

David R. Williams

David R. Williams is the Florence and Laura Norman Professor of Public Health at the Harvard School of Public Health and Professor of African and African American Studies and of Sociology at Harvard University. His prior academic appointments were at Yale University and the University of Michigan. He holds an MPH from Loma Linda University and a PhD in Sociology from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Williams is an internationally recognized authority on social influences on health. His research has enhanced our understanding of the complex ways in which socioeconomic status, race, stress, racial discrimination and religious involvement can affect health. He is the author of more than 325 scholarly papers and he has served on the editorial board of 12 scientific journals and as a reviewer for over 60 journals. He was ranked as one of the Top 10 Most Cited Researchers in the Social Sciences in the world during the decade 1995 to 2005 and as the Most Cited Black Scholar in the Social Sciences, worldwide, in 2008.

He has received numerous honors and awards. He is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has also received an inaugural Decade of Behavior Research Award, the Leo G. Reeder Award from the American Sociological Association, and the Stephen Smith Award for Distinguished Contributions in Public Health from the New York Academy of Medicine.

Dr. Williams has been involved in the development of health policy at the national level in the U.S. He has served on the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics and on seven committees for the Institute of Medicine including the Committee that prepared the Unequal Treatment report. Dr Williams has also played a visible, national leadership role in raising awareness levels of the problem of health disparities and identifying interventions to address them. He has also served as the staff director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Commission to Build a Healthier America. This national, independent and nonpartisan health commission focused on identifying evidence-based non-medical strategies that can improve the health of all Americans and reduce racial and socioeconomic gaps in health.

Dr. Williams has appeared on national television, including ABC's Evening News, CNN, PBS, the Katie Couric Show, Al Jazeera, C-SPAN and the Discovery Channel. His research has been featured or he has been quoted in the national print media including the New York Times, Time, Newsweek, the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, Essence, Jet and USA Today. He was also a key scientific advisor to the award-winning PBS film series, *Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?*