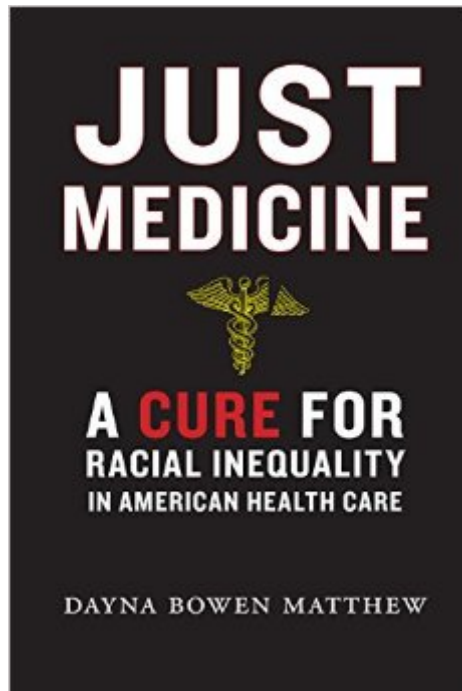


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Just Medicine: A Cure For Racial Inequality In American Health Care



Synopsis

Over 84,000 black and brown lives are needlessly lost each year due to health disparities, the unfair, unjust, and avoidable differences between the quality and quantity of health care provided to Americans who are members of racial and ethnic minorities and care provided to whites. Health disparities have remained stubbornly entrenched in the American health care system—and in *Just Medicine*, Dayna Bowen Matthew finds that they principally arise from unconscious racial and ethnic biases held by physicians, institutional providers, and their patients. Implicit bias is the single most important determinant of health and health care disparities. Because we have missed this fact, the money we spend on training providers to become culturally competent, expanding wellness education programs and community health centers, and even expanding access to health insurance will have only a modest effect on reducing health disparities. We will continue to utterly fail in the effort to eradicate health disparities unless we enact strong, evidence-based legal remedies that accurately address implicit and unintentional forms of discrimination, to replace the weak, tepid, and largely irrelevant legal remedies currently available. Our continued failure to fashion an effective response that purges the effects of implicit bias from American health care, Matthew argues, is unjust and morally untenable. In this book, she unites medical, neuroscience, psychology, and sociology research on implicit bias and health disparities with her own expertise in civil rights and constitutional law. *Just Medicine* offers us a new, effective, and innovative plan to regulate implicit biases and eliminate the inequalities they cause, and to save the lives they endanger.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Not sure that the insights here are particularly novel or "newly useful." But the book is subtle and worth putting on the required reading lists of every one in medical school or practice. Every white liberal doctor I know insists that while there maybe little or no explicit race bias to see in medical practice, especially in hospitals, there is a massive amount of careful and cautiously done research on the topic of explicit race discrimination in medical outcomes for patients. How both these can exist simultaneously is DBM's question and a very good one. But I am not sure her "cure" can work unless and until very fundamental social stereotyping by race can be scrubbed out of life in America, and elsewhere, can be scrubbed clean.

This thoughtful book provides a careful look at how racial bias can be embedded in the systems that determine quality of care. We need more scholars like Dayna Matthew, who is will to grapple with what it will take to create lasting change

The author has a valid point of view, but it is not as universally applicable as she would assume. Nonetheless, it is a thought provoking essay (which it should have been, rather than a book) on how the unconscious infiltration of racial bias might affect medical care.

Professor Matthew presents a compelling argument for tackling one of our nation's most challenging healthcare issues, the disparities in health care among vulnerable and marginalized groups. Her assessment of the problem and game-changing model is an innovative solution that will help us reduce health disparities and achieve health equity in America. I recommend this book to everyone who cares about health equity.

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