

4-22-2022

Debunking Medical Myths: Black Patients and Pain Tolerance

Aarti Patel

Wayne State University School of Medicine, gh5997@wayne.edu

Husain Al-Saffar

Wayne State University School of Medicine, fz3421@wayne.edu

Sabrina Montemayor

Wayne State University School of Medicine, hi9924@wayne.edu

Kathleen Young

Wayne State University School of Medicine, cq7944@wayne.edu

Shobi Mathew

Wayne State University School of Medicine, ez9550@wayne.edu

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/pat_edu_proj



Part of the [Curriculum and Instruction Commons](#), [Medical Education Commons](#), and the [Public Health Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Patel, Aarti; Al-Saffar, Husain; Montemayor, Sabrina; Young, Kathleen; Mathew, Shobi; and Brennan, Matthew, "Debunking Medical Myths: Black Patients and Pain Tolerance" (2022). *Patient Education Projects*. 284.

https://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/pat_edu_proj/284

This Infographic is brought to you for free and open access by the Patient Education at DigitalCommons@WayneState. It has been accepted for inclusion in Patient Education Projects by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@WayneState.

Authors

Aarti Patel, Husain Al-Saffar, Sabrina Montemayor, Kathleen Young, Shobi Mathew, and Matthew Brennan

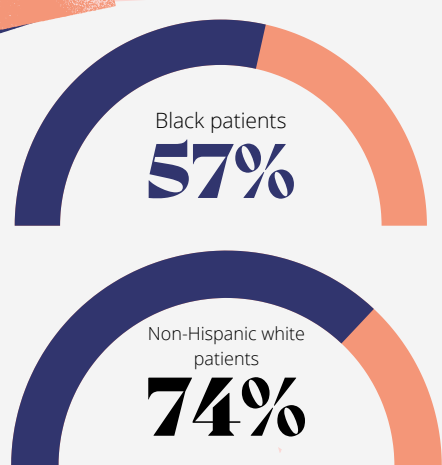
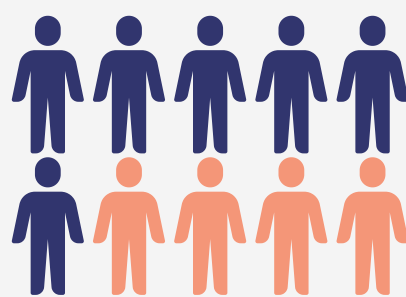
DEBUNKING MEDICAL MYTHS

Black Patients and Pain Tolerance

False beliefs that black patients have a higher pain tolerance than white patients

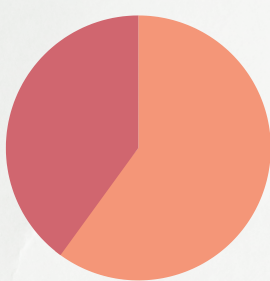
Racially based myths are common

58.1% (129/222) of medical students and residents believed that black patients have thicker skin than white patients¹



Myths cause direct harm

A literature review demonstrated that a lower percentage of black patients received analgesics than non-Hispanic white patients⁵

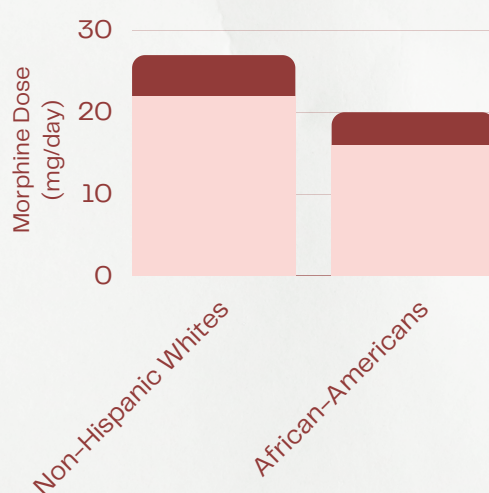


False Beliefs

>50% of surveyed physicians believe at least 1 false myth about Black patients¹

Morphine Dosage Administered for Same Procedure⁵

Dosages varied significantly by race



Error Rate of 15%

Medical providers who exhibited false beliefs of Black patients were less accurate in treatment recommendations 15% of the time¹

NO DIFFERENCE

Evaluation of pain perception finds no evidence of difference in pain intensity between Black and White patients.²

Related Explanations

Sociocultural factors can lead to patients of European descent reporting less pain than Black patients = such as providers' treatment decisions varying with patient ethnicity and pharmacies in minority neighborhoods being less likely to stock analgesics.⁴

References

1. Kelly M, Hoffman, Sophie Trawalter, Jordan R. Axt, M. Norman Oliver. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Apr 2016, 113 (16) 4296-4301; DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1516047113
2. Riley JL 3rd, Wade JB, Myers OD, Sheffield D, Papas RK, Price DD. Racial/ethnic differences in the experience of chronic pain. Pain. 2002;100(3):291-298. doi:10.1016/S0304-3959(02)00306-8
3. Faucett J, Gordon N, Levine J. Differences in postoperative pain severity among four ethnic groups. J Pain Symptom Manage. 1994;9(6):383-389. doi:10.1016/0885-3924(94)90175-9
4. Campbell, Claudia M, and Robert R Edwards. "Ethnic differences in pain and pain management." Pain management vol. 23 (2012): 219-230. doi:10.2217/pmt.127
5. Green CR, Anderson KO, Baker TA, et al. The unequal burden of pain: confronting racial and ethnic disparities in pain [published correction appears in Pain Med. 2005 Jan-Feb;6(1):99. Kaloupek, Donna A [corrected to Kaloupek, Donna A]] Pain Med. 2003;4(3):277-294. doi:10.1046/j.1526-4637.2003.03034.x