

Polk 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, Polk 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 130.1 persons per square mile. In 2003, 1.2% of persons in this county lived in rural farm settings, 50.4 % of persons lived in rural but non-farm settings, and 48.3 % lived in urban or non-rural settings.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 13.1% of the population in 2005 was black or African-American in race; 10% were self-described as Hispanic or Latino, 0.4% as Asian, 0.3% as American Indian, and 1.4% multi-racial or “other”. About 6.0% of the population in the 2000 decennial census was not born in the U.S., and 7.9% of county residents reported speaking a language other than English at home.

In the 2000 census, 15.5% of the population had family income below the poverty level, but this rate was 35% for African-American households, 28.5% for Hispanic or Latino households, and 20.9% for American Indian households. About 17% 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)	40479	34607	5287	161	4046	115	585
Estimated % of total Population with no Health Insurance Coverage	17%						
Estimated % of children with no Health Insurance Coverage	15.8%						

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	32328				
White	40529				
African American or Black	23875	0.59			
Asian	42639				
American Indian	22404				
Hispanic or Latino	28966	0.71			
Poverty <i>(% with Family Income Below Federal Poverty Levels)</i>					
All	15.5%				
White	11.3%				
African American or Black	35%	3.1	D	F	
Asian	11.9%	1.1			
American Indian	20.9%				
Hispanic or Latino	28.5%	2.6	F	B	
Employment <i>(% of civilian adults unemployed)</i>					
All	6%				
White	2.5%				
African American or Black	12.6%	2.8	D	B	
Asian	16.7%				
American Indian	6%				
Hispanic or Latino	11.5%	2.6	C	B	
Education <i>(% adults over age 25 with less than 9th grade education)</i>					
All	14.8%				
White	14%				
African American or Black	12.5%	0.9	B	A	
Asian	0%				
American Indian	55.2%				
Hispanic or Latino	47.8%	3.7	F	C	
Final Grade – Social/Economic Status					F

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			1.1			
All	2498					
White		975.6				
African American or Black		1056.4				
Asian		*				
Hispanic or Latino		340.9				
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			1.1	D	C	D
All	27659					
White	22357	9167.5				
African American or Black	5156	10100.9				
Asian	*	*				
Hispanic or Latino	491	*				
Final Grade – Mortality						D

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 Polk County, the excess in premature deaths attributable to racial disparities add up to 215.7 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	6676	19.9				
African American or Black	1287	20.3				
All-Cause Emergency Dept Visits			1.3	F	B	
White	44800	180645.2				
African American or Black	7969	229588				
Ambulatory Care Sensitive (Primary Care Preventable) Emergency Dept Visits			1.4	F	C	
White	9205	37116.9				
African American or Black	1834	52837.8				
Emergency Dept. Visits for Uncontrolled Diabetes			3.5	F	F	
White	261	1052.4				
African American or Black	128	3687.7				
Emergency Dept. Visits for Uncontrolled Hypertension (blood pressure)			3.1	F	F	
White	314	1266.1				
African American or Black	136	3918.2				
Emergency Dept. Visits for Uncontrolled Asthma			1.6	C	C	
White	247	996				
African American or Black	56	1613.4				
Emergency Dept. Visits for Mental Health Concerns			1.1	F	B	
White	1184	4774.2				
African American or Black	180	5185.8				
Final Grade – Illness Events						F

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	5.6				
African American or Black	13.6	2.43			
Hispanic or Latino	7	1.25			
Very Low Birth Weight per 1,000 Births					
White	0.9				
African American or Black	2.4	2.67			
Hispanic or Latino	*	*			
% Births with < 5 Prenatal Visits					
White	3.4				
African American or Black	6	1.76			
Hispanic or Latino	10.9	*			
% Mothers Smoking During Pregnancy					
White	16.5				
African American or Black	5.5	0.33			
Hispanic or Latino	*	*			
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?	No
DCH-Designated Volunteer/Free Clinic	No
Designated Rural Health Clinic	Yes

Professional-Level Health Care Access Indicators:

Professional Availability & Diversity	Number licensed or certified	Ratio of Physicians per 100,000 Population
Physicians		
All	35	86.5
White	29	83.7
African American or Black	4	68.2
Asian	1	739.1
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	1	25.1
Dentists		
Total Dentists <i>(caution: older data – 1998)</i>	11	28.9
Mental Health Professionals		
Total Licensed Psychologists, Clinical Social Workers (LCSW), and Counselors	10	24.7
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	6406	17%	
Children’s Health Insurance Coverage (% uninsured children)			
All	1586	15.8%	
Language Barriers			
Persons speaking a language other than English at home		7.9%	
Persons not born in the U.S.		6%	
Persons living in linguistically isolated households	369		
Final Grade – Health Care Access			D