



Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in North Carolina

REPORT CARD
2010



OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES
AND
STATE CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities
in North Carolina**

**Report Card
2010**

**Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities
and
State Center for Health Statistics**

**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
North Carolina Division of Public Health**

Acknowledgements

Barbara Pullen-Smith, North Carolina Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (OMHHD), Kathleen Jones-Vessey, State Center for Health Statistics (SCHS), and Camillia Easley (CDC Prevention Specialist, Chronic Disease and Injury Section) in partnership developed this *Racial and Ethnic Disparities in North Carolina Report Card 2010* with valuable contributions from many staff members of the State Center for Health Statistics, especially Don Akin, Matt Avery, Sidney Evans, Ann Farmer, and Donna Miles.

Appreciation is given for the professional insight and contributions from the program staff of the OMHHD.

A special appreciation is given to Barbara Pullen-Smith, director of the OMHHD, for being instrumental in providing leadership to help move the Call to Action vision forward to eliminate the health status gaps between racial and ethnic minorities and other underserved populations in North Carolina. The OMHHD leadership encourages the state of North Carolina to hold itself accountable and monitor progress toward eliminating the health status gaps.

Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in North Carolina Report Card 2010

The Purpose:

This *Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in North Carolina Report Card 2010* is a useful tool that shows leading health indicators for broad racial and ethnic population groups for North Carolina, supporting data for those health indicators, and a letter grade that ranks the health status of those groups. This *Report Card* is put together to inform and help guide those with the will to eliminate health disparities.

The *Report Card* is a tool that:

- measures and helps monitor the state's progress towards eliminating the health status gap between racial and ethnic minorities and the white population.
- provides current data that can be used by community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, tribal governments and communities, local health departments, state agencies and organizations, legislators, and local businesses to help guide and make plans for efforts to provide services and outreach to help specific groups and communities with health status gaps.
- can be used to inform key decision makers about eliminating health disparities through policy reform and systems change.

According to *America's Health Rankings*TM, North Carolina ranks 37th in the country in 2009.¹ The health status ranking of North Carolina in the nation is closely tied to the health status of minorities and other underserved population groups. Although data are presented by race and ethnicity to describe health status gaps, race/ethnicity by itself is not a cause of a health condition or health status.

About the Data:

This *Health Disparities Report Card* contains data from different sources. The key indicators were chosen because of the relationship to health and health disparities and based on availability of data. The symbol ♦ is used in this report for indicators where reliable rates could not be calculated due to inadequate data or small number of events. In some cases this may indicate where improved data collection is needed. For the *2010 Report Card*, all rates presented by race/ethnicity are mutually exclusive categories. Therefore, rates and figures presented here will differ from earlier *Report Cards*. Note: Some data show percentages, e.g., from the North Carolina Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), while other data show rates per 100,000 population, e.g., mortality data.

¹ United Health Foundation. *America's Health Rankings*TM: North Carolina. 2009. Available at: www.americashealthrankings.org/StateRanking.aspx.

Disparity Ratios and Grades:

This *Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Report Card* uses ratios to compare race and ethnic groups in North Carolina. These ratios are a measure in one group divided by the measure in the white group. The ratios show areas with the greatest health disparities, areas with growing disparities, and disparity areas that are improving.

Letter grades ranging from “A” for very good to “F” for failing were given to each racial or ethnic minority group in North Carolina as compared to the measures of the white population of North Carolina.

Here is an example.

The 2004–2008 prostate cancer death rate shown for African Americans (59.1) was divided by the prostate cancer death rate for whites (21.3): $59.1 \div 21.3 = 2.8$. This ratio shows the prostate cancer death rate for African Americans was 2.8 times higher than the rate for the white population. By following the disparity ratio grading scale below, the ratio of 2.8 receives a grade of “D.”

These grades do not consider trends in the data or the ranking of North Carolina relative to the United States, so a grade of “A” or “B” could still mean that improvement is needed. In this *Report Card*, the health status of the white population is not graded. The white population is used as a point of comparison to determine the disparity ratio and the grade for the minority population groups because whites are the majority population in North Carolina and because they often have the best health outcomes. Comparing the different minority groups to the white majority population does not mean that whites are setting a “gold standard.” The white population also has major health issues that need to be addressed.

The following grading scale was used in assigning the letter grades. (This grading scale was reversed for the social and economic well-being indicator “median family income.”)

