



UNIVERSITY *of* MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Breaking Barriers: Inclusive Health Care & Social Justice

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March 2022

Disclaimer

The informed opinions presented here are my own.

- **They do not represent those of my employer or any organization with which I am affiliated.**

The purpose of this presentation is to support learning:

- **Understanding about both the barriers to and opportunities for inclusive health care and supporting oral health equity as a social justice concern.**

The elephant in
the room



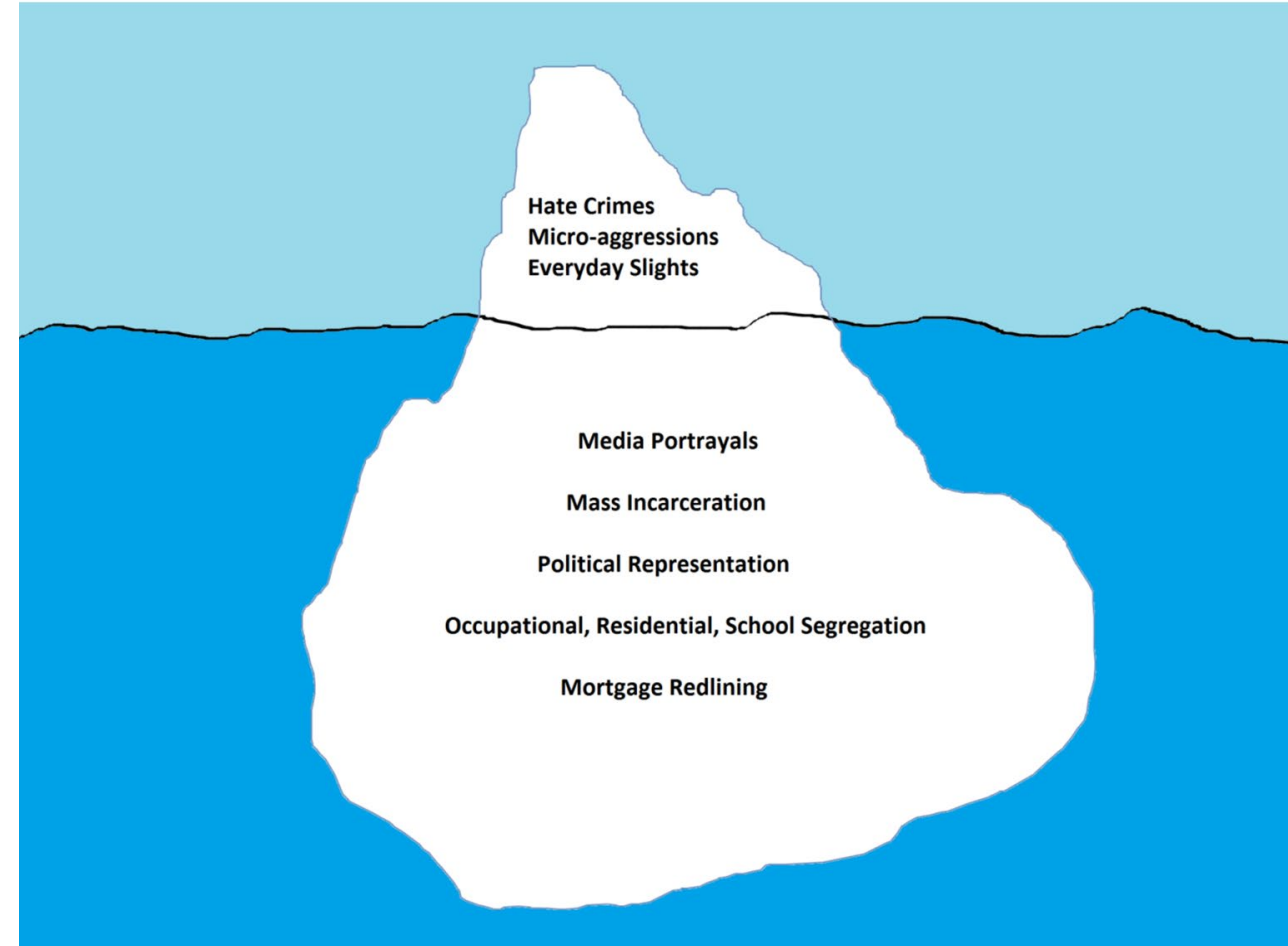
Structural & Systemic Racism

Why patterns continue to happen by
race

+

What causes the racial patterns to be
maintained across time and place

Figure 1. The Racism Iceberg (adapted from Gee, et al., 2007).



