Children with neurodevelopmental disorders (NDD) are a vulnerable population diagnosed as having an impairment of the central nervous system caused by genetic, metabolic, toxic or traumatic factors. During the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic children with NDD benefitted from the swift transition to telehealth. Most found telehealth favorable but some encountered challenges with accessibility and technology. Racial disparity was found with accessibility challenges by marginalized groups within this already vulnerable population. Telehealth use should continue to be utilized by children with NDD but clinicians should be aware of how to address challenges.
treatment and suicide prevention in this unique population. The importance of applying an intersectional lens to the multidimensional identity of LGTQ veterans is emphasized. Recommendations are provided for safety planning, follow-up, and treatment.

Caring for Veteran Women: Collaborative Nursing Approaches to Improve Care
Anna Strewler and Keisha Bellamy

A strength-based nursing approach to recommendations for interpersonal collaboration and communication is used when caring for Veteran women in health care settings. Four areas are emphasized: (1) using trauma-informed health care practices; (2) acknowledging and affirming the intersectional identities of Veteran women to individualize care and counteract health disparities; (3) engaging strategies to enhance a sense of belonging for Veteran women in health care settings; and (4) encouraging Veteran women to participate in potential research studies to better understand and improve care for this population.

US Department of Veterans Affairs Post-Baccalaureate Registered Nurse Residency: Developing Nurses Equipped with Knowledge and Skills to Care for Nation’s Veterans
Jemma Ayvazian, Beverly Gonzalez, Mary E. Desmond, Rosie Jones, and Lisa Burkhart

Nurse residency programs were developed to improve novice nurse competencies, mitigate burnout, lower recruitment costs and nurse attrition, and the quality of patient care. The Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA), US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), established a 12-month postbaccalaureate nurse residency (PB-RNR) program at 49 sites to develop competent, confident, practice-ready registered nurses equipped with the knowledge and skills to care for veterans. The OAA evaluation of the PB-RNR program demonstrated improved new nurse graduate competence, confidence, recruitment, and retention rates after completion of training at participating VA medical facilities.

Promoting Health Equity in the Latinx Community, Locally and Globally: The Duke University School of Nursing Model
Rosa M. Gonzalez-Guarda, Irene C. Felsman, and Rosa M. Solorzano

It is imperative that nurses are equipped to promote the health and well-being of diverse populations in United States, including the growing Latinx community, which experiences significant health disparities. This article summarizes the values, programs, and impact of the Duke University School of Nursing Latinx Engagement Health Equity Model. Collaborative partnerships with diverse community partners addressing Latinx populations across the life span were developed, spanning the education, research, and service missions of the university. Programs were rooted in cultural values and were delivered through diverse interprofessional teams and with support from the university. Programs included local and global immersion programs, volunteer work, courses in Medical Spanish, community engaged research projects, and leadership in coalitions. These models have resulted in favorable outcomes for learners, faculty and staff,
and the Latinx community more broadly and can serve as a model for strategies to promote health equity at schools of nursing.

Rural and Indigenous Vulnerable Populations: A Case Study 413
Lyn Behnke

This is an actual case study of a young Native American man. The names have changed but the challenges remain the same. The intersectionality between the Native population, a rural community, and poverty intersects to create a compelling look at the challenges people face in these communities. Implications for Nursing in relation to practice, education, and policy are addressed.

Applying Cultural Intelligence to Improve Vaccine Hesitancy Among Black, Indigenous, and People of Color 421
Angela Richard-Eaglin and Michael L. McFarland

Despite the overwhelming evidence to support the benefits of vaccines for preventable diseases and improving health outcomes throughout the world, vaccine hesitancy and resistance continues to be a concern during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) experience the highest rates of morbidity and mortality from COVID-19, mistrust and historical unethical research and medical practices continue to preclude this population from getting the vaccine. This article urges clinicians to subscribe to development and application of cultural intelligence to understand the impact of structural racism and cultural considerations of BIPOC to partner in strategy development.

