

Fall 2022 LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

The Anti-Racism in Public Health Act, H.R. 666, Rep. Pressley (D-MA) and S. 162, Sen. Warren (D-MA)

ASK: SOPHE Urges Congress to Swiftly Pass The Anti-Racism in Public Health Act!



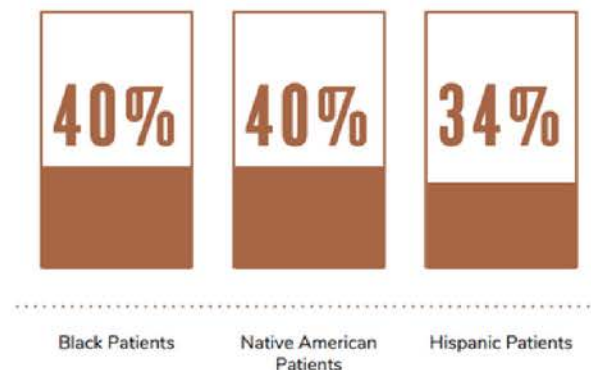
Racism is a public health problem that has been amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has disproportionately harmed Black and Brown populations in urban communities. The [Society for Public Health Education \(SOPHE\)](#) is committed to health equity, condemning and tackling racism, while advocating and fighting for social justice. SOPHE has and will continue to work to learn, advocate and advance policy changes to end racism in this country to achieve health equity.

The Problem:

There is a lack of comprehensive research addressing the health impacts of structural racism and federal legislation is needed to implement race-conscious public health practices. The legislation's lead author, Rep. Pressley (D-MA) outlined the need for this critical legislation stating, "Structural racism is a public health crisis that continues to ravage Black, Brown and Indigenous communities, deny us access to quality health care, and exacerbate the longstanding racial disparities in health outcomes."

2013 – 2017

% of Patients Receiving Lesser Quality Health Care than White Patients

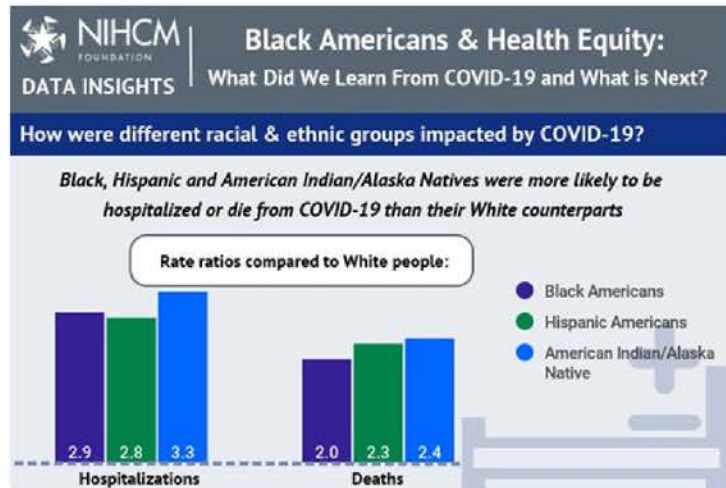


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The Solution: The Anti-Racism in Public Health Act

The Anti-Racism in Public Health Act is a bill to declare structural racism a public health crisis and confront its public health impacts through two programs within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



The legislation establishes a “National Center for Anti-Racism” at the CDC which would conduct research, collect data, award grants, and provide leadership and coordination on the science and practice of anti-racism in the provision of health care, the public health impacts of systemic racism, and the effectiveness of interventions to address these impacts. The bill would create regional centers of excellence in anti-racism and educate the public on public health impacts of structural racism. Additionally, it creates a Law Enforcement Violence Prevention Program to address physical and psychological violence which disproportionately affects marginalized populations. This bill would take a public health approach to combating police brutality and violence by creating a dedicated law enforcement violence prevention program at the CDC.

Congressional Support: The House version of the bill, H.R. 666, has 59 cosponsors & the Senate bill, S. 162, has 4 cosponsors.

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