

How Black Radio is using its Voice to Educate the Black Community about the Attack on its Health and Black Doctor's Civil Rights

African American Civil Rights Caucus for the Radio Preservation Society by **Angela Greene**



What is Black radio's responsibility to Black doctor's and the Black community?



Jesse Blayton's WERD-AM

- The programming focused on the African American audience, which he called “Negro Appeal” music, which was original R&B music that was not being featured on other radio stations.

- In 1949 WERD was the only black-owned radio station. Blayton later hired 4 Black male announcers including Jack Gibson, The Godfather of Black radio who frequently highlighted news for and about the Black community including the civil rights movement.

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Atlanta's,
Voice of the
Community

1380 **News & Talk**
WAOK
The Voice of the Community



How does the attack on Black doctors affect the health of the Black community?

Experts Warn of Public Health Crisis



- The sparse number of Black doctors, only 5.7% combined with high number of Black and Brown doctors who are being imprisoned is creating a public health crisis.
- According to the Association of American Medical College, this statistic does not reflect the communities they serve.
- An estimated 12% of the U.S. population is Black or African American.





Tuskegee Experiment

- Events such as the Tuskegee Experiment, in which white doctors with the U.S. Public Health Service and Tuskegee Institute let Syphilis grow inside of Black men without treating them. The experiment has caused a permanent mistrust in the Black community.
- This mistrust resurfaced during the pandemic when many Blacks were and some still remain mistrustful of the COVID-19 vaccine. As a result, many lives were lost because many people refused to get vaccinated for a lack of trust in the vaccine's ingredients and possible long-term effects.

•Atlanta's oldest black station, WAOK aired doctor's concerns about their attacks by the U.S. government in two panel discussions. This is the flyer from the first panel discussion.

ON POINT with
JUANDOLYN STOKES
Presents....

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
THE CRIMINALIZATION OF
BLACK & BROWN
DOCTORS

FEATURING

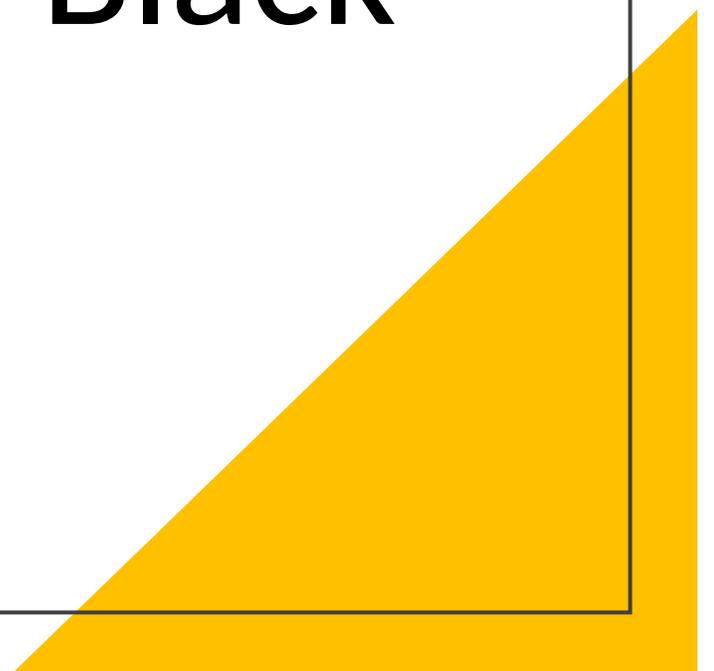
Audacy
Wednesday
February 15th
11am to 1pm

News & Talk
1380 WAOK

Dr. Shiva Akula
Dr. Lesly Pompy
Dr. Norman Clements
Dr. Dralves Edwards
Dr. Felix Brizuela
Dr. Walter Wrenn

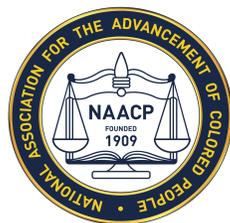
How are Black radio, the Black Community, and Black Doctor's Connected?

This connection lies in the fact in 2023, WAOK Atlanta has been at the forefront of educating the Black community about existence of medical racism.



