

ASTHMA

- Blacks are almost three times more likely to die from asthma related causes than the white population.
- African Americans are 40 percent more likely to have asthma.
- Black children were 5 times more likely to be admitted to the hospital for asthma.

HEART DISEASE

- African Americans are 30 percent more likely to die from heart disease.
- Black patients are 10 percent less likely to be screened for high cholesterol than white Americans, and 25 percent of African Americans have elevated blood pressure compared to 10 percent of white Americans.
- African American women are 60 percent more likely to have high blood pressure, as compared to white women.

HEPATITIS

- Blacks are 1.5 times as likely to die from viral hepatitis.
- Blacks are almost twice as likely to die from hepatitis C as compared to the white population.
- African Americans were 2.6 times more likely to die from hepatitis B than whites, even though the case rates are nearly identical.

HIV/AIDS

- African American males have 8.6 times the AIDS rate as white males.
- African American females have 18.6 times the AIDS rate as white females.
- African American men are almost 6 times as likely to die from HIV/AIDS as white men.
- African American women are almost 18 times as likely to die from HIV/AIDS as white women.
- In 2016, African Americans were 8.4 times more likely to be diagnosed with HIV infection, as compared to the white population.

INFANT MORTALITY

- African American mothers are 2.3 times less likely than white mothers to receive prenatal care.
- African Americans have 2.3 times the infant mortality rate.
- African American infants are 3.8 times as likely to die from complications related to low birthweight.
- African Americans have over twice the sudden infant death syndrome mortality rate.
- Black children have a death rate eight times that of white children.



STROKE

- African Americans are 50 percent more likely to have a stroke (cerebrovascular disease), as compared to their white adult counterparts.
- Black men are 70 percent more likely to die from a stroke.
- African American women are twice as likely to have a stroke as compared to white women.

OBESITY

- About 4 out of 5 African American women are overweight or obese.
- Blacks were 1.3 times more likely to be obese than whites.
- Black females were 2.3 times more likely to be overweight as compared to white females.

MENTAL HEALTH – Here's a curious anomaly in my data (with this caveat; poverty affects mental health).

- The overall suicide rate for African Americans is 60 percent lower than that of the non-Hispanic white population!

The evidence of racial disparity in American health care is incontrovertible.

All the conditions cited above are symptoms of a social illness, racism. The data indicate that we have yet to heal our nation. We still need to calibrate health care to treat all people equally.

On the bench, we test with precision and accuracy and we apply the rules of science to each and every sample without bias or prejudice. We measure the effects of treatment through observation of changes over time.

When one looks at the changes in industry, commerce, technology, and science over the past two centuries it seems that only progress in our humanity lags behind. We still practice racism even after fighting a civil war over a hundred years ago to end it.

Hopefully our society, our ethics, our relationships to one another, and yes, our health care eventually catches up with how we see the world from the bench.

The Tuskegee Syphilis Study is a horrific but sadly true and relevant event. Nurse Eunice Rivers is just a small piece of a big picture about race and health, about the past and our future.

Have a great week and be safe,

Bryan

