The impact of covid-19 on the grief experiences of the African-American community

Loss and Grief in Real Time:
The African American Experience with COVID-19

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THE WORLD INTO WHICH COVID-19 EMERGED

Black people are so tired.

We can’t go jogging (#AmaudArbery).

We can’t relax in the comfort of our own homes (#BothemSean and #AtatianaJefferson).

We can’t ask for help after being in a car crash (#JonathanFerrell and #RenishaMcBride).

We can’t have a cellphone (#StephonClark).

We can’t leave a party to get to safety (#JordanEdwards).

We can’t play loud music (#JordanDavis).

We can’t sell CD’s (#AltonSterling).

We can’t sleep (#AiyanaJones)

We can’t walk from the corner store (#MikeBrown).
THE WORLD INTO WHICH COVID-19 EMERGED

We can’t be a 10yr old walking with our grandfather (#CliffordGlover).

We can’t decorate for a party (#ClaudeReese).

We can’t ask a cop a question (#RandyEvans).

We can’t cash our check in peace (#YvonneSmallwood).

We can’t take out our wallet (#AmadouDiallo).

We can’t run (#WalterScott).

We can’t breathe (#EricGarner).

We can’t live (#FreddieGray).

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THE WORLD INTO WHICH COVID-19 EMERGED

We can’t play cops and robbers (#TamirRice).

We can’t go to church (#Charleston9).

We can’t walk home with Skittles (#TrayvonMartin).

We can’t hold a hair brush while leaving our own bachelor party (#SeanBell).

We can’t party on New Years (#OscarGrant).

We can’t get a normal traffic ticket (#SandraBland).

We can’t lawfully carry a weapon (#PhilandoCastile).

We can’t break down on a public road with car problems (#CoreyJones).

We can’t shop at Walmart (#JohnCrawford).

We can’t have a disabled vehicle (#TerrenceCrutcher).

We can’t read a book in our own car (#KeithScott).
THE WORLD INTO WHICH COVID-19 EMERGED

We’re tired.

Tired of making hashtags.

Tired of trying to convince you that our #BlackLivesMatter too.

Tired of dying.
  Tired.
  Tired.
  Tired.
  So very tired.

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In the U.S., blacks are more likely than whites to suffer from chronic diseases that increase the risk of mortality from COVID-19.

Diseased population age 18 and over, in 2018

- **Obesity**
  - African American: 38%
  - White: 31%

- **Hypertension**
  - African American: 32.2%
  - White: 23.9%

- **Diabetes**
  - African American: 13.1%
  - White: 8.6%

- **Asthma**
  - African American: 9.1%
  - White: 7.5%
“A long history of experimentation, exploitation and mistreatment has left many African-Americans deeply suspicious of the medical establishment.” - NY Times

“Where we live, learn, work, and play affects our health.” - CDC

“...a system that penalizes on the basis of comorbidities will undoubtedly and unfairly penalize the populations that are already more vulnerable to those conditions.” - NPR

Decades of research shows that black patients receive inferior medical care to white patients. Marginalized and minoritized patients have and will suffer disproportionally during the COVID-19 crisis. - AMA

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The New York Times

Questions of Bias in Covid-19 Treatment Add to the Mourning for Black Families

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have advised health professionals to be on the lookout for medical bias.

npr


CNN

Black communities account for disproportionate number of Covid-19 deaths in the US, study finds
“COVID is just unmasking the deep disinvestment in our communities, the historical injustices…”

Dr. Camara Jones
Past President of the American Public Health Association

PAST ISSUES BEING UNMASKED

- Poverty
- Disproportionate levels of disparities in health
- Poor access to medical care
- Police brutality
“For us, death is not new, but death at this magnitude is something that we’ve not seen before.”

Pastor QuanTez Pressly | Lead Pastor, Third New Hope Baptist Church (Detroit, MI)
LA Times, May 12, 2020

COVID-19 RISK FACTORS

- WHAT ARE THEY?
- WHAT IS THEIR IMPACT ON THE PANDEMIC-RELATED GRIEF EXPERIENCES OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS?
Interrupted Funeral Practices

Increased Prolonged Grief

Toll on Emotional Health

Economic Impact

Lack of Traditional Social Support

FALLOUT

‘I’m borne down’: She’s lost more than 30 friends and acquaintances to the coronavirus

LA TIMES | APRIL 2020
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“THE DETROITIST:
AN ANTHOLOGY ABOUT DETROIT”

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