As a Matter of Policy:
Advancing the Economic Case for Eliminating Men's Health Disparities

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In recent years, the public health sphere has evolved to more meaningfully consider what is now framed as the "social determinants of health" (SDOH). According to the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), social determinants of health are factors (i.e. socioeconomic status, built environment, housing, education, transportation, social support networks, race/ethnicity, gender, health care services access etc.) that determine the extent to which individuals are able to live the best quality of life possible.

Emerging scholarship has further centered the economic burden of disease across several health indicators (i.e. cancer, heart disease, diabetes, obesity, mental health and other conditions). The lower an individual's socioeconomic position, the higher their risk of poor health. Despite robust health disparities research already in place, there is a paucity of studies that have meaningfully examined the economic impact of health disparities specifically with respect to Black men's health in the United States.

This presentation has four aims: 1) further explore and examine the economic costs of men's health disparities 2) expound on the impact of racism on the cardiovascular health of Black men 3) make an economic case for advancing equity with respect to men's health disparities and 4) provide practical equity-oriented policy-level solutions and strategies to support an advocacy agenda targeting the reduction and/or elimination of men's health disparities.

Biography

Okey K. Enyia is a native of Chicago, IL. He holds a Master's Degree in Public Health from Chicago State University. Prior to that, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Biochemistry from Lewis University in Romeoville, IL. He is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Public Health with a concentration in Health Policy from The George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health.

As a Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Health Policy Fellow, he worked for three members of Congress. During his time on the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee he played an instrumental role in signing into law the *21st Century Cures Act of 2016*.

Presenting author details

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