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## Studies: Blacks still trail whites in health care; [Chicago Final Edition]

[The Washington Post](#). [Chicago Tribune](#). Chicago, Ill.: [Aug 18, 2005](#). pg. 11

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### Abstract (Document Summary)

In one study, Viola Vaccarino of [Emory University](#) and colleagues studied the records of 598,911 patients treated for heart attacks between 1994 and 2002. **Blacks** were much less likely than whites to have basic diagnostic tests, such as angiography, as well as drugs or procedures to reopen clogged arteries, such as angioplasty.

### Full Text (190 words)

*(Copyright 2005 by the Chicago Tribune)*

Black Americans still have far fewer operations, tests, medicines and other lifesaving treatments than whites despite years of efforts to erase racial disparities in health care, according to three major studies published Thursday.

Blacks' health care has started to catch up to whites' in some ways, but blacks remain much less likely to have heart bypasses, appendectomies and other common procedures.

The studies found that gains tended to occur for the simplest care--like drug prescriptions--and gaps tended to widen for more complex treatment.

In one study, Viola Vaccarino of [Emory University](#) and colleagues studied the records of 598,911 patients treated for heart attacks between 1994 and 2002. Blacks were much less likely than whites to have basic diagnostic tests, such as angiography, as well as drugs or procedures to reopen clogged arteries, such as angioplasty. Women were also less likely to get appropriate care than men, with black women receiving the worst care of any group.

The other studies were led by Ashish Jha of the Harvard School of Public Health and Amal Trivedi of Harvard Medical School. All three studies were published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

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