Structural Racism & Health
Healthy Futures Summit

Rachel R. Hardeman PhD, MPH
Assistant Professor, Division of Health Policy & Management
400 Years of Inequality

**BLACK ENSLAVEMENT, ABOUT 60% OF THIS COUNTRY’S HISTORY**

- 1619
- 1877
- 1969
- 1607
- 1787
- 1819
- 1865

**JIM CROW, ABOUT 22% OF OUR HISTORY**

---

**FIRST AFRICANS IN VIRGINIA**

The first documented Africans in Virginia arrived here in Aug. 1619 on the White Lion, an English privateer based in the Netherlands. Colonial officials traded food for these “20 and odd” Africans, who had been captured from a Portuguese slave ship. Among present-day Hampton's earliest African residents were Antony and Isabella. Their son, William, was the first child of African ancestry known to have been born in Virginia (ca. 1624). Many of the earliest Africans were held as slaves, but some individuals became free. A legal framework for hereditary, lifelong slavery in Virginia evolved during the 1600s. The United States abolished slavery in 1865.
A History of Racist Ideas
Structural Racism

"Social Determinants of Health"

- Education Access & Quality
- Access to Quality Healthcare
- Housing Affordability & Options
- Work & Economic Opportunities
- Neighborhood Context & Factors
- Social Interactions & Relationships

Inequitable Health Outcomes by ‘race’
(Health Disparities)

Implicit Bias

- Voting rights
- FHA Loan
- Residential segregation
- Access to education, green space, resources, safety, healthcare, etc.
- Jobs, hiring, & advancement

@RRHDR
Infant Mortality

Infant Mortality Rate
Deaths Per 1,000 Live Births

Source: Centers for Disease Control

Maternal Mortality

US Maternal Death Rate
Per 100,000 live births

Source: CDC

---

**Figure 1**
Maternal mortality rates in select countries and the United States

- Total maternal deaths per 100,000 live births
  - All U.S. mothers: 14
  - U.S. non-Hispanic white mothers: 12.7
  - U.S. African American mothers: 43.5
  - Mothers in high-income countries: 43.5
  - Mothers in upper-middle-income countries: 44


---

**Figure 2**
Infant mortality rates in select countries and the United States

- Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births
  - All U.S. mothers: 6
  - U.S. non-Hispanic white mothers: 4.8
  - U.S. African American mothers: 11.7
  - Mothers in high-income countries: 5
  - Mothers in upper-middle-income countries: 12

• Learn about, understand and accept the United States’ racist roots

• Understand how racism has shaped our narrative about health disparities

• Define, recognize, and acknowledge racism in its distinct forms

• Center at the Margins
Thank You.

Rachel R. Hardeman PhD, MPH
hard0222@umn.edu
hard0222@umn.edu
@RRHDR