Privilege

In the United States, privilege is granted to people who have membership in one or more of these social identity groups:

- **White people;**
- **Able-bodied people;**
- **Heterosexuals;**
- **Males;**
- **Christians;**
- **Middle or owning class people;**
- **Middle-aged people;**
- **English-speaking people**

“Privilege exists when one group has something of value that is denied to others simply because of the groups they belong to, rather than because of anything they’ve done or failed to do. Access to privilege doesn’t determine one’s outcomes, but it is definitely an asset that makes it more likely that whatever talent, ability, and aspirations a person with privilege has will result in something positive for them.”

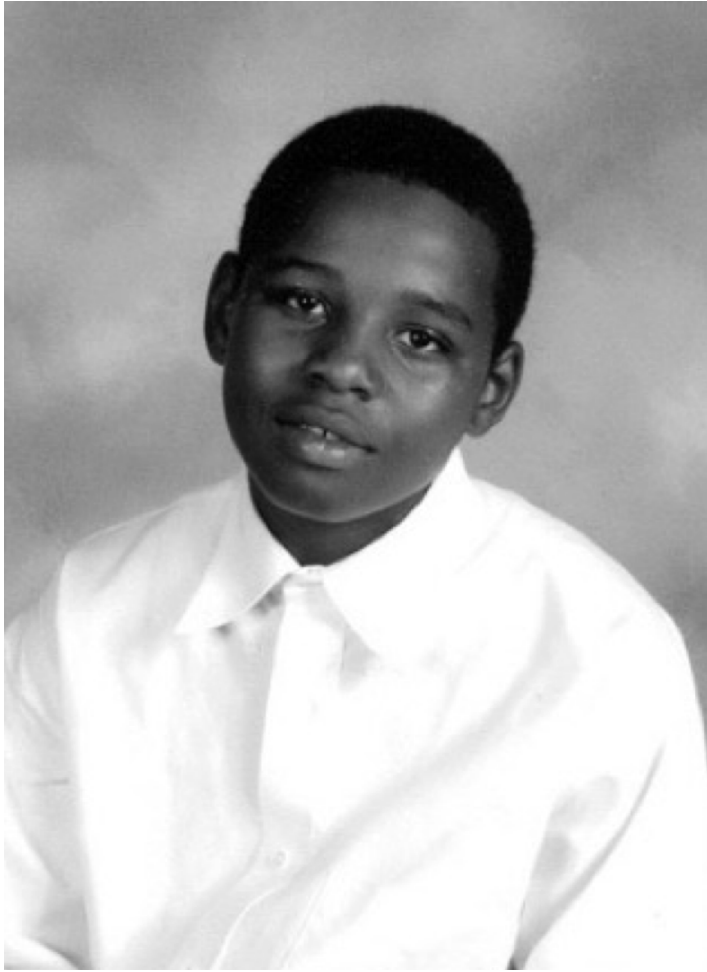
- Peggy McIntosh



Learning Objectives

- Differentiate between equality, equity, and liberation as social justice concepts.
- Understand how and why ~~inclusion~~ *social justice* is information in oral health practice, advocacy, and research.
- Identify areas of opportunity to break barriers in oral health.

