Joseph Fracek

Dr. Lamphere

Research Methods

6 July 2022

1. The video starts with Hermon Shaw and Charles Pollard as they are special guests at a play about the Tuskegee syphilis experiment. In the early1930s, doctors were sent to Tuskegee and other black counties to study syphilis, but they told the citizens that they were treating syphilis and never mentioned a study. By 1931, there was not enough money to continue the experiment and many infected people did not receive the full course of treatment. Washington wanted to continue the experiment, so they picked Macon County as a site to study syphilis. The government tried to make it look like they were treating patients, but they were given placebos, and were not being treated for the disease. In 1938, the government pushed for national treatment programs, but men in Tuskegee were excluded and not allowed to be treated. Even as men were tested and treated before joining the war, Tuskegee men were not treated. Penicillin was a proven effective treatment in all stages of syphilis, but it was not given to Tuskegee patients. The study was finally stopped in 1972 after there were news reports of it happening and the government launched an investigation. Subjects were given a settlement, but it was a fraction of what they were seeking.
2. Potential Harm: Personal safety is a right for every research participant. Potential harm applies to the Tuskegee syphilis experiment in many instances. When penicillin was proven to treat the disease, men of Tuskegee were purposely excluded from treatment, even when risk of death was higher when not treated with penicillin.

Deception: This is when a researcher is intentionally misleading or misinforming participants in a study. The people of Tuskegee were told they were being treated for syphilis, but they were being studied. The government used its authority to trick them into accepting ‘treatment’ because it was normal to trust doctors, and anything they said. Also, placebos were given to patients to mislead them into thinking they were being treated.

Informed Consent: The freedom of choice, participants must be able to make a rational decision on whether they want to participate, and it must be voluntary. Poor black counties were purposely picked for this experiment because they would not be well educated enough to know what choices they are making, and they were told they would be receiving free health care, making the deal look too good to pass up.

1. The key points of President Clinton’s apology include that the people who were lied to and used during the experiment will not be forgotten, and neither will their families. People that work in the medical profession are supposed to help people, and what the government did was shameful. Not only is the president sorry, but the American people are sorry as well. The country can make sure that this, or anything even close to it, happens again. My opinion on this apology is that it was overdue, the apology happened almost 30 years since the experiment officially ended. The people of Tuskegee and African Americans all over the country deserved an apology sooner than it occurred. With that said, I like that the apology ensures this will never happen in America again and includes some men of Tuskegee as well.