

On the Legacy of Slavery in Healthcare

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The Legacy of Slavery has a large impact on present day society. One large area of that is Healthcare. There were many myths about physical racial differences. This impacts the racial differences in healthcare today. It is believed that most African Americans don't get the proper healthcare they need.

There were many myths about physical racial differences in the past that have impacted healthcare today. These myths were mostly made by racist doctors and slave owners. "These fallacies, presented as fact and legitimized in medical journals, bolstered society's view that enslaved people were fit for little outside forced labor and provided support for racist ideology and discriminatory public policies."(Linda Villarosa). These myths included that blacks had smaller skulls, smaller brains, thicker skin, weak lungs that could be strengthened from hard work, and that they couldn't feel pain. The myths led to very painful experiments and more forced labor.

Myths that were placed on blacks still have a large impact on healthcare today. The myths have carried on throughout the years of slavery. The myths may not be as popular today, but they made racial bias in modern day healthcare. "Extant research has shown that, relative to white patients, black patients are less likely to be given pain medications and, if given pain medications, they receive lower quantities."(Kelly Hoffman). Due to the myths before, African Americans are more likely to get underestimated in the hospital. These underestimations lead to undertreatment.

African Americans don't get proper health care even after they got healthcare rights. "Black Americans were denied access to doctors and hospitals for decades."(Nikole Hannah-Jones). Most medical care for black people before were people that came to their house or people that were willing to give healthcare for free. Now that black people can have healthcare, they don't receive it properly. From getting less attention to none at all. If they do get treatment, it is mostly not effective. If given medications they receive lower amounts than others.

Overall, the legacy of slavery has a large effect on healthcare. The effect has carried over from slavery to modern day and maybe, hopefully not, the future. A few myths have impacted the entire course of history. Crazy, right? Even worse, none of the myths were even true. Nowadays, African Americans don't get the propeller healthcare they need.

Works Cited

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