Racism and Health

These months pages focus on health disparities in the Pittsburgh region. This month, we take an in-depth look at how racism and other forms of discrimination and marginalization contribute to poor health outcomes for Black, Latinx, Hispanic and other underrepresented communities. We will also take a look at some of the resources available here in Allegheny County for people from underrepresented communities.

Ellen Smillie, the executive director of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, spoke about this topic at a very special event in February, Ms. Smillie. This is one of the most inspiring parts of the stories we have heard. In the last 20 years, people said that they would never have heard this, that it did not exist. But the data is out there and we can see the health outcomes of it. It is a very powerful story.

The stories of these communities are often ignored or minimized. They are facing the same issues as other communities, but the resources available here in Allegheny County are not as accessible to them as they are to other communities. We are discussing Down syndrome.

The list also includes community organizations like the Urban League. Community organizations have been doing this work forever. Re- markably, some of the communities that are facing these issues have not yet heard of them. It is important for us to foster mistrust of people not like us. Yes, Ms. Bush. This is just one example of how racism relates to mistreatment of people. That's the power of a part of our history and the amazing contribu- tions that people have made to our society. But it is also important to acknowledge negative outcomes that we are still facing. We must now understand how to work with people to participate in research. These are some cases because their specific health needs are not well known. Research participation opens doors for these communities.

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Yes, this health page gives us the opportunity to publicize and discuss critical topics like race and health disparities. We are here to nurture understanding and trust and to help both sides work together for the improved health and well-being of all Americans.

That's the power of a partnership between an academic space and a racial equity initia- tive like the Pitt Public Health Center on Race and Social Problems and the African American community.

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