

Racism is a Public Health Crisis

For generations, persons of color have long been denied equal access to opportunity in the United States. Disparities in health between Whites and Black, Indigenous, Latinos and other people of color is one important example. Persons of color are dying at higher rates because of systemic racist policies aimed to exclude persons. It is well documented that social inequities in housing, transportation, education, healthcare, and public safety have caused harm. Racism is a public health crisis, and the remedy requires shifts in policy and systems at the local, state, and federal levels of government.

Community Action believes that all people are entitled to human dignity and access to health and well-being. We invite local Community Action Agencies and State Associations to join a host of government and nonprofit organizations in declaring that racism is a public health crisis and pledging to eliminate structural racism and other barriers to health equity through place-based solutions.



A RESOURCE GUIDE



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Develop Your Own Community Action Declares Racism Is a Public Health Crisis Statement

[Download the Community Action declaration template.](#)

Use some of the resources highlighted below to find up-to-date statistics and data for your local community.

Need help or more information? Contact:

Denise Harlow, CEO, National Community Action Partnership
dharlow@communityactionpartnership.com

or

Tiffney Marley, Vice President for Practice Transformation
tmarley@communityactionpartnership.com

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Help Your City or County Declare Racism a Public Health Crisis

Salud America!, led by Dr. Amelie Ramirez of UT Health San Antonio, has developed resources to help communities declare racism as a public health crisis.

This Action Pack has 3 steps to help you get input from local advocates of color, start a conversation with local leaders, and build local support for a resolution to declare racism a public health crisis along with a commitment to take action to change policies and practices!

The Action Pack includes:

- FAQs (Why is racism a public health crisis? How can a city resolution help? etc.)
- Customizable city resolution (Word document)
- Health equity report card by county
- Mapping Inequality: Redlining in New Deal America (interactive map)
- Talking points
- Technical assistance, and more!



For help or questions contact **Amanda Merck**, merck@uthscsa.edu,
Action Pack coach at Salud America! at UT Health San Antonio.

Salud America! is a national Latinx-focused organization that creates culturally relevant and research-based stories and tools to inspire people to drive healthy changes to policies, systems, and environments for Latinx children and families. The network is a project of the [Institute for Health Promotion Research](#) (IHPR) at UT Health San Antonio.

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Deepen Your Understanding with These Additional Resources from the Field



National Institutes of Health



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
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Centers for Disease Control

—Media Statement on Racism and Health

Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH
Director, CDC

—Confronting Institutionalized Racism and Levels of Racism: A Theoretic Framework and a Gardener's Tale

Camara Phyllis Jones, MD, MPH, PhD
Senior Fellow, Satcher Health Leadership Institute

—Expert Perspectives: Tackling Racism as a Public Health Issue Starts at Home

Helene D. Gayle, MD, MPH
President & CEO
The Chicago Community Trust

National Institutes of Health

—Ending Structural Racism

—The UNITE Initiative

—Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government

American Public Health Association

—Interactive Map of Declarations

—Advancing Racial Equity (Webinar Series)

—The Impact of Racism on the Health and Well-Being of the Nation (Webinar Series)

—Research and Intervention on Racism as a Fundamental Cause of Ethnic Disparities in Health (Policy Statement)

Community Action Resources

—Racism Is a Public Health Crisis: Attacking the 2 Pandemics (Action for a Better Community Virtual Conference Series)

—NCAP Federal Policy Platform

—NCAP Policing Reform Addendum

—NCAP Comments to HHS on Interagency Council on Economic Mobility