

Join the Fight.

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We Build Capacity & Provide Resources.

Sharing is the key to health justice and parity. Once stakeholders, community leaders and health professionals become well-informed on the specific issues at hand, knowledge must be shared with others.

The Center for Black Health & Equity has a network of strategic partners uniquely positioned to strengthen, support, and disseminate evidence-based and promising strategies to eliminate tobacco, HIV/AIDS and cancer-related health disparities. It is imperative to engage more public health advocates across sectors in disease prevention work. This includes state and local public health officials, faith leaders, youth, academic researchers, and leaders in the African American community.

Our network of strategic partners continues to expand.

We Will End Health Disparities.

Strategic action must be taken to reduce the burden of tobacco use, cancer-related health disparities and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in order to advance health equity. The Center is leading the way in effective action to reduce the burden of chronic disease on African American community.

To improve the overall quality of health in America, it is vital that we rethink the tools, strategies and interventions designed for minority populations.

Since 2000, The Center for Black Health & Equity has been working collaboratively with communities to eliminate tobacco related health disparities. Here are a few actions you can take to participate in the fight: raise the awareness of the dangers of menthol and tobacco use in your community; encourage frequent HIV testing for high-risk groups; promote early detection and primary cancer prevention strategies; outreach to key stakeholders that can influence access to care; advocate for positive lifestyle changes and environmentally friendly policies.

Join The Center's network to share data, information and lessons learned with our strategic partners.



THE CENTER FOR
BLACK HEALTH & EQUITY



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The Center for Black Health & Equity (The Center) is the leading nationally recognized public health entity for solutions impacting African American health. We engage health care organizations, public health officials, faith leaders, and African American communities in health promotion and disease prevention work.

Our mission is to facilitate the implementation and promotion of comprehensive policies, community-led programs and culturally competent public health campaigns that benefit African Americans. We are committed to addressing the social and economic injustices that have marginalized our communities and led to deep health disparities.

We apply our proven framework for policy and social change to our work in tobacco control, HIV/AIDS, cancer, heart, diabetes, COVID-19 and other disparities.

We Fight for Our Lives.

At The Center for Black Health & Equity, we understand that the first step to mobilizing health organizations and communities is to become aware of the root causes of health disparities among African Americans. This means examining and abolishing stigma associated with HIV/AIDS, fighting the tobacco industry's predatory marketing tactics, and reversing the impact that institutional racism has had on African American health.

African Americans carry the highest burden of death for many of the country's most fatal diseases. Approximately 45,000 African Americans will die from a smoking-related disease this year, and African Americans are still more likely to die from cancer than any other ethnic group. Additionally, African Americans continue to account for nearly half of all new HIV cases. The Center is taking a stand and providing advocacy assistance to eliminate such egregious health disparities.

To reduce rates of death and illness among African Americans, it is critical that we help people to quit smoking, encourage early cancer screenings, get more people tested for HIV, promote healthier lifestyles, and assist our community members in accessing quality health care. In addition, we train community leaders to pursue the policy changes necessary for people to make such important choices.



We Equip Communities.

African Americans typically experience higher rates of disease, death and lower-quality health care compared to the general population. However, most public health efforts are designed for the general population and often ignore issues specific to minorities.

For example, African American communities have historically been assaulted with aggressive, targeted campaigns promoting mentholated tobacco products. As a result of such predatory marketing, African Americans smoke menthol flavored cigarettes at nearly 3 times the rate as whites, have a more difficult time quitting, and are more likely to die from a smoking-related illness.

In addition, African Americans are at increased risk for acquiring and transmitting HIV due to factors that are often overlooked: geography, education, discrimination, and stigma.

As it relates to cancer, African Americans have the highest mortality rate of any racial group for all cancers combined. In fact, both African American men and women have lower life expectancies partly due to late detection and diagnosis.

The Center and its strategic partners are working to educate people on the health and social challenges unique to African Americans. Executing culturally competent strategies, providing quality health care and powerful education campaigns can be extremely effective in advancing health equity. The Center is here to provide information, collaboration, and education to realize these solutions.