter Leaders & Members of NBNA
- Happy Nurses Month to all Everyone! According to the World Health Organization and American Nurses Association, 2020 is the Year of the Nurse and Nurse Midwives
- May is National Mental Health Awareness Month





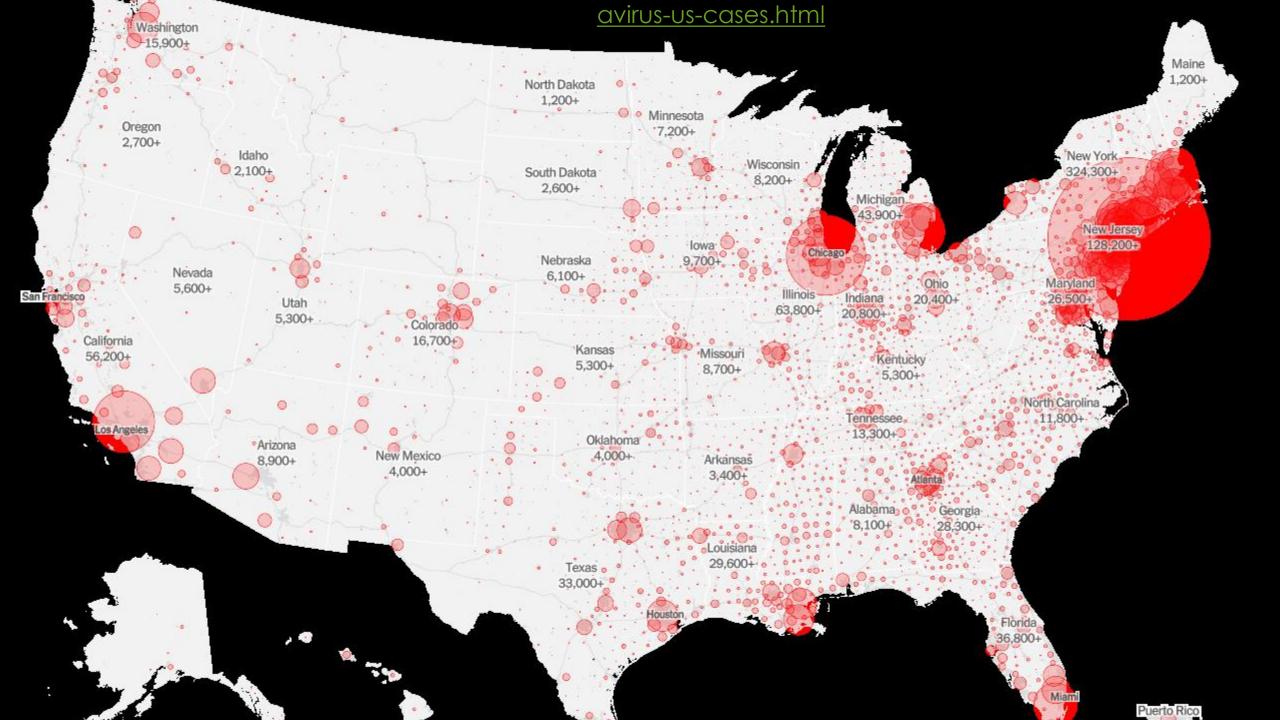
## Objective

Categorize disparities among vulnerable and poor communities.

## Key Message from the U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams, MD, MPH



- Recently, Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams stated that individual behavior leads to higher deaths from Covid-19 among African-Americans.
- On April 10, 2020 during a press briefing of the White House, Dr. Adams stated that "communities of color need to step up and help stop the spread so that we can protect those who are most vulnerable."
- Dr. Adams openly shared his own struggles with high blood pressure, asthma and pre-diabetes, nonetheless added that African-Americans and Latinos should "avoid alcohol, tobacco and drugs.
- ▶ He stated "We need you to do this, if not for yourself, then for your abuela. Do it for your grand daddy. Do it for your big mama. Do it for your pop-pop."



## Confirmed Cases and Deaths in the U.S. ("Hot Spot States") as of May 5, 2020

State/territory	Confirmed cases	Deaths
New York	321,192	25,073
New Jersey	130,690	8,244
Massachusetts	69,087	4,090
Illinois	63,777	2,659
California	56,168	2,289
Pennsylvania	53,434	3,165
Michigan	43,990	4,139
Florida	37,439	1,471

## The Data is Real!

- ▶ The first data released about COVID-19 victims highlights racial disparities systemic racism, socio-economic inequality, and lack of access to health care mean black Americans have a higher mortality rate. The CDC is under pressure to be more transparent about the toll on communities of color.
- ▶ Nearly 3,300 of the nation's 13,000 deaths thus far about 42% were black, according to an Associated Press analysis.
- Drastic numbers have prompted a national civil rights organization to call for federal and state governments to release demographic data out of concerns about delayed care and high mortality rates for African American people, as well as to prevent the faster spread of coronavirus across the nation.

## Alarming Data!

- On April 8, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) released a report drawn from hospital data in 14 states for the month of March. Among 580 patients with race or ethnicity identified, disparities emerged. African Americans make up 13% of the U.S. population, but accounted for 33% of patients sick enough with COVID-19 to be hospitalized.
- President Donald Trump called the impact on African American people a "real problem" at a White House Coronavirus Task Force briefing.
- ➤ Task force member Anthony Fauci, MD, said diseases such as <u>diabetes</u> and **High Blood Pressure** affect minorities to a disproportionate degree, especially African American people.

