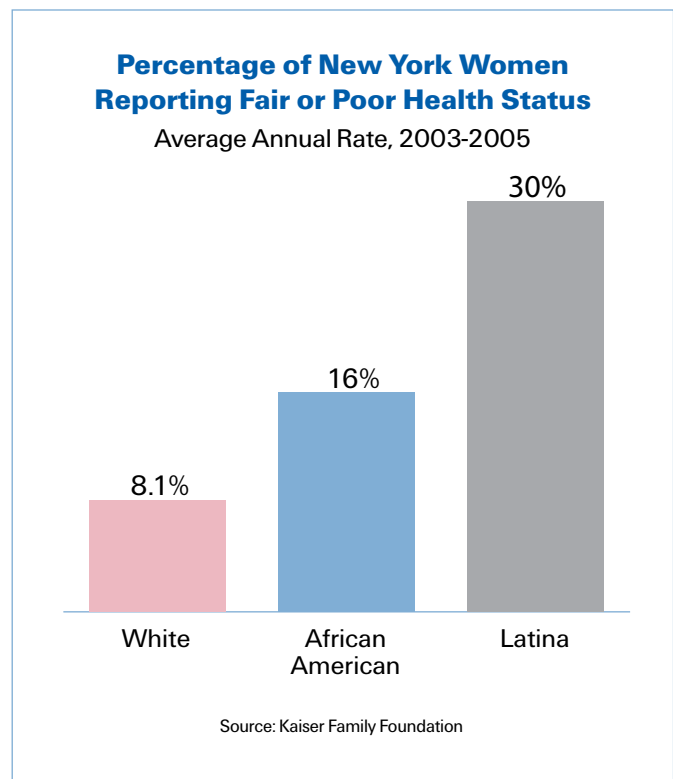
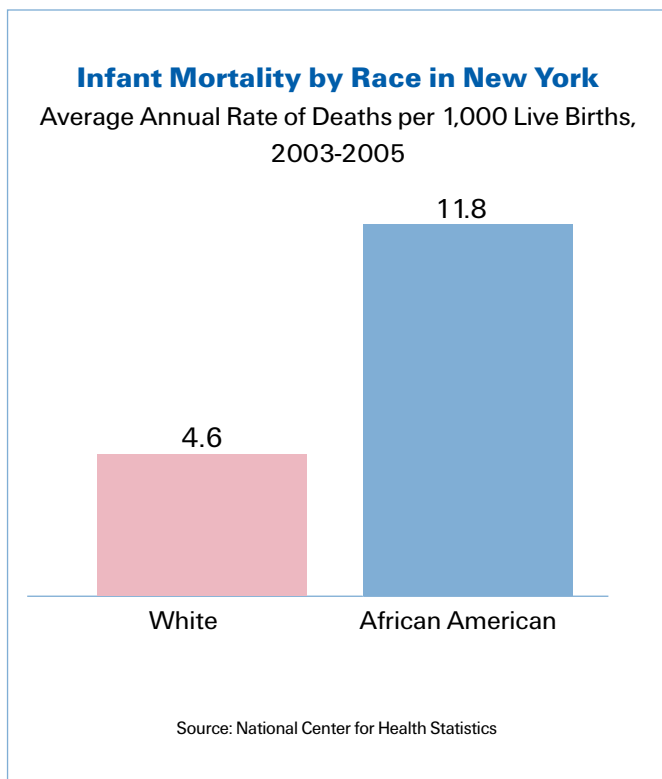


Health Care Discrimination Harms Communities of Color in New York

Rapidly escalating medical costs and insurance premiums, rising numbers of people without coverage, and rip-offs by monopolistic private insurers have dominated the New York 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 7,738,000 in New York.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 New York 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 these communities in New York 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 New York. The infant death rate for whites is 4.6 per 1,000 live births, compared with 11.8 for African Americans.³ Life expectancy for African Americans in New York is 6 to 10 years shorter than that of whites.⁴ About 24 percent of Latinos and 20 percent of African Americans in New York are uninsured, compared with 11 percent of whites.⁵



