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## **Health Care Access Disparities and Their Relation to Health Status: A Comparison Between African and Caucasian Americans.**

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Health insurance is a common method of accessing the health care system in the United States. Many factors influence the procurement of health insurance include but are not limited to education, employment, and income. Health insurance provides access to health care, and studies have shown blacks to be less likely to have health insurance coverage when compared to white Americans of working ages 18 -64 years. The subsequent investigation is aimed at analyzing the disparities between white and black ethnicities regarding health insurance coverage and the factors associated with attainment. In addition, the following study attempts to identify the socioeconomic factors (education, employment, and income) associated with the attainment of health insurance. The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) (2008) was used to analyze the differences in health insurance coverage and explore the relationships among the influencing factors.

The research suggests that blacks are more likely than whites to have no health insurance, have not completed college, have a lower annual income and be unemployed. The factor having the most influence on coverage was employment, which was lacking in the black community. An employed individual is more likely to have health insurance, and blacks are less likely to be employed when compared to whites in Georgia. In addition, an individual is more likely to have gainful employment and receive health insurance when that person has a college education. Employment provides the necessary income to fund medical care when it may be required. No health insurance can decrease the opportunities of access to primary and preventative health care,

and this places blacks at a greater risk of not receiving treatment and access to prevention techniques.

\* Full thesis paper can be acquired at [www.LondellMcGlone.com](http://www.LondellMcGlone.com) in the downloads section