



California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

San Diego 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 55.1% of San Diego County's population. Latinos are the largest racial/ethnic group, followed by African Americans. Almost one in five African Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans/Alaska Natives live below the federal poverty level.

Table 1: Race/Ethnicity and Poverty in San Diego County

Race/Ethnicity	Population	Below Poverty
African American	6.8%	18.4%
Latino	41.2%	22%
Native American/Alaska Native	0.8%	19.4%
Asian	4.7%	11.4%
White	44.9%	11.8%

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

One in three (33%) people in San Diego County speak a language other than English at home. Of these, 21.9% speak Spanish at home and 7.1% 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, as well as one in three Asians in San Diego County are overweight or obese, leading to increased rates of diabetes. Asthma hospitalizations are over three times as high for African Americans as they are for Whites.

Table 2: Health Conditions in San Diego 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	32.5%	56.7%	9.7%	7.4%	25.1	30.8
Latino	18.5%	58.1%	6%	3.3%	9.3	18.1
Native American/ Alaska Native	--	55.3%	--	--	--	--
Asian	21.9%	32.6%	7.5%	3.0%	9.9	15.3
White	25.1%	49.2%	4.6%	7.8%	7.7	12.2

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 San Diego County

Race/Ethnicity	All Cancers	Breast Cancer	Prostate Cancer	Lung Cancer
African American	570.2	62.9	269.5	66.9
Latino	372.4	53	127.4	35.1
Native American/ Alaska Native	--	--	--	--
Asian	309.8	58.9	91.3	37.5
White	476.2	72.7	146.9	58.6

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

Native Americans/Alaska Natives in San Diego County (43.7%) were more than three times as likely as Whites (12.9%) to be uninsured for all or part of the year, with Latinos (37.5%) not far behind. African Americans (15.8%) and Asians (17.6%) were also uninsured at a higher rate than Whites.

Source: California Health Interview Survey data, pooled 2003 and 2005, for San Diego 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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