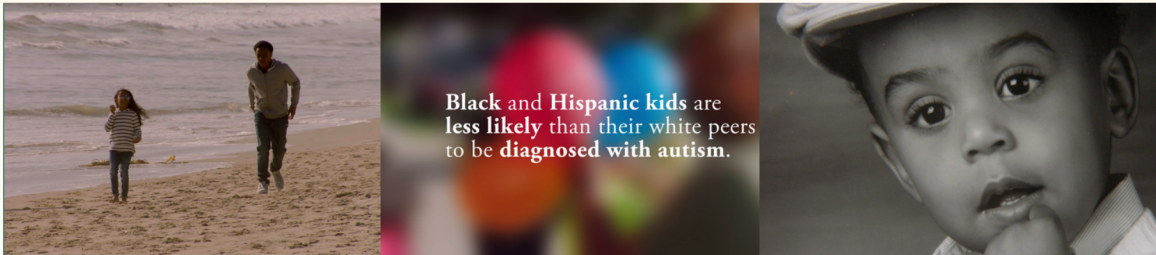


IN A DIFFERENT KEY:
THE AUTISM UNDERSTANDING TOOLKIT

RACE & AUTISM



Black and Hispanic kids are less likely than their white peers to be diagnosed with autism.

INTRODUCTORY CONTEXT

(suggested)

Autism diagnosis has an unexpectedly complicated entanglement with race and racism. While the nature of this entanglement has changed over time, its impact has stayed the same: to throw up obstacles to timely diagnosis for children of color. Especially challenging is that the prejudices involved are most likely unconscious. Yet they matter, as early diagnosis is as important as correct diagnosis in getting a child the support that is needed. As this segment of the documentary *In A Different Key* illustrates, the problem started decades ago, and continues today.

KEY THEMES

- Implicit bias in diagnosis
- The legacy of racism in mainstream psychiatry
- The critical need to recognize the problem
- Language and culture as complicating factors

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Does evaluator bias have to be explicit and conscious to cause harm?

How might it impact the goal of early intervention?

What lessons are there for professional training and development?