# Contributing Factors Influencing Racial & Ethnic Minorities Associated with Higher Incidence of COVID-19

- It is well documented that social and health inequities are longstanding and systemic disturbances to the wellness of marginalized, minoritized and medically underserved communities
- Black people are more likely than white people to live in communities with high rates of poverty, where physical and social structures are crumbling, where opportunity is low and unemployment high.
- Living where the streets are unsafe and the air and water are polluted, where adequate health care facilities and outdoor space are lacking and where a dearth of healthful and affordable food creates a "desert" all leads to poorer health outcomes.

# Contributing Factors Influencing Racial & Ethnic Minorities Associated with Higher Incidence of COVID-19

Unequal Treatment

## COVID-19 Common Myths

- Myth: African Americans cannot get COVID-19.
- ▶ Myth: Are black people immune to coronavirus?
- Myth: Having COVID-19 is just like having the flu.
- ▶ Myth: COVID-19 spreads through food.
- Myth: COVID-19 can be spread by mosquitoes.
- Myth: I can get COVID-19 from my pet.
- Myth: Young people do not get COVID-19, only older people and people with other medical conditions are a risk.
- Myth: COVID-19 cannot be transmitted in areas with hot and humid climates.
- Myth: Being in the sun or high temperatures prevents COVID-19.
  - https://marionpublichealth.org/covid-19-myths-versus-facts/?utm\_source=rss&utm\_medium=rss&utm\_campaign=covid-19-myths-versus-facts



# Contributing Factors Influencing Racial & Ethnic Minorities Associated with Higher Incidence of COVID-19

#### Social determinants of health considered:

- ► Low socioeconomic status
- Poor access to healthy foods
- Residential segregation
- Multi-generational households
- Racial segregation,
- Individuals living in rural areas
- Over-represented in jails, prisons, and detention centers

## What do we Know about Healthcare Disparities?

Healthcare disparity is not simply a difference in health outcomes by race or ethnicity, but a disproportionate difference attributable to variables other than access to care

## Social Determinants of Health

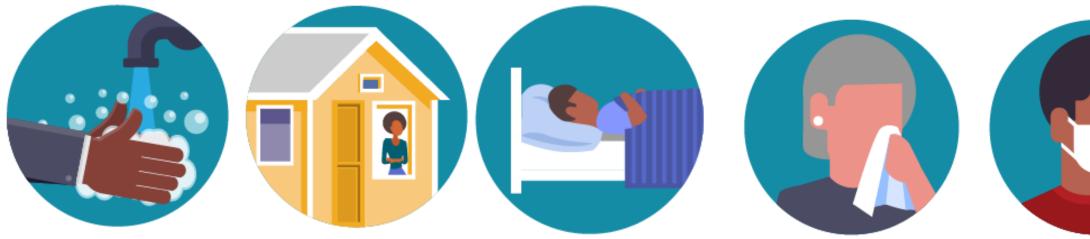
➤ Social determinants of health are conditions in the environment in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks (<a href="https://www.healthypeople.gov">www.healthypeople.gov</a>).

### What Interventions that Can Be Done?

- Shared faith, family, and cultural institutions are common sources of social support.
- Institutions can empower and encourage individuals and communities to take actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- Help community members cope with the stress
- ► The Federal government can collect data to monitor and track disparities among racial and ethnic groups
  - Allocate resources and targeted public health information
  - Support partnerships between scientific researchers, professional organizations, community organizations, and community members to address their need for information to prevent COVID-19 in racial and ethnic minority communities.

## Steps to Prevent Coronavirus Virus

- There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- ▶ The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.
- ▶ Use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands







## Prevent Respiratory Illness

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:



Wash your hands often with soap and water. If you don't have soap and water, use a hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol based.



Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.



Stay home when you're sick, and keep your children home when they're sick.

## Prevent Respiratory Illness







Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

Don't touch or shake hands with people who are sick.

Try not to touch your face with unwashed hands.

### **Persistence of Coronaviruses on Surfaces** Plastic: 5 days Aluminum: 2-8 hours Paper: Surgical 4-5 Gloves: days 8 hours Steel: Glass: 48 hours 4 days Wood: 4 days

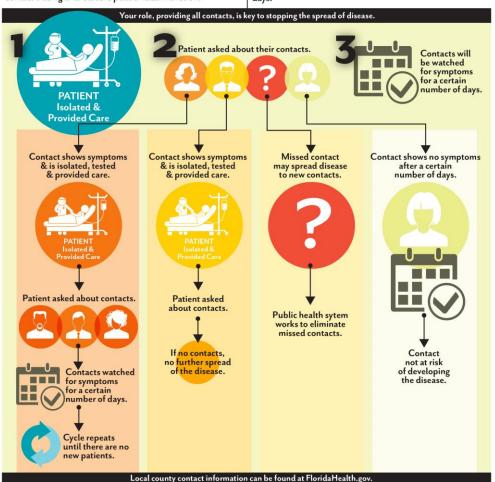


#### Contact Tracing Can Contain Infectious Disease Outbreaks

#### Florida Health.gov • Florida Department of Health

If you are diagnosed with a certain disease, you will be asked by a local public official—an epidemiologist—about everyone with whom you have had contact. The epidemiologist will talk to each person and ask them about their health. This is called contact tracing and is a core public health function.

- Contact tracing tracks and prevents the spread of disease.
- Epidemiologists find everyone who has been in contact with the sick person.
- Contacts are watched for symptoms for a certain number of days.





