

# BLACK HEALTH SUMMIT

2022



Health  
Foundation  
of South Florida

## SUMMARY REPORT

OCTOBER 2022

# ABOUT THIS REPORT

The inaugural Black Health Summit 2022 — created and organized by the Health Foundation of South Florida in partnership with Florida Memorial University, Urban League of Broward County, Florida International University's Wertheim College of Medicine, and Sigma Pi Phi ("The Boulé") — was held on June 16, 2022 at Florida Memorial University. Approximately 170 leaders from health systems, community-based organizations, as well as public and private sector entities convened in person to discuss the state of Black health in South Florida, and to identify health equity solutions for the region's Black communities.

The summit addressed three topics selected by the event's host committee:

- Improving Black maternal health
- Health impacts of climate change
- Trauma, violence, and healing

This report is intended to provide a general overview of the summit, identifying priority issues and recommendations that surfaced during the various conversations and sessions that occurred. While much is detailed here, it would be impossible to capture every idea, suggestion, challenge or potential solution that was shared.

Our intention with both the summit and this report is that they serve as starting points that inspire the development of collaborations and action plans across key sectors, with an ultimate goal of fostering measurable improvements in Black health in Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

The Health Foundation of South Florida is grateful to all who participated and provided time and expertise to make this first Black Health Summit a success. It is our hope that when next year's Summit is reconvened, we will be ready to share even more about our collective progress.

# SUMMIT AT A GLANCE



## 9

Sectors represented, including community-based organizations, healthcare providers, universities, public health departments, insurance payers, media, philanthropy, government and faith-based organizations.

## 170+

Attendees from across Miami-Dade and Broward counties who registered and attended the in-person conference, which took place at Florida Memorial University, the region's only Historically Black College or University.

## 3

Break-out sessions, each led by a subject matter expert and a local community-based leader, who facilitated interactive discussion with attendees.

## 12

Number of speakers who presented throughout the day.



# KEYNOTE ADDRESS

THE STATE OF BLACK HEALTH

BY DR. REED TUCKSON

TUCKSON HEALTH CONNECTIONS, MANAGING DIRECTOR  
BLACK COALITION AGAINST COVID, CO-FOUNDER

Dr. Tuckson presented the conference keynote address, emphasizing that now more than ever before in American history, the nation is ready and motivated to improve the status of Black health. He argued that a positive outcome of the pandemic is that many more people can now relate to the tragedy of excess death and distress that has disproportionately impacted Black communities. He also outlined the historically unjust social and economic conditions at the root of health inequities — or what he called “the politics of structural racism,” and the systemic reinforcement of interrelated cultural norms that worsen health and mortality among Black Americans. Dr. Tuckson went on to put forth 10 key points on how to address health disparities and achieve health equity in Black communities.



## **DR. REED TUCKSON'S 10 KEY POINTS FOR ACHIEVING HEALTH EQUITY**



1. We must develop a shared vision of respect for all life, namely by granting every human being the right to live free of preventable illness and suffering, to the greatest extent possible.
2. We must develop a shared vision of health, emphasizing the strengths that exist in every community, not just the deficits.
3. Black Americans must fully realize their potential as citizens. Social engagement – or lack thereof – with government, healthcare, and corporations is the responsibility of everyone.
4. Black health professionals must work to more effectively reach and educate the core of the Black community. Those with wealth and power should not forget the importance of achieving equity for all Black and African Americans.
5. We must also work to overcome distrust and embrace science. Many other marginalized communities have also been suffering fear and discrimination, and we must all unite in working together to build trust and find solutions.
6. We must all take responsibility for re-evaluating and redesigning the healthcare system so it delivers better quality prevention, care, and value. Engaging public health in clinical care is critical for addressing the social determinants of health and health-related basic needs, which form the basis of health.
7. We must improve measurement and data sharing in healthcare. In addition, data collection and artificial intelligence require an equity-focused approach to ensure the fairness and improvement — not worsening — of health disparities.
8. We must learn how to reach the entire Black community when communicating health information. Particularly, we must reach those most vulnerable and in need of better educational, social and community services.
9. We must prepare to take advantage of the looming shifts in how medical care will be delivered in the future. Consumer health trends indicate that personalized medicine will be delivered largely at home, with technology, genetic profiling, and statistical modeling.
10. Black communities must empower themselves, speak up, and take action.

