



## **VULNERABILITIES AND PUBLIC HEALTH: THE IMPACT OF ETHNIC AND RACIAL INEQUALITIES ON HEALTH**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The notion of vulnerability has been used in the field of public health in relation to social, cultural, political and economic aspects of inequalities, which can manifest itself individually or collectively, among different groups, cultures or ethnicities. In the Unified Health System, it is used nationwide from the National Health Promotion Policy, impacting the entire health care network. This study derives from one of the chapters of a doctoral thesis whose objective is to analyze the way in which the notion of vulnerability has become the object of intervention in public health policies in Brazil, and the ways in which it has been used by Primary Health Care professionals in the city of São Paulo - SP. The methodology was qualitative of ethnographic character, with documentary and empirical sources, through which participant observations, interviews and documentary analysis were carried out. These were interviews with managers of the Primary Care Coordination of São Paulo, capital, about the impact of ethnic and racial inequalities on the health of the black population. The interviewees highlighted the importance of removing black people from a situation of vulnerability so that they can enjoy their rights and quality of life. It is necessary, according to them, that policies serve the black person seeking to combat the social inequities that are often reproduced. To this end, considering race/color in the care provided by health services and teams is mandatory, according to them, even though it is a challenge for many primary health care workers. According to Barros et al (2017), we conclude that disregarding the race/color issue in health care services, analyses, and strategies can assert situations of racism and intensify inequities related to ethnic and racial inequalities in health, such as situations of violence, discrimination, lack of access to services and health care for the black population.

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