## COVID-19 General Prevention

Florida Department of Health · FloridaHealth.gov · tinyurl.com/FLcdcprevention

#### Protect yourself from all infectious diseases by using these precautions.



Stay home when you are sick



Avoid contact with people who are sick



Get adequate sleep and eat well-balanced meals



Wash hands often with soap and water – 20 seconds or longer



Dry hands with a clean towel or air dry your hands



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands or after touching surfaces



Cover your mouth with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing



Clean and disinfect "high touch" surfaces often



Call before visiting your doctor

#### Clean all "high-touch" surfaces every day.

High touch surfaces include counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tables, and bedside tables. Also, clean any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them. Use a household cleaning spray or wipe according to the label instructions. Labels contain instructions for safe and effective use of the cleaning product including precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.

### Recommendations from NBNA & NAHN

- Provide culturally tailored, linguistic, and competent programs to help improve health outcomes and quality of life
- Provide adequate COVID-19 health literacy services tailored to the needs of Black and Latino communities with a focus on testing and contact tracing services.
- Ensure that any COVID-19 testing and contact tracing program in hot spot states are set up in accordance with sound cultural competency standards.

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Thank you for your attention!

# Corona Virus Disease Disparities in Nursing and Communities

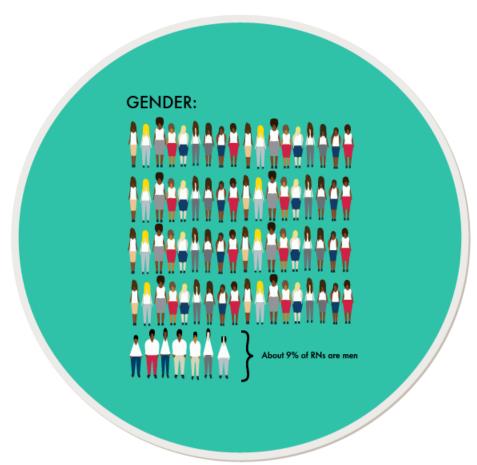


Dr. Linda Washington-Brown

## Objectives

- Categorize disparities among vulnerable and poor communities
  - ► Identify workforce disparities in nursing
  - ► Summarize leading minority health statistics
  - ▶ Describe ethnic data on COVID-19 cases and deaths
  - ▶ Discuss available COVID-19 tests

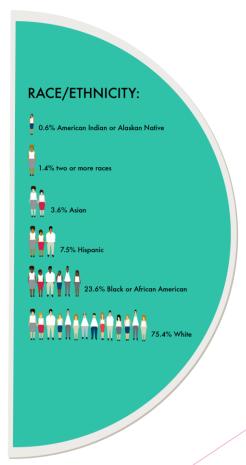
## Ethnic and Gender Workforce Data



- Touries

  1. The US Nursing Workforce: Trends in Supply and Education, Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions, National Center for Health Workforce Analysis, April 2013

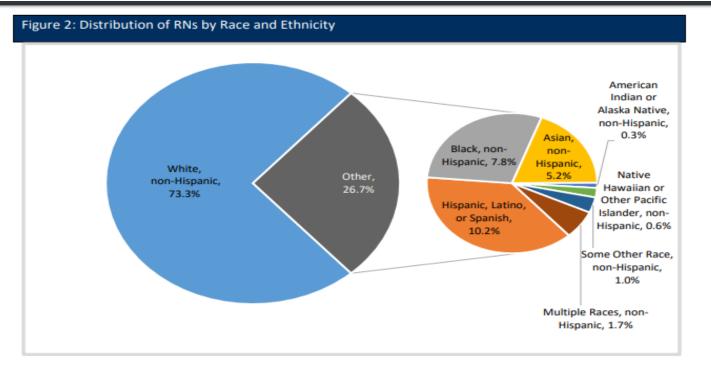
  2. The Registered Nurse Population: Findings from the 2008 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses, US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, September 2010

