

PROGRESS REPORT ON ADOPTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON RACIAL JUSTICE

PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2022

Presenters:

- Chair Rena Moran
- Dr. Bruce Corrie, PhD, Concordia University St. Paul
- Kizzy Downie, Model Cities of St. Paul
- Gauri Sood
- Ponny White
- J'Mag Karbeah, MPH, University of Minnesota
- Dr. Bravada Garrett-Akinsanya, PhD, LP
- Justin Terrell, MN Justice Research Center
- Elizer Darrius, MN Freedom Fund



HISTORY OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON RACIAL JUSTICE



- Formed by House Resolution 1, 2020 2nd Special Session
 - Declared racism to be a public health crisis affecting all Minnesotans
- Six informational hearings, September-December 2020
- Co-Chairs, Rep. Rena Moran and Rep. Ruth Richardson; Vice Chair, Rep. Lisa Demuth
- Discussed data, definitions, historical framework regarding systemic racism, disparities
- Expert and public testimony from across Minnesota and the United States
- Final report¹ released 1/25/2021

¹https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/docs/AtTtQOzOW0_0kfobUfMQrw.pdf

RACIAL DISPARITIES – “THE MINNESOTA PARADOX”



- The Select Committee on Racial Justice Final Report highlights:
 - Persistent and unacceptable racial disparities in Minnesota
 - Research findings on the rates of racial disparities and the underlying causes
 - Historical context of government-sanctioned policies and practices that facilitate an unequal playing field
 - Solutions to reduce and eliminate racial disparities

SELECT COMMITTEE FINDINGS



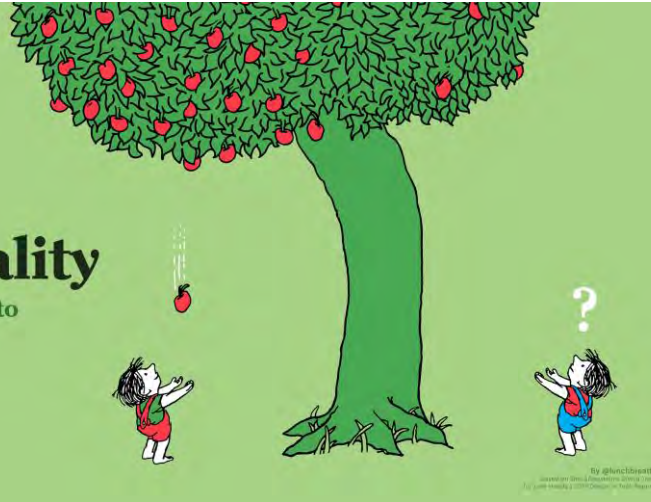
- Racism is a social system of power to dismantle, not an individual flaw to scorn
- Racism saps the strength of a whole society by inefficiently distributing resources and opportunity
- Improving racial equity is a perpetual goal, not something to solve with a checklist
- Committees should make space for hearing proposals that acutely address disparities
- Legislation should be assessed through a lens of intersectional racial equity

DEFINITIONS



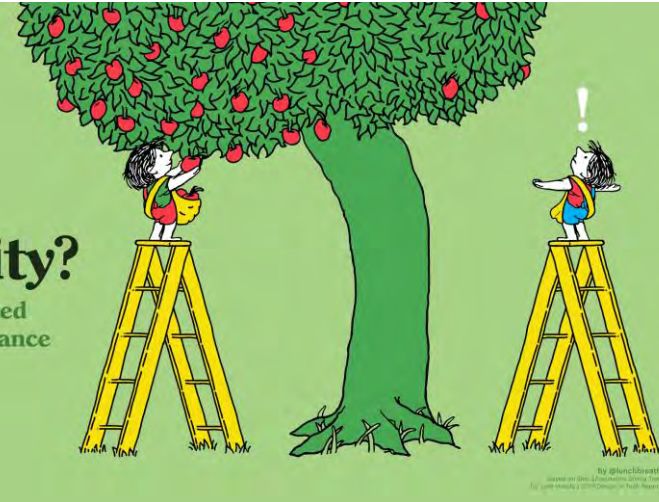
Inequality

Unequal access to opportunities



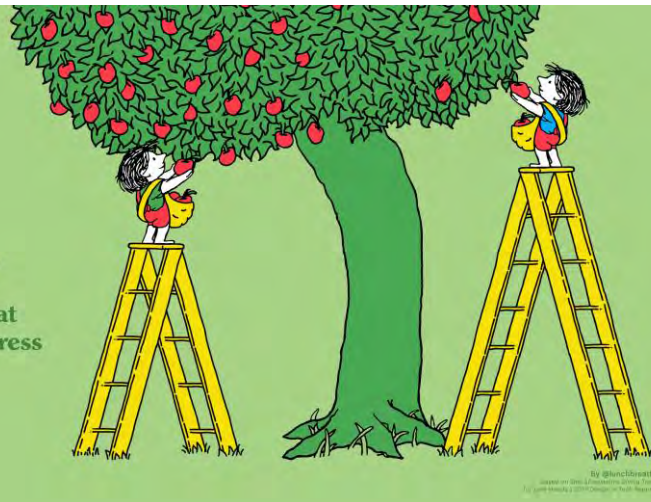
Equality

Evenly distributed tools and assistance



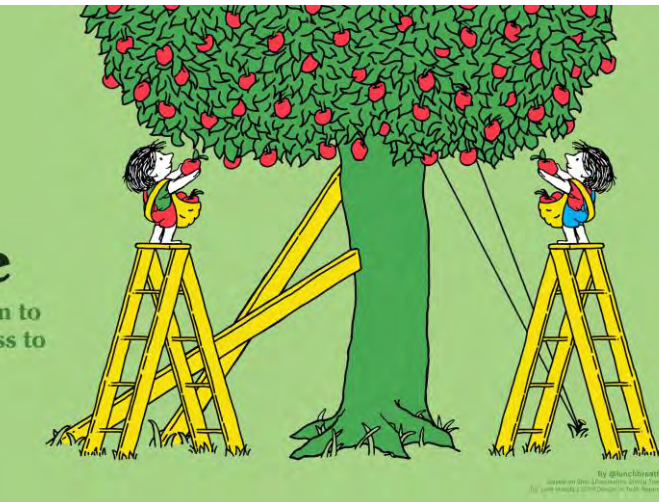
Equity

Custom tools that identify and address inequality



Justice

Fixing the system to offer equal access to both tools and opportunities



RACIAL DISPARITIES – SOLUTIONS: “FROSTING” VS “BUTTER”



- Sustainable solutions require ground-floor investments, not band-aid fixes
- Racial equity is a lens through which we can view all policy and budget decisions
- There are opportunities to tackle disparities throughout the state budget
- “It’s not the frosting on top of the cupcake. It’s the butter in the batter.”



