

## Wilkes 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, Wilkes county is listed among Non-Metropolitan with a city/town population of 2,500 to 19,999, adjacent to a metro area. In 2005, the population density was 22.2 persons per square mile. In 2003, 2.8% of persons in this county lived in rural farm settings, 64.1 % of persons lived in rural but non-farm settings, and 33.2 % lived in urban or non-rural settings.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 42.2% of the population in 2005 was black or African-American in race; 2.5% were self-described as Hispanic or Latino, 0.4% as Asian, 0.2% as American Indian, and 1.0% multi-racial or “other”. About 1.3% of the population in the 2000 decennial census was not born in the U.S., and 2.6% of county residents reported speaking a language other than English at home.

In the 2000 census, 17.5% of the population had family income below the poverty level, but this rate was 29.2% for African-American households, 33.3% for Hispanic or Latino households, and 0% for American Indian households. About 16.3% of residents had no health insurance coverage (uninsured).

#### **Population Indicators:**

<b>Population (2005 Estimates)</b>	<b>County Total</b>	<b>White (Non-Hispanic)</b>	<b>Black or African-American (Non-Hispanic)</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>Hispanic (Any Race)</b>	<b>American Indian / Alaska Native</b>	<b>Other or Multi-Racial</b>
<b>Total POPULATION (2005)</b>	<b>10457</b>	<b>5942</b>	<b>4410</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>105</b>
Estimated % of total Population with no Health Insurance Coverage	<b>16.3%</b>						
Estimated % of children with no Health Insurance Coverage	<b>13.5%</b>						

**Social & Economic Status Indicators:**

<b>Social and Economic Status</b> <i>(using 2000 Census Data)</i>	<b>Baseline Measure</b>	<b>Ratio (Black-to-White or Hispanic to Non-Hisp)</b>	<b>Outcome Grade</b>	<b>Equality Grade</b>	<b>Combined Grade</b>
<b>Income</b> <i>(median family income)</i>					
All	27644				
White	45252				
African American or Black	23648	0.52			
Asian	33750				
American Indian	71250				
Hispanic or Latino	66250	1.47			
<b>Poverty</b> <i>(% with Family Income Below Federal Poverty Levels)</i>					
All	17.5%				
White	8.3%				
African American or Black	29.2%	3.5	<b>C</b>	<b>F</b>	
Asian	0%	0			
American Indian	0%				
Hispanic or Latino	33.3%	4.2	<b>F</b>	<b>C</b>	
<b>Employment</b> <i>(% of civilian adults unemployed)</i>					
All	4.4%				
White	2.1%				
African American or Black	6.2%	2	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	
Asian	0%				
American Indian	0%				
Hispanic or Latino	12.3%	4	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	
<b>Education</b> <i>(% adults over age 25 with less than 9<sup>th</sup> grade education)</i>					
All	12.7%				
White	6.5%				
African American or Black	21.1%	3.2	<b>F</b>	<b>C</b>	
Asian	0%				
American Indian	0%				
Hispanic or Latino	10.6%	1.7	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>	
<b>Final Grade – Social/Economic Status</b>					<b>D</b>

**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
<b>Deaths from All Causes</b>			<b>1.1</b>			
All	1777					
White		906.7				
African American or Black		963.1				
Asian		*				
Hispanic or Latino		311				
<b>Final Grade – Mortality</b>						

*\* 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
<b>Deaths from All Causes</b>			<b>1.54</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>
All	18921					
White	14900	8259.2				
African American or Black	4021	12726.7				
Asian	*	*				
Hispanic or Latino	288	*				
<b>Final Grade – Mortality</b>						<b>F</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 Wilkes County, the excess in premature deaths attributable to racial disparities add up to 329.9 person-years of life lost each year in the African-American community.***

