

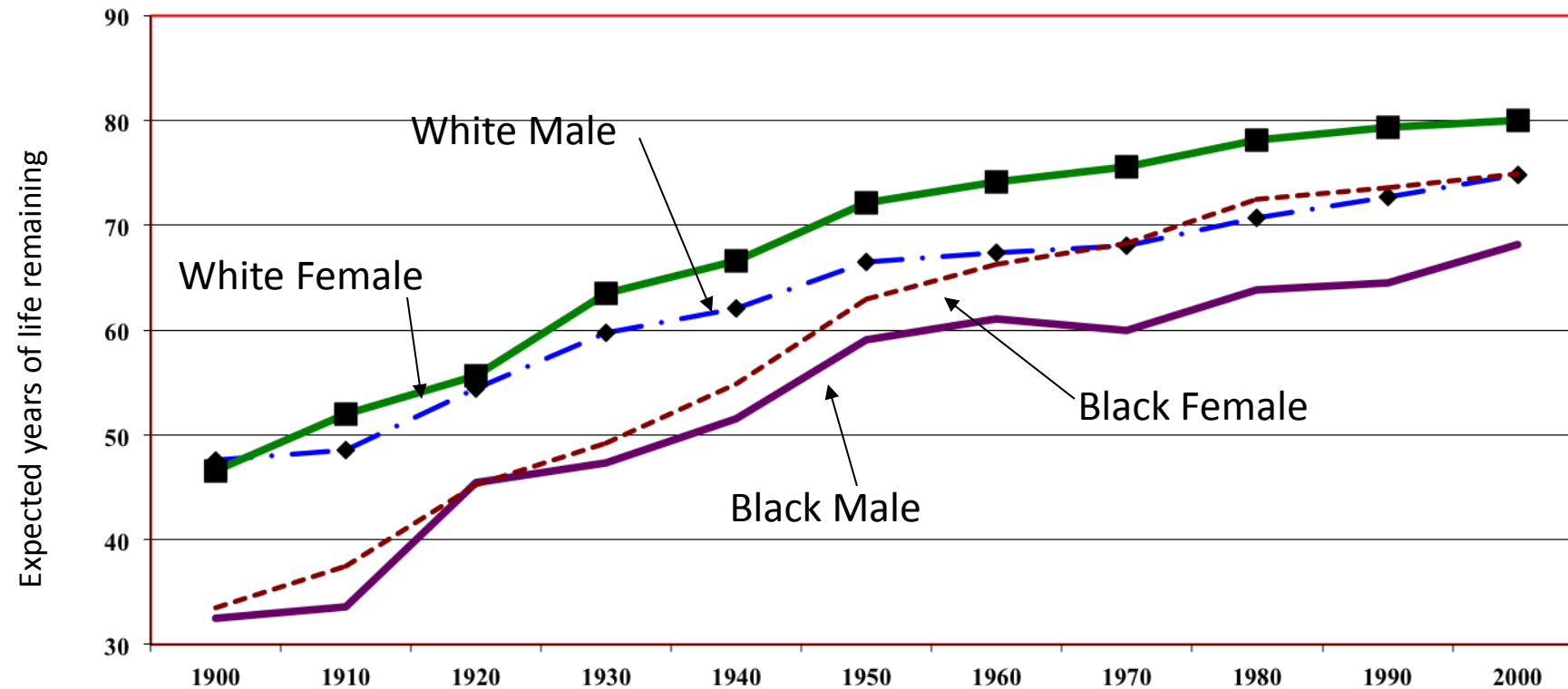
Addressing Inequities in Health Status and Access to Health Care in the 20th and 21st Centuries

The Sullivan Alliance/AAHC Lecture

October 8, 2020

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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