RACIAL DISPARITIES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

With Dr. Bruce Corrie, Concordia University St. Paul

“When we talk about systemic racism ‘sapping the strength of the whole society’ that includes the reality that systemic racism is expensive.”

-Select Committee on Racial Justice Final Report

Taste of Rondo Bar and Grill
Owner Charles Carter
Source: Star Tribune



Mural art from the Native
American Cultural
Corridor, Minneapolis
Source: MPR Photo

El Burrito Mercado
owner Milissa Silva-Diaz
Source: MSPmag.com



RACIAL DISPARITIES – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES



- National economic impact of discrimination over last twenty years²:
 - \$16 trillion of forfeited economic production (GDP)
 - 6.1 million jobs were not created
- Racial disparities create a \$287 billion wealth gap for BIPOC Minnesotans³
 - \$22 billion in lost income from wage gap
 - \$174 billion in lost lifetime earnings from educational opportunity and skill gaps
 - Twin Cities household earnings: median Black family income = \$38,178 / median White family income = \$84,459
 - \$67 billion in lost business revenue from a capital gap
 - BIPOC Minnesotans face \$24 billion wealth gap from lower homeowner rates, higher rent & property taxes⁶
- Disparities persist in state procurement and contracting for minority-owned businesses

² Dana M. Peterson and Catherine L. Mann, "Closing the Racial Inequality Gap: The Economic Cost of Racial Inequality in the U.S.," Citi Global Perspectives and Solutions, Sept. 2020, <https://www.citivelocity.com/citigps/closing-the-racial-inequality-gaps/>

³ Bruce Corrie, "The Minnesota Solution to Close the \$287 Billion Racial Economic Gap," Empowering Strategies, <https://empoweringstrategies.org/the-minnesota-solution-to-close-the-287-billion-racial-economic-gaps/>

RACIAL DISPARITIES – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2021 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- ✓ Expansion of Working Family Tax Credit
- ✓ Increased funding for emerging farmer programs and urban agriculture development
- ✓ Dedicated recovery funding to BIPOC businesses for COVID-19 pandemic, civil unrest
- ✓ Competitive grants for workforce training in low-income and disadvantaged communities
- ✓ Established \$2 million rotating loan fund to help grow BIPOC-owned businesses
- ✓ Dedicated Legacy funding for cultural heritage grants to underrepresented communities

RACIAL DISPARITIES – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2022 SESSION



- Reinvest the economic contributions of BIPOC businesses (\$8 billion in annual sales)
 - Dedicate \$800 million (10% of annual output) to further economic development:
 - Capital (loans, equity, etc.)
 - Technical assistance and infrastructure
 - Expansion into growth sectors (clean energy, healthcare, digital technology, etc.)
 - Market access
 - Cultural assets
- Reinvest the economic output of the BIPOC workforce (\$200 billion/year)
 - Dedicate \$200 million (0.001% of annual output) to advance workforce development
 - Upskill and reskill current workers
 - Stronger pathways to find jobs and advancement opportunities
 - Invest in more “STEAMD” curriculum from PreK to Higher Education
 - Special focus on female workers

RACIAL DISPARITIES – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2022 SESSION (cont.)



- Ban salary history requests from employers
 - Passed off House Floor 80-51, 03/25/2021 ([HF403](#)), awaiting Senate action
- Women of Color Opportunity Act ([HF389](#))
- Ensure enforcement of BIPOC contract & workforce participation goals for public projects
- Increased education funding for adult workers to gain English language fluency

RACIAL DISPARITIES

HOUSING

With Kizzy Downie, CEO, Model Cities of St. Paul

“In short, for median families, the racial wealth gap is primarily a housing wealth gap.”

-Janelle Jones, “The racial wealth gap”⁷

⁷ Janelle Jones, “The racial wealth gap,” *Working Economics* (blog), Economic Policy Institute, Feb. 13, 2017, <https://www.epi.org/blog/the-racial-wealth-gap-how-african-americans-have-been-shortchanged-out-of-the-materials-to-build-wealth/>



Excavation of St. Paul's Rondo Neighborhood during I-94 construction

Source: Ramsey County Historical Society/Saint Paul Almanac



Design concept for Rondo Land Bridge, which received pre-design funding during 2021 session

Source: Reconnect Rondo

RACIAL DISPARITIES – HOUSING CHALLENGES



- Large disparities in Minnesota homeownership rates reduce access to financial equity
 - Homeownership is primary way Americans create generational wealth within families.
 - 77% of White households have this opportunity, compared to 44% of BIPOC households
 - Disparities also exist in access to affordable neighborhoods, mortgage financing, and home appraisals⁴
- Lack of Affordable Rental Housing
 - Demand for affordable housing units 2.5x greater than supply for extremely low-income households ($\leq 30\%$ AMI)
 - Renters of color are disproportionately cost burdened by housing ($>30\%$ of monthly income)⁵
 - Abrupt end of RentHelp MN exacerbates crisis of inaccess
- Homelessness
 - Homelessness in Minnesota increased by 10% from 2015 to 2018
 - Notable over-representation from African Americans, American Indians, LGBTQ Youth
 - 37% of Minnesota's adult homeless population was Black in 2020, compared to $>5\%$ of overall population

⁴ Debra Kamin, "Black Homeowners Face Discrimination in Appraisals," *The New York Times*, Aug. 25, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/25/realestate/blacks-minorities-appraisals-discrimination.html>

