



National Association
of Black Social Workers

2023 COVID-19 AWARENESS INITIATIVE REPORT



VACCINE CONFIDENCE
EDUCATION CAMPAIGN



A Special Thank You to Our Sponsor

This campaign was made possible by grant funding provided by the NASW Foundation. For more information, visit www.nabsw.org.



About the Campaign

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) embarked on a critical campaign to address the specific challenges faced by Black communities concerning the disease and methods of prevention. This report provides an overview of the campaign, its objectives, strategies, partnerships and outcomes.

Who We Are

The National Association of Black Social Workers, Inc. (NABSW) comprised of people of African ancestry, is committed to enhancing the quality of life and empowering people of African ancestry through advocacy, human services delivery, and research.



Campaign Disclaimer

The Connect to End COVID-19 Initiative is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$3.3 million with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN EVENTS



Dr. Renata Hedrington-Jones
NABSW Vice President
Webinar Series Moderator

NABSW Tackles COVID-19 Webinar Series

The NABSW Tackles COVID-19 Webinar series, was designed to support Black Social Workers in growing their awareness on how to support the communities they serve in the fight against the Coronavirus.

Part 1: Practice What We Preach: Understanding The 7 Principles of Nguzo Saba & Application as the African Centered Village

Featuring Dr. Marlene Saunders and Brother Olufemi Shepsu, the first webinar of the series focused on the history of healthcare and how social workers can utilize the principles of Nguzo Saba in their work.

Scan here to view the webinar series on the NABSW Facebook Page.



Dr. Marlene Saunders



Olufemi Baraka Shepsu, MSW

Part 2: Emergency Social Work & COVID

Featuring Dr. Jennifer Talley, the second webinar of the series focused on her experience as a social worker in the hospital setting and the importance of social workers in the emergency department.



**Dr. Jennifer Talley, PhD,
LCSW, CCM**

Part 3: COVID-19 Vaccinations and Treatments

Featuring Dr. Nila Haley, the third webinar of the series focused on an overview of the COVID-19 disease, vaccinations and treatments available and how to stay protected.



Dr. Nila Haley, PharmD

CHAPTER CAMPAIGN EVENTS

Greater Akron Canton, Ohio

The Greater Akron Canton chapter hosted an event featuring guest speaker, Dr. Yoleetah Ilodi which focused on the Impact of COVID-19 from 2020-2023. The workshop covered a detailed timeline of the disease and the progression of research and vaccine development up until the official End of Public Health Emergency which was announced on May 11, 2023.



Yoleetah Ilodi, M.D., FACP
Professor of Internal Medicine

Cleveland, Ohio

The Cleveland chapter invited guest speaker, Dr. David Margolius to lead a workshop focusing on the response of minority communities to the COVID-19 pandemic. Topics that were discussed included: tobacco use and its impact on health implications with COVID-19, distrust of medical professionals and overall racial disparities in the City of Cleveland that present a Public Health crisis.



Dr. David Margolius
Director of the Cleveland
Department of Public Health

Columbus, Ohio

The Columbus, Ohio chapter hosted a powerful COVID-19 workshop on highlighting the need for educating Black social workers on COVID-19 and the vaccine. The chapter welcomed guest speakers Dr. Leon McDougle, Dr. Akua Amponsah and Rita Ingram to educate Black social workers on topics such as COVID-19 advocacy, education and outreach for older persons from minoritized groups, COVID-19 and children and COVID-19 and pregnancy. The overall goal of the event was to empower the community to make better-informed decisions regarding COVID-19 and the vaccines.



Leon McDougle, M.D., M.P.H.
Professor of Family Medicine, 1st Chief
Diversity Officer for Ohio State
University's Wexner Medical Center



Akua Amponsah, M.D.
Primary Care Physician, Clinical Assistant
Professor of Pediatrics at The Ohio State
University College of Medicine



Rita Ingram, RN, MSN, FNP
Staff Nurse at Ohio State
University

CHAPTER CAMPAIGN EVENTS

Houston, Texas

The Houston chapter hosted an event entitled *“Lessons Learned and Where Do We Go From Here?”* featuring Dr. Hattie Henderson. The workshop focused on giving participants a general overview of COVID-19, vaccines available for ages 6-65, health inequities, and the CDC’s core commitment to health equity. Information on forthcoming developments of the virus and vaccines was also shared with participants.



Dr. Hattie Henderson
Geriatrics Physician

New Orleans, Louisiana

The New Orleans chapter hosted an event to address the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Black communities. The event focused on various topics such as health disparities and COVID-19, mental health and resilience, community engagement and support, advocacy and policy, and cultural sensitivity and trauma informed care. The chapter was successful in providing a comprehensive understanding of the pandemic's impact along with practical solutions for addressing its effects.

North Louisiana Regional

The North Louisiana Regional chapter hosted a COVID-19 Awareness webinar with guest speaker, Dr. Abu Ibrahim. Participants were able to gain education on the origins of the Coronavirus, myths, vaccinations and prevention tips. The chapter also streamed a COVID-19 awareness video featuring NABSW President, Melissa Haley, MSW, LCSW, which aired on WebMD during the initial phases of the pandemic, emphasizing the importance and relevance of social workers on the front line. View the video here: [The Impact of COVID on Social Workers](#)



Dr. Abu Ibrahim
Lecturer, Academic Researcher,
Author

Host An Event In Your Area

Interested in hosting a COVID-19 Awareness event in your city?
Download our free COVID-19 Awareness Toolkit at www.nabsw.org.