CRITICAL REFLECTIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS: HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH AT THE INTERSECTION OF RACE, ETHNICITY, AND DISABILITY

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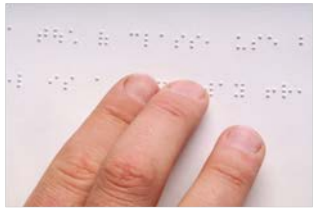
National Center for Cultural Competence

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY Center for Child and Human Development

BARRIERS THAT IMPACT HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

DISABILITY



PLACE! Where Health Care is Provided (institutional vs. community settings)

Physical Accessibility & Accommodations

Biases, Stereotyping, Discrimination

Lack of Disability-Specific Knowledge among Health Care Providers

Health & Health Care Disparities

Unequal Access to Quality Care

Socioeconomic Status

Transportation

Health Insurance

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BARRIERS THAT IMPACT HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

RACE OR ETHNICITY

Biases, Stereotyping, Discrimination

Unequal Access to Quality Care

Health & Health Care Disparities

Legacy of Disparate Care & Treatment

Institutional & Structural Racism

Historical Exploitation in Biomedical Research

Insurance Type

Provision of Interpretation & Translation Services

Socioeconomic Status

Transportation

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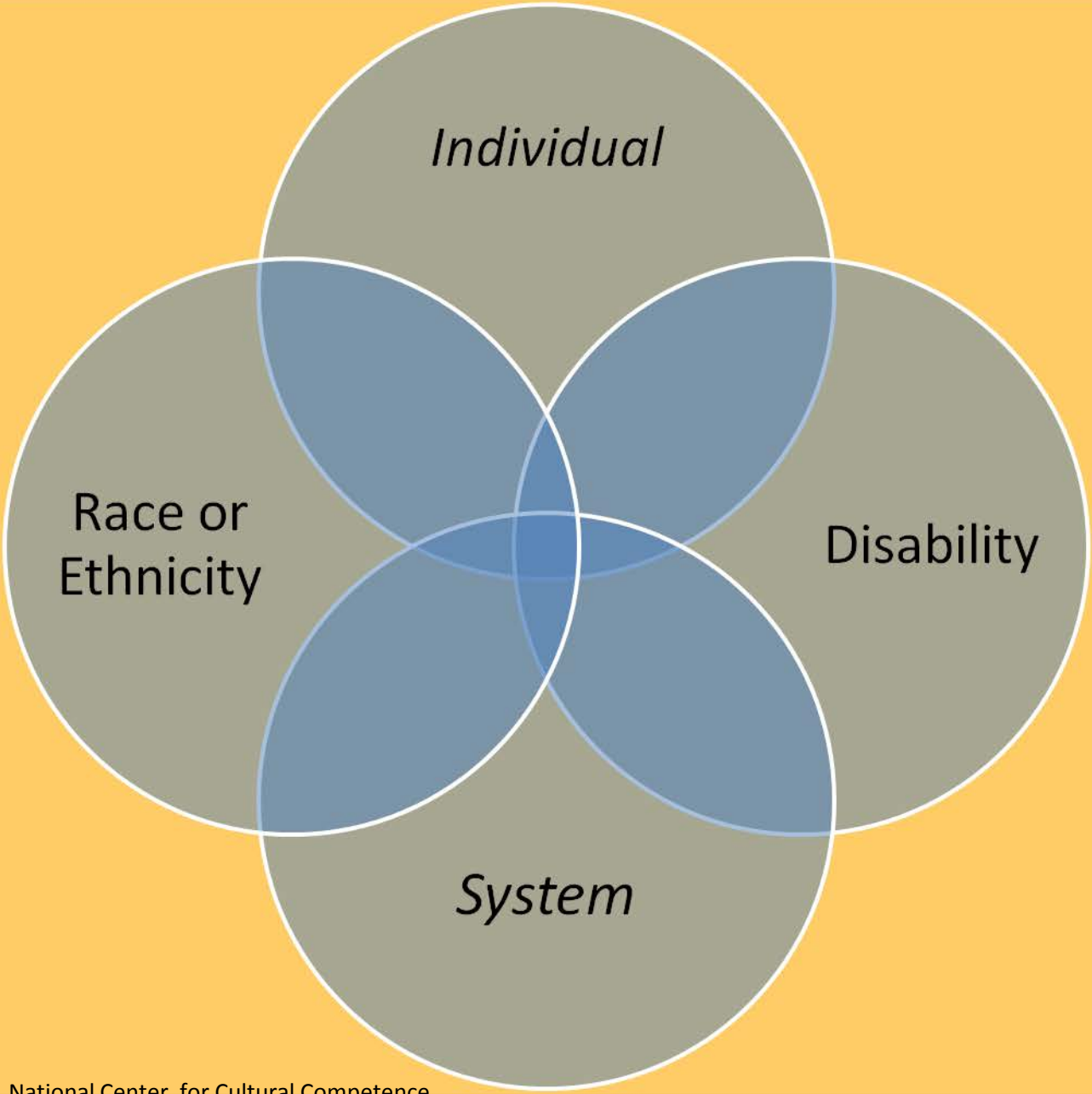
Health and Health Care Disparities at the Intersection