Structural Competency in Health Care 433
Katerina Melino

The pandemics of COVID-19, systemic racism, and accelerating climate crises that have unfolded over the last 2 years highlight how social structures bear significant and disparate effects on individual health. The framework of structural competency offers a new way to understand and respond to health inequities in clinical care and health services delivery. Clinicians can work toward achieving structural competency at the individual, interpersonal, clinic, and community levels using the interventions described in the article.

Considerations and Recommendations for Care of Black Pregnant Patients During COVID-19 443
Jacquelyn McMillian-Bohler and Lacrecia M. Bell

Black pregnant patients experience perinatal morbidity and mortality rates greater than other ethnic groups. These health disparities exist primarily because of systemic racism, bias, and discriminatory acts within the health care system. The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced health disparities experienced by all vulnerable populations in the United States, including black pregnant patients. This article highlights some of the factors that may impact the experience of black people as they navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and presents strategies that every provider can implement.
to minimize the detrimental effects of this devastating virus during pregnancy.

**Educators Countering the Impact of Structural Racism on Health Equity**

Kenya V. Beard, Wrenetha A. Julion, and Roberta Waite

Health equity endorses that all persons are respected equally, and society must exert intentional efforts to eradicate inequities. Race, frequently taught as an impartial risk factor for disease, is a facilitator of structural inequities stemming from racist policies. Nursing educators must help students understand the impact of structural racism on patient populations, communities, and society at large. This article illustrates the face of structural racism, highlights how structural racism impacts health care outcomes, and provides meaningful ways for educators to unmute racism and facilitate race-related discourse in the classroom to counter the impact of structural racism on health equity.

**Social Support and Loneliness Among Black and Hispanic Senior Women Experiencing Food Insecurity: The Nurse as Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Intervention**

Tracie Walker Kirkland and Jennifer Woo

The impact of social determinants of health (SDOH) is understudied and until recently not a focal point in nursing education. The new Essentials coupled with the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic deem it necessary to address the intersection of SDOH and population health. The impact of COVID 19 disproportionately affects Black and Hispanic families. Couple the disproportionate numbers of COVID 19 among these groups with the growing incidence of food insecurity, and there is a need to explore intersecting links. Emerging research link the lack of social support systems and loneliness to food insecurity. In alignment with addressing competency-based education, it is critical to assess factors such as social support systems and loneliness and the intersection of its effects on such determinants as food insecurity. The article provides an overview for its readers in examining the incidence of food insecurity in older ethnic minority women along with postulated social attributes as contributing factors to the growth rates of food insecurity. The incidence of food insecurity among older ethnic minority women has grown exponentially amid the pandemic. The authors illustrate the role nurses can play in addressing primary, secondary, and tertiary interventions using Neuman’s Theory. The intervention pathways are delineated through the lens of nursing theoretic framework created by Betty Neuman Systems Model.

**Opioid Overdose Harm Prevention: The Role of the Nurse in Patient Education**

Selena Gilles

Opioid overdose continues to affect thousands each year in the United States, with nearly 850,000 lives lost within the last 20 years. It will take a comprehensive and coordinated approach from all members of the health care team and health care institutions, in addition to governmental officials, public safety, and community organizations to mitigate this crisis. Nurses can be instrumental in educating patients, families, and community
members about ways to combat this epidemic, instrumental in advocating for their patients, advocating for reform, as well as continuing to bring awareness to this health crisis and provoke dialogue about ongoing solutions to end it.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Autism Spectrum Disorder: Implications for Care

Susan Brasher, Jennifer L. Stapel-Wax, and Lisa Muirhead

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by difficulties with social interaction and communication and the presence of restrictive and repetitive behavior. Individuals with ASD, particularly those from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, are at higher risk of certain health conditions and mortality over the lifespan. Disparities in timing of diagnosis, access to services, and quality of care have a significant impact on the trajectory of individuals on the autism spectrum. Health care providers and law enforcement officers often interact with individuals with ASD and need adequate preparation to provide person-centered care to this vulnerable population.