



Webinar & Discussion Date: May 18, 2021

Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps Tools & Resources

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- To learn more about County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, our data, tools, and resources to help you create change, watch our latest [CHR&R 101](#) webinar.
- [Explore Health Rankings](#): The annual Rankings provide a revealing snapshot of how health is influenced by where we live, learn, work, and play. Find and use your county data, read our reports, and learn more about what and why we rank.
- [Take Action to Improve Health](#): Find strategies that we know work, guidance for setting a plan in motion, and resources to help you partner with others.
 - [Action Learning Guides](#): Dig into specific topics with a blend of guidance, tools, and hands-on activities. Our series on understanding and using data is a great place to start.
 - [Partner Center](#): Find guidance and resources to help you identify and engage the right partners.
 - [Action Center](#): Explore step-by-step guidance and tools to help you move with data to action.
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Highlighted Guidance

Learn more about the [Advancing Racial Equity Webinar Series](#) co-produced by Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health (MATCH) and County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (CHR&R).

[Racism as a Public Health Crisis: Three Responses](#) is a collection of stories from communities that have declared racism as a public health crisis or emergency as an important step in the movement to advance racial equity and justice.

The American Public Health Association has maintained a list of communities across the country that have issued [Racism as a Public Health Crisis](#) declarations.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Racism as a Public Health web portal](#) serves as a hub for information about their activities to address the issue, promote a public discourse on how racism negatively affects health, and communicate potential solutions.



Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health (MATCH) Resources

- Learn more about [MATCH](#) and their work.
- The [Racism Declaration Action Toolkit](#) includes resources that can support organizational action to advance racial equity.

Webinar Guest Resources

Michigan Public Health Institute



Renée Branch Canady, PhD, MPA, serves as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MPHI; a unique public trust dedicated to advancing population health through public health innovation and collaboration. Prior to joining MPHI, Dr. Canady served as Health Officer and Director of Ingham County Health Department, where she led the expansion of the innovative and nationally known, Ingham County Health Equity Social Justice program. Dr. Canady has held faculty and leadership positions within the College of Nursing and

the College of Medicine, Program for Public Health at Michigan State University where she developed a research trajectory in health disparities and continues to serve as an assistant professor in the Division of Public Health. She has been highly influential in broadening the discussion of health equity and social justice while serving on numerous national boards, review panels, and advisory groups including the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) County Health Rankings Scientific Advisory Group, the National Collaborative for Health Equity Advisory Committee, and the National 10 Essential Public Health Services Task Force, whose charge is to update this foundational public health framework. Dr. Canady was appointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer to serve on the State of MI Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities. She earned her PhD in Medical Sociology from Michigan State University, a master's degree in Public Administration from Western Michigan University and a bachelor's degree in Public Health Nutrition from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Jannah Bierens (she/hers) is a Health Equity Consultant at MPHI's Center for Health Equity Practice (CHEP) who consults and facilitates dialogue around root causes of oppression and narrative shifting to advance racial and health equity. Along with her M.P.H from Benedictine University, she has graduate certificates in Health Management & Policy and Health Education & Promotion, in addition to her M.A. in Social Justice & Community Organizing from Prescott College. Prior to joining the CHEP team at MPHI, Ms. Bierens spent most of her 20-year career in governmental public health driven by her passion to eliminate historically rooted Black health disparities. As a health education specialist, she educated, advocated, and organized for improved health in community with residents who have traditionally been marginalized and underserved. She holds a strong belief that collective justice and healing are critical to centering our shared humanity, realizing our bound liberation, and improvement in health outcomes for all. Currently residing in Lansing, Michigan, when she's not working, Ms. Bierens finds joy in music, reading, writing, and art.



- The [Michigan Public Health Institute](#) helps those who work in public health and related fields understand health equity, social justice, and the social determinants of health so they can work together to reduce the likelihood that people are disadvantaged because of their race, class, or

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gender. This is accomplished by collaborating with partners to implement programs, conduct research, and support strategies that address the root causes of inequities. Projects within the [Center for Health Equity Practice](#) speak directly to issues of poverty, inequality, and the social systems that contribute to them.

