



# The Black and Brown Pandemic

The impact of systematic racism and its historical role in dividing, oppressing, and shortening the lives of men of color.

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**Presenter: Dr. Roderick Heath & Shaun Andrews**

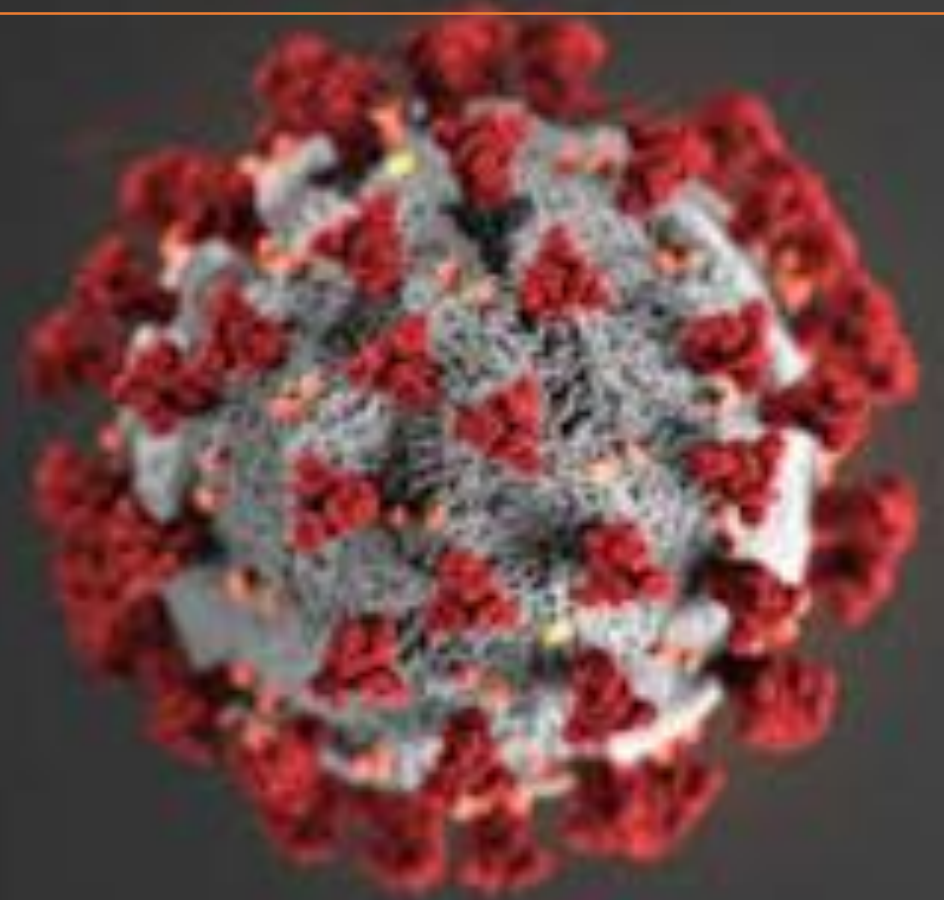
North Carolina Central University Men's Achievement Center & African American Male Initiative

# Objective

- Examine the personal perspective of African American males as it pertains to their academic, personal and social development.
- Examine societal influences that impact academic achievement.
- Explore an array of strategies and resources designed to educate, enlighten and empower boys of color.
- Examine how technology can be to improve cognitive behaviors for boys of color.

# Pandemic

A disease over a whole country or world



# Historical Outlook

**About 2.6% of the nation's doctors in 2019 and 7.3% of students enrolled in medical school in 2020 identified as Black or African-American.** Despite efforts to bolster the ranks of Black doctors, the figures still lag the 13% in the overall population.

- **In 2019, only 3.8% of doctors identified as Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin.**

Black men between the ages of 45 and 54 die by stroke at a rate three times higher than their white counterparts. Black men's prostate cancer risk is 74 percent higher than non-Hispanic white men.

