

Disparities in wait times and doctor visits in Black and White patients

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BACKGROUND: Disparities in health between Black people and White people are signs of a systematic and serious public health crisis that needs extensive attention to understand the causes and find solutions. Understanding the overall experience of Black patients when seeking medical treatment is a necessary part of this research, because it has been shown that poor treatment by doctors leads people to avoid the healthcare system entirely, leading to worse health outcomes.

METHODS

1. Black (n=125) and White (n =103) participants were surveyed on Prolific.
2. Participants answered questions about their most recent interaction with a healthcare provider for their own health.
3. Results were computed and analyzed using SPSS Statistics software

RESULTS

✓ **Hypothesis 1:** Black patients wait longer to see their doctors than White patients. Supported.

✗ **Hypothesis 2:** Doctors spend less time with Black patients than White patients. Not supported.

✗ **Hypothesis 3:** Black patients will find their doctor less warm, comforting, and caring than White patients. Not supported.

CONCLUSIONS

Fewer disparities in treatment and experiences were found than expected. This may be due to:

27% of the Black patients saw a Black doctor; much higher than the national average (6%)

54% of Black participants had seen their provider before, suggesting they liked the provider's care at least somewhat

Black patients wait longer to see their doctors than their White counterparts, but doctors spent more time with Black patients than White patients. Few other expected disparities were found.



The proportion of patients who were treated by a doctor of matching ethnicity:

Racial/Ethnic Group	Matched Ethnic Group	Not Matched Ethnic Group
Black Patients (n=125)	27.2%	72.8%
White Patients (n=103)	79.8%	20.2%

The degree of familiarity between healthcare providers and patients:

How familiar with the healthcare provider were you?	Black Patients (n=125)	White Patients (n=103)
I have never seen this provider before	45.6%	57.3%
I have seen this provider once before	24.8%	9.7%
I have seen this provider twice but I do not think of them as my primary care provider	9.6%	11.7%
I think of this provider as my primary care provider	20.0%	21.4%



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