Examining the association between healthcare quality and health status among American children

Statement of the Problem: American children are diagnosed with serious acute and chronic disease types in increasingly high numbers. It is therefore imperative to investigate many existing children's health outcomes in the United States which may be interrelated due to the lack of healthcare quality, inaccessibility to quality care, and other factors associated with potential children's health outcomes. This study examined inpatient admissions for pediatric patients using the Kids’ Inpatient Database (KID), Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ, 2014).

Orientation: A large randomly drawn sample (N=524,581) of boys (n=244,553) and girls (n=280,028) ages 5 to 12, was examined in this research study to test for the association between disease prevalence and healthcare quality. The Pearson Chi Square test was applied to measure for significant variable relationships in this research study.

Findings: The results of this study found that there was a statistically significant association between healthcare quality and disease prevalence (p<.001). Other significant associations were also found as a result of the Chi square analysis.

Conclusion & Significance: The research findings substantiate the importance of the quality of healthcare and healthcare services delivery. Strong associations were found when one's socio-economic status was examined with the prevalence for preventable diseases. The outcome of this research study provides support for improved nationwide efforts to improve healthcare quality to promote gender and ethnic equality in order to eliminate children's health disparities.

Biography
Damien Byas is an Associate Faculty Member of Master of Public Health (MPH) Program; a part-time Public Health Researcher, Senior Research Fellow, and an Adjunct Professor for an MPH program.

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