The next Pandemic will [most likely still] be a SYNDEMIC

Maria Veronica Svetaz, MD MPH
Syndemic
A set of linked health problems involving two or more afflictions, interacting synergistically, and contributing to excess burden of disease in a population.

COVID-19 +
Health inequities due to SYSTEMIC RACISM = SYNDEMIC
Positionality is:

1) the social and political context that creates your identity and
2) how your identity influences and biases your perception of and outlook on the world.
Born in Argentina, Rural Area
Second and third Immigrant Generation (From 3 countries) In Argentina
First Generation Immigrant in the US
Latine Group-Identity Locus
Cisgender
Physician, Fam Medicine, Adolescent Health (Primary Care in the US/ Internal Medicine/ICU Argentina)
Works in the Safety Net all her life (on purpose): Healthcare is a Human Right
The Shift
- Chain Migration –
- the invasion –
- Puerto Rico’s abandonment & blaming-
- cancellation of tps for several groups-
  - the Muslim ban -
  - The wall-
- Family separation at the border-
  - Caged Children -
  - Missing children -
- Exploited children in trafficking -
- Abused children at the border -
  - daca in limbo -
- Family separation in our backyard -
  - Public charge -
- abduction of a citizen child for 2 days –
  - closing of the south border-
  - immigration czar-
...and counting (daily)...

**TPS**: temporary protected status
children separation family border caged missing invasion exploited chain wall migration
Racism and Its Harmful Effects on Nondominant Racial–Ethnic Youth and Youth-Serving Providers: A Call to Action for Organizational Change

The Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2018.06.003

Abstract

Racism can exert negative effects on the self-concepts, health and well-being, and life trajectories of both nondominant racial–ethnic (NDRE) youth and youth-serving providers. In the face of growing nationalism, ethnocentrism, xenophobia, and overt expressions of racism, the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine recognizes the critically important need to address the issue of racism and its impact on both NDRE youth and youth-serving providers. Organizations involved in clinical care delivery and health professions training and education must recognize the deleterious effects of racism on health and well-being, take strong positions against discriminatory policies, practices, and events, and take action to promote safe and affirming environments. The positions presented in this paper provide a comprehensive set of
**Figure 1** Pathway between State Anti-immigrant Laws and Health Outcomes

*Source:* Authors’ own conceptualization of Solar and Irwin’s (2007) SDH framework.
Increased rates of parental separation and anxiety among Latinx youth

Calla R. Brown, Maura Shramko, Diego Garcia-Huidobro, Kathleen K. Miller, Pooja Braar, Fredrick Ogugua, Maria Veronica Svetar

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Fig. 1. Rates of APT youth ever experiencing parental separation, and number of visits with any anxiety or mood disorder diagnosis between 2009 and 2018.
Deportation-related separation and well-being among Latinx/Hispanic youth
Lauren McPherson, Maura Shramko, Jia-Shyuan Su, Dora Palma, Maria Veronica Svetaz

194 youth answered the questions about parental separation between 2017-2019.

• Most female (56%).
• Born in the U.S. (68%)
• Mean age of 16.0 years.
• Most parents were born in Mexico (71%)
• Spanish was the language most commonly spoken at home (61%).
• more than one-third reported any history of parental separation (42%), and
• one in four reported deportation-related separation (26%).

Table 3. Logistic regression models of separation status predicting youth well-being

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference group (no separation)</th>
<th>One person you trust</th>
<th>Daily meals</th>
<th>Has role model</th>
<th>Thought about running away</th>
<th>Thought seriously about suicide</th>
<th>In school</th>
<th>Been in trouble with the law</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deportation related separation</td>
<td>0.321*</td>
<td>0.299*</td>
<td>0.297*</td>
<td>17.399*</td>
<td>4.226*</td>
<td>0.748</td>
<td>2.806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separation for any other reason</td>
<td>0.543</td>
<td>0.619</td>
<td>0.444*</td>
<td>4.411*</td>
<td>1.916</td>
<td>0.216*</td>
<td>4.189*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. Models adjusted for age, gender, youth country of origin, youth primary language, parent country of origin. *p>.05
BECAUSE ALL OF THAT:

