Global Warming, Health Disparities, and Structural Racism

By recognizing that global warming contributes to the emergence of pandemics, and that both of these challenges have strong ties to health disparities, solutions can be designed to maximize positive outcomes for all of them.

The health impacts of global warming, the roots and manifestations of COVID-19 infection, and structural racism are interrelated. Fortunately, they also share common solutions.

By analyzing and addressing the structural racism and health disparities that foster both pandemics and global warming, solutions to the health emergency of global warming can also help mitigate the causes and impacts of pandemics and structural racism. By strengthening the health resilience of communities, the pandemic, with its possible reflection of the future, has captured the attention of people everywhere.

Videos of rising sea waters and migrating insect vectors rarely make headline news. Manifestations of global warming have strong ties to health disparities, which may be located near factories or refineries, or found quiet in urban landscapes. Collaborations among scientists internationally have resulted in major and rapid advances in our understanding of the connection between global warming and health disparities. Climate change’s impacts on underserved populations, who will discuss these areas in the context of COVID-19.

Interestingly, our ability to respond to the health emergency of pandemic is influenced by the same social determinants of health that contribute to health disparities. By recognizing that global warming contributes to the emergence of pandemics, and that both of these challenges have strong ties to health disparities, solutions can be designed to maximize positive outcomes for all of them.

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