Systemic racism needs more examination related to health

By Julie Heflin - June 7, 201

Although the discipline of public health has recently recognized racism as a social determinant of health, little research examines the issue related to systems and structures.

University of Louisville School of Public Health and Information Sciences researcher Billie Castle, PhD, a post-doctoral associate in the Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences, conducted a literature review on the terms racism and systemic racism and found 85 published articles on the topic.

In a paper published in the Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities, Castle analyzes themes from the 85 articles and provides discussion on what is needed to move toward equitable solutions. The themes include: approaches to address systemic racism; the impact of residential and racial segregation on health outcomes; policy implications for reducing health inequities; and system racism’s impact on health outcomes.

In the discussion section, Castle points out the absence of research surrounding social determinants of health. Although the literature examined many determinants such as education, neighborhoods, environment and health care, Castle said there was no examination of systemic racism across the connection of all social determinants.

“Public health researchers and practitioners need to look beyond only changing behaviors to include changing the systems and structures that influence the environments in which certain behaviors are necessary to survive,” Castle said.

As an example, she said community-based programming is often seen as a hopeful means to prevent youth violence. The problem, Castle said, is that perpetual violent behavior is often in reaction to environmental factors created through historic systemic racist policies and practices.

“It is challenging to change your behavior, but still have to survive in an environment that does not provide the support to sustain that changed behavior,” she said. “Changes to inequitable systemic policy and practice that intentionally create healthy economic and socially thriving communities are needed to reduce youth violence and change behaviors.”

In the article, Castle also underscores the role of public health practitioners to “actively call out racist practices and move toward utilizing practices that are more racially and socially equitable.”

Including more minorities in public health decision-making also is key, Castle said. “We need to make sure we are equitable in the decisions of who we include in our work. We should immediately think about how our research and practice impacts multiple social identities including race, gender, sexuality, class, religion, etc. — and how to improve health outcomes for the most marginalized social identities,” she said.

Castle’s next publication will expand on this topic by examining the historic practice of redlining and its impact on youth participating in violent behaviors.
Wayne B. Tuckson, M.D., FACS, FASCRS

Dr. Tuckson is a native of Washington, D.C. and a graduate of both Howard University and the Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C. He completed an internship in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the St. Louis University Hospital in St Louis, Mo., and a residency in General Surgery at Howard University Hospital. He then completed a research and clinical fellowship in colon and rectal surgery in the Department of Colon and Rectal Surgery at The Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Cleveland, Ohio. After a year as a Clinical Associate at The Clinic, he returned to Howard as an assistant professor in the Department of Surgery and as chief of the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery. In 1994 he left Howard and joined the faculty at the University of Louisville, College of Medicine in the Department of Surgery as an associate professor. He remained at the University for 7 years until July of 2001 when he left and started a private practice. His special interests are in colonoscopy, the treatment of fecal incontinence, the prevention and treatment of cancer of the rectum, the management of anal diseases, and the management of post-operative anal pain.

To address the apparent disparity in health status in minority populations in Kentucky, Dr. Tuckson in 1995 organized The African-American Health Initiative, Inc, (TAAHI). The goal of TAAHI is to improve the "health IQ" of these populations believing that patients who are well informed about both normal and diseased states, as well as familiar with the causes and treatments for specific illnesses will be more responsible and better participants in their healthcare.

TAAHI has sponsored conferences on topics such as cancer in the African-American community and healthy eating. To reach a broader audience TAAHI was a producer of Kentucky Health (nee Louisville Health) that now airs on the KET network.

Dr. Tuckson has been involved in many community activities including past membership on the Air Pollution Control Board, The Board at Park Duvall Family Health Center, and the board of the Louisville Metro Department of Health and Wellness. He is currently President of the Greater Louisville Medical Society. He has given many community presentations to churches, community groups, and local radio and television news shows. He was honored with 2 Mayor’s Citations for community service in Louisville and The Thomas S Wallace Jr. Award for “Leadership Role in the Promotion of Health Awareness and the Well-Being of all Citizens of Jefferson County. Recent recognition includes the "Lyman T Johnson Distinguished Leadership Award 2015" from the Louisville Central Community Centers, Inc and a "Real Black Men" certificate of recognition from the Louisville Defender newspaper.

A current project of Dr. Tuckson is the documentation of the role of the Louisville Red Cross Hospital and African-American healthcare during the Jim Crow era in Kentucky.
The School of Dentistry has completed its inaugural year of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Academic Dental Careers Fellowship Program (ADCFP) with the first fellow, Sean Aiken, completing the requirements under the mentorship of Marcelo Durski, D.D.S., Ph.D., and Mike Metz, D.M.D.