**Illness Event Indicators (Hospitalizations & Emergency Dept Visits):**

<b>Illness Events (Hospitalizations &amp; Emergency Dept Visits)</b>	<b># of Events</b>	<b>Rate per 100,000 pop.</b>	<b>Black- White Rate- Ratio</b>	<b>Outcome Grade</b>	<b>Equality Grade</b>	<b>Combined Grade</b>
<b>Ambulatory Care Sensitive (Primary Care Preventable) Hospital Admissions</b>			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	<b>4897</b>	<b>20.8</b>				
African American or Black	<b>1080</b>	<b>24</b>				
<b>All-Cause Emergency Dept Visits</b>			<b>1.8</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>	
White	<b>3952</b>	<b>86666.7</b>				
African American or Black	<b>5167</b>	<b>158254.2</b>				
<b>Ambulatory Care Sensitive (Primary Care Preventable) Emergency Dept Visits</b>			<b>2.4</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	
White	<b>573</b>	<b>12565.8</b>				
African American or Black	<b>996</b>	<b>30505.4</b>				
<b>Emergency Dept. Visits for Uncontrolled Diabetes</b>			<b>2.8</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>F</b>	
White	<b>26</b>	<b>570.2</b>				
African American or Black	<b>52</b>	<b>1592.6</b>				
<b>Emergency Dept. Visits for Uncontrolled Hypertension (blood pressure)</b>			<b>3.6</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>	
White	<b>34</b>	<b>745.6</b>				
African American or Black	<b>88</b>	<b>2695.3</b>				
<b>Emergency Dept. Visits for Uncontrolled Asthma</b>			<b>4.7</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>F</b>	
White	<b>18</b>	<b>394.7</b>				
African American or Black	<b>61</b>	<b>1868.3</b>				
<b>Emergency Dept. Visits for Mental Health Concerns</b>			<b>1.4</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	
White	<b>97</b>	<b>2127.2</b>				
African American or Black	<b>98</b>	<b>3001.5</b>				
<b>Final Grade – Illness Events</b>						<b>C-</b>

**Healthy Pregnancy & Birth Outcome Indicators:**

Healthy Pregnancies & Birth Outcomes	Baseline Measure	Ratio to White NH	Outcome Grade	Equality Grade	Combined Grade
<b>Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 births</b>					
White	.0				
African American or Black	16.2	*			
Hispanic or Latino	0	*			
<b>Very Low Birth Weight per 1,000 Births</b>					
White	1.3				
African American or Black	2.5	1.92			
Hispanic or Latino	0	*			
<b>% Births with &lt; 5 Prenatal Visits</b>					
White	3.9				
African American or Black	9.1	2.33			
Hispanic or Latino	5	*			
<b>% Mothers Smoking During Pregnancy</b>					
White	14.2				
African American or Black	6.4	0.45			
Hispanic or Latino	*	*			
<b>Final Grade – Pregnancy / Birth Outcomes</b>					<b>F</b>

**Community-Level Health Care Access Indicators:**

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

**Professional-Level Health Care Access Indicators:**

<b>Professional Availability &amp; Diversity</b>	<b>Number licensed or certified</b>	<b>Ratio of Physicians per 100,000 Population</b>
<b>Physicians</b>		
All	<b>11</b>	<b>105.2</b>
White	<b>7</b>	<b>111.1</b>
African American or Black	<b>3</b>	<b>74.8</b>
Asian		<b>0</b>
Hispanic or Latino (any race)		<b>0</b>
<b>Dentists</b>		
Total Dentists <i>(caution: older data – 1998)</i>	<b>4</b>	<b>37.4</b>
<b>Mental Health Professionals</b>		
Total Licensed Psychologists, Clinical Social Workers (LCSW), and Counselors	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Language Professionals</b>		
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>	<b>Data Unavailable</b>	<b>Data Unavailable</b>

**Person-Level Health Care Access Indicators:**

<b>Health Care Access</b>	<b># of persons</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Grade</b>
<b>Health Insurance Coverage (% uninsured total)</b>			
All	<b>1702</b>	<b>16.3%</b>	
<b>Children’s Health Insurance Coverage (% uninsured children)</b>			
All	<b>338</b>	<b>13.5%</b>	
<b>Language Barriers</b>			
Persons speaking a language other than English at home		<b>2.6%</b>	
Persons not born in the U.S.		<b>1.3%</b>	
Persons living in linguistically isolated households	<b>23</b>		
<b>Final Grade – Health Care Access</b>			<b>C</b>