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### Systemic Racism in Healthcare During COVID-19

Brenda Kien  
bkien@uw.edu

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**SYSTEMIC RACISM**

**IN HEALTHCARE**

**DURING**

**COVID-19**



# WAKE UP, IT'S HAPPENING

Many minorities have suffered from the hands of systemic racism in the U.S. Now that a Global pandemic has arrived, millions of minorities lives are at a greater stake. For Black Patients, this pandemic has shown it is killing them at a higher rate than White Patients.

They have been continuously mistreated in all systems, and once again the Healthcare system has failed the Black community. In addition, not only is the Black community at a high risk, but Native Americans as well. A Native American Health center in Seattle are fighting COVID-19 with little supplies. Yet, the U.S. continues to disregard their cry for help.

This is an issue that has far surpassed the limit and it should not be tolerated anymore.

Wake up, it's happening.

## HOW BLACK PATIENTS ARE AFFECTED

For years, Black patients' concerns have been dismissed by numerous healthcare workers, majority of them being White. There have been various stereotypes that have been placed among Black people that has circulated throughout the healthcare system. These stereotypes are also the same reasons why Black pregnant women are dying at high rates. These stereotypes enforce notions such as Black people having "thicker skin" than White people. This is inferring that they feel less amount of pain compared to White people. Due to this stereotype, Black patients who visit the emergency room are more likely to leave without someone checking their condition in comparison to White patients. As well as, 63% of Black patients are likely to not be prescribed pain medication. With a long history of mistreatment from healthcare workers towards Black patients, this pandemic has put their lives at a greater risk. Many Black Americans have been refused COVID-19 tests and proper medical treatment. In Louisiana, Black people make up 70% of their COVID-19 deaths, although they are 32% of their population. Shouldn't there be more concern for patients that are making up most of your state's death rates? That is how you know Black patients aren't receiving the proper treatment they deserve.



# THE STORY OF REGINALD RELF

Reginald Relf was a 50-year-old Black man.

He was also a beloved son and brother who passed away with covid symptoms. Mr. Relf was one of the many Black Americans who have had unsatisfying experiences with their doctor.

Mr. Relf was not satisfied with the way his doctor treated his diabetes. This meant that Mr. Relf had every right for refusing to go back and see his doctor.

After experiencing covid symptoms, he decided to take action and get assessed.

He was turned away from being tested and was told to quarantine his self.

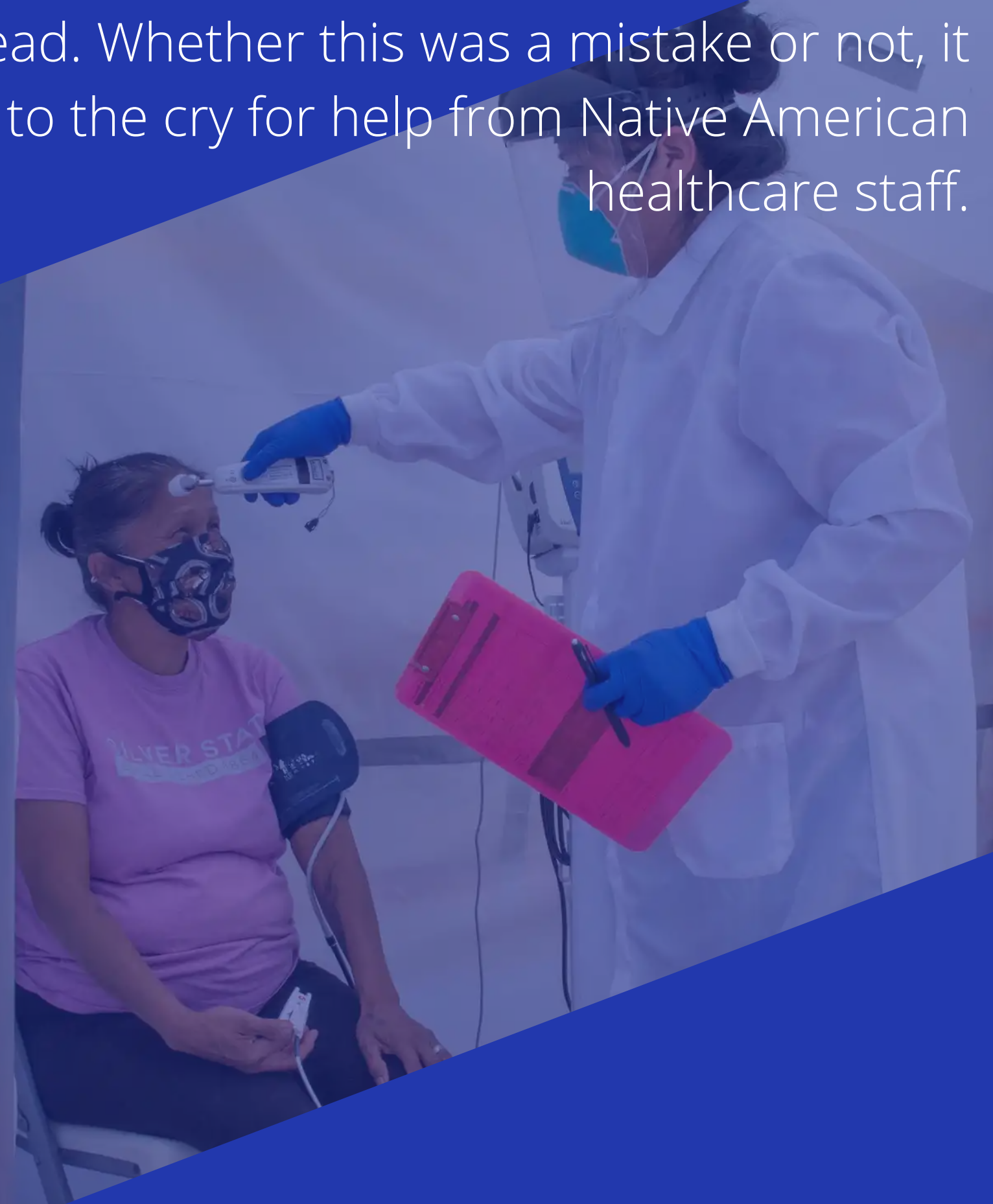
A week later, it was found that Mr. Relf had passed away.

Due to the negligence that Mr. Relf experienced, his mother and sister now have to grieve his death that could have been prevented.

**MAY MR. RELF REST IN  
PEACE.**

# HOW NATIVE AMERICANS ARE AFFECTED

Since this pandemic has started, members of the Navajo Nation have been calling for the attention and help of the people. This is because the Navajo Nation has the highest infection rate after New York and New Jersey and only just recently the media has started to cover this. It has been hard for their healthcare members to track and visit those who may have been exposed to covid. This is due to houses being so far that it can take hours to get to one home, as well as, some members do not have a phone. Furthermore, the Navajo Nation has very few hospitals and they each have quite a distance between them. Dating back to 1868, the Navajo Nation signed treaties to give away their land on the condition that the U.S. would provide funds for housing, infrastructure, and healthcare. This promise was never fulfilled. With this pandemic, it continues to show that the U.S. overlooks them once again. In addition, a Native American Health center in Seattle sent a request for supplies and after three weeks, they received body bags instead. Whether this was a mistake or not, it is clear they are not paying attention to the cry for help from Native American healthcare staff.



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