

Dear INSOPHE Community,

We continue to grieve the unjust killings of George Floyd while in Minneapolis police custody on Monday, May 25th and Breonna Taylor while she slept in her home on March 13th in Louisville. While Ms. Taylor and Mr. Floyd's death is at the forefront of our minds, they are far from the first: "[Since Jan. 1, 2015, 1,252 black people have been shot and killed by police and that does not include those who died in police custody or were killed using other methods](#)" in our country. This problem is not a far-away one as we in Indiana have also seen such tragedies in our own backyard, most recently with the death of Dreasjon 'Sean' Reed on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The systemic racism that led to the deaths of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and Dreasjon Reed is not an easy thing to solve and dismantling this system of oppression requires the collective efforts of everyone in our society.

We as public health educators are trained to work alongside our communities to tackle complex problems. Across the many fields that we represent, we are able to address the health disparities disproportionately and unjustly affecting our community members who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color (BIPOC). From [food security](#), to [opioid addiction recovery](#), to [tobacco](#), to [mental health](#), to [health care](#), to [housing](#), and [the environment](#), we have a responsibility to equitably advocate, educate and promote health.

Systemic racism is not a new public health crisis and public health educators have been working for decades to address its root causes and symptoms in our communities, but still it persists. Now more than ever, we need to listen, support, and stand alongside our BIPOC colleagues and community members to take action to create a more just and equitable society for our current and future generations.

Sincerely,  
INSOPHE Board of Directors

### **Additional Resources**

1. Support the Indianapolis protests: [Clean up events](#), [legal assistance](#), [bail funds](#)
2. [Take action for Black lives across the nation](#), including Tony McDade, Ahmad Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd.
3. [Contact Minneapolis officials and keep them accountable](#). Contact information and scripts starting on page 6.
4. [Contact Federal officials to investigate](#) civil rights violations and patterns within IMPD and reconsider approaches to addressing systematic police misconduct.
5. Promote and utilize the [Indiana Civil Rights Commission](#).
6. [Contribute to bail funds/legal help](#) across the country.
7. Last, but certainly not least, [check your implicit biases](#) and learn what steps you can take to address them.