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Inclusivity of Minorities in the U.S. Healthcare System

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Inclusivity of Minorities in the U.S. Healthcare System

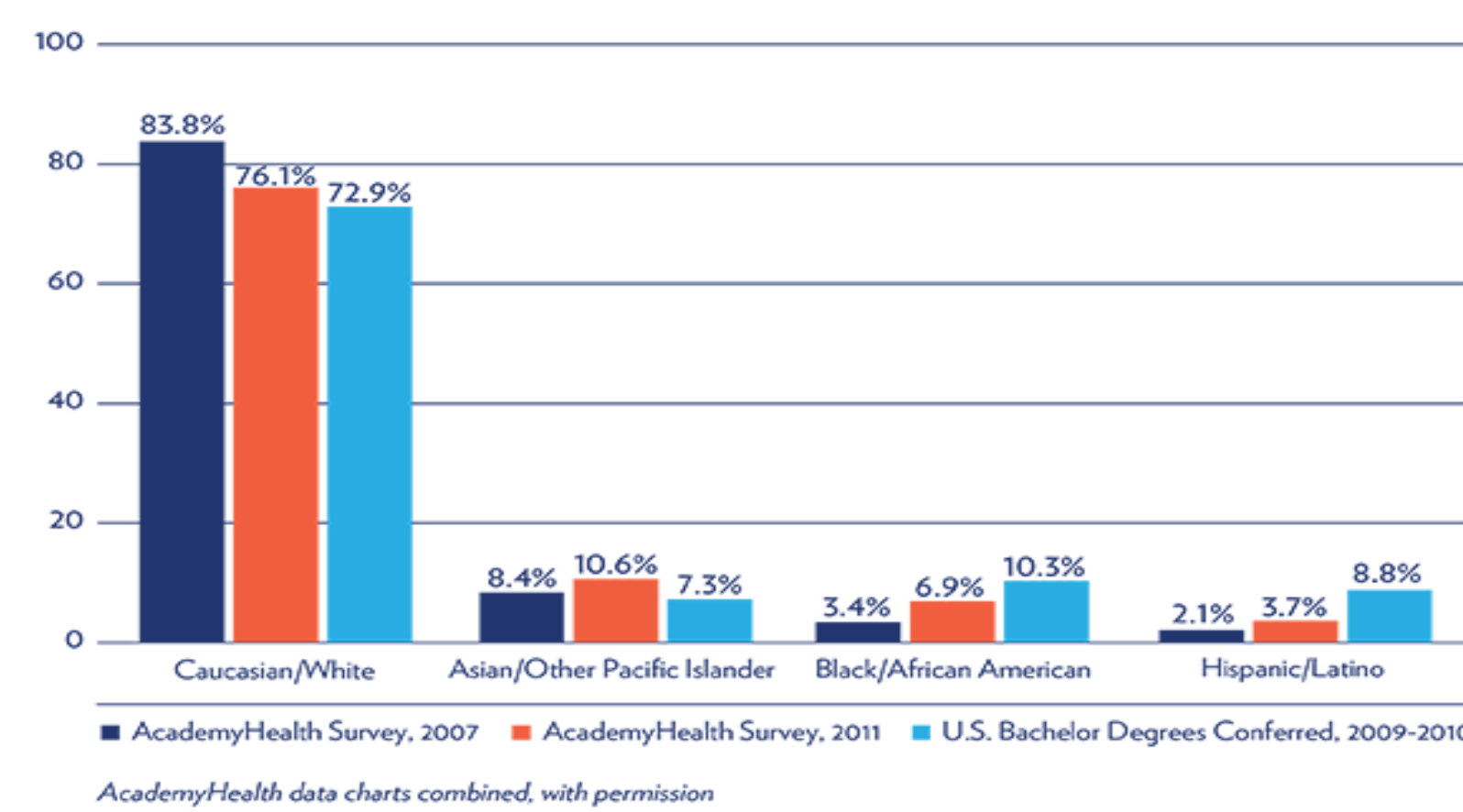
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Background

- 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 Americans 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