WAOK Aired the Stories of Black Doctor's

- According to Dr. Norman Clement a dentist and pharmacist, and author and publisher of the blog, Youarewithinthenorms.com was targeted by the government. His action was the catalyst for bringing the doctors stories to our attention, this story about Black doctors was ignored by other media and some civil rights organizations.



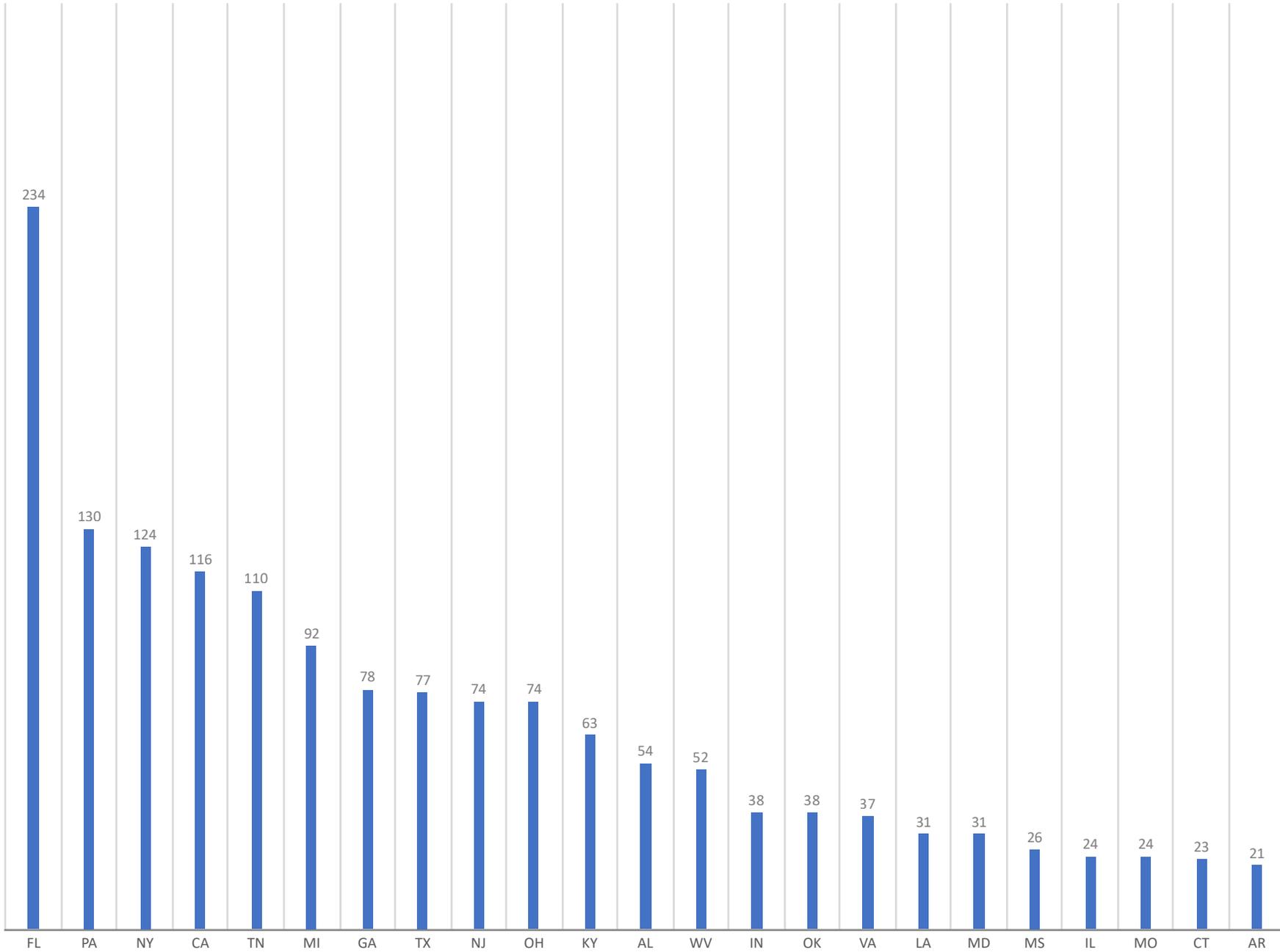


Data numbers

