Sustainable Response to the COVID Pandemic in an Urban Underserved Community in Buffalo, New York

Health Disparities in Buffalo
- Life expectancy of African Americans in Buffalo: 5 to 12 years shorter than white residents
- 300% higher rate of chronic illnesses in African Americans compared to white residents
- The majority of African Americans in Buffalo live in six urban ZIP codes.

These health disparities are a direct result of race-based adverse social determinants of health that exist in Buffalo.

Advancing research discoveries to improve health for all

Authors
Timothy Murphy MD
Rev. Kinzer Pointer MM
Rita Hubbard Robinson JD
Rev. George Nicholas MDIV
Henry Taylor PhD
Heather Orom PhD
Susan Grinsdale PhD RN
1University at Buffalo, the State University of New York
2Buffalo Center for Health Equity

The Buffalo Community
Buffalo area population: City of Buffalo 258,000
Erie Niagara region 1.1 million

City of Buffalo demographics
- African American: 39%
- Hispanic: 10%
- Native American: 1%
- Underrepresented minority: 50%

The racial and ethnic distribution of underrepresented minorities who experience health disparities in Buffalo parallels that projected for the US in 2050, making Buffalo a microcosm of what the US will look like in 30 years.

Coronavirus Pandemic: Disproportionate Impact on Communities of Color
- African Americans are twice as likely to acquire and three times as likely to die from COVID 19 compared to the general population

March 26
March 30
April 14

Community COVID Response Project
- Set up mobile COVID testing sites in underserved neighborhoods
- Established mobile calling centers in 15 neighborhood churches
- Calls identified through community members
- Community facilitators

Meals to those in need
Transport to testing sites
Information: preventing COVID transmission
Transport to medical care

2020 Igniting Hope Conference Series
Igniting Hope: Mobilizing Community Resources to Achieve Health Equity in a Global Pandemic (R13 TR 003486-01)

Community and university partners designed and submitted an R13 conference grant that was funded by NCATS for three years.
- Theme of Igniting Hope conference series: health equity
- Theme of 2020 conference: health equity during the pandemic

Breakout group discussions:
- Housing
- Education
- Employment
- Mental health

2020 conference attendees:
- 290 (live and virtual)
- half from the community
- half UB faculty and trainees

This program is supported by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences of the National Institutes of Health under award number UL1TR001412 to the University at Buffalo.

The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH.

The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH.