



ACTION SHEET

RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS IN CONNECTICUT

Systemic and structural racism play a large role in determining the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and affects people's access to quality housing, education, food, transportation, political power, and other social determinants of health. Racism also has negative mental and physical health consequences such as, depression, anxiety, hypertension, preterm birth, shortened life span and poor quality of life. Understanding and addressing racism from this public health perspective is crucial to eliminating racial and ethnic inequities, and to improving opportunity and well-being across communities.

Racism has been declared a public health crisis in 5 states, 182 municipalities, entities, and organizations, including 20 municipalities in Connecticut.

STEP ONE: DECLARATION

- 1. Call on Governor Ned Lamont to declare racism a public health crisis.**
- 2. Call on your local mayor to declare racism a public health crisis in your municipality.**

HOLD CIVIC LEADERS ACCOUNTABLE TO ACT BOLDLY AND SET PRECEDENCE FOR CHANGE

Declaring racism as a public health crisis is an important first step in the movement to advance racial equity and justice according to the [American Public Health Association](#). The governor holds the power to make this public declaration which sets the ground for subsequent allocation of resources and strategic action. Both state and local government play a role in creating solutions. *(See attached script for support)*

STEP TWO: LEGISLATION

Call on your legislators to create and support legislation that addresses racism as a public health crisis. To include:

- Establish a staffed commission to...
 - Create a comprehensive strategy in the areas of housing and segregation, education, economic opportunities, criminal justice and health care as it pertains to racial impact.
 - Identify barriers to healthy living in Connecticut as health outcomes from one community to another is very different. Equal access to equal quality care-preventive care included.
- Expand racial/ethnic data collection to expose disparities in communities.
- A review and reform of the legislative process to improve public accessibility and set in place mechanism to determine the impact of proposed legislation on race.
- Training for OLR and OFA to create racial and ethnic impact assessments
- Establishing a clear racial equity approach in policies set forth by the executive branch.
- A commitment to equitable distribution of COVID relief funding and resources.

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