# PANEL DISCUSSION

## BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN CLINICAL CARE AND UNMET SOCIAL NEEDS IN SOUTH FLORIDA BLACK COMMUNITIES

The morning keynote was followed by a panel facilitated by Dr. O'Neil Pyke, Chief Medical Officer at Jackson North Medical Center. The panelists were Dr. Armen Henderson, Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Miami; State Senator Dr. Rosalind Osgood, President of the Mount Olive Development Corporation; and Dr. Janisse Schoepp, Vice President of Strategy at the Health Foundation of South Florida. The discussion about the importance of identifying and attending to patient needs outside of clinical settings led to various key takeaways:

- While there are many impactful efforts to reduce health disparities underway in Black communities, they are being operated on shoestring budgets.
- There is a need for payors, philanthropy, and other institutions to develop or support the creation of sustainable financing mechanisms that help scale and sustain community-based efforts.
- To fully understand the issues of individuals who need support with health-related basic needs, health and social service providers must be immersed in the communities and build their cultural competency.



# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

In the afternoon, summit participants attended one of three breakout sessions, each focused on a high-impact theme:

- Improving Black maternal health
- Health impacts of climate change
- Trauma, violence, and healing

Each session began with a presentation by a medical subject matter expert, who provided data and context about the associated key challenges. These were followed by group discussions that allowed attendees to share experiences, insights, and ideas for solutions and improvements. Facilitated by community-based leaders, these discussions focused on identifying actions and strategies, and answering the question: Where do we go from here?

The following pages feature summaries of each breakout session.



**BREAKOUT SESSION #1****IMPROVING BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH**

*SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT: Washington C. Hill, MD Sarasota Memorial Healthcare System, Senior Physician for Women's Health, Center Place Health, Obstetrics and Gynecology and Maternal-Fetal Medicine.*

*FACILITATOR: Okezi Otovo, PhD, Florida International University, Associate Professor of History and African and African Diaspora Studies.*

After a presentation on key data that demonstrates the striking and consistent pattern of disparities in Black maternal health and some of the factors that drive such inequities, attendees engaged in an interactive discussion. This yielded additional context about specific challenges and barriers, as well as ideas for solutions and collaborations—action steps that can be taken. Two key themes emerged. First, there is a need for collaboration among community-based organizations and healthcare providers to better integrate and address health-related social needs of mothers. And second, racism and implicit bias in the healthcare system must be eradicated in order to protect Black mothers from adverse outcomes. Above all, communication between patients and providers cannot be improved without culturally-competent care and trust. What follows is a high-level recap of various other barriers and actionable ideas identified during the session.

**NUTRITION****BARRIER**

There is a need for better understanding of connections between maternal health, poor nutrition, and general health status among underserved populations.

**ACTIONABLE IDEA**

Increase attention, awareness, and resources for prenatal care, as well as preventive physical, mental, social, and emotional health as they relate to non-medical drivers of health for pregnant and postpartum women.

**HEALTH SYSTEMS****BARRIER**

Health systems are difficult to navigate, creating barriers for both patients and potential change makers.

**ACTIONABLE IDEA**

Provide Black pregnant and postpartum women with responsive referrals to healthcare providers who are culturally compatible. Provide information, assistance, and options for those who prefer to visit out-of-network providers (e.g., doulas, midwives, etc.).

**BREAKOUT SESSION #1****IMPROVING BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH***(CONTINUED)***SOCIAL NEEDS****BARRIER**

Many pregnant and postpartum women have significant unmet social needs—such as transportation, economic pressures, and housing challenges—that prevent them from seeking healthcare during this critical time.

**ACTIONABLE IDEA**

Implement innovative, evidence-based, and/or best practices approaches for healthcare providers to better identify and maintain follow-up and support with maternal patients who are coping with unstable living arrangements, unmet transportation needs and food insecurity.

**CONTACT & COMMUNICATION****BARRIER**

Healthcare providers often have difficulty keeping in contact with patients, often as a result of a patient's unstable living arrangements or lack of access to reliable means of communications (i.e. phone, email).

**ACTIONABLE IDEA**

Identify ways to improve patient communications strategies and maternal health follow-up care.

**LIMITED SERVICE CHOICES****BARRIER**

There is a deficit of alternative birth care options and providers, such as doulas and midwives.

**ACTIONABLE IDEA**

Increase outreach and access to more BIPOC and alternative maternal health providers (e.g., increase professional training of doulas/midwives and other birth care careers within Black communities).

**TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE****BARRIER**

Mental, emotional, and physical traumas in Black communities contribute to the overall health of the community, and exposure to trauma is especially harmful to pregnant and postpartum Black mothers.

