Ajani Kerr

Step 1: Project Briefing

**Health Disparities amongst African American Adolescent Boys in the U.S**

**Selected Public Health Issue**

Health disparities involve the differences existing among particular population groups in the achievement of whole health potential. It can be measured by the variations in the following factors: burden of disease, prevalence, mortality, incidence, and other adverse healthcare conditions (Xin, 2017). In addition to ethnicity and race, these factors often shape one’s capacity to attain optimal health. Therefore, with health disparities, there are persistent and stark racial differences in health coverage, and mental, leading to chronic health conditions and associated death. These disparities are not erupting from the group or individual behavior; instead, they are the systematic inequality within the American healthcare, housing, and economic systems (Xin, 2017). Thus, this assignment addresses health disparities amongst African American adolescent boys in the U.S.

**Priority Population: Health Disparities amongst** **African American adolescent boys in the U.S**

As mentioned above, health disparities occur due to systematic inequality in housing, healthcare, and economic systems, leading to various chronic health conditions taking a greater toll in a given population over the other. For example, concerning the 2018 CDC report, around 42% of 37, 968 HIV diagnoses in the U.S were adolescent African Americans with 31% accounting for African American Adolescent boys (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020). In the same year, African American adolescent boys with HIV accounted for 39% of cases among adolescent men in the U.S. Meaning, African American adolescent boys are less likely to get diagnosed with HIV compared to their white counterparts.

Furthermore, due to health disparities, African American adolescent boys falling between 15-18 years have the highest risk for sexually transmitted diseases, particularly chlamydia than their white counterparts. Based on 2018 statistics, this population was 9.1 times higher in chlamydia than white adolescent boys; that is, 2,668.6 black boys cases to 293.0 white boys cases per 100,000 people (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020).

**References**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC. (2020). Health Disparities in HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STDs, and TB. African Americans/Blacks. https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/healthdisparities/africanamericans.html

Xin, H. (2017). Health disparities—an important public health policy concern. Frontiers in public health, 5, 99. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5413494/