

Proposal Title

Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Maternal care:

The Black Woman's Experience

Project Summary

Epidemiological studies show that there are disparities in epidural use and failure for Black women (Morris 2014). Black women of different ages, prematernal health and economic statuses will be interviewed to assess their quality of maternal medical care. Research will be done on the history of maternal care and pain management for Black women that could have led to a misconceived idea of pain tolerance and to a disparity in epidural and anesthesia use.

Project Narrative

The failure of epidural and regional anesthesia could reflect micro-level interactions that can take place within a medical setting (Howell 2020). Most studies done on pain management and maternal care for Black women are too broad and are not focused on a specific region or state. Medical researchers have framed the difference in epidural use by race as an issue of access, contending that women of color do not have equal access to this method of pain relief. (Morris 2020). The ages will range from 18 to 40 years old. White women of the same ages, economic status and regions will be used as the control group. This research will be using semi-structured interviews as its main methodology.

I a variety of sources such as journal articles, scholarly books, and government documents to compare the history of Oklahoma's maternal care for Black women to the present day.

Goals: Microaggressions in the profession as well as skepticism from patients can greatly affect the quality of care. The main goal is to identify internal biases and prejudices that affect maternal care in Oklahoma to compare the findings to the rest of the United States. project whether or not the past has affected Black women's willingness to trust medical professionals The main goal is to utilize this research to and to strengthen the protection of Black women.

Methods: I will be studying the history of gynecology dating back to the times of slavery as well as looking over the most current scholarly articles on the topic. I will compare those findings to the results of the IRB approved interviews that I plan on conducting. These women will be of various ages, prematernal health and economic status to rule out any other reasoning for probable bias and prejudice that could be affecting their care from medical professionals. I will use the semi-structured interview method. White women of the same ages and regions will be used as a control group.

I currently work at the OU Medical as a PRN nurse technician. I will use my connections with various employees to help find people to interview. I will be asking what expected their experience would be and what they would change. There will also be questions to gauge their education level, financial situation and or not they had insurance.

Contributions to the Field

Researching maternal care and the administration of epidural/anesthesia is important to examine health disparities at the site of care. This research will be Oklahoma based and will give

Oklahoma an opportunity to see what needs to be changed within our medical field. Researching maternal care and the administration of epidural/anesthesia is important to examine health disparities at the site of care. Though access to care is considered the main factor of the failure of anesthesia, it is not the only contribution. Organizations are perpetuating health inequalities in a way that has not been well studied. Clinicians need to recognize the potential of racial biases being brought into the hospital.

Bibliography

HOWELL, ELIZABETH A. “Reducing Disparities in Severe Maternal Morbidity and Mortality.” *Clinical Obstetrics & Gynecology*, no. 2, Ovid Technologies (Wolters Kluwer Health), June 2018, pp. 387–99. *Crossref*, doi:10.1097/grf.0000000000000349.

Minehart, Rebecca D., et al. “Racial Differences in Pregnancy-Related Morbidity and Mortality.” *Anesthesiology Clinics*, no. 2, Elsevier BV, June 2020, pp. 279–96. *Crossref*, doi:10.1016/j.anclin.2020.01.006.

Lee, Allison, and Lisa Leffert. “Gloving up for the Fight against Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Obstetric Anesthesia Care.” *Journal of Clinical Anesthesia*, Elsevier BV, Dec. 2020, p. 109988. *Crossref*, doi:10.1016/j.jclinane.2020.109988.

Morris, Theresa, and Mia Schulman. “Race Inequality in Epidural Use and Regional Anesthesia Failure in Labor and Birth: An Examination of Women’s Experience.” *Sexual & Reproductive*

Healthcare, no. 4, Elsevier BV, Dec. 2014, pp. 188–94. *Crossref*,

doi:10.1016/j.srhc.2014.09.006.

Here is a rough schedule of the research process:

	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Lit Review	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Research Conferences		X	X	X				X		
Interviews			X	X	X	X				
Apply for Conferences	X	X	X		X					
Present Workshop Findings							X			
Presenting International Gender and Sexuality conference			X							
Read Materials	X	X	X	X						

Budget

I have listed some literary works and articles that I feel would contribute to my research

along with other needs.

Scholarly/Academic Articles/Books- \$136	<p>Medical Bondage: Race, Gender, and the Origins of American Gynecology-\$36</p> <p>Maternal Mortality in the Twenty-First Century- \$23</p> <p>How Implicit Bias Contributes to Racial Disparities in Maternal Morbidity and Mortality in the United States-\$20</p> <p>Birthing a Slave: Motherhood and Medicine in the Antebellum South- \$87</p> <p>Exploring the social determinants of racial/ethnic disparities in prenatal care utilization and maternal outcome- \$20</p> <p>Medical Bondage, Dierdre Cooper Owens- \$15.00</p> <p>History of Tulsa- \$19.00</p> <p>The Transgenerational Consequences of Discrimination on African-American Health Outcomes- \$22</p>
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<p>Texts \$114</p>	<p>AWHONN's High-Risk & Critical Care Obstetrics- \$54</p> <p>The Diseases and Health Care of Blacks in Antebellum Virginia- \$32</p> <p>The Racial Divide in American Medicine</p> <p>Black Physicians and the Struggle for Justice in Health Care- \$28</p>
<p>Conferences applications -\$250</p>	<p>Sep 02: 2nd International Society for Gynecologic Endoscopy (ISGE) - African Society for Gynecology</p> <p>Sep 30: Midwest Reproductive Symposium international (MRSi 2022)</p> <p>Oct 28: International Conference on Clinical Gynecology and Women Oncology (ICCGWO)</p> <p>Nov 01: International Conference on Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women's Health</p>
<p>Total</p>	<p>\$500</p>