⁵ "State of the State's Housing 2019," Minnesota Housing Partnership

RACIAL DISPARITIES – HOUSING

2021 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- ✓ Eviction moratorium offramp
- ✓ \$100 million in housing infrastructure bonds
- ✓ Increased funding for several housing initiatives
 - Homeownership Assistance Fund
 - Challenge Program
 - Workforce and Affordable Homeownership Program
 - Manufactured Home Park Infrastructure
- ✓ Over \$20 million per biennium in new funding for mitigating homelessness
- ✓ Energy cost relief for low-income residents
 - Expansion of “Cold Weather Rule” by 4 weeks
 - Increased and targeted funding for energy efficiency improvements (ECO Act)

RACIAL DISPARITIES – HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2022 SESSION



- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with state financial institutions:
 - Increase lending for BIPOC communities
 - Develop alternative financial products
 - Improve services for the unbanked
 - Invest in homeowner education, counseling, financial coaching for BIPOC households.
- Dedicate 5% of State investment portfolio in BIPOC real estate development projects
 - Mixed-use developments, affordable housing projects, etc.
 - Building capacity for BIPOC developers to increase housing production across the state.
- Dismantle discriminatory housing practices
 - Provide attorneys for public housing eviction actions
 - Implement security deposit caps tied to a single month's rent
 - Develop uniform screening criteria for rental applications, criminal and credit history checks
 - Create a just cause policy for tenancy termination
 - Offer statewide rental assistance subsidy for households earning $\leq 50\%$ AMI

RACIAL DISPARITIES EDUCATION

“Disparities in education begin early in the lives of children in Minnesota, and current policies can foster inequities.”