**ACTIONABLE IDEA**

Implement more trauma-informed mental health services and programs to reduce distress and danger for Black mothers.

**BREAKOUT SESSION #1****IMPROVING BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH***(CONTINUED)*

# NEXT STEPS

## HOW THE HEALTH FOUNDATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA WILL SUPPORT EFFORTS TO ADDRESS BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH

Armed with insights from the Black Health Summit, the Health Foundation of South Florida announced in October 2022 that it will foster and fund several South Florida health equity collaboratives—groups comprised of leaders from across healthcare, community and social services sectors. The qualifying collaboratives will receive funding and technical support to develop and launch pilot programs through which the organizations will coordinate to address patient social needs within healthcare settings. The goal of each pilot will be to demonstrate interventions that improve health outcomes among low-income and racial and ethnic minority populations. The pilots will focus on one of three identified areas, improving Black maternal and infant health being one emphasis. The other two are chronic disease disparities and access to healthcare.

Once the pilots are developed and designed, the collaboratives will have the opportunity to apply for a separate multi-year implementation grant from the Health Foundation in 2023.

## BREAKOUT SESSION #2

# HEALTH IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

*SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT: Cheryl Holder, MD, Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity and Community Initiatives; Florida Clinicians for Climate Change, Co-Chair*

*FACILITATOR: Caroline Lewis, Founder & Senior Climate Advisor, The CLEO Institute*

After framing the region's climate crisis with compelling data on increasing heat and sea level rise and how these changes are driving population displacement and negatively impacting other social and economic factors, the featured experts identified the changing climate as a "threat multiplier" for many in South Florida's Black communities. In addition, they discussed the ways climate change is directly affecting people's health and well-being, such as increasing incidences of asthma, exacerbating heart and lung conditions, and causing water and foodborne illness, as well as mental health challenges. This was followed by an audience discussion from which two key themes emerged. Firstly, more partnerships are needed among nonprofits, healthcare professionals, schools, frontline communities, and the public and private sectors in order to address common goals around climate and health equity. The second theme was the need to improve climate health literacy and education at every level, but especially among those who are directly impacted. What follows is a high-level recap of barriers and potential actions discussed during the session.

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

### BARRIER

There is a lack of understanding about how climate change impacts people's health, especially in vulnerable and at-risk communities.

### ACTIONABLE IDEAS

- Improve and increase outreach and education efforts focused on how climate change can affect health. This should include easy-to-understand, public facing informational assets in various languages.
- Design and offer certificate courses on climate change and green jobs to more Black students in trade schools, community colleges and universities.
- Increase training opportunities for healthcare and first responder professionals for identifying and treating heat and climate-related illnesses.

**BREAKOUT SESSION #2****HEALTH IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE***(CONTINUED)***INCLUSIVE & BROAD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT****BARRIER**

Residents of underserved Black neighborhoods are most at risk and vulnerable to the impacts of climate change—from physical and mental health impacts to displacement. Yet, they often don't have a seat at the table when mitigation plans are designed. There is also a shortage of trusted messengers to enable effective engagement.

**ACTIONABLE IDEA**

Create a broad-scale initiative to engage Black residents in at-risk communities, as well as leaders and sectors, to develop inclusive climate resiliency plans. This should intentionally include Black communities, but also health systems, urban planners, faith-based institutions, schools and government.

**POLICY & ADVOCACY****BARRIER**

Policy mandates on school and community education, air conditioning requirements for housing, working conditions for outdoor workers, and general urban planning are needed to ensure climate change is being adequately addressed for vulnerable Black residents of South Florida.

**ACTIONABLE IDEA**

Support and/or leverage existing climate change advocacy efforts at the local, state and federal levels.

**BREAKOUT SESSION #2****HEALTH IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**  
*(CONTINUED)*

# NEXT STEPS

**HOW THE HEALTH FOUNDATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA IS SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

Challenges associated with climate change in South Florida are well-documented. The region's climate action planning has been on-going and collaborative, driven by leaders of community-based organizations, advocacy groups, leaders from county and city governments, and national and local funders. The Health Foundation is exploring ways to best support existing groups whose work is centered around policy and advocacy that advance solutions to mitigate the disparate burden of the climate crisis in Black communities. Aligned with its strategic focus, the Health Foundation is particularly interested in exploring investments that will lead to the building or rehabilitation of energy-efficient and climate-resilient affordable housing; strategic actions that reduce climate displacement or gentrification; and, most importantly, an increase in civic engagement so that solutions and budget decisions are informed by those most affected.

