40 Assessment of Knowledge and Attitudes about Healthcare Disparities among Students, Residents, Staff and Patients in the ED

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**Background:** National data continues to demonstrate that minorities have poorer outcomes from preventable and manageable diseases. The Institute of Medicine attributes this disparity to health care provider bias.

**Objective:** Assess the knowledge and attitudes among various levels of providers and patients about healthcare disparities.

**Method:** A convenience sample of 25 people in six categories (attending, resident, student, nurse, ancillary staff, patient) was surveyed using a 16 item instrument. Chi square test, simple means and proportions were used to analyze data at a 5% significance level.

**Results:** Based on overall score of correct survey answers, attending physicians are most knowledgeable about healthcare disparities, followed by residents, nurses, students, ancillary staff, and patients (p=0.0013). Patients indicated awareness of provider bias, but did not connect this to poorer outcomes (p=0.0917). In all categories, Blacks are twice as likely as Whites to acknowledge provider bias against minority patients (p=0.0135).

**Conclusion:** Curricula need to address not only the existence of provider bias, but the connection to poorer outcomes. There is a role for patient education about this association so that patients are empowered as self-advocates.