

What We Know Now

COVID-19 Health Barriers and Disparities Among Rural
and Minority Populations and People with Disabilities

Definitions

Barrier

A hurdle or obstacle that makes it more difficult for certain individuals to access and benefit from health care services.

Disparity

Preventable health difference that is linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage.

SOURCES

Scheppers, E., et.al. (2006). Potential Barriers to the Use of Health Services Among Ethnic Minorities: A Review, Family Practice, 23(3): 325-348, doi: 10.1093/fampra/cmll13. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2008). The Secretary's Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2020. Phase I report: Recommendations for the framework and format of Healthy People 2020 Section IV: Advisory Committee findings and recommendations.

Rural and Minority Populations



**Greater
health
disparities**



**Poorer health
outcomes**

Health Care Disparities

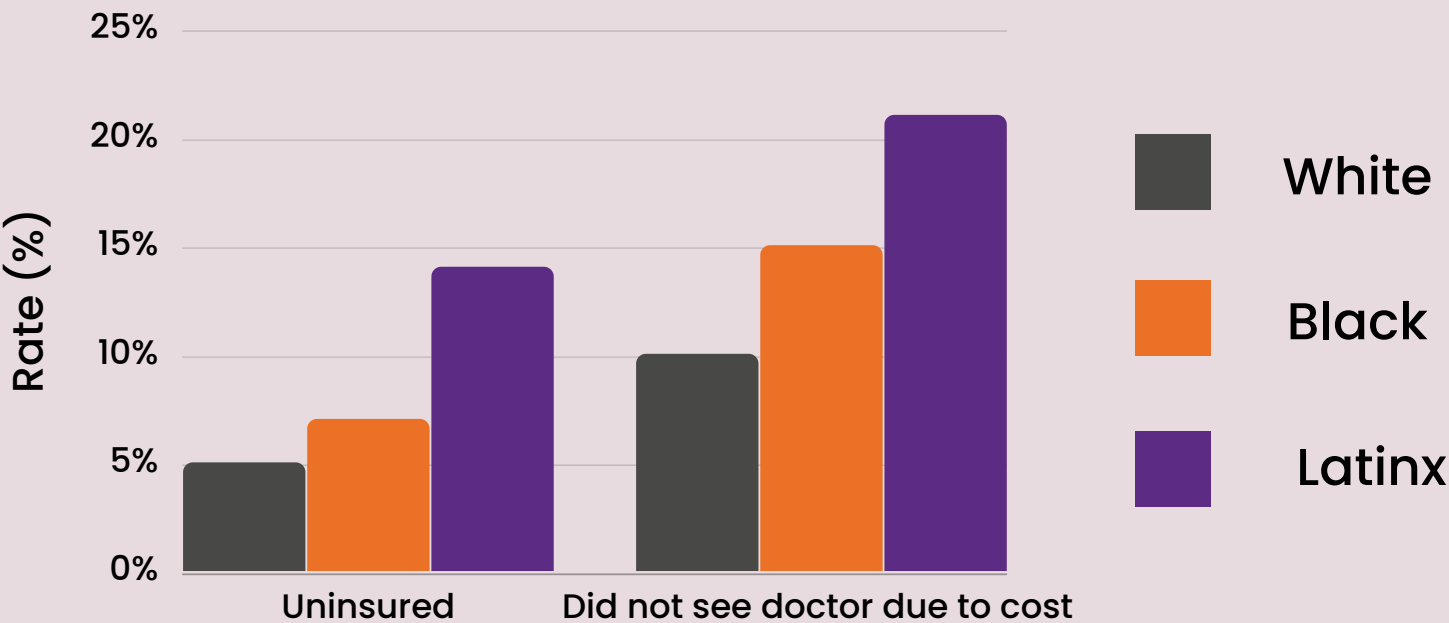
Rural Populations



People living in rural areas were
33% more likely to delay or
forego medical care due to cost

Minority Populations

Racial Disparities in Ability to Pay for Health Care



The Arc of PA Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among People with Disabilities



Health Outcome Disparities for Minority Populations



Black and Latinx populations experience the greatest disparities.