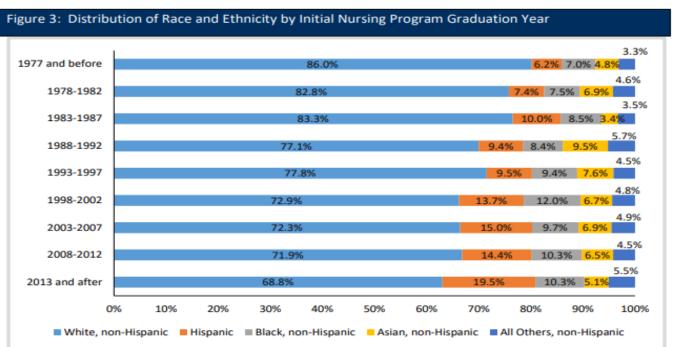


- Sources

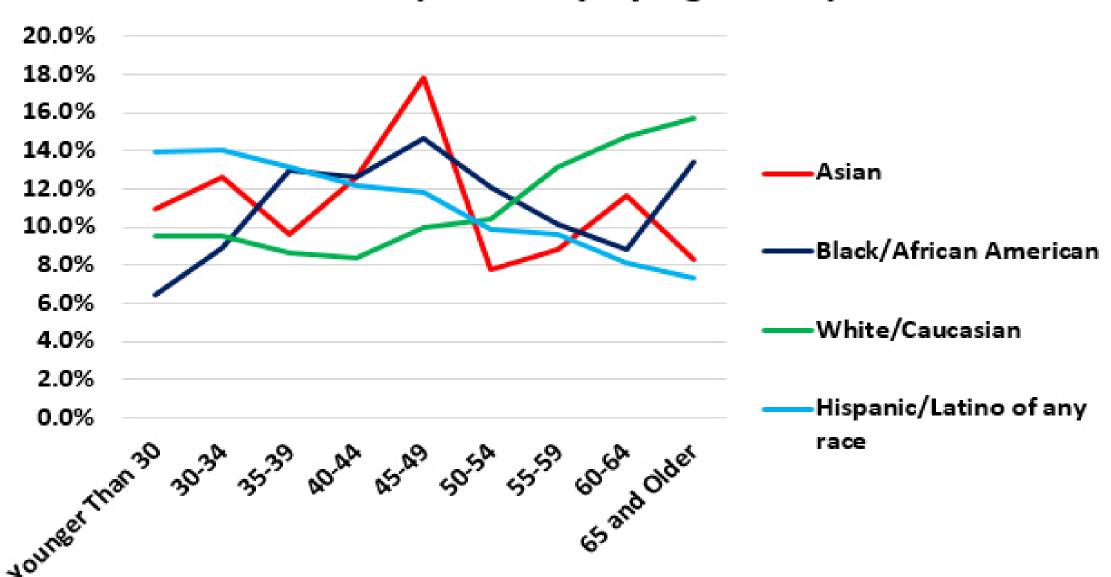
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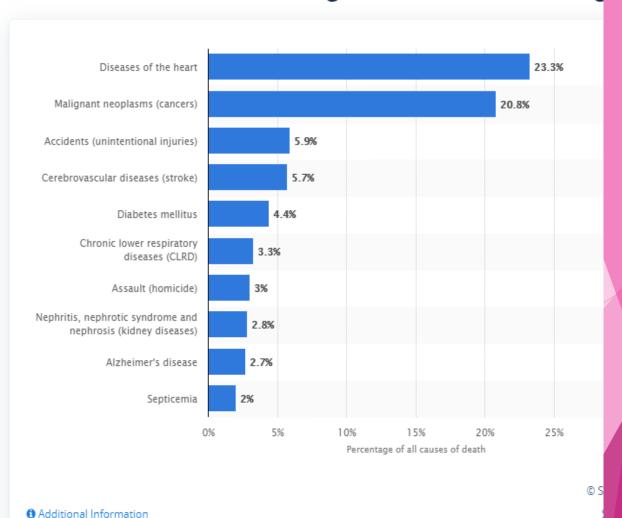
### RN Race/Ethnicity by Age Group



## Ten Leading Causes of Deaths among US Blacks

- Heart Disease
- Malignant neoplasms [cancers]
- Accidents [Unintentional injuries]
- Cerebrovascular diseases [Stroke]
- Diabetes Mellitus
- Chronic lower respiratory diseases
- Assault [homicide]
- Kidney Disease [nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis]
- Alzheimer's
- Septicemia

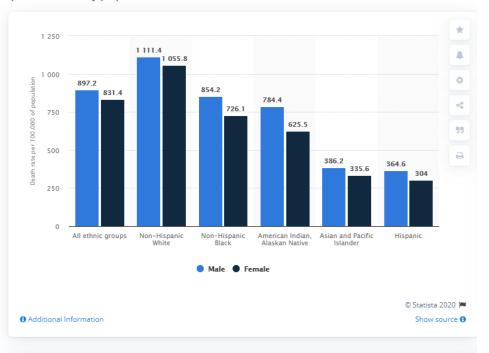
#### Distribution of the 10 leading causes of death among



## Summary of Assessed Health Status

pociety / pernographics

## Death rate in the United States in 2017, by ethnic group and (per 100,000 of population)



Death rate by ethnic group and sex in the U.S. 2017

Published by Erin Duffin, Jul 1, 2019

This statistic displays the total death rate in the United States in 2017, by ethnic group and sex. In 2017,

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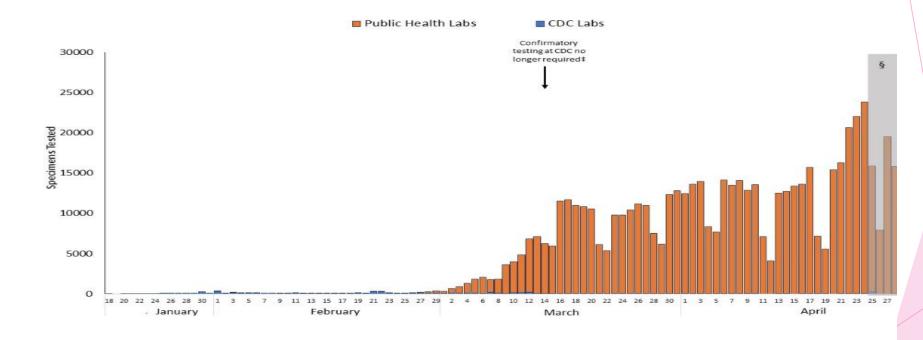
RACE/ ETH	Excellent	V Good	Good	Fair	Poor
White	37.5	32.2	22.0	6.5	1.8
Black	33.5	25.8	27.0	10.8	2.9
A IND	26.4	24.0	30.8	13.0	5.7
Asian	39.1	31.8	20.9	6.2	2.1
P ISL	29.4	26.3	33.3		
HISP	34.3	27.5	25.8	9.6	2.5

## **COVID-19 Tests**

- ▶ If symptomatic [cough, fever, shortness of breath, diarrhea]
- ► Types of Tests
  - Molecular (PCR or isothermal nucleic acid amplification)
  - Serologic (Host antibody)
  - ► Viral (Antigen)
- ► Test Sites
- ► Test Results
- ► Test Limitations

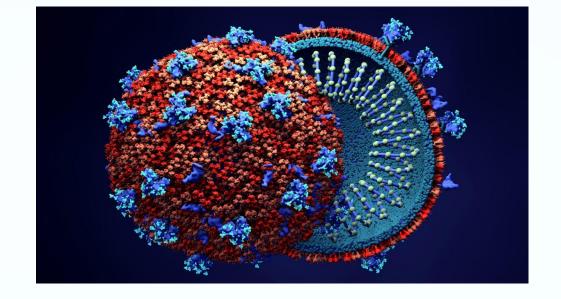
## **COVID Specimens Tested**

Number of specimens tested for SARS CoV-2 by CDC labs (N= 5,591) a U.S. public health laboratories\* (N= 590,981)†



