Distribution of African Americans in residential care / assisted living and nursing homes: More evidence of racial disparity?

Based upon the work of
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African-Americans in long-term care

Increased steadily over the past 40 years:

- In 1963, an estimated 10 minority elderly persons per 1000 persons in the general population resided in nursing homes, yielding a minority-White ratio of 37%.
- In 1969, this ratio stood at 46%; by 1977 it had risen to 60%, and by 1989 it was 65% (Belgrave, Wykle, & Choi, 1993).
Residential changes

- Nursing homes traditionally provided institutional long-term care to elderly persons
- Residential care / assisted living (RC/AL) facilities have grown as a new source of long-term care
- Growth of the RC/AL sector over the past decade and a half has far exceeded that of nursing homes
- Analysts predict that the number of RC/AL beds will equal or exceed that of nursing homes by the year 2005 (Brooks, 1996)
Current study’s goals

- To determine whether the long-term care industry is racially separated across all facility types;
- If so, to what degree is this the case; and
- Whether, and to what extent, this racial separation correlates with facility and community characteristics.
Current study – Sample

- Data from the Collaborative Studies of Long-Term Care (CS-LTC)
- A study of 193 licensed RC/AL facilities and 40 nursing homes in Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, and North Carolina
- Within each state, the CS-LTC selected a sample of counties that was representative of the state’s demographic and health services and economic indicators
- Within each state’s sampling region, a random sample of all licensed facilities was selected of 4 strata (as shown on next slide)
Stratification of long-term facilities

1. RC/AL facilities with fewer than 16 beds
2. New-model RC/AL homes (provide more nursing services and serve more impaired people)
3. Traditional RC/AL homes
4. Nursing homes
Study sample excluded:

- Facilities primarily serving persons with mental illness or developmental disabilities;
- Smaller RC/AL facilities with fewer than 4 residents aged 65 and older;
- Larger RC/AL facilities with fewer than 10 residents aged 65 and older;
- Nursing homes with fewer than 40 residents aged 65 and older.
Data

Data were collected between October 1997 and November 1998

The final analytical sample included 105 small RC/AL facilities, 37 traditional RC/AL facilities, 39 new-model RC/AL facilities, and 39 nursing homes

At the time of data collection, these facilities housed an estimated 6,838 Whites and 1,187 African Americans.
Variables

Independent Variables:
- Facility characteristics
- Resident characteristics
- Community characteristics

Dependent Variable:
- Percentage of African Americans in residence
Analysis

- Descriptive statistics within each facility stratum;
- Bivariate associations were examined between the presence or absence of African Americans in a facility and selected resident, facility, and community characteristics;
- Spearman correlation was used to test associations for statistical significance ($p \leq .05$); and
- Multivariate logistic regression was employed to simultaneously control for multiple community variables that could potentially influence African Americans’ access to facilities.
# Results – Characteristics of the sample facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>&lt; 16 beds</th>
<th>Traditional</th>
<th>New-model</th>
<th>Nursing home</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Amer. (%)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facility age (yr)</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>26.2</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>24.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of beds</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly rate</td>
<td>$1428</td>
<td>$1649</td>
<td>$2014</td>
<td>$3479</td>
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<tr>
<td>For-profit (%)</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waiting list (%)</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entrance fee (%)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean/Maint (0-8)</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety (0-9)</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting (0-9)</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proportion and Distribution of Facility Residents by Race

- 58% had no African American residents
- 27% had 1%-25% African American residents
- 8% had 26%-50% African American residents
- 2% had 51%-75% African American residents
- 3% had 76%-99% African American residents
- 3% had 100% African American residents
Facility Characteristics Associated with Facility Racial Composition

- Among RC/AL facilities with fewer than 16 beds, the presence of African Americans was associated with the administrators being African American \((r=0.25, P<.01)\). This is not observed in other strata.

- In both small \((r=-0.36, P<.0001)\) and new-model \((r=-0.37, P<.01)\) RC/AL facilities, poor facility cleanliness/maintenance was associated with the presence of African American residents;

- Poor lighting \((r=-0.23, P<.05)\) was also associated with African American residents.
Resident Characteristics and Facility Racial Composition

- Across the strata, the presence of 1 or more African Americans in a facility was positively correlated with the proportion of younger residents; and
- In the majority of strata, racial composition was inversely correlated with the proportion of residents aged 85 or older.
- Other resident characteristics positively associated with African American presence: proportion who were male or mentally retarded, chairfast or bedfast, with mental illness, and with alcohol problems.
Community Characteristics and Facility Racial Composition

- Across all facility types, the proportion of African American residing in surrounding community was related to the presence of African American residents in the facility.

- The percentage of elderly below the poverty line were associated with presence of African Americans in RC/AL facilities with fewer than 16 beds but not with their presence in other facility types.

- Mean family income and the percentage of persons below the poverty line were not associated with the presence of African Americans in any facility type.
Of the 3 family/social network indicators tested, none was associated with the presence of African Americans in any facility type.

Across all facility types, the presence of African Americans in a facility was positively associated with facility type and neighborhood racial characteristics and negatively associated with community urbanicity and the percentage of elderly below the poverty line.
Discussion

- This study’s results substantiate widespread racial separation across and within facility types.
- In the study sample, nearly all Whites lived in predominately White facilities, and the majority of African Americans resided in facilities that were predominantly African American.
- In 2 of the RC/AL types (facilities with < 16 beds and traditional homes), most facilities house no African Americans whatsoever.
- The proportion of African American residents varied widely by facility type – nursing homes serving the highest proportion of African Americans; among RC/AL facilities, the smaller homes housed the greatest proportion and the other types housed very few.
Possible Factors Contributing to Racial Separation

- Economics
- Exclusionary practices
- Choosing to live with one’s own race

Additional references for information cited in the article and presentation: