

Promoting Health Equity

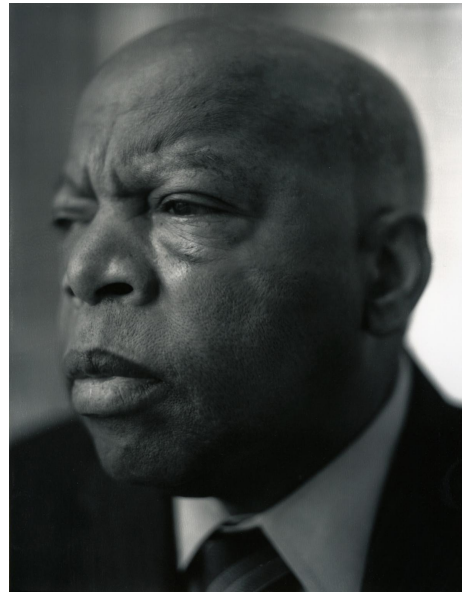
Issue 4 • August 2020

Inspiration - Opinion by John Lewis

"Together, You Can Redeem the Soul of Our Nation. Though I am gone, I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe."

"While my time here has now come to an end, I want you to know that in the last days and hours of my life you inspired me. You filled me with hope about the next chapter of the great American story when you used your power to make a difference in our society.

Millions of people motivated simply by human compassion laid down the burdens of division. Around the country and the world you set aside race, class, age, language and nationality to demand respect for human dignity..."



John Lewis, the civil rights leader who died on July 17, wrote this essay shortly before his death, to be published upon the day of his funeral.

[> Read the article. Listen to the audio recording.](#)

The New York Times, July 30, 2020

John Lewis grew up in an era of racial segregation. Inspired by Martin Luther King Jr., he joined the burgeoning civil rights movement. Lewis was a Freedom Rider, spoke at the 1963 March on Washington and led the demonstration that became known as "Bloody Sunday." He was elected to Congress in 1986 and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011.

Department of Child Support Services

August is Child Support Awareness Month



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WWW.VENTURA.ORG/CHILD-SUPPORT-SERVICES

At the Ventura County Department of Child Support Services (VCDCCS), we believe thriving families are the foundation of a vibrant and healthy community. We know our children are our future, and raising our children takes both parents' love and support. Our mission is to ensure that children receive consistent and reliable support from both parents.

The Ventura County Department of Child Support Services is committed to the health and welfare of all children and families. We understand the critical roles that parental, emotional, and financial support play in our children's well-being, helping them become healthy, productive, well-adjusted adults.

VCDCCS delivers important services, partnering with parents to help families establish parentage, set right sized orders, establish medical support, collect and distribute payments and reviewing orders for a modification without having to pay court filing fees or hiring an attorney. The Child Support Program increases family self-sufficiency, reduces child poverty, and positively affects children's educational achievement. Nationally, one in four children are served by child support programs.

Child Support Awareness Month is a nationally celebrated campaign aimed to spread awareness about Child Support Services. This month VCDSCS celebrates parents who support their children and the children who benefit from the support of both of their parents. Parents who pay support and parents who receive child support are building healthy foundations to help ensure their children thrive. The VCDSCS has programs to help ALL parents.

Learn more:

Ventura County Department of Child Support Services

www.ventura.org/child-support-services

See the August is Child Support Awareness Month 2020 PSA



Featured Resource: Public Health Institute

A Public Health Expert Says The Pandemic Is The Tip Of The Iceberg When It Comes To Health, Equity, And Social Justice

“Viruses know no borders and don’t respect political parties. We have to come together to solve these problems. We will get through this pandemic, but to avoid too many lives being lost unnecessarily in this and future crises, we need to be diligent and focused on the importance of public health and on the need for public health infrastructure.

That infrastructure can’t go through more years of neglect because when a crisis hits, you can’t both build and fly the plane. I’m optimistic that with the support and collaboration of the business and the public health community, broader goodwill, and

the energy and optimism of younger people, we can build a better, more just, and more resilient world.”

