



Dear IAPHS Community,

IAPHS mourns the senseless and tragic murder of George Floyd as well as Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and the many others whose lives have been cut short by police violence. We know by now that these are not isolated incidents, but ugly eruptions of the deep social disease of racism.

Although George Floyd's death is the result of longstanding racial oppression, it is a galvanizing moment that calls for collective response and action. To this end, we are using our voices to underscore the impact that systemic racism and racial injustice plays in producing health disparities. The science of population health has clearly demonstrated that racism, whether operating at the individual, institutional, or structural levels, has adverse effects on mental and physical health.

The recent case of George Floyd lays bare the life-or-death consequences of institutional policies and practices that allow Black lives to be valued differently from others. As part of its mission in population health IAPHS is committed to advancing health equity by providing a scientific basis for, and promoting the application of, strategies to combat racism at the individual, institutional, cultural, and policy levels. It is our hope that these efforts will serve to affect social change that brings about racial justice and improved population health outcomes across diverse segments of our society.

We at IAPHS understand that it is not enough to condemn, deplore, and abhor these deaths. The scholarly work of our members, some of which is included [here](#), is just a part of how we have used our science to promote racial justice. We must continue to raise our own voices and engage the minds and hearts of those around us in the fight against racial oppression and exploitation of all kinds. To us at IAPHS, Black lives matter.

Sincerely,

[IAPHS Board of Directors](#)