

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910819110203321
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Titolo	Uncertain suffering : racial health care disparities and sickle cell disease // Carolyn Moxley Rouse
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, c2009
ISBN	0-520-94504-2
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource
Disciplina	362.196/15270089
Soggetti	Sickle cell anemia - Patients - United States Discrimination in medical care - United States Health services accessibility - United States Minorities - Medical care - United States Race discrimination - United States Social medicine - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	"The George Gund Foundation imprint in African American studies"--P. facing t.p.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- Part 1. The Questions -- Part 2. Reforming the System -- Notes -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	On average, black Americans are sicker and die earlier than white Americans. Uncertain Suffering provides a richly nuanced examination of what this fact means for health care in the United States through the lens of sickle cell anemia, a disease that primarily affects blacks. In a wide ranging analysis that moves from individual patient cases to the compassionate yet distanced professionalism of health care specialists to the level of national policy, Carolyn Moxley Rouse uncovers the cultural assumptions that shape the quality and delivery of care for sickle cell patients. She reveals a clinical world fraught with uncertainties over how to treat black patients given resource limitations and ambivalence. Her book is a compelling look at the ways in which the politics of racism, attitudes toward pain and suffering, and the reliance on charity for healthcare services for the underclass can create disparities in the U.S. Instead of burdening hospitals and clinics with

the task of ameliorating these disparities, Rouse argues that resources should be redirected to community-based health programs that reduce daily forms of physical and mental suffering.

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