With a genomic revolution continuing to advance rapidly, it is important that persons of all ethnic groups, in particular persons of African descent, are involved in genetic research.

The low participation rates of persons of African descent in genetic research hampers the ability to identify the genetic basis of diseases disproportionately affecting this population and restrict the exploration of ethnic and genetic differences in disease distribution (Bowen & Penchasazdeh, 2008, Rotimi, 2012).

The purpose of this study is to explore knowledge, attitudes, behaviors and experiences (KABEs) related to genetic research among a sample of persons of African descent.

Instrument: An investigator designed questionnaire was developed to capture the KABEs data of interest and demographic characteristics of study participants.

KABE developed items were based upon extensive review of the relevant literature with some adapted from previous studies utilizing populations of African descent.

Procedures: Using a cross sectional survey design, persons, ages 18 and older, were recruited from the Washington, DC metropolitan area through public advertisements and word of mouth. Data were coded and analyzed using SPSS.

Persons of African descent have basic knowledge of genetic testing but few experiences

Persons of African descent view participation in genetic research as important and are willing to have their genetic profile analyzed to detect susceptibility to certain diseases

Misuse of genetic information is a concern

Potential limitations center around generalizability, use of quantitative methodology to glean breadth of complex issues, applicability to actual behavior
