In this article, Holmes *et al.* reviews the social and health inequalities that influence the adverse morbidity and mortality outcomes of COVID-19 pandemics in USA populations. Here they also discuss how the racial and ethnic disparities in deaths associated with pandemic COVID-19 infections in the USA, focusing on disproportionate burden and increased risk of COVID-19 mortality among African Americans [Black/African Americans (AA)] compared to White Americans. The observed racial disparities is explained by social determinants of health, whereby Black are more likely to be exposed to environmental pollutants, social inequity, structural racism, food insecurity, poor housing and living conditions, illiteracy, low SES, and lack of healthcare resources.

The article is well written and the references are cited properly. However, there are some concerns that need to be addressed.

Comments:

1. Did the authors observe any sex differences between the Black /AA and their White counterparts in their susceptibility to COVID-19 infections/complications?

2. Authors should explain the reasons for choosing the states in this study.

3. Authors should provide the percentage of populations for Black /AA and their White counterparts in the states they have studied for the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Authors could simplify figure 1, then it will be easier to understand the COVID-19 mortality graphs.

5. In table 2, the authors should consider changing the order of Black /AA and White for all the states; the order should be presented uniformly.