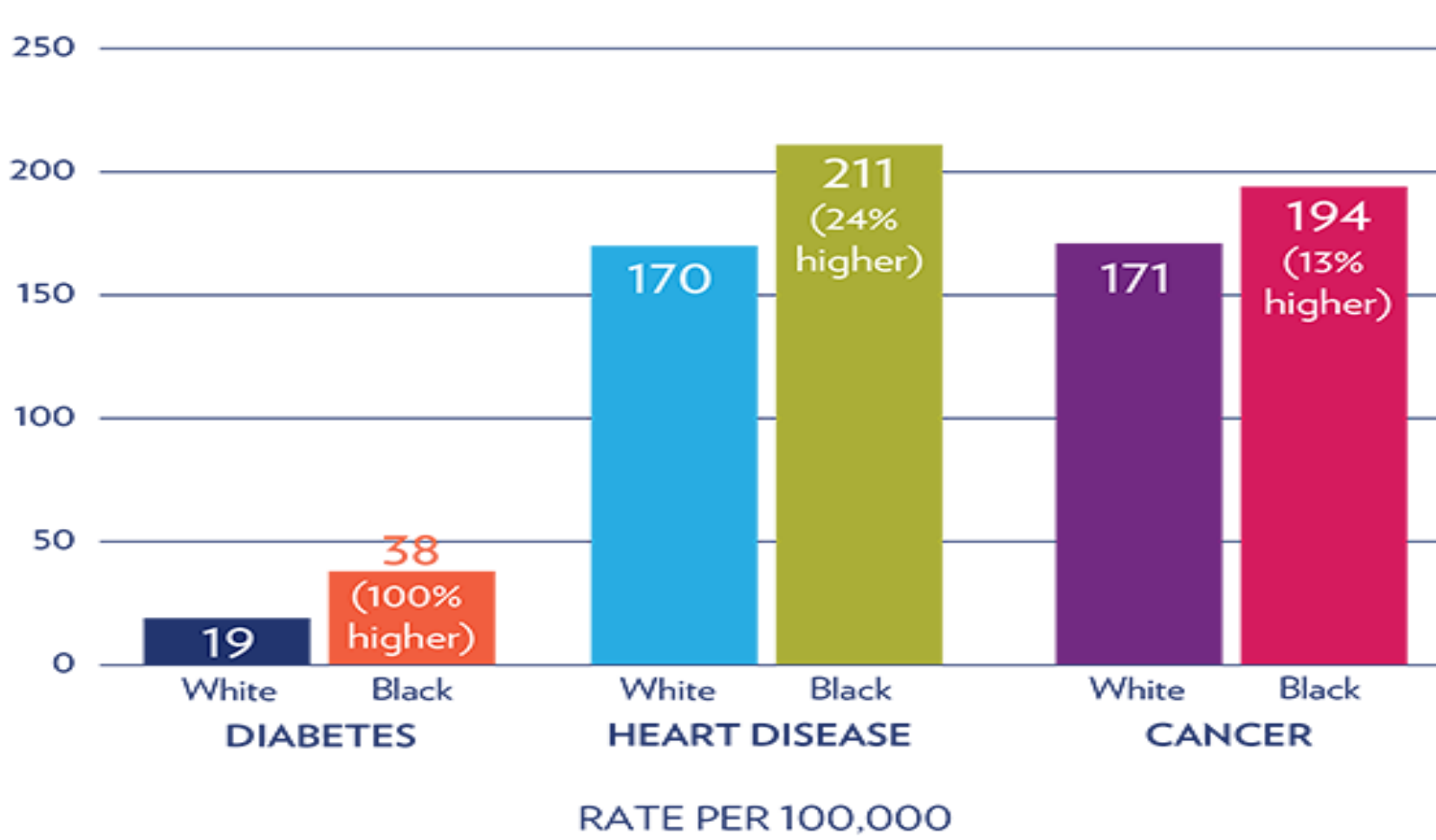
RACE & ETHNICITY REPRESENTATION IN HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

