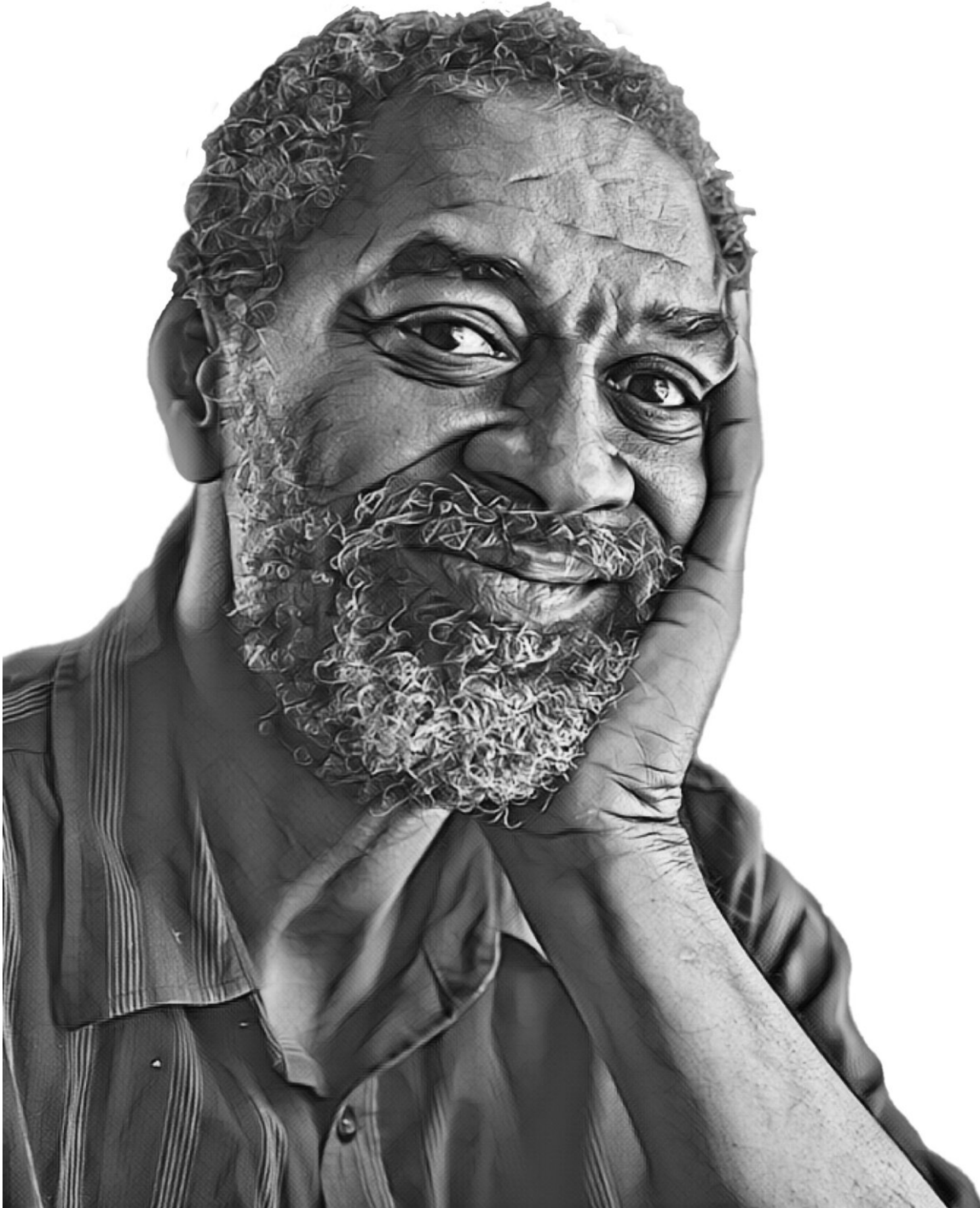


Nursing homes serving Black residents found to have greater hospitalizations, emergency department visits

June 14 2023



Credit: Pixabay/CC0 Public Domain

Staffing levels likely drive the differences in hospitalizations and emergency department visits among nursing homes, the researchers report in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*.

Studies show that nursing homes serving high proportions of Black residents may experience poor healthcare outcomes. To better understand the environmental and structural characteristics of nursing homes that may lead to these outcomes, the researchers examined data from 14,121 U.S. nursing homes using multiple national datasets from 2019.

They found that, compared to nursing homes with no Black residents, nursing homes with at least 50% Black residents had lower ratios of registered nurse (RN) and certified nursing assistant (CNA) hours per [resident](#) per day and greater ratios of licensed practical [nurse](#) (LPN) hours per resident per day. In general, as the proportion of Black residents in a nursing home increased, hospitalizations and emergency department visits also increased.

Nursing homes serving Black residents were also more likely to be located in urban settings, for-profit, located in the South, and have more Medicaid-funded residents.

"As lower use of RNs has generally been associated with increased emergency department visits and hospitalizations of nursing home residents, it is likely that the relative scarcity of skilled workers largely drove the differences in hospitalizations and emergency department visits in nursing homes with greater proportions of Black residents," said Jasmine Travers, Ph.D., RN, assistant professor at NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing and the study's lead author.

"Staffing is a modifiable area in which federal and state agencies should take action to eliminate disparities in quality of care among nursing

homes," added Travers.

More information: Jasmine L. Travers et al, Environmental and structural factors driving poor quality of care: An examination of nursing homes serving Black residents, *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* (2023). [DOI: 10.1111/jgs.18459](https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.18459)

Provided by New York University

Citation: Nursing homes serving Black residents found to have greater hospitalizations, emergency department visits (2023, June 14) retrieved 28 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-06-nursing-homes-black-residents-greater.html>

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