Disparity Ratio and Grades:	
A	= 0.0–0.5
B	= 0.6–1.0
C	= 1.1–1.9
D	= 2.0–2.9
F	= 3.0 or greater

With some indicators, the rates have improved from the baseline years to the current rates. But the grades for those rates may not show an improvement because the disparity still exists.

In cases where the minority rates are better than the white comparison rate, the disparity ratio was not utilized, and the grade is reported as an “A.”

In cases where racial/ethnic groups have a very small number of reported events, their rates/percentages are statistically unstable. In these cases, you will see the symbol ♦ indicating that reliable rates could not be calculated for this indicator due to an inadequate or small number of events.

Social and Economic Well-Being

Indicators	Baseline Measure	Ratio to Whites	Grade	Updated Measure	Ratio to Whites	Grade
Percent of children under 18 years of age living below the Federal Poverty Level¹	2004			2008		
All	21.9			19.9		
White	13.1	1.0		11.3	1.0	
African American/Black	38.2	2.3	D	33.4	3.0	F
American Indian	34.5	2.6	D	28.3	2.5	D
Asian/Pacific Islander	7.4	0.6	A [§]	12.8	1.1	C
Hispanic/Latino	36.8	2.8	D	34.3	3.0	F
Percent of families living below the Federal Poverty Level¹	2004			2008		
All	12.1			10.9		
White	7.5	1.0		6.7	1.0	
African American/Black	25.2	3.4	F	21.3	3.2	F
American Indian	19.4	2.6	D	21.2	3.2	F
Asian/Pacific Islander	6.5	0.9	A [§]	8.0	1.2	C
Hispanic/Latino	25.6	3.4	F	24.8	3.7	F
Percent of single parent families¹	2004			2008		
All	26.3			25.9		
White	17.2	1.0		17.8	1.0	
African American/Black	54.8	3.2	F	52.8	3.0	F
American Indian	38.9	2.3	D	36.6	2.1	D
Asian/Pacific Islander	17.4	1.0	B	12.7	0.7	A [§]
Hispanic/Latino	39.0	2.3	D	32.9	1.8	C
Median family income (\$)¹*	2004			2008		
All	47,112			56,588		
White	52,991	1.0		64,879	1.0	
African American/Black	30,463	0.6	D	37,897	0.6	D
American Indian	33,841	0.6	D	40,849	0.6	D
Asian/Pacific Islander	61,592	1.2	A [§]	69,277	1.1	A [§]
Hispanic/Latino	30,589	0.6	D	33,814	0.5	F
Dropout Rates²	2005–2006			2007–2008		
All	5.0			5.0		
White	4.4	1.0		4.3	1.0	
African American/Black	5.6	1.3	C	6.0	1.4	C
American Indian	8.4	1.9	C	7.0	1.6	C
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.7	0.6	A [§]	2.2	0.5	A [§]
Hispanic/Latino	8.7	2.0	D	6.9	1.6	C
Percentage Not Owning a Home (%)¹	2004			2008		
All	31.0			31.8		
White	24.2	1.0		24.2	1.0	
African American/Black	46.1	1.9	C	50.7	2.1	D
American Indian	29.0	1.2	C	30.9	1.3	C
Asian/Pacific Islander	40.6	1.7	C	37.2	1.5	C
Hispanic/Latino	69.0	2.9	D	58.4	2.4	D

1. U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2004 and 2008 Summary Tables; generated by SCHS staff; using American FactFinder; (Accessed January 22, 2010) Available at: http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en.

2. North Carolina State Board of Education, Department of Public Instruction, Program Monitoring and Support. Dropout Reports: 2005-06 & 2007-08. (Accessed November 25, 2009) Available at: www.ncpublicschools.org/research/dropout/reports. The dropout rate represents the number of students in grades 9–12 dropping out in one year, divided by a measure of the total number of students in grades 9–12. A dropout is defined by State Board policy (HSP-Q-001) as “any student who leaves school for any reason before graduation or completion of a program of studies without transferring to secondary school.” For reporting purposes, a dropout is a student who was enrolled at some time during the previous school year, but who was not enrolled on day 20 of the current school year.

* For median family income, a higher ratio indicates a better income, therefore the grading scale was reversed, such that: 0.0–0.5=F; 0.6–1.0=D; 1.1–1.9=C; 2.0–2.9=B; and 3.0 or greater=A.

