

Sam Howald, Jack Battaglia, Jane Ramsay, Logan Kesler

Racial Disparities in Healthcare

Discussion of Henrietta Lacks, the Tuskegee studies, and Mental hospitals

Intro

Henrietta Lacks

Tuskegee Study

Mental Hospitals

The Disparities Continue.

What is being done?

Sources

Intro

- Health disparities between white Americans and African Americans dates back to slavery
- Contributing factors:
 - Lack of sources for primary care
 - Social, financial, cultural and insurance barriers
 - Liguistic barriers

***Hisorical
Cases***

Hisorical Cases

Specific events and establishments throughout U.S. history highlight the differences in treating racial groups

- Henrietta Lacks
- Tuskegee Studies
- Mental Hospitals

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Henrietta Lacks

- Diagnosed with cervical cancer in 1951
- Was treated at Johns Hopkins Hospital
- Unknown to Lacks, Dr. Lawrence Wharton Jr. took samples of her tumor while doing her biopsy
- Lacks was not informed that surgery to treat her tumor would leave her infertile
- Signed a form consenting to any procedures and anesthetic her doctors needed to use in order to get proper surgical care and treatment

The Ethical Issues

HeLa and Tuskegee

The Ethical Issues



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Henrietta_Lacks_\(HeLa\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Henrietta_Lacks_(HeLa).jpg)
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Henrietta Lacks

the world owes much to Henrietta Lacks. Henrietta Lacks was an African American woman whose cells were removed during a biopsy in 1951 – and used for research without her knowledge or approval. A few months after Henrietta's diagnosis of cervical cancer, she died at the age of 31 years old. She never would know that more than six decades later, her cells would continue to grow and provide a foundation for advancements in science and medicine.

Henrietta's cells revolutionized the field of medicine. Her amazing and immortal cells (commonly known as HeLa cells) have been used for decades in biomedical research – to study cancer, the effects of radiation, and AIDS – among many other areas. Her cells led to the development of successful drugs in fighting human diseases, such as leukemia, hemophilia, herpes, human papillomavirus (HPV), Parkinson's disease, and influenza, among others.

1920 Henrietta Lacks was born Floretta Pleasent on August 1, 1920, in Roanoke, Virginia to Leno and Johnnie (Beasant).	1941 On April 10, 1941, Henrietta Pleasent married David "Doc" Lacks.	1951 A biopsy of Henrietta Lacks' tumor was taken and sent to the lab of Dr. George Olay, leading to the creation of HeLa cells.	1952 Scientists used HeLa cells to help develop the polio vaccine.	1973 Scientists used HeLa cells to study the behavior of simian virus inside human cells.	1984 HeLa cells were used by a German virologist to help prove that the human papillomavirus (HPV) causes cancer.	1986 The virus infection mechanism of HIV was studied by scientists who infected HeLa cells with HIV.	1993 HeLa cells were used to study tuberculosis.	2013 On August 8, 2013, the NIH announced an agreement with the family of Henrietta Lacks to allow biomedical researchers controlled access to the whole genome data of HeLa cells.
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[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Henrietta_Lacks_\(HeLa\)_Timeline_\(26453304954\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Henrietta_Lacks_(HeLa)_Timeline_(26453304954).jpg)
 National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) from Bethesda, MD, USA 12

- The study of HeLa cells was unethical because the doctor did not tell Lacks that he would be doing tests on a sample of her cells.
- In the book *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, Rebecca Skloot tells the story of Henrietta Lacks and her family, but Skloot got permission from the family before researching and publishing the book.

Henrietta Lacks



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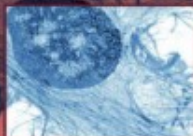
1920

Henrietta Lacks was born Loretta Pleasant on August 1, 1920, in Roanoke, Virginia to Eliza and Johnny Pleasant.



1941

On April 10, 1941, Henrietta Pleasant married David "Day" Lacks.



1951

A biopsy of Henrietta Lacks' tumor was taken and sent to the lab of Dr. George Gey resulting in the creation of HeLa cell line.



1952

Scientists used HeLa cells to help develop the polio vaccine.



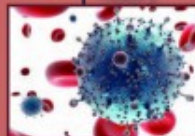
1973

Scientists used HeLa cells to study the behavior of salmonella inside human cells.



1984

HeLa cells were used by a German virologist to help prove that the human papillomavirus (HPV) causes cancer.



1986

The virus infection mechanism of HIV was studied by scientists who infected HeLa cells with HIV.



1993

HeLa cells were used to study tuberculosis.



2013

On August 6, 2013, the NIH announced an agreement with the family of Henrietta Lacks to allow biomedical researchers controlled access to the whole genome data of HeLa cells.



