

#265 Marline Attallah

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**COVID-19 and its impact on Health care reach among different ethnic groups.**

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COVID-19 brought to attention a lot of defects in the health care system. A lot of aspects of health care need to be reformed to be prepared for the current or other pandemics in the future. We are in need to build a more robust health care system; and to detect any challenge with the social determinants of health. In our cross-sectional study, we aimed to explore the association of social determinants on access to healthcare among different racial and ethnic vulnerable populations during the pandemic. The health care reach has been a major challenge for a lot of categories in our population as elderly and non-English speakers. In addition to the fear of going out and getting the virus, telehealth was not built in a suitable and convenient way to be used by different society members. The access to making appointments and getting refills for their medications have been a hurdle. In our sample of 1400 members, our survey aimed at proving the higher burden among elderly women, African-American, and Hispanics. As a part of our analytic plan, we used a logistic regression model with an  $\alpha$  value set at 0.05. It included various categorical variables as insurance status, any lung disease, any chronic conditions as diabetes or cardiovascular diseases, and gender. Our outcomes were about getting health aide during the COVID and their ability to get their regular medications refills. For those who were surveyed for getting health aide, we got a  $\chi^2 = 21.02$  with p-value = 0.013 with gender and insurance included in the model. For those who were surveyed about getting medication refills, our  $\chi^2 = 31.9$  with a p-value < 0.0001 with age, gender, and insurance variables included in the model.

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