

Numerous Black scholars and their bodies of work are the keystone to our ongoing research. Our recent publications have partnered with community members to identify, measure, and address disparities in mental health care. In summary, the state of mental health care for Black communities is bleak as evidenced by:

- Black individuals living with depressive symptoms experience greater discrimination in the healthcare system than their white counterparts and this influences their preferences for treatment (Sonik 2020).
- Black populations are less likely to be screened for depression than white populations (Hahm 2015);
- Black communities are less engaged in mental health treatment than whites (Cook 2012);
- Expansions to the Affordable Care Act failed to improve access to behavioral health care for Black adults (Creedon 2016);
- Despite a high density of mental care providers in neighborhoods with more Black residents, Black people were less likely to start mental health treatment (Cook 2017);
- Black communities were more likely to have unmet behavioral health needs (Mulvaney-Day 2012);
- Expenses for mental health care for Black patients were consistently lower than those of white patients, regardless of income (Cook 2014);
- Biased first responders misconstrue mental health crises among Black patients as violent or dangerous behavior (Merino 2018);
- When engaged in care, Black patients who had experienced healthcare discrimination found it more difficult to establish a meaningful, successful therapeutic relationship with providers (Progovac and Cortés 2020).

The root cause of these health disparities is not genetic or individual behavior; it is structural and systemic anti-Black racism.

Citations for the above summary:

Sonik RA, Creedon TB, Progovac AM, Carson N, Delman J, Delman D, Cook BL, in co-authorship with the Health Equity Consortium - Soffer, TF, Chambers V, Rodriguez Quinerly C, Mann Z, Nabisere R, Shaikh FN, Jordan D, Moradi A, de Castro S, Abolaban H, Lee E, Hou S, Busch S, Carle AC, Cortes DE, McCormick D, Flores M, Sanchez Roman MJ, Lu F, Anjali Kaushal N. "Depression treatment preferences by race/ethnicity and gender and associations between past healthcare discrimination experiences and present preferences in a nationally representative sample." *Social Science & Medicine* (2020): 112939.

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