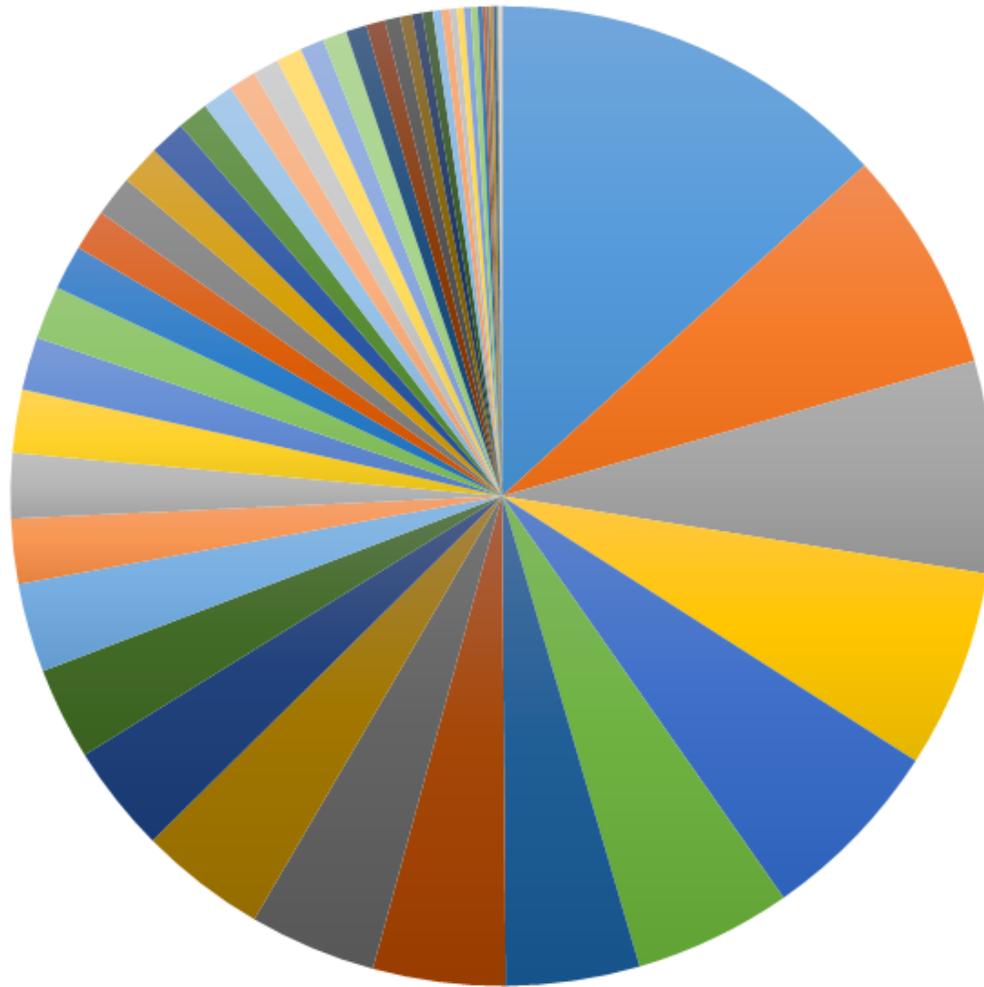
- Here is the breakdown of doctors who are attacked by states.



Top 25 States For Attacked Doctors



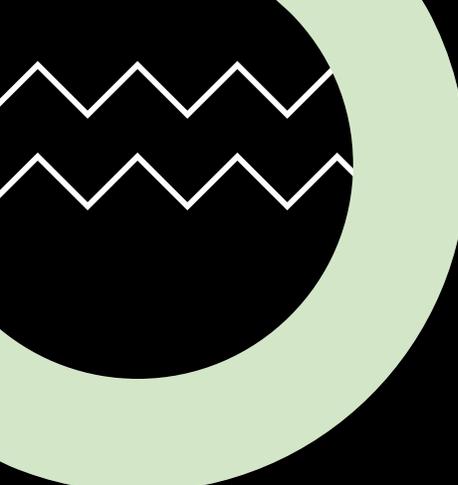
States With 1772 Doctors Arrested



- FL PA NY CA TN MI GA TX NJ OH KY AL WV IN OK VA LA MD MS IL MO CT AR CO SC
NV AZ NC WA WI KS MA IA DE NM WY DC UT HI MN MT PR RI AK ME NH OR ID SD VI



How are
Black doctors
being
attacked?