The ADEA ADCFP is a voluntary program offered by ADEA and managed by individual dental schools. It provides dental students and residents the opportunity to become involved in academia through structured mentoring and insight into an academic career.

“This program plants seeds for students about future opportunities in dental education, and allows our faculty to continue their pursuit of academic excellence through research and mentoring. It was involvement with ADEA during dental school that caused me to consider a career in teaching,” said James L. Harrison, DMD, assistant professor, Department of General Dentistry and Oral Medicine and the school’s ADEA liaison.

Under the ADEA ADCFP, faculty-student pairs work in collaboration on a research or teaching project. Faculty members guide students and help them: Understand and experience a day in the life of academia. Provide personal reflections via one-on-one conversations. Understand and apply best practices in learning and research. Plan an academic career and navigate the education landscape. UofL’s fellows for the next academic year are Sarah Jestel, Zach Fitzsimonds and Stephanie Tan. Their mentors include Metz, Paula Collins, D.M.D., and Gay Baughman, D.M.D. Faculty Marija Sasek, D.M.D., and Jolene Zirnheld, D.M.D., also assist with the program.
Unraveling the complexities of cancer continues as the next generation of scientists pick up the baton and blaze new trails of discovery. Influencing students to pursue cancer research careers is at the heart of the University of Louisville’s National Cancer Institute funded Cancer Education Program, now in its seventh year.

A new class of more than 40 undergraduate and medical students representing 13 institutions including Stanford University and MIT, began the 10-week program in May.

Sarah Mudra completed the program in 2014. Inspired by her experience in Louisville, she’ll start medical school at UofL this summer.

Mudra, who plans to pursue the School of Medicine’s Distinction in Research Track, will conduct research in collaboration with Beth Riley, M.D., F.A.C.P., associate professor of medicine and deputy director of clinical affairs at the James Graham Brown Cancer Center.

Riley was Mudra’s primary mentor in the Cancer Education Program.

“I witnessed the multi-faceted nature of medicine as Dr. Riley balanced relational care with scientific inquiry and ethical decision-making – I became fascinated with the field of oncology,” Mudra said. “Dr. Riley became a steadfast encourager and mentor, prompting me to ask complex research questions and examine new bodies of literature.”

Throughout the 10 weeks, Mudra worked with Riley to analyze data from individuals who were diagnosed with breast cancer through testing on the cancer center’s mammography van. They engaged in conversations about patient care and population-based research, including the utility of mobile mammography for reducing health disparities.

Mudra said it was her participation in the Cancer Education Program that laid the foundation for continued scientific exploration as a post-baccalaureate research fellow at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. During the two-year fellowship, she worked to refine her research techniques and develop a novel protocol for human microbiome analysis.

“It is remarkable how the Cancer Education Program molded my professional and scientific development, serving as my foundation,” Mudra said. “I would advise all students interested in scientific growth to pursue a dedicated period of research in a field of interest. Be inquisitive and curious. Exercise a willingness to learn any aspect of a project, and uphold a tireless work ethic. Above all, demonstrate gratitude for the opportunity to be shaped through a mentor’s guidance.”

The directors of the program, David Hein, Ph.D., Peter K. Knoefel Endowed Chair of Pharmacology and chair of the Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology, and La Creis Kidd, Ph.D., Our Highest Potential Endowed Chair in Cancer Research and associate professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, outlined the success of UofL’s program in an article published in the Journal of Cancer Education.
Nurse practitioner-run racetrack clinic featured in O, The Oprah Magazine

In time for Derby, the May issue of O, The Oprah Magazine features a story on faculty members Whitney Nash and Sara Robertson and their work at the nationally-recognized Kentucky Racing Health Services Center in providing high-quality care to backside racetrack workers.

The nurse practitioner-run clinic has provided 18,000 patient visits to low-income thoroughbred racing industry workers and their families since opening its doors in 2005.

Located a block from Churchill Downs, the nonprofit clinic is a partnership of the University of Louisville School of Nursing and the Kentucky Racing Health & Welfare Fund to provide comprehensive health care to assistant trainers, grooms, hot walkers, stable hands and other backside racetrack workers, most of whom do not have health insurance.

The clinic decreases health care barriers and has reduced medical costs by providing much of the workers’ health care in one place. Workers can access the clinic for a $5 copay, which covers the patient visit and lab tests.

Have you heard? Education and Public Health Converge

New Fall 2018 Course, ECPY 793-97: Art for Health & Social Justice

This dynamic, community-engaged course investigates the intersection of artistic and psychosocial practices that support health and social justice efforts. Students will harness the laboratory of creative expression to examine inequity, trauma, critical consciousness, and community-led paths to increased justice and well-being.

