

## Racism Laid Bare with COVID-19



For economic and racial justice

**We must fight racism and poverty with even greater might to combat this relentless pandemic and its long-term effects.**



**More Than Ever, We Need to Advocate for Systemic Change Centered on Equity**

The COVID-19 crisis lays bare the systemic inequities and structural racism that many communities experience daily. Data show that Black Americans are contracting and dying from the virus at disproportionately higher rates than others. There is also evidence that Latinx households may be disproportionately affected by COVID-19, but public data collection often improperly counts them as white.

[Read the Shriver Center's statement on racism and COVID-19.](#)

The greatest ill in our nation—racism—has been here for centuries. Our country has historically created and implemented policies and laws that perpetuate poverty and racial inequity. Every time America is tested, from natural disasters to economic crashes, we fail to acknowledge these inequities and protect our Black and Brown communities. **This pandemic follows the path we laid.**

**A legacy of structural racism** has resulted in Black and Brown communities receiving starkly less in terms of quality education, employment, healthcare, housing, and resources, and starkly more in terms of criminalization, environmental toxins, and willful neglect.

America's awakening of consciousness around racial health disparities is an opportunity to move our nation into action to address and dismantle these disparities. **We must fight racism and poverty with even greater might to combat this relentless pandemic and its long-term effects.** The virus may not discriminate, but humans do.

[Read the Shriver Center's statement on racism and COVID-19](#), and [sign our petition calling for systemic change](#).



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