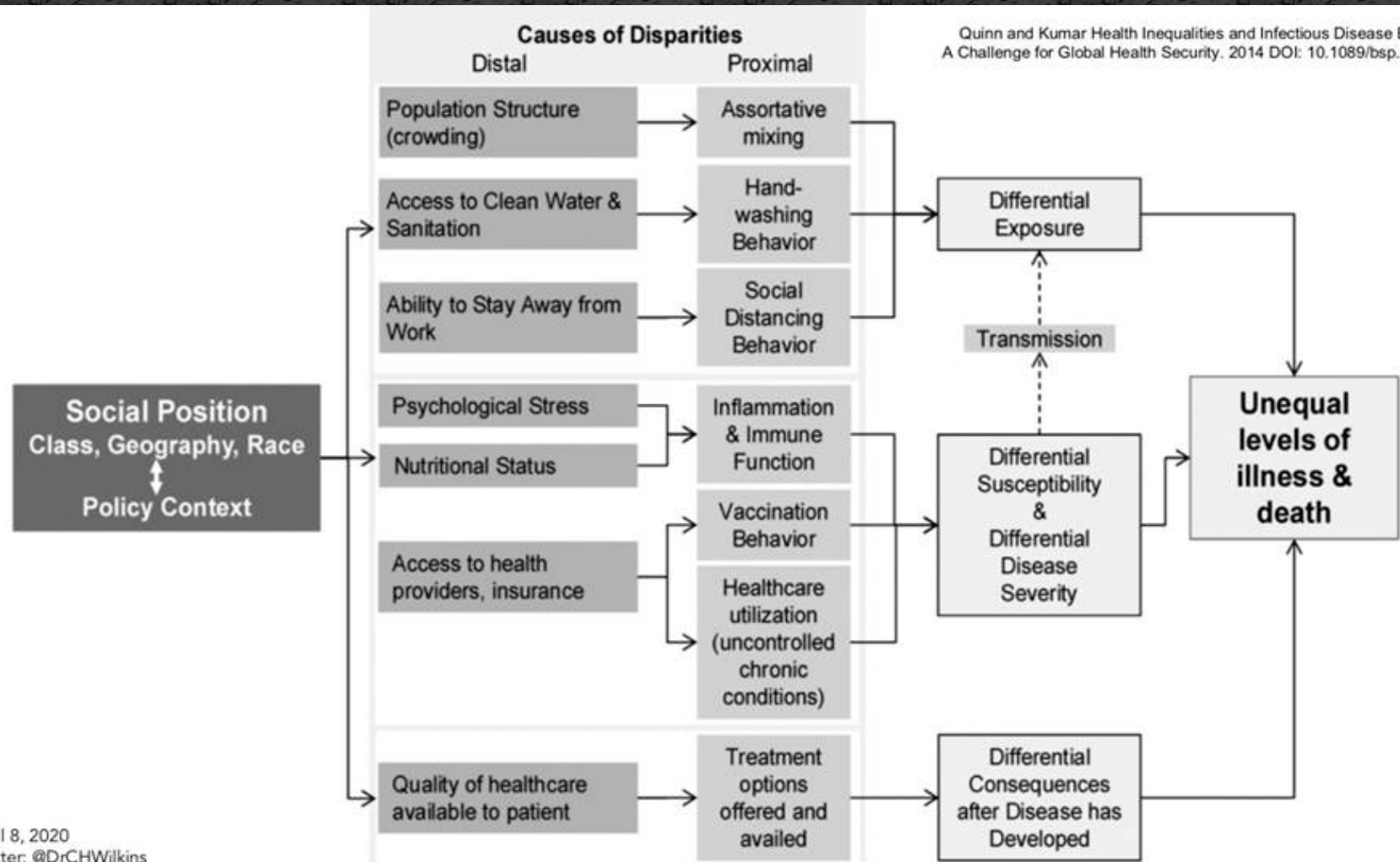


# COVID and Disparities

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Channing E. Tate, MPH, PhD(c)





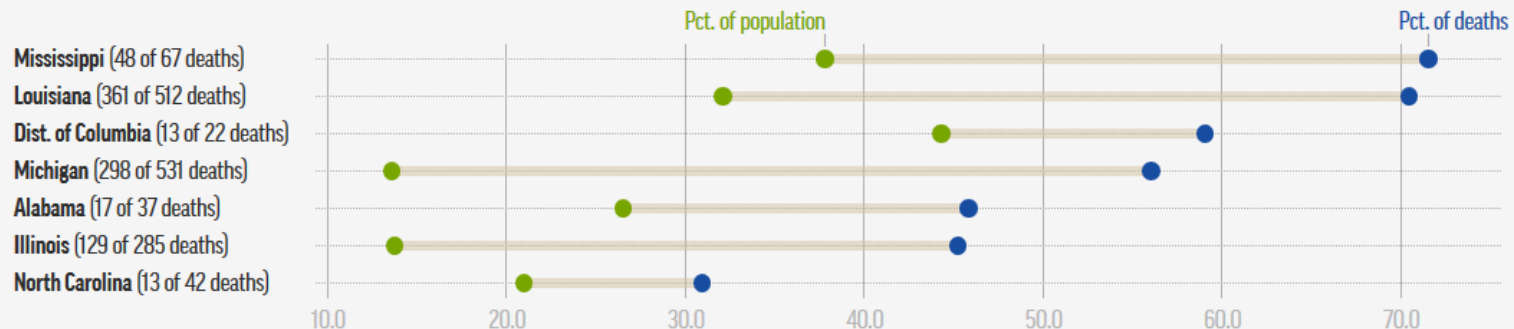
# COVID and Race Disparities

- States:
  - Illinois: 43% of deaths AA, 15% of population
  - Michigan: 40% of deaths AA, 14% of population
  - Louisiana: 70% of deaths AA, 33% of population
    - Data from State Health Departments

