

### Health Disparities, Food Insecurity and Environmental Injustice Among United States Black Adults

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### **Presentation Outline**

Brief Overview of Doctoral Research

- Background
- Purpose

Implications of Doctoral Research on Structural Racism in the Food System



Image: The National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care. (2017). Examining ethical and other implications for a Culture of Health in the Context of the Deep South, Proceedings February 5-8, 2017: Introduction and Overview. pp 11-20. Retrieved from http://tuskegeebioethics.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Final-Copy-of-the-Proceedings-1-15-18.pdf



### Background

#### **Health Disparities**

• "systematic, potentially avoidable differences in health or in the major socially determined influences on health, between groups of people who have different relative positions in social hierarchies according to wealth, power, or prestige" (Braveman, p. 180, 2006)

#### **Food Insecurity**

• "the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways" (Anderson, p. 21,1990)

#### Environment

• "all-encompassing where people live, work, play, go to school, as well as how things interact with the physical and natural world" (Bullard, pp. 155-156, 2001)

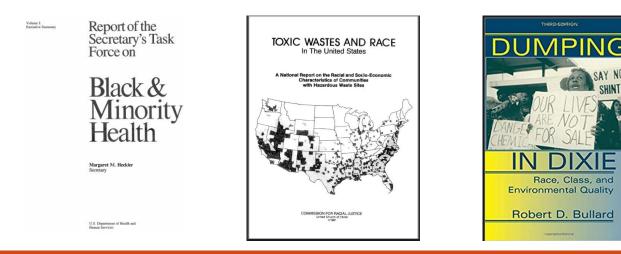
Anderson, S. (1990).Core indicators of nutritional state for difficult-to-sample populations. *Journal of Nutrition*, 120, 1557S-1600S; Braveman, P. (2006). Health disparities and health equity: Concepts and measurement. *Annual Review of Public Health*, *27*, 167-194. doi: 10.1146/annurev.publhealth.27.021405.102103; Bullard, R. (1996). Environmental Justice: It's more than waste facility siting. Social Science Quarterly, 77(3), 439-499. Retrieved from http://www.jstor.org/stable/42863495); Bullard, R. D. (2001). Environmental justice in the 21st Century. *Environmental Justice Resource Center's Website*, *49*(3), 151–171. Retrieved from http://www.ejrc.cau.edu/ejinthe21century.htm

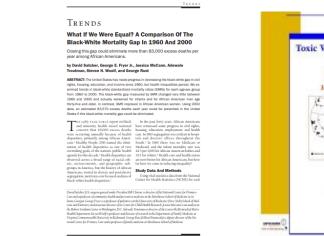


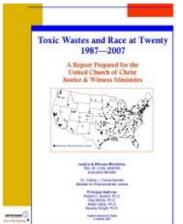
### Background

•Plausible association between environmental injustices, food insecurity, and health disparities.

- Health disparities such as diabetes are disproportionately higher in low-income and minority populations.
- •Toxic chemical releases and other environmental justice issues are historically higher in communities of color and low-income populations.











Ottawa

hiladelphia

150 million lb 5 million - 150 million

500 000 - 35 million I

< 500.000 lb

## Non-Hispanic Black Population in the United States



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, using data from the December 2015, 2016, and 2017 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplements.

Food insecurity above U.S. average

Environmental Protection Agency, Toxic Release Inventory, National Analysis, 2016

# Non-Hispanic Blacks have the second highest rate of diabetes, highest rate of food insecurity, and historically, disproportionate chemical exposure compared to other racial/ethnic groups in the United States.

Coleman-Jensen, A., Rabbitt, M.P., Gregory, C.A., & Singh, A. (2018). Household Food Security in the United States in 2017, United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service Report No. 256. Retrieved from <u>https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/90023/err-256.pdf?v=0</u>; Rastogi, S., Johnson, T.D., Hoeffel, E.M., & Drewery, M.P. (2011). The Black Population: 2010, 2010 Census Briefs. Retrieved from <u>https://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-06.pdf</u>; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). CDC Identifies Diabetes Belt. Retrieved from <u>https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/pdfs/data/diabetesbelt.pdf</u>; United States Environmental Protection Agency. (2019a). Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program. Retrieved from https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/learn-about-toxics-release-inventory

Prevalence of food insecurity, average 2015-17



### Purpose

Examine the association between health disparities, food insecurity and environmental injustice among non-Hispanic Black adults in the United States



### Implications of Doctoral Research on Structural Racism in the Food System



- Alleviating food insecurity using a deficit model vs. asset model approach
- Role of community-asset mapping



#### Alleviating Food Insecurity: Deficit Model

- Focuses on identification of problems and needs of a community, neighborhood, or population
  - "What is the problem?" or "What is missing?" or "What is lacking?" → "What is wrong with them?" or "Why can't they get it right?"
    - E.g. needs assessment, environmental scan
- Policy implications



#### Alleviating Food Insecurity: Asset Model

Focuses on positive, protective factors or "assets" of a community, neighborhood, or population

- "What factors enable a community to be resilient against food insecurity?",
- "How will these factors reduce food insecurity?",
- "How will this community or neighborhood achieve food sovereignty?"

Health assets refer to "any factor (or resource) which enhances the ability of individuals, communities...to maintain and sustain health and well-being" (Morgan and Ziglio, p. 18, 2007)

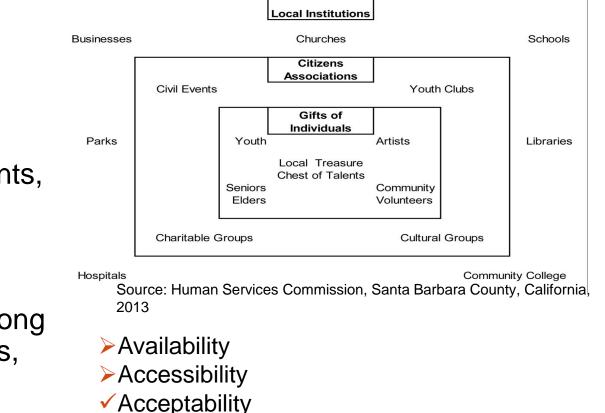
 E.g. community garden, intergenerational resilience, social capital, empowerment, "food forests", "food oasis"



### Role of Community-Asset Mapping

#### Brainstorming

- Identification of local resources, community partnerships and/or collaborations
- Recognize the culture, value, talents, and/or gifts of a community, neighborhood, tribe etc.
- Seeks to build sustainable relationships and connections among and between residents, institutions, schools, organizations etc.





# Thank You!

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https://kimberlyncarr.wixsite.com/website (eportfolio)

#### Insight:

"What should food systems scholars and practitioners from outside the HBCU system be aware of, and/or actions to take, with respect to Structural Racism in the Food System?"



Understand your mission and/or purpose in food systems work. Is it charity or social justice?

Charity is refers to helping those in need

Social justice is defined as "full participation in society and the balancing of benefits and burdens of all citizens, resulting in equitable living and a just ordering of society" (Buettner-Schmidt and Lobo, p. 955, 2011)

✓ Understand that Historically Black Colleges/Universities (HBCUs) are grounded in an environment where structural racism manifests not only in the food system!

Sbicca, J. (2012). Growing food justice by planting an anti-oppression foundation: Opportunities and obstacles for a budding social movement. Agric Hum Values, 1-12. doi: 10.1007/s10460-012-9363-0; Buettner-Schmidt, K., & Lobo, M.L. (2011). Social justice: A concept analysis. Journal of Advanced Nursing, 68(4), 948-958. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2648.2011.05856.x