



California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

Los Angeles County Multicultural Health Fact Sheet

Introduction

The California Pan-Ethnic Health Network works to ensure that all Californians have access to health care and can live healthy lives. CPEHN gathers the strength of the state's new majority to build a united and powerful voice in health advocacy. We developed county-level fact sheets for Fresno, Los Angeles, Sacramento, and San Diego counties to provide community organizations with data to support their program planning and advocacy work.

Demographics

People of color make up 67.8% of Los Angeles County's population. Latinos are the largest racial/ethnic group, followed by Asians. Almost one in four African Americans and Latinos live below the federal poverty level.

Table 1: Race/Ethnicity and Poverty in Los Angeles County

Race/Ethnicity	Population	Below Poverty
African American	9.5%	24.4%
Latino	45.5%	24.2%
Native American/Alaska Native	0.3%	22.5%
Asian	11%	13.9%
White	32.2%	17.5%

Note: Data and federally established poverty thresholds (\$17,029 for a family of four) from 1999.

Source: Health Data Summaries for California Counties 2006,
<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/hisp/chs/OHIR/reports/others/datasummaries2006.pdf>.

Language Needs

A little over 54% of people in Los Angeles County speak a language other than English at home. Of these, 38.9% speak Spanish at home and 10% speak an Asian language.

Source: www.censusscope.org.

Health Conditions

Communities of color still face high rates of certain health conditions. More than half of the African American, Latino, and Native American/Alaska Native populations in Los Angeles County are overweight or obese, leading to increased rates of diabetes. Asthma hospitalizations are almost three times as high for African Americans and their children as they are for Whites.

Table 2: Health Conditions in Los Angeles County

Race/Ethnicity	High Blood Pressure	Overweight or Obese	Diabetes (Type 1 and Type 2)	Adult Heart Disease	Asthma Hospitalization (All Ages)	Asthma Hospitalization (Children 0-14 years)
African American	36.1%	57.8%	8.8%	5.5%	32.4	47.1
Latino	16.9%	59.4%	7.3%	4.2%	13.8	16.0
Native American/ Alaska Native	28.4%	57.9%	--	6.9%	--	--
Asian	24.2%	29.9%	5.1%	5.9%	7.5	8.5
White	26.6%	48.2%	5.7%	8.4%	10.4	13.9

Notes: For adults “Overweight or obese” include respondents who have a BMI of 25 or greater. For adolescents, “Overweight or obese” includes the respondents who have a BMI in the highest 95 percentile with respect to their age and gender. Asthma rates were calculated per 10,000 residents and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Population.

Table 3: Cancer Rates in Los Angeles County

Race/Ethnicity	All Cancers	Breast Cancer	Prostate Cancer	Lung Cancer
African American	509.3	72.7	235	77.3
Latino	333.2	43.2	150.2	26.3
Native American/ Alaska Native	--	--	--	--
Asian	331.0	52.9	91.2	40.3
White	484.2	74.5	152.9	55.8

Note: Rates are per 100,000 and are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Population.

Sources: California Health Interview Survey data, pooled 2003 and 2005 and *Diabetes in California Counties: Prevalence, Risk Factors and Resources*, 2005, California Diabetes Program, California Department of Health Services.

Access to Care

Latinos in Los Angeles County (34.4%) were more than twice as likely as Whites (13%) to be uninsured for all or part of the year. African Americans (16.8%), Native Americans (15.9%), and Asians (20.9%) were also uninsured at a higher rate than Whites.

Source: California Health Interview Survey data, pooled 2003 and 2005, for Los Angeles County’s population under the age of 65.

Additional Resources

For more information, go to CPEHN’s Multicultural Health Web Portal at www.cpehn.org.

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