

2015 Health Disparity Fact Sheet

African American/Black in Colorado



This fact sheet provides information about some of the major health indicators for the African American/Black population in Colorado. Like other communities of color, African American/Black individuals experience some differences in health, disease risk factors and health behaviors in comparison to other population groups. The data presented show comparisons between the African American/Black population and the State's population as a whole and identifies where there are differences. The disparity column shows if the African American/Black rate is statistically worse (red), better (green) or the same (white) as the state rate. If it is the same, that means there is no statistically significant difference.

There are roughly 201,737 African American/Black individuals in Colorado, which is approximately four percent of the State's population.¹

	African American/ Black Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Demographics			
Median household income ¹	\$43,145	\$58,823	Worse
Percent of population living below poverty ¹	23.6%	13.0%	Worse
High school graduation rate ²	69.0%	77.3%	

- The median household income for African Americans/Black Coloradans is \$15,678 less than the state median.
- Almost twice as many African Americans/Black Coloradans are living below the poverty level than the overall state population.
- Fewer African American/Black individuals graduate from high school than the state's population as a whole.

	African American/ Black Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Maternal Child Health			
Infant mortality (<i>infant deaths per 1,000 live births</i>) ³	13.5	5.5	Worse
Low birth weight births ³	13.7%	8.8%	Worse
Unintended pregnancy ⁴	62.9%	37.6%	Worse
Births to teens ages 15-17 (<i>births per 1,000 population</i>) ³	17.9	15.0	Worse
Women reporting 3 or more stressors during pregnancy ⁴	36.8%	26.7%	Same
Women who drank during last three months of pregnancy ⁴	3.3%	10.7%	Better
Women who smoked during last three months of pregnancy ⁴	12.1%	8.5%	Same
Childhood obesity (ages 2-14) ⁵	24.6%	14.8%	Same

- The infant mortality rate and prevalence of low birth weight births are more than twice as high among African American/Black Coloradans than the population as a whole.
- More than half of all African American/Black births result from an unplanned pregnancy.
- The teen birth rate is significantly higher among African American/Black women compared to the entire population as a whole.
- Significantly fewer African American/Black women reported drinking during the last three months of pregnancy compared to the total population of pregnant women in Colorado.

	Black Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Health and risk behaviors⁶			
Cigarette smoking	23.0%	17.9%	Worse
Binge drinking (5 or more drinks in one sitting)	15.0%	19.2%	Better
No physical activity	24.2%	17.2%	Worse
Eat fewer than 5 fruits and vegetables per day	78.8%	77.7%	Same
Obese (BMI>=30)	31.6%	20.8%	Worse
Overweight (BMI>=25)	61.6%	56.1%	Worse
Mental health was not good 8 or more days (in the past 30 days)	16.6%	13.7%	Same

- Cigarette smoking is significantly higher among Black Coloradans compared to the overall state prevalence; while binge drinking is significantly less among African American/Black Coloradans.
- More African American/Black Coloradans are overweight or obese compared to the total population.

- Fewer African American/Black Coloradans participate in some kind of physical activity.
- African American/Black Coloradans experience a similar prevalence of poor mental health in the last month compared to the state population as a whole.

	African American/ Black Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Health care and access⁶			
No health insurance	25.1%	17.6%	Worse
Women 40+ who have not had a mammogram in last 2 years	37.3%	31.6%	Same
Women who have not had a pap test in last 3 years	19.8%	20.6%	Same
Have high blood pressure	35.2%	25.6%	Worse
Have diabetes	10.4%	6.9%	Worse
Have asthma	11.7%	8.7%	Same

- More African American/Black Coloradans are uninsured compared to the Colorado population as a whole.
- Two chronic diseases, high blood pressure and diabetes are more common among African American/Black Coloradans compared to the overall state prevalence for the two diseases.
- The percentage of individuals living with asthma is similar between African American/Black Coloradans and the total population.

	African American/ Black Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Infectious Diseases (Incidence rates per 100,000 population)			
Tuberculosis ⁷	7.1	1.3	Same
Gonorrhea ⁸	311.4	53.2	Worse
HIV ⁸	32.6	7.5	Worse

- In recent years, African American/Black Coloradans had the highest incidence of the sexually transmitted infections (STI), gonorrhea and HIV, and the second highest incidence rate of tuberculosis compared to other racial and ethnic groups in Colorado.

10 leading causes of death⁹	
African American/Black Coloradans	All Coloradans
Cancer	Cancer
Heart Disease	Heart Disease
Unintentional Injuries	Unintentional Injuries
Stoke	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases
Diabetes	Stroke
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	Alzheimer's Disease
Homicide/legal intervention	Suicide
Alzheimer's disease	Diabetes
Perinatal period conditions	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis
Kidney disease	Influenza and Pneumonia

- The top three leading causes of death-cancer, heart disease and unintentional injuries-are the same for African Americans/Black Coloradans as they are for the State's population as a whole. Diabetes is ranked fifth for African Americans/Black Coloradans, but 8th for the State. Kidney disease is in the top 10 causes of death for African American/Black individuals, but not for the state as a whole. Suicide and influenza and pneumonia are ranked in the State's top 10 causes of death, but are not for the African American/Black population.

¹ American Community Survey (tables S1903, S1701 from 2013 and DP-1 from 2010 found on American FactFinder)

² Colorado Department of Education, 2014

³ Vital Statistics Program, 2009-2013, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

⁴ Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, 2009-2012, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

⁵ Colorado Child Health Survey, 2010-2013, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

⁶ Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2011-2013, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

⁷ Tuberculosis Program, 2012-2014, Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

⁸ STI/HIV Section, 2009-13 (gonorrhea data) and 2015 (HIV data), Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

⁹ Vital Statistics Program, 2009-2013 mortality data, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

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