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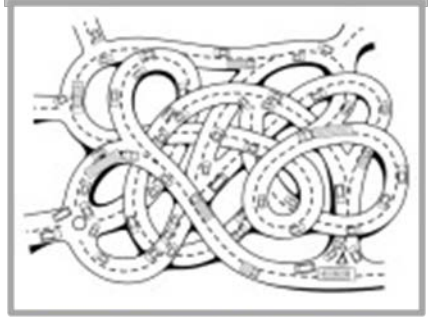
CULTURAL FACTORS THAT IMPACT HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

At the Intersection



INDIVIDUAL

- Race
- Ethnicity
- Age
- Language(s) spoken other than English
- Gender, Gender Identity or Expression
- Sexual Orientation
- Type of Disability
- Health Beliefs & Practices
- Health Care Decision-making
  - ✓ person with disability
  - ✓ family
  - ✓ legal guardian

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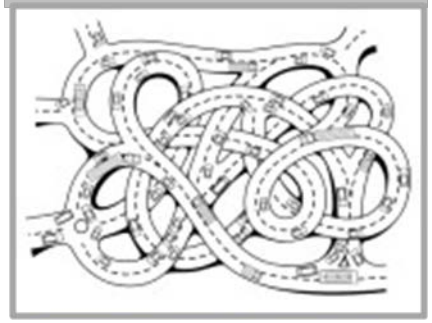
CULTURAL FACTORS THAT IMPACT HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

At the Intersection



INDIVIDUAL

- Literacy
- Health Literacy
- Educational Attainment
- Socioeconomic Status
- Immigrant or Refugee Status
- Employment Status
- Health Insurance (type, cost, coverage)
- Experiences of Bias, Discrimination & “ISMs”
- Communication in Health Care Contexts

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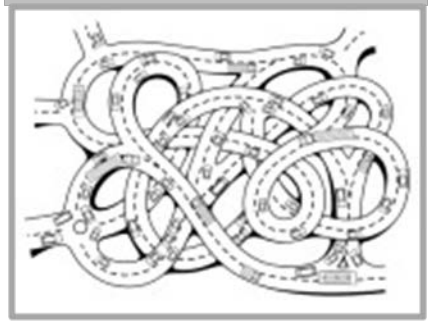
CULTURAL FACTORS THAT IMPACT HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

At the Intersection



SYSTEM

- Conscious and Unconscious Biases
- Stereotyping & Discrimination
- Racism, Ableism, & "Other ISMs"
- Health Care Workforce Knowledge & Skills:
  - ✓ cultural competency
  - ✓ linguistic competency
  - ✓ disability competency

