



# Examples of Stereotype Key

## Lacking education about their health



Winnie: One time, I was driving in Missouri and I had a car accident... **I had been slammed against the car door, but they kept telling me that I was having a heart attack. I kept trying to tell them, "no I'm not," but they kept insisting that I was. I was working as a nurse back then and the doctor that I was working for at the time even called them and told 'em (in frustration), "she's not having a heart attack, she's just had a wreck, and she hit her arm." But they wouldn't listen. They gave me some medicine for a heart attack and my blood pressure went way down, and I was gone- I passed out. If the nurse hadn't come in to check on me, I would've literally died.**

When they got me back up, I called my daughter and told her to come get me because they were trying to kill me!

## Socioeconomic status



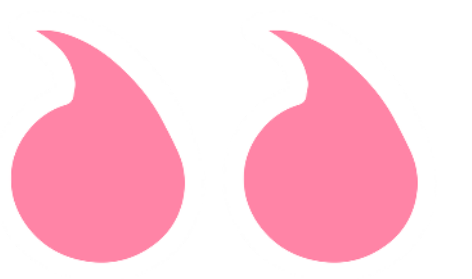
Reshida: I was in the hospital in the cardiac unit...and I had probably been there about five days... But the whole time I was there, there was only one nurse who provided decent care, and checked on me regularly... [B]ecause I was Black,... I feel like I did not receive the care because of the staff. They do not deal a lot with African American people. And their whole attitude was like (disdainfully) "I should not be taking care of you. I should not be cleaning you." You know, like they were upper-class stooping to a lower level. (Indignantly pats her chest) **I have insurance just like everybody else! I have the funds to take care of everything, but I just felt like because of my color, I did not get the same treatment nor the same respect. Everything came with an attitude...** They never bothered to even come into the room.

## Fatphobia



Kim: I'm a uterine cancer survivor one year this year. **Before I was diagnosed, I had been talking to my doctor about my symptoms. I had problems with my period for years. I tried talking to my doctor and he was like, "you just need to lose weight, You're fat."** ...[M]y symptoms did not feel like they were related to my weight. After a couple of months, I ended up going to another doctor for a second opinion and she was like, "no, you're not fat. Well, you are fat, but that's not what I think the issue is..." **And it turns out that I had endometrial cancer, but I can't help but think about that doctor who said, "you're just fat. That's what's going on with you. You just need to lose weight." What scares me is that one of the symptoms of my cancer is that you suddenly lose weight. So if I had I lost weight all of a sudden, I would have been on my death's journey, and he would have come back and said, "oh see we're doing the right thing." It would have probably metastasized to other organs once they found it, and I would have died.**

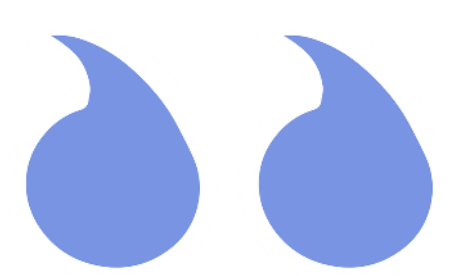
## Drug addiction



Tomika: I had surgery and...and I had to stay overnight. **And I was asking for pain medication and the nurse kept saying that she was giving me the medication, but I was still in pain. And so she didn't believe that I was in pain. And then she went to get other nurses, and they kept coming in and out, in and out. They're all coming in and out of the room asking, "how are you still in pain when you just got this medicine?"**

I'm like (frustratedly and in anger), **"I don't know what she gave me, but it's not working." They didn't believe that I was in pain. I'm not a pill popper, you know, or a medication seeker or anything like that. (emphatically) I know when I'm in pain.** And so, being that I'm a nurse myself, I honestly think that the nurse was diverting my medication...**[S]he's telling her coworkers (conspiratorially), "she's lying. She's not in pain. I just gave her medication."**

## Higher pain tolerance



Chandra: When I had my baby, I requested an epidural and it never came...**So I gave birth without an epidural. They didn't give me gas, didn't give me anything. I was just [motions with her hands] holding on to the side of the bed for dear life [group laughter], holding on to the side of the bed is how he came. And the nurse was just like, "you're strong – you can handle it."**

Nearly 1 in 3 Black adults report discriminatory treatment in healthcare settings.<sup>(1)</sup>



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