

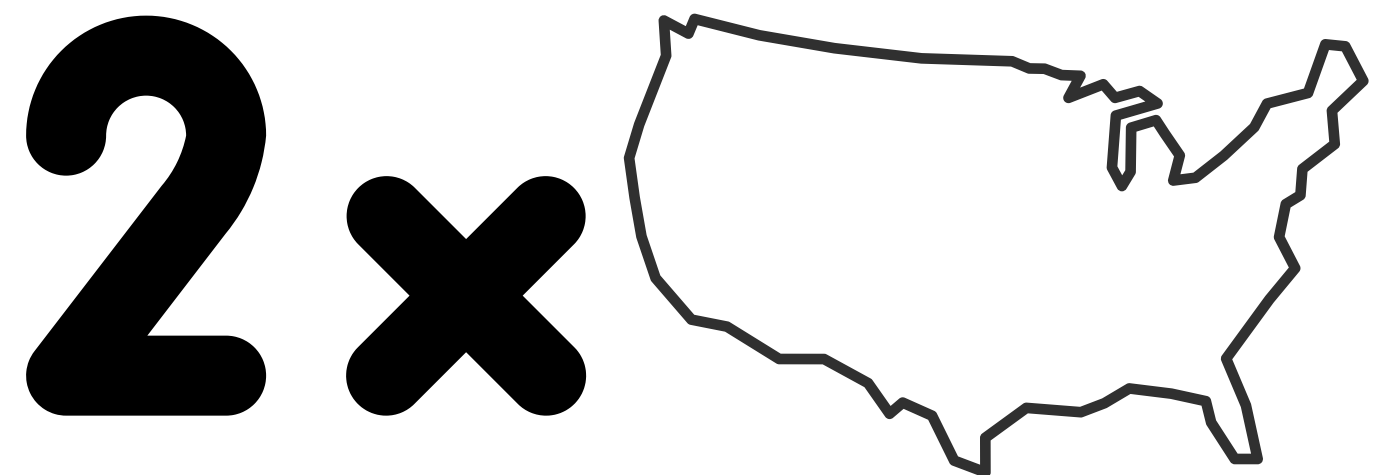
# DISPARITIES

## IN STROKE CARE

### RESEARCH

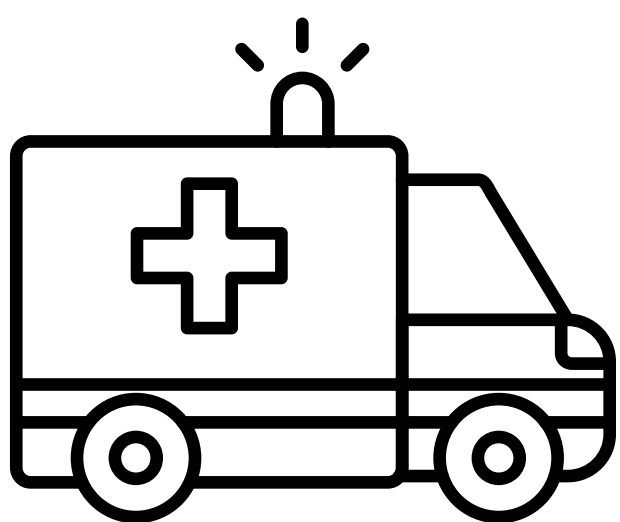
Studies have shown that racial disparity is a pressing concern and requires action to create equitable access to stroke care and treatment for all individuals regardless of race and ethnicity.

### GEOGRAPHY

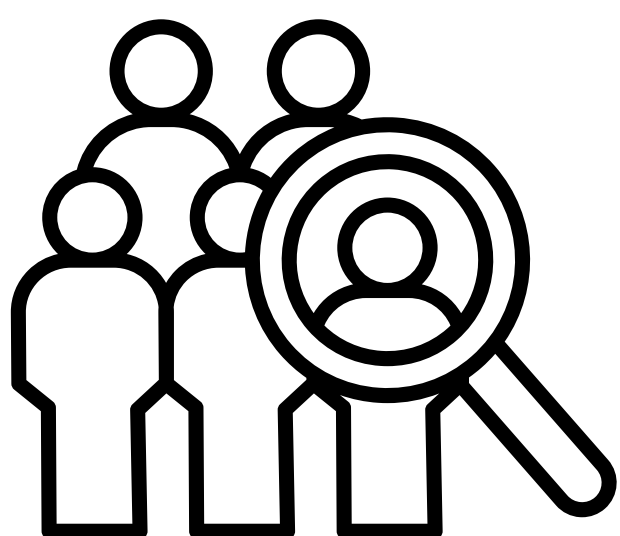


Black Americans in the stroke belt have a two-fold higher risk of first stroke

### EMS UTILIZATION

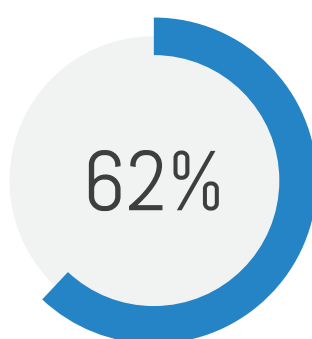


White patients utilize EMS to transport more often and more often arrive to treatment facility within 3 hours of symptom onset

