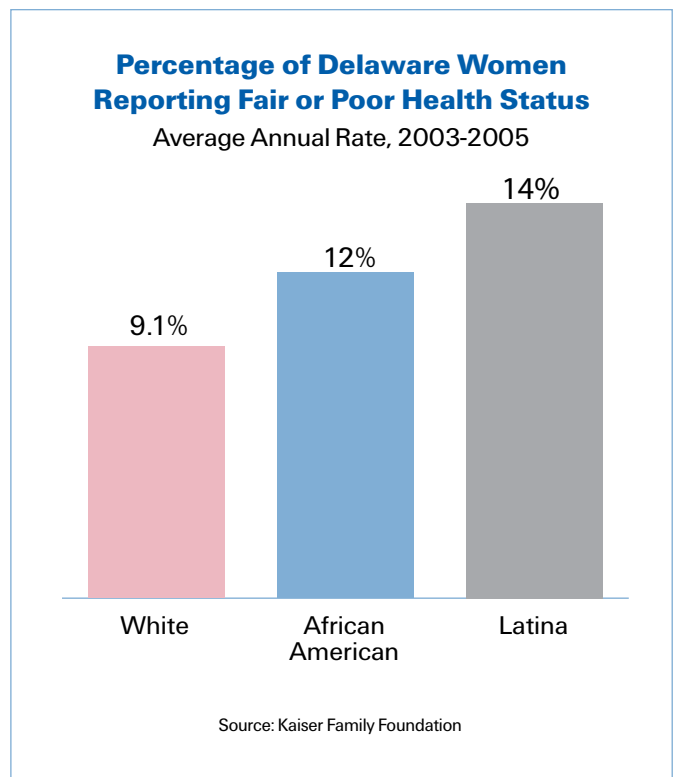
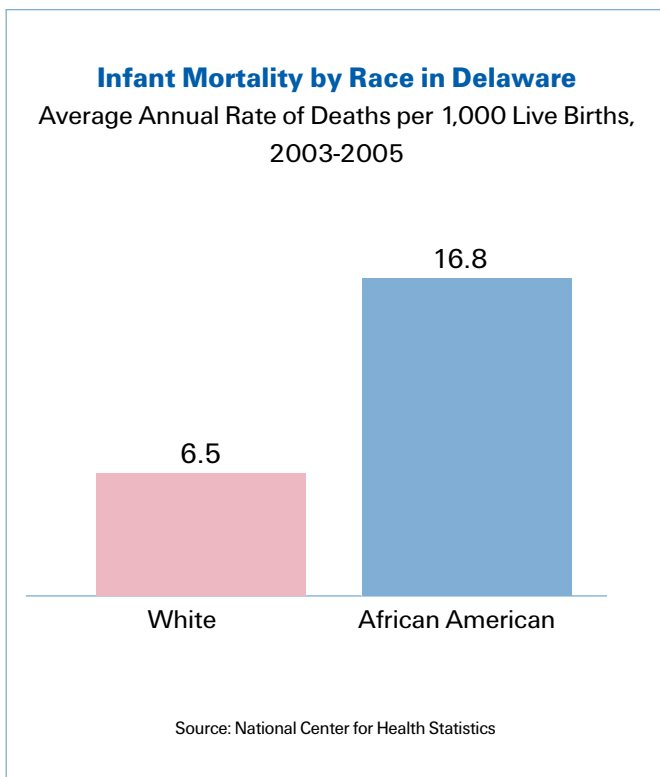


Health Care Discrimination Harms Communities of Color in Delaware

Rapidly escalating medical costs and insurance premiums, rising numbers of people without coverage, and rip-offs by monopolistic private insurers have dominated the Delaware political dialogue surrounding President Barack Obama's plans for comprehensive health reform. On Capitol Hill, the American public is witnessing an historic clash of Washington special interest groups fighting to protect their revenue streams. Yet no one has more at stake than the 103 million people of color in the U.S.,¹ including the 273,000 in Delaware.² Throughout the nation's history, communities of color have been forced to accept health care that bears little resemblance to what is experienced by members of more advantaged groups. For people of color in Delaware and nationwide, life is shorter, chronic illness more prevalent and

disability more common. These are predictable side-effects of a health care system that provides communities of color in Delaware with narrower opportunities for regular health services, fewer treatment options and lower-quality care.

The infant mortality rate, a leading indicator of community health and well-being, illustrates the huge health disparities between whites and other racial and ethnic groups in Delaware. The infant death rate for whites is 6.5 per 1,000 live births, compared with 16.8 for African Americans.³ Life expectancy for African Americans in Delaware is six to 10 years shorter than that of whites.⁴ About 41 percent of Latinos and 14 percent of African Americans in Delaware are uninsured, compared with 9.4 percent of whites.⁵



Delaware Disparities

- More than 10 percent of African-American adults in Delaware have been diagnosed with diabetes, four times the rate for Latinos.⁶
- In Delaware, 45 percent of Latina women received no early prenatal care, compared with 27 percent for African Americans and 18 percent for whites.⁷
- The infant mortality rate for African Americans in Delaware is more than two and a half times that of whites.⁸
- The mortality rate for African Americans in Delaware is 28 percent higher than for whites and 71 percent higher than the rate for Latinos.⁹
- Despite growing evidence of racial disparities in health status and medical services, no system exists in Delaware for collecting state and local data on disparities. As a result, many questions about the health of minorities in state remain unanswered. For example, it is not known how many African Americans or Latinos (compared to whites) have forgone care because they can't afford it.
- The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that 8.1 percent of Delaware's labor force is unemployed.¹⁰
- In Delaware, 100,560 people were uninsured in 2007.¹¹
- About 14 percent of African Americans in Delaware are uninsured, a rate almost 50 percent greater than the rate for whites.¹²
- Health insurance premiums for Delaware working families have skyrocketed, increasing 77 percent from 2000 to 2007.¹³
- The full cost of employer-sponsored health insurance in Delaware is projected to grow at an annual rate of 8.6 percent, compared to a 0.4 percent increase in income.¹⁴
- About 50,000 working non-elderly adults in Delaware do not have health insurance. That comprises 66 percent of the total non-elderly uninsured population.¹⁵

Delaware Racial and Ethnic Disparities by Health Indicator

Health Indicator	White	African American	Latino	Other
Infant Mortality Rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	6.5	16.8	6.2	-
Diabetes Mortality Rate (deaths per 100,000 population)	23.8	46.2	-	-
Annual AIDS Case Rate (per 100,000 population)	8.8	82.3	22.8	-
Living in Poverty	10%	24%	36%	17%
Enrolled in Medicaid	8.2%	20%	23%	-
Uninsured	9.4%	14%	41%	19%

Note: - denotes insufficient data in state.

Source: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. "Key Health Indicators by Race/Ethnicity and State," 2009 update.

Endnotes

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- ¹¹ Kaiser Family Foundation, "Health Insurance Coverage of the Total Population, states (2006-2007), U.S. (2007)." Accessed at <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparebar.jsp?ind=125&cat=3>.
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- ¹⁵ Peter Harbage, Ben Furnas, "Health Care in Crisis," Center for American Progress, May 4, 2009. Accessed at http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/05/working_uninsured_map.html.