2. What are the attitudes, behaviors and beliefs of the US Virgin Islander that directly or indirectly influence adherence to hypertensive medical therapeutic regimens?

1. What are the critical factors that influence therapeutic adherence in the hypertensive US Virgin Islander?

2. What are the attitudes, behaviors and beliefs of the US Virgin Islander that directly or indirectly influence hypertensive therapeutic measures?

3. What are the critical factors of the social structure of the United States Virgin Islands that influence adherence to hypertensive medical therapeutic regimens?

**Research Questions**

**Background**

Prevalence of Hypertension in the United States Virgin Islands

**Problem**

Adherence to any therapeutic medical regimen is multidimensional. Factors that influence this behavior include social, cultural, educational, and economic differences between patients and non-adherent. This concept has been studied among various populations with researchers investigating similar factors. Individual and event similarities at specific times may determine consistent outcomes for different factors. Despite the fact that the United States of America mandates the healthcare system of the US Virgin Islands, the cited hypertension among this population exceeds the vast majority of states on the mainland. There are likely multiple factors contributing to the prevalence of hypertension in this population. Non-adherence to therapeutic regimens has been identified in many studies as a tremendous factor contributing to hypertension prevalence globally, with minority populations showing the highest risk of this behavior. Statistical analysis continues to show the prevalence of this disease among this group is exorbitant accounting for the demise of a vast number of patients. Exploring beyond the surface can reveal immense insight about the reasons for the prevalence globally, with minority populations showing the highest risk of this behavior. Non-adherence to therapeutic regimens has been viewed as a primary factor in poor control of hypertension (WHO, 2003). Uncontrolled hypertension is responsible for a vast number of unproductive effects of morbidity and mortality.

Grounded Theory Method is a Qualitative method of inquiry that examines social processes. The philosophical underpinnings of this research approach is Symbolic Interactionism and Pragmatism. The grounded theory method introduced by Strauss and Corbin in 1998 is the grounded theory methodology that will be used in this study. This approach is composed of systematic analytic procedures to develop theories about the phenomenon being explored.

**Research Design**

Grounded Theory is a Qualitative method of inquiry that examines social processes. The philosophical underpinnings of this research approach is Symbolic Interactionism and Pragmatism. The grounded theory method introduced by Strauss and Corbin in 1998 is the grounded theory methodology that will be used in this study. This approach is composed of systematic analytic procedures to develop theories about the phenomenon being explored.

**Sample and Setting**

Inclusion Criteria Initial Sample

- Individual must be a United States Virgin Islander by birth or acculturated (Living on Island for 5 years or greater)
- Persons between the ages of 18-80
- Person must have a self-reported diagnosis of hypertension for one year or longer
- Person must have been placed on some mode of blood pressure management by a health care professional
- Each participant must be able to speak, read and write English
- Must have access to a telephone and a computer

Inclusion Criteria Theoretical Sample

- Individual must be a United States Virgin Islander by birth or acculturated (Living on Island for 10 years or greater)
- Persons between the ages of 18-80
- Person must have a self-reported diagnosis of hypertension for 20 years or greater
- Each participant must be able to speak, read and write in English
- Must have access to a telephone and a computer

Sample Size

The sample size was determined by the investigator based on the number of participants who met the inclusion criteria and who were willing to participate.

Data Analysis

Grounded Theory Method (Morton, 2016, adapted from Strauss and Corbin, 1990)

**Data Analysis**

Grounded Theory Method (Morton, 2016, adapted from Strauss and Corbin, 1990)

**References**