- ***In general, two out of five blacks have high blood pressure that starts at a younger age than the rest of the population.***

***"There's systemic problems like systemic racism, a historical context in which patients mistrust the system.*** There have been glaring, extreme examples are the Tuskegee experiment, gynecological surgeries on non-consenting women without anesthesia," Coleman said.

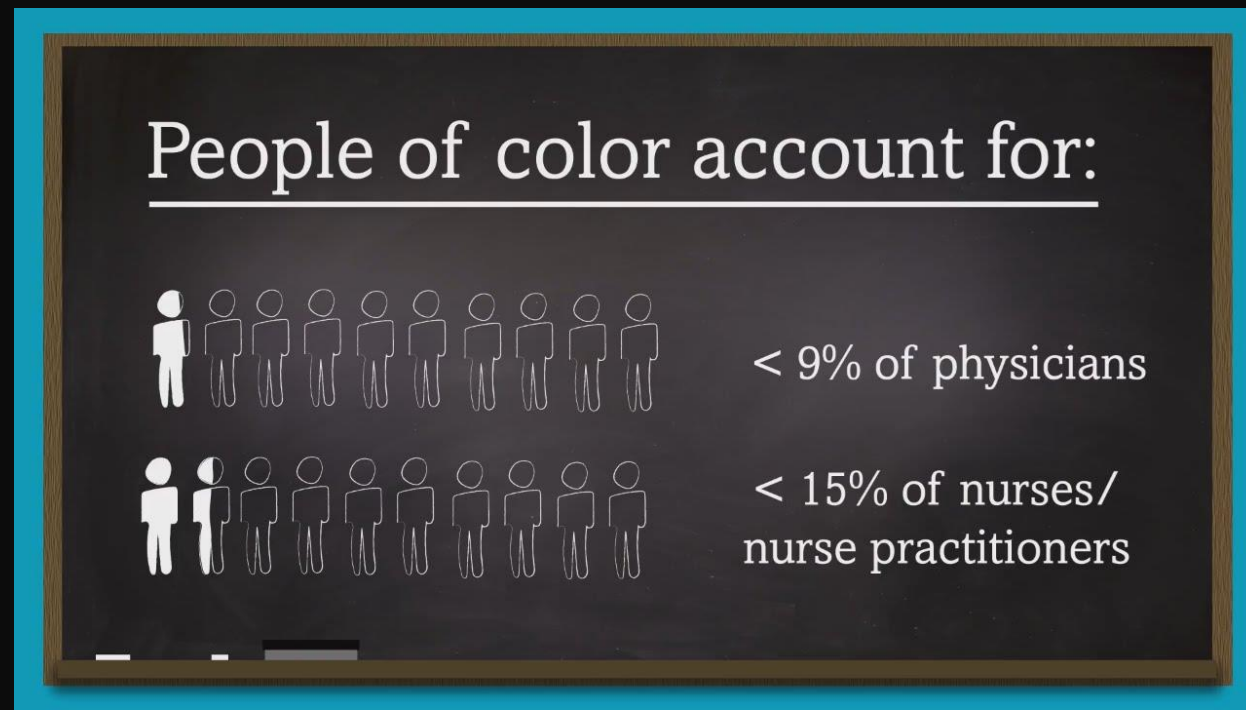
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# What is Medical Implicit Bias?

- Because implicit biases are unconscious, they are most likely to emerge when we have to make quick decisions — a given in healthcare with doctors rolling through patients every 15 minutes.
- In fact, a 2015 review found that “most health care providers appear to have implicit bias in terms of positive attitudes toward whites and negative attitudes toward people of color.”









# Implicit Bias in Education

- White female savior complex
- The real world is much different
- What happens when there are no lines?
  - Teacher attrition
  - Teaching halts
  - Referrals increase
  - Medication increases



# Actions Against a Pandemic

- Neutralize
- Propagandize
- Quarantine/Isolate
- Kill



# Black Manhood

How does it feel to be a problem?