Developing their knowledge about art, health, and trauma-informed practices, students will build their capacity to engage with community members and to formulate arts programming for specific goals and populations. They will also be given opportunities to co-facilitate arts-based workshops in the community, meet potential community partners, and brainstorm research and program ideas.

Course benefits:

• Innovative, collaborative learning experience with the College of Education and Human Development and the School of Public Health and Information Sciences
• Connections to community artists, activists, and agencies serving families and youth
• Hands-on, “real-world” opportunities
• Multiple disciplines encouraged: Counseling/Psych, Public Health, Fine Arts, Theatre Arts, Social Work, WGST, English, Criminal Justice, Music, Medicine, Sociology, Nursing, Political Science, Education, Humanities, Anthropology, Philosophy, etc.
• Meets at UofL’s Cardinal Success Program: a community-based training clinic located in the Nia Center

Open to upper level undergraduate and graduate students across the University. Instructors are Katy Hopkins: PhD and MEd, Counseling Psychology; BFA, Theatre and Tasha Golden: PhD Candidate, Public Health; MA, Creative Writing
Improving the quality of health care in Louisville and beyond is the aim of a new master of science in health administration (MSHA) program at the University of Louisville School of Public Health and Information Sciences. The degree program, approved by the Board of Trustees and Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, will launch this fall.

“Our school is committed to offering relevant academic programs to better the health of all people, and this new degree will help grow and keep talented leaders in the health services sector,” said Craig Blakely, Ph.D., M.P.H., dean, School of Public Health and Information Sciences. “This program also builds perfectly on the recently funded National Science Foundation Center for Health Organization Transformation—many students in the MSHA program will also be engaged in real-time research occurring with local health delivery system partners who may eventually become their employers.”

The Department of Health Management and Systems Sciences designed the MSHA to deepen knowledge of environments, processes, structures and strategies in health care. Students will learn about broad principles and key influences of leading health care organizations. They’ll also examine evidence-based frameworks for strategic leadership and effective management of health care organizations. An analysis of policies that influence population and community health care management also will be part of the curriculum.

“We are continually working to make the University of Louisville a nationally recognized destination for health management and health policy education and research,” said Chris E. Johnson, Ph.D., chair, Department of Health Management and System Sciences. “Our dedication to population health management, evidenced-based decision making, and disseminating real-time solutions for our health care industry partners makes UofL a great place to study our health care system.”

The MSHA program uses UofL’s Population Health Leadership (PHL) Competency Model, a modified version of the National Center for Healthcare Leadership (NCHL) competency model. Students can expect to complete the 56-credit-hour program in two years. The MSHA is accepting applications for its evening program, with classes beginning at 4 p.m. Once the evening track is underway, the school plans to develop an executive MSHA track to accommodate seasoned health care leaders.

The MSHA is in candidacy status with the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME), the accrediting body for graduate programs in health management in the United States. The school’s initial accreditation site visit for CAHME is this fall.
Youth Violence Symposium

by: Karen Krigger, MD, Med, FAAFP, AAHIVM(S), Professor of Family and Geriatric Medicine, Director of Healthy Equity Health Sciences Center

In 2017, Louisville Kentucky had 107 homicides with 54 of them in the zip codes of 2010, 2011, and 2012. As of January 2018, 32 of those homicides had remained unsolved. The neighborhoods of Algonquin, California, Chickasaw, Park DuValle, Park Hill, Portland, Russell and Shawnee comprise the zip codes 40210, 40211, and 40212. In 2017, news reports were acknowledging Louisville as one of the deadliest cities in the country per 100,000 populations. While the implications of violence and the numbers are staggering, the residual effects and collateral damage to survivors, family members, and communities experiencing the violence are often not appreciated by the numbers. While the diagnosis, identification, and acknowledgement of mental illness, such as post-traumatic stress, are considered taboo in some cultures and communities recent news of post-traumatic stress in soldiers exposed to war time violence has made this acknowledgement socially acceptable. Living in a neighborhood of frequent gunshots, found bodies, neighbors, family members, or yourself citing near misses you are experiencing conditions similar to active warfare.

Shawnee Neighborhood Association made a request to university faculty for help in providing a symposium for the express purpose of helping children and their parents in the affected neighborhoods to recognize the effects of the violence and to provide parental education about responsibility and effective parenting skills. A symposium outline presented to a small group of community churches and organizations centering on the mental health effects of exposure to violence, parenting skills concerning substance abuse, and education was approved. For the next 6 months a growing community group held regularly schedule meetings, planned and raised money for the free community symposium. This project of mutual respect and contribution between community and university will take place on Saturday June 9, 2018 at the Louisville Central Community Center 1300 West Muhammed Ali from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm. With the common goal of addressing the problems of community violence, community and academic resources were recruited for participation in this event. A quintessential meeting of town-gown problem solving resulted.

There is a vast divide between community and academia in distance and perspectives. Within the community, multiple people, organizations, and attempts are already problem solving and must be brought to a unified table. While university resources can harness federal, state, and local knowledge and programming; community resources must be acknowledged and recognized for the historical “hands-on” experiences they provide. The challenges of coordinating overburdened individuals and organizations, developing common ground, and identifying fiscal resources in a resource poor environment are exhilarating and sometimes daunting. Success is only possible with recognition of each committee member’s individual strengths, contributions, and limitations of time and energy.
The format of the symposium on June 9 is as follows: There will be a free continental breakfast with registration from 9:30 - 10:00 am followed by 4 large group sessions of 30 minutes each. These large group sessions will address post-traumatic stress, the current state of the city’s violence, developing resilient children, and family education about mental illness. A keynote free box luncheon delivered by Dr. Monica Wendel, Associate Dean and Associate Professor University of Louisville School of Public Health and Information Sciences will address the “Effects of Violence on Youth and Community.” Dr. Wendel directs a Centers of Disease Center (CDC) funded Youth Violence Prevention Research Center at Louisville Central Community Center. Following the luncheon are sixteen 25 minute breakout sessions. Since the symposium is designed for teens, as well as, adults, there is a dedicated teen symposium room which will include targeted teen breakout sessions.

The first large group session in the symposium will be “Post Traumatic Stress “delivered by professor emeritus of psychiatry, Dr. Steven Lippmann and assistant professor Dr. Robert Campbell, both of whom will lead a small group session on this topic during the breakout sessions. A family therapist in private practice will have a teen break out session on recognizing signs of mental illness and stress in the dedicated teen space. Aubrey Williams of the Youth Violence Prevention Research Center will deliver separate adult and teen breakout sessions on “Recovery from Violence.”

Parenting and achieving educational success sessions will be delivered by Dr. Laurie McCubbin, associate professor in the Department of Counseling and Human Development UL; Nicole Fields, elementary school counselor Jefferson County Public Schools; Julie Brown, high school counselor Jefferson County Public Schools; Dr. Timir Banerjee, founder of Louisville SPAVA (Society for the Prevention of Aggressiveness and Violence among Adolescents); and Dr. Deborah Winders Davis, professor in The Department of Pediatrics ULSOM and Director of the Child and Adolescent Research Design and Support Project. Sessions on avoiding gateway drugs and the recognition of drug paraphilia in the home will be conducted by Donald Davis of Louisville Metro Department of Health and Wellness Needle Exchange and the Kentucky Coalition of Harm Reduction. “Firearm Safety “will be conducted by Luther Brown, the originator of “Little Hands and Feet” an organization dedicated to home hand gun safety. Kevin Fields, Sr., CEO of Louisville Central Community Center (LCCC) will finish the symposium with data from youth summits at the LCCC for the last 2 years. There will be drawings for an LL Bean backpack with school supplies, TARC youth summer passes, and one day tickets for Kentucky Kingdom at the end of the symposium.

The Old Walnut Street Conference Center within the Louisville Central Community Center has a marvelous atrium that will be filled with representatives of all the mental health providers in the west end. In addition, youth services providers like Metro Parks, Youth Build, Kentuckiana Works Re-image, NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness), Kentucky Youth Career Center, Pivot2Peace, and 2Not1, Youth Violence Prevention Research Center, and others will be present to provide information about opportunities within their respective organizations for youth and families. The works of Jaylin Monet Stewart, Louisville artist portraying portraits of the victims of violence in our city, will be on display. A “Living Tree” where symposium visitors will be able to hang written their personal responses to our community violence will be present. Several community churches will offer opportunities for visitors to join in community prayer sessions to end the violence in our community.

You may register by calling (502)852-7159, emailing jamaood01@louisville.edu or visit http://bit.ly/LouYouthViolence.18. Walk-ins the day of will be welcomed, as well. We hope to see you Saturday June 9, 2018 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Old Walnut Street Conference Center in the Louisville Central Community Center at 1300 West Muhammad Ali Blvd.
Did you know...?

Josiah Henson

by: Karen Krigger, MD, Med, FAAFP, AAHIVM(S), Professor of Family and Geriatric Medicine, Director of Healthy Equity Health Sciences Center

Cultural differences and global perspectives are mitigated by understanding the history of the people and nations involved. In the case of Josiah, the perspectives of a nation are examined before the civil war in the United States. Harriet Beecher Stowe, a 19th century American abolitionist, wrote *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* in 1852. This creative work inspired by the life of Josiah Henson, an African-American enslaved in Maryland and Daviess County, Kentucky in 1825 galvanized a nation and the European world. The harsh conditions of subjugated African-Americans reached millions of people in the United States and Great Britain in literary and theatrical form. Josiah Henson’s original story was published in 1949 as *The Life of Josiah Henson, Formerly a Slave, Now an Inhabitant of Canada, as Narrated by Himself*. This work is cited 8 times in Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. While activating anti-slavery forces in the northern United States, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* generated anger in the southern states creating a dichotomy in this nation that exists still to this day.

Josiah Henson - author, abolitionist, minister, colonizer, soldier, and Canadian army officer was able to live in Canada as a free man. It was in 1793 that Canada passed the “An Act to prevent further introduction of Slaves and to limit the Terms of Contracts of Servitude within The Provinces.” While this act did not abolish slavery in the province, any slave reaching the borders was not further enslaved. In the United States, a constitutional law made effective January 1, 1808 prohibited the importation of slaves. In 1833, slavery was abolished in the British Empire. By 1860, the United States census listed 3,953,761 slaves or 12.6% of the total United States population.

Upon his escape from Kentucky with his wife and 4 children, Henson formed the settlement, Dawn, composed of 500 escaped slaves. He served as an Underground Railroad conductor, stewarding 118 slaves to freedom in Canada. While in Canada he served as a soldier and military officer receiving honors. While not able to read or write, but with savvy business acumen, he established businesses to support his settlement winning a first prize in the First World’s Fair in London in 1851. He subsequently met Victoria, the Queen of England and the president of the United States, Rutherford Hayes. He died at the age of 93.

A group of about 75 people underwent an examination of “JOSIAH, The Story That Sparked the Civil War”, a free event, on Friday June 1, 2018 at the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage. The 39 minute documentary traced Josiah Henson’s harrowing journey from slavery in Maryland and Kentucky to freedom in Canada. Author and documentarian of the film, Jared A. Brock, attended as part of the national tour of this powerful work. The discussion following the viewing was stimulating. Jared Brock was both engaging and informative. A 56 minute version is being prepared for television. We were all encouraged to notify our public television stations of the opportunity to air this film. August 4, 2018 one hundred of the 200 descendants of Josiah Henson will gather in Dawn, Canada for his birthday. Notable relatives of Josiah Henson include Mathew Henson of North Pole fame, and Taraji P. Henson, American actor. This event was brought to Louisville, Kentucky by the Kentucky Center for African-American Heritage, the Louisville Black Media Collaborative, the Louisville NAACP, and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion Health Sciences Center University of Louisville. Please visit a promo of the event by clicking here. The book “Road to Dawn” is available through Amazon and Carmichael Book Stores.
Upcoming Diversity Events & Announcements

Youth Violence Symposium

_Uprooting Violence: Stepping up for Our Community_

_A Symposium on Youth Violence_

**When:** Saturday, June 9, 9:30am to 3:30pm  
**Where:** LCCC 1300 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd.  
**Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Monica Wendel, PhD, MA  

**Featuring presentations on:**  
PTSD  
_Violence in Louisville_  
_Resilient Children_  
_Family Effects_  
_Community Resources_  

*Breakfast and Lunch provided.*

**Summerfest 2018 - Prayer Breakfast**  
*Kick off event for Summerfest*  
**When:** Thursday, June 21, 11:00am  
**Where:** KCAAH, 1701 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd.  
Tickets available at WLOU/WLLV, or reserve seats by calling 502-776-1240 ext. 112

**Summerfest 2018**  
*A family friendly, lawn-chair community event featuring national and local gospel artists, activities for all ages, vendors, and exhibits*  
**When:** Saturday, June 23, 11:00am  
**Where:** Chickasaw Park

Cards Under the Stars

Kicks off each night at 6:30 p.m. on the lawn between the Natural Sciences Building and Grawemeyer Hall. Films begin at sunset. Pre-movie activities include children’s inflatables and games.

**Coco—June 29**  
_Film Synopsis:_ A boy journeys into the Land of the Dead to seek forgiveness from his ancestors and lift a curse. Rated PG.

**Black Panther—July 27**  
_Film Synopsis:_ A superhero known as Black Panther defends Wakanda. Now, he must face a dissident who wants to sell the country's natural resources to fund an uprising. Rated PG-13.