— Mary Pittman, President, CEO, Public Health Institute (PHI)

PHI and its programs improve health, equity and wellness by discovering new research, strengthening key partnerships and programs, and advancing sound public health policies.

Learn more:

[> Read the Interview](#)

Source: David Benjamin and David Komlos, (2020, July 27).

Forbes, Retrieved from www.forbes.com.

> Public Health Institute

www.phi.org

The Opioid Crisis and the Hispanic/Latino Population: An Urgent Issue

SAMHSA’s Office of Behavioral Health Equity announced a new issue brief, *The Opioid Crisis and the Hispanic/Latino Population: An Urgent Issue*.

The opioid crisis has not abated and has had a significant impact on Hispanic/Latino communities in the U.S. This issue brief presents recent data on prevalence of opioid misuse and death rates in the Hispanic/Latino population; contextual factors and challenges to prevention and treatment; innovative outreach and engagement strategies to connect people to evidence-based treatment; and the importance of community voice.



Recently, a demographic shift has been observed in the epidemic with dramatic increases in opioid misuse and overdose deaths among Hispanic/Latino, African American, and American Indian/Alaska Native populations. As Hispanic/Latinos are one of the fastest growing minority populations expected to comprise nearly 30 percent of the U.S. population by 2060, it becomes imperative to understand the unique sociocultural factors that influence drug use and access to prevention, treatment and recovery in this population.

Learn more:

[> See the blog post](#)

[> Read the report](#)

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). SAMHSA is the agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to advance the behavioral health of the nation. SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities.

www.samhsa.gov/about-us

Nominate a Driver of Change

You may nominate a community member or colleague for recognition for exemplary work in the community to help build healthier communities and address health equity. Go to the website and nominate someone or yourself!



We would love to hear your stories of community change, what inspired you, and how you are making a difference. See our current Drivers of Change.

Social Determinants of Health, Drivers of Change

www.healthequityvc.org/drivers-of-change

Upcoming Events

- **Reborn Not Reformed: Re-Imagining Policing for the Public's Health**, Webinar, August 11, 2020.

APHA is hosting the Advancing Racial Equity Webinar Series to give an in-depth look at racism as a driving force of the social determinants of health and equity. The series will explore efforts to address systems, policies and practices designed to limit and shape opportunities for people of color.

www.apha.org/events-and-meetings/webinars/racial-equity

- **Addressing Racial Equity in Overdose Prevention**, Webinar, August 27, 2020.

A panel discussion with leaders in overdose prevention on how to address racial justice and a new path forward. Sponsored by the National Overdose Prevention Network (NOPN).

www.nopn.org/webinars/addressing-racial-equity-in-overdose-prevention

- **Advancing the Response to COVID-19: Sharing Promising Programs and Practices for Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities**, Webinar, September 17, 2020.

Sponsored by the HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH). The

symposium aims to support and disseminate promising practices, programs and strategies for combating COVID-19, especially in communities of color.

[Learn more](#)

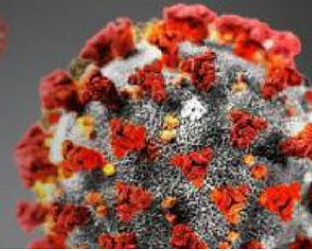
Coming Soon!

Advancing the Response to COVID-19:

Sharing Promising Programs and Practices for Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities

A Virtual Symposium Hosted by the HHS Office of Minority Health

September 17, 2020



Stay Connected

Social Determinants of Health

www.healthequityvc.org

Ventura County Public Health

www.vchca.org/agency-divisions/public-health

Ventura County Behavioral Health

vcbh.org

Ventura County Human Services Agency

www.ventura.org/human-services-agency

Contact Us

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We will be interviewing a guest for future issues. Let us know if you want be interviewed about your work.



STAY CONNECTED