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HeLa and Tuskegee

- The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (NFIP) used HeLa cells to help create the polio vaccine
- The Tuskegee Institute became a HeLa distribution center
- First sold them to polio testing labs, then began selling them to any scientist
- With the cells produced, scientists helped prove the Salk vaccine effective

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Tuskegee Study

- African American males were lured into the study with promises to be treated for rheumatism, bad stomachs, or bad blood.
 - Injected with syphilis instead.
- Clinical study from 1932-1972 that observed the natural progression of untreated syphilis in African Americans
- National Commission of the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research
- Disease was contracted through sexual contact, blood, and childbirth

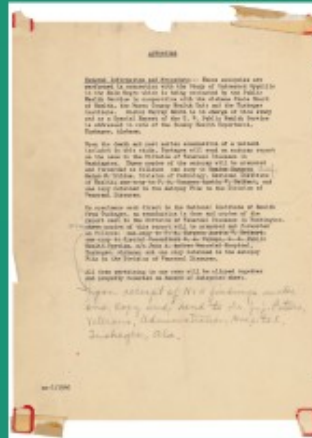
*Tuskegee
Study*

Images

Tuskegee Study

- 399 males contracted the diseases while there was a control group of 201 males
- Unethical because of failure to treat patients
- Researchers did not tell patients they had syphilis
- Henderson Act
- Led to lack of seeking healthcare
- "What was done cannot be undone..."

Images



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Mental Hospitals

- During the late nineteenth century public officials thought that the expense of hospital treatment was wasted on blacks.
 - Instead of receiving treatment they were put into jails
- Twentieth century eugenics forced sterilization of poor women of the "Negro race"
 - This type of medical abuse was built on racism.

***State
Mental
Hospitals***

State Mental Hospitals

- African Americans were more openly accepted in state mental hospitals
 - They were placed in segregated wards or separate buildings where they were treated different than white patients.
 - "In a devastated economy, poor and "insane" individuals were not a priority."
- Nonconsensual experimentation was done on lower class black citizens for "scientific purposes."

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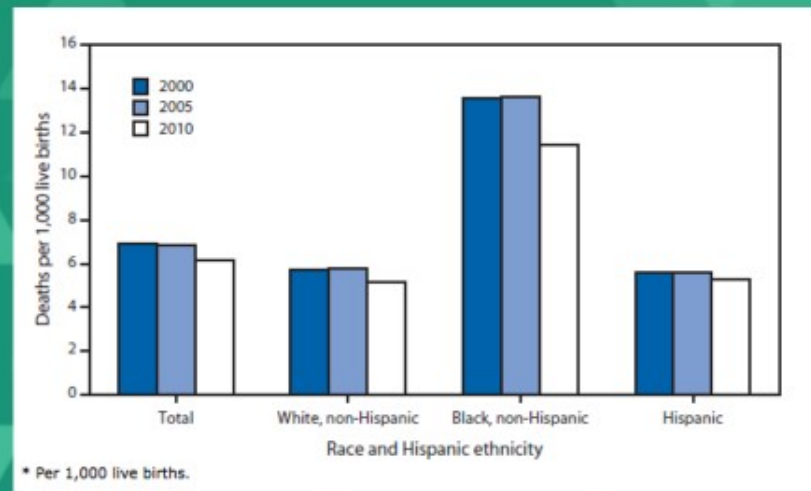
Some diseases are very high in the African American population as compared to the white population

- Cancer
 - The incidence of cancer for African Americans is 10% higher than for white americans
 - When compared with White Americans, African Americans 5 year survival rate is substantially less for any stage or type of cancer
- Chronic disease
 - 48% of African Americans suffer from chronic diseases as compared with 39% of the regular population
- Obesity
 - Seven out of ten African Americans age 18-64 are obese or overweight
- Infant mortality
 - Preterm birth rates:
 - Non Hispanic African American infants- 18.3%
 - Non Hispanic White infants- 11.5%
 - Hispanic infants- 12.3%

Visual

Causes,

Visual



Infant mortality rates separated by race.

Causes,

There are a few areas of concern that contribute to these disparities in healthcare

- Lack of insurance
 - More than 1 in 3 Hispanic and American Indians are uninsured
 - Less than 1 in 5 african Americans are uninsured
- Low income/poverty
 - related to the lack of insurance
- Lack of regular source care
 - 35% of African Americans report they do not have regular doctors visits, as compared with 25% for White Americans
- Stigma
 - Fear and lack of trust of doctors and the system based on personal or observed experiences
- Health literacy
 - Poor literacy leads to poor health outcomes

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- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) health disparities and inequalities report highlighted some public health programs that have improved health disparities
- Some interventions the CDC has implemented:
 - Increase vaccination recommendations for hepatitis A virus have reduced the disparities of infection in the US
 - Programs in Boston to reduce hospitalizations of asthmatic African American and Hispanic children
 - Approaches to change policies and structures of communities to reduce violence

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