



MINORITY HEALTH FACTS

African Americans

IN RHODE ISLAND



2011 MINORITY HEALTH FACT SHEETS PREPARED BY:

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www.health.ri.gov/programs/minorityhealth

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Introduction

This report provides information about major health indicators in the African American/Black population of Rhode Island. An African American/Black is defined by the Office of Management and Budget (Directive 15, rev 1997) as a person having origins in areas of the Black racial groups of Africa. A White person is defined as a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa.

This report presents data on socio-economic characteristics, morbidity and mortality, behavioral risks, infectious diseases, maternal and child health, and access to care among African American/Black Rhode Islanders in comparison to the White and the overall state populations. Please note that race and ethnic status for some Department of Health data sets are based on self-identification. All groups reported in this fact sheet are non-Hispanic unless otherwise indicated. The tables present point estimates which should not be used to imply statistical significance.

Population Demographics

According to the US Bureau of the Census, 2010 Census, there are 51,560 African Americans in Rhode Island, making this group the second largest minority population in the state (4.9%). Nearly 99% of African Americans in the state live in urban areas. Estimates from the 2007-2009 American Community Survey data indicate that the median age for the African American population is 29.0 years whereas the total state median age is 39.4 years. Nearly 93% of the African American population is age 65 or younger, while 86% of the state population is age 65 or younger.

Socio-Economic Characteristics

The following are socio-economic characteristics of Rhode Island's African American/Black population. These charac-

teristics may affect the health of the African American/Black population living in Rhode Island. Except for the high school graduate rate, the socioeconomic data source for the African American/Black, White, and overall state populations is based on the 2007-2009 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates.

- The percentage of African Americans living below the poverty level is about two times that of the overall state population and almost three times that of the White population.
- The median household income for African Americans is \$38,500. That is \$16,200 less than the state median and about \$21,000 less than that for the White population.
- A lower percentage of African Americans graduate from high school than that for the White and overall state populations.
- The percentage of African Americans who are unemployed is almost two times the percentage unemployed in the White and overall state populations.

TABLE A: SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA

	AFRICAN AMERICAN ¹	WHITE ¹	STATE ¹
Percentage of population living in poverty*	23.0%	8.2%	11.9%
Percentage of population that is unemployed	7.2%	4.4%	5.2%
Median household income**	\$38.5K	\$59.5K	\$54.7K
High school graduation rate ²	86%	91%	89%

Sources: 1. US Bureau of the Census, 2007-2009 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates
2. Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2006-2007 School Year

*The 100% federal poverty level for a family of 4 in 2008 was \$21,200.

**The median income is the middlemost amount which divides the incomes into two equal groups, half having incomes above the median and half having incomes below the median. Household income takes into account any wage earners who share a household regardless of relation.

Behavioral Risk Factors

The percentage of African Americans who participate in physical activity is less than that of the White and the overall state populations.

Fewer African Americans engage in binge drinking compared to Whites and the overall state population.

Mortality

African Americans, Whites, and the overall state population share heart disease, cancer, stroke, and unintentional injuries as four of the top five causes of death. While diabetes mellitus ranks as the third leading cause of death in the African American population, this cause of death is not ranked among the top five for the overall state or the White populations.

Chronic Diseases

Racial and ethnic disparities exist in health outcomes related to chronic diseases such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. For detailed reports of the burden of these chronic diseases on the health of Rhode Island residents and the disproportionate impact on the state's minority residents, visit the Rhode Island Department of Health website at www.health.ri.gov

Infectious Diseases

The rate of gonorrhea is nearly eight times higher in the African American population than in the overall state population and almost 15 times higher than in the White population.

The rate of chlamydia is five times higher in the African American population than in the overall state population and about 10 times higher than in the White population.

From 2005 to 2007, the rate of tuberculosis cases was about four times higher for African Americans than for the overall state population and about 11 times higher than for the White population.

HIV rates are almost five times higher for African Americans than for the overall state population and about eight times higher than for the White population.

TABLE B: BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR INDICATORS (ADULTS 18 YEARS AND OLDER)

	AFRICAN AMERICAN	WHITE	STATE
Percentage of adult population who participates in light to moderate physical activity for at least 30 minutes per day (2003, 2005, 2007)	45.7	51.9	50.3
Percentage of adult population (20 yrs+) who is overweight/obese ¹ (2005–2008)	69.2	61.2	61.4
Percentage of adult population (20 yrs+) who is obese ² (2005–2008)	30.1	21.6	22.2
Percentage of adult population who consumes at least 5 daily servings of fruits and vegetables (2003, 2005, 2007)	30.0	28.9	28.5
Percentage of adult population who smokes cigarettes (2005–2008)	17.8	18.6	18.4
Percentage of adult population who consumed 5+ drinks on one or more occasions in past month (binge-drinking) (2005–2008)	10.1	18.2	17.3

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

1. Overweight/obesity defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as body mass index (BMI) ≥ 25
2. Obesity defined by CDC as BMI ≥ 30

According to the 2010 Census, there are 51,560 African Americans living in Rhode Island, making this group the second largest minority population in the state.