-Select Committee on Racial Justice Final Report



Minneapolis School Board Meeting, 1998
Source: *Star Tribune* via Getty Images

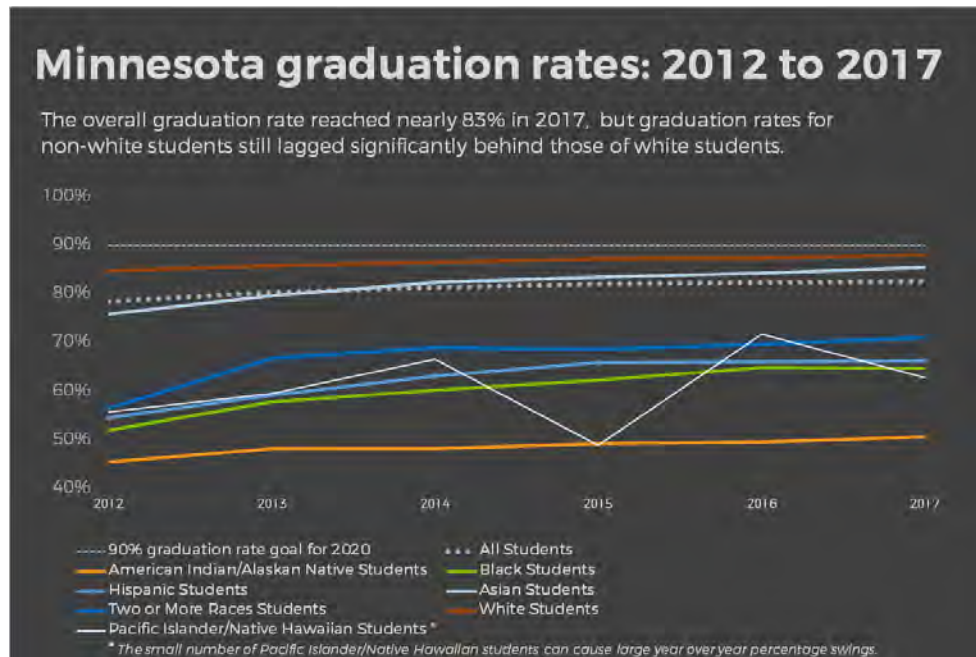


Minneapolis School Board Meeting, 2020
Source: *Star Tribune*

RACIAL DISPARITIES – EDUCATION CHALLENGES

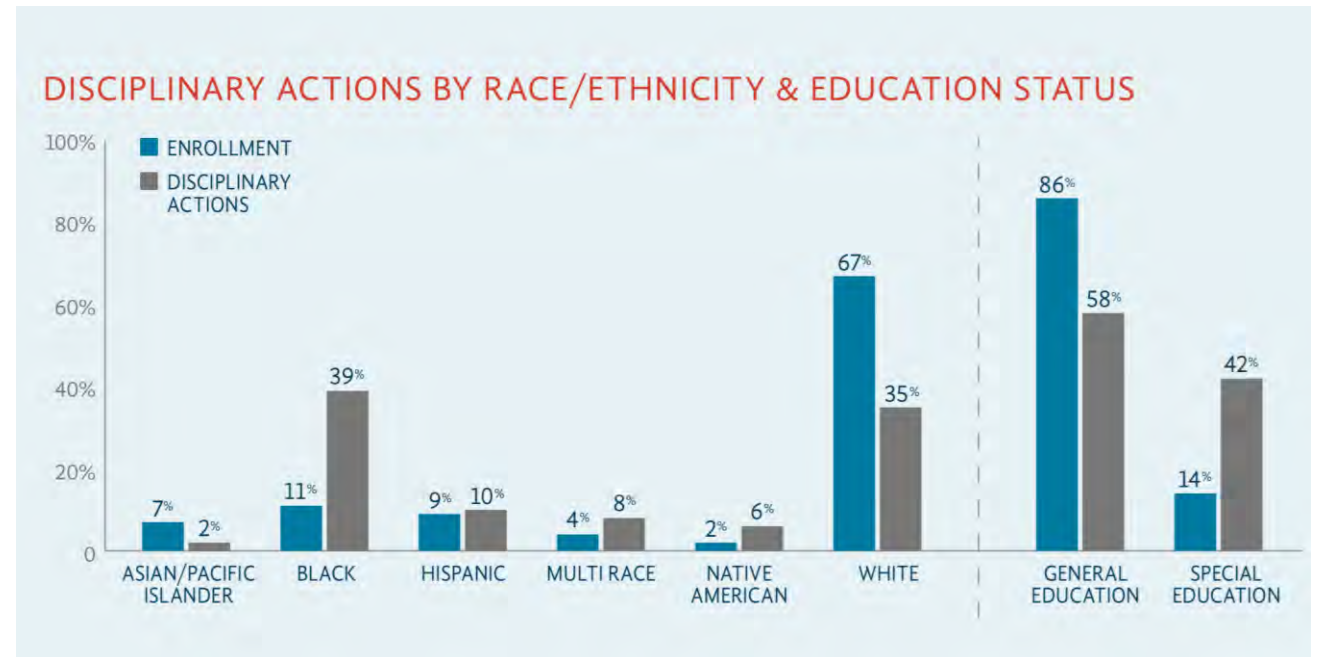


- For every indicator of success, our BIPOC students are at the bottom



Source: MPR News, 2018

- For every indicator of failure, our BIPOC students are at the top



Source: MN Dept of Education, 2018

RACIAL DISPARITIES – EDUCATION CHALLENGES (cont.)



- Minnesota's BIPOC students are consistently left behind by nation's worst education opportunity gap
 - Disparities persist in both high school and college graduation rates.
 - Majority-BIPOC schools face underinvestment, lacking resources to address disparities.
 - Students face barriers to school attendance (e.g. poverty rates, food insecurity, housing insecurity)
- BIPOC educators have tremendous effect on students of color, but the pipeline isn't fast enough
- Subjective school disciplinary actions have lifelong consequences
 - Black students are 8x more likely to be expelled than White students
 - Early suspension or expulsion contributes to the school-to-prison pipeline
 - BIPOC students with disabilities are more likely to face exclusionary practices
 - Something that may get a Black student suspended may only lead to a time-out for a White student

RACIAL DISPARITIES – EDUCATION

2021 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



✓ Expanded early education access

- Additional funding for Home Visiting Grants
- Increased reimbursement rates for Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

✓ Non-exclusionary discipline training funds

- Prohibited school suspensions for Pre-K students

✓ Reduced food access inequity

- Prohibited “meal shaming” policies
- Increased funding for Farm-to-School and Good Food Access programs

✓ Created new grants and scholarships to expand pipeline of BIPOC teachers

✓ Established the Direct Admissions Minnesota Pilot Program

- Assists students struggling with the college application process

RACIAL DISPARITIES – EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2022 SESSION (E-12)



- Fully fund and resource schools with the highest disparities, lowest BIPOC graduation rates
- Commit more state dollars to early care/early learning programs
 - Early Learning Scholarships, Early Head Start, etc.
- Prohibit suspensions for students in 3rd grade or lower
- Adopt school-based mental health models
- Implement stipends for mentor teachers, paid student teaching opportunities
- Require civics and financial literacy curriculum for high school students

RACIAL DISPARITIES – EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2022 SESSION (HIGHER ED)



- BIPOC students represent \$1.5 trillion in future earning potential with right investments:
 - Affordability (State grant program, loan forgiveness, etc.)
 - Multi-tiered support services
 - Culturally intelligent learning environment
 - Tracking disaggregated graduation and career metrics
- Improve access to higher education
 - Increase high school access to AP, IB, dual credit, technical/trade college courses
 - Tuition-free community college enrollment for students with financial needs
 - Expand financial aid education for high school students and families

RACIAL DISPARITIES – EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2022 SESSION (cont.)



- Testimony from Minnesota Students
 - Gauri Sood
 - Ponny White

RACIAL DISPARITIES HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

“While Minnesota is one of the healthiest states in the nation, at the same time it is home to some of the worst health inequities.”

-Select Committee on Racial Justice Final Report



Nurse Sandra Lindsay receives the first COVID-19 vaccine administered in the US, 2020

Source: Northwell Health

RACIAL DISPARITIES – HEALTH CHALLENGES



- Twin Cities area life expectancy by race according to 2000 census data⁶:
 - Asian: 83 years
 - White: 81 years
 - Black: 74 years
 - Indigenous Minnesotans: 61 years
- Higher rates of disease from cancer to COVID-19, higher mortality rates across the board⁷
- Significantly higher mortality and morbidity rates for expecting mothers and newborns
- Fewer opportunities for access to health care, and worse outcomes in health crises
- BIPOC communities are underrepresented across health care professions

⁶ The Unequal Distribution of Health in the Twin Cities, Wilder Research, study commissioned by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation, Oct. 2010, https://www.wilder.org/sites/default/files/imports/BlueCross_HealthInequities_10-10.pdf

⁷ COVID-19 Data by Race/Ethnicity, Minnesota COVID-19 Response, <https://mn.gov/covid19/data/data-by-race-ethnicity/index.jsp>

RACIAL DISPARITIES – HEALTH

2021 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



✓ Maternal Health

- Postpartum MA coverage extended from 60 days to 12 months
- Passage of the Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act
- Expansion of physician exemptions for mandatory reporting requirements

✓ MA dental rate reform and addition of periodontal coverage

✓ MA coverage for weight loss medication

✓ Tobacco and vaping prevention funding

✓ Several initiatives to build BIPOC participation in the mental health workforce

✓ Increased funding for Market Bucks program to increase access to local, fresh produce

RACIAL DISPARITIES – HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2022 SESSION



- Establish a state-paid family medical leave program
- Prohibit discrimination against Medicaid patients
- Ensure coverage parity across all health services (behavioral, dental, etc.)
- Ban the sale of menthol and flavored tobacco products



Black Maternal Health: Getting at the Root Cause of Inequity

Invited Testimony, MN House Ways and Means Committee
02.07.2022

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Predoctoral Fellow | Minnesota Population Center

