# Racism

# The silent partner in high school dropout and health disparities

#### Camara Phyllis Jones, MD, MPH, PhD

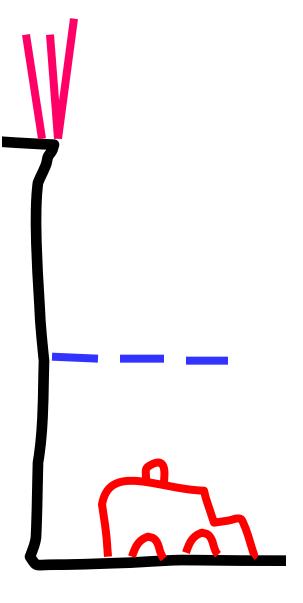
"The Impact of Racism on the Health and Well-Being of the Nation" APHA Racism and Health Webinar Series

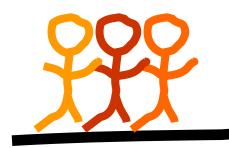
> American Public Health Association from Atlanta, Georgia September 1, 2015

Programs to Increase High School Completion: A Community Guide Systematic Health Equity Review

Hahn RA, Knopf JA, Wilson SJ, et al. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 2015;48(5):599-608. 

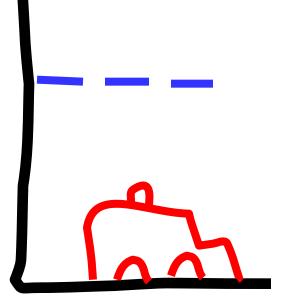
Provision of individual services





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Addressing social contexts

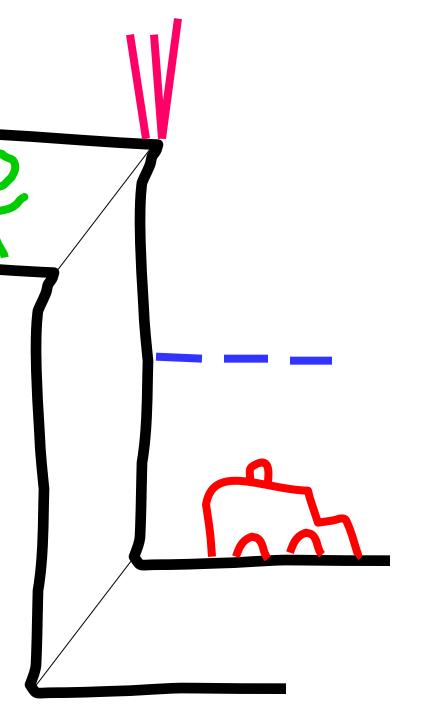


Provision of individual services

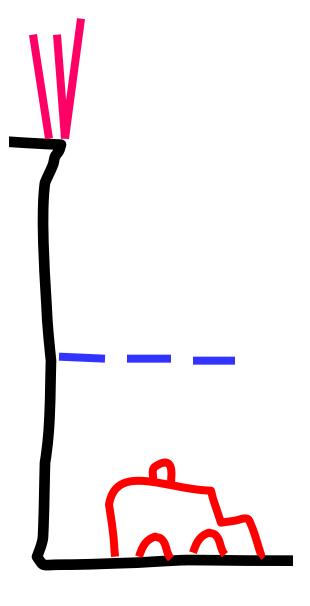
Addressing social contexts

Addressing systems of structured inequity

Review of program effectiveness of 11 intervention types

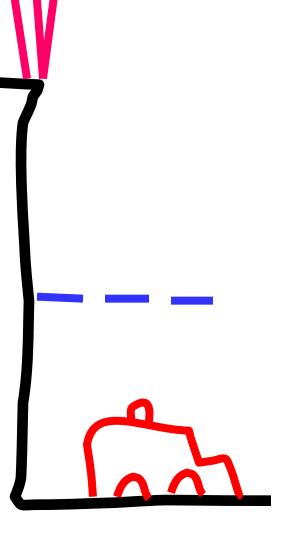


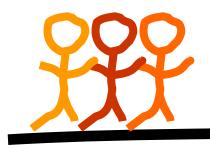
Case management Alternative schooling



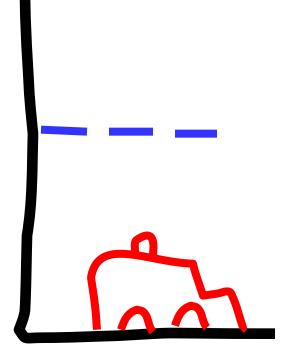
Vocational training Socio-emotional skills training Supplemental academic services Attendance monitoring