Continue Clinic nonstop
First telephone

2 weeks into that:
Telemedicine MyChart

2 weeks into that:
text with link for Telemedicine
- Viral Clinic
- Continue Clinical Care for our Latine Youth and their Families

**Involved in several COVID-19 Responses:**
- Urgent Community Response “Surge”:
  - Basic Need Groups
  - Basic Need-COVID response survey,
  - Telemedicine, and the Telemedicine-Health Equity response group
  - Pre-recorded messages team, to send messages to patients that have other languages than English (w/ updates every two weeks).
- Hennepin Triage/Ethic committee using an equity lens, monitoring and readiness for the possible scarcity of resource preparation
- MN COVID Ethic Committee: MCEC
We, Healthcare (public and Individual)
Healthcare “added” disparities

The Epicenter and the CATALYZER
COVID-19 and Dimensions of Health Inequity

Introduction

Dimensions of Inequity

- Testing, treatment, and health outcomes
- Lack of racial/ethnic testing data
- Access to economic stimulus
- Racist narratives and stigma
- Housing and other social determinants
- Ability to socially distance
Testing, Treatment and Health Outcomes
Ability to socially Distance
Racist Narratives and Stigma
Lack of Racial/Ethnic Testing Data
Housing and other Social Determinants

- Easily able to work from home
- Extra time for fun activities
- Being able to home school the kids
- Access to adequate health care

- Large percentage of essential workforce
- Limited access to childcare
- More likely to be immunocompromised
- Housing and food insecurity

- Unable to practice social distancing
- No financial support
- Low access to water and disinfectants
- No shelter or asylum
The Great American Rescue is leaving minority businesses behind

As Congress closes in on the next small business stabilization package, equity can’t be an afterthought.

By Shirley Leung, Globe Columnist. Updated April 20, 2020, 7:57 p.m.
ENDING THE COVID PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ISN’T ALL GOOD NEWS

Pandemic-era policy contained flashes of what is possible: real achievements in making life easier for millions of Americans.

By Dhruv Khullar
May 7, 2023
“flashes of what is possible”

SNAP

- March 2020: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs: provided support for 40 million people
- The share of households with kids who were food insecure fell to 12 per cent (shockingly high in the world’s richest country, and the lowest since the number was tracked 2 decades ago.)
- This year states began rolling back the extra benefits: SNAP recipients will lose around a third of their monthly allotments.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

- CHILD TAX CREDITS from the American Rescue Plan: Between the pre-pandemic period and the emergence of Omicron (late 2021): Child poverty rate fell by nearly half (from 10% to 5%, especially largest declines among Black and Hispanic children.
- Used: Food, clothing, rent, utilities
Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program

- Additional funds for their Medicaid Programs
- Now covers 93,000,000 people: more than 1 in 4 Americans
- Country’s over-all uninsured rate fell to 8%

The “Great Unwinding”

- Up to 15,000,000 could lose insurance.
- “In the byzantine world of America’s social safety net”, 7,000,000 still eligible could lose health coverage due to administrative burden
- Currently nearly three quarters of children who lose Medicaid do so not because of no longer qualify but due to bureaucratic missing data/errors.
The future does not look good...

More divided than before

The Baseline

- Will we be able to decrease the equity gap in between pandemics?

The Response

- Will we be able to create a quick Equity Bridge to decrease the effect of the next pandemic even if we could not advance 1?

- Will the “cultural liaison/thinkers” on our workforce be enough this time around?
  - Social Capital
  - Minority Tax

- WHAT WILL BE THE modifier IN THE DIFFERENT EQUATIONS THAT “CORRECTS” FOR INEQUALITY?
What modifier do we use to add “unequal” to the equation?