The Ruan Rule

- The Ruan Rule comes from the case of Dr. Xiulu Ruan in which he was convicted of prescribing opioids in a “pill mill” case without proper justification, which is a violation of federal law although he was a practicing physician at the time.
- The 11th Circuit Court held that once a doctor who is charged with dispensing controlled substances produces evidence that his conduct was “authorized,” the Government must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the doctor knowingly or intentionally acted in an unauthorized manner.
- Several doctors who have been interviewed for this presentation rest their cases on this rule, which should vindicate them, but most cases it does not.



Dr. Walter Wrenn, Internal Medicine and WAOK Panelist

- In Oct. 2021 Dr. Wrenn entered a plea agreement because he believed he had no other choice. He was facing 21 years in jail, a \$45,000 fine, 5-years probation, and an agreement not practice medicine anymore.
- Dr. Wrenn was innocent but was coerced into signing a plea agreement.
- But in a twist of fate, on June 27, 2022 the U.S. Supreme Court said in a 9-0 ruling:
 - “A physician could not be charged with a crime for prescribing a medication they were authorized to prescribe.”

What are Black and Brown Doctors Accused of in most Cases?

- Drug Charges, like those levied against Dr. Ruan are common for doctors who treat extreme pain and their patients are called “drug-seeking.”
- These doctors have been erroneously linked to the opioid crisis.
- The result is bureaucrats determining how and what to treat for pain.
- Medicare Fraud is what many other doctors are criminally charged with for billing code errors.
- Doctors accused of Medicare Fraud are accused of stealing of millions of dollars from the government without proof or evidence.



The government's conviction rate is almost 100% because most doctors are forced to take a plea.

“If the forensic scientist that is working for the DEA claims that 99% of opioid poisoning/OD are from illegal substances, why is the DEA still raiding and prosecuting prescribers?”

“The problem isn’t with pills prescribed by your doctor and dispensed by a pharmacy-its on the illicit market.”

Steve Oulton



FDA has approved first over-the-counter opioid overdose antidote Narcan

- Because of the record number of drug overdose deaths, the FDA has approved the first ever naloxone nasal spray and its availability, which is a priority.

- “Opioid deaths are the leading cause of accidental death in the US. Most are among adults, but children are also dying largely after ingesting synthetic opioids such as fentanyl.” CNN



Primary Targets

Algorithm's are used to
target black and brown
doctors who are financially
fit.





Dr. David Lewis, anesthesiologist and interventional pain specialist and WAOK panelist

In Dec. 2018, Dr. Lewis along with 5 other physicians were wrongfully indicted for conspiracy to commit health care fraud, and the illegal distribution of controlled substances. In June 2022, they were found Not Guilty on 56 counts.

Dr. Lewis said the key for overcoming charges from the government is having an attorney that specifically practices in this area, not just criminal defense.



Dr. Michael Jones, Cardiologist

- Dr. Jones served 16 months in federal prison for Medicaid Fraud. He was denied reinstatement twice by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners without explanation.



Black and Brown Doctors Civil Rights are Violated When:

- - *They are indicted without conviction
 - *When the government manipulates statutes and codes that do not apply and without sufficient evidence
 - *Attorney's work in tandem with the government, extorting attorney fee's without fully representing them or representing them and prosecuting them simultaneously without their knowledge.



Dr. Shiva Akula, Infectious Disease

- Dr. Akula has been criminally indicted for medical billing fraud, for patients he never saw.
- White doctors at a competing hospital were also charged, but they were charged civilly, allowed to pay a penalty and continue to practice.
- He is being assisted by LUA.



Louisiana United International

- Belinda Parker-Brown, CEO of LUI in conjunction with America United International has opposed the criminalization of medicine by the U.S. government by reporting legal abuses to the United Nations Human Rights Council.



Brown



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***Special thank you to: Dr. Neil Anand**