# Neutralize



- To render ineffective or harmless

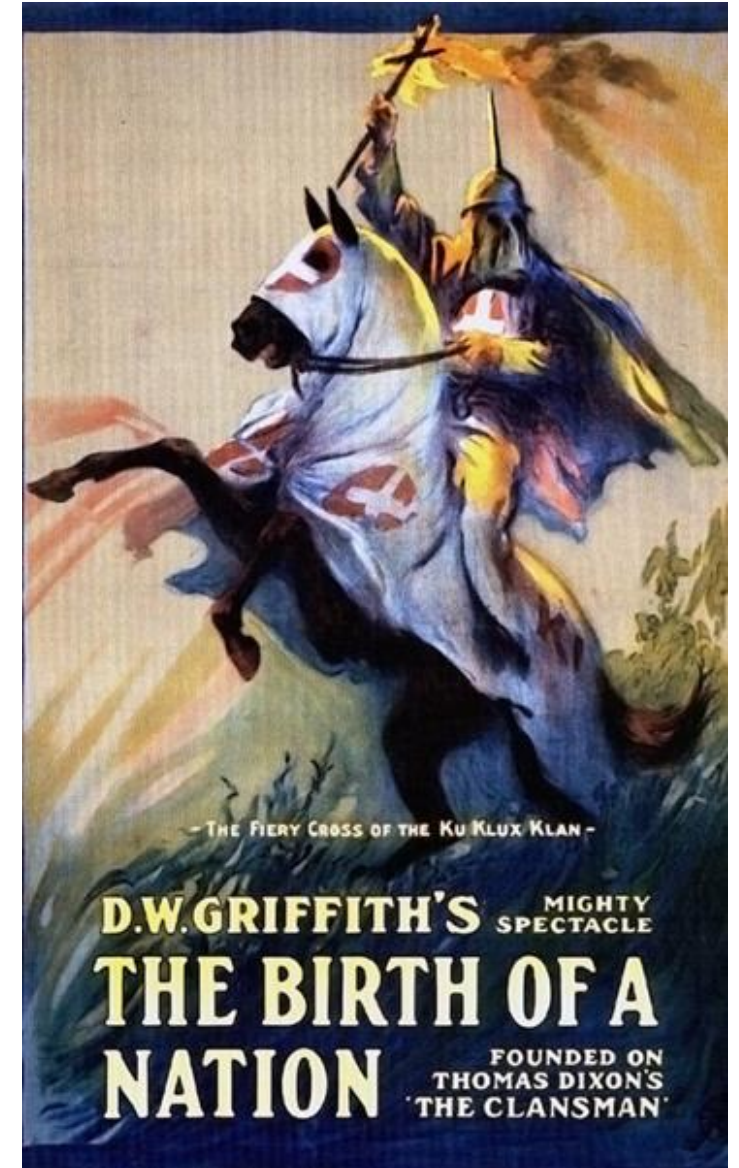
- Black Codes
- 3 Strikes



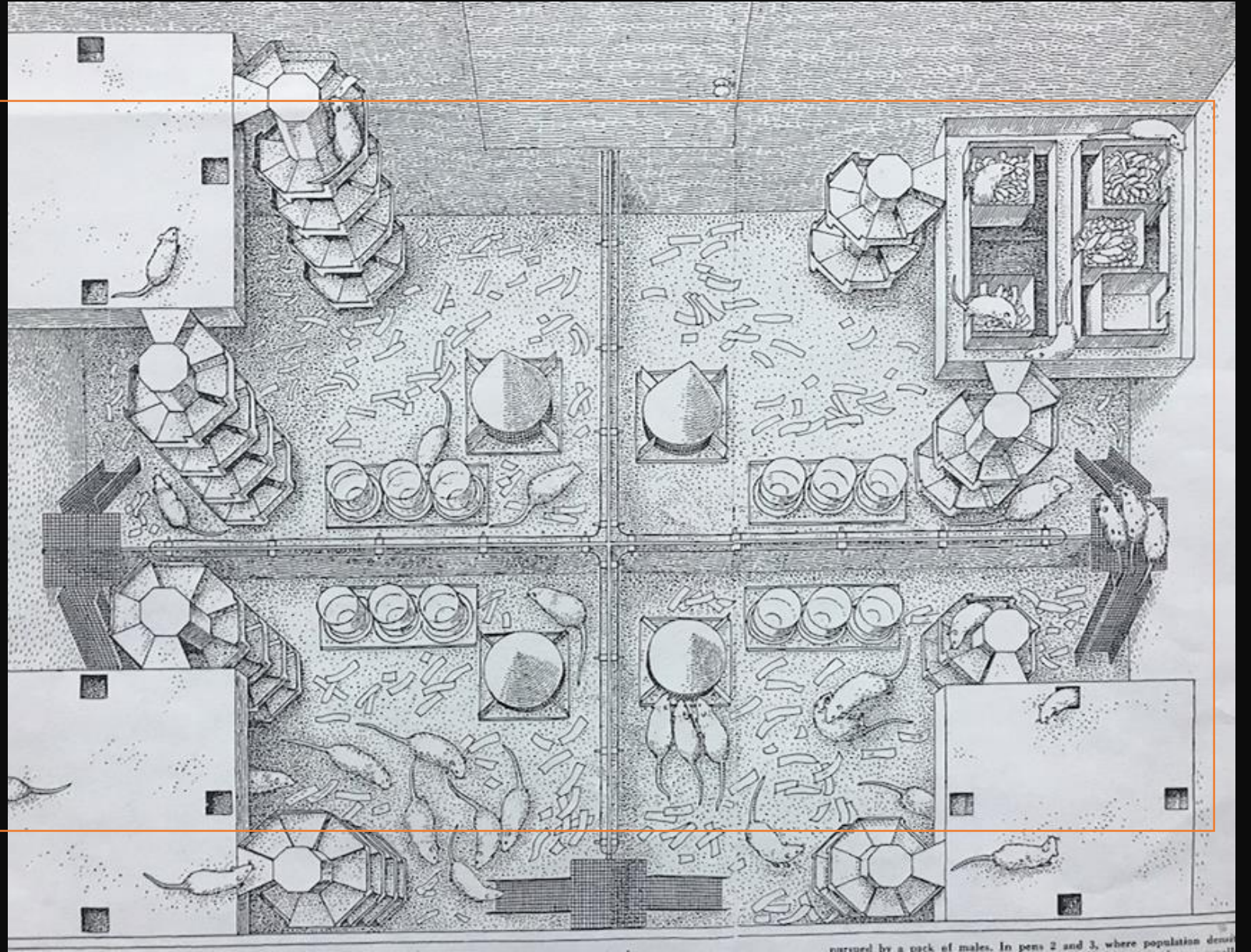


# Propagandize

- Promote or publicize a particular cause in a biased or misleading way
  - Evil black man
  - White female fragility
  - Noble and pure white race
  - The case for violence
  - Seeds of fear



