



What If We Were Equal? A Comparison Of The Black-White Mortality Gap In 1960 And 2000 Discussion Guide from The Colorado Trust

This discussion guide is a tool for individuals and organizations to examine and better understand mortality trends between African Americans and White populations. In particular create further dialogue on the Black-White mortality gap and some of the potential health determinants that create this gap in mortality rates.

To support and advance the conversation around health equity in Colorado, The Colorado Trust is providing two resources to stimulate a dialogue on the topic. First, Dr. Adewale Troutman, a leading national expert on social determinants of health in underserved populations, will speak at The Colorado Trust on July 25. Dr. Troutman will provide an overview of social determinants of health and a video of the event will be available on The Colorado Trust's website in the near future. Second, The Colorado Trust is distributing an article authored by Dr. Troutman titled *What If We Were Equal? A Comparison of the Black-White Mortality Gap in 1960 and 2000* as an additional resource to spark conversations. The article provides further background and context to Dr. Troutman's July 25 presentation.

After viewing the presentation and/or reading the article, below are a set of discussion questions to consider as you further explore the definition and the applications to your own work.

1. After reading the article, what are your thoughts about differences in mortality trends between Black and White populations? Based on the presentation and your experiences, what are potential causes of these differences?
2. As you think about your community, among which populations are mortality or other health disparity gaps occurring between social groups? What do you see as some of the main causes for these gaps and trends?
3. What does your organization do now to reduce health disparities and move toward greater equity in health? What else could your organization do? What are the chief obstacles to doing more?
4. What are the opportunities for your organization to impact health equity and health disparities through your organization's mission, vision and values?