

RESEARCH FORUM SERIES

Core Curriculum Module F

Race and Ethnicity in Research

Part 1: Studying Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care

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Parts 2 and 3: Experiences of Using Administrative Data to Study Race/Ethnicity and Health Insurance-Related Differences in Adverse Outcomes for Pediatric Patients

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I. Background

A growing body of published literature is documenting troubling racial and ethnic disparities in access to care, service utilization, quality, and outcomes. Excess mortality and morbidity exists for a variety of health and illness conditions in the African American, Asian/Pacific Islander American, Hispanic American, and Native American populations. While factors such as poverty and socioeconomic status, lack of health insurance, geography, lack of transportation, language barriers, and other environmental factors account in part for these variations, researchers are also beginning to look at the potential impact of prejudice, discrimination, racism, and other "isms" (e.g., ageism, sexism, homophobia, ableism).

Major federal initiatives such as Healthy People 2010, the Race and Health Initiative, and the CDC REACH Program, and state initiatives such as Healthy New Jersey 2010 are designed to hopefully reduce and eliminate these health disparities. Primary care/health services researchers need to learn more about the methodological and societal complexities of studying race/ethnicity and racism as critical variables in health care.

II. Aim

In this 3-part workshop, Fellows will be introduced to the subject of racial and ethnic health disparities, and will explore methodological challenges in studying race/ethnicity and racism in health care.

III. Learning Objectives

Part 1: Studying Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care

- Discuss selected findings from the literature about existing racial and ethnic disparities in health care access, service utilization, and outcomes
- Discuss some of the racial, ethnic, and sociocultural factors that can influence physician decision-making; and
- Describe the impact and role of the media in reporting (and misreporting) research-related information to the public

Parts 2 and 3: Experiences of Using Administrative Data to Study Race/Ethnicity and Health Insurance-Related Differences in Adverse Outcomes for Pediatric Patients

- Understand the process the presenter went through in conducting the research project from initiation to completion
- Understand the challenges experienced in using administrative data for the study
- Discuss race/ethnicity and insurance-related difference in adverse outcomes for pediatric patients hospitalized for asthma
- Discuss race/ethnicity and insurance-related differences in the provision of intensive care services for pediatric patients hospitalized for asthma

IV. Teaching Method(s)

Three 1.5 hour seminars will be presented. Directed readings, a video/journal club, didactic lectures, and small group discussions will be employed.

V. Content Outline

Part 1: Studying Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care

Fellows will review and critique the Schulman et al. New England Journal of Medicine article*, and subsequent Letters to the Editor** that challenged the interpretation of the results (see below). They will also see the ABC Nightline Video (N990224-01) - "America in Black and White. Health Care, The Great Divide" that appeared following the publication of the article. The role of the print and broadcast media in reporting research results will also be discussed.

Parts 2 and 3: Experiences of Using Administrative Data to Study Race/Ethnicity and Health Insurance-Related Differences in Adverse Outcomes for Pediatric Patients

Fellows will learn about some of the methodological challenges in studying race and ethnicity in health care using large administrative/medical claims databases.

VI. Application to Actual Research Projects by Fellows

Dr. Sajidah Husain, one of the NRSA Fellows, presented findings from her asthma research project (see Parts 2 and 3 above). Fellows will have an opportunity to discuss issues related to the study of race and ethnicity at follow-up Research Forum meetings.

VII. References/Internet Resources

Workshop Readings

*Schulman KA, Berlin JA, Harless W, Kerner JF, Sistrunk S, Gersh BJ, Dube R, Tleghani CK, Burke JE, Williams S, Eisenberg JM, Escarce JJ, Ayers W. "The Effect of Race and Sex on Physicians' Recommendations for Cardiac Catheterization," *New England Journal of Medicine* 1999; 340(8):618-626.

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Additional Readings and Resources

American Anthropological Association. Response to OMB Directive #15: race and ethnic standards for federal statistics and administrative reporting. Available at: <http://www.aaanet.org/gvt/ombdraft.htm>. Accessed June 21, 1999.

Brach C, Fraser I. "Can Cultural Competency Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities? A Review and Conceptual Model," *Medical Care Research and Review* Volume 57, Supplement 1, 2000, pp. 181-217.

