The Unequal Impact of COVID-19: Equity During a Pandemic
Sponsored by Racial Justice Initiative and Immigration Justice
Thursday, April 30, 2020
7:00 PM – 8:15 PM

Monica Valdes Lupi, JD, MPH
Senior Fellow - de Beaumont Foundation
Advisor – CDC Foundation
My Public Health Journey
“Hot” topics

Black Americans Face Higher Rates of Coronavirus Infection

Communities of Color at Higher Risk for Health and Economic Challenges due to COVID-19

Samantha Artiga, Rachel Garfield, and Kendal Orgera
Published: Apr 07, 2020
Equity in COVID-19 Surveillance Activities
Racism and Xenophobia
Efforts To Address Social Needs Are Necessary, But Not Sufficient

SDoH: conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age. World Health Organization, 2008, Commission on SDoH

In the face of COVID, acute social needs:
• Food insecurity
• Homelessness and housing instability
• Lack of economic mobility
Boston: A Tale of Two Cities

Flattening the Next COVID-19 Curve – Essential Resources

Illustration of total demand for social services as compared to social service capacity over time through the COVID-19 crisis and recovery.

- Social distancing and shelter in place policies begin. Non-essential businesses close. Unemployment claims spike. Increased need for food, childcare for essential workers. Increase in abuse and DV.

- Workforce shortage. Some organizations close or reduce hours for quarantine and because of lack of funding.

- Shelter in place lifted and non-essential businesses can reopen. Some people are rehired, return from furlough, or can quickly find a new job, but unemployment remains elevated.

- Increased shelter demand as evictions and foreclosures rise. Public benefits regulations re-enacted. Some people will lose access. Longer-term economic recession leads to more job loss.

- Some organizations close permanently.

Local Example

- MPHA Emergency Task Force on Coronavirus & Equity:

  1. Enact a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures: VICTORY!
  2. Ensure that everyone has access to safe quarantine
  3. Ensure that immigrants have safe access to testing and treatment
  4. Pass Emergency Paid Sick Time: 15 additional days + address gaps in Federal CARES Act
Resources

• Public Health Awakened and The Spirit of 1848 COVID-19 Resources
• Incarcerated individuals
  o https://www.prisonpolicy.org/virus/virusresponse.html
  o Urban Institute: https://urbanorg.app.box.com/s/yqsqcepd1ryvp9ntekls6ims2fmsjnr7
  o CDC Guidance for Correctional and Detention Facilities
• #whypublichealthmatters
Changing Hearts and Minds: mobilizing for action
Thank you!

Monica Valdes Lupi, mvvlupi@gmail.com
Equity During a Pandemic

• What needs to be considered in the response and the recovery?
• How can you support activities on the front-lines?