Human subject research is purportedly conducted to improve the human condition and, in most instances, it does. However, there have been repeated instances, throughout history in various parts of the world, where bioethics violations have occurred. Most often, the violations have disproportionally and adversely affected vulnerable populations to include, but not limited to: people of color, low-income populations, women, children, and persons living with physical or mental disabilities or illnesses, or who are institutionalized or incarcerated. This presentation will review historic bioethics violations, particularly those adversely affecting people of color, such as the U.S. Public Health Service Syphilis Study at Tuskegee. The goal of the presentation is to highlight consistencies in these bioethics violations, discuss lessons learned (or not learned) and how violations can be prevented. The roles that race/ethnic, sex/gender and/or class biases may play in bioethics violations will also be discussed. At the end of the presentation, it is expected that more discerning and ethical approaches to research will result, as well as intentional roles that faculty, administrators, staff, students and community members may play in assuring that bioethics principles are followed.

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