Speaker 1:

The disability and philanthropy forum presents Valerie Novack, disability policy researcher.

Speaker 2:

We know that environmental racism creates disability. So not only have we segregated whole groups of people and put them in dangerous and unsafe environments, but then those environments then make them sick or make them more vulnerable to climate change. A couple examples we have of this in the US are air quality and asthma in African American communities. Another example that is maybe less direct, but that we talk about sometimes, is something like city beautification.

Speaker 2:

A lot of times, wealthier neighborhoods have more trees, they have more parks, they have more pervious surfaces that rainwater can soak into than poorer neighborhoods and neighborhoods of color do. And so you have realities where it is, quite literally, hotter in poorer neighborhoods than it is in better-funded neighborhoods, which causes problems with things like heatstroke, heart problems. And so there's a very, very real connection between the disability outcomes of environmental racism that create additional disability, but also that a lot of the mechanisms that allow us to make political choices that create places of environmental racism often come from the same kinds of workings that allow us to do the same thing to disable people regardless of their race.

Speaker 1:

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