

African American in Michigan: Health Snapshot



Concerns:

Cardiovascular disease and other diet-related illness are major concerns for African Americans in Michigan. **African Americans have a significantly higher prevalence of diabetes, stroke, and obesity** than the State average. Availability of nutritious foods has been identified as a key barrier to better health. African Americans have the highest infant mortality rate and HIV/AIDS rates of any racial/ethnic group in the State; teen pregnancy and STDs are identified as major concerns by African Americans across Michigan. Violence remains the number one cause of death for Black men ages 15-35. **Unemployment, racism, and mistrust of medical and government systems** have also been identified as reasons for lack of access to medical care, and likewise as reasons for increased levels of stress and depression.

Doing better:

African Americans in Michigan are less likely to engage in risky drinking behaviors, both heavy and binge drinking, and are more likely to have had a routine checkup in the last year than Whites. African Americans under 65 years are more likely to have had an HIV test as well.

Key social and environmental health determinants:

The April 2009 unemployment rate for African Americans in Michigan was **19.5%, the highest in the country**. The median household income among this racial group is \$31,534 with a total of 30.6% living below the poverty line. Among those 25 years and older, 80.2% are high school graduates and 14.1% have a bachelor's degree or higher. 56.8% are cost-burdened renters (rent ≥ 30% of income). 50.1% live in owner-occupied homes. The Detroit – Ann Arbor – Flint metropolitan area has a Black/White tract dissimilarity index of 83.5, showing that Black and White communities would need to exchange about 83% of their residents to achieve integration. This represents one of the most segregated geographic areas in the country. Dissimilarity (geographic segregation) is a known factor for poor community health.

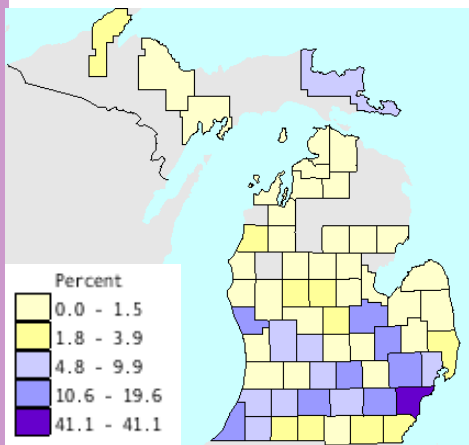
Total Population:	1,425,269
% of population:	14.3
Age Distribution:	
under 5:	7.6%
5-17:	22.8%
18-65:	60.9%
over 65:	8.7%

Key health status, behavior, and healthcare access indicators:

African American men have a 7.6 year shorter life expectancy than White men; females 3.5 years. Among non-elderly African Americans (<65 years) **19.0% do not have health insurance**, 46.2% receive coverage from their employer, and 30.8% receive coverage from Medicaid. African Americans report cost as a barrier to healthcare access and report being dissatisfied with life at a higher rate than average for Michigan.

Looking Forward.

Keys for improving the health of African Americans in Michigan were solicited through a series of community conversations held across the state in the fall of 2009. Some of the priorities identified include:



- Cultural competency, provider trust, and health insurance coverage for all are key areas for improvement within the medical system.
- Block clubs and faith-based initiatives are widely recognized as benefiting the community's health.
- A disconnect to policy makers at all levels is identified as a strong barrier to overall community improvement and health promotion.
- Collaboration between the State, individuals, community- and faith- based organizations, and other stakeholders, as well as increased investment in school-based health centers, are recommended as a key steps towards health improvement.

Sources: Michigan BRFSS, 06-08 bridged estimates; Michigan Vital Statistics 07 data; American Community Survey 05-07 (US Census); US Census 08 population estimates; Kaiser Family Foundation State Health Facts 07; Racial Res. Segregation Measurement Proj., MSU, 2000. 2009 Community Conversations, MDCH. Please contact the Health Disparities Reduction/ Minority Health section at colormehealthy@michigan.gov for more information.

Percent African American, 2005-07

