Health care professionals, grassroots leaders and service providers discuss the health and well-being of black women. featuring recommendations and findings from 10 years of research and outreach!
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This report is a snapshot of Black Women’s reproductive health in Los Angeles County. Black Women for Wellness felt that it was important to examine the social and economic statistics as well as health indicators that define Black women in Los Angeles. In this report you will find statistics on Black women’s health as it relates to the overall framework of the reproductive justice movement. This report is meant to highlight disparities, as well as achievements, and focus on issues that effect Black women and their reproductive health.

Black Women for Wellness’ goal is to use this report to inform key stakeholders, including policy makers, grassroots leaders and funders in their decision making process about Black women in Los Angeles County.

User Guide
This report is specifically about health indicators of Black women in Los Angeles County. Unless otherwise stated, the statistics noted in this report are for women in Los Angeles County.

Acknowledgements:
Black Women for Wellness would like to acknowledge the following people and organizations that helped to make this report possible:

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Nourbese Flint, MAWHc
Denishia Clark, MPHc
### California at a Glance

**Putting Women’s Health Care Disparities on a Map, Kaiser Health Foundation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>dadiea</th>
<th>Disparity score</th>
<th>All Women</th>
<th>Asian/Pacific Islander</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Latina</th>
<th>White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women in female household with children</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>42.1%</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women with no high school diploma</td>
<td>5.24</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>40.1%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>2.01</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Household Income</td>
<td>1.78</td>
<td>$43,000</td>
<td>$54,000</td>
<td>$32,000</td>
<td>$29,349</td>
<td>$59,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Wage Gap for women who are full time year around compared to non-Hispanic white men</td>
<td>1.41</td>
<td>62.2%</td>
<td>69.8%</td>
<td>64.0%</td>
<td>41.9%</td>
<td>74.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disparity score greater than 1.00 indicates that minority women are doing worse than White women. Disparity less than 1.00 indicates that minority women are doing better than White women. Disparity score equal to 1.00 indicated that minority and White women are doing the same.

* Kaiser Health Foundation Putting Women’s Health Care Disparities on a Map, Kaiser Health Foundation June 2009
How we are living?

- Los Angeles County has a population of 9,848,001 (according to U.S. Census 2009)
- African Americans/Blacks are 8.4% of L.A. County’s population.*
- Women make up 50.5% of the population in Los Angeles County.*
- African American/Black women are 9.2% of L.A. County’s women population.*
- African American/Black women make up 4.7% of L.A. County’s population.*

Age

- 9.1% of Black females are between the ages of 12-17 years of age.*
Life expectancy
Social and economic conditions are directly correlated with health status in Los Angeles County. The average life expectancy from birth in Los Angeles County is 80.3 years. This is 2.5 years higher than the national average. Los Angeles County African Americans have the lowest life expectancy at 73.5 years of age. Black women life expectancy from birth is 77.2 years of age.

Life expectancy by city

Cause of Death
In 2007 the leading causes of death for Black females in Los Angeles County were: coronary heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, diabetes, and breast cancer.

Leading causes of premature (death before age of 75 years) were: death were coronary heart disease, breast cancer, homicide, stroke, and lung cancer.
According to research by the National Minority Consortia Public Engagement Campaign in Association with the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies Health Policy Institute with help from California Newsreel; past and present discrimination, and racism causes in extra burden on health. African Americans usually have worse health and die sooner than their white counterparts.*

**Top 3 leading causes of death distributed by age group**

- Ages 45-64 1. Coronary Heart Disease, 2. Breast Cancer, and 3. Lung Cancer
- Ages 75+ 1. Coronary Heart Disease, 2. Stroke, and 3. Diabetes, and Pneumonia/Influenza

**Chart 1.3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women in Los Angeles County</th>
<th>Blacks</th>
<th>Black Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Coronary Heart Disease</td>
<td>Homicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Breast Cancer</td>
<td>Coronary Heart Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Motor Vehicle Crash</td>
<td>Lung Cancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Stroke</td>
<td>Stroke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Lung Cancer</td>
<td>Motor Vehicle Crash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>Diabetes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Drug Overdose</td>
<td>HIV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>Breast Cancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Liver Disease</td>
<td>Drug Overdose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Colorectal Cancer</td>
<td>Colorectal Cancer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


*National Minority Consortia Public Engagement Campaign in Association with the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies Health Policy Institute produced by California Newsreel, 10 things you should know about health.
Demographics

Section 1

Demographics - Household make up

Chart 1.4

- Married
- Separated, divorce, widowed or other
- Live with partner
- Single never married

2007 percent of Black women's family configuration

Chart 1.5

- Single no kids
- Married no kids
- Married with kids
- Single no kids

2007 Percent of Single & Married Black Women with and without children
Sexual Orientation

About 95% of Black women self identify as straight or heterosexual, while 3.4% self identify as Gay, lesbian or homosexual.* According to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force report, there are 3,421 Black gay or lesbian couples living in the Los Angeles County area. 37% of Black lesbian couples have children.

* California Health Interview Survey
Demographics

Education

- Percent of adults with a college or post graduate degree
- Percent of adults who completed some college, trade school, or AA
- Percent of adults who completed high school only
- Percent of adults less than high school education

Chart 1.6

Black women’s education levels

- 29.6%
- 43%
- 19.3%
- 8.1%
Employment

According to a report from Women’s voices Women’s vote, *The Impact of a Declining Economy on Unmarried Women 2009*, unmarried single people make up the majority of persons (62%) unemployed since the start of the recession. Below are the rates for Black women in Los Angeles County from 2007. These rates might have changed drastically since the economic slow down in United States.