§ The rate for this race/ethnicity is better than the white comparison rate, therefore the disparity ratio is not utilized and the grade is reported as an “A.”

Maternal and Infant Health

Indicators	Baseline Measure	Ratio to Whites	Grade	Updated Measure	Ratio to Whites	Grade
Number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births (Infant Mortality Rate)¹ (Healthy People 2010 Goal = 4.5)	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	8.4			8.4		
White	6.3	1.0		6.2	1.0	
African American/Black	15.0	2.4	D	15.1	2.4	D
American Indian	11.0	1.7	C	13.2	2.1	D
Asian/Pacific Islander	5.4	0.9	A[§]	5.9	1.0	A[§]
Hispanic/Latina	6.1	1.0	A[§]	6.3	1.0	B
Percent of births that were low birthweight (<2,500 grams)² (Healthy People 2010 Goal = 5.0)	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	8.9			9.1		
White	7.5	1.0		7.8	1.0	
African American/Black	13.9	1.9	C	14.4	1.8	C
American Indian	10.8	1.4	C	10.7	1.4	C
Asian/Pacific Islander	7.9	1.1	C	8.5	1.1	C
Hispanic/Latina	6.2	0.8	A[§]	6.3	0.8	A[§]
Percent of women with late prenatal care (after 1st trimester or no prenatal care)² (Healthy People 2010 Goal = 10.0 percent)	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	15.3			16.9		
White	9.0	1.0		10.3	1.0	
African American/Black	23.8	2.6	D	23.7	2.3	D
American Indian	22.2	2.5	D	20.9	2.0	D
Asian/Pacific Islander	15.8	1.8	C	14.6	1.4	C
Hispanic/Latina	30.1	3.3	F	30.5	3.0	F
Percent of women who smoked during pregnancy²	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	13.6			11.5		
White	17.1	1.0		15.0	1.0	
African American/Black	11.0	0.6	A[§]	10.4	0.7	A[§]
American Indian	25.0	1.5	C	24.1	1.6	C
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.3	0.1	A[§]	2.1	0.1	A[§]
Hispanic/Latina	1.5	0.1	A[§]	1.2	0.1	A[§]

1. North Carolina Division of Public Health, State Center for Health Statistics. *North Carolina resident matched live birth/death certificates 1999–2008* [Electronic data files]. Raleigh, NC: State Center for Health Statistics [Producer].

2. North Carolina Division of Public Health, State Center for Health Statistics. *North Carolina resident live birth certificates 1999–2008* [Electronic data files]. Raleigh, NC: State Center for Health Statistics [Producer].

§ The rate for this race/ethnicity is better than the white comparison rate, therefore the disparity ratio is not utilized and the grade is reported as an “A.”

Adult Health

Indicators	Baseline Measure	Ratio to Whites	Grade	Updated Measure	Ratio to Whites	Grade
Percent of adults ages 18–64 with no health insurance¹	2003–2005			2006–2008		
All	21.0			21.3		
White	14.8	1.0		14.2	1.0	
African American/Black	22.5	1.5	C	23.1	1.6	C
American Indian	27.9	1.9	C	28.3	2.0	D
Asian/Pacific Islander	18.7	1.3	C	16.7	1.2	C
Hispanic/Latino	65.3	4.4	F	65.0	4.6	F
Percent of adults who could not see a doctor in the previous 12 months due to cost¹	2003–2005			2006–2008		
All	15.7			16.5		
White	13.1	1.0		13.5	1.0	
African American/Black	20.7	1.6	C	20.6	1.5	C
American Indian	28.3	2.2	D	25.3	1.9	C
Asian/Pacific Islander	17.6	1.3	C	15.7	1.2	C
Hispanic/Latino	24.8	1.9	C	29.1	2.2	D
Percent of adults who did not visit a dentist in the past year¹	2002 & 2004			2006 & 2008		
All	32.4			33.8		
White	27.9	1.0		28.6	1.0	
African American/Black	40.8	1.5	C	41.6	1.5	C
American Indian	42.2	1.5	C	41.8	1.5	C
Asian/Pacific Islander	33.7	1.2	C	30.4	1.1	C
Hispanic/Latino	56.4	2.0	D	57.0	2.0	D
Percent of adults in fair or poor health¹	2003–2005			2006–2008		
All	19.0			18.1		
White	16.8	1.0		15.7	1.0	
African American/Black	23.2	1.4	C	21.6	1.4	C
American Indian	25.0	1.5	C	27.5	1.8	C
Asian/Pacific Islander	8.0	0.5	A[§]	8.6	0.5	A[§]
Hispanic/Latino	30.0	1.8	C	29.1	1.9	C

1. North Carolina Division of Public Health, State Center for Health Statistics. North Carolina Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data 2003–2008. Raleigh, NC: State Center for Health Statistics [Producer]. www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/brfss.