# Quarantine



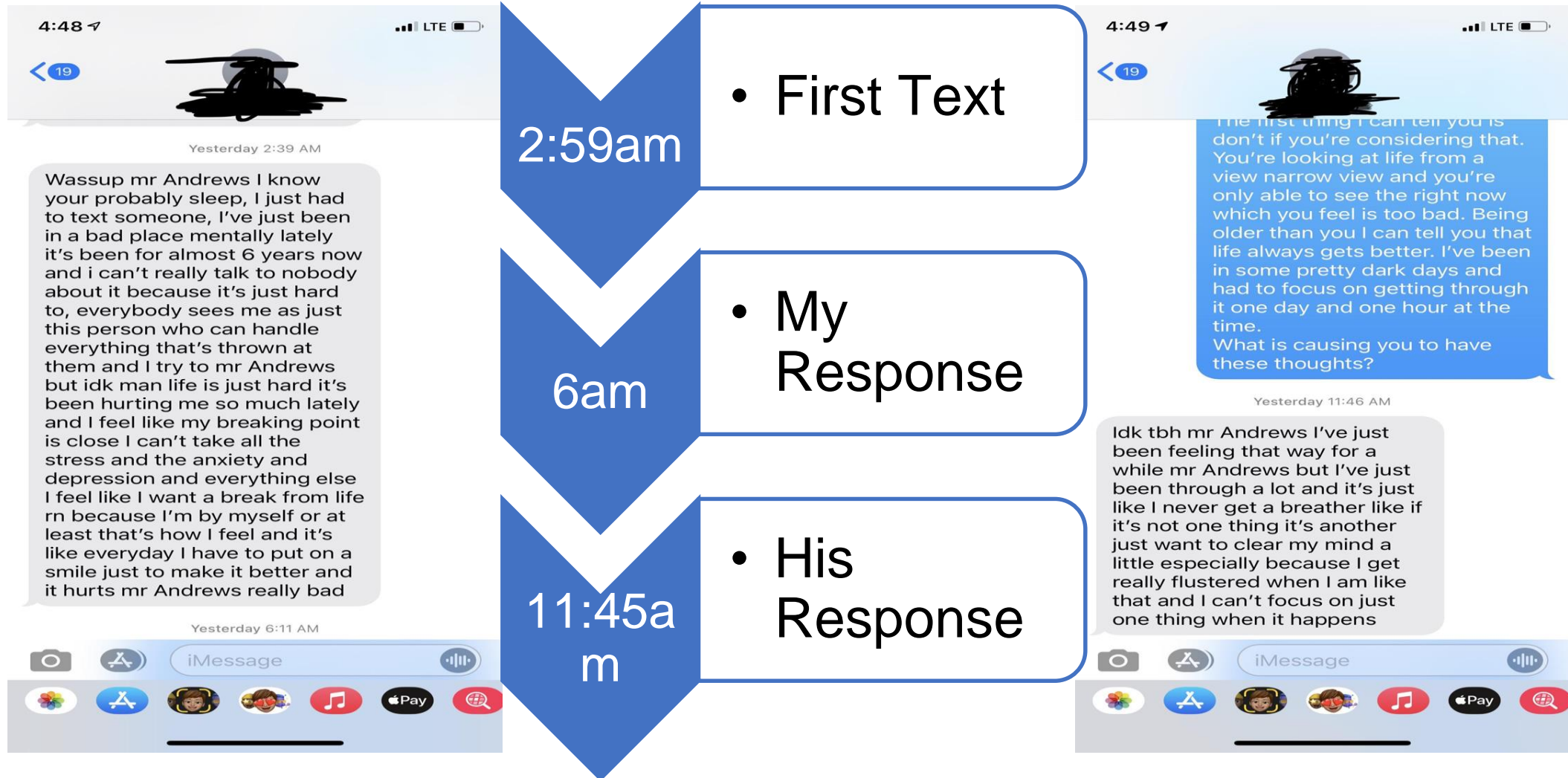
nursed by a rack of males. In pens 2 and 3, where population densi



Kill



# The Impacts of Feeling Defeated



# Black Men and Suicide

- African American men are four times more likely to die by suicide than African American women.
- Less than half of all Americans with a mental disorder get the treatment they need. The proportion of African Americans who need mental health treatment and get it is only half that of whites.
- Africans Americans' depressive occurrences are more disabling, persistent, and resistant to treatment than those experienced by whites.

# Rap, A Black Man's Manifesto

- Celebrating post demise.
- Only spot a few blacks the higher I go.
- Picture events, black ties. What's the last thing you expect to see, black guys.
- Ain't nothing on the news but the blues.