## Summary

- There are grave disparities in the nursing workforce that contributes to the care of vulnerable populations in poor communities
- Minority health statistics show that:
  - ▶ Blacks are 10% less likely to have been diagnosed with breast cancer
  - Blacks are twice as likely to have been diagnosed with diabetes than White Americans
  - ► American Indians / Alaska Natives are 60% more likely than whites to be obese
  - ▶ Blacks are about 60% more likely to have a stoke than White Americans
  - ► American Indians / Alaska Natives are 1.4 times as likely than Whites to be current cigarette smokers.
  - ▶ Blacks account for 13% of the US population but account for 44% of HIV/AIDS
  - Blacks ER visits were 2.8 times higher than whites for asthma related visits.
- COVID-19 test are now arriving in minority communities with long wait times for results.



## Psychological Factors Associated with COVID-19 Crisis

Marjorie Lozama, MSNEd, APRN, PMHNP-BC, CDMS
Thursday, May 7, 2020
Miami Chapter Black Nurses Association

## Objective

 Participants will develop healthy ways to better cope with the stress and anxiety

#### Effect of COVID-19 Pandemic

#### • Public Crisis:

The pandemic creates a kind of forced depression because it disrupts our routine, our plan for the future that normally give us hope. COVID-19 has a mental toll on people especially those already struggling with anxiety, depression and other conditions

(NIH, 2020)

### Common Emotion

- People may experience a common emotion: GRIEF
- Grief over the loss of routine
- Grief over the uncertainties which may provoke fear and anxiety
- Grief of losing loved ones

### STRESS

- Physical and emotional reaction that people experience as they encounter changes in life such as the Covid-19 pandemic
- Stress is a natural physical and mental reaction to life experiences (Fight or Flight response)
- Long term stress may contribute to or worsen any existing condition such as depression, anxiety, insomnia and other mental illnesses



### Stress - Distress

#### Physical Reactions

- Tiredness
- Aches/Headaches
- Clenched jaw
- Upset stomach
- Change in appetite
- Racing heart
- Cold and sweaty palms
- Muscle tightness

#### Emotional Reactions

- Sadness
- Anxiety
- Anger
- Agitation
- Irritability
- Forgetfulness
- Confusion

## Anxiety

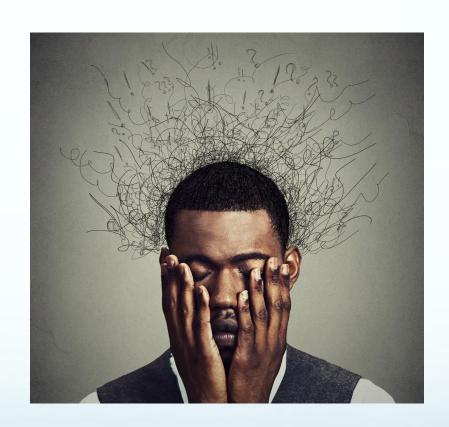
- Feeling of worry, nervousness, or fear about an event or situation
- Anxiety can become severe, a persistent problem that is hard to control and affects day-to day life.
- This can lead to a more serious condition called Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD)

### Generalized Anxiety Disorder

- Displays excessive anxiety or worry most days for at least 6 months
- Fear and anxiety can cause significant problems
- Personal health, work, social interactions, and everyday routine life circumstances can be affected
- Without treatment GAD can develop other more serious condition such as panic disorder

### Signs & Symptoms of Anxiety

- Anxious
- Stress
- Worried
- Fearful
- Low energy
- Lonely
- Overwhelmed
- Frustrated
- Helpless
- Angry



### Depression

 Depression is a common but serious mood disorder. It causes severe symptoms and affect the way you feel, think, and behave and can lead to a variety of emotional and physical problems

### Depression symptoms

- Feeling sad or anxious often or all the time
- Loss of interest or pleasure in hobbies or activities
- Feeling irritable, easily frustrated, or restless
- Eating more than usual or having no appetite
- Difficulty sleeping or oversleeping, fatigue
- Difficulty concentrating, remembering or making decisions
- Feeling guilty, worthless, helpless or hopeless
- Thoughts of death or suicide

### Quarantine/Loneliness

- Loneliness can lead to substance abuse
- Make an abusive situation worst
- Addiction Relapse
- Increase clinical anxiety and depression



### Avoid Unhealthy Coping Mechanism

- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Over-eating



Unhealthy comfort foods

## Managing Stress

- Recognizing how you are feeling can help you manage your stress and better cope
- Manage How you consume the information
- Equip yourself with credible information but do not go into information overload
- Set limit on how much news you watch
- Reframe your thoughts
- Set limit on your social media interaction

## Follow Healthy Daily Routine

- Daily habits can provide a feeling of more control
  - Make your bed
  - Get dressed
  - Connect with loved ones often
  - Move your body
  - Take break time if you work from home
  - Practice good hygiene
  - Get regular good sleep
  - Eat nutritious foods



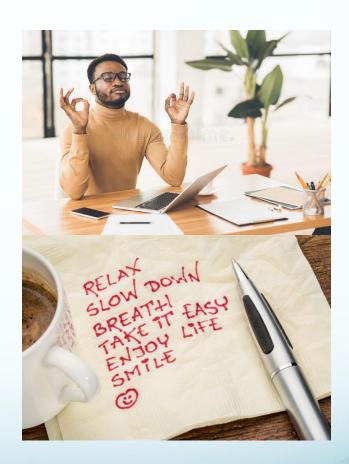
### Take Care of Yourself

- Exercise (Walk, dance, yoga, Zumba)
- Meditate
- Practice Mindfulness
- Positive Affirmations and Visualization
- Free Meditation APPs



