“Understanding Disparities: Do African Americans Really Quit Smoking at a Lower Rate than Whites?”

Presented by:
Dr. Nikki Nollen
Associate Professor
Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, University of Kansas School of Medicine

Dr. Nikki Nollen has devoted the past 13 years to understanding determinants of health and health behaviors among underserved populations. She received her PhD in counseling psychology from the University of Missouri at Kansas City in 2002 and was a postdoctoral fellow for 3 years in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at the University of Kansas School of Medicine before joining the faculty in 2005. For the past 10 years, Dr. Nollen’s research has focused on evaluating promising behavioral and pharmacotherapy treatments for nicotine addiction in African American smokers, as well as examining psychosocial and biological mechanisms underlying tobacco use and treatment outcomes. She has been the PI of 7 extramurally funded grants and is currently the PI of an NIH funded R01. The R01 will examine differences in smoking cessation between African American and White smokers receiving the same smoking cessation treatment. Findings from this study will not only address if disparities in quitting exist but, more importantly, will examine smoking, psychosocial, treatment process, and biological mechanisms underlying the difference. Findings have the potential to improve tobacco use treatment by moving the field away from a generic focus on race/ethnicity toward a targeted focus on modifiable smoking, psychosocial, and treatment process factors most relevant to African Americans and to Whites.

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