

HISTORY OF DISPARITIES IN ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

IT'S TIME TEXAS Historical Timeline | November 2021

1619

SLAVERY AND FOOD SCARCITY



Starving pirates sold approximately 20 kidnapped Africans to English colonists in Jamestown, Virginia in exchange for food; this marked the beginning of slavery in America.¹



1862-1865

EMANCIPATION AND HEALTHCARE INEQUALITY



1862 marked the abolition of slavery when enslaved people were freed. The health of African Americans barely improved after emancipation. Instead more problems existed for former slaves including difficulties with acquiring adequate food, shelter, and clothing. This led to a disproportionate number of African Americans dying during the early 20th-century.²

1960-1964

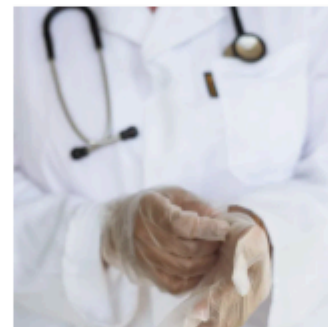
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

During the administration of President Lyndon Johnson, a special Economic Opportunity Act was adopted in 1964 which opened Neighborhood Health Centers to better address the health care needs for underprivileged people.³



1975

FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS (FQHC)



1975, the federal authorities passed a special Community Health Center program authorized for underserved patients under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act. The Act stated that a stringent set of requirements must be met, including providing care on a sliding fee scale based on ability to pay. These programs became named Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC).³

1990

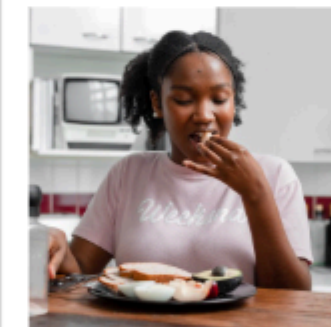
EVOLUTION OF HEALTHCARE FOR MINORITIES

Many aspects of the healthcare environment influenced the quality of care received by U.S. racial and ethnic minority groups including: the historical evolution of healthcare for persons of color, the financial and organizational structures of health systems, the settings in which care is delivered, and the workforce providing care.⁴



2010

HEALTHCARE REFORM/ PREVENTION FOCUS



The National Prevention Strategy initiated the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act which shifted the nation's health-care system's focus from one based on sickness and disease to one focused on prevention and wellness. The shift in the nation's focus toward preventive health was done with the intent to provide cost savings and to save and improve lives.⁵

2020-2021

COVID-19/TEXAS MEDICAID EXPANSION

Texas has the largest number of uninsured residents in the nation, roughly 20% of Texas population lacks health insurance. According to health officials this number has grown since more than a million Texans lost jobs and health coverage because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Medicaid expansion for uninsured Texans had bipartisan support, but lawmakers didn't pass it.⁶



2021

IT'S TIME TEXAS



IT'S TIME TEXAS (ITT), in partnership with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX), launched Collaborative Innovations for Community Health (CICH) in 2021, a program that engages communities in addressing root causes of health disparities, removing barriers to access, and advancing community conditions for health and wellness while improving resilience in the face of COVID-19.

Works Cited

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