

Thomas LaVeist

Dean of Tulane University School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine at Tulane University
New Orleans, LA, US

Dean Thomas LaVeist's areas of expertise include U.S. health and social policy and the role of race in health research.

Biography

Dr. Thomas LaVeist is a leading researcher on the topic of health disparities and the social determinants of health, including areas such as U.S. health and social policy, the role of race in health research, social factors contributing to mortality, longevity, and life expectancy, and the utilization of health services in the United States. He is the Weatherhead Presidential Chair in Health Equity and dean of the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Dr. LaVeist's research and writing has focused on three broad thematic research questions: 1) The social and behavioral factors that predict the timing of various related health outcomes (e.g. access and utilization of health services, mortality, entrance into nursing home); 2) The social and behavioral factors that explain race differences in health outcomes; and 3) The impact of social policy on the health and quality of life of African Americans. LaVeist's considerable experience in health disparities has been instrumental in the advent of COVID-19, which has been shown to impact minority communities much more severely. He has been a fervent voice in national media calling attention to this issue and was named as a co-chair of the Louisiana COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force by Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards. Through the task force and through his own social marketing campaign called The Skin You're In: Coronavirus and Black America, LaVeist is working to dispel myths and raise awareness in the Black community about protecting against COVID-19. He is also seeking a new normal that will create lasting change to significantly reduce health disparities in the state and the region. LaVeist came to Tulane from the Milken Institute of Public Health at George Washington University, where he was the chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management. He also spent 25 years at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, where he was the William C. and Nancy F. Richards Professor in Health Policy and the director of the Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions. He holds a doctorate in medical sociology from the University of Michigan and is an elected member of the prestigious National Academy of Medicine. He was also executive producer of the documentary The Skin You're In, which explores the disparities between black and white health in America.

Areas of Expertise

Vaccine Hesitancy, COVID-19, Health disparities by race and ethnicity, Health Disparities, Social Determinants of Health, Demographic Analysis, Health Policy, Social Policy, Obesity, Public Health, Coronavirus

Affiliations

National Academy of Medicine

Education

University of Michigan
Ph.D. Medical Sociology

University of Michigan
M.A. Sociology

University of Maryland Eastern Shore
B.A. Sociology

Accomplishments

ICONN Award
2014 Associated Black Charities

Article of the Year ? American Journal of Public Health
2012

Innovation Award
National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD) 2008

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