

EVIDENCE-BASED OR EVIDENCE-BIASED?

Implicit Bias & Healthcare Discrimination






THE PROBLEM¹

- Implicit bias is a cognitive process that produces unconscious thoughts, feelings, & attitudes, towards certain social groups
- Implicit bias can be based on race/ethnicity, gender, age, socioeconomic status, & more
- This leads to healthcare providers having preferences for, or aversions to different groups & reinforces stereotypes + stigmatization



THE IMPACT^{2,3,4}

Implicit bias subjects certain groups to a lower quality of healthcare, including:

-  **IMPROPER/INCOMPLETE DIAGNOSIS**
-  **SUBPAR TREATMENT /LACK OF TREATMENT**
-  **PATIENT SYMPTOMS IGNORED/DISMISSED**
-  **LACK OF TRUST IN HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**
-  **FATAL CONSEQUENCES**



THE NEXT STEPS^{5,6}

- Become aware of & address our implicit biases by being reflexive
- Collect data on perceptions of challenges faced by marginalized communities so that targeted interventions can be created
- Build cultural awareness by exposing yourself to diverse academic/professional perspectives



References

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