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SCPH Media Contact Phone Number: (330) 812-3700

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**A Follow Up on A Preliminary Look at Covid-19 and Race in Summit County**

[Akron, OH] – Summit County Public Health sent a release earlier today titled “A Preliminary Look at Covid-19 and Race in Summit County.” There was a sentence that requires further clarification. SCPH does not intend to state that race is a primary cause in Covid-19 disease. SCPH was demonstrating that when controlling for socioeconomic status, racial disparities often still exist across many health outcomes.

The causes of racial disparities are hard to define precisely, but there is a strong body of research showing that racial health disparities are strongly influenced by social, cultural, economic and environmental factors and have little to do with biology or individual behaviors.

Furthermore, there is some research showing that larger cultural conditions, such as institutionalized racism, are major factors in creating these disparities. We can assume all of these factors are affecting the disparities we are seeing with COVID-19.

The following are some informative resources on the issue of racial disparities in health outcomes:

[CDC Health Disparities & Inequalities Report](#)  
[Healthy People 2020 – Health Disparities](#)  
[HealthAffairs.org – Social Sources of Racial Disparities in Health](#)

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