Byrd WM, Clayton LA. *An American Health Dilemma: A Medical History of African Americans and the Problem of Race*, New York: Routledge, 2000.

Einbinder LC, Schulman KA. "The Effect of Race on the Referral Process for Invasive Cardiac Procedures," *Medical Care Research and Review* Volume 57, Supplement 1, 2000, pp. 162-180.

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Fullilove MT. "Abandoning 'race' as a variable in public health research -- an idea whose time has come [commentary]. *American Journal of Public Health* 1998; 88: 1297-1298.

Gamble V. "Under the Shadow of Tuskegee: African-Americans and Health Care," *American Journal of Public Health* 1997; 87(11):1773-1778.

Geiger HJ. "Racial stereotyping and medicine: the need for cultural competence," *Canadian Medical Association Journal* 2001; 164(12):1699-700.

Hahn RA, Stroup DF. "Race and ethnicity in public health surveillance: criteria for the scientific use of social categories," *Public Health Reports* 1992; 109: 7-15.

Hoffman C, Lillie-Blanton M, eds. *Racial and Ethnic Inequalities in Access to Medical Care: A Special Supplement of Medical Care Research and Review* Volume 57, Supplement 1, 2000.

Jones CP. "New methods for the comparison of distributions," *American Journal of Epidemiology*, 1994; 139:S31.

Jones CP. "Levels of racism: A theoretic framework and a gardener's tale," *American Journal of Public Health* 2000; 90(8):1212-1215.

Jones CP. "Naming Racism," *Research in Diverse Communities: Towards the Elimination of Disparities (Keynote)*, Monday June 18th, 3:00 p.m. ET, 2001 Summer Public Health Research Videoconference on Minority Health, University of North Carolina <http://www.kff.org>

Jones CP, LaVeist TA, and Lillie-Blanton M. "Race" in the epidemiologic literature: An examination of the *American Journal of Epidemiology*, 1921-1990. *American Journal of Epidemiology*, 1991; 134:1079-1084.

Key Facts. Race, Ethnicity & Medical Care, Commissioned by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Menlo Park, CA, October 1999 (Report # 1523, website: <http://www.kff.org> 1-800-656-4533).

Krieger N. "Embodying Inequality: A Review of Concepts, Measures, and Methods for Studying Health Consequences of Discrimination," *International Journal of Health Services* 1999; 29; 295-352.

Krieger N. "Counting Accountably: Implications of the New Approaches to Classifying Race/Ethnicity in the 2000 Census," *American Journal of Public Health* 2000; 90; 1687-1689.

Krieger N, Williams DR. "Changing to the 2000 Standard Million: Are Declining Racial/Ethnic and Socioeconomic Inequalities in Health Real Progress or Statistical Illusion?" *American Journal of Public Health* 2001; 91:1209-1213.

LaVeist TA, Nickerson K, Bowie JV. "Attitudes about Racism, Medical Mistrust, and Satisfaction with Care among African American and White Cardiac Patients," *Medical Care Research and Review* Volume 57, Supplement 1, 2000, pp. 146-161.

Mayberry RM et al. Racial and Ethnic Differences in Access to Medical Care: A Synthesis of the Literature. Prepared by the Morehouse Medical Treatment Effectiveness Center (MMEDTEC) for the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Menlo Park, CA, October 1999 (Report # 1526, website: <http://www.kff.org> 1-800-656-4533).

Mayberry RM, Mili F, Ofili E. "Racial and Ethnic Differences in Access to Medical Care," *Medical Care Research and Review* Volume 57, Supplement 1, 2000, pp. 108-145.

Oppenheimer GM. Paradigm Lost: "Race, Ethnicity, and the Search for a New Population Taxonomy," *American Journal of Public Health* 2000; 91:1049-1055.

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Thomas SB. The Color Line: Race Matters in the Elimination of Health Disparities, American Journal of Public Health 2001; 91:1046-1048.

United States Commission on Civil Rights. The Health Care Challenge: Acknowledging Disparity, Confronting Discrimination, and Ensuring Equality. Volume 1 - The Role of Governmental and Private Health Care Programs and Initiatives; Volume 2 - The Role of Civil Rights Enforcement Efforts, Washington, DC, September 1999.

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