

Teaching Tips



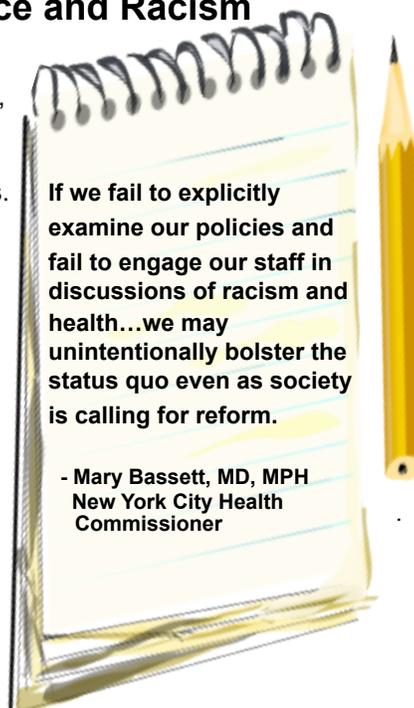
Volume 6 Issue 6 June 2015

Department of Family & Social Medicine Faculty Development E-Newsletter



Addressing Social Determinants of Health: Specifying Race and Racism

In order to have the greatest possible impact on individual and population health, it is essential that we recognize the social determinants of health including class, education, housing and stigma when we practice and teach about health and illness. Though research has consistently documented disparities between ethnic and racial groups, we have not yet acknowledged the role race and racism play in driving these disparities. By naming racism specifically as a root cause of health disparities, we as health professionals can address this gap in medical practice and education.



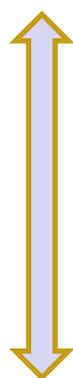
If we fail to explicitly examine our policies and fail to engage our staff in discussions of racism and health...we may unintentionally bolster the status quo even as society is calling for reform.

- Mary Bassett, MD, MPH
New York City Health Commissioner

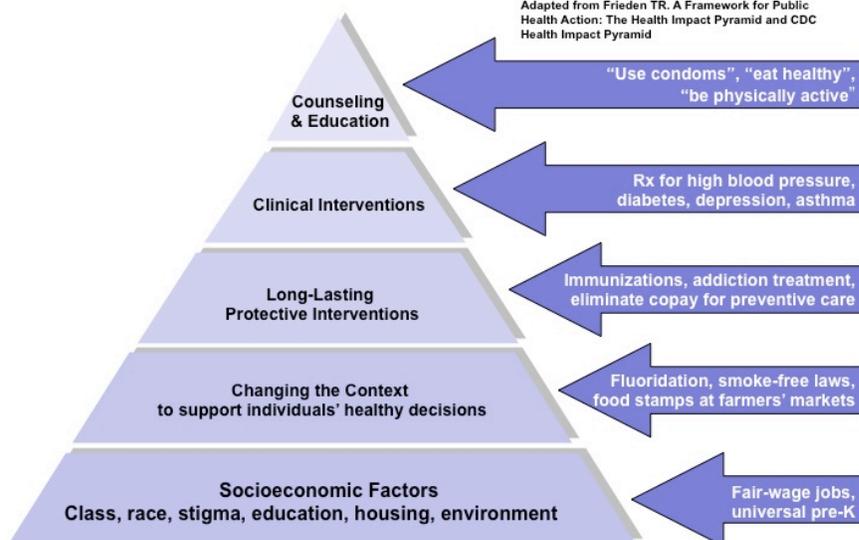
Factors that Affect Health

Adapted from Frieden TR. A Framework for Public Health Action: The Health Impact Pyramid and CDC Health Impact Pyramid

Smallest Impact



Largest Impact



References / Resources:

Bedell J. Back to the Future: Community Oriented Primary Care and Place-based Strategies for Health. Eighth Annual Harold Wise MD Memorial Lecture, 5/12/15, Montefiore Medical Center

Bassett MT. #BlackLivesMatter —A Challenge to the Medical and Public Health Communities. NEJM. 2015;372:1085-7.

Frieden TR. A Framework for Public Health Action: The Health Impact Pyramid. Am J Public Health. 2010;100(4):590-5

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/data/vs-summary.shtml>

www.countyhealthrankings.org

Tips for addressing race and racism in our precepting and education of learners

- **Make racism and health disparities part of the explicit curriculum**
- **Become more self aware:** *model self-reflection; examine your own attitudes, language, patterns and practices; encourage learners' self-reflection*
- **Pay attention to population-based health outcome data by race:** *explore how racism contributes to the data (www.countyhealthrankings.org)*
- **Emphasize the social determinants of health:** *challenge learners to address racism, class and education in their patient presentations*
- **Engage in public advocacy and activism:** *listen to the community's perspectives and solutions; develop partnerships with community agencies; use your voice as health professionals to support policies that promote equity; help learners to become patient advocates and change agents; lead by example*