



Social Characteristics and Perceived Discrimination of Racial Minority Stroke Survivors: A Secondary Analysis



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Abstract

Associations between social characteristics and perceived discrimination may offer insights into recovery of racial and ethnic minority stroke survivors.

- Although persons may share a social characteristic such as race, lived experiences of discrimination are not monolithic.
- Persons from the same race may experience discrimination differently based on additional social characteristics such as chronological age or education level.

Furthermore, the lived experiences of minority stroke survivors may offer additional insights.

Objectives

We examined relationships between selected social characteristics (i.e., chronological age, education level) and perceived discrimination in Black and African American patients who experienced a stroke

Methods

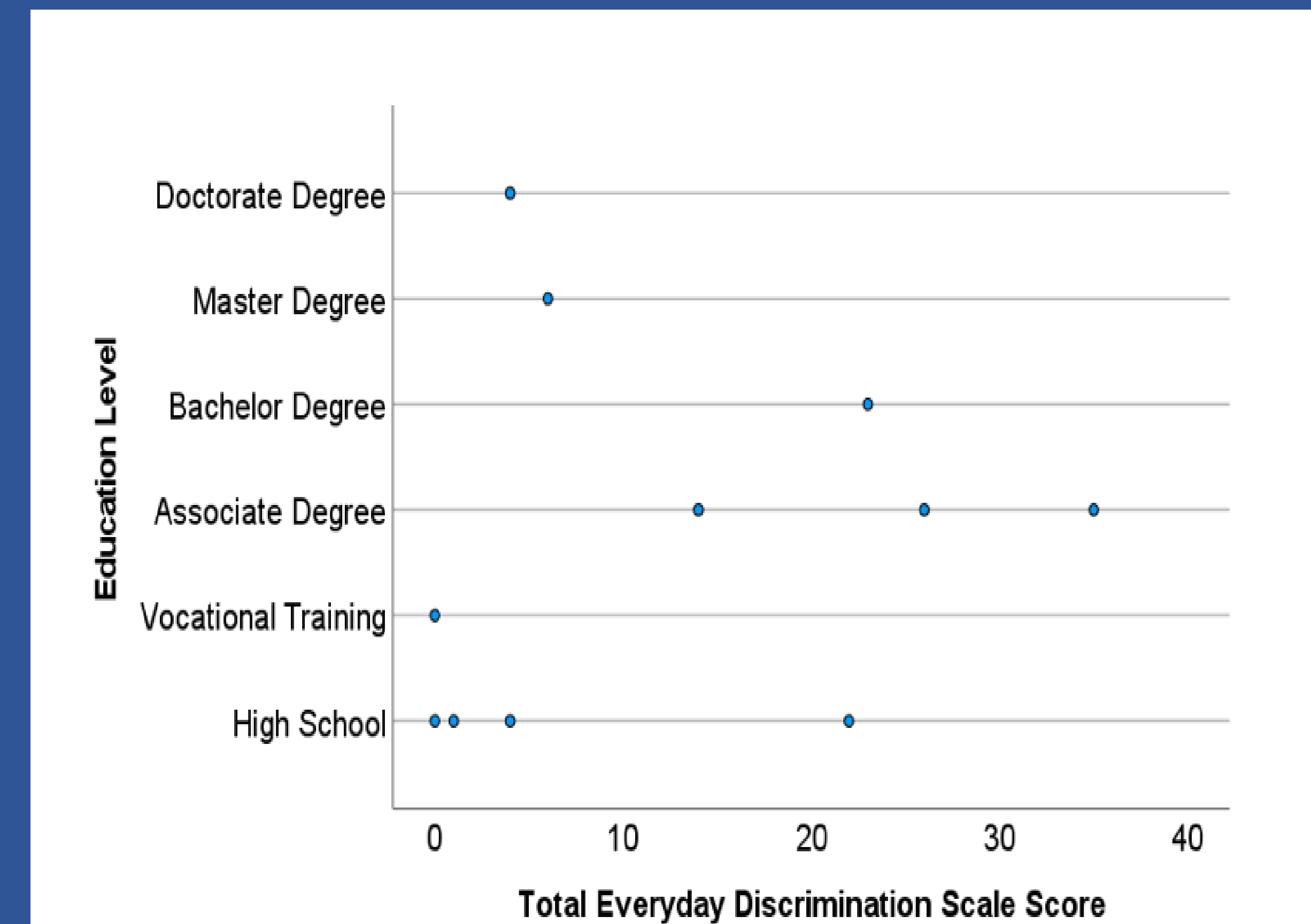
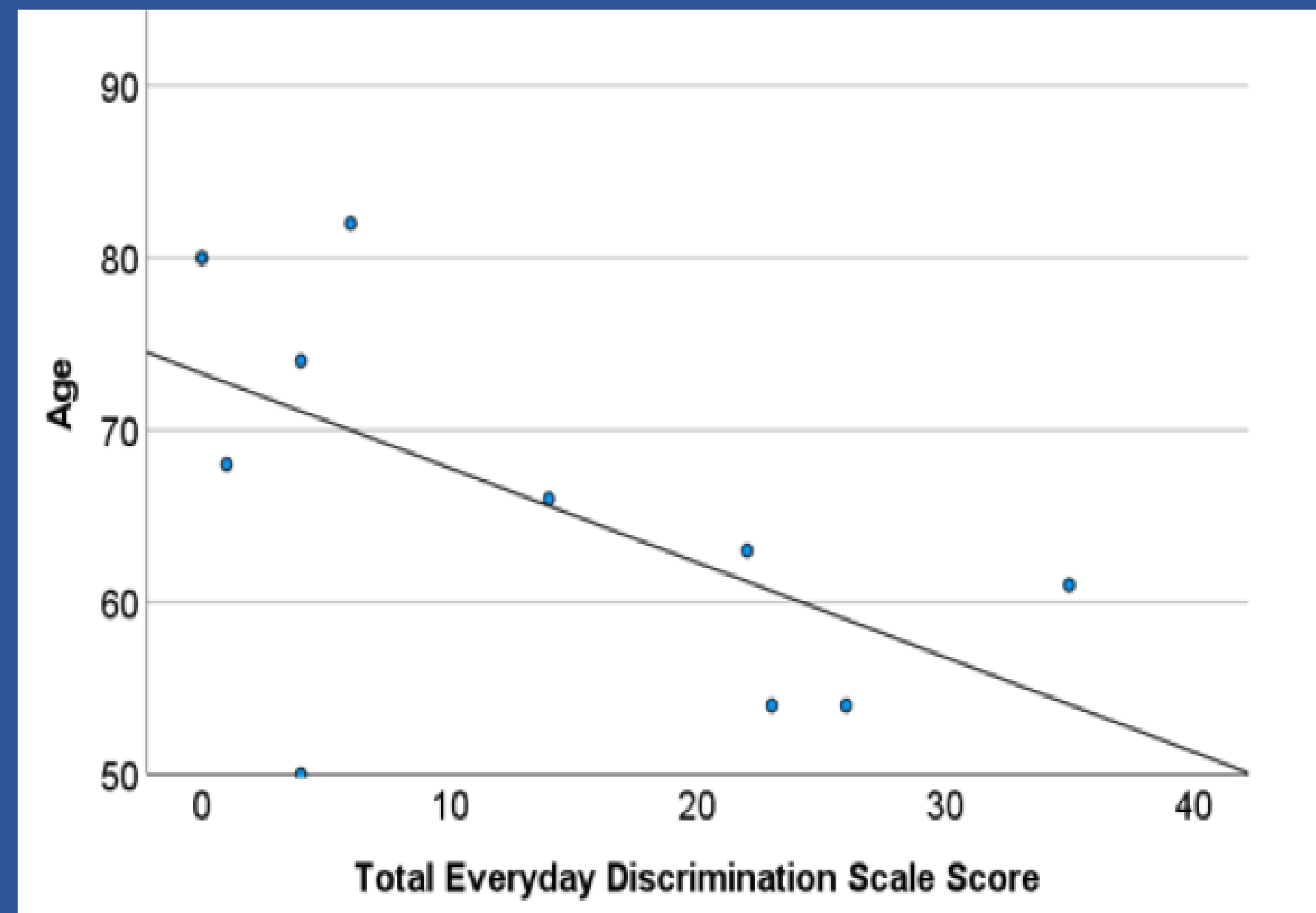
We conducted a secondary analysis on 11 stroke survivors who identified as African American or Black.