TABLE C: LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH

RANK	AFRICAN AMERICAN	WHITE	STATE
1	Heart Disease	Heart Disease	Heart Disease
2	Cancer	Cancer	Cancer
3	Diabetes Mellitus	Chronic Respiratory Diseases	Chronic Respiratory Diseases
4	Stroke	Stroke	Stroke
5	Unintentional Injuries	Unintentional Injuries	Unintentional Injuries

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Office of Vital Records, RI Resident Deaths, ICD-10 Codes, 2005–2009

TABLE D: SELECTED INCIDENCE RATES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES: CASES PER 100,000 POPULATION

DISEASE	AFRICAN AMERICAN	WHITE	STATE
Gonorrhea ¹	290.8	19.7	38.0
Chlamydia ¹	1525	146	300
Tuberculosis ²	14.6	1.3	3.7
HIV/AIDS ³	86.9	11.0	17.9

Sources: Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Infectious Disease and Epidemiology
 1. Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Surveillance Data, 2007
 2. Tuberculosis Database, 2005–2007
 3. HIV/AIDS Surveillance Data, 2007

TABLE E: MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH INDICATORS

	AFRICAN AMERICAN	WHITE	STATE
Percentage of pregnant women with delayed prenatal care ^{1,2}	24.1	13.5	15.5
Rate of births to teens ages 15–19 (per 1000 teens) ^{1*}	63.5	27.1	28.3
Percentage of births to mothers with less than 12 years of education ¹	23.2	14.2	16.6
Percentage of infants with low birth weight (<5.5 lbs) ¹	10.6	7.4	8.0
Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births) ²	12.8	5.5	6.3
Percentage of children in poverty (<18 years old) ³	31.5	9.1	17.1

Sources: 1. Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, 2005–2009
 2. Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, 2005–2009 (births to mothers who are Rhode Island residents)
 3. US Bureau of the Census, 2007–2009 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

* Note: Teens aged 15–19: Rates are calculated using 2006–2008 American Community Survey Estimates; all race categories, excluding Whites, include Hispanic ethnicity.

~ Delayed prenatal care is defined as beginning prenatal care in the second or third trimester or receiving no prenatal care at all.

TABLE F: ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE INDICATORS (ADULTS 18 YEARS AND OLDER)

	AFRICAN AMERICAN	WHITE	STATE
Percentage of adults younger than 65 years old who reported having no health insurance (2005–2008)	12.5	6.4	9.3
Percentage of adults who reported having no specific source of ongoing healthcare (2001, 2006)	13.2	10.0	10.9
Percentage of adults who had no routine checkup within the past year (2005–2008)	17.8	19.5	20.2
Percentage of women aged 40+ who reported not receiving a mammogram in the past 2 years (2006, 2008)	15.8	16.4	16.7
Percentage of women who reported not having a pap test in the past 3 years (2006, 2008)	13.1	12.7	12.9
Percentage of adults who reported being unable to afford to see a doctor at least once in the past year (2005–2008)	13.3	7.8	10.0

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

TABLE G: YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR INDICATORS (YOUTH IN GRADES 9–12)

	AFRICAN AMERICAN	WHITE	STATE
Percentage of youth who reported using marijuana one or more times during the past 30 days (2007, 2009)	22.5	26.8	24.9
Percentage of youth who reported engaging in binge drinking one or more days in the past 30 days (2007, 2009)	25.5	40.6	38.6
Percentage of youth who reported having engaged in sexual intercourse (2007, 2009)	54.7	42.3	45.0
Percentage of youth who reported smoking cigarettes or cigars or using smokeless tobacco (2007, 2009)	+	12.3	11.4
Percentage of youth who reported not engaging in physical activity for 60 minutes or more on 5 or more days in the past 7 days (2007, 2009)	59.0	53.5	56.9
Percentage of youth who reported never or rarely wearing a seatbelt when in a vehicle driven by someone else (2007, 2009)	19.1	10.5	13.2

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

+ Sample too small for meaningful analysis



Maternal and Child Health

The overall state and the White populations have more favorable maternal and child health outcomes than the African American population in Rhode Island.

A larger percentage of African Americans have delayed prenatal care, and the rate of teen births for African Americans is more than twice that of the overall state and the White teen populations.

The rate of death of African American infants before their first birthday is more than twice that of the overall state and the White populations.

The percentage of African American children who grow up in poverty is nearly twice that of the overall state population of children, and more than three times that of White children.

Access To Healthcare

A higher percentage of African Americans report having no health insurance and no specific source of ongoing healthcare compared to the overall state and the White populations.

A higher percentage of African Americans also report being unable to afford a doctor at some point in time than of the overall state and the White populations.

A lower percentage of African American women aged 40+ report not having a mammogram in the past two years compared to women in all other populations.

Youth Risk Behavior

A lower percentage of African American youth appear to engage in sufficient physical activity compared to the White and overall state populations.

African American youth are less likely to engage in binge drinking than their peers in the White and overall state populations.