EQUALITY, EQUITY, AND LIBERATION AS SOCIAL JUSTICE CONCEPTS



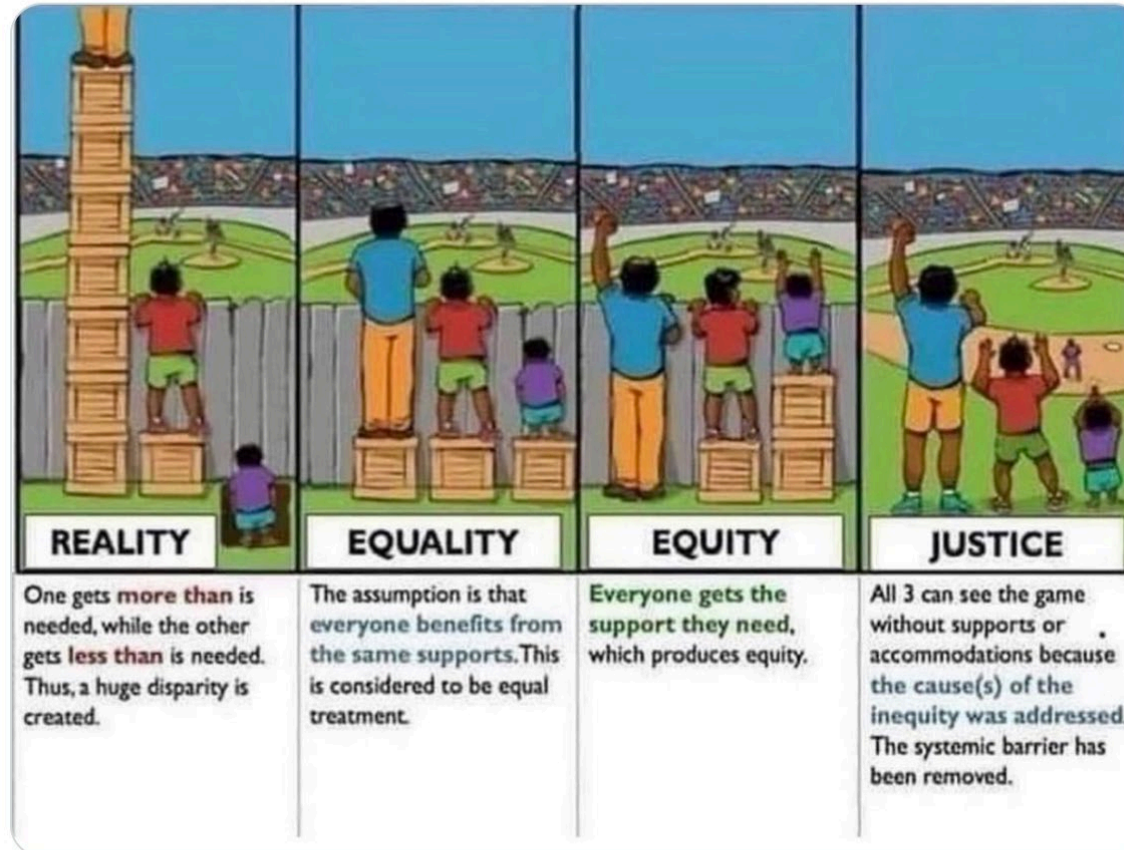
Deamonte Driver
(1995-2007)



