

The National Institutes for Health defines health disparities as “the differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality and burden of disease and other adverse health conditions that exist among specific population groups in the United States”. Public health officials and researchers continue to be increasingly concerned about the health of populations of color, especially with African Americans. Numerous health promotion programs have been conducted in African American churches and in the community to reduce health problems and promote healthy living. Yet, African Americans continue to report low exercise rates, smoke, and eat an insufficient amount of fruits and vegetables. Health beliefs play a role in health behaviors, thus contributing to health outcomes or status. The objective of this research is to identify the issues and bring awareness and recommendations for change to the subject matter.

The research was conducted under this context and objective. The type of research instrument was a survey conducted by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC). The version that his researcher is using is the 2006 General Sampling Survey (GSS). The GSS contains a standard ‘core’ of demographic, behavioral, and attitudinal questions, plus topics of special interest. The 2006 GSS has 5,415 variables, time-trends for 1,988 variables, and 257 trends having 20+ data points. The guiding theme in this paper will be the African American and health. Among the questionnaire variables, this paper will deal with the following variables: religion, government opinions, and educations.

Data Analysis Scenarios

Scenario One:

Numerous studies have shown that people of color and racial and ethnic minorities receive unequal treatment by government health care system. However, a study conducted by the Greenlight Institute states that a large percentage of African American’s are backing Government Health care compared to whites who were surveyed. The study in this opinion comes from a complex idea called racial resentment (American National Election Studies, 2010).

H1:

Race plays a part in respondent’s opinions on how successful the government is at providing healthcare for the sick. African American’s are generally happy with government health care.

Overview:

For answering this question, two variables were used; *race* (race of respondent), and *helptlh* (how successful is government: Providing health care for the sick). Custom Tables was with *race* being the column variable and *helptlh* being the row variable. A title was chosen and the column percentage was used. In addition a custom table, a pie chart was used to highlight the African American opinion percentage.

Main Findings:

Among the African American respondents that were surveyed, a large percentage (46%) states that the government is “quite un-successful” at providing health care for the sick (see Figure 1). Among White respondents, there is not much difference between those who believe that the government is “quite un-successful” and those who believe the government has been “neither successful nor un-successful” (see Table 1). Finally, among respondents who listed their race as other 32.6% believe that the government is “quite successful at providing health care for the sick.

Table 1. Respondent Opinions on How Successful the Government is at Providing Health Care to The Sick Based on Race

		<u>Race of Respondent</u>		
		White Column %	Black Column %	Other Column %
How successful is government at providing health care for the sick	Very Successful	3.9%	3.7%	10.5%
	Quite Successful	19.9%	10.7%	32.6%
	Neither Successful nor un-successful	30.4%	19.1%	24.2%
	Quite un-successful	31.6%	46.0%	26.3%
	Very un-successful	14.3%	20.5%	6.3%