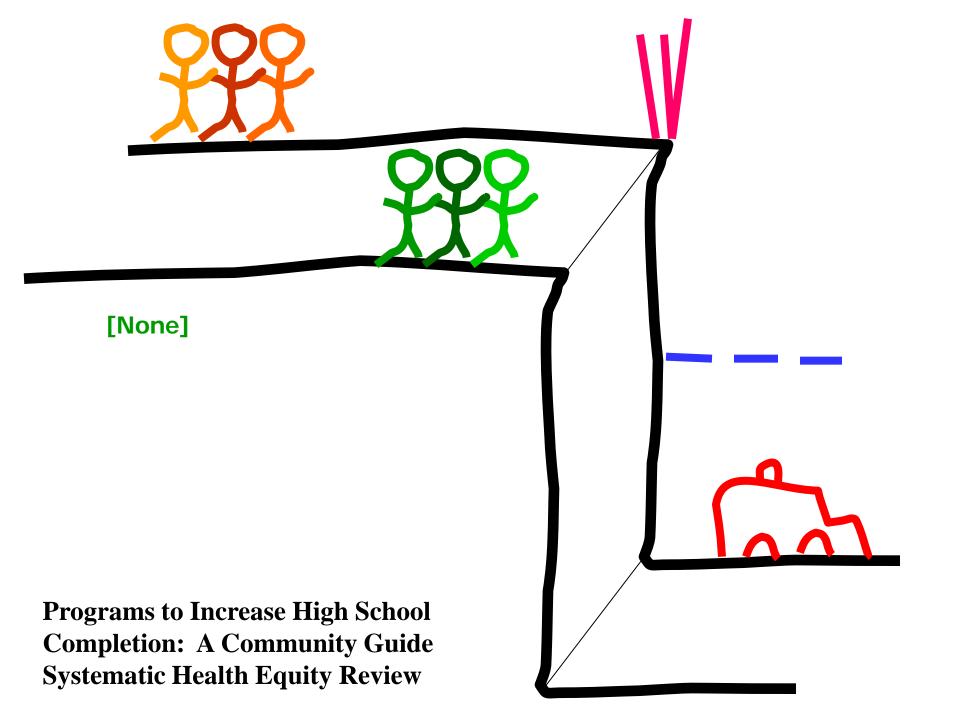
College oriented programming Mentoring and counseling School and class restructuring Multiservice packages





**Community service** 







International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination

International anti-racism treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1965 http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CERD.aspx

US signed in 1966US ratified in 1994

#### **Current status**

3<sup>rd</sup> US report submitted to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) in 2013 http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download. aspx?symbolno=CERD%2fC%2fUSA%2f7-9&Lang=en

82 parallel reports submitted by civil society organizations

**CERD** considered at its 85<sup>th</sup> session (13-14 Aug 2014)

#### **CERD** *Concluding Observations*

14-page document (25 Sep 2014) available online http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download. aspx?symbolno=CERD%2fC%2fUSA%2fCO%2f7-9&Lang=en

#### Concerns and recommendations

- Racial profiling (paras 8 and 18)
- Residential segregation (para 13)
- Achievement gap in education (para 14)
- Differential access to health care (para 15)
- Disproportionate incarceration (para 20)

#### Paragraph 13 Discrimination and segregation in housing

While acknowledging the positive steps taken by the State party to address discrimination in access to housing and to reverse historical patterns of segregation, the Committee remains concerned at:

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(b) The high degree of racial segregation and concentrated poverty in neighbourhoods characterized by sub-standard conditions and services,...