Elshaddai White, PhD
@BlkBoiScientist



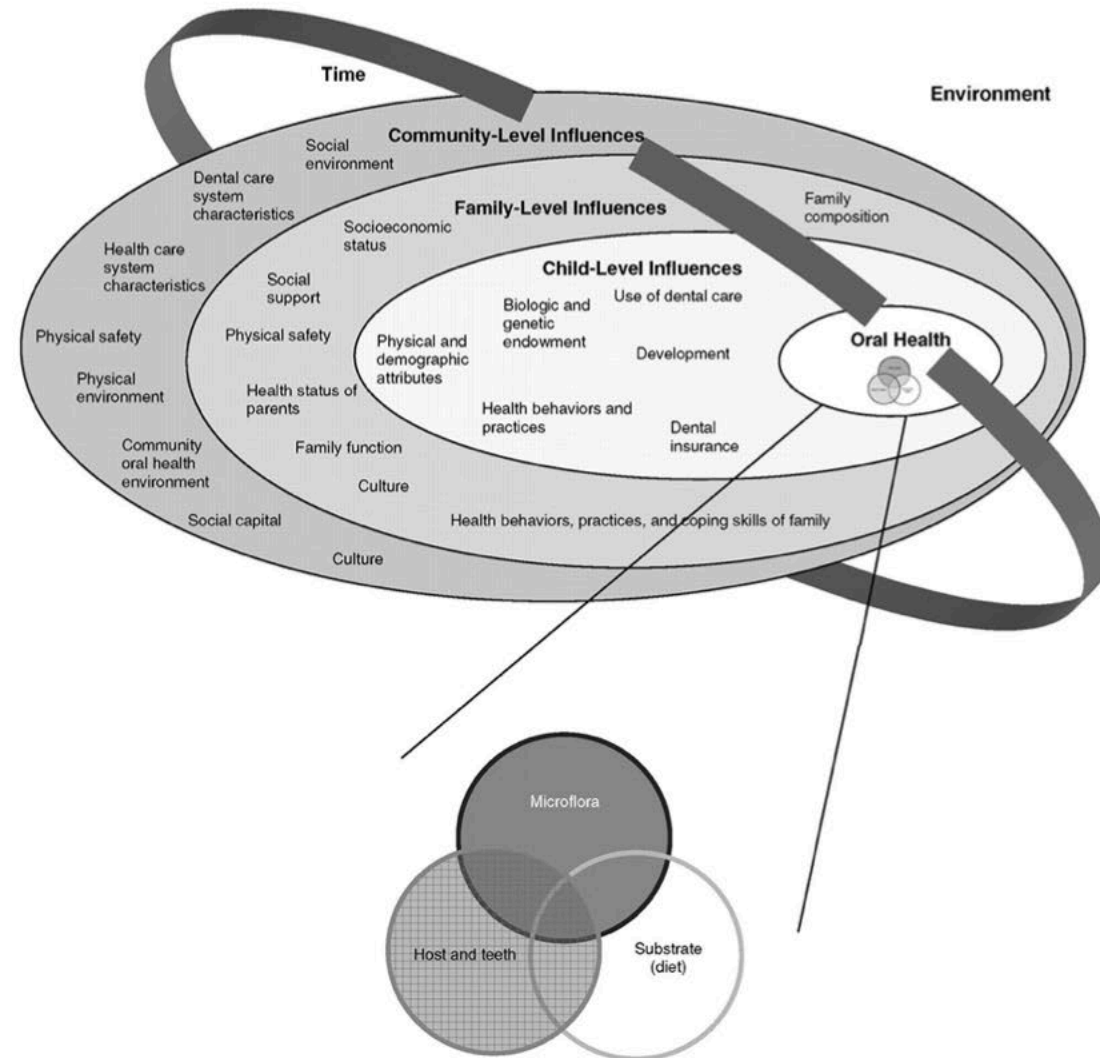
Y'all be forgetting the "Justice" part.