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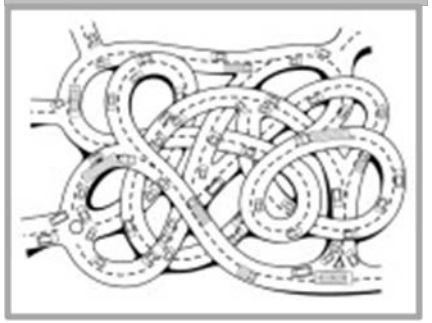
CULTURAL FACTORS THAT IMPACT HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

At the Intersection



SYSTEM

- Universal Design & Accessibility
- Insurance (public, private, coverage)
- Perceived and Actual Cost of Care
- Access to Transportation
- Human Life: Equal Value for People With and Without Disabilities

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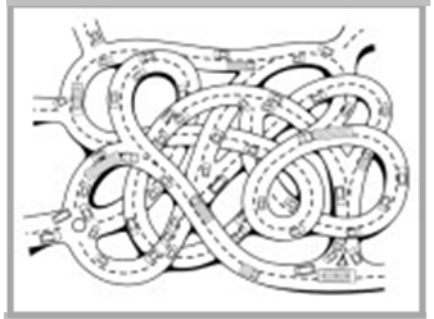
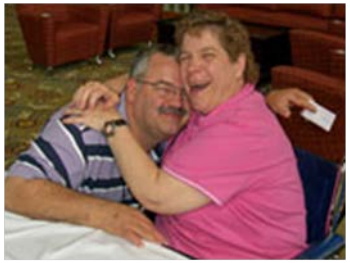
At the Intersection



Race, Ethnicity & Disability



CURRENT HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH TENDS TO:

- exclude people with disabilities and focus solely on race, ethnicity, and primary language spoken.
- examine people with disabilities as a homogenous group with little attention to within group differences attributed to:
  - ✓ race, ethnicity, primary language
  - ✓ multiple cultural identities
  - ✓ socio-cultural contexts

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Race, Ethnicity & Disability

EMBRACING THE INTERSECTION IN HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH

STOP THE SEPARATE BUT EQUAL OR PARALLEL APPROACH IN HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH AS IT APPLIES TO RACE, ETHNICITY, AND DISABILITY.

✓Researchers must acknowledge and accept the multiple cultural identities of all people, including those with disabilities.

✓Funders should promote a research portfolio that encourages and rewards health disparities studies that are inclusive of individuals with disabilities from diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural groups.

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If truth be told… some within research will have to confront institutional and personal biases

- This focus will take away from much needed resources for race and ethnicity research.
- We can't keep dividing this pie!
- It will be too time consuming.
- We do not have the expertise.
- Such a limited area of research and a small population.
- Funders are not that interested.

Race, Ethnicity & Disability

EMBRACING THE INTERSECTION IN HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH

FOCUS ON THE CONTEXTUAL REALITIES AND THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES FROM UNDERSERVED RACIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS IN HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH.

✓Both quantitative and qualitative studies are needed to understand the experiences of people "at the intersection" and determine if the barriers they face are multiplied because of their unique status.

✓Create and study health disparities interventions that are culturally and linguistically competent for the diverse population of people "at the intersection."

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Race, Ethnicity & Disability

EMBRACING THE INTERSECTION IN HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH

ENSURE MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT OF PEOPLE "AT THE INTERSECTION" AND THEIR FAMILIES IN ALL PHASES IN THE CONDUCT OF HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH.

✓ Research will prove more valuable if the culturally diverse populations that are studied have an investment and are active participants in all aspects and phases of the research process.

- Principal Investigators
- Co-Investigator
- Investigators or other paid staff
- Cultural broker or community liaison
- IRB member
- Advisory Committee
- Authors/Co-Authors
- Conference Speakers

Just to name a few!

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Advocate

Collaborate

Commit

Stretch

Embrace

Partner

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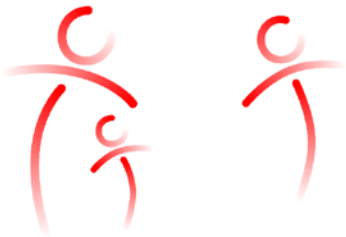
CONTACT US



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