

# The Case for Advancing Equity

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# JUSTICE IN AGING

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FIGHTING SENIOR POVERTY THROUGH LAW

Justice in Aging is a national organization that uses the power of law to fight senior poverty by securing access to affordable health care, economic security, and the courts for older adults with limited resources.

Since 1972 we've focused our efforts primarily on fighting for people who have been marginalized and excluded from justice, such as women, people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, and people with limited English proficiency.



Spring Lake

# Grandma and Me







# Chapter 1: Massive Inequities

# The Problem

Massive inequities in how we age based on systemic discrimination

- Ageism
- Racism and other forms of systemic discrimination

# Ageism

[HOME](#) > [POLITICS](#)

**Our government has never been older than it is today. Here are the costs, benefits, and dangers of a US led by old people.**

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Matt Turner, Jordan Parker Erb, and Dave Levinthal Sep 18, 2022, 4:45 AM



# Ageism

## ***‘Our Bubble Has Been Burst’: Older Storm Victims Face an Uncertain Future***

Retirees displaced by Hurricane Ian confront a wrenching situation: At their age, remaking the lives they loved so much in Florida may not be possible.



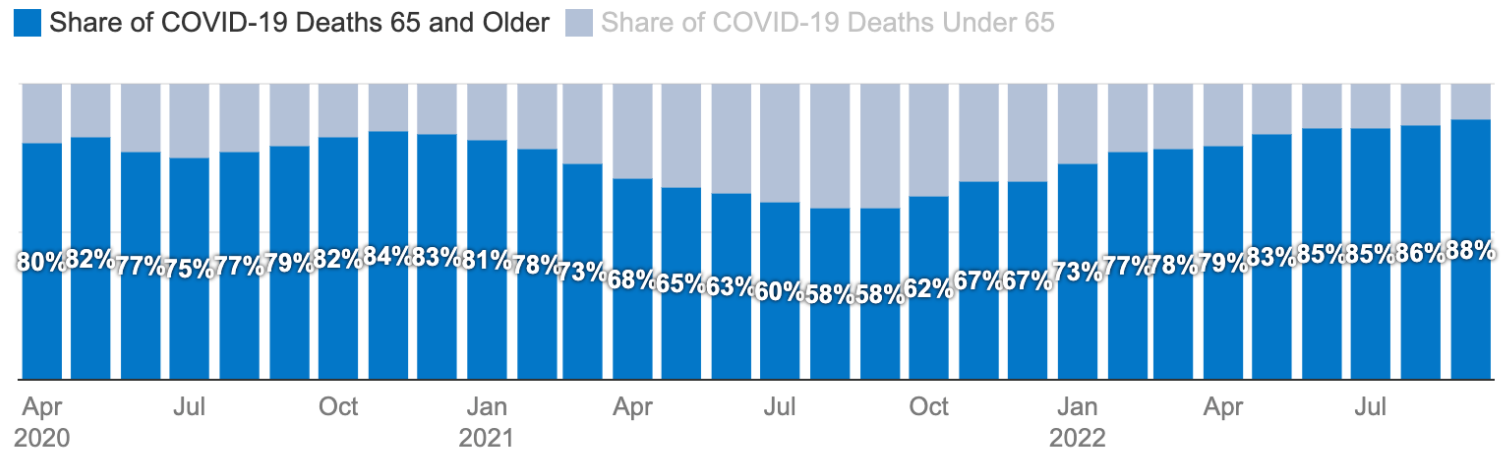
After seeing their home in Fort Myers, Fla., ravaged by Hurricane Ian, Del and Jane Compton are planning to move back to Louisville, Ky. Callaghan O'Hare for The New York Times



# Ageism

Figure 2

## People 65 and Older Account for a Much Larger Share of COVID-19 Deaths Than Those Under 65



NOTE: KFF analysis of CDC Provisional COVID-19 Death Counts by Sex and Age, as of the week ending October 1, 2022.

