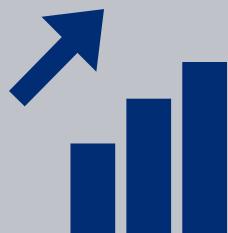


Substance Use Disorder through the **Lens** of Race & Equity

Disparities at the Intersection of Substance Use and Race

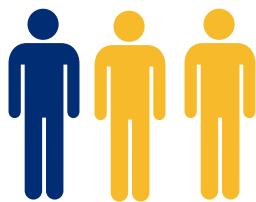


5%
increase in drug overdose deaths in Kentucky from 2018 to 2019.



35%
increase in Black overdose deaths in Kentucky from 2018 to 2019.

(Source: Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy, 2020)



Black people represent 33% of persons with a drug offense in federal prison – a rate 6 times that of White people in the U.S. prison system.

In Kentucky FY 2019, **45%** of **Jefferson County** individuals eligible for Drug Court were **Black**, yet **Black people** comprised only **12%** of individuals referred and only **9%** of individuals accepted into the program.

(Source: Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts, 2020)

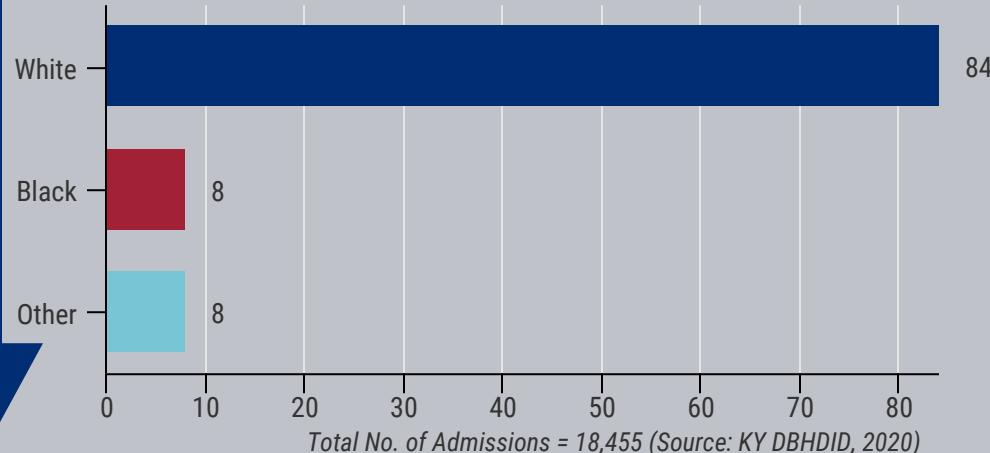
In Kentucky FY 2019, **8%** of SUD treatment admissions to Community Mental Health Centers were **Black**.



Research shows that Black people with SUD continue to face barriers in access to appropriate treatment.

Providers must ensure that **quality** SUD treatment is a **right** and not a privilege by addressing **disparities in access and quality of care**.

FY 2019 Kentucky CMHC Substance Use Treatment Admissions, Percent Total by Race



What contributes to racial/ethnic disparities in SUD treatment?

Historical and intergenerational trauma.



Social determinants of health (economic and social disparities in resource access).

Fear of incarceration and family separation upon disclosure of SUD.



