

## Research Statement

As someone who is interested in working in the medical field, I would expect that everyone would receive the same treatment no matter what. However, for a long time, people of color have been denied access to adequate care. During the summer I wanted to figure out how a patient's ethnicity and race could affect the type of treatment that they receive in a medical setting. I also wanted to figure out why they were being treated this way. People are unable to receive the care that they need due to their ethnicity, and lack of resources. This results in the patient's continuous return to receive treatment for something that could be easily treated.

There have been a majority of situations that would show you that disparities in a medical setting would exist. The US Institute of Medicine released its seminal report "Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care" which showed that black patients were 6.0% less likely than white patients to receive opioids for abdominal pain. They were 7.1% less likely than white patients to receive opioids for back pain. Hispanic patients were 6.3% less likely than white patients to receive opioids for abdominal pain and 14.8% less likely than white patients to receive opioids for the back. Hispanic patients were more likely than white patients to receive non-opioids instead of opioids for both abdominal pain and back pain. People believe that people of color and Hispanics can handle more pain than someone who is white. This causes these individuals to endure so much more pain although it could be easily handled by administering opioids. However, it may be because the doctor is so quick to judge the patient, which results in mistrust.

It is shown that racial/ethnic minorities have experienced disparities in multiple levels of care. However, these things can happen due to the lack of access to certain resources. In medicare part D programs there have been some disparities as well. It is shown that Hispanics, Blacks, and API beneficiaries reported greater difficulties obtaining information regarding coverage and obtaining needed prescription drugs (PDs) by their Medicare Part D coverage than white beneficiaries with the greatest disparities observed for API beneficiaries and Spanish-preferring Hispanic beneficiaries. Disparities are much larger for Spanish-preferring than English-preferring Hispanic beneficiaries on getting needed drugs. Disparities for getting needed drugs are 1.3 (Black) and 2.7 (API) contract-level SDs are 3.6 and 1.4 contract-level SDs for Spanish-preferring and English-preferring Hispanic beneficiaries, respectively. Minorities are usually unable to receive any needed medication due to the lack of resources. They sometimes receive little to no help to acquire these medications which can result in serious medical issues.

There have been many health care settings where racial disparities have been reported. However, these things have been seen in a pediatric setting. It was discovered that black children were less likely to receive an antibiotic prescription. When an antibiotic was prescribed, black children were less likely to receive broad-spectrum antibiotics at any visit. It has been shown that when treated by the same clinician, black children received fewer antibiotic prescriptions, fewer acute respiratory tract infection diagnoses, and a lower proportion of broad-spectrum antibiotic prescriptions than nonblack children. Everyone should be able to receive equal care no matter what, especially a child. Even young children are being denied the efficient care that they need in life due to the color of their skin.

For further research, I would like to find out what is being done for the individuals who are not that fortunate to receive the proper care that they need. Although some people are aware of this issue and I would like to know how they go about spreading the message. I would also like to understand why some physicians are unaware of the disparities that patients are facing in these medical settings.