### Stress Reducers

- Do meaningful and pleasurable activities with your time
  - Read
  - Learn new skills
  - Create art, build something
  - Journal or write that book
  - Play puzzles or games
  - Take an online course
  - Do tasks around the house; remodel
  - Experiment with Cooking or baking
  - Gardening
  - Prayer



## Stay Connected to Others

- Stay connected via phone, text, and social media
- Offer to help others
- Ask help when needed
- Share your feelings with someone you trust
- Set boundaries on your conversation regarding COVID-19
- Do virtual activities
- Find online support
- Connect to a spiritual or religious community





#### Embrace Technology as a Gateway to the World

- Conduct virtual meetings
- Take Virtual Tours
  - Tour a museum: Le Louvre; British Museum or Museum of Modern Art
  - Watch a virtual concert: London Wigmore or The New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art
  - Home Fitness Center (YMCA, AARP, Go4Life)
  - Expedia

#### Resources

- NAMI Call (800) 950-NAMI (6264) for mental health resources or email info@nami.org
- Crisis support resources o Crisis Text Line: Text "NAMI" to 741741 to chat with a trained crisis counselor - Free 24/7 text line for those in crisis (English only)
- SAMHSA Disaster Distress Helpline: Call (800) 985-5990. If experiencing emotional distress related to natural or humancaused disasters

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: Call (800) 273-TALK
 (8255) please call the toll-free Lifeline to speak with a trained

HELP

crisis counselor 24/7



#### References

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- The National Institutes of Mental Health (NIH) COVID-19. COVID-19 is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation https://www.nih.gov/coronavirus



Nursing Self-Care in the Middle of a Crisis



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#### **Objective**

Apply measures to provide self-care during difficult times

We learn and provide quality nursing care to the masses.

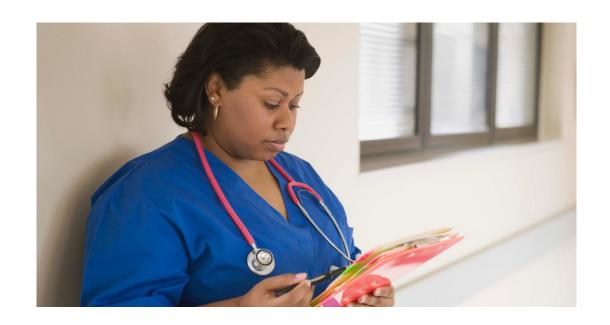
Nurses spend years building, purchasing, organizing, and planning for more life, yet we do not use our gifts.



Most don't walk about with someone's life in their pocket.



After caring for patients in all sorts of environments and on every level of sickness, we adapt and do what we feel is necessary.



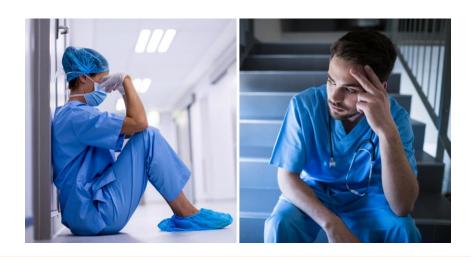
We work long hours on our feet doing direct care, writing budgets, dealing with staffing, traveling to see patients at home or teaching the next generation of nurses.



# Recognize what could trigger emotional breakdown while working as nurse during the COVID-19 crisis.

Question: Can we care for ourselves during our work years?

The layers of situations and moments, in the life of a nurse can lead to emotional overload which is exhibited in different ways. Nurses don't have to like everything but must care no matter what.



# Identify measures that could be taken while working during a crisis.

Imagine taking a "me day" pandemic or not. Just because day.



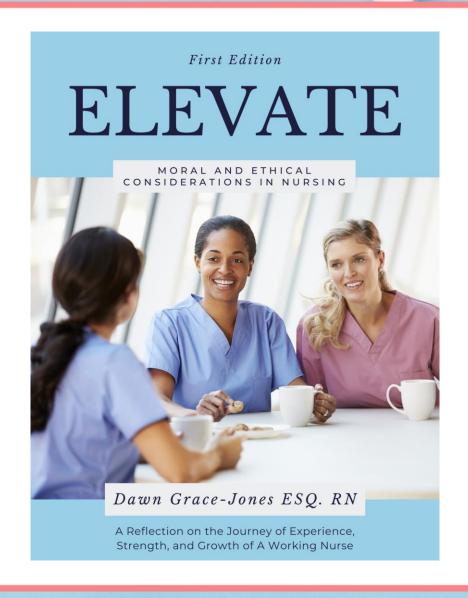
## Apply measures to provide self – care during difficult times e.g. COVID 19.

- Stay focused on what you can control.
- Ventilate with one you trust. Start a chat group.
- Affirmations.
  - Affirmation: I have the power to change my mind in this moment. Motivating explanation of affirmation: No matter what you are doing re: patient care, management decisions, life choices, you can change the direction provided you feel there needs to be a change. Don't feel stuck because you are never stuck until you stop thinking.

# Apply measures to provide self – care during difficult times e.g. COVID 19.

• Affirmation: I wish only the best for others.

Motivating explanation of affirmation: Understand that the law of the universe works in healthcare just as every place else. You can not enjoy success with ill will for others. As a healthcare professional, you care about patients. **Apply that same caring spirit to family and co-workers as well.** Watch what happens.