New York Disparities

- In New York, about 12 percent of African-American adults have been diagnosed with diabetes, almost 45 percent higher than the rate for whites.⁶
- In New York, 40 percent of African-American women received no early prenatal care, compared with 39 percent for Latinas and 18 percent for whites.⁷
- The infant mortality rate for African Americans in New York is more than twice that of whites.⁸
- The mortality rate for African Americans in New York is almost 40 percent higher than for Latinas.⁹
- Despite growing evidence of racial disparities in health status and medical services, no system exists in New York for collecting comprehensive state and local data on disparities. As a result, many questions about the health of minorities in New York remain unanswered. The Community Service Society, a prominent public policy organization based in New York City, recently recommended that New York State, among other things, analyze existing health plan quality indicators by race and ethnicity, and publicly disclose the results of racial and ethnic disparities in health outcomes by health plan.¹⁰
- The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that 8.2 percent of New York's labor force is unemployed.¹¹
- In New York, 2,590,364 people were uninsured in 2007.¹²
- About 24 percent of Latinos and 20 percent of African Americans in New York are uninsured; the rate for whites is 11 percent.¹³
- Health insurance premiums for New York working families have skyrocketed, increasing 81 percent from 2000 to 2007.¹⁴
- The full cost of employer-sponsored health insurance in New York is projected to grow at an annual rate of 7.4 percent, compared to a 0.8 percent increase in income.¹⁵
- About 1,320,000 working non-elderly adults in New York do not have health insurance. That comprises 64 percent of the total non-elderly uninsured population.¹⁶

New York Racial and Ethnic Disparities by Health Indicator

Health Indicator	White	African American	Latino	Other
Infant Mortality Rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	4.6	11.8	5.5	-
Diabetes Mortality Rate (deaths per 100,000 population)	17.1	37.5	-	12.3
Annual AIDS Case Rate (per 100,000 population)	8.5	98.4	58.1	-
Living in Poverty	12%	32%	34%	22%
Enrolled in Medicaid	11%	29%	36%	26%
Uninsured	11%	20%	24%	20%

Note: - denotes insufficient data in state.

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

Endnotes

¹ US Census Bureau, "USA QuickFacts," 2008. Accessed at <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/00000.html>.

² Ibid.

³ National Center for Health Statistics, "Health, United States, 2008 With Chartbook" Hyattsville, MD: 2009.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Kaiser Family Foundation, "Key Health Indicators by Race/Ethnicity and State," 2009 update.

⁶ Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Public Health and Science, Office of Women's Health. Quick Health Data Online, 2008.

⁷ Cara James, et al., "Putting Women's Health Care Disparities on the Map: Examining Racial and Ethnic Disparities at the State Level,"

Kaiser Family Foundation, June 2009. Accessed at <http://www.kff.org/minorityhealth/upload/7886.pdf>.

⁸ National Center for Health Statistics, "Health, United States, 2008 With Chartbook" Hyattsville, MD: 2009.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Community Service Society, "Promoting Equity & Quality in New York's Public Insurance Programs," May 2009. Accessed at http://www.cssny.org/userimages/downloads/Promoting_Equity_May2009.pdf.

¹¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Local Area Unemployment Statistics." Accessed at <http://www.bls.gov/web/lauhsthl.htm>.

¹² 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>.

¹³ Kaiser Family Foundation, "Key Health Indicators by Race/Ethnicity and State," 2009 update.

¹⁴ Families USA, "Premiums versus Paychecks," September 2008. Accessed at <http://www.familiesusa.org/resources/publications/reports/premiums-vs-paychecks-2008.html>.

¹⁵ New America Foundation, "The State of State Health: The Cost of Failure (2007)" Accessed at <http://statehealth.newamerica.net/>.

¹⁶ 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.