* Note: BRFSS is an ongoing, monthly telephone survey, which collects data from randomly selected, non-institutionalized North Carolina adults in households with telephones. The survey collects information on a broad array of health topics including insurance status, access to care, disability, chronic conditions, and health behaviors.

§ The rate for this race/ethnicity is better than the white comparison rate, therefore the disparity ratio is not utilized and the grade is reported as an “A.”

Adult Health (continued)

Indicators	Baseline Measure	Ratio to Whites	Grade	Updated Measure	Ratio to Whites	Grade
Heart disease deaths per 100,000 population² (Healthy People 2010 Goal=166.0)	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	245.6			197.9		
White	237.3	1.0		192.6	1.0	
African American/Black	293.5	1.2	C	236.0	1.2	C
American Indian	295.1	1.2	C	207.7	1.1	C
Asian/Pacific Islander	75.0	0.3	A[§]	73.9	0.4	A[§]
Hispanic/Latino	86.6	0.4	A[§]	66.4	0.3	A[§]
Stroke deaths per 100,000 population² (Healthy people 2010 Goal=48.0)	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	71.5			53.1		
White	66.8	1.0		49.2	1.0	
African American/Black	95.4	1.4	C	73.5	1.5	C
American Indian	74.7	1.1	C	54.6	1.1	C
Asian/Pacific Islander	42.2	0.6	A[§]	32.7	0.7	A[§]
Hispanic/Latino	32.4	0.5	A[§]	20.5	0.4	A[§]
Diabetes deaths per 100,000 population (All Mentions)² (Healthy People 2010 Goal=45.0)	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	97.5			93.7		
White	82.4	1.0		80.2	1.0	
African American/Black	173.5	2.1	D	163.8	2.0	D
American Indian	158.0	1.9	C	138.0	1.7	C
Asian/Pacific Islander	41.4	0.5	A[§]	36.3	0.5	A[§]
Hispanic/Latino	47.3	0.6	A[§]	45.9	0.6	A[§]
Kidney disease deaths per 100,000 population²	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	17.1			18.4		
White	13.6	1.0		14.8	1.0	
African American/Black	34.8	2.6	D	36.5	2.5	D
American Indian	21.6	1.6	C	23.5	1.6	C
Asian/Pacific Islander	11.5	0.8	A[§]	10.8	0.7	A[§]
Hispanic/Latino	4.9	0.4	A[§]	8.7	0.6	A[§]
Chronic lower respiratory disease deaths per 100,000 population²	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	47.1			46.9		
White	50.8	1.0		51.1	1.0	
African American/Black	31.5	0.6	A[§]	30.4	0.6	A[§]
American Indian	40.6	0.8	A[§]	30.1	0.6	A[§]
Asian/Pacific Islander	◆	◆	◆	7.5	0.1	A[§]
Hispanic/Latino	9.4	0.2	A[§]	11.4	0.2	A[§]

2. North Carolina Division of Public Health, State Center for Health Statistics. *North Carolina resident death certificates 1999–2008* [Electronic data files]. Raleigh, NC: State Center for Health Statistics [Producer].

* Note: Surname matching was used to enhance identification of Hispanic/Latino deaths. Age-adjusted by the direct method using the 2000 U.S. population as the standard (except the child 0–17 death rate).

§ The rate for this race/ethnicity is better than the white comparison rate, therefore the disparity ratio is not utilized and the grade is reported as an “A.”

◆ A reliable rate could not be calculated for this indicator due to a small number of events (<20 cases), therefore no grade is presented.

