



California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

California 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. We gather the strength of the state's new majority to build a united and powerful voice in health advocacy. This statewide fact sheet was developed to provide community organizations with data to support their program planning and advocacy work.

Demographics

People of color make up 56.9% of California's population. Latinos are the largest racial/ethnic group, followed by Asians.

Table 1: Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Population (2006)
White	43.1%
Latino	35.9%
Asian	12.4%
African American	6.7%
Native American/Alaska Native	0.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts. Data derived from Population Estimates, <http://quickfacts.census.gov>

Language Needs

Over one in three (42.5%) people in California speak a language other than English at home. 28% speak Spanish at home and 9% speak an Asian and Pacific Islander language. One in five Californians (20%) speak English less than "very well."

Source: American Community Survey: <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Physician Workforce

Of California's physicians who reported their race or ethnicity in 2000, African Americans and Latinos each comprised less than 5% of California's physicians although they make up 7% and 36% of the state's population, respectively.

Source: The Practice of Medicine in California: A profile of the physician workforce <http://www.futurehealth.ucsf.edu/CWI/mdassess.html>

Health Conditions

Communities of color still face high rates of certain health conditions. Over 60 percent of African American, Latino, and Native American Alaskan Native adults in California are overweight or obese compared to 54% of White adults. African American and Native American Alaskan Native children are more than twice as likely to suffer from active asthma than White Children.

Table 2: Prevalence of Health Conditions in California (Adult population unless noted)

Race/Ethnicity	High Blood Pressure	Overweight or Obese	Diabetes	Heart Disease	Asthma	Active Asthma (Children 0-17)
African American	33%	66%	9%	7%	10%	17%
Latino	17%	66%	8%	4%	5%	7%
Native American/ Alaska Native	26%	64%	10%	8%	13%	17%
Asian	22%	33%	7%	5%	5%	7%
White	26%	54%	6%	9%	9%	10%

Notes: For adults “Overweight or obese” include respondents who have a BMI of 25 or greater.

Source: Health of California’s Adults, Adolescents and Children: Findings from CHIS 2003 and CHIS 2001
UCLA Center for Health Policy Research <http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu>.

Access to Care

Latinos in California (33.8%) were over twice as likely as Whites (12.5%) to be uninsured for all or part of the year. Communities of color make up 70% of California’s uninsured population.

Table 3: Health Insurance Coverage for Past 12 Months, Ages 0-65

Race/Ethnicity	Uninsured All or Part of Year	Employment Based All Year	Medi-Cal or Healthy Families All Year	Privately Purchased	Other All Year	Total
African American	15.3	50.3	26.9	2.3	5.2	2,067,000
Latino	33.8	35.3	25.7	1.9	3.4	9,771,000
Native American/ Alaska Native	22.0	41.2	28.4	3.3	5.1	338,000
Asian	17.7	59.3	12.1	6.7	4.3	4,036,000
White	12.5	66.8	7.9	8.4	4.4	14,867,000

Source: The State of Health Insurance in California: Findings from the 2005 California Health Interview Survey.
UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. <http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu>

Additional Resources

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