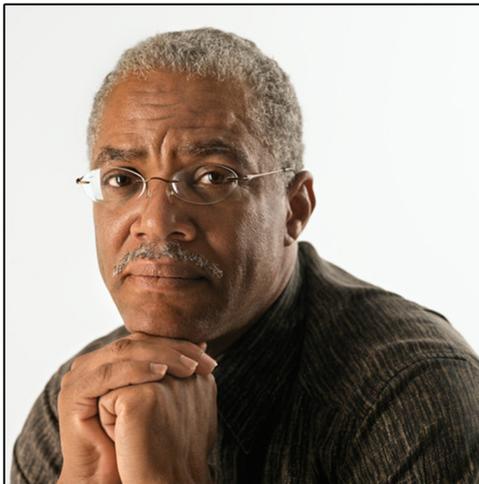


What are some serious health concerns affecting African Americans that may be risk factors for memory loss?

As compared to non-Hispanic white adults, **AFRICAN AMERICANS** are:

- twice as likely to be diagnosed with **DIABETES**.
- one and a half times as likely to be diagnosed with **HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE (Hypertension)**.
- disproportionately affected by high rates of **OBESITY**.
- nearly twice as likely as to have a **STROKE**.
- more likely to develop **CORONARY HEART DISEASE**.
- twice as likely to develop **ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE**.



Why is there an urgent need for African Americans to participate in research?

- African Americans are seriously **underrepresented** in current clinical trials of potential treatments for Alzheimer's disease, particularly in those conducted by drug companies.
- There is growing evidence of **genetic differences in various diseases**. Also, response to drugs can vary by race and ethnicity.
- Further, in the area of **memory loss and brain research** there is an insufficient representation of African Americans.

What are the benefits of research for African Americans?

- **Increased involvement** of African Americans who have been historically underrepresented.
- **Greater understanding of medical conditions** affecting African Americans.
- Immediate as well as long-term benefits including **important discoveries** in the field of health and medicine that are of great value to the African-American community.

Why have African Americans been historically underrepresented in scientific research?

- **Lack of information and limited opportunities** made available to African Americans regarding research studies.
- **Isolation** of the African-American community due to previous racial and economic barriers.
- **Fear and distrust** among African Americans regarding involvement in scientific research following deceptive and harmful studies in the past, such as the Tuskegee experiment.

What measures are currently in place to protect volunteers in research?

- In the USA, all research conducted on humans is highly regulated for the protection of the individual's rights.
- All institutions, including universities and hospitals that conduct research on humans, must have an **Institutional Review Board (IRB)** which regulates and monitors all scientific studies.
- The primary mission of the IRB is to protect all research subjects from harm; it consists of physicians, ethicists, as well as religious and community leaders.