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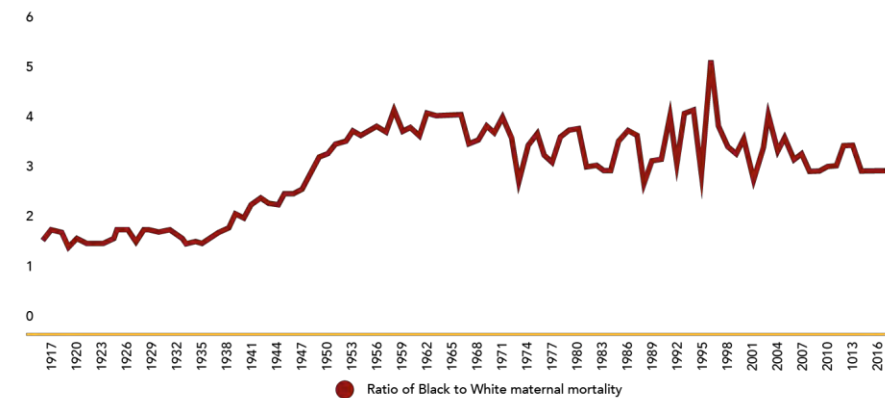
Opportunities for 2022 Session

- Eliminate use of race-based medicine in medical schools and facilities
- More investment in recruitment and retention of BIPOC health care providers
- Expand coverage for comprehensive postpartum check-ups

Background



BLACK MOTHERS HAVE BEEN MORE LIKELY TO DIE THAN WHITE MOTHERS FOR 100 YEARS.

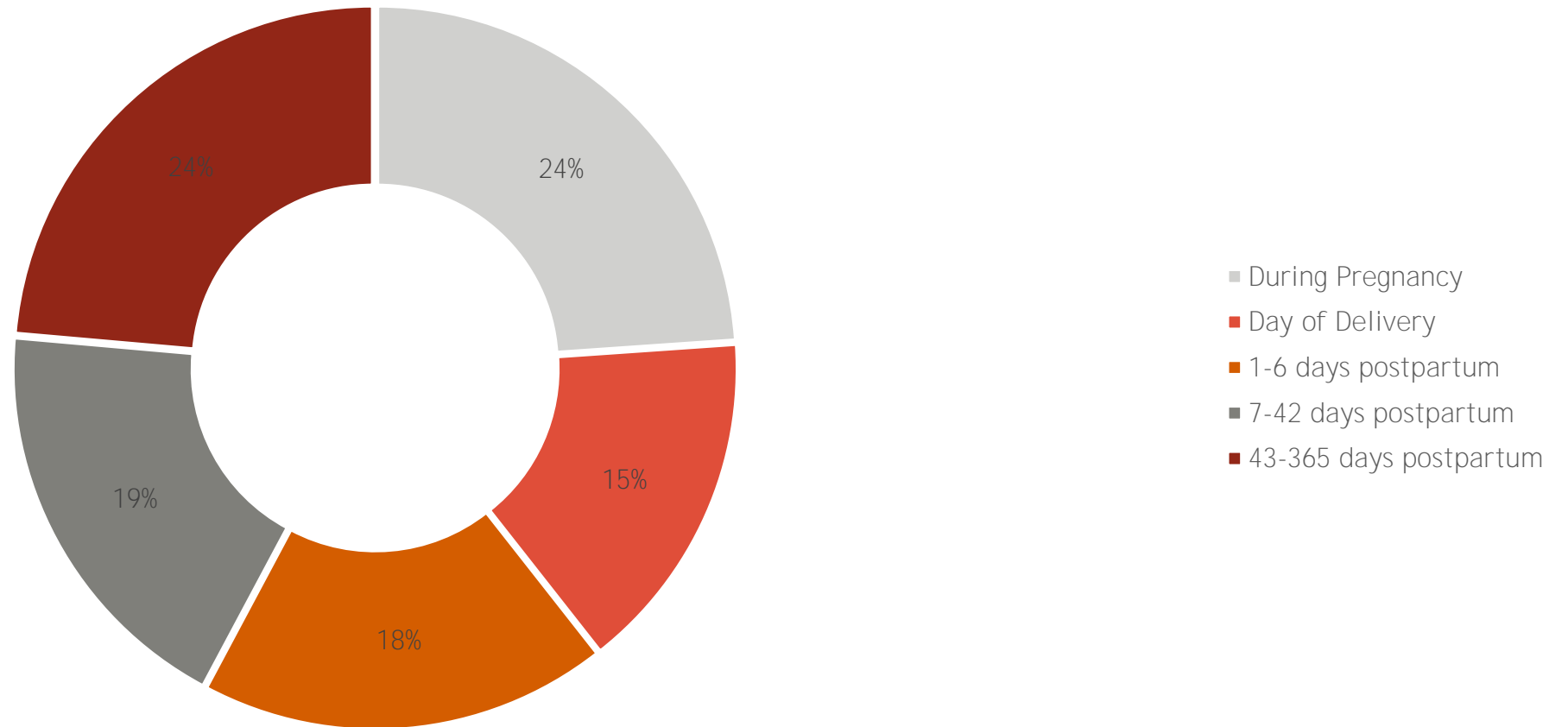


Notes: Shifts in measurement account for some of the variation over time. For example, not all states were part of registration system prior to 1933, and infant race was based on race of the child until 1980 and then race of the mother after 1980.

Data: National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), "Maternal Mortality and Related Concepts," Vital and Health Statistics, series 33, no. 3 (Feb 2007) and NCHS annual data reports. Data for 1915-1960 from NCHS, Vital Statistics Rates in the United States 1940-1960. Data for 2007-2016 based on two-year estimate of the pregnancy-related mortality rate, from Emily E. Petersen et al., "Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Pregnancy-Related Deaths - United States, 2007-2016," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 68, no. 35 (Sept. 6, 2019): 762-65.

Source: Eugene Declercq and Laurie Zephyrin, *Mortality in the United States: A Primer* (Commonwealth Fund, Dec. 2020). <https://doi.org/10.26099/taqmw24>

Distribution of pregnancy-related deaths by timing of death in relation to pregnancy, data from 14 maternal mortality review committees, 2008-2017



How does racism show up in Clinical Care?