9:59 PM · Sep 10, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

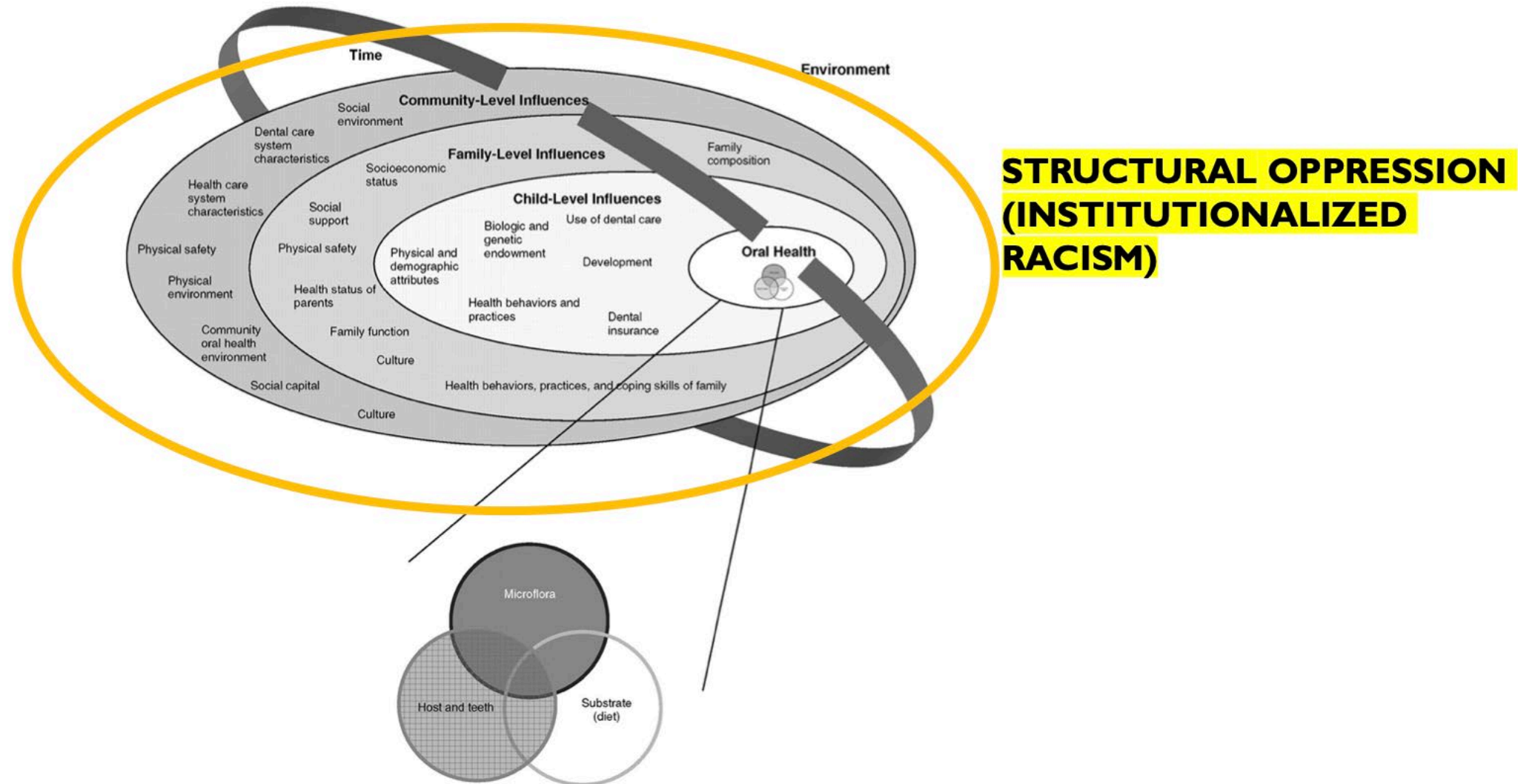
31.9K Retweets 819 Quote Tweets 139.6K Likes