Source: AcademyHealth



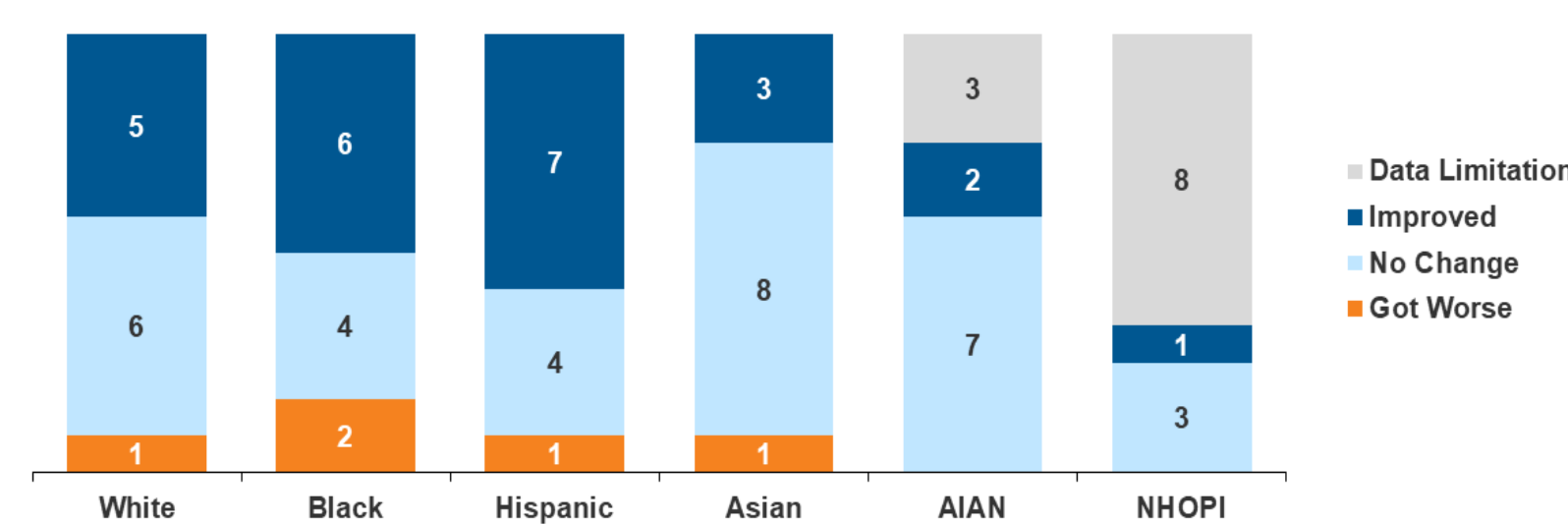
DEATH RATES FOR SELECTED DISEASES (2016)

<http://files.kff.org/attachment/Chartpack-Key-Facts-on-Health-and-Health-Care-by-Race-and-Ethnicity>