Chronological age and education were self-reported. Endorsement of perceived discrimination was measured with the Everyday Discrimination Scale (EDS).

Associations between social characteristics (age, education) and perceived discrimination were examined with Cramer's V tests.

Semi-structured interviews were examined for examples of challenges with healthcare attributed to discrimination.

Results



Older adults reported lower frequency of perceived discrimination than younger adults, but this relationship not statistically significant (Cramer's $V=0.62$, $p=0.12$). There was no meaningful relationship between educational level and perceived discrimination.

Structured interviews revealed three themes pertaining to participant-identified examples of perceived discrimination during healthcare post-stroke.

Poor Communication:

"Yeah, he didn't say – he just said, 'oh you had a mild stroke.' And I said, 'Oh my God I didn't know that.' But he didn't explain, you know, what happened"

Poor Execution of Care Delivery:

"Well, I've made it out alive. And you know they did, whatever it was. I didn't have the headache. I didn't have the symptoms anymore when I left the hospital. I was discharged, then I had to walk the whole hospital myself to leave. Like, normally they put you in a wheelchair, and wheel you out. I was wobbling through the whole entire hospital when I was discharged. And so, and I made it out of that alive as well. So, I guess the only positive thing is that- I was- I made it out alive. I could have died."

Missed Diagnosis:

"[My daughter said] something's wrong let's get her in the bed. And they got me in the bed ... My daughter's [said] let's call the ambulance, we should call the ambulance. And when the ambulance came, they wasn't going 'oh she's having a stroke.' They're like 'Oh, you know she talks like this all the time.' And my daughter says 'No she doesn't.'"

Participant Characteristics

	% (n) or M±SD
Age, % (n)	67 ± 11
50-59	27% (3)
60-69	36% (4)
70+	36% (4)
Gender, Female	91% (10)
Education	
High school	36% (4)
2 years post-secondary education	36% (4)
4 years+ post-secondary education	27% (3)
Medicaid eligibility	55% (6)
Retired	64% (7)
Live alone	18% (2)
Perceived low income	45% (5) *
Discrimination, Total M±SD	12±12
Perceived Discrimination, Yes	82% (9)

*Two participants declined to respond to this question

Conclusion

Preliminary evidence suggests that experiences of perceived discrimination during health care delivery after stroke are **not monolithic** and require additional examination

Limitations

Limitations in the sample size, sampling frame (one geographical region, one health system), and sample demographics (primarily female) require that we acknowledge that our **findings are restricted** to those within this analysis.

Findings from this study **cannot be generalized** to infer strong conclusions about associations among social characteristics and perceived discrimination in the context of health care delivery. Additional research is needed.

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