PNG

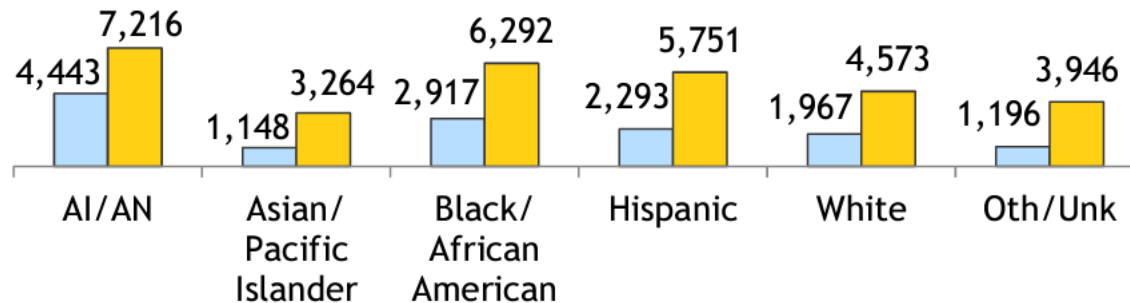
KFF

# Ageism

- Life-cycle considerations should be used as a tiebreaker if there are not enough resources to provide to all patients within a priority group, with priority going to younger patients. It is a valuable goal to give individuals equal opportunity to pass through the stages of life. This does not rely on considerations of one's intrinsic worth or social utility. Rather, younger individuals receive priority because they have had the least opportunity to live through life's stages. When individuals are asked to consider situations of absolute scarcity of life-sustaining resources, most believe younger patients should be prioritized over older ones.

# Compounding Systemic Discrimination

- COVID-19 Hospitalizations per 100k Medicare Beneficiaries



# Compounding Systemic Discrimination

- Black older adults have higher rates of diabetes, heart disease and stroke. They also have higher rates of disability relative to white older adults.

# Compounding Systemic Discrimination

- Women typically make less money than men, which generates less available income and savings in retirement compared to men.
  - Black women's lifetime loss of earnings totaled nearly \$1 million
  - Latina women \$1.1 million



# Everyday Impact

- 1/4 Black and Latino older adults (60+) report not being taken seriously by health professionals because of their race.
- More than a quarter of older adults said they did not get care or treatment because of discrimination.

\*poll\*

# Everyday Impact

HEALTH

## Without a ride, many in need have no shot at coronavirus vaccine

By Jenni Bergal

March 22, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. EDT

ECONOMY

## California rolled out websites and apps to fight COVID-19 – did they work?



BY GRACE GEDYE  
NOVEMBER 9, 2021



# Everyday Impact

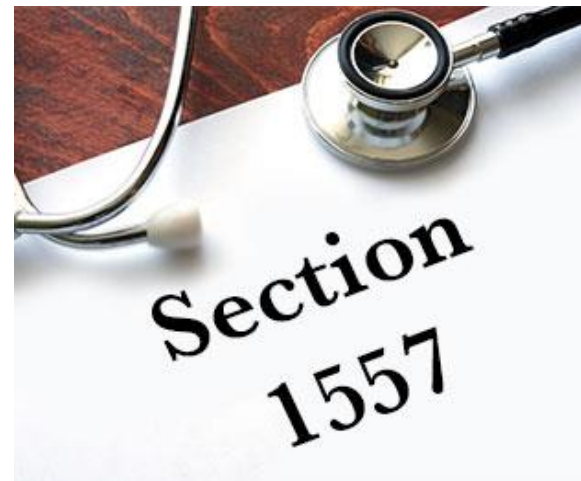




## Chapter 2: Opportunities through Policy



# Civil Rights





# Safety Net Programs



# On the Federal Horizon

- Executive Order 13985
- Medicaid Streamlining

# On the State Horizon

- Duals Demonstration
- Ohio State Plan for Aging

Want to receive Justice in Aging trainings and materials?

***Join Our Network!***

Go to [justiceinaging.org](https://justiceinaging.org) and hit **“Sign up”** or send an email to [info@justiceinaging.org](mailto:info@justiceinaging.org).

# Justice in Aging's Commitment to Advancing Equity

To achieve Justice in Aging, we must:

- [Advance equity](#) for low-income older adults in economic security, health care, housing, and elder justice initiatives.
- Address the enduring harms and inequities caused by systemic racism and other forms of discrimination that uniquely impact low-income older adults in marginalized communities.
- Recruit, support, and retain a diverse staff and board, including race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and presentation, sexual orientation, disability, age, and economic class.





# Questions?

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**50** ADVANCING EQUITY  
BUILDING JUSTICE  
*years*



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