

34th National Black Nurses Day on Capitol Hill

Theme: Health Equity, Nursing Resilience & Innovations: NBNA's New Call to Action

Inequities in Cardiovascular Health

The National Black Nurses Association supports comprehensive efforts to reduce cardiovascular inequities and its devastating effects. NBNA calls on the 117th Congress to address cardiovascular health inequities as a public health crisis that affects people of all ages and races in the United States. Heart disease is the No. 1 killer for all Americans, and stroke is also a leading cause of death. As frightening as those statistics are the risks of getting those diseases are even higher for African Americans. African Americans have historically been disproportionately diagnosed with chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, asthma, hypertension, and diabetes—underlying conditions that may make COVID-19 more lethal. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has vividly brought these disparities into focus.

Background

- In 2018, African Americans were 30 percent more likely to die from heart disease than non-Hispanic whites.
- African Americans have a disproportionately higher risk of chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease (CVD), type 2 diabetes, and hypertension than other ethnic or racial groups.
- Compounding this disease burden are the pervasive disparities in access to high-quality cardiovascular health care experienced by African Americans and other underserved racial and ethnic minorities.

Recommendations to Legislators

NBNA calls on the 117th Congress to:

- Support legislation such as H.R. 1193/S.1133 the Cardiovascular Advances in Research & Opportunities Legacy Act.
- Support legislation that recognizes women's cardiovascular health as a critical healthcare priority that effects every state and contributes to increased health care costs and that promotes the necessity to increase awareness along with education on the symptoms of heart disease.
- Support legislation that recognizes the rise in cardiovascular disease as the world's leading cause of preventable death and disability.

References

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