**BREAKOUT SESSION #3****VIOLENCE, TRAUMA, AND HEALING**

*SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT: Rahn Bailey, MD, Louisiana State University School of Medicine, Department of Psychology, Chair*

*FACILITATOR: Brother Lyle Muhammad, Circle of Brotherhood, Executive Director*

As the previous two sessions did, this breakout began with data. In this case, the data was related to the ethnic and racial disparities associated with violence. The presentation yielded a clear recommendation that addressing violence in South Florida's Black communities must occur along a continuum, from general violence prevention to individual interventions and community-level support after traumatic events. In addition, local community-based organizations and residents are knowledgeable resources and must play a role in the design of solutions. The session also highlighted the need to resource and support community collaborations and coalitions at the frontline of trauma and violence prevention efforts. Below are additional barriers and actionable ideas that were identified.

**TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE****BARRIER**

Direct and indirect exposure to violence results in significant impacts to physical, emotional, and mental health.

**ACTIONABLE IDEAS**

- Implement screening for adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and trauma as an integral component of a trauma-informed approach to medical care.
- Increase the pipeline of culturally- and trauma-informed BIPOC mental health professionals.
- Work to better identify and connect victims of crime and trauma to support services and medical care.
- Implement education and training efforts for law enforcement, medical and mental health professionals, as well as for community-based interventionists and educators.

**BREAKOUT SESSION #3**  
**VIOLENCE, TRAUMA, AND HEALING***(CONTINUED)***COMMUNITY-LEVEL INTERVENTIONS****BARRIER**

There has been a lack of a coordinated and comprehensive public health approach to violence and trauma, including community-wide efforts in education and civic engagement.

**ACTIONABLE IDEAS**

- Provide and support trauma-informed community violence intervention and prevention initiatives.
- Address and dismantle the culture of violence through increased education and gun violence awareness.
- Address appropriate funding for mental health services related to exposures to interpersonal and community violence.

**POLICY & RESEARCH****BARRIER**

There is a lack of research to better understand the intersection of violence and mental health as well as the sociological/public health framework.

**ACTIONABLE IDEAS**

- Support research efforts to identify promising public health interventions to address community violence and trauma.
- Support civic engagement efforts to advocate for the recognition of violence as a public health crisis.

**BREAKOUT SESSION #3****HEALTH IMPACTS OF VIOLENCE, TRAUMA, AND HEALING**  
*(CONTINUED)*

# NEXT STEPS

**HOW THE HEALTH FOUNDATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA IS SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE, TRAUMA, AND HEALING**

Among the most meaningful takeaways from the Black Health Summit are the relationships the Health Foundation has been deepening with Black-led, grassroots community organizations. These relationships—with trusted groups such as the Circle of Brotherhood, Beyond The Bars and Dade County Street Response—are paving the way not just for us to hear from new voices, but for entirely new conversations to take place. It is impossible to overstate the importance of these alliances, the critical role they play in the Foundation's pursuit of its mission — and the role we believe the Foundation can play in helping support authentic, community-led efforts.

As a result, the Foundation has already engaged in a co-development process with various Black-led organizations working in Liberty City. The goal of our collaboration is to identify ways in which the Foundation can support and help scale evidence- and community-based violence intervention and prevention efforts in the areas these organizations serve.

We know this is only the beginning, and that such partnerships must be nurtured and cultivated over time. Yet we can't help but be enthusiastic about the progress already made and our commitment to engage the community in building a safe, healthy future.

# 93%

Post-summit survey respondents to who said they are very likely to attend the summit again next year.

## IN THEIR WORDS

RESPONSES AND COMMENTS FROM  
BLACK HEALTH SUMMIT ATTENDEES

"A collaborative environment to share information and exchange ideas."

"There is a lot of work to be done and we need to unify in order to accomplish that work."

"Very informative and solution oriented."

"All of the speakers were fantastic!"

"This is an important conversation that must continue to be [held]. Health Equity is a pillar for our [community]."

“*It was real and raw content that gave actual ideas.*”

# SPECIAL THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO MADE OUR FIRST **BLACK HEALTH SUMMIT** POSSIBLE

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Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, Associate Dean for Diversity,  
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# BLACK HEALTH SUMMIT



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
BLACK HEALTH SUMMIT 2023  
**06.15.23**

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The Black Health Summit was organized,  
funded and hosted by

The logo for the Health Foundation of South Florida consists of four overlapping, semi-transparent teal shapes that resemble a stylized fan or a series of overlapping pages, arranged in a descending staircase pattern from left to right.

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