Rowan University

Rowan Digital Works

May 2nd, 12:00 AM

Overcoming Disparities in the Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease

Christian Gamboa
Rowan University

Tribhuvan Lanka
Rowan University

Elaine Flowers

Nayarith Lopez
Rowan University

Racial disparities are evident in the treatment of African American and Hispanic patients suffering from Alzheimer's Dementia

Christian Gamboa OMS I, Tribhuvan Lanka UG, Elaine Flowers HS, Nayarith Lopez OMS II

Virtua Health College of Medicine & Life Sciences of Rowan University

Background

Dementia is a collection of symptoms that impair cognitive abilities, and it is an umbrella term for symptoms affecting **memory**, **thinking**, and **social abilities** severely enough to interfere with daily functions.

- Alzheimer's is the **7th leading cause of death** in the United States with approximately 36 deaths for every 100,000 individuals.
- **Racial disparities in Alzheimer's** and **dementia** are **significant** and **multifaceted:**
- Diagnosis and access to care
- Quality of Care
- Awareness and Education
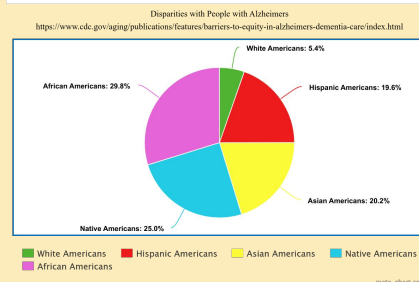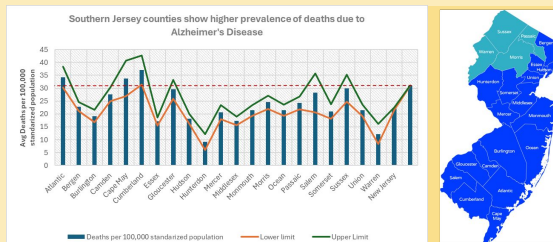- Research and Clinical Trials

Objective

To bring awareness about the racial disparities that are present in the treatment and management of Alzheimer's disease. Additionally, with the help of stakeholders, we developed a service project to help bridge the gap in knowledge between these patients and healthcare institutions.

Limitations

Data sources do not disclose data from latino and African American deaths in NJ. More information as to why this is the case needs to be collected.

Relevant metrics

Alzheimer's is a debilitating disease that disproportionately affects people of color

Southern Jersey counties show higher prevalence of deaths due to Alzheimer's Disease

Disparities with People with Alzheimers
https://www.cdc.gov/aging/publications/features/barriers-to-equity-in-alzheimers-dementia-care/index.html

White Americans: 5.4%
Hispanic Americans: 19.6%
Asian Americans: 20.2%
Native Americans: 25.0%
African Americans: 29.8%

meta-chart.com

References

1. Alzheimer's Association. 2023 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures. Alzheimers Dement 2023;19(4). DOI 10.1002/alz.13016.
2. Chin AL, Negash S, Hamilton R. Diversity and Disparity in Dementia. *Alzheimer Disease & Associated Disorders*. 2011;25(3):187-195. doi:https://doi.org/10.1097/wad.0b013e318211c6c9
3. Alzheimer's, census data, NJ, 2020-2024, CDC.gov

Conclusion

Combating Racial disparities in Alzheimer's and Dementia treatment demands a concerted effort involving: multiple institutions:

- Healthcare providers
- Policymakers
- Researchers
- Communities

The alzheimer's community requires better programs that aim to bridge the gap in socio-cultural and lifestyle factors that disproportionately predispose individuals of color to Alzheimer Disease.

Results

- Despite having a higher rate of AD, African Americans and Hispanics are less likely to be diagnosed with the condition
- A.As tend to not seek medical care due to unfair treatment
- Preventive care and treatment of other comorbidities might be critical in at risk populations
- People of color with AD seem to incur higher healthcare costs than whites with Alzheimer's