

FACT SHEET: Discrimination and Bias

Types of Bias and Discrimination

- **Attitudinal Bias:** Negative attitudes and stereotypes held by health-care providers.
- **Informational Bias:** Lack of knowledge and training among health-care providers about disabilities.
- **Institutional Bias:** Systemic policies and practices that disadvantage marginalized people with disabilities.

Key Findings

1. Pervasive Ableism

- Health-care providers often hold ableist beliefs, impacting the quality of care.
- Bias can lead to inadequate diagnosis, delayed treatment, and inappropriate care recommendations.

What is Ableism?

Ableism is discrimination against people with disabilities. It happens when people think those with disabilities are less valuable or a burden. Ableism results in the devaluation of individuals with disabilities, treating them as less capable and less deserving of resources and care.

History of Ableism in Health Care

The U.S. health-care system has a long history of treating people with disabilities unfairly. In the past, this included forced treatments and not allowing people with disabilities to have children.

2. Routine Violations of Civil Rights

- Many health-care facilities fail to comply with legal requirements for accessibility.
- Discrimination manifests in both subtle and overt ways, contributing to a hostile health-care environment for people with disabilities.

3. Impact of Bias and Discrimination

- Physical Health: Poorer health outcomes due to misdiagnosis, lack of preventive care, and inadequate treatment.
- Mental Health: Increased stress, anxiety, and depression due to negative healthcare experiences.
- Economic Stability: Higher health-care costs and loss of employment opportunities due to ongoing health issues.

4. Intersectionality

- People with disabilities who belong to other marginalized groups (e.g., racial minorities, LGBTQ+ individuals) face compounded discrimination.
- Intersectional discrimination exacerbates health disparities and access issues.

Conclusion

Discrimination and bias in health care create significant barriers for people with disabilities, impacting their physical and mental health, economic stability, and overall well being. Addressing these issues requires concerted efforts from health-care providers, policymakers, and the community to create an inclusive and equitable health-care system.

For more information about access to health care for people with disabilities, visit:

[FISAFoundation.org](https://www.FISAFoundation.org)

#Access2HealthCareSWPA