

**ALL-IN CITIES  
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

**“PITTSBURGH IS  
GREATER THAN RACISM”**

**Pittsburgh is Greater than Racism**



# **Racism is Structural and Institutional**


**Pittsburgh is Greater than Racism**

“Racism, in other words, isn’t just someone using a racial slur. It’s also the poor schooling in predominantly black and brown neighborhoods, the racial wealth gap, housing discrimination, mass incarceration, police killings of unarmed black and brown people, higher infant mortality rates for people of color, and unequal access to health care.”

- Jenee Desmond-Harris

Systemic racism is embedded in society and has a detrimental effect on the lives and health outcomes of people of color. Those who experience racial discrimination are more likely to suffer from chronic diseases and premature death.

Racism is a public health crisis because it risks the health and well-being of all citizens and causes destruction at a social and economic level.



**National publications  
are documenting the  
dangers of racism.**

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The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) in a July 19, 2019 study, entitled: *Racism is killing African Americans* states, “**Racism affects every aspect of American life – none more so than our medical system...**”

The SPLC Report continues to say, “**These persistent disparities in health outcomes are not due to genetic or biological differences between the races but to entrenched racism in American society.**”

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Numerous studies over the years have laid bare the gap in health outcomes between African-Americans and white Americans.

- African-Americans have a lower life expectancy than white Americans.
- They are more likely to suffer and die from chronic conditions like kidney, cardiovascular and lung disease.
- Black children are more likely to endure asthma and have more severe symptoms than white children.

- The infant mortality rate is more than *twice as high* for black children than for white children – a disparity that’s *wider today than it was in 1850*, when the majority of African-Americans were enslaved, and one that is not related to the economic or educational status of the mother.

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The Center for American Progress in an article April 18, 2018, entitled “Racism: The Evergreen Toxin Killing Black Mothers and Infants” Racism, an evergreen toxin in American society, has long served as the primary ingredient of racial inequality.


The United States has yet to sufficiently take on the toxin of racism. Current data reveal that it not only continues to divide communities and promote unrest, but the daily exposure to racism is literally killing black women and infants.”

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The American Academy of Pediatrics in August 2019, warns, “*Racism has devastating long-term effects on children’s health .*” The policy statement is the first it has issued to its members on the dangers of racism. Doctors involved in the report said the current political and cultural atmosphere makes the work more urgent.

Pediatricians welcomed the report, which drew on 180 key studies and includes specific recommendations, and said the danger to their patients has become acute.

“There was a time not too long ago under another president when I think we as a society were talking about living in a post-racial age. That’s changed pretty dramatically,” said Nia J. Heard-Garris, a pediatrician at Northwestern University. “It’s a new age of racism.”



**Racism is killing African  
Americans in Pittsburgh  
and is an immediate  
public health crisis.**

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Pittsburgh's Gender Equity Commission issued a report titled "Pittsburgh's Inequality Across Gender and Race".

- Black women in Pittsburgh face higher rates of maternal mortality and poverty along with lower rates of employment and college readiness;
- Black men in Pittsburgh face higher rates of occupational segregation, homicides, cancer and cardiovascular disease.
- Black children have higher infant mortality rates, and lower educational achievement outcomes

**According to its findings Pittsburgh's  
black residents could move to almost any  
other U.S. city of comparable size and  
have a better quality of life.**

**In subsequent interviews Junia Howell, a University of Pittsburgh sociologist who worked on the report said:**

**“Our report empirically validated....(that) Pittsburgh’s racism is not only alive and well but more extreme than most cities.”**



**Earlier this year the  
City of Pittsburgh  
passed legislation,  
declaring itself as an  
“All-In” City.**

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# **“EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT: THE PATH TO AN ALL-IN PITTSBURGH.”**

- **Raise the Bar for New Development**
- **Make All Neighborhoods Healthy Communities of Opportunity**
- **Expand Employment and Business Ownership Opportunities**
- **Embed Racial Equity Throughout Pittsburgh’s Institutions and Businesses**
- **Build Community Power, Voice, and Capacity**



**We must pass and  
implement the 3  
additional pieces of All  
In Cities Legislative  
Agenda**

**Pittsburgh is Greater than Racism**

## **Greater than Racism Policy Agenda:**

1. Declare racism a public health Crisis in Pittsburgh;
2. Establishing an All-in Cities Leadership Forum to coordinate the City's response to the Crisis;
3. Establish an All-in Cities Investment Fund to reduce racism's harmful effects in Pittsburgh's African American communities.

“The prescription for the cure rests with an accurate diagnosis of the disease.” ~ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In order for Pittsburgh is to be a livable city for everyone, we must come together and prioritize racial justice and reconciliation.

Today, by our actions, will we begin to prove to the Nation that “Pittsburgh Is Stronger Than Racism?”

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