

# Untitled

by Academic 2025

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## General metrics

<b>4,084</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2 min 24 sec</b>	<b>4 min 38 sec</b>
characters	words	sentences	reading time	speaking time

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## Writing Issues

 No issues found

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## Plagiarism

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## Unique Words

Measures vocabulary diversity by calculating the percentage of words used only once in your document

**52%**

unique words

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## Rare Words

Measures depth of vocabulary by identifying words that are not among the 5,000 most common English words.

**36%**

rare words

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## Word Length

Measures average word length

**5.5**

characters per word

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## Sentence Length

Measures average sentence length

**20.1**

words per sentence

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# Untitled

The Tuskegee Syphilis Study: An exploration of unethical research.

## Description

The Tuskegee Syphilis Study, also referred to as the Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male, is one of the most infamous cases of unethical research in American history. Starting in 1932 and lasting 40 years until its public release in 1972, the study recruited 399 Black men with syphilis and 201 uninfected controls into the study within Macon County, Alabama (Tobin, 2022). The participants were mostly poor, rural and had little access to formal education or healthcare. The true nature of the study was hidden from the participants, who were told they were being treated for bad blood, a local term that implies a variety of ailments. Importantly, although penicillin was already the norm in 1947, when the disease was finally cured (syphilis), the men were left untreated to allow the researchers to observe the natural course of the disease (Reverby, 2022). Only when a whistleblower gave information to the press did the study stop, sparking national outrage.

## Consequences

The implications for the participants were dire and extensive. Uncured syphilis led to debilitating complications among many men, such as cardiovascular disease, neurological degeneration and early death. They had unknowingly infected their wives, and some were born with congenital syphilis. In addition to the physical damage, the research triggered a permanent psychological trauma and spawned profound, intergenerational distrust of the medical and research institutions among African Americans (Tobin, 2022). This distrust has produced quantifiable downstream impacts on health care-seeking behavior and

readiness to engage in clinical research, which were still evident decades later, such as lower COVID-19 vaccination rates among Black Americans (Sewaralthahab et al., 2025). In 1997, President Bill Clinton officially apologized to survivors, noting the study's great moral failure.

#### Ethical and Legal Problems.

The Tuskegee Study contravened many ethical and legal principles of human research. Most importantly, they never informed consent was taken out, participants were never informed that they had syphilis, and they were not informed of the actual intentions of the study. Active deceit was perpetrated upon them regarding their treatment (Reverby, 2022). Even researchers have withheld a known, existing cure, causing harm continuously and preventably. This was a direct breach of the principles of beneficence and non-maleficence. Moreover, the active pre-selection and exploitation of a vulnerable, economically disadvantaged black population in the racially segregated South shows how unethical use of social, political and cultural power inequality in research. Those researchers who wielded institutional power bore the full legal and moral responsibility for the pain and suffering inflicted on the subjects of the experiment.

#### Ethics Research Practices and Procedures of the Modern Day.

The Tuskegee Study was a potent impetus to radical change in research ethics. A direct response followed it in the National Research Act of 1974, which eventually resulted in the historic Belmont Report of 1979, which formulated three fundamental ethical principles: respect for persons based on voluntary informed consent, beneficence based on maximization of benefits and minimization of harm, and justice based on equitable distribution of research burdens (Tobin, 2022). Currently, all research involving human subjects should be reviewed by an Institutional Review Board (IRB), and adherence to these

principles must be ensured before any study is conducted. The American Psychological Association's code of ethics also obliges psychologists to ensure informed consent, protect participants from harm, uphold confidentiality, and ensure that all research is transparent and honest. These new protections fit right within the framework of the Belmont Report. They are a direct result of the ethical lapses shown at Tuskegee, so no more vulnerable group can be used again in the name of science.