For business inquiries and legal consultation contact:

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# Suicide Prevention Strategies for Nurses

PATRISE TYSON, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC
MIAMI CHAPTER BLACK NURSES ASSOCIATION
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020

### Objective

UNDERSTAND THE EVIDENCE REGARDING NURSES AND SUICIDE

#### Suicide rated in the U.S.

■Suicide is a growing public health issue with potential to be exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic

# 1death every 11 minutes



#### Nurse Suicide Research

- ☐ Evidence is limited
- □ 2019 study by Davidson et al. published in the Archives of Psychiatric Nursing was the first study examining nurse suicide in the U.S. published in over 20 years.

# Analysis of 2014 CDC National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) Sample

Davidson et al. (2019) - female and male nurse suicide rates were significantly higher than the general population

#### SUICIDE RATES PER 100,00 PERSONS

Male Nurse	Male Population	Female Nurse	Female Population
<b>39.8</b> /100,00	<b>28.2</b> /100,00	<b>11.97</b> /100,00	<b>7.58</b> /100,00

## Summary of Top 3 Suicide Methods of Nurses found by Davidson et al.(2019)

Suicide Method	Nurses (205)	Physicians (50)	Other Occupations (14,504)
Firearm	69 (33.7%)	29 (58%)	7,464 (51.5%)
Pharmaceutical Poisoning	72 (35.1%)	5 (10%)	1,319 (9.1%)
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	28 (13.7%)	8 (16%)	3,954 (27.3%)

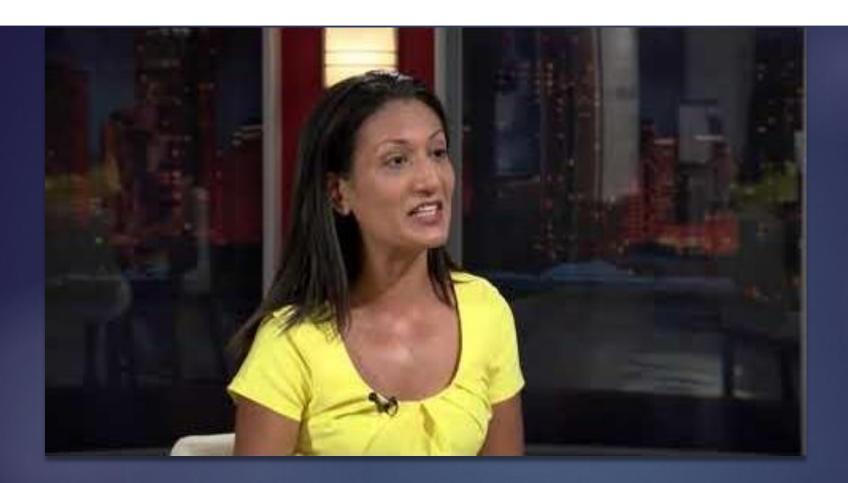
#### First Longitudinal Study on Nurse Suicide in U.S.

- □ 1,824 nurse suicides and 152,495 non-nurse suicides reported between 2005 and 2016
- ☐Female nurses at greater risk of suicide than general female population
- Male nurses were at significantly greater risk of suicide than general population

## Summary of Top 3 Suicide Methods of Nurses found by Davidson et al.(2020)

Suicide Method	Male Nurses (355)	Non-nurse Males (119,625)
Firearm	148 (41.7%)	57,887 (48.4%)
Unknown	74 (20.8%)	17,947 (15.0%)
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	43 (12.1%)	26,359 (22.0%)

Suicide Method	Female Nurses (1,469)	Non-nurse Females (32,870)
Pharmaceutical poisoning	399 (27.2%)	5,701 (17.3%)
Firearm	333 (22.7%)	8,843 (26.9%)
Other Poisoning	254 (17.3%)	4,352 (13.2%)



"Study Finds Nurses Are At Higher Risk Of Suicide Than Most People

<u>HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=MWGLNH8AO7M</u>

#### Key Risk Factors for Nurse Suicide

- □ Job problems
- ☐ Stress
- ☐ History of previous suicide attempt
- ☐ Past or present mental illness
- ■Substance abuse/smoking

Interconnectedness of Risk Factors for Nurse Suicide

nurse suicide risk is multi-factorial and suicide prevention strategies should by multi-faceted Biology

**Environment** 

Social Factors

Engel's Biopsychosocial Model

#### Recognize Warning Signs of Suicide

- ☐ Discussing wanting to die/not having hope
- □ Discussing being a burden
- Searching online for suicide methods
- ☐ Discussing the acquisition of a deadly means (firearm purchase, collecting pills etc.)

#### Recognize Warning Signs of Suicide

- □ Isolation/withdraw
- ☐ Displaying Rage/mood swings/recklessness
- □Increasing substance use
- ☐ Leaving a suicide note

## Suicide is Preventable

#### Suicide Prevention Resources

Call 911 for emergencies

□ National Suicide Prevention Lifeline- 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

□ Crisis Text Line -Text **HOME** to 741741

#### Suicide Prevention Resources

- National academy of medicine-action collaborative on clinician wellbeing and resilience
  - Resources for healthcare administrators to develop structured strategies to measure and prevent burnout

Workplace employee assistance programs

#### Suicide Prevention Resources

- □ PeerRxmed ™
  - Free, structured "buddy system" program for healthcare workers

Burnout —> Surviving —> Fine —> Well —> Thriving

#### Summary

- □ Nurses are at increased risk for suicide compared to the general population with job problems being a significant risk factor nurse suicide. This is a significant concern due to the combination of increased job and personal stressors during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- □ Comprehensive suicide prevention includes addressing biological, environmental and social risk factors
- Additional research is needed to develop evidence-based guidelines/best practices related to suicide screening and prevention strategies for nurses

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## THANK YOU

Coping Mechanisms for the Exacerbation of Post Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) during and after COVID-19

> Heather Brathwaite, Ph.D., PMHNP-BC Miami Chapter Black Nurses Association Thursday, May 7, 2020

#### Objective

Identifying and understanding PTSD causes and symptoms

#### Introduction

 As the COVID -19 outbreak continues to escalate, it will continue to raise public health concerns and cause tremendous psychological distress, especially the development of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

• This disorder will lead to chronic symptoms, such as intrusive memories, avoidance behaviors, irritability, and emotional numbing, if isn't treated.