Adult Health (continued)

Indicators	Baseline Measure	Ratio to Whites	Grade	Updated Measure	Ratio to Whites	Grade
HIV disease deaths per 100,000 population² (Healthy People 2010 Goal=0.7)	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	5.6			4.4		
White	1.5	1.0		1.2	1.0	
African American/Black	21.1	14.1	F	16.5	13.8	F
American Indian	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Asian/Pacific Islander	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Hispanic/Latino	4.1	2.7	D	2.7	2.3	D
Prostate cancer deaths per 100,000 male population² (Healthy People 2010 Goal=28.8)	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	33.2			26.5		
White	26.2	1.0		21.3	1.0	
African American/Black	74.9	2.9	D	59.1	2.8	D
American Indian	43.8	1.7	C	31.4	1.5	C
Asian/Pacific Islander	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Hispanic/Latino	◆	◆	◆	8.7	0.4	A[§]
Lung cancer deaths per 100,000 population² (Healthy People 2010 Goal=44.9)	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	60.0			58.2		
White	60.7	1.0		59.7	1.0	
African American/Black	60.7	1.0	A[§]	56.6	0.9	A[§]
American Indian	46.9	0.8	A[§]	57.3	1.0	A[§]
Asian/Pacific Islander	20.0	0.3	A[§]	19.7	0.3	A[§]
Hispanic/Latino	19.5	0.3	A[§]	15.1	0.3	A[§]
Colorectal cancer deaths per 100,000 population² (Healthy People 2010 Goal=13.9)	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	19.5			17.0		
White	18.3	1.0		15.9	1.0	
African American/Black	26.1	1.4	C	23.7	1.5	C
American Indian	12.9	0.7	A[§]	11.8	0.7	A[§]
Asian/Pacific Islander	8.9	0.5	A[§]	8.8	0.6	A[§]
Hispanic/Latino	9.8	0.5	A[§]	6.9	0.4	A[§]
Breast cancer deaths per 100,000 female population² (Healthy People 2010 Goal=22.3)	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	25.4			24.4		
White	23.6	1.0		22.7	1.0	
African American/Black	33.8	1.4	C	33.0	1.5	C
American Indian	25.8	1.1	C	20.8	0.9	A[§]
Asian/Pacific Islander	8.3	0.4	A[§]	8.8	0.4	A[§]
Hispanic/Latino	12.5	0.5	A[§]	9.4	0.4	A[§]

2. North Carolina Division of Public Health, State Center for Health Statistics. *North Carolina resident death certificates 1999–2008* [Electronic data files]. Raleigh, NC: State Center for Health Statistics [Producer].

* Note: Surname matching was used to enhance identification of Hispanic/Latino deaths. Age-adjusted by the direct method using the 2000 U.S. population as the standard (except the child 0–17 death rate).

§ The rate for this race/ethnicity is better than the white comparison rate, therefore the disparity ratio is not utilized and the grade is reported as an “A.”

◆ A reliable rate could not be calculated for this indicator due to a small number of events (<20 cases), therefore no grade is presented.

Communicable Diseases

Indicators	Baseline Measure	Ratio to Whites	Grade	Updated Measure	Ratio to Whites	Grade
Diagnosed Adult/Adolescent (Ages 13+) HIV cases per 100,000 population¹	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	22.5			24.3		
White	7.4	1.0		9.0	1.0	
African American/Black	75.1	10.1	F	74.4	8.3	F
American Indian	18.8	2.5	D	16.0	1.8	C
Asian/Pacific Islander	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Hispanic/Latino	25.3	3.4	F	33.6	3.7	F
Early Syphilis cases (Primary, Secondary & Early Latent) per 100,000 population¹ (Healthy People 2010 Goal=0.2)	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	10.4			5.9		
White	2.4	1.0		2.2	1.0	
African American/Black	34.3	14.3	F	18.4	8.4	F
American Indian	50.1	20.9	F	4.5	2.0	D
Asian/Pacific Islander	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Hispanic/Latino	12.4	5.2	F	5.2	2.4	D
Gonorrhea cases per 100,000 population¹ (Healthy People 2010 Goal=19.0)	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	206.4			178.6		
White	40.4	1.0		40.0	1.0	
African American/Black	781.5	19.3	F	604.3	15.1	F
American Indian	182.5	4.5	F	191.4	4.8	F
Asian/Pacific Islander	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Hispanic/Latino	94.3	2.3	D	68.1	1.7	C
Chlamydia cases per 100,000 population¹ (Healthy People 2010 Goal=3.0)	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	285.3			365.7		
White	104.2	1.0		127.6	1.0	
African American/Black	860.0	8.3	F	982.1	7.7	F
American Indian	332.7	3.2	F	396.0	3.1	F
Asian/Pacific Islander	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Hispanic/Latino	369.3	3.5	F	395.8	3.1	F

1. North Carolina Division of Public Health, HIV/STD Prevention and Care Branch. *North Carolina resident HIV/STD Surveillance Data 1999–2008* [Electronic data files]. Raleigh, NC: HIV/STD Prevention and Care Branch [Producer].