- Racialized beliefs impact patient care
- Black mothers receive less pain assessment than white counterparts
- Racialized ideas impact choices after pregnancy as well (i.e. VBAC)
- **Session opportunity:** Eliminate use of race-based medicine in medical schools and facilities



How does racism show up in Clinical Care? (continued)



FEATURED PUBLICATIONS

ALL PRESS INQUIRIES ABOUT THIS STUDY [CLICK HERE](#)

Physician–patient racial concordance and disparities in birthing mortality for newborns

N. Greenwood^{a,1,2}, Rachel R. Hardeman^{b,1}, Laura Huang^{c,1}, and Aaron Sojourner^{d,1}

^aDepartment of Business, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 22030; ^bSchool of Public Health, University of Minnesota–Twin Cities, Minneapolis, MN 55455; ^cMcDonald Business School, Harvard University, Boston, MA 02163; and ^dCarlson School of Management, University of Minnesota–Twin Cities, Minneapolis, MN 55455

by Christopher W. Kuzawa, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, and approved July 16, 2020 (received for review August 2, 2019)

This work has emphasized the benefits of patient–physician concordance on clinical care outcomes for underrepresented groups, arguing it can ameliorate outgroup biases, boost communication, and increase trust. We explore concordance in birthing outcomes where racial disparities are particularly severe: childbirth. In the United States, Black newborns die at three times the rate of White newborns. Results examining 1.8 million hospital births in the state of Florida between 1992 and 2015 suggest newborn–physician racial concordance is associated with a significant improvement in mortality for Black infants. Results suggest that these benefits manifest during more challenging births and in hospitals that deliver more Black babies. We find no significant improvement in maternal mortality when birthing mothers share race with their physician.

racial bias | birthing outcomes | concordance | mortality | health care

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

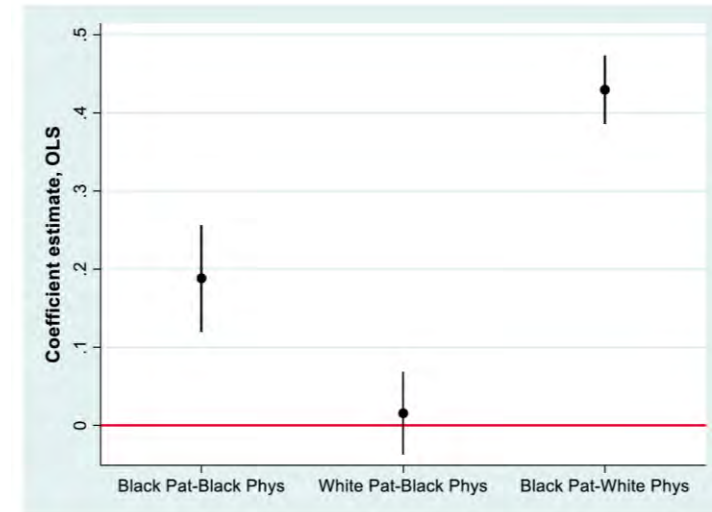
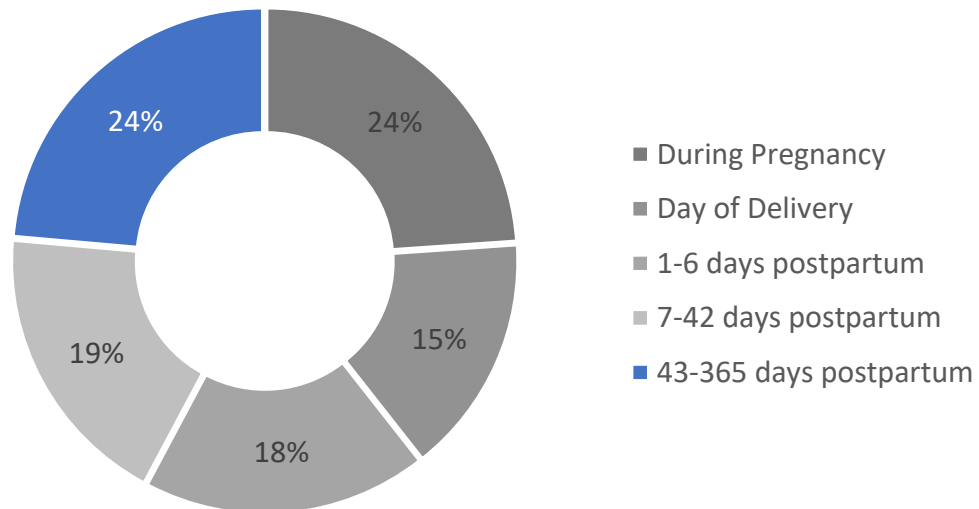


Fig. 1. Effect of racial concordance on patient survival, disaggregate based on column 4 of Table 1. Patient White–Physician White serves as the baseline. Estimates displayed in the absence of the physician fixed effect to allow comparison across physician race. Includes controls, hospital fixed effect, and time fixed effects. The 95% CI is displayed.

Session opportunity: More investment in recruitment and retention of BIPOC health care providers

4th trimester

Distribution of pregnancy-related deaths by timing of death in relation to pregnancy, data from 14 maternal mortality review committees, 2008-2017



Session opportunity: Expand coverage for comprehensive postpartum check-ups

Thank You!

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RACIAL DISPARITIES – HUMAN SERVICES CHALLENGES



- Family separation remains a clear and present danger to BIPOC communities
 - Family separation is traumatic and creates permanent, multigenerational distress
 - Subjective assessments of child welfare generate bias in maltreatment reports, removal decisions
 - It costs more to keep a child in foster care than to support their family's basic needs⁸
- Low reimbursement rates for direct care services pose a dual threat
 - BIPOC individuals have high representation in the personal care service workforce⁹
 - BIPOC individuals are also more likely to receive in-home care services from PCAs¹⁰
- Inadequate investments in economic support programs undermine goals of helping families escape poverty and achieve financial independence

⁸ Select Committee on Racial Justice Final Report, 1/25/2021, https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/docs/AtTtQOzOW0_0kfobUfMQrw.pdf

⁹ "Sex, Race, and Ethnic Diversity of US Health Occupations (2011-2015), US Dept of Health and Human Services et al, Aug. 2017, <https://bhw.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/bureau-health-workforce/data-research/diversity-us-health-occupations.pdf>

