Racism as a Social Determinant of Health for Indigenous Peoples

Dr. Charlotte Loppie
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WebEx Chat

• We invite you to introduce yourself in the chat panel (all participants)
• Let us know your name and where you are from!
We Are Recording!

• This session is being recorded
Slides and Recording

• The link to the recording and slides will be distributed via e-mail to all participants and posted on the FNHA and Council sites.
Twitter

• Hashtags:
  – #culturalhumility
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Sensitive Subject Matter

• Due to the sensitive subject matter and stories shared during the webinar sessions participants may become triggered. Please ensure you have prepared a support system for yourself in advance in which you may have easy access to. This could mean an Elder, trusted mentor/family/friend, Counsellor and/or crisis contact number.

• If you need support please do not hesitate to call the toll free crisis line here in the province of BC (1-800-588-8717). Or if you prefer, have a number prepared in advance locally.

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Opening Prayer
Racism as a Social Determinant of Health for Indigenous Peoples

Dr. Charlotte Loppie
Professor in the School of Public Health and Social Policy, Faculty of Human and Social Development, University of Victoria, Director of the Centre for Indigenous Research and Community-Led Engagement (CIRCLE), Editor of the International Journal of Indigenous Health.
Introductions

Dr. Charlotte Loppie
Racism as a Social Determinant of Health for Indigenous Peoples

Charlotte Loppie PhD
Centre for Indigenous Health and Community-Led Engagement (CIRCLE)
University of Victoria
Honoring the Songees, Esquimalt and Wsanec Peoples
HONOURING MY FAMILY
“We perceive reality in terms of the categories we have learned to impose on it, and we actively shape ourselves and others to conform to the images we have created.”

(Hunter Collective, 1983)
Race and Racialization

1. A social construction of human difference typically based on characteristics such as skin colour, hair texture, and facial features.

1. The practice of assigning a racial identity to a person or group of people (Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 2013)
Racism

An attitude or behaviour based on the erroneous belief that ‘race’ produces inherent cognitive, moral and behavioural traits, often involving the belief that one’s own race is superior to others.

(Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 2013a).
Racism

- Hatred, fear or intolerance of those racialized differently than oneself.
- A policy, system of government, etc., based on or fostering a doctrine of race-based discrimination. (Dictionary.com, n.d.)
Trajectory of Racism

1. Ideology of race
2. Hierarchy of racism
3. Negative beliefs and stereotypes
4. Discrimination
5. Inequities
Stem Determinants

Core Determinants

Root Determinants
Individual

1. Lack of basic knowledge about our shared history
2. Assumptions about why current issues exist.
3. Negative attitude towards Indigenous peoples.
4. Discriminatory behaviours in personal, social and work environments.

Political

1. Desire to colonize and oppress for resources.
2. Justify colonization – racist beliefs.
3. Oppressive policies to sustain colonial rule.
4. Perpetuation of racist beliefs and mis-tory.
Structural racism

- Discrimination is not always expressed in overt ways (e.g., slavery, genocide)

- It can take forms that present power inequalities as neutral and natural.
The Issue: 

Anti-indigenous racism in health care
Systemic and relational

- Longer wait times
  - for folks like Brian Sinclair who died after waiting 34 hours
- Fewer referral to specialists
- Fewer pain medication prescriptions
- Disrespectful treatment that demeans, diminishes or disempowers the cultural identity and well-being of an individual
  - Impacts access
Historical, social and political institutions and processes that create, practice and reinforce systemic and relational racism.

- Location and condition of Indigenous communities
- Residential Schools and Indian Hospitals
- Policies (NIHB, jurisdictional sandtraps)
- Pathologizing research (i.e. evidence)
- “Evidence” based practice
Questions to consider

**Epistemic**  Whose knowledge has power?

**Structural**  Exclusion and marginalization?

**Colourblind**  “I don’t see colour.”
  “Just treat everyone the same.”

**Relational**  Is there mutual respect?

**Embodied**  Do you “feel” equal?
Addressing THE ISSUE

– Cultural safety/Anti-racist training
– Increased Indigenous representation
– Community based and driven care
– Anti-discrimination/reconciliation policies?
– First Nations Health Authority !!!!
Many thanks
Questions/Discussion
Webinar: August 2, 2017 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

PERSONAL STORIES OF EXPERIENCE WITH THE HEALTH SYSTEM

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