Prehospital and EMS Health Care

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Emergency Preparedness

This month’s Take Charge of Your Health Today is about emergency preparedness. Emergencies and social determinants of health are in our minds—particularly as we continue to move through a pandemic that has greatly affected Black individuals and families. Black folk around the Pittsburgh region experience health disparities, limiting life expectancy and access to care. These disparities include higher rates of cancer, heart disease and other preventable morbidity and mortality. These conditions lay the foundations for emergencies, such as strokes and heart attacks.

Social, economic and environmental circumstances help shape people’s health and likelihood of experiencing emergencies. Systemic oppression has only worsened these disparities. For example, a 2021 study in Equity and Health suggests that the “Black–White COVID-19 mortality gap is significantly reduced by neighborhood income.”

The speaker’s bureau is a chance for communities of color to connect with researchers and health care providers and researchers to your area. By submitting a request for a new study and calling the Speaker’s Bureau, you can learn more about the people you serve. The speaker’s bureau is a place where people can talk to each other and share information.

Being prepared for a medical emergency—even as we tackle health disparities—is within our reach. The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) released a report on “Prehospital and EMS Health Care” in 2021. Studies have shown that the experiences of Black workers in the Pittsburgh region are different from other workers because they are often left with no medical training or equipment and would not serve every community. The only response was to hire them as first responders, often placing people in the hands of those who have little or no experience in medical emergencies. This is one of the reasons why there is such a racial disparity in access to health care.

As much as we now demand and expect to receive high-quality health care, there was a time when only a few “official” persons—often police—had medical training and would come to the home of a sick or injured person. This is the origin of the emergency medical system. But this lack of formal preparedness also meant that police would not serve every neighborhood equally. As a result, some neighborhoods were left with no medical training.

To fill that gap in equity and safety, the Buffalo and Baltimore communities and University of Pittsburgh Medical School, through their Prehospital and EMS Health Care curriculum for and helps establish the right skills, an emergency medical technician (EMT) can make a significant difference in helping prevent a medical emergency.

GRADUATE—UPMC Health Plan recently held their second graduation ceremony for their Freedom House 2.0 training program. Both programs focus on preparing adults and children beyond their initial care. Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh and UPMC Health Plan recently held their second graduation ceremony for their Freedom House 2.0 training program. Both programs focus on preparing adults and children beyond their initial care. Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh and UPMC Health Plan recently held their second graduation ceremony for their Freedom House 2.0 training program. Both programs focus on preparing adults and children beyond their initial care. Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh and UPMC Health Plan recently held their second graduation ceremony for their Freedom House 2.0 training program. Both programs focus on preparing adults and children beyond their initial care. Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh and UPMC Health Plan recently held their second graduation ceremony for their Freedom House 2.0 training program. Both programs focus on preparing adults and children beyond their initial care.

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