CONCEPTUAL MODEL OF CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH



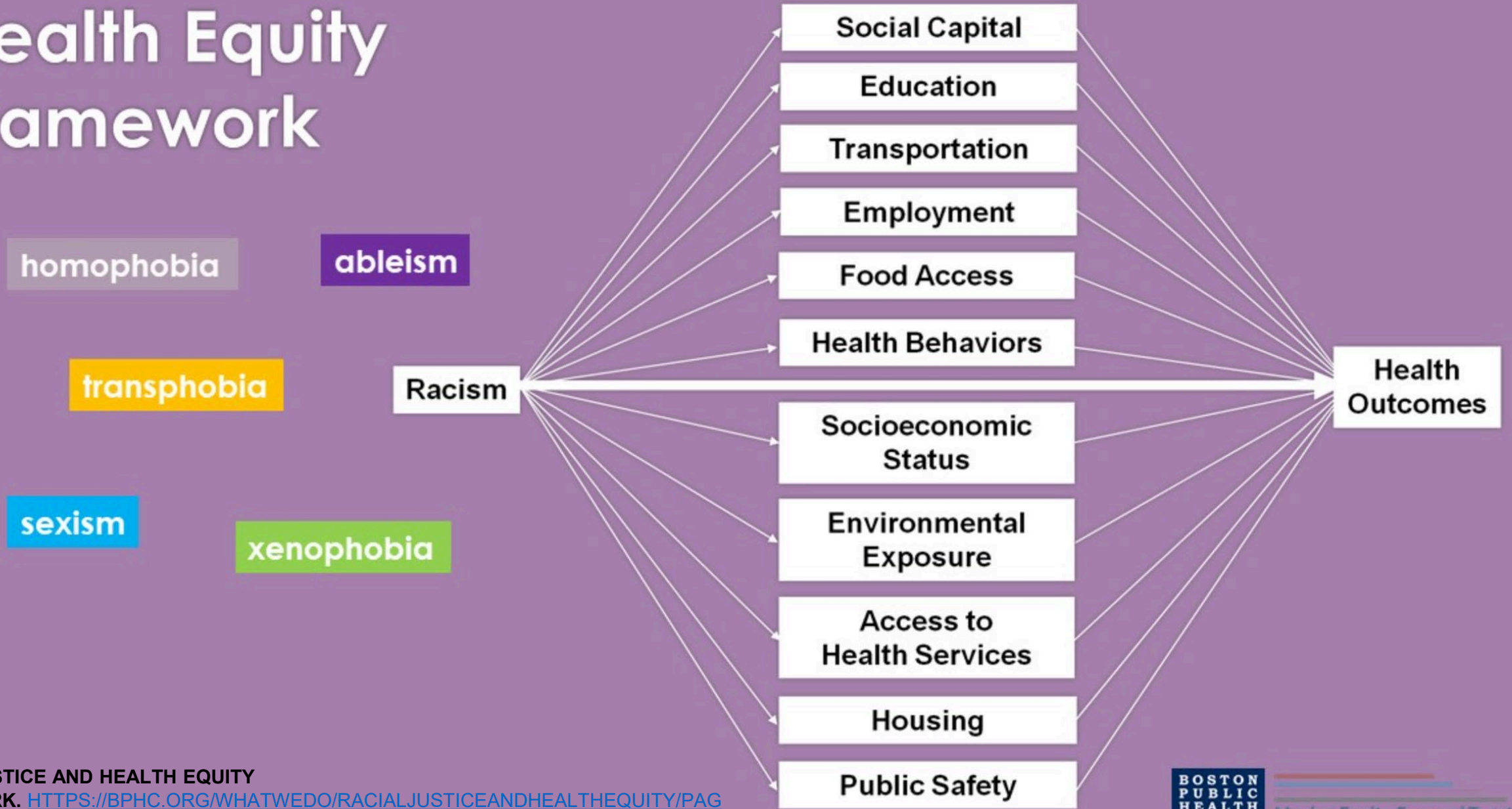
Fisher-Owens SA, Gansky SA, Platt LJ, et al. Influences on children's oral health: a conceptual model. *Pediatrics*. 2007 Sep; 120(3):e510-20.

CONCEPTUAL MODEL OF CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH



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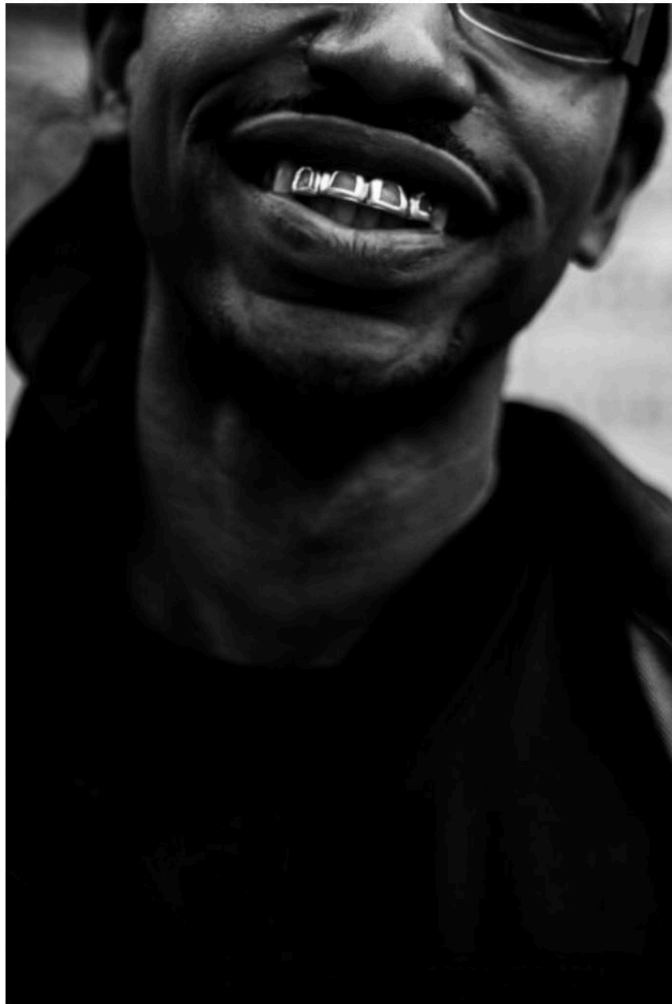
Health Equity Framework



