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Homework 7  
Intro to Econometrics and Statistics  
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#### Article 1: Health Disparities: Gaps in Access, Quality, and Affordability of Medical Care

Wayne J. Riley, MD, MPH, MBA, MACP

link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3540621/>

Health inequalities is a problem that is prevalent in the medical industry as there is an inadequate and inaccessibility for proper medical care, medications, and treatments depending on the individual's racial and ethnic identity. Racial and ethnic disparities is a problem in the US healthcare system as not all patients receive equal amounts of medical treatments. The question being answered within this research paper is how does race and socioeconomic status affect the quality of care being received by patients. A method used to analyze data is to use the Heckler-Malone Report and the Institute of Medicine report on "Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare". Based on the findings in these research papers an IOM analysis was conducted to review 600 articles published in the medical literature over a period of three decades that focused on racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare. Therefore, they focused on 100 studies that covered a variety of diseases such as cancer, cerebrovascular disease, HIV/AIDS, asthma, diabetes, and cardiovascular care. This demonstrated the differences among populations' health with having equal access to healthcare. The results gathered from these studies determined that infant mortality for black babies is 2.5 times higher than for white babies, the life expectancy for black men and women is lesser than for white men and women, and diabetes is 30% higher among Native Americans and Latinos. In conclusion, there are disparities among ethnicity and races with minorities having a higher risk of diseases.

#### Article 2: Understanding and Addressing Racial Disparities in Health Care

David R. Williams, Ph.D., M.P.H. and Toni D. Rucker, Ph.D.

link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4194634/>

There is systematic discrimination within the health field which causes racial and ethnic inequalities based on negative stereotypes. In order to address these disparities there should be improvements in data systems and create new training for medical professionals to help disadvantaged minorities. Furthermore, black people have a higher mortality rate than white people. While Hispanics and American Indians have diseases with multiple conditions that lead to an increase in deaths. The question being asked is "How do we make sense of these

differences and how do we move forward with an effective policy and research agenda to eliminate these disparities?” Therefore, the method used to answer these questions was to create a table with percentages to set the differences among the groups. By analyzing these percentages during the year of the survey it was demonstrated that minorities are slowly improving in terms of life expectancy and declines in mortality even with health disparities present. The policy and research directions to fix this problem are improving access to medical care, monitoring the quality of medical care, and providing proper education and training. In conclusion, there should be research centers placed to eliminate racial disparities in medical care to take the necessary steps to improve the quality of health.