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Background

Many people with lower levels of education in the United States do not have equal access to quality healthcare, because of their location and the education they are provided. When education is lacking, that can translate to a lesser understanding of medical problems (Lazar & Davenport, 2018). In addition, those with a lower level of education usually have jobs that do not provide adequate healthcare benefits to utilize.

Results

- Lack of education is related to lower access to quality healthcare.
- These differences can be explained by factors including, ethnicity, race and immigration status.
- Those with less education are more likely to have more illnesses and higher medical costs (Lee, 2015).
- Race/ethnicity disparities and education related disparities caused premature deaths (Roy et al., 2015).
- immigrants and education can be a predictor of what people would rate their own health (Assari et al., 2020).

PICO Question

Does the level of education correlate with access to quality healthcare in the United States?

Fig. 1: Factors Affecting Access to Health Care



Methodology

An interprofessional team of five undergraduate students sought to answer this question through reviewing peer reviewed articles. The team consisted of all allied health science students with different career end goals, such as nursing and physician assistants. The literature was reviewed for access to quality healthcare Americans receive based on the level of education and the reasons for this relationship.

Conclusion

- Public health platforms should aim to decrease the gap between different levels of education and their access to quality healthcare
- Earlier education of healthy living habits (Lee, 2015) and increased health literacy (Lazar & Davenport, 2018) can help increase better outcomes for those with lower education levels (by providing awareness to the benefits of the preventative measures as previously mentioned).
- Providing more resources and education to populations that are affected by this problem the most will help increase access to quality healthcare.

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