## COVID-19 has disproportionately affected black people

African Americans account for more than 40% of COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. where the race of victims has been made publicly known. Data from states, cities and counties show black people are regularly overrepresented compared to their share of the population:

When the race of COVID-19 fatalities were known in states, black people accounted for:





# COVID and Race Disparities

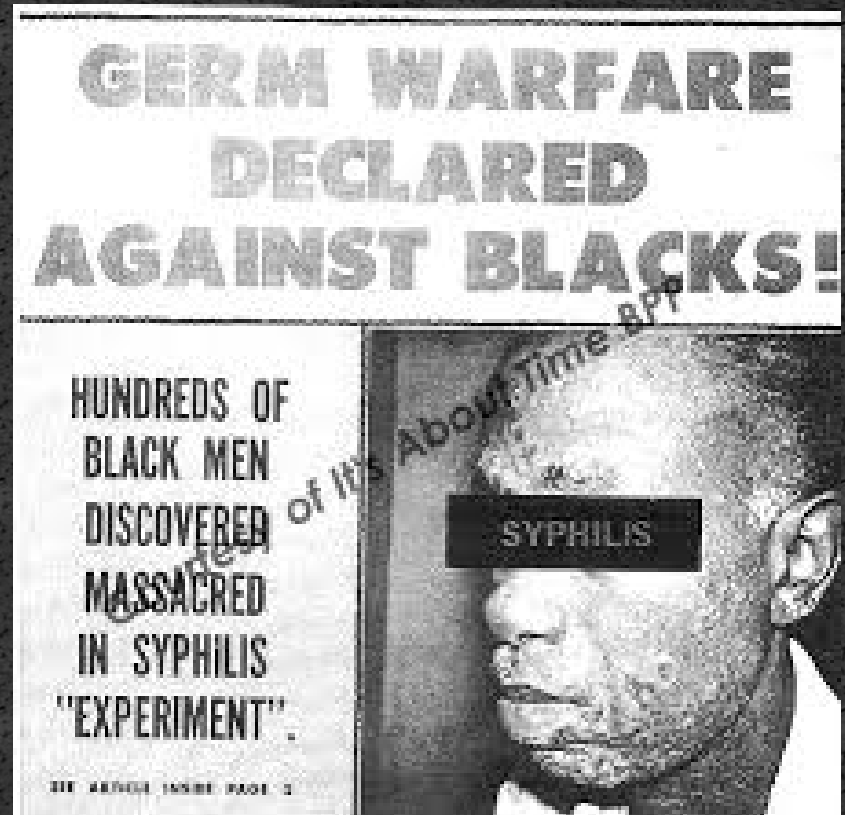
- Workers:
  - Food workers
    - Greely, CO, Sioux Falls, SD, & Columbus Junction, IA meat packing plants-Closed indefinitely



“There may be significantly more individuals at the plant who are carrying the virus but may either be asymptomatic, not tested, or afraid to come forward as they are not eligible for sick pay.”-Kim Cordova-President of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 7 Union

# Race and Mistrust in Healthcare

- Historical examples:
  - Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment





# Race and Mistrust in Healthcare

- Historical examples:
  - Henrietta Lacks



# Race and Mistrust in Healthcare

- Historical examples:
  - Katrina









# Race and Mistrust in Healthcare

- Mistrust healthcare
  - 45% AAs report mistrust providers vs. 34% of Whites<sup>1</sup>
- Some mistrust in healthcare explained by prior experiences of racism<sup>2</sup>
  - eg: Tuskegee, Jim Crow & Katrina
- Overall only 31% of Americans trust public health officials to be transparent<sup>3</sup>

1. Halbert CH, Armstrong K, Gandy OH, Shaker L. Racial Differences in Trust in Health Care Providers. *Arch Intern Med*. 2006;166(8):896–901. doi:10.1001/archinte.166.8.896

2. Armstrong, Katrina, et al. "Prior experiences of racial discrimination and racial differences in health care system distrust." *Medical Care* 51.2 (2013): 144.

3. SteelFisher, Gillian K., Robert J. Blendon, and Narayani Lasala-Blanco. "Ebola in the United States—public reactions and implications." *New England Journal of Medicine* 373.9 (2015): 789-791.

# COVID Exacerbation of Mistrust





# What Can You Do?

- We can't fix structural racism and inequity right now
- How to build trust?
  - Communication
    - Compassion
    - Empathy
    - Active listening
    - Spend appropriate time with the patient and family
    - Transparency



*The Doctor, 1891*

Sir Luke Fildes