


# Toward Equity: Changing Our Mindset

Early Childhood Mental Health Conference  
September 24, 2021



Center for Community Resilience

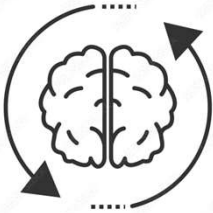
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## Today's Focus

- Understanding the Root Causes of Childhood Adversity
- Examining The Role of Narratives
- Rethinking Resilience



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# Applying the Pair of ACEs

**CLIENT ISSUES**

**The Pair of ACEs**

Adverse Childhood Experiences

Adverse Community Environments

**STRUCTURAL AND SYSTEMIC BARRIERS TO MENTAL WELLNESS**

- What is the problem we’re trying to solve?
- What program, practice, or policy changes are needed?
- What will success look like?
- What indicators can help measure success?

**DESIRED OUTCOMES**

**Community Resilience**

Supportive adults & healthy households


Connected systems & supports

**STRUCTURAL AND SYSTEMIC SUPPORTS FOR MENTAL WELLNESS**

- What community strengths can we draw upon?
- What assets are in place?
- Who should be at the table?
- How can policies support our communities?

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# The Role of Narratives: The Stories We Tell

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# Public Narratives

- **Narrative** – collection or system of related stories that represent a central idea or belief
- **Public Narrative** – shared systems of meaning about the world and our place in it

```
graph TD; A((Public Narratives)) --- B((Explain group experience)); A --- C((Reflect dominant interests)); A --- D((Exist in policy, media, and corporate culture)); A --- E((Often go unnoticed))
```

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# Dominant Public Narratives in the U.S.

```
graph TD; A((White Supremacy)) --- B((MY BODY MY CHOICE TRUMP2020)); A --- C((Person in front of blue wall with ladders))
```

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# Defining White Supremacy

- “A political, economic and cultural system in which:
  - whites overwhelmingly **control power and material resources**,
  - **conscious and unconscious ideas** of white superiority and entitlement are widespread, and
  - **relations of white dominance and non-white subordination** are daily reenacted across a broad array of institutions and social settings.”

– Frances Lee Ansley, Professor Emeritus, University of Tennessee–Knoxville

Source: [The Atlantic](#)

WHITE PEOPLE: WHITE PRIVILEGE ISN'T EVEN A THING!

REALITY:

TANYA McDOWELL  
HOMELESS MOTHER, LIED ABOUT SCHOOL DISTRICT SHE LIVED IN SO HER 6-YEAR-OLD SON COULD GO TO A BETTER SCHOOL.  
SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS IN JAIL

FELICITY HUFFMAN  
WEALTHY ACTRESS, PAID \$15K TO CHEAT HER DAUGHTER'S WAY INTO A BETTER COLLEGE.  
SENTENCED TO 14 DAYS IN JAIL

ELIJAH McCLAIN  
UNARMED, COMMITTED NO CRIME, KILLED BY FIRST RESPONDERS  
“You can't get over something that is still happening.” – Ijeoma Oluo

JAMES HOLMES  
KILLED 12 PEOPLE, ARRESTED PEACEFULLY

1 COUNTRY, 2 SYSTEMS

GEORGE FLOYD  
SUSPECTED OF “FORGERY”, KILLED BY POLICE

DYLANN ROOF  
MURDERED 9 PEOPLE, ARRESTED PEACEFULLY

KALIEF BROWDER  
WRONGFULLY ACCUSED OF STEALING A BACKPACK  
JAILED FOR 3 YEARS ON Rikers ISLAND AT 16 YRS OLD, 2 YRS IN SOLITARY  
KILLED HIMSELF AFTER ENDURING BRUTAL, ABUSIVE TREATMENT

ROGER STONE  
CONVICTED OF WITNESS TAMPERING, OBSTRUCTION, LYING TO CONGRESS  
SENTENCED TO 3 YEARS, TRUMP COMMUTES SENTENCE  
DOESN'T SPEND ONE NIGHT IN PRISON

We were murdered so often, I started believing Black bodies made better fertilizer.” – Darnell Lamont Walker

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# Narrative in Action

## The New York Times

4 © 2014 The New York Times NEW YORK, MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2014

### Two Lives at Crossroads in Ferguson

Profile Officer With  
Turbulent Early Days

DAVEY and FRANCES ROBLES

A Teenager Grappling  
With Problems and Promises

By JOHN ELIGON

Source: [The New Yorker](#) (artist featured is Alexandra Bell)

