RETENTION PATTERNS IN THE JACKSON HEART STUDY: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Mary E. Crump¹, Clifton C. Addison², Donna Antoine-LaVigne³, Evelyn Walker⁴, Debra Wilson⁵, Daniel Sarpong⁶

¹Department of Medicine/UMMC, Jackson Heart Study, 350 West Woodrow Wilson Drive Suite 701, Jackson, MS 39213. ²Jackson Heart Study/Project Health, Jackson State University, 350 W. Woodrow Wilson Drive, Suite 701, Jackson, MS 39213. ³Jackson Heart Study, Jackson State University, 350 W. Woodrow Wilson, Suite 701, Jackson, MS 39213. ⁴NHLBI Field Site, Jackson Heart Study, 350 West Woodrow Wilson Drive Suite 701, Jackson, MS 39213. ⁵Jackson State University, Jackson Heart Study, 350 West Woodrow Wilson Drive Suite 701, Jackson, MS 39213.

Abstract: The Jackson Heart Study (JHS) is a prospective, epidemiologic, population-based longitudinal study investigating cardiovascular disease among African Americans in the tri-county (Hinds, Madison, and Rankin Counties) Jackson, Miss. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Retention of minority participants in a research study can be challenging due to the many factors of mistrust. African Americans and other minorities have been under-represented in virtually all aspects of clinical research. The study objective is to investigate the strategies used by JHS to retain the African American participation. The JHS began September 2000 and includes participants within the tri-county area. We reviewed the strategies used in Exam 1 and Exam 2 to determine the number of participants in Exam 1 who completed Exam 2, the rate of attrition, the facilitator patterns/strategies that maximize retention, changes made from Exam 2 to Exam 3, and socio-demographic factors influencing retention. There was an 85% retention rate from Exam 1 to Exam 2. Barriers have been surmounted by staff communication, community activities, sensitivity to cultural needs and taking time to explain study activities to participants in a warm and friendly atmosphere. The JHS efforts on retention could provide a model for retention of African Americans in research. Retention activities used in the Jackson Heart Study can be used by other researchers in minority settings with one location and recommended for future research use in multi-site studies and those of other racial/ethnic groups.

Key-words: Retention; minority; African-Americans; Jackson Heart Study; barriers