Inclusivity of Minorities in the U.S. Healthcare System

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Inclusivity of Minorities in the U.S. Healthcare System
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Background
- African Americans have the highest death rate and shortest survival among every ethnic group in the U.S.
- Hispanic and African American women are more likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer at a later stage than Caucasian women
- Asian and Pacific Islanders are the only groups with cancer as the leading cause of death
- Asian and Pacific Islanders have the highest rates for both liver and stomach cancer and are twice as likely to die from these as Caucasians are
- African American 1.4 times likely than Caucasians to have high blood pressure
- African American adults are 60% more likely to have a stroke than Caucasian adults are
- Minorities have less access to, and less availability of, mental health services
- The Affordable Care Act provided new health coverage opportunities to minorities with minimal to no health insurance.

Coverage rates increased for all racial/ethnic groups between 2010 and 2016
- The Act reduces the uninsured rates, especially amongst ethnic communities. Healthcare coverage being accessible enables those suffering from disabling illnesses and infectious diseases to seek proper treatment.

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Study Objectives
- To bring awareness of racial and ethnic disparities in health care access.
- To show the difference in health issues between Caucasians and minorities.
- To resolve the current issue.

Results
- African Americans have the highest death rate and shortest survival among every ethnic group in the U.S.
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- African American adults are 60% more likely to have a stroke than Caucasian adults are
- African Americans experience higher death rates from diseases/cancers as opposed to Caucasians.
- Research studies are more centered around Caucasians.

Conclusion
Social determinants and political agendas are present in healthcare disparities for ethnic minorities. Social determinants including financial restrain, social environment, and traditional practices impact the health ethnic communities. However, with the lack of access to healthcare and health insurance, minorities struggle to seek proper treatment. As health issues have become a trend amongst these communities, we have the attitudes of the individuals within them. Minorities have less access to, and less availability of, mental health services. The Affordable Care Act provided new health coverage opportunities to minorities with minimal to no health insurance. Research indicates that there is a lack of resources for ethnic minorities to seek care and treatment for their diseases.

Future Implications
- As a result of healthcare disparities amongst ethnic communities, minorities are more likely to obtain disability diseases and infectious diseases. The lack of care available impacts their overall health. Statistics show the difference in health issues between Caucasians and minorities.

References