◆ A reliable rate could not be calculated for this indicator due to a small number of events (<20 cases), therefore no grade is presented.

Violence and Injuries

Indicators	Baseline Measure	Ratio to Whites	Grade	Updated Measure	Ratio to Whites	Grade
Homicide deaths per 100,000 population¹ (Healthy People 2010 Goal=3.0)	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	7.5			7.3		
White	3.8	1.0		3.6	1.0	
African American/Black	16.8	4.4	F	16.4	4.6	F
American Indian	18.6	4.9	F	20.4	5.7	F
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.0	1.1	C	3.8	1.1	C
Hispanic/Latino	13.0	3.4	F	10.3	2.9	D
Suicide deaths per 100,000 population¹ (Healthy People 2010 Goal=5.0)	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	11.5			11.9		
White	13.5	1.0		14.4	1.0	
African American/Black	5.5	0.4	A[§]	5.0	0.3	A[§]
American Indian	7.0	0.5	A[§]	9.5	0.7	A[§]
Asian/Pacific Islander	6.0	0.4	A[§]	6.5	0.5	A[§]
Hispanic/Latino	4.1	0.3	A[§]	5.6	0.4	A[§]
Unintentional motor vehicle crash deaths per 100,000 population¹ (Healthy People 2010 Goal=9.2)	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	19.6			18.7		
White	18.3	1.0		18.1	1.0	
African American/Black	20.5	1.1	C	18.0	1.0	A[§]
American Indian	41.5	2.3	D	39.0	2.2	D
Asian/Pacific Islander	12.1	0.7	A[§]	7.6	0.4	A[§]
Hispanic/Latino	30.4	1.7	C	24.1	1.3	C
Other unintentional injury deaths per 100,000 population¹	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	23.8			28.2		
White	24.2	1.0		30.9	1.0	
African American/Black	22.9	0.9	A[§]	21.8	0.7	A[§]
American Indian	22.2	0.9	A[§]	30.9	1.0	A[§]
Asian/Pacific Islander	9.5	0.4	A[§]	7.4	0.2	A[§]
Hispanic/Latino	17.0	0.7	A[§]	13.4	0.4	A[§]

1. North Carolina Division of Public Health, State Center for Health Statistics. *North Carolina resident death certificates 1999–2008* [Electronic data files]. Raleigh, NC: State Center for Health Statistics [Producer].

* *Note: Surname matching was used to enhance identification of Hispanic/Latino deaths. Age-adjusted by the direct method using the 2000 U.S. population as the standard (except the child 0–17 death rate).*

§ The rate for this race/ethnicity is better than the white comparison rate, therefore the disparity ratio is not utilized and the grade is reported as an “A.”

Child and Adolescent Health

Indicators	Baseline Measure	Ratio to Whites	Grade	Updated Measure	Ratio to Whites	Grade
Deaths of children 1 to 17 years per 100,000 population¹	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	29.0			26.4		
White	26.8	1.0		23.7	1.0	
African American/Black	33.1	1.2	C	33.1	1.4	C
American Indian	44.7	1.7	C	40.9	1.7	C
Asian/Pacific Islander	18.3	0.7	A [§]	13.9	0.6	A [§]
Hispanic/Latino	32.0	1.2	C	25.7	1.1	C
Pregnancies to teens ages 15–19 per 1,000 female population²	1999–2003			2004–2008		
All	71.3			64.5		
White	51.9	1.0		43.9	1.0	
African American/Black	97.3	1.9	C	86.9	2.0	D
American Indian	91.5	1.8	C	85.7	2.0	D
Asian/Pacific Islander	60.9	1.2	C	41.6	0.9	A [§]
Hispanic/Latino	175.5	3.4	F	173.2	3.9	F
Percent of high school students who smoked cigarettes on one or more of the past 30 days³ (Healthy People 2010 Goal=16.0)	2003			2007		
All	24.8			22.5		
White	28.4	1.0		26.7	1.0	
African American/Black	15.4	0.5	A [§]	14.8	0.6	A [§]
American Indian	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Asian/Pacific Islander	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Hispanic/Latino	23.3	0.8	A [§]	20.2	0.8	A [§]
Percent of high school students who drank alcohol in the past 30 days³	2003			2007		
All	39.4			37.7		
White	43.6	1.0		43.0	1.0	
African American/Black	30.3	0.7	A [§]	27.2	0.6	A [§]
American Indian	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Asian/Pacific Islander	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Hispanic/Latino	33.0	0.8	A [§]	38.7	0.9	A [§]

1. North Carolina Division of Public Health, State Center for Health Statistics. *North Carolina resident death certificates 1999–2008* [Electronic data files]. Raleigh, NC: State Center for Health Statistics [Producer].

* Note: Surname matching was used to enhance identification of Hispanic/Latino deaths. Age-adjusted by the direct method using the 2000 U.S. population as the standard (except the child 0–17 death rate).

2. North Carolina Division of Public Health, State Center for Health Statistics. *North Carolina resident live birth/fetal death/abortion certificates 1999–2008* [Electronic data files]. Raleigh, NC: State Center for Health Statistics [Producer].

3. North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy Schools Initiative, Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). *NC YRBS High School Reports 2003 & 2007*: www.nchealthyschools.org/data/yrbs.

§ The rate for this race/ethnicity is better than the white comparison rate, therefore the disparity ratio is not utilized and the grade is reported as an “A.”

◆ A reliable rate could not be calculated for this indicator due to a small number of events (<20 cases), therefore no grade is presented.

Child and Adolescent Health (continued)

Indicators	Baseline Measure	Ratio to Whites	Grade	Updated Measure	Ratio to Whites	Grade
Percent of low income children under age 18 who are obese (BMI >= 95 percentile)⁴ (Healthy People 2010 Goal=5.0)	2004			2008		
All	17.0			17.5		
White	17.3	1.0		17.7	1.0	
African American/Black	15.8	0.9	A [§]	15.7	0.9	A [§]
American Indian	17.5	1.0	B	19.0	1.1	C
Asian/Pacific Islander	19.6	1.1	C	16.1	0.9	A [§]
Hispanic/Latino	21.3	1.2	C	22.7	1.3	C
Percent of children under age 18 who have ever been diagnosed with asthma⁵	2005			2008		
All	17.8			14.2		
White	16.8	1.0		13.7	1.0	
African American/Black	20.7	1.2	C	18.6	1.4	C
American Indian	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Asian/Pacific Islander	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Hispanic/Latino	15.6	0.9	A [§]	10.1	0.7	A [§]
Percent of children under age 18 who do not have a regular dentist⁵	2005			2008		
All	25.5			20.7		
White	22.2	1.0		17.4	1.0	
African American/Black	28.0	1.3	C	23.8	1.4	C
American Indian	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Asian/Pacific Islander	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Hispanic/Latino	51.7	2.3	D	29.6	1.7	C
Percent of children under age 18 who did not have health insurance at some point during the past 12 months⁵	2005			2008		
All	11.6			11.3		
White	9.6	1.0		8.0	1.0	
African American/Black	12.4	1.3	C	12.3	1.5	C
American Indian	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Asian/Pacific Islander	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Hispanic/Latino	39.0	4.1	F	25.8	3.2	F

4. North Carolina Nutrition and Physical Activity Surveillance System (NC-NPASS) includes data on children seen in North Carolina public health sponsored WIC and child health clinics and some school based health centers. Percentiles were based on the CDC/NCHS Year 2000 Body Mass Index (BMI) Reference. *NC NPASS Tables showing Overweight by age, Hispanicity, and gender: 2004 & 2008*: www.eatsmartmovemorenc.com/Data/ChildAndYouthData.html.

5. North Carolina Division of Public Health, State Center for Health Statistics, North Carolina Child Health Assessment and Monitoring Program (CHAMP). *North Carolina CHAMP data 2005 & 2008* [Electronic data files]. Raleigh, NC: State Center for Health Statistics [Producer]. www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/champ.

§ The rate for this race/ethnicity is better than the white comparison rate, therefore the disparity ratio is not utilized and the grade is reported as an "A."

◆ A reliable rate could not be calculated for this indicator due to a small number of events (<20 cases), therefore no grade is presented.

