

# **Writer's Memo: "Investigation of Racial Disparities in Rates of Alzheimer's Disease Among African Americans as Compared to White Americans"**

*Rachel Younglove*

This paper was originally created as a final research project for a medical anthropology class that I completed in my final semester at the University of Florida in the fall of 2021. I chose to focus on racial disparities in rates of Alzheimer's disease because of my desire to better understand how deeply race and racism can affect health outcomes for African Americans. Investigating this topic also allowed me to incorporate anthropological perspectives on both race and medicine to better understand how the two interact within culture and society. My goal in illuminating these racial disparities in cognitive health is to enact change that can address the stubborn presence of racial bias and the persistent structural barriers that continue to contribute to African Americans' increased risk of developing poor cognitive health. My hope is that this research emphasizes the need for interdisciplinary approaches to solving real-world health issues, specifically those involving race as a variable in determining health outcomes. This work highlights the importance of this approach as it demonstrates how informative and nuanced work becomes when it takes differing perspectives into account. This research is relevant for anyone interested in considering an anthropological perspective on Alzheimer's disease disparities and would be particularly significant for students, applied or medical anthropologists, cognitive healthcare workers, and gerontologists.