

Reducing Racial Disparities through Experience: Evidence from Medical Device Choice in Cardiac Catheterization Labs

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Racial disparities in health care

- Lower life expectancy of more than 4 years for non-Hispanic Black Americans versus White Americans
- More than 6 years in 2020
- What can health care policy do to shrink this gap?
 - **Outright discrimination**
 - **Implicit bias**

This paper (I think) can speak to this decomposition

This paper

Main Question: Does experience with Black patients reduce the racial gap in DES use?

Approach: LPM regression of DES use (separately by race) against different measures of experience

Unique data on team construction!

Some high-level thoughts

Learning differentially by race?

- Other evidence that physicians learn differentially by the race of the patient?
- Consistent with implicit bias, but haven't seen in a learning context
 - Maybe related to Sarsons, **Interpreting Signals in the Labor Market:**
Evidence from Medical Referrals
- Role of implicit bias could work in different directions, depending on strength of priors and early experience

Who is learning?

- Hard to think about team learning in this context
- Specialist seems to make the decision of whether to use DES