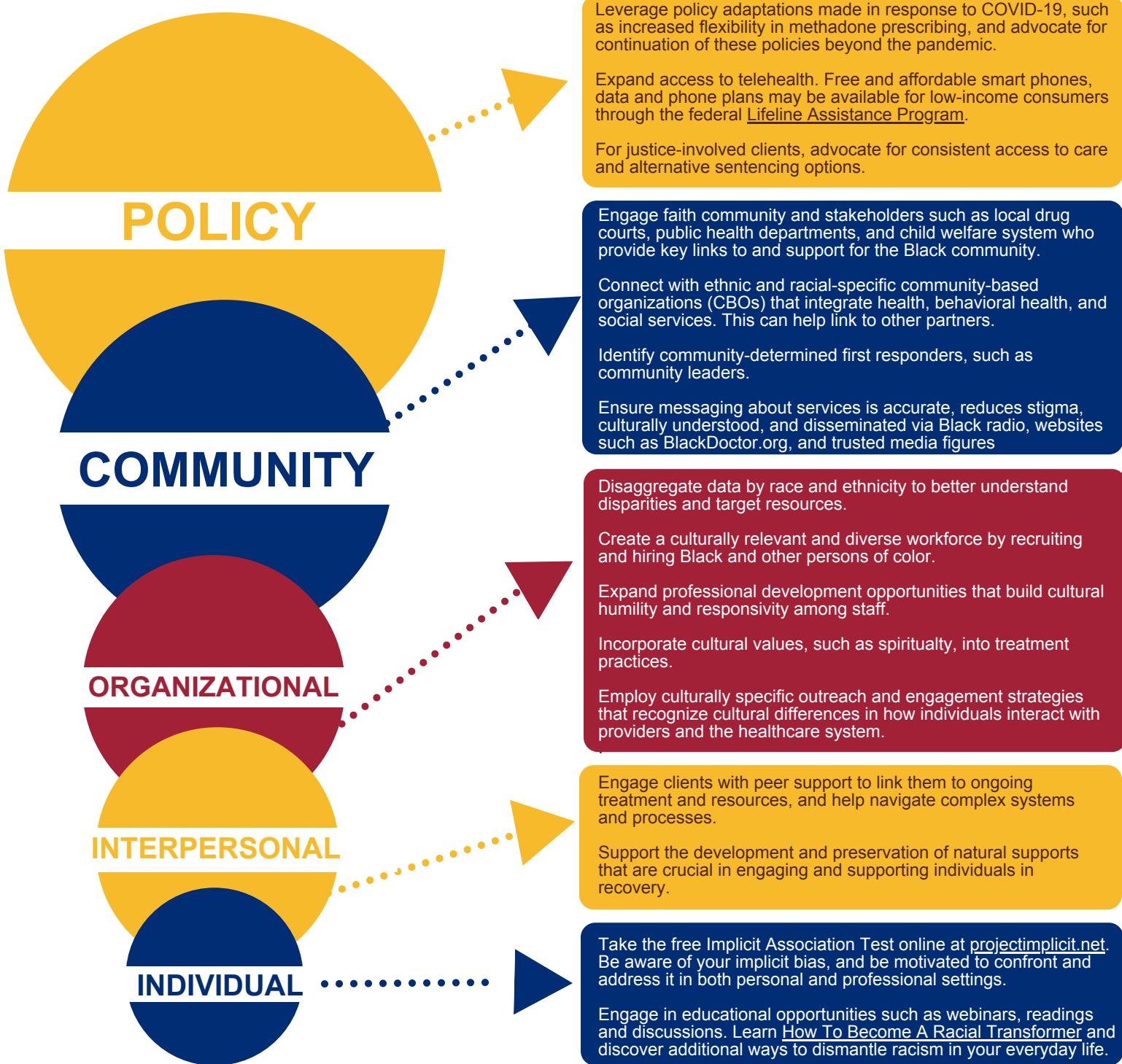
Bias and stigma in systems (e.g. healthcare, social services, criminal justice).

Limited access to FDA-approved medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD).



Inaccessibility to culturally responsive and respectful care programs.

Listed below are multi-level strategies substance use providers can implement to increase Black Kentuckians' treatment engagement and retention. Policy, community, organizational, interpersonal, and individual strategies are presented.



More information on SUD, Race and Equity can be obtained from the agencies linked below:

COVID-19 and Health Disparities:



Resources for building healthy equity and inclusion:



Behavioral health services and information:



[Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#)

[Addiction Technology Transfer Center](#)

[Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental, and Intellectual Disabilities](#)

Judicial Branch operations:



[Administrative Office of the Courts](#)

Information about opioid response efforts:



[Kentucky Opioid Response Effort](#)