

SUNSHINE HEALTH FOUNDATION
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July 31, 2020

Office of Science Quality
Center for Disease Control and Prevention
InfoQuality@cdc.gov

INFORMATION QUALITY APPEAL

We received your letter dated July 2, 2020, in which you state as follows:

“Your letter references the Beyond the Data – Prevention and Control of Skin Cancer video from the 2015 CDC Public Health Grand Rounds and the information presented that African-Americans could “get less sun exposure by wearing a hat and sunglasses, applying sunscreen, and covering themselves up with protective clothing whenever they are out in the sun.” You state that this information is not in compliance with OMB, HHS, and CDC guidelines.”

We did not state that the “information presented that African-Americans could get less sun exposure by wearing a hat and sunglasses, applying sunscreen, and covering themselves up with protective clothing whenever they are out in the sun” is not in compliance with OMB, HHS, and CDC guidelines. We stated that the information presented that African-Americans should get less sun exposure by wearing a hat and sunglasses, applying sunscreen, and covering themselves up with protective clothing whenever they are out in the sun is not in compliance with OMB, HHS, and CDC guidelines. We agree that African-Americans and everybody else could get less sun exposure by wearing a hat and sunglasses, applying sunscreen, and covering themselves up with protective clothing whenever they are out in the sun. Dr. Richardson’s statement that African-Americans should get less sun exposure by wearing a hat and sunglasses, applying sunscreen, and covering themselves up with protective clothing whenever they are out in the sun is harmful to the health of African-Americans and thus is not in compliance with OMB, HHS, and CDC guidelines. African-Americans need more sun exposure, not less.

African-Americans suffer from worse health than whites, a fact pointed out more than a hundred years ago by W.E.B. Du Bois as one of the factors holding back African-Americans from economic advancement. Little was done in the following 100 years to address this problem. However, in the 20 years since the beginning of the 21st century, a large body of science on sun exposure and human health has been developed that reveals the answer. The worse health suffered by African-Americans is caused primarily by the greater amount of melanin in their skins that blocks a greater amount of the sun’s rays. This was not a problem for African-Americans’ ancestors who evolved under the tropical sun. But when African-Americans were forcibly moved to the latitudes of the U.S. with its weaker sunlight, they ceased to obtain from their exposure to the sun a sufficient amount of the biochemicals necessary for the proper functioning of the their bodies.

The body of science on sun exposure and human health is set forth in the attached papers. *Hoel et al. 2016* summarizes the state of the science as it existed in 2016. *Alfredsson et al. 2020* is the work of 15

of the world's leading scientists on sun exposure and human health. The disproportionate adverse health effects of insufficient sun exposure on African-Americans are explained in our filing with OSQ on February 1, 2020.

We repeat our recommendation that the entire video should be deleted from the CDC's website.

Respectfully submitted,

Sunshine Health Foundation

By: /s/ Allen P. Miller

Allen P. Miller

President