

COVID'S Disproportionate Impact on African Americans: *What can we learn from US Health History?*

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What does US history teach us about African Americans and National Health Crises?

‘You are here because your ancestors engaged in personal and collective action’

Personal Action:
Be concerned but not afraid.
One attitude leads to action. The other to paralysis

Great Migration

Fearless individuals leave the only home they know and start walking north. Started 1890's ended 1972.

Further reading:

Warmth of Other Suns,
Isabel Wilkerson

Tuskegee Whistle Blower

Peter Buxtun, CDC, US Public Health Service whistleblower ending the Tuskegee syphilis experiment.

Story: In 1966 filed a protest on ethical grounds which was rejected on the grounds *that the Experiment was not complete.*

In 1972, he leaked the story on the Tuskegee Experiment to Jean Heller of the Washington Star.

Collective Action:
Be concerned but not afraid.
One attitude leads to action. The other to paralysis

Cancer Disparities: Harold Freeman

In 1979, started two free breast- and cervical-cancer-screening centers in Harlem to improve early detection.

In 1989, he authored the landmark report, "Cancer in the Economically Disadvantaged," which established the links between poverty and excess cancer mortality.

Further reading: July 1989,

[https://doi.org/10.1002/1097-0142\(19890701\)64:1+<324::AID-CNCR2820641334>3.0.CO;2-B](https://doi.org/10.1002/1097-0142(19890701)64:1+<324::AID-CNCR2820641334>3.0.CO;2-B)

The Striking Racial Divide: Covid-19 Has Hit Nursing Homes

A collaboration with reporting by: Robert Gebeloff, Danielle Ivory, Matt Richtel, Mitch Smith and Karen Yourish of The New York Times;

Scott Dance of The Baltimore Sun; Jackie Fortiér and Elly Yu of KPCC/LAist; and Molly Parker of The Southern Illinoisan.

Further reading:

<https://www.nytimes.com/article/coronavirus-nursing-homes-racial-disparity.html>

A final history lesson: *Stay Skeptical.*

Black people have been through a lot. They are awfully hard to fool. They don't so much mind eating broccoli as long as you are not trying to convince them its brisket.'

- Dan Rather answering the question 'Why didn't Blacks vote for Trump?'

