

Structural Racism and its Impact on the Maternal Mortality Rates of Black Women

in the USA

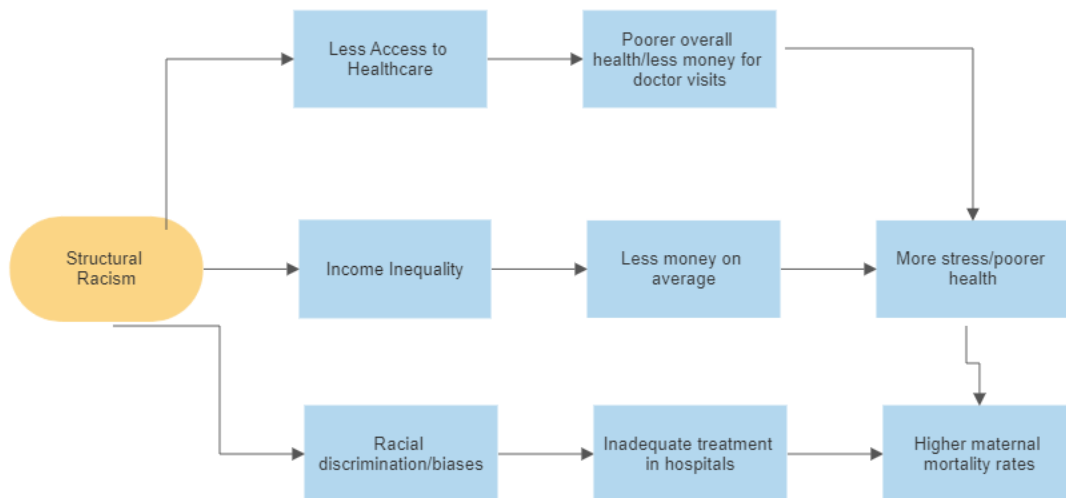
Maternal mortality disproportionately affects Black women in the United States. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the relationship between the many facets of structural racism and maternal mortality in Black women.

Theory

Structural racism is the system of racial inequalities that is deeply embedded in US society through historical and current policies. Structural racism including disparities in access to healthcare, income inequality, and discrimination negatively impact Black women's maternal mortality rate through its affect on their overall health and treatment in medical facilities.

Variables

The dependent variable of this study is Black women's maternal mortality rate, with the independent variables being socioeconomic factors, healthcare access and stress levels. The unit of analysis would be mothers and women in general. The following flow graph illustrates how structural racism has an effect on the maternal mortality rates of Black women.



Data Collection

Some of the data necessary already exists including information on maternal mortality rates by race, and income data. Some data that could be collected would be a large national survey to poll women of all races to compare their responses on subjects such as their experiences with discrimination in healthcare, stress levels, # of doctor visits, and their income and where they are from. With unlimited funding this could be done on a large scale like the census to have as complete data as possible. Joining these datasets together can connect the already existing facts of maternal mortality rates and census data to the individual experiences of the women related to structural racism allowing for better analysis.

Conclusion

The main hypothesis of the study is that Black women are more affected by structural racism through the means of less access to healthcare, discrimination, income inequality and increased stress levels which is the main factor in higher maternal mortality. With unlimited funding the data collected would be able to be very detailed and complete allowing for a more in depth analysis. Additionally, the data collected will provide a clear relationship to structural racism and its effect on maternal mortality. The insights gained can then be used for related issues regarding structural racism and policy changes can be made based on the clear evidence from the study to make a lasting impact.

Bibliography

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