

Whitfield County

Minority Health Report – Detailed Indicators

This report contains detailed data related to minority health and health disparities, from various sources detailed in the Appendix. The most recent data available at the county-level broken out by racial ethnic group was used, such as 2000 U.S. decennial census data, 2003-2005 hospital discharge data, etc. Too often, data were unavailable or of insufficient sample size to accurately reflect the health barriers and disparities experienced by members of racial or ethnic groups comprising less than 10% of Georgia’s population, including Hispanic or Latino, Asian, and American Indian segments of our communities. Current data collection methods also do not allow us to accurately reflect the heterogeneity or “within-group” diversity of each racial-ethnic category, such as diversity in language and nations of origin for communities labeled “Asian” or “Hispanic” or “black”, or tribal differences among American Indian communities. The goal of this report is not to stereotype or lump people in groups, but **to identify pockets of inequality in health care and outcomes, and to catalyze action to achieve health equality for all Georgians.**

County Characteristics:

On the rural-urban continuum, Whitfield county is listed among Counties in metro areas of fewer than 250,000 population. In 2005, the population density was 313.4 persons per square mile. In 2003, 0.7% of persons in this county lived in rural farm settings, 30.9 % of persons lived in rural but non-farm settings, and 68.4 % lived in urban or non-rural settings.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 3.9% of the population in 2005 was black or African-American in race; 28.2% were self-described as Hispanic or Latino, 1.3% as Asian, 0.5% as American Indian, and 2.8% multi-racial or “other”. About 16.6% of the population in the 2000 decennial census was not born in the U.S., and 22.2% of county residents reported speaking a language other than English at home.

In the 2000 census, 11.5% of the population had family income below the poverty level, but this rate was 12.5% for African-American households, 23.6% for Hispanic or Latino households, and 6.3% for American Indian households. About 17.9% of residents had no health insurance coverage (uninsured).

Population Indicators:

Population (2005 Estimates)	County Total	White (Non- Hispanic)	Black or African- American (Non- Hispanic)	Asian	Hispanic (Any Race)	American Indian / Alaska Native	Other or Multi- Racial
Total POPULATION (2005)	90889	84807	3510	1194	25614	440	2572
Estimated % of total Population with no Health Insurance Coverage	17.9%						
Estimated % of children with no Health Insurance Coverage	18.4%						

Social & Economic Status Indicators:

Social and Economic Status <i>(using 2000 Census Data)</i>	Baseline Measure	Ratio (Black-to-White or Hispanic to Non-Hisp)	Outcome Grade	Equality Grade	Combined Grade
Income <i>(median family income)</i>					
All	39377				
White	46644				
African American or Black	43065	0.92			
Asian	30461				
American Indian	32120				
Hispanic or Latino	33242	0.7			
Poverty <i>(% with Family Income Below Federal Poverty Levels)</i>					
All	11.5%				
White	9.4%				
African American or Black	12.5%	1.3	A	A	
Asian	6.9%	0.9			
American Indian	6.3%				
Hispanic or Latino	23.6%	3	F	B	
Employment <i>(% of civilian adults unemployed)</i>					
All	3.6%				
White	1.5%				
African American or Black	8.3%	3.2	B	C	
Asian	0%				
American Indian	0%				
Hispanic or Latino	6.7%	2.6	B	B	
Education <i>(% adults over age 25 with less than 9th grade education)</i>					
All	18.2%				
White	15%				
African American or Black	9.8%	0.7	A	A	
Asian	8.2%				
American Indian	12.5%				
Hispanic or Latino	52.8%	4.4	F	C	
Final Grade – Social/Economic Status					C

Mortality Indicators (Deaths & Age-Adjusted Death Rates):

Mortality (Deaths)	# of Deaths	Age-Adjusted Death Rate per 100,000 population	Black-White Ratio	Outcome Grade	Equality Grade	Combined Grade
Deaths from All Causes			1.2			
All	1873					
White		967.4				
African American or Black		1163				
Asian		*				
Hispanic or Latino		367.7				
Final Grade – Mortality						

* Insufficient Data for groups other than Black & White at County Level; In addition to confidentiality concerns with small numbers of deaths, other groups are also not broken out in the compressed mortality data file. See more detailed racial-ethnic break-out of Asian, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian mortality in statewide report broken out by Atlanta-metro, non-Atlanta-metro, and non-metro rural groupings of counties.