More likely to have poor physical and mental health



More likely to have obesity and diabetes



More likely to get cancer



Less likely to survive prostate, breast and lung cancer

People with Disabilities

Magnified Health Care Disparities



Experience higher mortality rates



Visit health care providers more often

Minorities with disabilities face even greater disparities.

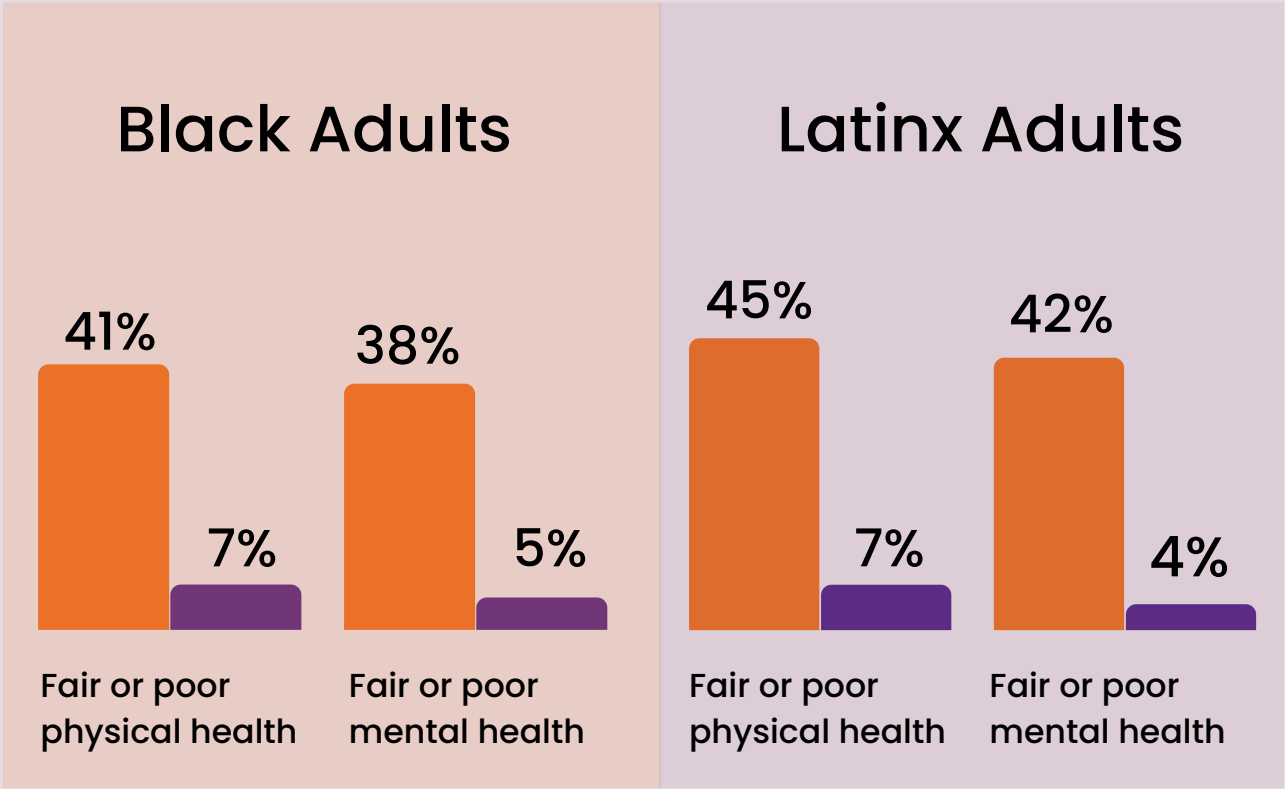
SOURCES

Russell, L., (2010). Fact Sheet: Health Disparities by Race and Ethnicity, Center for American Progress.

