

Heard 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, Heard county is listed among Counties of metro areas of 1 million population or more. In 2005, the population density was 38.3 persons per square mile. In 2003, 2.5% of persons in this county lived in rural farm settings, 97.5 % of persons lived in rural but non-farm settings, and 0 % lived in urban or non-rural settings.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 10.3% of the population in 2005 was black or African-American in race; 1.4% were self-described as Hispanic or Latino, 0.1% as Asian, 0.2% as American Indian, and 0.7% multi-racial or “other”. About .7% of the population in the 2000 decennial census was not born in the U.S., and 2.3% of county residents reported speaking a language other than English at home.

In the 2000 census, 13.6% of the population had family income below the poverty level, but this rate was 23.3% for African-American households, 50% for Hispanic or Latino households, and 0% for American Indian households. About 15.5% 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)	11346	10094	1170	15	156	26	82
Estimated % of total Population with no Health Insurance Coverage	15.5%						
Estimated % of children with no Health Insurance Coverage	11.7%						

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	33038				
White	40580				
African American or Black	28523	0.7			
Asian					
American Indian	0				
Hispanic or Latino	17000	0.42			
Poverty <i>(% with Family Income Below Federal Poverty Levels)</i>					
All	13.6%				
White	11.8%				
African American or Black	23.3%	2	B	C	
Asian	51.7%	4.4			
American Indian	0%				
Hispanic or Latino	50%	4.2	F	C	
Employment <i>(% of civilian adults unemployed)</i>					
All	5.7%				
White	2.4%				
African American or Black	11.6%	2.4	D	B	
Asian	0%				
American Indian	0%				
Hispanic or Latino	12%	2.4	C	B	
Education <i>(% adults over age 25 with less than 9th grade education)</i>					
All	12.5%				
White	11.2%				
African American or Black	24.7%	2.2	F	B	
Asian	0%				
American Indian	0%				
Hispanic or Latino	5.7%	0.5	B	A	
Final Grade – Social/Economic Status					D

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	395					
White		926.1				
African American or Black		1069.5				
Asian		*				
Hispanic or Latino		0				
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			1.72	C	B	C
All	4098					
White	3267	8139.6				
African American or Black	831	13973.4				
Asian	*	*				
Hispanic or Latino	0	*				
Final Grade – Mortality						C

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 Heard County, the excess in premature deaths attributable to racial disparities add up to 8.2 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	852	17.9				
African American or Black	285	28.6				
All-Cause Emergency Dept Visits			1.3	C	B	
White	7304	103456.1				
African American or Black	1073	132142.9				
Ambulatory Care Sensitive (Primary Care Preventable) Emergency Dept Visits			1.4	C	C	
White	1487	21062.3				
African American or Black	246	30295.6				
Emergency Dept. Visits for Uncontrolled Diabetes			4.3	F	F	
White	51	722.4				
African American or Black	25	3078.8				
Emergency Dept. Visits for Uncontrolled Hypertension (blood pressure)			2.8	B	F	
White	46	651.6				
African American or Black	15	1847.3				
Emergency Dept. Visits for Uncontrolled Asthma			2	C	D	
White	71	1005.7				
African American or Black	16	1970.4				
Emergency Dept. Visits for Mental Health Concerns			2.0	F	D	
White	145	2053.8				
African American or Black	34	4187.2				
Final Grade – Illness Events						C

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	11.3				
African American or Black	*	*			
Hispanic or Latino	0	*			
Very Low Birth Weight per 1,000 Births					
White	1.1				
African American or Black	*	*			
Hispanic or Latino	0	*			
% Births with < 5 Prenatal Visits					
White	3.6				
African American or Black	9.1	2.53			
Hispanic or Latino	0	*			
% Mothers Smoking During Pregnancy					
White	17.3				
African American or Black	*	*			
Hispanic or Latino	0	*			
Final Grade – Pregnancy / Birth Outcomes					F

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)?	Whole County 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:

Professional Availability & Diversity	Number licensed or certified	Ratio of Physicians per 100,000 Population
Physicians		
All	1	8.8
White	1	9.9
African American or Black		0
Asian		0
Hispanic or Latino (any race)		0
Dentists		
Total Dentists <i>(caution: older data – 1998)</i>	1	9.1
Mental Health Professionals		
Total Licensed Psychologists, Clinical Social Workers (LCSW), and Counselors	2	17.6
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	1709	15.5%	
Children’s Health Insurance Coverage (% uninsured children)			
All	376	11.7%	
Language Barriers			
Persons speaking a language other than English at home		2.3%	
Persons not born in the U.S.		0.7%	
Persons living in linguistically isolated households	13		
Final Grade – Health Care Access			C