SYSTEMIC RACISM

AND IMPACT ON PREP UPTAKE

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RACE AS WE KNOW IT IN THE US IS CLOSELY INTEGRATED with our economic system. The system of racism functioned primarily as a justification for the barbaric act of chattel slavery and the genocide of Indigenous peoples. You cannot put chains around the necks of other human beings or slaughter them wholesale, while maintaining social rules that prohibit such treatment, without first designating those people as somewhat less than human. And later, the function of racism was somewhat repurposed as a way of dividing lower classes, still with the ultimate goal of the economic and political supremacy of white elites…
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Racism is any prejudice **OR PRACTICE** against someone because of their race, when those views **OR PRACTICES** are reinforced by systems of power.
A History of Race and Racism in the United States

- **1607-1776**: Race in the Colonies
- **1776-1863**: Expanding a New Nation
- **1863-1877**: Reconstruction
- **1877-1963**: The Jim Crow Era
- **1964-present**: Civil Rights: Successes & Setbacks

Systemic Racism in medicine, from slave cabins on southern plantations to clinics, hospitals and medical colleges in northern urban centers illustrate how race, gender and health influenced doctor-patient relationships.
“Research has shown that even when risk factors are equal or less, sexually active minority youth face a higher risk of HIV and STIs.”

The people in their "pool" of sexual partners are more likely to be HIV positive or have an STI, raising the odds of infection. But why?

“Racism is the most significant contributor. Racism is intertwined with underemployment and unemployment, decreased access to medical care, and with incarceration.”