

Differences found in stroke severity and post-stroke care among Black and Hispanic women

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Black and Hispanic women ages 65-74 years old hospitalized with stroke had more severe strokes than their white counterparts, according to

preliminary research to be presented at the American Stroke Association International Stroke Conference 2021.

According to the American Heart Association, Black women have a higher rate of [stroke](#) (3.8%) when compared to white women (2.5%) of similar age, which could lead to a higher death rate or worse quality of life.

"The Black and Hispanic female stroke survivors 65-84 years old were younger and had a greater chance of being sent to a skilled nursing or rehabilitation center when compared to older white females who were discharged home after their stroke," said study author Trudy R. Gaillard, Ph.D., R.N., an associate professor at Florida International University's College of Nursing and Health Sciences in Miami, Florida.

Researchers analyzed Get With The Guidelines Stroke health information in 1,587 [female patients](#) who were discharged after a stroke from Baptist Hospital of Miami from April 2014 to March 2019. The female stroke patients were categorized by age group: 65-74 years old (young), 75-84 years old (middle) and 85 years or older (older). The data analyzed included stroke type and severity; other health issues; age; race/ethnicity; and discharge information—whether patients were discharged home, to a skilled nursing center or to a [rehabilitation facility](#). Black women with stroke accounted for about 27% of all patients; while 37.5% were Hispanic and about 35% were white. Among the participants ages 85 years or older hospitalized for stroke, 18.4% were Black women, 36% were Hispanic women and about 40% were white women.

Researchers found:

- Black and Hispanic women ages 65-74 years old hospitalized with stroke had more severe strokes than white women of the

same age group. Nearly 99% of the women had health insurance, although Black women were the most likely to be without health insurance. After controlling for age, race, and stroke severity, Black and Hispanic women in the younger (65-74 years) and middle age (75-84 years) groups had a greater chance of being sent to a skilled nursing or [rehabilitation center](#) when compared to [white women](#) in the oldest age group (85 years and older).

"Future studies are needed to explore the type of health care facilities that [women](#) are discharged to after stroke and to examine the quality of care received," Gaillard said. "This type of study should be done in multiple cities, across care settings, including inpatient rehabilitation facilities, skilled nursing facilities or home with or without home health and outpatient rehabilitation services."

Limitations of the study include that it was done in only one hospital and the researchers did not examine patients' outcomes after discharge.

Provided by American Heart Association

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