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International & European Institutions

Being Black in the EU, discrimination and the SDGs

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

This report presents the latest comparative evidence about experiences of people of African descent in 13 EU Member States. A year away from the end of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024), it shows that they continue to face racism, discrimination and hate crime despite the EU having binding anti-discrimination law since 2000 and significant EU policy developments having occurred since then.



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Operational framework for monitoring social determinants of health equity

World Health Organization

Social determinants of health – broadly defined as the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, and people's access to power, money and resources – have a powerful influence on health inequities. The Operational framework for monitoring social determinants of health equity provides countries with critical guidance on monitoring the social determinants of health and actions addressing them, and using data for policy action across sectors to improve health equity.



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WHO announces the development of a guideline on the health of trans and gender diverse people

World Health Organization

Trans- and gender diverse people often face discrimination in healthcare. To counteract this, this new guideline will provide evidence and implementation guidance on health sector interventions aimed at increasing access and utilisation of quality and respectful health services by trans and gender diverse people. The guideline will focus on 5 areas: provision of gender-affirming care, including hormones; health workers education and training for the provision of gender-inclusive care; provision of health care for trans and gender diverse people who suffered interpersonal violence based in their needs; health policies that support gender-inclusive care, and legal recognition of self-determined gender identity.

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Denmark's ONE OF US programme: eradicating mental health stigma and rebuilding people's trust in health systems

World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe

It is no secret that our health is dictated by much more than just the health systems we live in and make use of. Non-medical or social causes, often named the 'social determinants of health' have a profound impact on our health, yet understanding of this is often lacking among both healthcare workers and patients. This report by the WHO makes the case for why social and healthcare workers should have a better grasp of this concept to ensure effective support. It also provides methods on how this can be achieved.

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Research Developments

Data disaggregation and unintended consequences

The Lancet

Data disaggregation by categories of minoritisation can be crucial for uncovering hidden health disparities and directing resources to address community needs. However, there are potential unintended consequences of data disaggregation, and initial steps to collect and distribute such data should be undertaken only after thoroughly considering ways to mitigate these risks.

THE LANCET

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Effects of education on adult mortality: a global systematic review and meta-analysis

The Lancet

The positive effect of education on reducing all-cause adult mortality is known; however, the relative magnitude of this effect has not been systematically quantified. This study estimated the reduction in all-cause adult mortality associated with each year of schooling at a global level.

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Effectiveness of undergraduate medical students training on LGBTQIA + people health: a systematic review and meta-analysis

BMC

Adequacy of learning models and their ability to engage students and match session's objectives are critical factors in achieving the desired outcome. This systematic review and meta-analysis, assessed the methodological approach, content, and effectiveness of training initiatives addressing medical students' knowledge, attitudes, confidence and discrimination perception towards LGBTQIA + people.

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Heat related health inequalities are rising

The BMJ

It is becoming increasingly clear that health and climate change cannot be seen as separate concepts. Similarly, health inequities are profoundly impacted by the effects of global warming. New research by the BMJ points out the many ways in which this happens, including extreme temperatures, air pollution and fuel poverty. In the UK, there is also evidence suggesting that the burden is disproportionately borne by people with lower incomes. This requires strong action across sectors in government.

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In the Media



Racism can make you sick

Deutsche Welle

Meryam Scouler-Ocak explains how racial discrimination can lead to sickness, particularly depression and anxiety. Not only is this expressed in the way in which people may be treated (micro-aggressions), but also the more structural nature of racism and discrimination, and how it influences health.

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Inclusion indicators 2023: Union of equality? Here's the reality

Inclusion Europe

There are about 700.000 people in Europe who are forced to live in segregated institutional care, according to the latest inclusion indicator report by Inclusion Europe. This large group of people with a disability are structurally excluded, despite legally committing rights for member states to ensure they are included in society. The report reviews care systems in a wide range of EU countries, painting a picture of the state of disability care.

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Commercial determinants of cancer

The Lancet

Research by Michael Marmot revealed that health inequalities have either remained in place, or have gotten worse in recent times. Though this is worrying in and of itself, health inequalities are not only influenced by the social determinants of health (non-medical factors influencing our health). Commercial determinants are also hugely influential. This article names examples of tobacco lobbying in New Zealand, as well as the interests of the fossil fuel lobby on climate change which all have effects on cancer inequalities and health inequalities more globally.

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Other News

HEALTH: increasing access to healthcare for persons with disabilities

European Disability Forum

ICF and the European Disability Forum started a large-scale study in September 2023 to encourage much-needed research on access barriers for people with disabilities. The study will run for two years and focuses on mapping bottlenecks, and developing guidelines, including a specific focus on cancer care. Its main purpose is to not only do research on and for people with disabilities, but WITH them.

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Receiving no education is as bad for your health as smoking or drinking



Learning for Life – The Higher the Level of Education, the Lower the Risk of Dying

EuroHealthNet

Education saves lives regardless of age, sex, location, and social and demographic backgrounds. That's according to the latest and largest study of its kind published in The Lancet Public Health. Researchers have known that those who reach higher levels of schooling live longer than others, but they didn't know to what extent until now.

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The NHS must become proactively 'anti-racist'

HSJ

Awareness of ethnic and racial disparities in health outcomes has increased dramatically since the disproportionate impact on some communities from the covid-19 pandemic, the death of George Floyd, and the work of the Black Lives Matter movement. Understanding is also growing about the complex drivers of these differences. Amid rising awareness of racial health disparities, the authors examine healthcare organisations' initiatives against racism, spotlighting efforts in diversity, leadership, and continual evaluation for enduring impact.

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