

Unmet Oral Health Needs, Underserved Populations, and New Workforce Models: An Urgent Dialogue



The American Journey to Health Equity

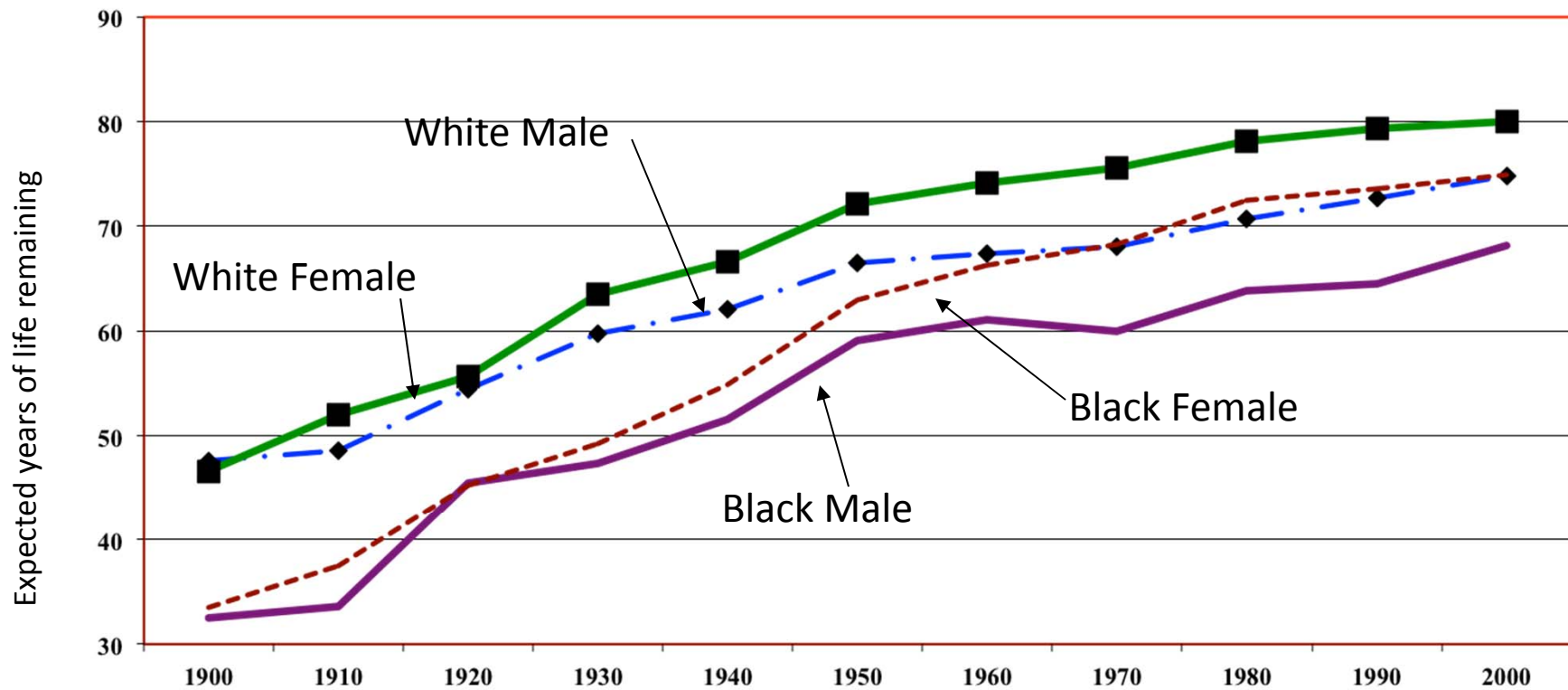
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July 16, 2012

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Life Expectancy at birth by race and gender, U.S. 1900-2000



Source: LaVeist (2005) Minority Populations and Health: An Introduction to Health Disparities in the United States.
San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers

Highlights from the National Healthcare Qualities and Disparities Report, 2010

- Health care quality and access are *suboptimal*, especially for minorities and low income groups
- Quality of care is improving for most Americans, but access to care is not
- The narrowing of health disparities is minimal

Urgent attention is needed for:

- Disparities in preventive services and access to care
- Residents of inner cities and rural areas
- Nutritional counseling and obesity
- Diabetes management
- Cancer screening

