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“What Does Covid-19 Mean for Black Americans?”

Let us consider selected obvious and not so obvious outcomes from the Covid-19 pandemic from a Black economic perspective:

- Black labor that heroically kept the system alive during the lockdown could motivate the nation to adopt a slightly improved view of Black Americans—but maybe not.
- Because employers now know that work can be performed remotely or in an automated fashion, why should they bring employees back to the office? For those employees who are accepted back into the office, relative wages are likely to take a hit going forward.
- Black unemployment is guaranteed to remain at elevated levels until new jobs form under the new world order and Blacks qualify for them.
- Also, there may be further elevation of the so called “Misery Index,” if the smooth functioning of supply chains for crucial consumer products is disrupted for an extended period.
- Because most Black businesses are small with very limited resources, many will close permanently (including some Black churches).
- Covid-19 is increasing industries’ concentrations, and remaining industry players will act to prevent entry—including potential Black entrants. While this may produce a limited impact on product prices, there are likely to be important impacts on product choices.
- There will be greater Black versus non-Black income and wealth inequality. Also, there will be greater intra-Black inequality.
- As a result of Covid-19, Black Americans will become more reliant on government support.
- The female-to-male ratio in Black areas of influence will be more unfavorable for females following Covid-19.
- The educational performance (read high-stakes tests) of Black youth who experienced elementary and secondary school shutdowns without ready access to online educational technology will reinforce the notion that many Black youth are slow learners and cannot keep up. That is, when schools reopen, more Black youth will be relegated to a “special education” curriculum.
- The economically insecure lives of Black sports figures will be revealed, which may motivate Black youth to aspire to careers in more economically secure fields.

- The economic ravages of Covid-19, which caused Black Americans proportionately more than non-Black Americans to be unable to meet their financial obligations, will signal to financial institutions to continue assigning a higher risk premium when approving loans for Black Americans versus Whites—to the extent that Black Americans are extended loans at all.
- Covid-19’s impact on those with certain pre-existing health conditions, especially Black Americans, will serve as a refined counter signal against “asymmetric information” and cause health insurance companies to impose even higher premiums on Black Americans.
- The trillions spent on economic stimulus (and the related borrowing) means that \$12 million will not be available for HR 40 and SB 1038—to study reparations. In addition, there will be fewer Federal, state, and local funds available for improving conditions in Black areas of influence generally.
- After reaching Phase 3, Black Americans are likely to increase their savings substantially for rainy days.
- All of the foregoing will cause Black Americans to become more economically, politically, and intellectually astute.
- The “make it up as you go along” nature of the governmental response to Covid-19 should convince Black Americans that we can do as well or better at managing crises in our own new nation. This should motivate us to seek the establishment of Shabazzland.

Can you identify additional and important outcomes from Covid-19?

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