

Contact Info
Note on Sources/References

- tim.stone@wexfordhealth.com
- Office: 205 605-7444
- Cell: 205 579-4612

◦ I have used multiple sources in the preparation of this presentation. I will be happy to provide a detailed list of references upon request.

The Plague

Albert Camus

"I have no idea what's awaiting me or what will happen when this all ends. For the moment I know this: there are sick people and they need curing."

Mental Illness and Health Equity

- Principles of Health and Healthcare Equity
 - o Health Disparities and Underserved Populations
 - o Social Determinants of Health
 - o Institutional and Systemic Roots of Health and Health-Care Disparities
- Health-Care Disparities Affecting Individuals with Serious Mental Illness (SMI)
- Disproportionate Impact the COVID-19 Pandemic on the SMI Population
- The Role of Psychiatrists in Addressing Health Disparities and Promoting Health Equity During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Definitions

- Serious Mental Illness (SMI) [SAMHSA] - Serious mental illness is defined by someone over 18 having (within the past year) a diagnosable mental, behavior, or emotional disorder that causes serious functional impairment that substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities
- Health Disparity (inequity) - avoidable differences in health between different groups of people that are the result of inequities in systems and that negatively affect people's living conditions, access to healthcare, and overall health status

Social Determinants of Health

- Healthcare
- Economic Stability
- Education
- Social and Community Health
- Neighborhood

Roots of Health Inequity

- Racism
- Sexism
- Classism
- Xenophobia
- Heterosexism
- Ableism

Mental Illness and Health Inequity

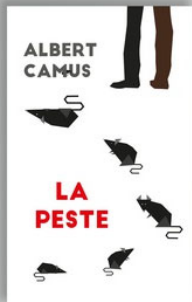
- Social/Institutional Structures
 - Stigmatization
 - Marginalization
 - Ableism - De-valuation
- Social Determinants
 - Economic Instability/Poverty
 - Homelessness/Substandard/Crowded Housing
 - Transportation
 - Preventive Healthcare
 - Substance/Tobacco Addiction
 - Chronic Serious Health Conditions

Disproportionate Effect of COVID-19 Pandemic on Individuals with SMI

- Higher risk of morbidity, mortality
- Less likely to receive first/second dose of vaccine
- Lack of understanding of need for COVID Precautions in preventing spread of the virus
- Inaccurate, confusing, false information regarding COVID vaccine
- Public Health Interventions
 - Reduced access to mental health services due to restrictions on face-to-face contact with mental health providers
 - Telehealth
 - Limitation of case management/outreach services
 - Treatment Disengagement
 - Relapse
 - Loss of employment/income - "non-essential workers"

Psychiatrists and Health Equity

- Psychiatrists frequently serve as the single, trusted point of contact for the healthcare system
- Medical training allows clearer understanding of the "science" of COVID-19, prevention, treatment
- Psychiatrists have the opportunity to actively engage patients in discussing individualized strategies for COVID prevention, providing vaccine education, addressing vaccine-related concerns
- Serve as a resource for up-to-date information on COVID testing and vaccination sites
- Assist primary care and public health in determining decisional capability to provide informed consent for vaccination/treatment
- Serve as "vaccine ambassadors, promoting and modeling vaccine uptake



The Plague

Albert Camus

"What's true of all the evils in the world is true of the plague as well. It helps men to rise above themselves."