Unconscious Bias in Diagnosis and Treatment

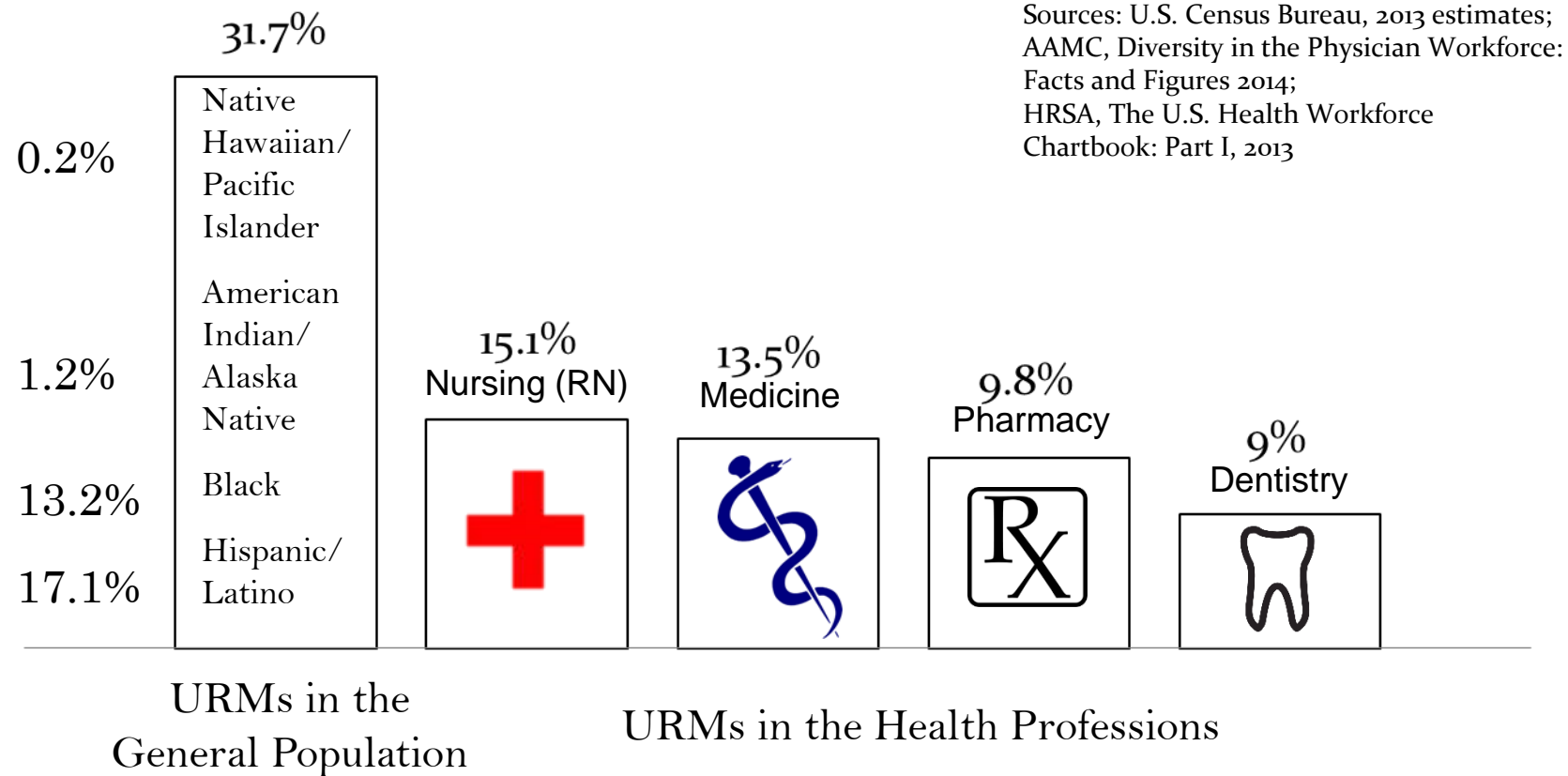
Studies show that even when controlling for insurance and source of care, ethnic and racial minorities...

- Are undertreated for acute cardiac symptoms, as they receive less:
 - Catheterization
 - Angioplasty
 - Bypass surgery
 - Beta blockers
 - Implantable cardioverter-defibrillators (ICD)
- Are less likely to receive pain medications when presenting to emergency rooms
- Are more likely to get lower limb amputations as a result of diabetes than limb saving procedures

(Source: Seeing Patients, Augustus White and David Chanoff, 2011)

