



IDAHO ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR IDAHO

IAFP Condemns Racism and Commits to Promote Racial Equity

Racism is a public health crisis. As family physicians, we must acknowledge that racism is a systemic healthcare problem before we can truly address healthcare disparities. People of color bear the burden of institutional inequities in education, housing, employment and access to food. These inequities directly impact health outcomes and access to medical care, treatment, and maternal and fetal health services. In addition to health disparities, racism is linked to police violence and early death of Black Americans who are nearly three times more likely to die at the hands of police violence than White Americans. One in every one thousand Black men and boys can expect to be killed by police in this country.^{1,2} The current COVID pandemic has also highlighted these health inequities. Black and Indigenous Americans are dying at a higher rate from COVID complications compared to White Americans.

The AAFP president, Dr. Gary LeRoy, made a statement on May 31, 2020 condemning all forms of racism and acknowledging that discriminatory acts in healthcare “result in deaths and marginalization of people of color.” The IAFP joins the AAFP in speaking out against all forms of racism and institutional bias. Our board of directors commits to engage deliberately and thoughtfully in the full-scale examination of racial bias within our organization and we commit to earnest efforts, on an ongoing basis, towards racial equity. As we grow and evolve in this work we will share the changes and steps we plan and implement to support anti-racism.

Dated June 19, 2020

¹ <https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/>

² Edwards F, Lee H, Esposito M. Risk of being killed by police use of force in the United States by age, race-ethnicity, and sex. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 2019;116:16793-16798.