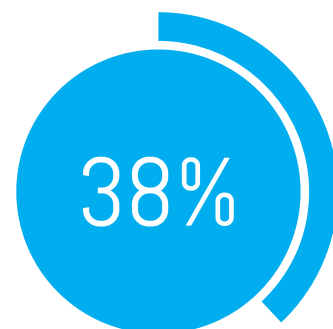


Hispanic and Asian patients were less likely to be identified as having stroke by EMS

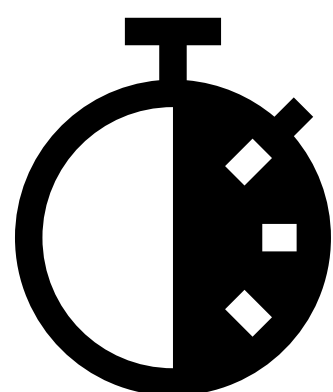
### TIME TO TREATMENT



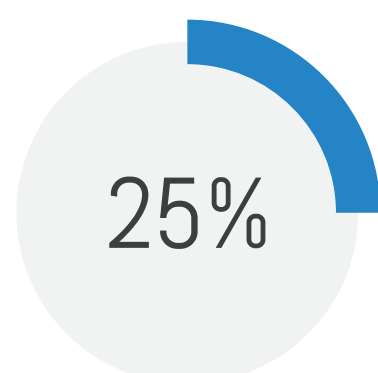
Longer wait times in waiting rooms for Black and Hispanic patients



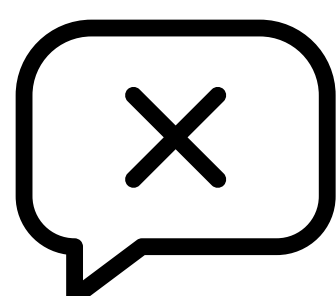
Black patients were 38% less likely to receive thrombolytic drugs



Puncture times were 18 minutes longer in Black patients



Hispanic patients were 25% less likely to receive clot-busting treatment

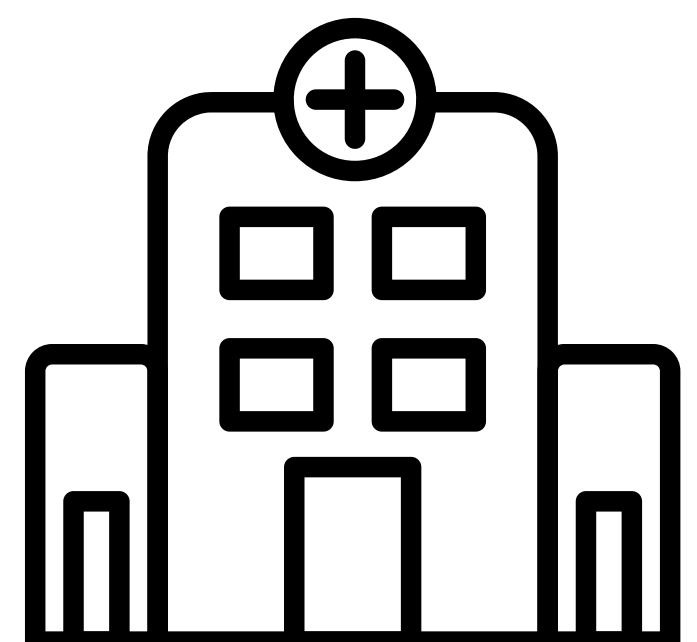


Black patients were: MORE likely than white patients to refuse treatment with thrombolytics

### HOSPITAL EVALUATION

Black and Hispanic patients:

- + Had longer referral times to secondary hospital
- + Less likely to be evaluated by a stroke team
- + Were less likely to be transferred to EVT-capable centers



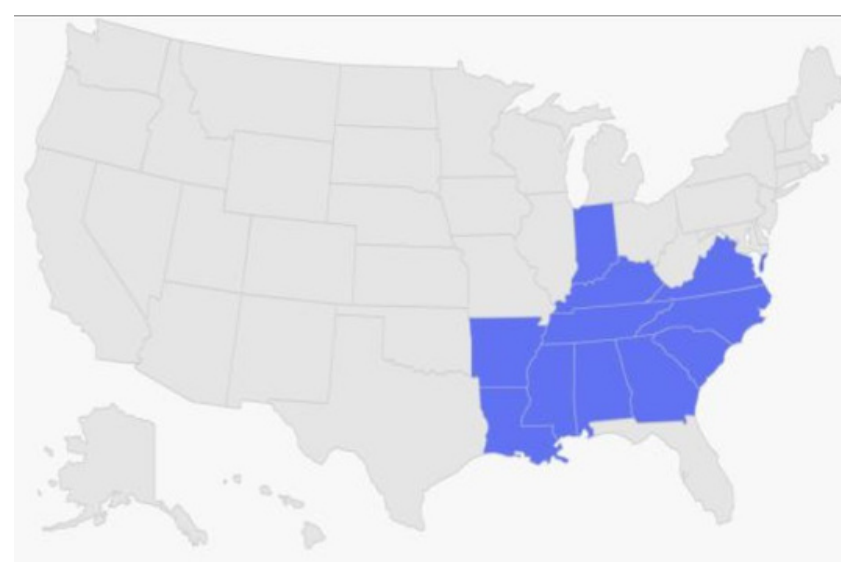
# SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH (SDOH)

## AFFECT STROKE RISK

Seven SDOH are associated with increased risk of incident stroke for patients < 75 years of age. There is a 2.5 times increased risk of stroke in individuals (at any age) with 3 or more SDOH. Targeting these individuals with multiple SDOH may reduce the risk of stroke in vulnerable populations.