# Understanding Defeatism

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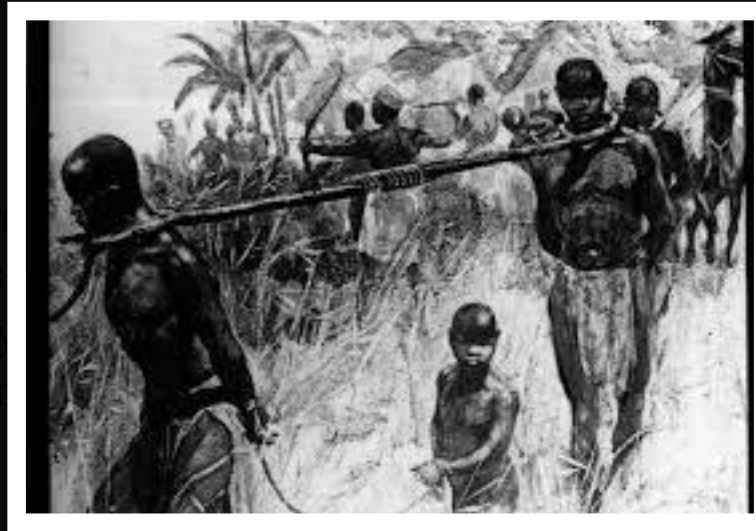
- **Pessimism:** a tendency to see the worst aspect of things or believe that the worst will happen; a lack of hope or confidence in the future.
- **Defeatism:** is defined as a way of thinking or behaving that shows that you have no hope and expect to fail (Cambridge.org). The *sense of defeatism historically* is a condition that is *passed down* from *generation to generation* low-income communities resulting in psychological issues for the entire family.





# Understanding Defeatism

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According to Angelina Grimké, who could not endure the treatment of the enslaved owned by other members of her wealthy family, left Charleston, South Carolina, to become a Quaker abolitionist based in Philadelphia:

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I have never seen a happy slave. I have seen him dance in his chains, it is true; but he was not happy. There is a wide difference between happiness and mirth. Man cannot enjoy the former while his manhood is destroyed, and that part of the being which is necessary to the making, and to the enjoyment of happiness, is completely blotted out. The slaves, however, may be, and sometimes are, mirthful. When hope is extinguished, they say, **"let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."**



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# Impacts

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- Fatherhood becomes a fairytale
  - Feelings of doubt, fear, and anger prevail
  - Seek manhood in unhealthy ways
  - Difficult to navigate emotions
  - Society accepts their condition
  - Develop masks to cope
  - Shorter life spans
  - Anger
- 