Mortality Indicators (Deaths & Life-Years Lost to Premature Death):

Mortality (Deaths)	YPLL-75	YPLL Rate	Black-White Ratio	Outcome Grade	Equality Grade	Combined Grade
Deaths from All Causes			1.15	B	B	B
All	18198					
White	11388	10043.5				
African American or Black	6789	11513.8				
Asian	*	*				
Hispanic or Latino	87	*				
Final Grade – Mortality						B

YPLL-75 is a measure of the impact of premature deaths on a community, and represents the number of person-years of life lost due to deaths before age 75. For example, consider a death occurring in each of two communities, one African-American dying at age 54 (YPLL = 21 person years) and one white, non-Hispanic American dying at age 73 (YPLL = 2 person-years). Each community would experience a loss, but consider the disproportionate impact (lost productivity and income, lost grand-parenting, and lost wisdom of our elders) of the premature death on the African-American community.

For Whitfield County, the excess in premature deaths attributable to racial disparities add up to 23.2 person-years of life lost each year in the African-American community.

Illness Event Indicators (Hospitalizations & Emergency Dept Visits):

Illness Events (Hospitalizations & Emergency Dept Visits)	# of Events	Rate per 100,000 pop.	Black-White Rate-Ratio	Outcome Grade	Equality Grade	Combined Grade
Ambulatory Care Sensitive (Primary Care Preventable) Hospital Admissions			Note that equality rates vary widely in the category of hospital admissions, reflecting higher medical needs in minority populations that might lead to a greater need for hospitalization, but admission barriers (especially for the uninsured) that might disproportionately limit hospital admissions.			
White	4526	24				
African American or Black	2235	24.7				
All-Cause Emergency Dept Visits			1.5	C	C	
White	60343	105147.3				
African American or Black	3701	154853.6				
Ambulatory Care Sensitive (Primary Care Preventable) Emergency Dept Visits			1.8	D	C	
White	12209	21274.1				
African American or Black	904	37824.3				
Emergency Dept. Visits for Uncontrolled Diabetes			1.9	B	C	
White	434	756.2				
African American or Black	34	1422.6				
Emergency Dept. Visits for Uncontrolled Hypertension (blood pressure)			6.6	D	F	
White	281	489.6				
African American or Black	77	3221.8				
Emergency Dept. Visits for Uncontrolled Asthma			5.3	F	F	
White	455	792.8				
African American or Black	101	4225.9				
Emergency Dept. Visits for Mental Health Concerns			1.2	F	B	
White	1921	3347.3				
African American or Black	96	4016.7				
Final Grade – Illness Events						D+

Healthy Pregnancy & Birth Outcome Indicators:

Healthy Pregnancies & Birth Outcomes	Baseline Measure	Ratio to White NH	Outcome Grade	Equality Grade	Combined Grade
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 births					
White	7.1				
African American or Black	*	*			
Hispanic or Latino	2.4	0.34			
Very Low Birth Weight per 1,000 Births					
White	2				
African American or Black	2.8	1.4			
Hispanic or Latino	0	*			
% Births with < 5 Prenatal Visits					
White	3.7				
African American or Black	6.8	1.84			
Hispanic or Latino	9.3	*			
% Mothers Smoking During Pregnancy					
White	15.4				
African American or Black	5.7	0.37			
Hispanic or Latino	*	*			
Final Grade – Pregnancy / Birth Outcomes					C-

Community-Level Health Care Access Indicators:

Community-Level Indicators of Health Care Access	Yes/No
Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Area (Primary Care HPSA)?	non-HPSA
Mental Health Professional Shortage Area (Mental Health HPSA)?	Whole County HPSA
Oral Health -- Dental Professional Shortage Area (Dental HPSA)?	Partial-County or Population HPSA
Federally-Qualified Community Health Center (FQHC/CHC) serving area?	No
DCH-Designated Volunteer/Free Clinic	No
Designated Rural Health Clinic	No

Professional-Level Health Care Access Indicators:

Professional Availability & Diversity	Number licensed or certified	Ratio of Physicians per 100,000 Population
Physicians		
All	180	198
White	147	173
African American or Black	14	384.6
Asian	14	1130.7
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	10	39.4
Dentists		
Total Dentists <i>(caution: older data – 1998)</i>	26	31.1
Mental Health Professionals		
Total Licensed Psychologists, Clinical Social Workers (LCSW), and Counselors	34	507
Language Professionals		
Medical Interpreters (# and ratio per 1,000 individuals with limited english proficiency) -- <i>Data unavailable but reports suggest supply is generally inadequate, especially in rural areas</i>	Data Unavailable	Data Unavailable

Person-Level Health Care Access Indicators:

Health Care Access	# of persons	%	Grade
Health Insurance Coverage (% uninsured total)			
All	15142	17.9%	
Children’s Health Insurance Coverage (% uninsured children)			
All	4402	18.4%	
Language Barriers			
Persons speaking a language other than English at home		22.2%	
Persons not born in the U.S.		16.6%	
Persons living in linguistically isolated households	2402		
Final Grade – Health Care Access			F