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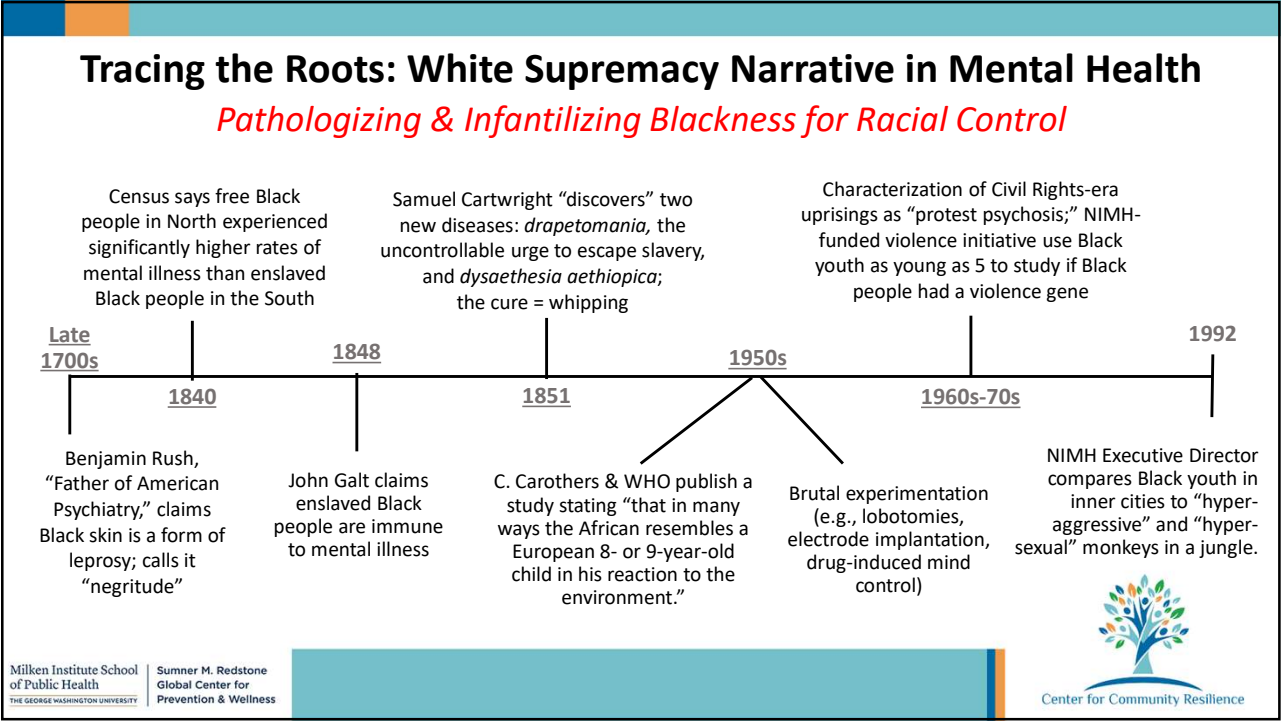
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## What's the Difference?

The image compares two representations of mental health. On the left is a HALDOL (haloperidol) advertisement. It features a dark, dramatic illustration of a man with a distressed expression, labeled 'Assaultive and belligerent?'. The text promotes HALDOL as a 'first choice for starting therapy' that 'Cooperation often begins with HALDOL (haloperidol)'. It lists benefits: 'Acts promptly to control aggressive, assaultive behavior', 'Usually leaves patients relatively alert and responsive', and 'Reduces risk of serious adverse reactions'. On the right is a photograph of a man with a calm, neutral expression, labeled '"Change upsets me"'. Below the photo is a quote: 'Most patients with psychotic symptoms need a quiet, understanding life that provides refuge from a confusing and overwhelming world.' The HALDOL logo is visible at the bottom of the photo.

**HALDOL (haloperidol) advertisement text:**

- Assaultive and belligerent?
- Cooperation often begins with HALDOL (haloperidol)
- a first choice for starting therapy
- Acts promptly to control aggressive, assaultive behavior
- Usually leaves patients relatively alert and responsive
- Reduces risk of serious adverse reactions

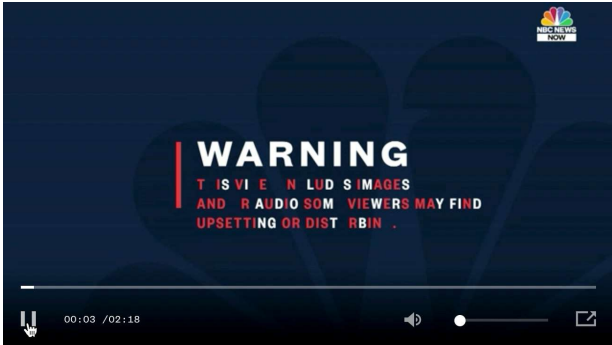
**Photograph text:**

- "Change upsets me"
- Most patients with psychotic symptoms need a quiet, understanding life that provides refuge from a confusing and overwhelming world.
- HALDOL (HALOPERIDOL)


**Logos:** Milken Institute School of Public Health, Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention & Wellness, Center for Community Resilience

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# What's the Difference?




