ANTI-BLACK RACISM

Providing a framework for examining privilege, oppression, power, supremacy, & equity

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AAP-CA3 Chapter
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HOUSE RULES

Conversations about racism can be:
* challenging
* uncomfortable
* unfamiliar

01. Be in a BRAVE space

02. Be civil with controversy

03. No judgment

04. Allow for growth
### Objectives

**WHAT WE'LL COVER IN THIS SESSION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>History of Racism in America</th>
<th>Racism in medicine</th>
<th>White Privilege</th>
<th>AAP Policy Statement</th>
<th>Creating change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Structural Racism</td>
<td></td>
<td>Implicit Bias</td>
<td>Health Disparities</td>
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I am a board-certified pediatrician, mother of two, wife of one, and passionate about reducing health inequities and educating about equality.
Knowledge is constructed by human activity

Meaning is created by human interactions
RACISM IS...
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

"All men are created equal"

1/5 of the country was NOT
Founding fathers CHOSE to protect slavery
10 out of first 12 presidents were enslavers
US RACISM HISTORY TIMELINE

1619 - First slaves brought to Jamestown
1776 - Declaration of Independence Published
1788 - Constitution ratified
1857 - Dred Scott Decision
1862 - Civil War 1 year in, Lincoln's offer
1865 - Civil War Ends, 13th amendment
1865-1877 - Reconstruction: Civil Rights Act 14th & 15th amendment
1877 - Hayes becomes President by agreeing to pull troops from South
1877-1895 - Great Nadir aka "Second Slavery"
1896 - Plessy v Ferguson
1880-1920s - Removal of Jim Crow Laws
1880-1945 - WWII
1939-1945 - WWII
1945 - End of WWII
1954-1968 - Civil Rights Movement
1965 - Immigration & Nationality Act
1980 - Present day
Excruciatingly painful medical experiments on slave by Dr. Thomas Hamilton, in 1820s

Falsely believed
* black people had thicker skin than white
* blacks had large sex organs
* blacks had small skulls
* blacks had higher tolerance for heat
* blacks immunity to some illnesses and susceptibility to others

Blistered to hands, legs, feet, every 2 weeks for 9 months, could no longer work
**MYTHS ABOUT BLACKS**

- Blacks were impervious to pain
- Blacks had weak lungs that could be strengthened through labor

Dr. Benjamin Moseley: "I have amputated the legs of many Negroes who have held the upper part of the limb themselves." *A Treatise on Tropical Diseases*

Dr. J. Marion Sims: father of modern gynecology
Used black women as subjects in experiments without anesthesia in painful operations
In his autobiography, he describes the agony women suffered as he cut their genitals again & again to perfect vesico-vaginal fistula repair

Dr. Samuel Cartwright, claimed blacks had lower lung capacity and thus forced labor was a way to "vitalize" the blood & correct the problem. And that slaves were prone to a "disease of the mind" called drapetomania that caused them to run away from enslavers, so he prescribed "whipping the devil out of them" preventatively.

*Report on the Disease and Physical Peculiarities of the Negro Race*
2016 survey of 222 white MEDICAL students & residents showed 50% endorsed 1 myth about physiologic differences between black and white people. 1/3 believed blacks had thicker skin. 
*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*

2013 review of studies found that black & Hispanic people (children & adults) received inadequate pain management compared to their white counterparts. 
*American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*
# Project Implicit

**Child Race Implicit Association Tests (IATS)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Joy</td>
<td>Love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad</td>
<td>Terrible</td>
<td>Horrible</td>
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Take the test: [https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/](https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/)
Most resident physicians in our study had pro-white/anti-black bias on both the Adult Race IAT and Child Race IAT, which reflects other research on implicit bias on the general population.

Physicians in our study had similar scores on the Adult and Child Race IAT, indicating comparable levels of bias against black adults and black children.

Neither Adult Race or Child Race IAT scores varied by resident personal characteristics. Pediatric residents in our study had similar implicit biases as resident physicians from other specialties (i.e. emergency medicine residents, family medicine residents).

Reference: PolicyLab at CHOP
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Increase awareness of implicit bias

Understand role in clinical encounters

Create strategies to reduce physician bias

Put in the work to do better.
"White privilege is like an invisible weightless knapsack of special provisions, maps, passports, codebooks, visas, clothes, tools and blank checks."

-Peggy McIntosh, The Seed Project
I can be confident of renting/buying housing in an area which I can afford and in which I would want to live.

I can take a job with an affirmative action employer without having co-workers suspect that I got it because of race.

I can arrange to protect my children most of the time from people who might not like them.

I can do well in a challenging situation without being called a credit to my race.

If a cop pulls me over or if the IRS audits my tax return, I can be confident I haven’t been singled out because of my race.

I can be sure that if I need legal or medical help, my race will not work against me.