- The [10 Essential Public Health Services](#) (EPHS) describe the public health activities that all communities should undertake. For the past 25 years, the EPHS have served as a well-recognized framework for carrying out the mission of public health. The EPHS framework was originally released in 1994 and more recently updated in 2020. The revised version is intended to bring the framework in line with current and future public health practice around equity.
- [The Groundwater Approach: Building a practical understanding of structural racism](#) was developed by the Racial Equity Institute as a tool to deepen both individual understanding of the need for systems change. It can also be used as a tool for facilitated group learning and development. The Groundwater metaphor is designed to help practitioners at all levels internalize the reality that we live in a racially structured society, and that that is what causes racial inequity.
- The [Racial Equity Tools](#) website offers tools, research, tips, curricula, and ideas for people who want to increase their own understanding and to help those working for racial justice at every level – in systems, organizations, and communities.
- [Roots of Health Inequity](#) is a free web-based course that explores root causes of inequity in the distribution of disease, illness, and death. Funded by the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities, National Institutes of Health, its audience is primarily the local public health workforce. It seeks to ground participants in the concepts and strategies that could lead to effective action.
- [Public Health Awakened](#) is a national network of public health professionals organizing for health, equity, and justice. It is a project of Human Impact Partners that works with social justice movements on strategic and collective action to create a world in which everyone can thrive and to resist the threats faced by communities of color and low-income communities.
- [Race Forward](#) brings systemic analysis and an innovative approach to complex race issues to help people take effective action toward racial equity. Their website offers racial justice tools and videos. Race Forward is home to the [Government Alliance on Race and Equity](#) (GARE), a national network of local government working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all.
- [Racism: Science & Tools for the Public Health Professional](#) is a book that targets racism directly, and builds on the racial health equity work that public health advocates and others have been doing for decades. It is intended for use in a wide range of settings including health departments, schools, and in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors where public health professionals work.
- Inspired by Octavia Butler's explorations of our human relationship to change, [Emergent Strategy](#) is radical self-help, society-help, and planet-help designed to shape the futures we want to live. Change is constant. The world is in a continual state of flux. Rather than steel ourselves against such change, this book invites us to feel, map, assess, and learn from the swirling patterns around us in order to better understand and influence them as they happen.



Milwaukee County Office on African American Affairs



Jennifer Harris, M.Ed, is a devoted practitioner and racial equity advocate, Jennifer's career spans across higher education to local government program management and research. As the Equity Research and Program Manager for the Office on African American Affairs—she is devoted to achieving Racial Equity throughout Milwaukee County by way of racial equity capacity building, adult education, and organizational change management. A second-generation alumni of Carroll University, Jennifer earned a Master's of Education and Bachelors of Science in Business Administration (Marketing and Political Science) from Carroll. She received additional training from UW-Madison (Grainger School of Business) and UCLA (HERI Institute) and has published and presented on the topic of adult learner retention and student service administration at regional, national, and international conferences.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, she has served on boards and councils that promote the arts, sciences, social justice, and resource equity. Her interests include her love for international travel and community service. Jennifer is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, the first Greek-letter organization for African American collegiate women. She engages in service with the Epsilon Kappa Omega Chapter in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

- To view Milwaukee County's Racism as a Public Health Crisis resolution:
 - Go to: <https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Legislation.aspx>
 - In the "Search" box, type: chapter 108
 - Under the "This Year" menu, select 2020
 - Click "Search Legislation"
 - Under "File #", click: 20-174
- [Milwaukee County's Racial Equity Budget Tool](#)

Peer-to-Peer Resources Shared in Post-Webinar Discussion Group Session

- [Community-led design wiki](#) collates insights and resources around community-led or community-driven design. It privileges the contributions of community-based practitioners, Indigenous people, people of color, disabled people, and queer folk.
- In the [How Racism Makes Us Sick video](#), Harvard Professor David R. Williams challenges us to tackle the striking levels of early death and poor health that are due to the color of one's skin.
- In this [Racism Has a Cost for Everyone](#) TED Talk, public policy expert Heather C. McGhee shares startling insights into how racism fuels bad policymaking and drains our economic potential, and offers a crucial rethink on what we can do to create a more prosperous nation for all.
- The Institute for Healing Justice & Equity at St. Louis University issued the report, [Racism is a Public Health Crisis: Here's how to respond](#).
- [Ubuntu Research and Evaluation](#) is a team of unapologetic black women working as transdisciplinary strategists committed to disrupting systemic oppression through evaluation, facilitation, and education.
- In May 2018, the [Wisconsin Public Health Association \(WPHA\) passed a resolution](#) declaring that racism is a public health crisis in Wisconsin, and committed to taking action. Building on this work, several partner organizations have worked together to transfer the WPHA resolution content to this

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Racism is a Public Health Crisis Sign-On. The goal is for organizations and individuals to [sign-on to the declaration](#) and commit to actions that are tailored to their specific contexts.

Healthy Places by Design Resources

- [Healthy Places by Design](#) facilitated the post-webinar discussion group session. Their [Community Action Model](#) was developed with insights from more than a dozen years of supporting successful community health initiatives and a deep understanding of the community change process.
- Follow Healthy Places by Design on Twitter [@HPlacesbyDesign](#)