¹⁰ "DHS Oversight of Personal Care Assistance" MN OLA Program Evaluation Division, March 2020, <https://www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us/ped/pedrep/pcaoversight.pdf>

RACIAL DISPARITIES – HUMAN SERVICES

2021 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- ✓ MFIP one-time payment increase and ongoing cost of living adjustment (COLA)
- ✓ Established the Office of the Ombudsperson for American Indian Families
- ✓ Historic investments in PCA reimbursement rates
- ✓ Continued implementation of the Families First Prevention Services Act
- ✓ Funding to increase BIPOC representation in mental health workforce
- ✓ Court-appointed counsel for parents/guardians in all juvenile protection proceedings
- ✓ 4-year extension for Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council

RACIAL DISPARITIES – HUMAN SERVICES OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2022 SESSION



- Authorize DHS and tribes to seek waiver for better targeting Title IV-E foster care dollars
- Remove barriers for kinship and relative caregivers during out-of-home placements
- Strengthen reporting and review requirements prior to child removal decisions
- Additional investments in behavioral health services
- Create a state Truth and Reconciliation Commission to:
 - Assess the holistic impact of racism in Minnesota
 - Develop policy recommendations to mitigate historical trauma of impacted communities

A photograph of a family of four—two adults and two children—sitting on a green couch and laughing joyfully. The room is bright and modern, with a white shelf in the background holding a woven basket and a potted plant. A semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the title and author information.

Addressing the Behavioral Health Needs of Families

BraVada Garrett-Akinsanya, Ph. D., LP
**African American Child Wellness
Institute**



African American Child Wellness Institute, Inc.

*9800 Shelard Parkway, Suite #325, Plymouth, MN 55441 Phone 763-522-0100, Fax 763-588-0100
2100 Plymouth Ave. North, Suite #245, Minneapolis, MN 55411 Phone 612-302-3140,*

The mission of the African American Child Wellness Institute is to promote the psychological & spiritual liberation of children of African descent and their families by providing culturally specific mental health services and by developing access to culture-based, holistic wellness resources, research, and practices.

What are the Problems we would like to address?

Safety

- 52% more likely than their white counterparts to report feeling unsafe going to and from school.
- 33% more likely to report feeling unsafe at school once they get there
- 71% more likely to report feeling unsafe in their neighborhoods than their white peers.

Trauma

- 31.4% more likely than their white counterparts to have **more than 4 ACES** and therefore more likely to experience trauma than their white peers.

Suicide

- 25% more likely than their white counterparts to have reported making a suicide over the last year or more.

What are the Problems we would like to address?

Drug & Substance Abuse

- Black youth identified as being users of marijuana & other drugs almost twice as often (97% higher) as their white counterparts.
- Black children identified as living with people who use illegal drugs or abuse prescription drugs 26.3% more often than their white counterparts.

Exposure to Violence

- AA children identified as being victims of Violence 63% more often than their Caucasian counterparts.
- AA children reported witnessing violence among adults in their lives 57% more often than their Caucasian counterparts.

Ways to Address The Problems That We See:

Provide deliberate and sustainable funding for the following:

- Support agencies and programs that provide culturally-specific behavioral health services to their communities; and
- Establish “carve outs” for supports (such as school-linked mental health) to the AA community to serve children, youth and families in charter & public schools as they attempt to navigate systems in which they are often over-represented but underserved;
- Expand culturally specific and comprehensive behavioral health services as well as supportive ancillary services such as CTSS for children and ARMHS for adults;



Ways to Address The Problems That We See (cont.)



- Increase the number of licensed mental health providers of African descent in the workforce who have received culturally congruent training and supervision in order to provide culturally competent care to children and adults of African descent;
- Support ‘at-promise’ children & their parents whether they face circumstances including poverty, mental illnesses, substance abuse or physical health challenges;
- Support agencies and programs that provide culturally specific behavioral health services to their communities; and
- Support the development of innovative collaborative models for service delivery among people of African descent.



Thank You !!!!

- *BraVada Garrett-Akinsanya, Ph. D., LP . LICSW*
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- *612-839-1449 c 612-302-3140 w 763-522-0100 w*
- *Email: bravadaakinsanya@hotmail.com*

RACIAL DISPARITIES PUBLIC SAFETY

“There is a legacy of public policy decisions that served to reinforce inequality in our justice system and a legacy of resistance to advances in civil rights.”

-Select Committee on Racial Justice Final Report



Source: Pioneer Press

RACIAL DISPARITIES – PUBLIC SAFETY CHALLENGES



- The modern criminal justice system relies on an unfair, unsustainable model of mass incarceration designed as a loophole around the Constitutional ban of slavery
- Perverse systemic incentives exist to over-prosecute those without the means to produce a robust defense, disproportionately effecting BIPOC communities
- Drivers of color in Minnesota are far more likely to be pulled over and searched than should be expected relative to population
 - In 2003, Black drivers were overrepresented statewide in traffic stops by **214%**¹¹
 - From 2017 to 2021, Black drivers in Minneapolis accounted for 3 out of 4 vehicle searches following a traffic stop for an equipment violation¹²
- In 2018, Black Americans represented 12% of the US population, but 23% of people killed in police encounters¹³

¹¹ David Montgomery, “Data dive: Racial disparities in Minnesota traffic stops,” *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, July 8, 2016, <https://www.twincities.com/2016/07/08/data-dive-racial-disparities-in-minnesota-traffic-stops/>

¹² Brandon Stahl, A.J. Lagoe, Steve Eckert, “Kare 11 Investigates,” KARE 11, 05/06/21, <https://www.kare11.com/article/news/investigations/new-data-shows-mpd-searches-black-drivers-at-29-times-the-rate-of-whites-after-minor-stops/89-7d1498a6-5fe3-4a9b-b1f9-a9dc72600829>

¹³ Fatal Force, *The Washington Post*, June 1, 2020, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2018/national/police-shootings-2018/>

RACIAL DISPARITIES – PUBLIC SAFETY

2021 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- ✓ Civil asset forfeiture reform
- ✓ Stronger reporting and inspection requirements for correctional facilities
 - Hardel Sherrell Act
- ✓ New regulations for “no-knock” warrants
- ✓ “Sign-and-release” warranting authorized for missed court dates
- ✓ Surcharge and license revocation reforms for minor offenses
- ✓ Nation-leading reforms to keep incarcerated mothers and babies together
- ✓ Established the Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives

RACIAL DISPARITIES – PUBLIC SAFETY OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2022 SESSION



- Decriminalization of cannabis and expungement of non-violent convictions
 - Passed off House Floor 72-61, 05/13/2021 ([HF600](#)), awaiting Senate action
- Retroactive statutes of limitations reform
- Authorize noncompliant driver's licenses for non-citizens
- Cash bail reform
- Fund trauma-informed training to help families impacted by violence and hate crime
- Raising the minimum age for trying individuals as an adult to 18

RACIAL DISPARITIES – PUBLIC SAFETY OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2022 SESSION (cont.)