## Identifying and understanding PTSD causes and symptoms

Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a psychiatric disorder that can occur in people who have experienced or witnessed a traumatic event such as a natural disaster, a serious accident, a terrorist act, war/combat, rape or other violent personal assault.

#### Diagnosis of PTSD

- Requires exposure to an event.
- Your exposure can happen in one or more of these ways:
  - You directly experienced the traumatic event.
  - You witnessed, in person, the traumatic event occurring to others.
  - You learned someone close to you experienced or was threatened by the traumatic event.
  - You are repeatedly exposed to graphic details of traumatic events

# Symptoms of PTSD fall into four categories. Specific symptoms can vary in severity

• Intrusive thoughts.

Avoiding reminders of the traumatic event.

Negative thoughts and feelings.

Arousal and reactive symptoms.

#### What happens to the body during PTSD

- PTSD causes your brain to get stuck in danger mode.
- Your body continues to send out stress signals.
- Studies show that the part of the brain that handles fear and emotion (the amygdala) is more active in people with PTSD.
- The hippocampus (area that controls your memory) becomes smaller.
- Experts recommend that you seek treatment early.

#### Who is likely to experience PTDS during COVID-19

- Even if you aren't clinically diagnosed with PTSD.
- Healthcare workers providing frontline services.
- People who have lost loved ones or jobs due to the disease.
- Those who struggle with other mental health conditions.
- Prior history of trauma.

## How to cope with exacerbated symptomatology of PTSD

- Relaxation strategies.
- Utilize cognitive strategies.
- Limit exposure to news and social media.
- Mindfulness exercises.
- Monitor habits, emotions and thoughts.
- Focus on what you can control.

#### Treating PTSD based on most current evidence

- Treatment can help individuals regain a sense of control over their life.
- The primary treatment is psychotherapy
  - Psychotherapy
  - Exposure therapy
  - Cognitive restructuring
  - Medications

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# COVID-19Mental Health Consequences for Children and Adolescents

Benarah Sanford, MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC Chad Conrad Jones, Student Nurse Miami Chapter Black Nurses Association Thursday, May 7, 2020

#### Objective

Discuss solutions to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 on the mental health status of children and adolescents

#### Introduction

▶ The COVID-19 pandemic and the substantial measures to contain its spread have negatively impacted the mental health and wellbeing of children and adolescents around the world (CDC, 2020).



### The Problem

- Increase in child neglect and abuse (UNICEF, 2020).
- Increased risk of sexual exploitation (UNICEF, 2020).
- Increased risk for long-term psychological, physical, and emotional harm (Dunn, et al., 2020).

#### More Problems

- ➤ Disparities in learning outcomes (UNESCO, 2020).
- Increased health burden of COVID-19 for children in poverty (United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2020).
- > Disruptions in primary care and immunizations (United Nations News, 2020).



Mental Health Consequences for Children & Adolescents

## Behavior Changes in Children & Adolescents

Excessive crying or irritation in younger children

Regressions in toileting and bed wetting

Excessive worry or sadness

Unhealthy eating or sleeping patterns

"Acting out" behaviors in teens

Poor school performance or avoiding school

Poor attention and concentration

Avoidance of hobbies and activities

Unexplained headaches or body pain

Substance use in teens

## Psychological Disorders Associated with Trauma

- Acute Stress Disorder
- PTSD
- Anxiety Disorder
- Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder
- Depressive Disorders
- ▶ Phobic Disorders
- Separation Anxiety Disorder
- Somatization
- Sleep Disorders
- Diminished self-esteem



Clinical
Guidance
for
Practitioners

#### Health Assessment



Screen for caregiver role strain when speaking with parents.



Screen for changes in behavior and signs of neglect and abuse when speaking with children and adolescents.



Inquire about school performance.

#### Health Promotion

- Promote a sense of safety.
- Promote a sense of self-and community efficacy.
- Promote a sense of connectedness.

#### Health Promotion Continued

- Promote a sense of calming.
- Promote a sense of hope.
- ▶ Promote adaptive functioning within families.

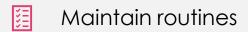


Opportunities for Health Leaders & Advocates

# Outreach & Advocacy

Provide	Provide the public with community resources and accurate information about COVID-19 risk.
Teach	Teach the public to recognize signs of stress in themselves and their loved ones.
Equip	Equip health professionals with supportive resources while encouraging self-care, personal protection, and resilience.
Partner	Partner with local and national organizations for relief efforts.
Advocate	Advocate for health equity and protections for children and families who are vulnerable and at risk.

# Tips for Parents





Maintain contact with teachers and school counselors.

Minimize exposure to media outlets and social media.

Allow children to talk about their concerns.

Validate their feelings.

Set realistic expectations for your family.

Prioritize activities that reinforce purpose and fulfillment.

Seek Help

Disaster Distress Helpline-Call 1-800-985-5990

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline- Call 8000-273-8255

Crisis Textline-Text TALK to 741741

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