[9-year old Black girl handcuffed and pepper sprayed](#)



[Peaceful arrest of mass murderer Dylann Roof](#)

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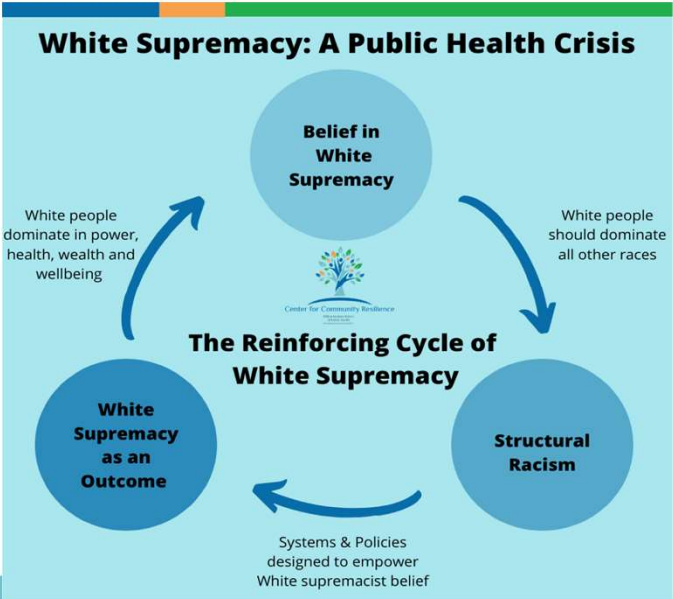


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## Why Does This Matter?

### White Supremacy: A Public Health Crisis



**Belief in White Supremacy**

White people dominate in power, health, wealth and wellbeing

**Structural Racism**


White people should dominate all other races


**White Supremacy as an Outcome**

Systems & Policies designed to empower White supremacist belief

**The Reinforcing Cycle of White Supremacy**

Learn More: [go.gwu.edu/fosteringequity](https://go.gwu.edu/fosteringequity)

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### Impacts on Research

- Racially nonrepresentative and under-representative research is generalized as applicable to children of color (Kollins, 2021)

## White Supremacy: A Public Health Crisis

The diagram illustrates 'The Reinforcing Cycle of White Supremacy' as a circular process. At the top is a circle labeled 'Belief in White Supremacy'. An arrow points from this circle to a circle on the right labeled 'Structural Racism'. From 'Structural Racism', an arrow points down to a circle at the bottom labeled 'Systems & Policies designed to empower White supremacist belief'. From there, an arrow points left to a circle labeled 'White Supremacy as an Outcome'. Finally, an arrow points from 'White Supremacy as an Outcome' back up to 'Belief in White Supremacy', completing the cycle. Text on the left side of the cycle states 'White people dominate in power, health, wealth and wellbeing'. Text on the right side states 'White people should dominate all other races'. The Center for Community Resilience logo is in the center of the diagram.

### The Reinforcing Cycle of White Supremacy

- From the 1970s to the 2010s, only 5% of psychology publications highlighted race (1,511 of 26,380)
- Of publications highlighting race, 87% of editors and 63% of lead authors were white

(Roberts, Bareket-Shavit, Dollins, Goldie, & Mortenson, 2020)

- Ethnoracial minorities continue to be underrepresented in mental health research

(Williams, Tellawi, Wetterneck, & Chapman, 2013)

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### Impacts on Practice

- Black and brown youth are disproportionately referred into the justice/ carceral system (Hovey, Zolkoski & Bullock, 2017)

## White Supremacy: A Public Health Crisis

The diagram illustrates 'The Reinforcing Cycle of White Supremacy' as a circular process. At the top is a circle labeled 'Belief in White Supremacy'. An arrow points from this circle to a circle on the right labeled 'Structural Racism'. From 'Structural Racism', an arrow points down to a circle at the bottom labeled 'Systems & Policies designed to empower White supremacist belief'. From there, an arrow points left to a circle labeled 'White Supremacy as an Outcome'. Finally, an arrow points from 'White Supremacy as an Outcome' back up to 'Belief in White Supremacy', completing the cycle. Text on the left side of the cycle states 'White people dominate in power, health, wealth and wellbeing'. Text on the right side states 'White people should dominate all other races'. The Center for Community Resilience logo is in the center of the diagram.