In healthcare & the legal system, I will not have to fear someone not understanding me because of a language barrier.
What is it like to sit/hear/talk about these unearned disadvantages & advantages in life?

What are 1 or more ways you've had an unearned disadvantage in your life?

What are 1 or more ways you've had an unearned advantage in your life?
Large income gaps persist between men — but not women.

Black men consistently earn less than white men, regardless of whether they’re raised poor or rich.

No such income gap exists between black and white women raised in similar households.

WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

Use unearned advantage to weaken systems of unearned advantage
PRIVILEGE = POWER

Sharing power may lead to changes in behavior

- Paying attention
- Making associations
- Intervening
- Speaking up
- Asserting & deferring
- Being alert
- Taking Initiative

- Allyship & Advocacy work
- Lobbying
- Campaigning
- Protesting
- Organizing
- Recognizing and acting against both the external and internalized forms of oppression & privilege
AAP MEMBERSHIP OF BLACK PHYSICIANS

November 1944—American Academy of Pediatrics Executive Board

“I know Smith and he is a very nice fellow. Scott has for a year or two attended the Sunday morning clinical conferences at Children’s Hospital. He has taken part in the discussion of cases at Freedman’s Hospital. I think the local men in Washington would like to have something to say about men taken into the Academy from that particular location. I think they would rather resent an effort being made to put these men in. I would like to hear what [Region II Chairman] has to say.”

“We allow negroes to come to our meeting and we fix a separate place for them to sit. They do not become members. If they became members they would want to come and eat with you at the table. You cannot hold them down.”
The Board of Directors of the AAP:

1) Apologize for the racism that contributed to the inequities that Drs. deGrate Smith, Scott, and other pediatricians have endured,

2) Commit to a bylaws referendum to explicitly codify that AAP membership does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or national origin.

"Healing starts at home with truth, reckoning, and honest reconciliation"
DO BETTER

Reference: AAP Equity Agenda
The Impact of Racism on Child and Adolescent Health

Maria Trent, MD, MPH, FAAP, FSAHM,* Danielle G. Dooley, MD, MPhil, FAAP,* Jacqueline Dougè, MD, MPH, FAAP,* SECTION ON ADOLESCENT HEALTH, COUNCIL ON COMMUNITY PEDIATRICS, COMMITTEE ON ADOLESCENCE
"No matter how hard women work to have the best pregnancy and birth outcomes possible, black mothers in the United States—regardless of wealth or educational background—are still three to four times more likely to die during and after childbirth. Their babies share this fate, and are twice as likely to die in infancy as their white, non-Hispanic counterparts"

Source: https://www.americanprogress.org/article/environment-racism-built/

Black babies are less likely to die when cared for by black doctors, US study finds

*BMJ* 2020; 370 doi:https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.m3315 (Published 21 August 2020)

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2020;370:m3315
"Racism is a fundamental cause of racial disparities in health. We must confront institutionalized racism if we seek to eliminate those disparities"

Dr. Camara Phyllis Jones, MD, MPH, Ph.D

Black communities are:

- less supported/resourced
- under/disinvested
- isolated/devalued/trapped
- deprivation induced crime/violence
- under policed/over criminalized
- preyed upon
- destabilized/stressed out

High burdens/costs for blacks forced to navigate systems/environments that were designed to be inequitable and exclusive, built on legacy of socioeconomic exclusion while exploiting their communities
The role of Child Protective Services

As of 2018, Black children = 14% general population

53% of Black children will be investigated by CPS

Once in foster care, some research indicates Black children are less likely than white children to be placed with families
Discretion = bias

Justice depends on race, income, zip code, and caseworker/judge assigned

Remove race from case = remove some bias

What can we do:

“I have come to believe over and over again that what is most important to me must be spoken, made verbal and shared, even at the risk of having it bruised or misunderstood.

*Your silence will not protect you*

...while we wait in silence for that final luxury of fearlessness, the weight of that silence will choke us.”

Audre Lorde in her essay “The Transformation of Silence Into Language and Action”
SPEAK UP & NOW: Ignoring anti-black racism is complicit
Microaggression framework: I feel X when you say Y because of Z

EDUCATE YOURSELF: No one is obligated to teach you how you are being racist e.g. "minority tax"
How do you want to contribute to tackling racism at AAP-CA3?

How will you get there?
List steps

What are some obstacles?
List barriers

How will I confront these obstacles?
Who can I ask for help or support?

How will I know I have made progress? When & how will I re-assess?
REFERENCES

• Policy Lab. Examining physician implicit racial bias against children. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. (Spring 2017)
• Mahase, Elizabeth. Black babies are less likely to die when cared for by black doctors US study finds. BMJ. 2020; 370:m3315.
thank you!
"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and the most inhuman because it often results in physical death."

Dr. MLK Jr.