

DECLARING RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

IN CONNECTICUT...

- 21 municipalities have passed resolutions & proclamations declaring racism a public health crisis
- 2 bills are being considered by the CT general assembly: SB.1 & HB.6662

WHAT EXACTLY IS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS?

- The problem must affect large numbers of people.
- It must threaten health over the long-term.
- It must require the adoption of large-scale solutions.

Racism meets all three criteria*

**Criteria defined by the Boston University School of Public Health*

EFFECTIVE DECLARATION IN 3 STEPS:



Declaration

Pass the declaration with intended action & equitably allocated resources



Action

Implement policy and institutional changes that systematically eliminate racism



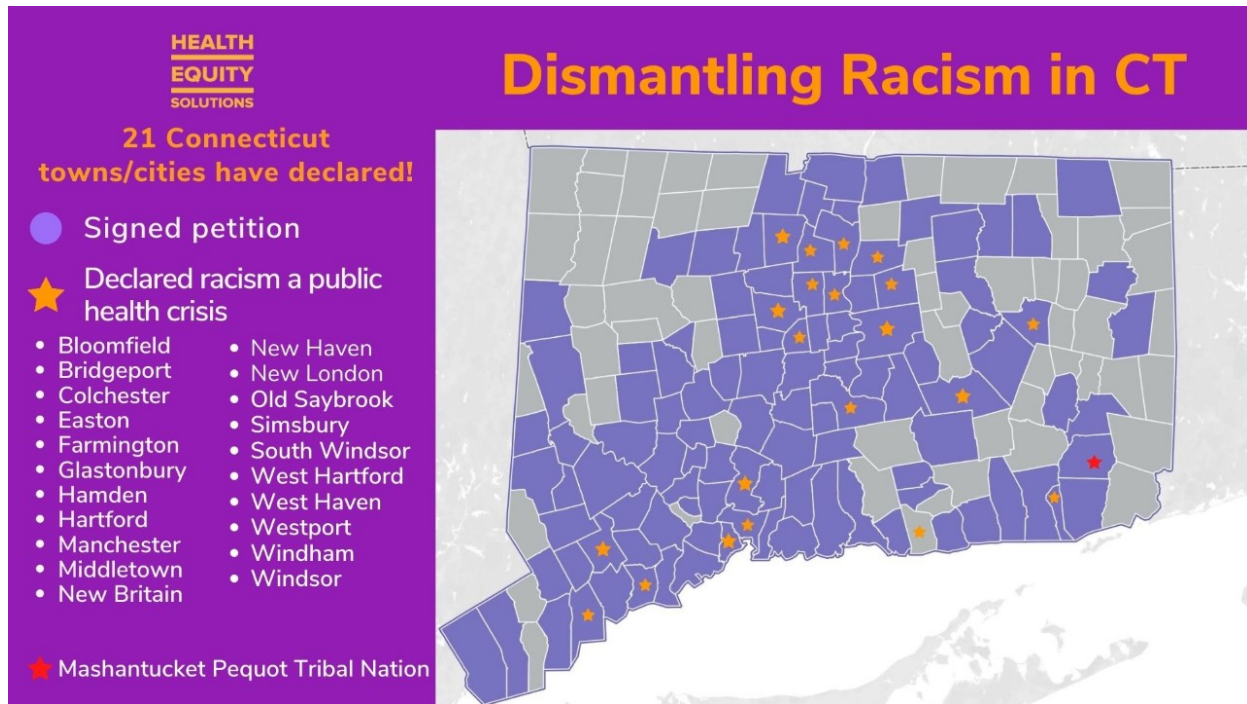
Accountability

Set benchmarks and authority to evaluate progress

**HEALTH
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CONTACT:
Katharine Morris
hesintern@hesct.org

5 REASONS TO MAKE THE DECLARATION



1

The First Step

to solving any problem is to acknowledge it. Systemic racism is a social determinant of health itself, and also produces inequities across all social determinants of health. From disproportionately high Black maternal and infant death rates; inequities in cancer, asthma, heart & lung diseases; and weathering deteriorating mental and physical health; to police brutality; environmental racism; and inequities in COVID-19 infection and death rates, racism is a public health crisis.

2

190 Entities

across the U.S., including town councils, counties, public health institutions, universities, and states (Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nevada, Virginia and DC), **have committed to addressing racism as a public health crisis!**

3

Study

exactly how racism in Connecticut's laws, regulations, and institutions and racial disparities in access to healthy living impact public health to make recommendations.

4

The Opportunity

to improve existing resources like racial and ethnic impact statements; race, ethnicity, and language data collection; and more to advance equity.

5

Change

within our existing policies, legislation, institutions, and practices is not only necessary, but entirely possible! **Change must be intentional and anti-racist.**

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