SOCIAL JUSTICE CONCEPTS IN ORAL HEALTH PRACTICE, ADVOCACY, AND RESEARCH



LeXander Bryant. *Don't Blame the Youth*, 2020. Archival pigment print, 27 x 40 1/2 in. Courtesy of the artist. © LeXander Bryant



LeXander Bryant. *A Film Called Manifest*, 2017. Archival pigment print, 40 1/2 x 27 in. Courtesy of the artist. © LeXander Bryant



LeXander Bryant. *Protect (Her)*, 2019. Archival pigment print, 15 3/4 x 10 1/2 in. Courtesy of the artist. © LeXander Bryant

Social justice in oral health practice

- **Where is your practice?**
- **Who is in your practice team?**
- **How do you demonstrate commitments to the community and to populations?**

Social justice in oral health advocacy

- **How inclusive in your advocacy table?**
- **What issues do you include beyond teeth?**
- **How do you demonstrate commitments to the community and to populations?**

Social justice in oral health research

- **Are you using community-based participatory research methods?**
- **Is your research centered in "race" or racism?**
- **How do you demonstrate commitments to the community and to populations?**

Explore the Equitable Community Engagement Framework:

Community Engagement Principles

BPHC's equitable community engagement will be:

Accountable: Create engagement processes that are purposeful, adequately resourced, and responsible to group agreements and outcomes.

Inclusive: Reduce barriers to participation, create culturally appropriate engagement settings, and ensure participation reflects community demographics and those whose lives or health outcomes will be impacted by the decision

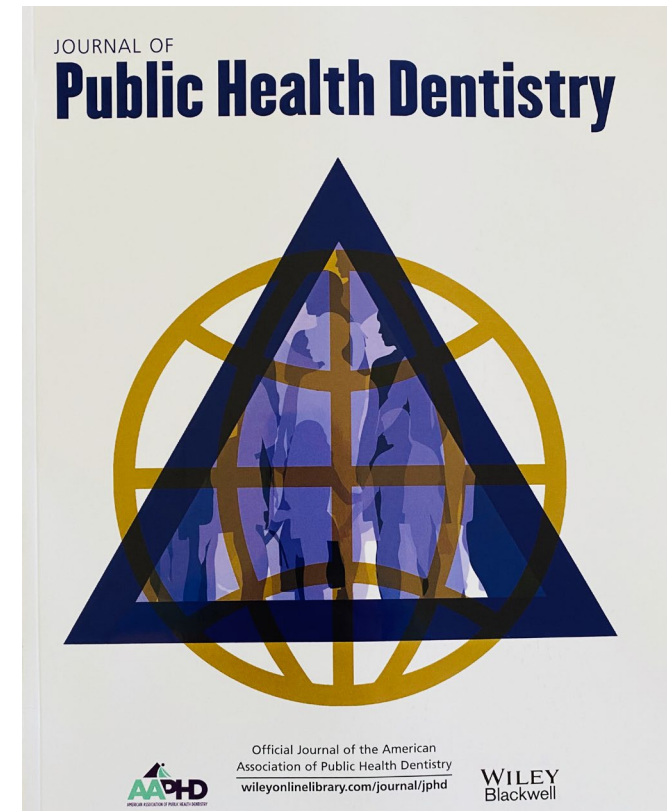
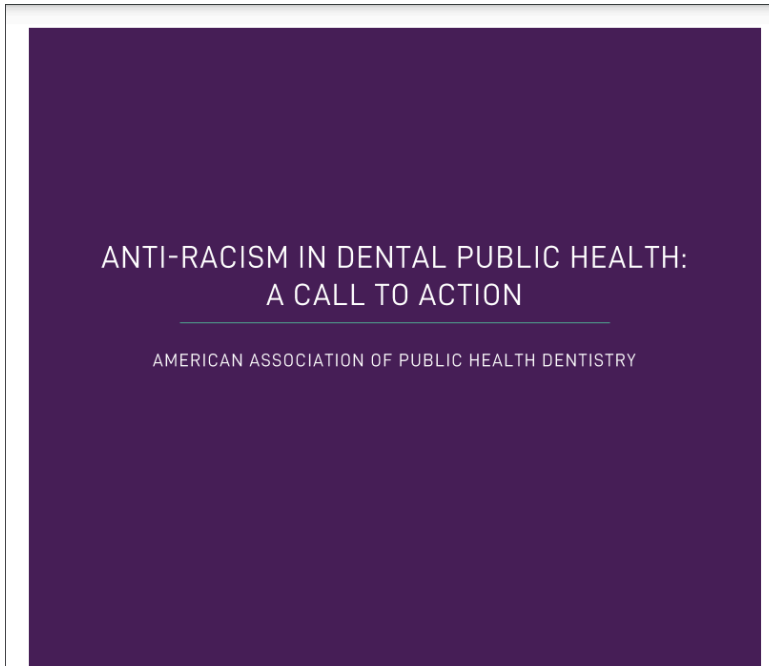
Collaborative: Build relationships with communities that are transformational, partnership-centered, and long-term.

