

Video Assignment #4

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliation

SOCI324 11,12-1 Video Assignment #4

Initial Reaction to "Aftershock"

My initial reaction to watching "Aftershock" was an overwhelming blend of sorrow and outrage. The film's poignant portrayal of the systemic failures that disproportionately affect Black mothers in the United States deeply moved me. The personal stories of loss and systemic neglect highlighted in the documentary evoked a strong sense of urgency and a call to action to address these injustices.

Systems Impacting Maternal Healthcare Crisis Among People of Color

The maternal healthcare crisis among People of Color is deeply rooted in a complex web of systemic factors. Key among these is institutional racism, economic inequalities, and a healthcare system that often fails to provide equitable care to marginalized communities. These systemic issues are compounded by a lack of culturally competent care and implicit biases among healthcare providers, which further exacerbate the disparities in maternal healthcare outcomes for People of Color.

Barriers and Health Disparities Experienced by Individuals in the Movie

Barriers

The film illustrates several barriers that impede access to quality healthcare for Black mothers. Notably, there is a significant lack of empathy and understanding from healthcare providers, as seen in the dismissive attitudes towards women's concerns and symptoms. This lack of respectful and responsive care constitutes a major barrier to receiving adequate treatment.

Health Disparities

"Aftershock" effectively showcases the stark health disparities that exist in maternal healthcare. The film provides a harrowing look at how Black women are more likely to suffer

from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth, largely due to systemic neglect and inadequate medical response to their healthcare needs.

Three Specific Areas Learned from the Movie

1. **Systemic Racism in Healthcare:** The film was enlightening in its exploration of how deeply ingrained racism affects healthcare delivery. It revealed that systemic racism is not just about individual acts of prejudice but is embedded within the very structures of healthcare institutions.
2. **The Power of Narrative and Advocacy:** "Aftershock" underscored the transformative power of personal stories and collective advocacy in bringing about policy changes and raising awareness about the maternal health crisis facing Black women.
3. **Legal and Policy Challenges:** The documentary highlighted the critical need for legal and policy reforms to enforce standards of care and accountability in healthcare settings, which are essential for reducing maternal mortality among Black women.

Impact of Women's Identity on Their Healthcare

The identities of the women featured in "Aftershock" profoundly influenced the quality of healthcare they received. As Black women, they encountered systemic barriers and biases that directly impacted their treatment outcomes. The film poignantly shows how their racial identity was a determinant in how healthcare providers perceived and treated them, often with fatal consequences.

Consequences of Bias, Perceptions, Stereotypes, and Privilege on Prenatal Healthcare

The detrimental effects of bias, stereotypes, and privilege on prenatal healthcare are starkly portrayed in "Aftershock." These societal and systemic biases lead to substandard care for Black women, manifesting in poorer health outcomes and higher rates of maternal mortality. The

film illustrates how deeply ingrained prejudices can influence medical professionals' perceptions and actions, often leading to negligent care.

Two Specific Ways to Address the Maternal Healthcare Crisis Among People of Color

1. **Enhancing Accessibility and Affordability of Care:** One pivotal approach is to improve the accessibility and affordability of maternal healthcare for People of Color. This includes expanding insurance coverage and reducing the cost barriers that prevent many from seeking timely and adequate care.
2. **Community-Based Health Programs:** Implementing community-based health programs that focus on maternal health can play a crucial role in addressing the disparities. These programs can offer tailored healthcare services that are culturally sensitive and accessible to the communities most affected by the crisis.