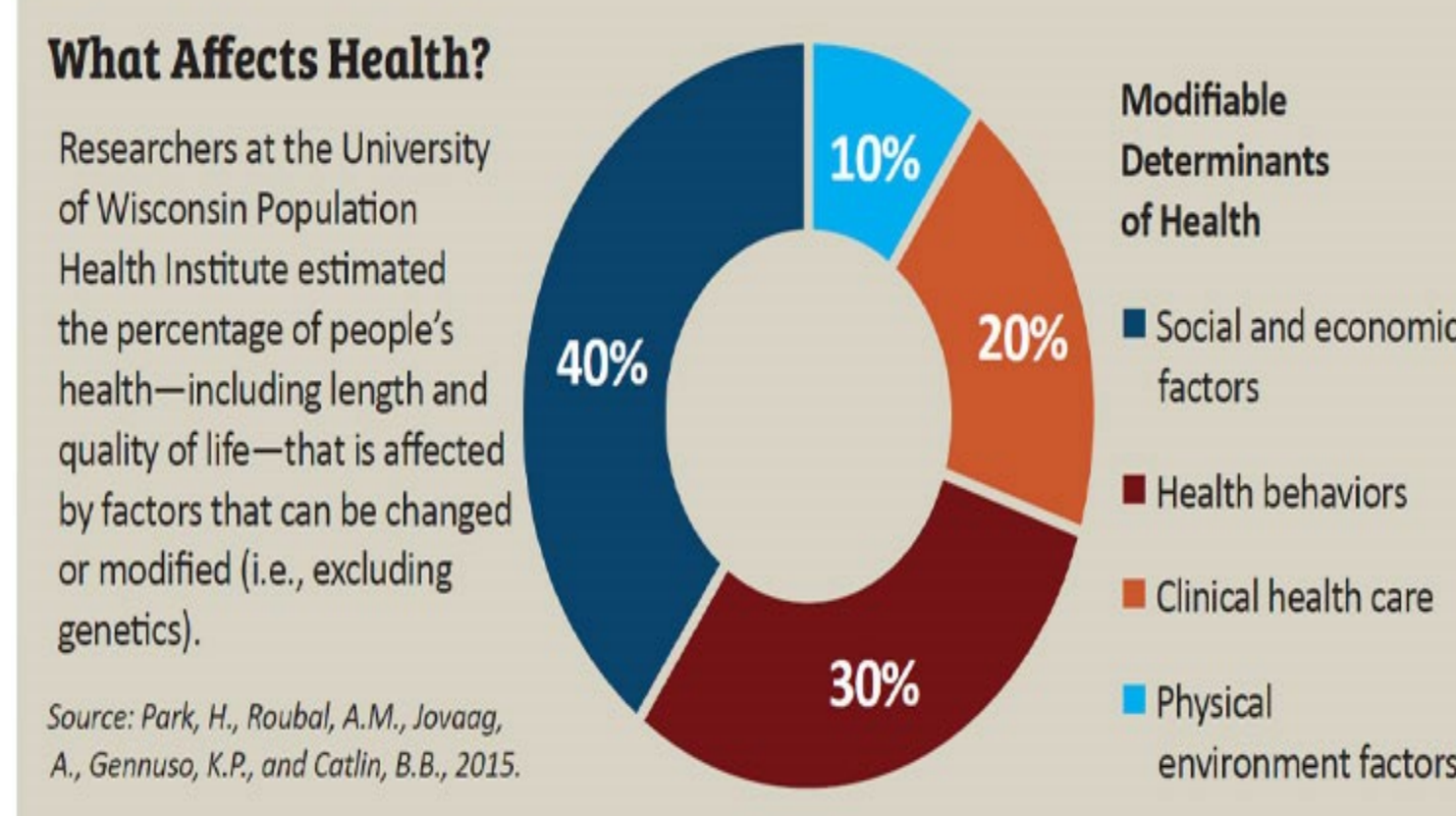


Changes in Health Coverage, Access, and Use Since Implementation of the Affordable Care Act

NUMBER OF MEASURES THAT IMPROVED, DID NOT CHANGE, OR GOT WORSE COMPARED TO BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT:



Note: Most measures compare data between 2010 and 2017; some use different years due to data availability. "Improved" or "Got Worse" indicates a statistically significant difference between years at the p<0.05 level. "No Change" indicates no statistically significant difference. "Data Limitation" indicates no separate data for a racial/ethnic group resulting data for a reliable estimate, or comparisons not possible due to overlapping samples. AIAN refers to American Indians and Alaska Natives. NH/PI refers to Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race that are categorized as Hispanic. For this analysis, other groups are non-Hispanic.



Conclusion

Social determinants and political agendas are present in healthcare disparities for ethnic minorities. Social determinants including financial restraints, 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, so have the attitudes of the individuals within them. Many may feel discouraged and accept their conditions with no desire to improve them. Thus, inclusivity of minorities is crucial amongst the general health of these communities.

Future Implications

Research indicates that there is a lack of resources for ethnic minorities to seek care and treatment for their illnesses. Since the introduction of the Affordable Care Act, there has been a decline in uninsured rates, especially amongst ethnic communities. Healthcare coverage being accessible enables those suffering from disabling illnesses and infectious diseases to seek proper treatment. Awareness of the healthcare disparities amongst ethnic minorities provides more of an opportunity to resolve the current issue. Also, encouraging ethnic individuals to continuously seek care, after requiring insurance is no longer mandated, can decrease rates and statistics of prolonged illnesses.

Study Objectives

This research will help to bring awareness of racial and ethnic disparities in health care access. These statistics show that many minority groups are more likely to be diagnosed with life threatening diseases and illnesses, some which are diagnosed in later stages where they may be difficult to treat. Research also shows how health care coverage statistics among minorities increases over recent years due to the Affordable Care Act being introduced in 2010. Not obtaining access to health insurance has been a leading cause for many minority groups, leading to the high rates of health issues. As healthcare continues to evolve, inclusivity of minorities is another direction that healthcare leaders should be focusing on. Evaluating and understanding past trends in these communities can help to be preventative and influence change in the attitudes that many minorities have towards healthcare.

Results

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

- African Americans have the highest death rate and shortest survival among every ethnic group in the U.S.
- African Americans 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
- African Americans experience higher death rates from diseases/cancers as opposed to Caucasians.
- Research studies are more centered around Caucasians

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