#### Paragraph 13 Discrimination and segregation in housing

While acknowledging the positive steps taken by the State party to address discrimination in access to housing and to reverse historical patterns of segregation, the Committee remains concerned at:

(b) ... including poor housing conditions, limited employment opportunities, inadequate access to health-care facilities, underresourced schools and high exposure to crime and violence

While welcoming measures taken by the State party to address *de facto* racial segregation in education, such as the formation of the Equity and Excellence Commission in 2011, the Committee remains concerned

• • •

In that students from racial and ethnic minorities disproportionately continue to attend segregated schools with segregated or unequal facilities and that even those who are enrolled in racially diverse schools are frequently assigned to "single-race" classes, ...

...denied equal access to advanced courses and disciplined unfairly and disproportionately due to their race, including referral to the criminal justice system

It also expresses concern at racial disparities in academic achievement, which contribute to unequal access to employment opportunities

The Committee recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to ensure equal access to education by, inter alia:

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(a) Developing and adopting a comprehensive plan to address racial segregation in schools and neighbourhoods, with concrete goals, timelines and impact assessment mechanisms

The Committee recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to ensure equal access to education by, inter alia:

(b) Increasing federal funding for programmes and policies that promote racially integrated learning environments for students

The Committee recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to ensure equal access to education by, inter alia:

 (c) Effectively implementing the recommendations contained in the report of the Equity and Excellence Commission published in February 2013

See http://www2.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/eec/equity-excellence-commission-report.pdf. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Concluding observations on the combined seventh to ninth reports of the United States of America. CERD/C/USA/CO/7-9 (25 September 2014).

The Committee recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to ensure equal access to education by, inter alia:

(d) Re-authorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act with provisions that support and encourage solutions to address school segregation

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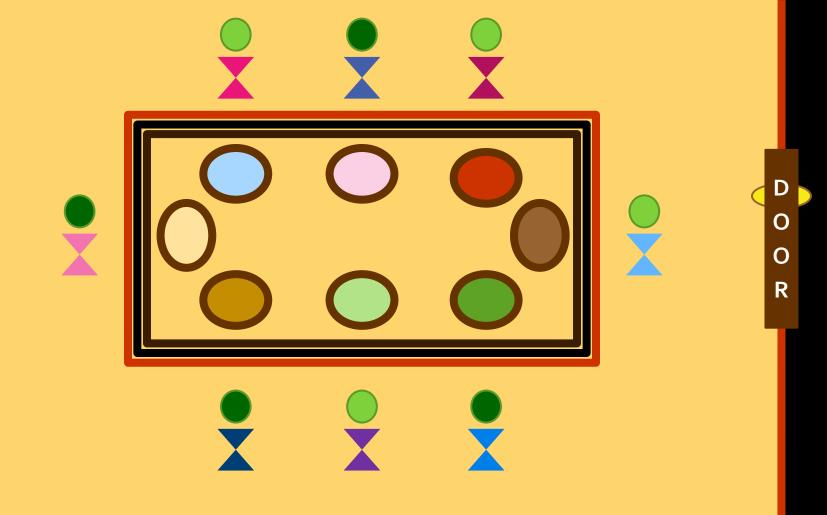
(e) Continuing to work closely with state and local education authorities as well as civil society groups to strengthen measures to address the factors that contribute to the educational achievement gap

