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## Diversity Corner

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### Black History Month

Long Time Coming: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEBlaMOmKV4>

Women of Color in STEM: <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/women-of-color-in-STEM-to-know/>



*"Black Health and Wellness" is the Theme for Black History Month 2022*

This year's theme for Black History Month, "Black Health and Wellness," looks at how American healthcare has often underserved the African-American community.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has recently shown, a wide disparity of access to quality healthcare negatively impacts outcomes for blacks and other minorities.

For African-Americans, the root of the problem goes deep and back centuries.

Beginning with slavery, a lack of economic opportunity often put medical care out of reach for many African Americans.

Even in good economic times, during the Jim Crow era, "**Whites Only**" **hospitals** were commonplace throughout the South. Black medical facilities were often understaffed, underfunded, or non-existent. This stark reality gave credence to the saying: "When white folks catch a cold, black folks get pneumonia."

**Black folk remedies** helped pick up the slack involving rituals and incantations, returning to its African roots. Many plant-based medicines were also part of the cure. These included garlic for high blood pressure and aloe vera for skin injuries, which have been validated in scientific studies.

It was well into the 20th century when Black America was finally given a better shot at institutional health care. That's when the US government threatened to withhold Medicare payments to "Whites Only" medical institutions, and almost overnight, **hospitals were desegregated**. The year was 1964, with the passage of the Civil Rights Act.

More than 40 years later, following years of negotiations with the health insurance industry, the **Affordable Care Act** was eventually passed by the Obama administration that gave better access to medical care for Americans of all colors.

Today (almost unbelievably for a wealthy industrialized nation), the US continues to lag behind the rest of the world in providing affordable medical care for a majority of its citizens. As a result, African-Americans, other minorities, and especially the poor remain the country's most vulnerable.

- There is no negro problem. The problem is whether the American people have loyalty enough, honor enough, patriotism enough, to live up to their own constitution...  
-- **Frederick Douglass**
- Do not call for black power or green power. Call for brainpower.  
-- **Barbara Jordan**
- Have a vision. Be demanding.  
-- **Colin Powell**
- Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.  
-- **Booker T. Washington**
- Racism is not an excuse to not do the best you can.  
-- **Arthur Ashe**
- Just like you can buy grades of silk, you can buy grades of justice.  
-- **Ray Charles**