Risk Behaviors and Health Promotion

Indicators	Baseline Measure	Ratio to Whites	Grade	Updated Measure	Ratio to Whites	Grade
Percent of adults who do not eat 5 or more fruits and vegetables a day¹	2002 & 2003			2005 & 2007		
All	76.6			77.9		
White	74.5	1.0		76.2	1.0	
African American/Black	81.1	1.1	C	82.2	1.1	C
American Indian	81.4	1.1	C	79.2	1.0	B
Asian/Pacific Islander	69.7	0.9	A[§]	75.0	1.0	A[§]
Hispanic/Latino	87.8	1.2	C	84.5	1.1	C
Percent of adults who engage in no leisure time physically activity¹ (Healthy People 2010 Goal=20.0%)	2003–2005			2006–2008		
All	25.3			24.2		
White	21.7	1.0		21.3	1.0	
African American/Black	31.5	1.5	C	29.4	1.4	C
American Indian	31.0	1.4	C	35.4	1.7	C
Asian/Pacific Islander	22.6	1.0	B	20.7	1.0	A[§]
Hispanic/Latino	44.3	2.0	D	37.3	1.8	C
Percent of adults 18+ who are overweight or obese (BMI > 25 kg/m²)¹	2003–2005			2006–2008		
All	62.3			64.4		
White	59.8	1.0		62.3	1.0	
African American/Black	73.8	1.2	C	74.9	1.2	C
American Indian	69.2	1.2	C	68.6	1.1	C
Asian/Pacific Islander	33.1	0.6	A[§]	35.5	0.6	A[§]
Hispanic/Latino	62.8	1.1	C	63.5	1.0	B
Percent of adults with high blood pressure¹ (Healthy People 2010 Goal=16.0%)	2003 & 2004			2005 & 2007		
All	29.7			30.4		
White	29.6	1.0		29.9	1.0	
African American/Black	38.0	1.3	C	42.4	1.4	C
American Indian	36.3	1.2	C	33.3	1.1	C
Asian/Pacific Islander	7.6	0.3	A[§]	15.7	0.5	A[§]
Hispanic/Latino	8.8	0.3	A[§]	13.3	0.4	A[§]
Percent of adults who smoke¹ (Healthy People 2010 Goal=12.0%)	2003–2005			2006–2008		
All	23.3			21.9		
White	23.8	1.0		22.2	1.0	
African American/Black	23.0	1.0	A[§]	22.4	1.0	B
American Indian	35.3	1.5	C	36.4	1.6	C
Asian/Pacific Islander	11.9	0.5	A[§]	14.6	0.7	A[§]
Hispanic/Latino	17.5	0.7	A[§]	16.3	0.7	A[§]

1. North Carolina Division of Public Health, State Center for Health Statistics. North Carolina Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data 2003–2008. Raleigh, NC: State Center for Health Statistics [Producer]. www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/brfss.

* Note: BRFSS is an ongoing, monthly telephone survey, which collects data from randomly selected, non-institutionalized North Carolina adults in households with telephones. The survey collects information on a broad array of health topics including insurance status, access to care, disability, chronic conditions, and health behaviors.

§ The rate for this race/ethnicity is better than the white comparison rate, therefore the disparity ratio is not utilized and the grade is reported as an “A.”

Glossary of Terms Used in this Document

- Baseline Measure:** A number, rate, or measure to be used as a starting point, a base or foundation.
- BRFSS:** The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System is an ongoing, monthly telephone survey which collects data from randomly selected North Carolina adults in households with telephones.
- Data:** Information or numbers collected and used to present facts.
- Disparity:** Person(s) or group(s) not being equal in age, rank, health, etc.; gaps, unequal, unfair.
- Disparity Ratios:** A measure or number for a race or ethnic group compared to the measure of another group.
- Grades:** The use of a “letter grade” of A, B, C, D or F to show the health status of race or ethnic groups in North Carolina.
- Health Disparities:** The major differences or inequalities in health that exist between whites and racial/ethnic minorities.
- Healthy People 2010:** A federal initiative and report that states the goals and objectives needed to improve the health and quality of life for individuals and communities.
- Leading Health Indicators:** The major public health concerns in the United States; chosen based on their ability to motivate action.
- Mortality Rate:** The number of deaths in proportion to a population.
- Updated Measure:** The latest available number, rate, or measure to be used as a comparison with the Baseline Measure.



State of North Carolina • Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Department of Health and Human Services • Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary
Division of Public Health • Jeffrey P. Engel, State Health Director



Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities
Barbara Pullen-Smith, Director
www.ncminorityhealth.org

State Center for Health Statistics
Karen L. Knight, Director
www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS

June 2010

The Department of Health and Human Services does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services. 06/10