Black or African American Race



Stroke Belt Location



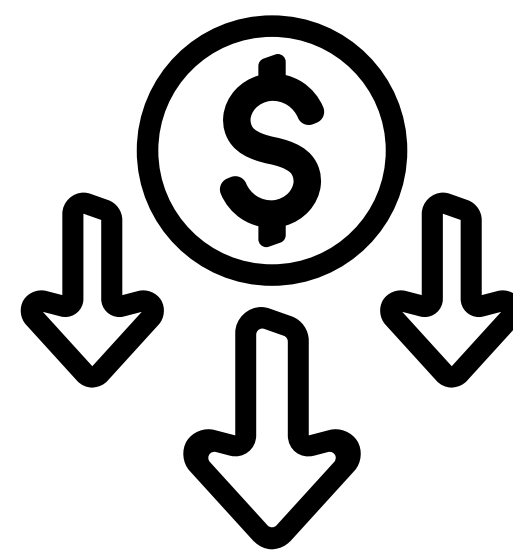
Social Isolation



Zip Code Poverty



Lack of Insurance



Low Household Income



Low Education Level

*Individuals with a greater number of SDOH are also more likely to have a history of hypertension or diabetes, both of which are risk factors for stroke.*

**SDOH should be assessed upon admission with referrals to any community resources as needed**

# WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THIS?

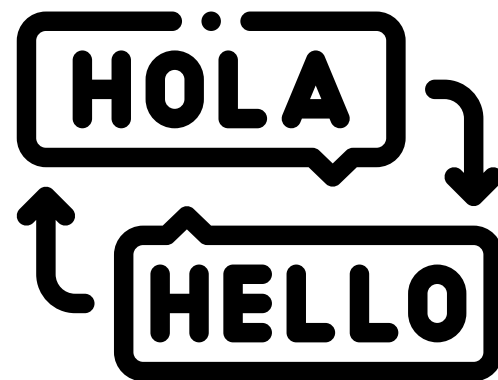
EDUCATE YOURSELF ABOUT DISPARITIES  
& STROKE TREATMENT OPTIONS

Most patients can receive IV thrombolytics up to **4½** after last known well

Large vessel strokes can be intervened on up to



USE TRANSLATORS, IF POSSIBLE QUICKLY



FINE TUNE YOUR ASSESSMENT SKILLS

**LOOK**

Look for facial droop,  
weakness & eye  
deviation



Listen Carefully



Ask family members or  
friends if their speech  
sounds normal

WHEN IN DOUBT...

**ACTIVATE**

# STROKE PREVENTION, TREATMENT, & RECOVERY EDUCATION

## Prevent

Up to 80% of strokes may be prevented through healthy lifestyle choices and managing risk factors like high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, obesity and smoking. Knowing your numbers, staying active, eating well, and working with your healthcare provider can greatly lower your chances of having a stroke.

## Treat

When it comes to stroke, every second counts. Treatment can save lives—and quality of life—but only if patients get the right care, right away. Knowing the signs and calling 911 immediately gives you the best chance for recovery. The faster a stroke is treated, the better the outcome.

## Beat

Life after stroke can be challenging, but there is hope. Making strong rehab decisions, staying connected to your care team, and taking steps to prevent another stroke can improve your recovery and quality of life. With the right tools and support, survivors can thrive.

**If signs and symptoms of a stroke occur, remember to:**

## B.E.F.A.S.T.

- B** Off **B**alance or dizzy
- E** Vision (**E**ye) changes
- F** Face drooping
- A** Arm or leg weak or numb
- S** Speech slurred
- T** Terrible headache
- Time to call 9-1-1



Scan QR code for  
stroke resources &  
support.



[www.kissnetwork.us/Kiss-Stroke-Goodbye](http://www.kissnetwork.us/Kiss-Stroke-Goodbye)

## References:

1. American Hospital Association (2021). Community Partnerships: Strategies to Accelerate Health Equity
2. National Institutes of Health. National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. (2022). Inequities in Access and Delivery of Acute Stroke Care. Bethesda, MD: National Institutes of Health.
3. Reshetnyak, E. et al. (2020). "Impact of Multiple Social Determinants of Health on Incident Stroke." Stroke, 51: 2445-2453.
4. Skloarus, L. et al. (2020). "Considerations in Addressing Social Determinants of Health to Reduce Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Stroke Outcomes in the United States." Stroke, 51: 3433-3439.