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African American and COVID 19

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African American and COVID 19

Several states in the United States indicate disparities in mortality rate due to infection of the Coronavirus. Although African Americans hold 13% of the total United States population, it is unfortunate that they represent about one-third of the people who have died around the country. For example, in Louisiana State the African Americans hold 32.7% of the whole population in the state; however, they represent 51.8% of the total COVID 19 victims (Elvery, 2020). The percentage is quite a huge proportion of African Americans compared to the low population they have. Nonetheless, as compared to Michigan, which has a lower population of the African Americans than Louisiana at 14.1%, they have also signified a 35.6% of the mortality rate from the African Americans. Finally, other states have received a low mortality rate in disparity, for instance, Washington State has 4.3% of the total population representing the African Americans while the mortality rate regarding COVID 19 is at 3% of the total infected individuals.

Several reasons lead to a higher infection rate of COVID 19 to African Americans. The majority of African Americans have poor health and are not adequately insured. The poor health results in to increase in the spread of the virus and as well as increased mortality rate since they do not have healthy immune to fight the disease. Similarly, other reasons include inconsistent low income. The low-income environment that African Americans live allows them to stay in crowded areas and hence to make it hard for social distancing to be applicable (Jones, 2020). Consequently, creating the best environment for coronavirus to spread fast in displaced housings and prisons also comes in. Moreover, many people in African American communities have other health issues such as high blood pressure and hypertension, which will lead to an increase in mortality when contracting the virus.

Dr. Corey Herbert argues that many factors are affecting individuals, but they are not taken into consideration. The African Americans are affected by several structural factors including they are underinsured and underemployed (Jones, 2020). The increase in underemployment makes people get out every day and find their basic needs. Moreover, other factors such as underinsured make people not to have access to the quality of healthcare. Nonetheless, other diseases such as obesity and high blood pressure are available in African Americans and therefore, to safeguard themselves from dying they need to stay in their homes.

The main reason for the congestion of African Americans in their place is because the majority of them get low income, as well as most of them, are underemployed (Jones, 2020). Every person runs for themselves and thus the environment that these people live in will be for them to get shelter. Obtaining affordable shelter will make many jobless and low-income families move to the area, hence creating an increase in population. Nonetheless, the emergence of coronavirus disease also resulted in reduction of business, and thus for managers to sustain the business, they needed to either reduce the number of employees or to reduce their salaries. For that reason, the situation also resulted in an increase in jobless individuals and those of the low-income class.

As a social worker, several things can be put into consideration against the injustices in the healthcare system. The first one is to educate health care workers about their ethics. Healthcare workers are required to provide quality care with equality. The second thing is to involve law enforcement officers and develop policies to handle inequality issues (Dotolo et al., 2018). Any health care official who will be found discriminating against other people will face the law. Lastly, there is a need for an organization where the public can report when they are

discriminated against since the majority of them are the minority and are unable to fight for their rights.

References

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