Racial Disparities in Emergency Department Mortality and Departure Status among Trauma Patients in Massachusetts

Wenjun Li
University of Massachusetts Medical School, wenjun.li@umassmed.edu

Holly Hackman
Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Sylvia Hobbs
Massachusetts Center for Health Information and Analysis

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/cts_retreat

Part of the Emergency Medicine Commons, Epidemiology Commons, Health Services Administration Commons, Translational Medical Research Commons, and the Trauma Commons

http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/cts_retreat/2014/posters/80

This material is brought to you by eScholarship@UMMS. It has been accepted for inclusion in UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science Research Retreat by an authorized administrator of eScholarship@UMMS. For more information, please contact Lisa.Palmer@umassmed.edu.
Presenter Information
Wenjun Li, Holly Hackman, Sylvia Hobbs, Georgia Simpson May, Iyah Romm, Hyung-joo Kang, Vera E. Mouradian, Timothy A. Emhoff, Hasan Alam, John Burstein, and Selwyn Rogers

Comments
Abstract of poster presented at the 2014 UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science Research Retreat, held on May 20, 2014 at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Mass.

Creative Commons License
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 License.

This is available at eScholarship@UMMS: http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/cts_retreat/2014/posters/80
Racial Disparities in Emergency Department Mortality and Departure Status among Trauma Patients in Massachusetts

Wenjun Li, PhD1; Holly Hackman, MD, MPH2; Sylvia Hobbs, MPH6; Georgia Simpson May, MSM2; Iyah Romm, BS2, Hyung-Joo Kang, MS1; Vera Mouradian, PhD2; Timothy Emhoff, MD1; Hasan Alam, MD3; Jon Burstein, MD2; Selwyn Rogers, MD4.

1 University of Massachusetts Medical School
2 Massachusetts Department of Public Health
3 University of Michigan Medical School
4 Temple University School of Medicine
5 Massachusetts Center for Health Information and Analysis

Background: Understanding racial inequities in emergency medical care for traumatic injuries is important to policy considerations.

Methods: We analyzed data on the first emergency department (ED) visit for trauma treatment among patients in the Massachusetts (MA) Statewide Trauma Registry. This Registry collects information on all trauma patients who die in the ED, or are dead on arrival, or who are transferred between hospitals in MA. This analysis included ED visits among MA residents aged 15 years and older from 2008 through 2010. Those who died on arrival were excluded. Patients were grouped as non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, Hispanic, Asian, and other or unknown races. We compared injury severity, departure status and ED mortality among the 5 groups while adjusting for severity, sex and age.

Results: The 27,453 patients averaged 57.3 years of age, and included 44.9% women, 83.4% whites, 5.4% blacks, 6.8% Hispanics, 1.3% Asians, and 3.1% other or unknown races. In total, 534 (1.95%) died in ED. There was no clinically significant difference in injury severity among race groups. Compared to whites, blacks and other race group had higher mortality (OR=1.62, p=0.006 and OR=2.30, p<0.001, respectively). Among survivors, blacks and Hispanics were more likely to leave against medical advice (AMA) or elope (OR=2.88, p<0.001 and OR=1.67, p=0.05, respectively) and less likely to be transferred to another care unit (OR=0.77, p<0.01 and OR=0.84, p=0.001, respectively). Blacks were less likely to have a within hospital referral (OR=0.23, p<0.001).

Conclusions: Substantial racial disparities in ED mortality and departure status were observed among MA trauma patients. Determinants of the disparities are under investigation in an ongoing study funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

Contact: Wenjun Li 508-856-6574  Wenjun.Li@umassmed.edu