## Paragraph 25 National action plan to combat racial discrimination

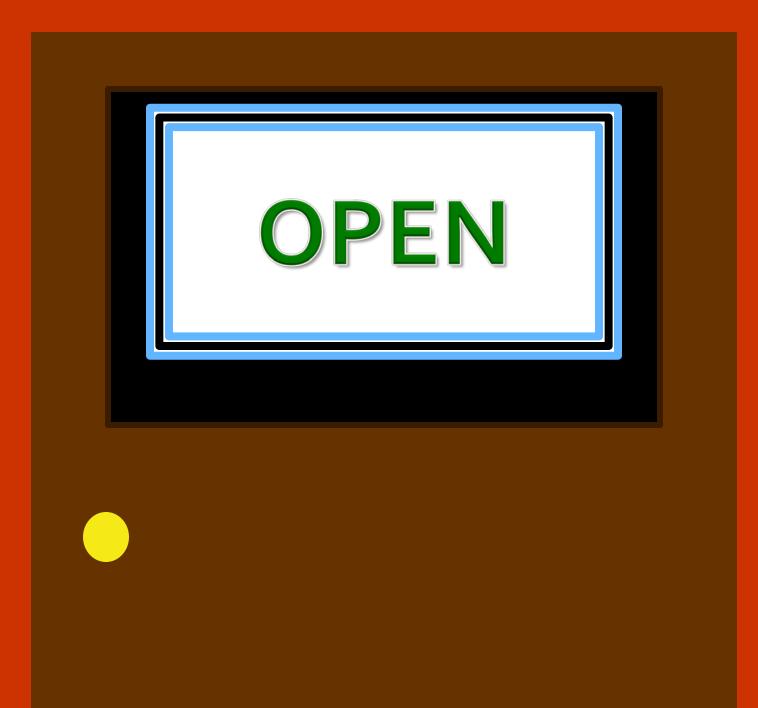
The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a national action plan to combat structural racial discrimination

# Dual Reality: A restaurant saga



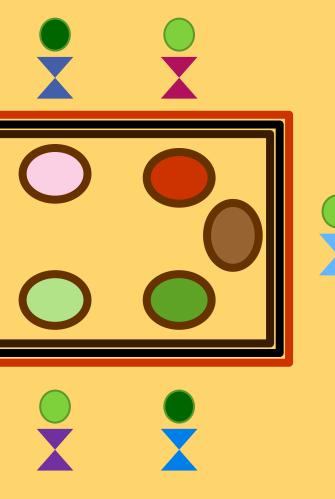


# I looked up and noticed a sign . . .





Racism structures "Open/Closed" signs in our society.



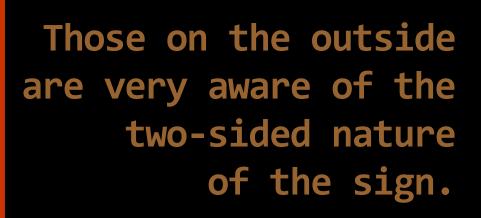
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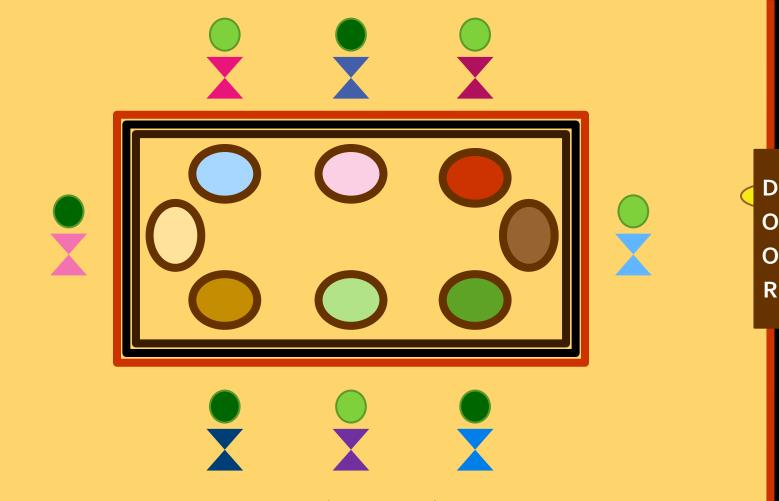
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It is difficult to recognize systems of inequity that privilege us.





#### Is there really a two-sided sign?

Hard to know, when only see "Open". A privilege not to HAVE to know. Once DO know, can choose to act.

#### A system

Jones CP. Confronting Institutionalized Racism. *Phylon* 2003;50(1-2):7-22.

# A system of structuring opportunity and assigning value

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A system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks (which is what we call "race"), that

- Unfairly disadvantages some individuals and communities
- Unfairly advantages other individuals and communities
- Saps the strength of the whole society through the waste of human resources