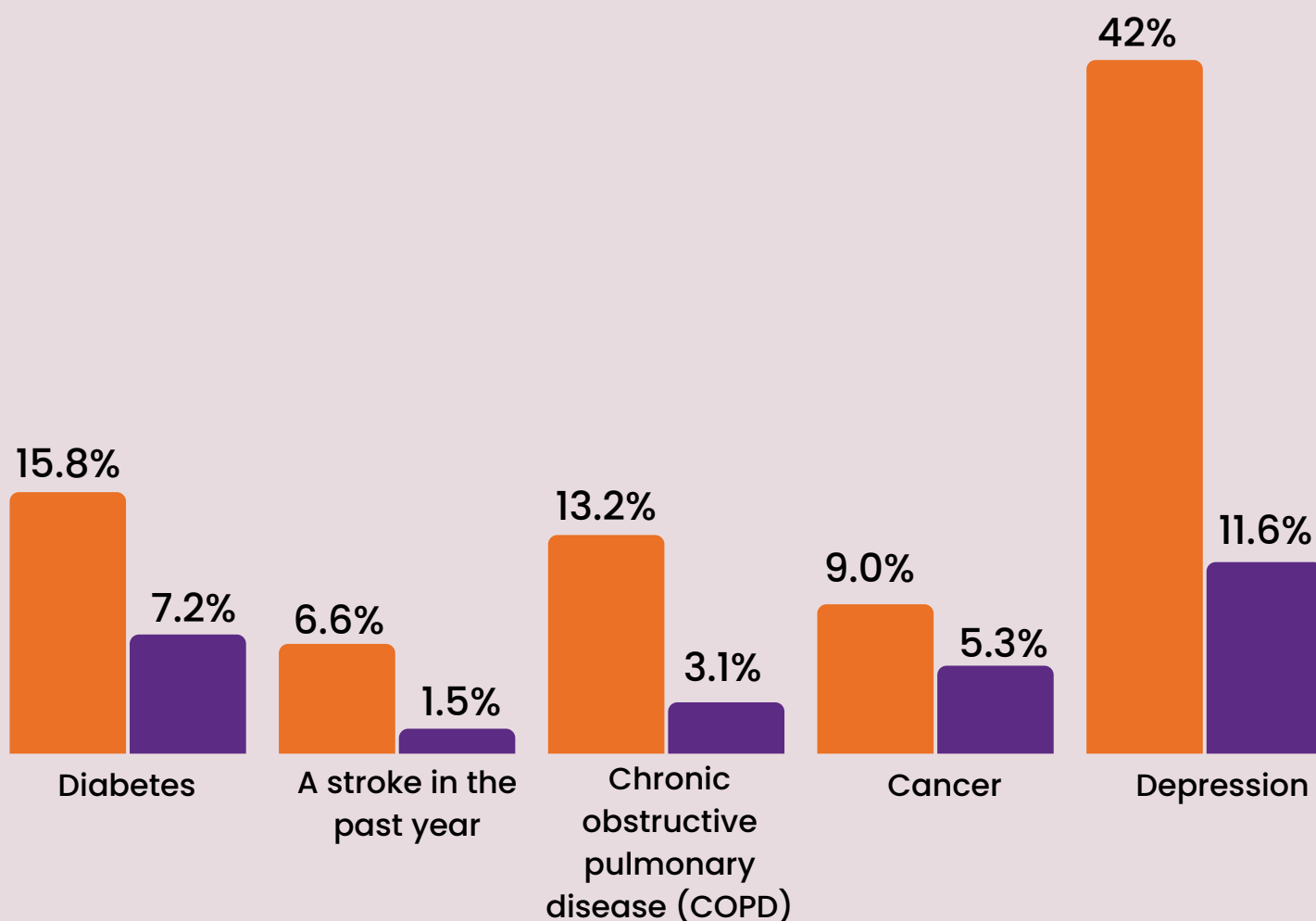
Yee, S., (2011). Health and Health Care Disparities Among People With Disabilities, Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund.

Even Poorer Health Outcomes

Percentages of Health Outcomes by Ethnicity between Adults with and without IDD



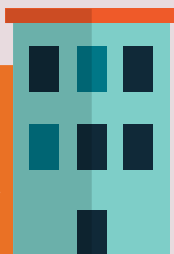
Health Outcome Differences between Individuals with and without Disabilities



COVID-19 Barriers to Health Care

Location

Vaccines are mostly available at chain pharmacies and large hospitals that may not be present in minority communities.



Language

Government websites used to find vaccines often lack translation options. Vaccination clinics have limited translation help available.