### The Reinforcing Cycle of White Supremacy

- White adults who work with children rated Black, Native, and Hispanic kids to be twice as unintelligent or violence-prone as white youth (Priest et al, 2018)

- Underdiagnosis of ADHD (Coker et al., 2016) and overdiagnosis of ODD and CD in Black and Latino Youth (Mizock & Harkins, 2011; Feisthamel & Schwartz, 2009)

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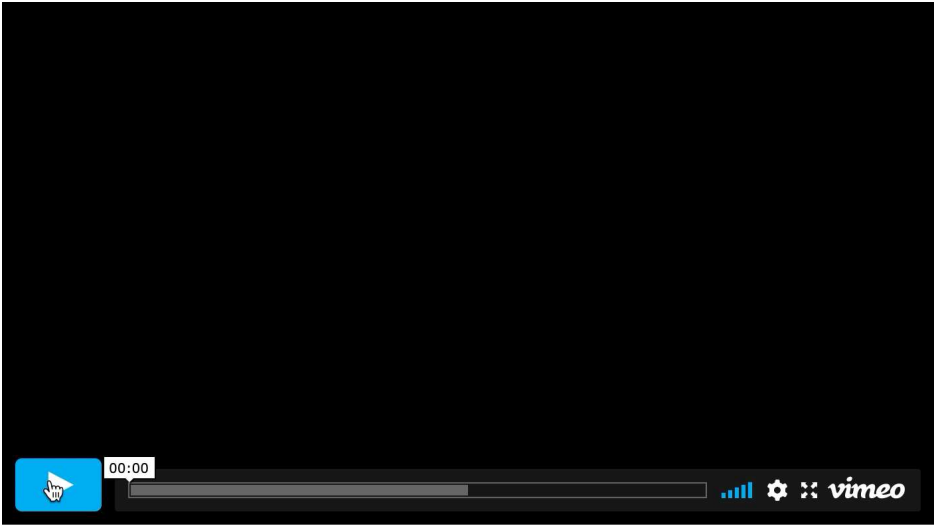
# Rethinking Resilience: We Are Not Saviors

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Play (k)

1:24 / 4:07

**“The power is already there with the people.”**

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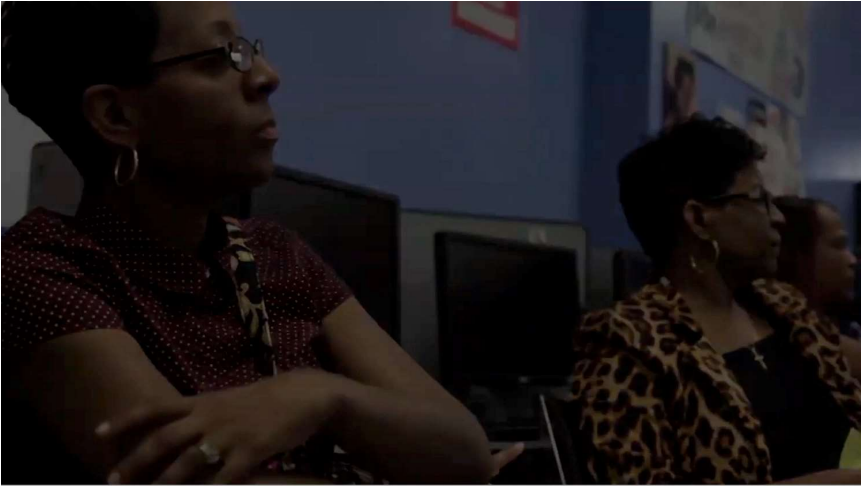
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**“I’m working with... and I’m here to learn.”**



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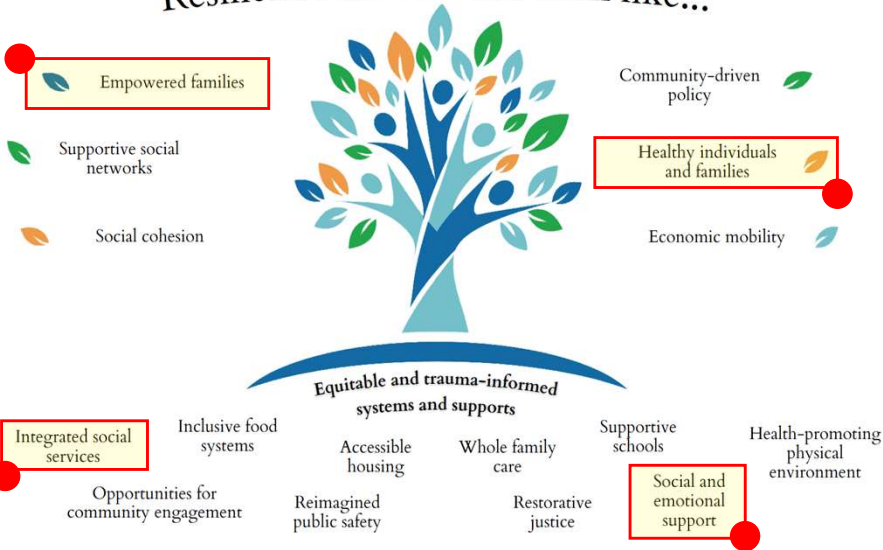
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# Getting to Resilience

  
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Resilient communities look like...




You Are Here

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