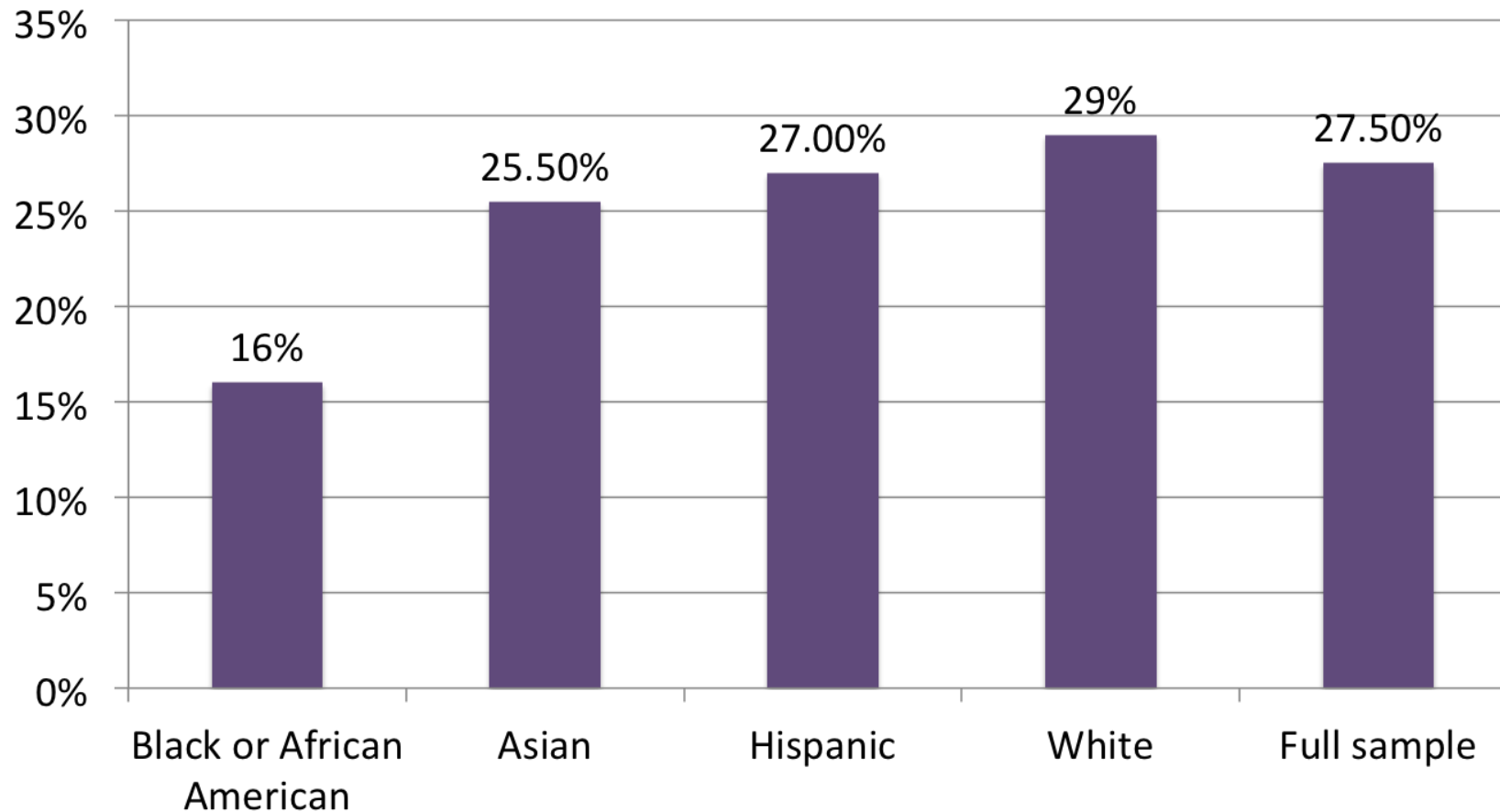
**Diagnosis and treatment disparities seem to be highest when physicians engage in “high discretion”*

Racial and Ethnic Minorities (URMs*) are Vastly Underrepresented in the U.S. Health Professions



**URMs are persons underrepresented in the health professions relative to their distribution in the general population*

Probability of NIH Awards by Race and Ethnicity, 2000-2006 (n=83,188)



Source: Ginther DK et al., Science 333, 1015 (2011)

The Sullivan Alliance to Transform the Health Professions

- Report of the Sullivan Commission, September, 2004
- Formation of the Sullivan Alliance, January, 2005
- Purpose: To increase diversity in all of the health professions, with focus on medicine, dentistry, public health and nursing.
- Current support for dental therapists, a new (for U.S.) mid level professional in dentistry.

Challenges for the 21st Century I

1. Improved access to health services for all.
2. More comprehensive/more effective health promotion/disease prevention programs and improved health behavior of Americans.
3. Increased number, and greater diversity, of health professionals, including mid-level providers in our inner cities and rural areas.

Challenges for the 21st Century II

4. More efficient, less bureaucratic organization of the health system and health services.
5. Less political ideology and fewer legal intrusions into the health system.
6. Maintenance of the highest ethical standards in the health system, including codes of personal professional conduct.
7. Protecting and preserving humanism in the health professions.