Accessibility

People with disabilities reported not knowing how and where to get a vaccine. Information is often not provided in an accessible and easily understood format.



Availability

There are 54% fewer physicians in rural Pennsylvania compared to urban Pennsylvania.



SOURCES

Ryerson, A., et. al. (2021). Disparities in COVID-19 Vaccination Status, Intent, and Perceived Access for Noninstitutionalized Adults, by Disability Status – National Immunization Survey Adult COVID Module, United States, May 30–June 26, 2021, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 70(39); 1365–1371. Sabatello, M., Burke, T., McDonald, K., Appelbaum, P., (2020). Disability, Ethics, and Health Care in the COVID-19 Pandemic, American Journal of Public Health, 110(10): 1523–1527.

COVID-19: Rural and Minority Populations

Counties that experienced
greater COVID-19 death rates
had:



- Greater rates of poverty

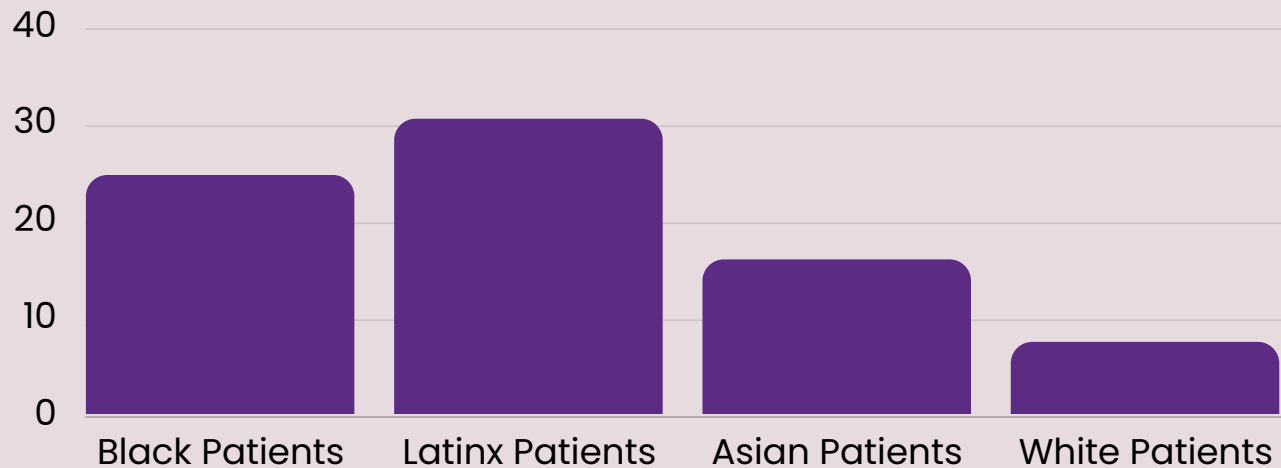


- Higher rates of people on Medicaid



- More people with disabilities

COVID-19 Hospitalization Rates per 10,000 People



Minorities are:

- More likely to have underlying health conditions that increase the risk of death from COVID-19
- Experience higher hospitalization and death rates from COVID-19
- Reported more concerns about being blamed for the spread of COVID-19

COVID-19: People with Disabilities



More likely to be unemployed

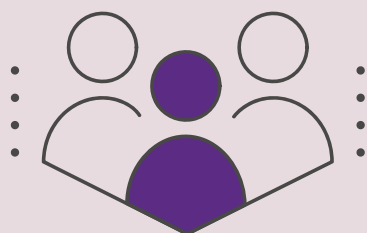


Once again, minorities with disabilities experienced the largest disparities.



Have higher rates of underlying health conditions that increase the risk of COVID-19

COVID-19: People with Disabilities



People living in residential settings especially experience higher death rates due to COVID-19.



People with developmental disabilities are 3x more likely to die following a COVID-19 diagnosis



People with intellectual disabilities are 2.75x more likely to die following a COVID-19 diagnosis

**COVID-19: Mental
Health Disparities**

Percentage of People with IDD by
Race and Ethnicity that
Experienced Fair or Poor Mental
Health during COVID-19

