



# Could Trusting Your Doctor Impact Your Health in America?

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## HOW IT WORKS

In each issue, the *Annals* selects an article and provides discussion tips and questions. Post a summary of your conversation in our online discussion. (Open the article, click on the eLetters tab, and submit a comment.) Discussion questions and information are online at: <https://www.AnnFamMed.org/content/AJC>.

## CURRENT SELECTION

Bazargan M, Cobb S, Assari S. Discrimination and medical mistrust in a racially and ethnically diverse sample of California adults. *Ann Fam Med*. 2021;19(1):4-15.

### Discussion Tips

A better understanding of how individuals of different racial and ethnic backgrounds experience and view the medical care system could impact the health of a population. A better causal model that accounts for these perceptions might allow for better design of care systems and a greater appreciation of these perceptions might affect how individual clinicians interact with patients.

### Discussion Questions

- What question is asked by this study and why does it matter?
- How does this study advance beyond previous research on this topic?
- How strong is the study design for answering the question?
  - What are the benefits and weaknesses of the survey design and administration?
  - What are the potential biases created by the survey design?

- What confounding variables are present within the study?
  - What is the difference between a moderator and a mediator? Which of these should be controlled for in a regression analysis?
  - What is endogeneity? What happens to a model if there is endogeneity built into a model?
- What type of model did the author's use? What are the assumptions of a multinomial logistic regression? What's the difference between ordinal and multinomial logistic regressions?
- To what degree can the findings be accounted for by:
  - How the main outcome variables were measured?
- What findings do you notice in the bivariate analyses (Table 3)? How do these compare to the multivariable model?
  - Do you think reporting having a primary care physician is a cause and/or effect of medical mistrust? How might this impact our causal model?
  - What's the difference between a point estimate and a confidence interval?
- How comparable is the study sample to similar patients in your practice? What is your judgment about the transportability of the findings?
- What contextual factors are important for interpreting the findings?
  - How would you gauge the potential benefits and harms of the study?
- How might this study change your practice? Education? Research?
- Who are the constituencies for the findings, and how they might be engaged in interpreting or using the findings?
- What are the next steps in interpreting or applying the findings?
- What researchable questions remain?

## References

1. Stange KC, Miller WL, McLellan LA, et al. *Annals Journal Club: It's time to get RADICAL*. *Ann Fam Med*. 2006;4(3):196-197. <http://annfammed.org/cgi/content/full/4/3/196>.