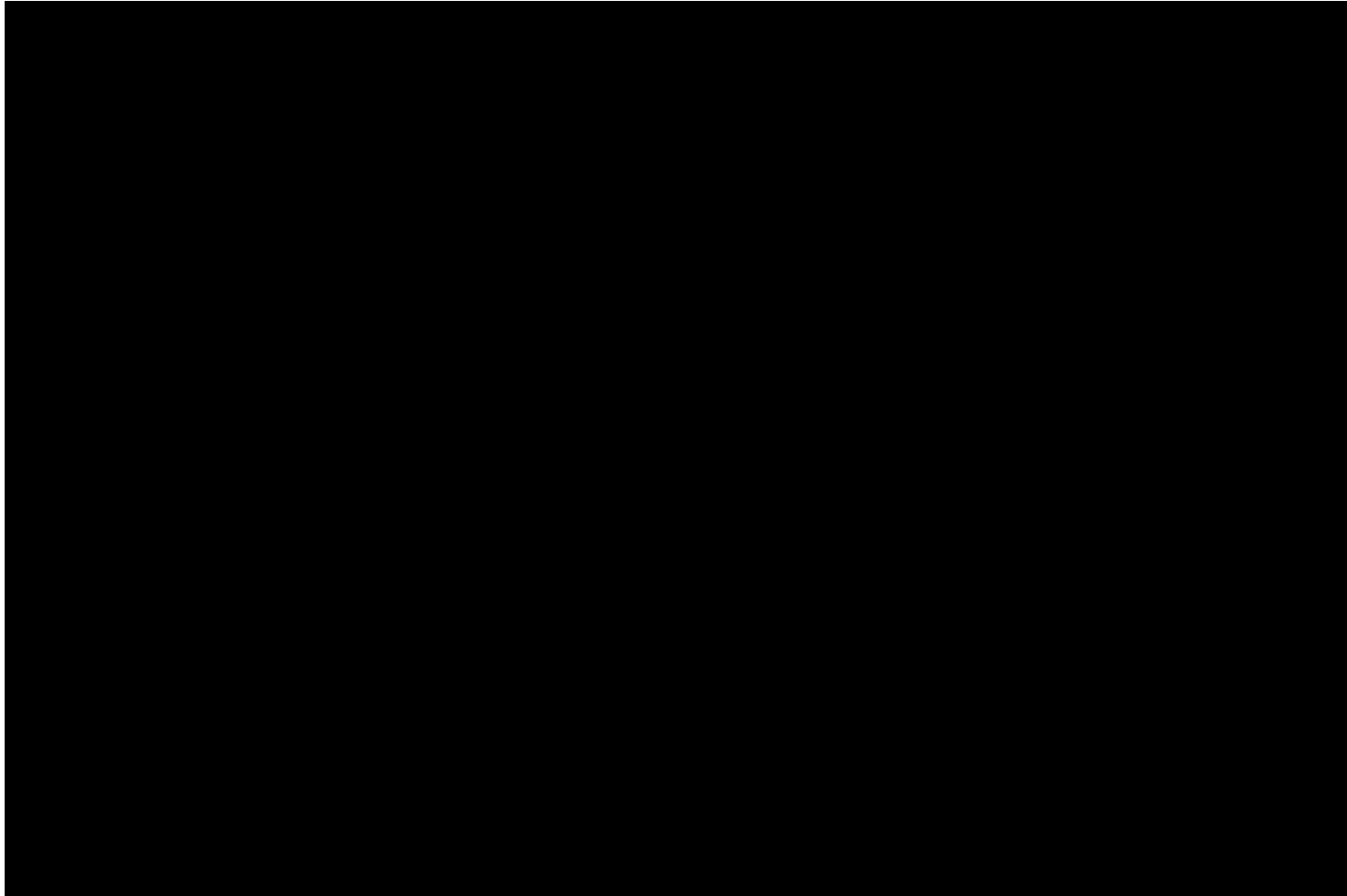
# Cure

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- Education
  - Mentoring/Family Mentoring
  - Focused funding
  - Demystify therapy
  - Accountability & Structure
  - Fatherhood
  - Accessibility & Access
  - Therapy
  - (Covid-19) Virtual Breaks
- 



# What Happens When Defeat is Countered?



# What We Do

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- Speech & Debate Sessions
  - 1:1 Meetings With Students
  - GroupMe Discussions
  - Parent Group
  - Student Lead Programming
  - Running Club
  - Selective Housing
  - Weekly Surveys
  - (Covid-19) Virtual Breaks
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# Identifying The Factors

