

# Discrimination in access to medical care: a field experiment

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## Abstract:

*This study measures the differences in patients' access to care for three medical specialties (dentists, gynecologists and psychiatrists) and according to two criteria: the patient's origin, indicated by the consonance of his first and last names and a situation of social precariousness, corresponding to the fact of benefiting from health care coverage designated to low income individuals. It is based on a nationally representative telephone test with more than 1,500 medical offices covered and 4,500 appointment requests. It concludes that there is strong discrimination based on social precariousness in the three medical specialties tested. The situations of discriminatory care refusal, explicit and direct, are the fault of 9% of dentists, 11% of gynecologists and 15% of psychiatrists. The study does not show the presence of a substantial discrimination toward the patient of African origin neither toward the patient of African origin of Muslim religion.*

**Keywords:** discrimination, access to care, care refusal, correspondence test

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