No one could imagine the impacts that a virus could cause. Well, this became a reality in January 2020. Covid affected everyone however, people of color had the most negative effects. COVID-19 has led to a huge increase in inequality especially in the African American community, specifically in the areas of healthcare accessibility, unemployment, and homelessness.

Healthcare is harder to access in African American communities. According to “American’s View of the Impact of COVID-19: Perspectives on Racial Impacts and Equity” it states that 10.1% of blacks don't have access to health care. African Americans have always had the highest uninsured rate compared to others. According to “Disproportional impact of COVID-19 on African Americans” It states that the affordable care act was passed to lower the uninsured rates however, African American remain to have the highest uninsured rate. Most African Americans aren’t able to receive medical attention due to the high pricing of medical care and insurance. This means most will catch the virus and will go untreated.

Covid-19 has caused a spike in the unemployment rates. After the start of the pandemic, many lost their jobs. According to “Disproportional impact of COVID-19 on African Americans” It states “The unemployment rate for Black workers peaked at 16.8 percent in May 2020.” It also states “many African Americans who hold low-wage but essential jobs are required to continue to interact with the public, despite outbreaks in their communities.” Even those who haven’t lost their jobs still have to work. If they are sick they may not have sick paid leave and expose other workers to the virus.

During the pandemic, there was a drastic increase in the homeless rate. Out of the U.S. population, the majority of the homeless population is made up of African Americans. According to “American’s View of the Impact of COVID-19: Perspectives on Racial Impacts and Equity” it states “ 40% of African Americans make up the homeless population” After most lost their jobs they also lost their homes leaving them on the streets. According to “The Disproportional Impact of Covid-19 on African Americans” it states that when experiencing homelessness they usually have a poor immune system or are older making them more vulnerable to disease. Since they have nowhere to go they are prone to spread the virus at a faster rate.

Covid-19 has greatly affected black communities in a number of ways. Whether it's the higher unemployment rates or there not being enough access to healthcare. And while there are many other factors that contribute to this, one thing seems certain: the system will continue to fail people of color.

Katherine Carman. “Journal of Health Politics, Policy, & Law” Vol. 46 issue 5 Oct 2021 <https://content.ebscohost.com/ContentServer.asp?T=P&P=AN&K=152461661&S=R&D=aqh&EbscoContent=dGJyMNLe80Seprc4y9fwOLCm>

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