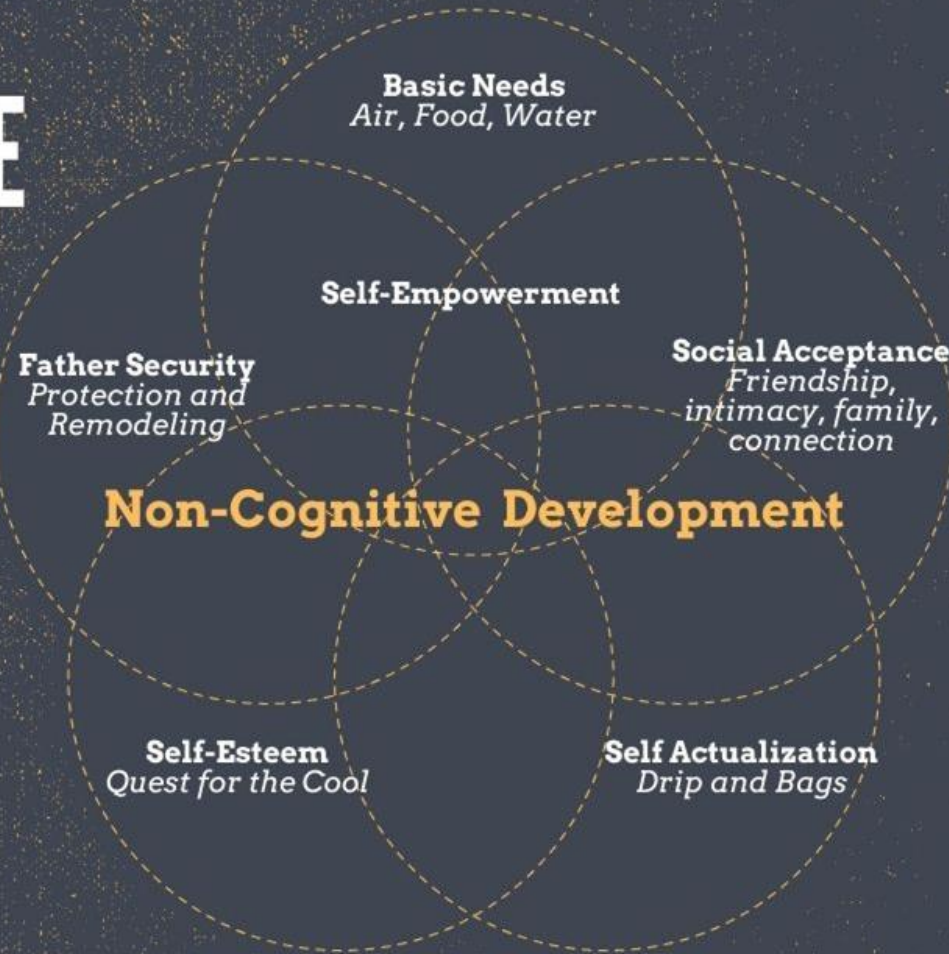
- Demographics
- Location & County
- County Statistics
- Rural info
- Household Socioeconomic status
- SAT Scores
- Grades
- Disciplinary records
- Attendance
- Study Habits
- Faculty & Staff Engagement





# Identifying The Factors

## BLACK MALE HIERARCHY OF NEEDS



**The Self-Empowerment Theory**, as proposed by Tucker (1999) is a culturally sensitive theory that is based on research with African American youth and families to whom the theory is directed (Tucker, Chennaut, Brady, Fraser, Gaskin, & Dull, 1995; Tucker, Herman, Pedersen, & Vogel, 1997).

**Self-Empowerment Theory** postulates that behavior problems and academic failure, as well as prosocial behavior and academic success, are significantly influenced by levels of:


- (a) self-motivation to achieve academic and social success,
- (b) perceived self-control over one's behavior and academic success,
- (c) self-reinforcement for engaging in social and academic success behaviors,
- (d) adaptive skills for life success, and (e) engagement in success behaviors.



# North Carolina Central University Men's Achievement Center



**IT IS EASIER TO BUILD STRONG CHILDREN  
THAN TO REPAIR BROKEN MEN.**

 SayingImages.com

**FREDERICK DOUGLASS**





Bury Me In The  
Ocean With MY  
Ancestors That  
Jumped From The  
Ship, Because They  
Knew Death Was  
Better Than  
Bondage.



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