

## What Can I Do?

Health disparities are more than just statistics – they affect people every day. Here are some personal stories and what you can do if you are in a similar situation.

**SEPARATE AND UNEQUAL:** “At every stage in the health care process, people of color are not given the same kind of care and attention by health care professionals.” - South Bronx Resident.

**WHAT CAN I DO?** Remember that health care is a universal right – not a privilege! You are backed by the law when you raise your voice against health disparities!

**POOR COMMUNICATION:** “I didn’t feel like I was being told anything. I don’t think any doctor should just give you some pills and not explain why you are taking them, or what they’re supposed to do.” -South Bronx Resident, excerpt from “From the Field” by Dr. Neil Calman.

**WHAT CAN I DO?** Write down questions and symptoms before hand. Bring a family member to help you remember. Write down doctor’s answers and ask for more information.

**RACIAL DISCRIMINATION:** “I see doctors going to see a patient that is black and they are white and they will just stand there. ‘Oh how do you do? You OK?’ And act like they’re scared to touch the patient. And then they’ll walk out.” - South Bronx Resident

**WHAT CAN I DO?** Ask for the Administrator on Duty or staff supervisor. Write down the name of the doctor and all important details about the situation. Complain in person or in writing to the hospital or the State Department of Health. For more information about your legal rights, contact Bronx Health REACH at (212) 633-0800 x1232 for referrals to advocacy and legal organizations that might be able to help.



END

Health Disparity

NOW



In the 1960s, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said,  
**“Of all forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.”**

Over 40 years have passed, but not much has changed!  
Turn the page to learn more about the current state of health disparity and what you can do to eliminate it.

*Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people. Isaiah 10:1-2*

## What are Health Disparities?

Compared to whites, people of color and people whose first language is not English often receive no or lower-quality health care. As a result, they live sicker and die younger.

**Bronx Health REACH is now a Center of Excellence for the Elimination of Health Disparities (CEED).**

Our work continues and we must fight even harder to end Health Disparity NOW!

For more information contact Carlos Devia at 212-633-0800 ext. 1338.

## What do Health Disparities Look Like?

**African American Males**



vs.



**White Males**

- African American males are expected to live 6 years less than White males (Center for Disease Control 2007).
- African American men are 30% more likely to die from heart disease, as compared to non-Hispanic white men (Office of Minority Health 2007).
- African American males are about twice as likely to have diabetes as White males (Office of Minority Health 2007).

### Hispanic Males



- Latinos are almost twice as likely to die from diabetes as White males (CDC 2007).
- Hispanic males are 2 times as likely to die from stomach cancer as White males (NCI 2007).
- Hispanic males have over 3 times the AIDS rate of White males (CDC 2007).

**African American Females**



vs.



**White Females**

- African American women are expected to live almost 5 years less than White women (CDC 2007).
- African American women accounted for 66% of new AIDS cases in 2005, while White women accounted for 16% (OMH 2005).
- African American women are almost 2 times as likely as white women to be obese (OMH 2005).

### Hispanic Females



- Latinas are four times as likely to die from AIDS as White women (CDC 2007).
- Hispanic mothers are almost 3 times as likely to have late or no prenatal care (CDC 2007).
- Latinas are 40% more likely to die from cervical cancer than white women (OMH 2005).