Sustainable: Expand community assets through training, relationship-building, data sharing, technical assistance, funding, and other applicable resources so that communities can continue the work beyond the engagement “end date”.

Evaluated: Establish mechanisms to obtain participant feedback, regularly self-assess, and improve engagement practices.

Transparent: Communicate openly and honestly about engagement processes, specifically its purpose, decisionmaking process, timelines, and any associated limitations, and close the feedback loop by informing participants how their input contributed to the decision.

BREAKING BARRIERS IN ORAL HEALTH



Anti-racism special issue: June 2022

American Association of Public Health Dentistry (2021). Anti-Racism in Dental Public Health: A Call to Action [White Paper]. Springfield, IL. <https://aaphd.memberclicks.net/assets/Webinars/White%20paper%20FINAL%20July%202021.pdf>, accessed on January 14, 2022.

Social Justice Beyond Teeth

Workforce development

- Pathways to the dental profession

Social determinants of health

- Political determinants of health

Collaborating with populations

- Justice-involved people
- People experiencing homelessness

What is your equity/justice lens?



**WHAT IS YOUR ONE
TAKEAWAY?**



**WHAT IS YOUR ONE ACTION
STEP?**

Research advances cannot stand alone. It's essential that we engage people and communities to address social, economic, and environmental determinants of poor oral health, such as lack of access to healthy food. Concurrently, health care systems should recognize inequities in oral health care and other services and resources in the context of the compounded challenges that affect marginalized populations, including structural and interpersonal racism. To substantially improve oral health throughout the United States, policy changes are needed to reduce or eliminate social, economic, and other systemic inequities. Oral diseases are preventable, and social and other determinants of health need to be considered in prevention and treatment strategies. Policymakers must make oral health care more accessible, affordable, and equitable. It will also be essential to diversify the country's oral health workforce so that clinicians reflect the communities they serve, to address the rising costs of educating and training the next generation of oral health professionals, and to ensure a strong research enterprise dedicated to improving oral health.

D'Souza RN, Collins FS, Murthy VH. Oral Health for All - Realizing the Promise of Science. N Engl J Med. 2022 Feb 26.

Did we do these things?

- Differentiate between equality, equity, and liberation as social justice concepts.
- Understand how and why ~~inclusion~~ *social justice* is information in oral health practice, advocacy, and research.
- Identify areas of opportunity to break barriers in oral health.



Onward together