- Testimony
 - Justin Terrell – MN Justice Research Center
 - Elizer Darrius – MN Freedom Fund

RACIAL DISPARITIES ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

“Environmental justice is an important part of the struggle to improve and maintain a clean and healthful environment, especially for those who have traditionally lived, worked, and played closest to the sources of pollution .”

-Select Committee on Racial Justice Final Report



Now-closed Northern Metals facility in North Minneapolis, 2019

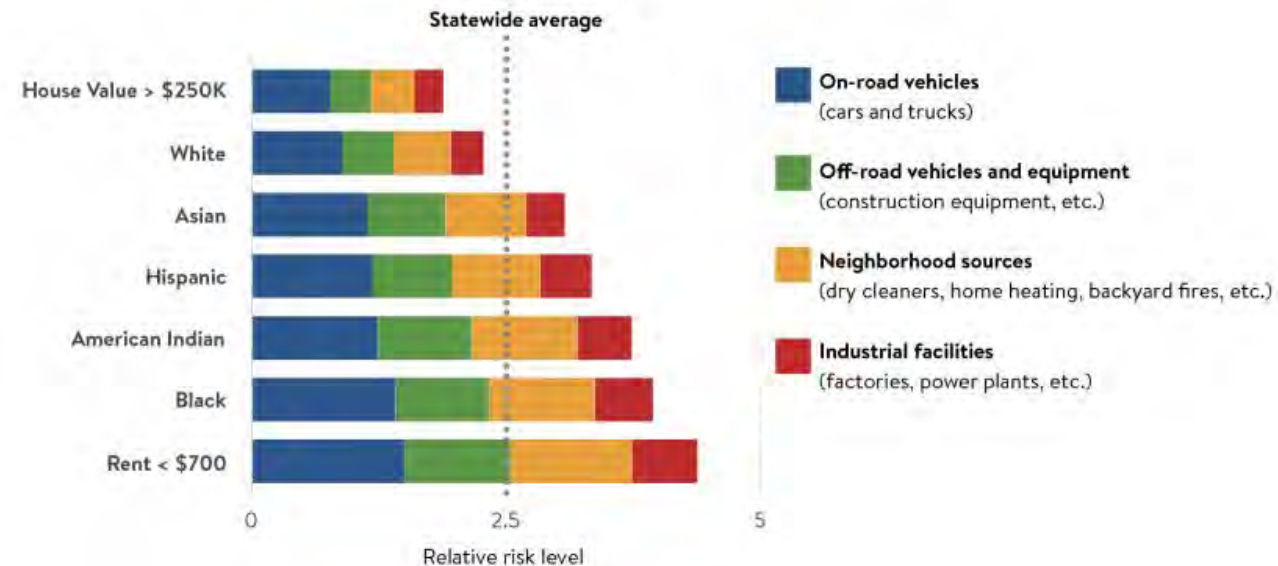
Source: *Insight News*

RACIAL DISPARITIES – ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CHALLENGES



“The principle of environmental justice asserts that no people, based on their race or economic status, should be forced to bear a disproportionate burden of environmental risks.”¹⁴

- BIPOC Minnesotans experience higher cancer & asthma rates than their White peers
- These health disparities have links to higher concentrations of environmental pollutions and polluters in these communities
 - 91% of BIPOC Minnesotans experience air pollution-related risks above health guidelines¹⁵



Source: MN Pollution Control Agency

¹⁴“What Is Environmental Justice and Why Should We Care?” Sustainability Office, Colgate University, April 23, 2014.

¹⁵“Disproportionate impacts in Minnesota,” Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/disproportionate-impacts-minnesota>

RACIAL DISPARITIES – ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

2021 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- ✓ Metro Transit transition planning for zero-emission vehicle fleet
- ✓ MA coverage for enhanced asthma treatment
- ✓ No Child Left Inside grants to connect low-income families with outdoors
- ✓ Clean Energy Careers Pilot Project
- ✓ Solar for Schools grant program
- ✓ MPCA funding for portable air monitoring equipment
- ✓ Stronger authority for state to initiate lead risk assessments and mitigation

RACIAL DISPARITIES – ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2022 SESSION



- Establish “green zones” in BIPOC communities throughout the state
- Engage nearby communities before committing state development projects
 - Assess environmental and health risks throughout the project’s life cycle
- Support the Headwaters Community Food and Water Economic Resiliency Program
- Develop Environmental Justice Coordinating Councils

CONCLUSIONS

“It is imperative on the Minnesota Legislature to make amends for past and present harms by prioritizing the enactment of laws and policies designed to address racial disparities and expand access to opportunity to build a prosperous state for all Minnesotans.”

-Select Committee on Racial Justice Final Report



Legislation affirming government-to-government relations with Minnesota's 11 Tribes is signed by Governor Walz, 11/08/21
Source: Star Tribune

CONCLUSIONS



- The State Budget adopted in 2021 demonstrates what is possible when legislators make decisions using equity as a guiding principle
- Bipartisan cooperation is possible and necessary to continue progress
- The projected budget surplus creates new opportunities in the 2022 Session
- There is no finish line to justice, but Minnesota is picking up the pace



Source: Star Tribune



Source: Minnesota Youth Council



Source: MN House Information

QUESTIONS?