Wealth/Poverty

In a report by *Lifting as We Climb,*+ nationally, Black women have the highest rates of zero or negative net worth at 46%. Seventy-five percent of Black women have some sort of debt with the median being just over $18,000.

- Nineteen percent of Los Angeles Black females are under the federal poverty line.*
- Twenty-three percent of Black females fall between 100-199% of the federal poverty line.*
- About 43% of Black women make 300% FPL or above.*
- Fifty-eight percent of annual household income (adult wages only) for African Americans make under 40,000 dollars a year.*

* California Health Interview Survey 2007

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* Lifting as we Climb: Women of Color, Wealth, and America’s Future Spring 2010
Food Security

Able to afford enough food  
Not able to afford enough food

Chart 1.8
Ask of women who make less than 200% of Federal Poverty line

- 100%
- 50%
- 0%

Black women able to afford enough food (2007)

Currently receiving food stamps  
Not currently receiving food stamps

Chart 1.9
Ask of women who make less than 300% of Federal Poverty Line

- 100%
- 50%
- 0%

Percent of Black women that received food stamps 2007
Insurance

According to the California Health Survey 2007, 90% of Black women in Los Angeles County report having health insurance. However this number varies anywhere from 83-90% depending on the source.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Insurance</th>
<th>Percentage of Black Women in Los Angeles County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicare &amp; Medicaid</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicare &amp; Others</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicare Only</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment Based</td>
<td>46.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other/non insured</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disability

Twenty-eight percent of Black women report having a disability.*

Disability is defined as positive response to any one of the following: 1) Limited activity because of physical, mental or emotional problem(s); 2) health problems requiring use of special equipment; 3) self-perception of disabled.*

* Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office of Health Assessments and Epidemiology, Health Assessment Unit, 2007, 2005 Los Angeles County Health Surveys. Data are from 2007 Los Angeles County Health Survey and for adults except where noted.
Reproductive Health Status

Some of us are really brave....

Womb Health

- In Los Angeles County, Black women make up 10% of women in child bearing age.¹
- Twenty-five percent of Black women report daily use of birth control.*
- Sixty-seven percent of African American women at risk for pregnancy reported using an effective method of birth control. *

![Chart 2.1](image)

Abortion

Nationally, almost half of all pregnancies are unattended, with about 40% of these ending in abortion. Sixty-nine percent of pregnancies among black women are unattended, followed by Latinas at 54% and white women at 40 percent.

Nationally thirty percent of abortions occur to non-Hispanic Black women, 36% to non-Hispanic white women, 25% to Hispanic women and 9% to women of other races.

Most common reason for having an abortion:
“Three-fourths of women cite concern for or responsibility to other individuals; three-fourths say they cannot afford a child; three-fourths say that having a baby would interfere with work, school or the ability to care for dependents; and half say they do not want to be a single parent or are having problems with their husband or partner.”²

¹ Los Angeles County of Public Health Preconceptions 2010
² Guttmacher Institute
### Reproductive Health Status

#### Birth Rates

- Asian
- Black
- Latina
- White
- Other unknown

**Chart 2.2**

Percent of total live births in Los Angeles County by Race 2007

- Asian/Pacific Islander: 1.2%
- Black: 63%
- Latina: 11.3%
- White: 7.5%

**Chart 2.3**

Percent of all live births where mother received prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy

- Asian/Pacific Islander: 88.6%
- Black: 80.7%
- Latina: 84.3%
- White: 86%
**Reproductive Health Status**

### Low Birthweight

- **Asian/Pacific Islander**: 7.8%
- **Black**: 12.5%
- **Latina**: 6.6%
- **White**: 7.5%

**Percent of low birthweight births (<2,500 grams) per 100 live births**

**Chart 2.4**

### Very Low Birthweight

- **Asian/Pacific Islander**: 1.1
- **Black**: 2.8
- **Latina**: 1.2
- **Native American**: 2.3
- **White**: 1.3

**Very low birthweight live births, as percent of total live births 2007**

**Chart 2.5**
Fetal/Infant and Maternal death

- Infant mortality is defined as: when a baby dies before reaching his or her first birthday.*
- A fetal death is defined as: death of fetus after 20 weeks of gestation, including death during labor.*

The fetal mortality rate for Black women in Los Angeles is almost twice that of the rate of white women, and almost three times the rate of Asian Women.*

* Los Angeles County of Public Health Infant Mortality 2007
Maternal Death

Maternal death is defined as: death of mother during or shortly after pregnancy or birth.*

For every 100,000 live births, about 52 Los Angeles County Black women die*. These numbers are higher than several developing countries including Panama, Ukraine, Georgia, Slovenia among others Asian, Eastern European and South American countries. For a reference the number of maternal death in Los Angeles County is close to the numbers in Uzbekistan (55), which has the 168th highest ranked GDP†.

Chart 2.9

Maternal deaths rate per 100,000 live births

* Los Angeles County Public Health- Health Indicators for Women in Los Angeles County Report 2010
† CIA world factbook https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/
Breast Feeding Rates

- The rate of Black women breast feeding their child has gone down since 2005, when it was 79 percent.
- Thirty-nine percent of Black women breast feed their child at least 6 months, compared to Asian women at 56%, Latinas at 62% and white women at 69 percent.

Breast Cancer

- The data shows significantly higher breast cancer mortality rates among Asian/Pacific Islander women compared to Black, Latina, and White women.
Facts about Fibroids

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, fibroids are one of the most common conditions affecting women in their reproductive years. Fibroids are tumor(s) that develops in the uterus of a woman.

In one major study, African American Women received sterilization (myomectomy and hysterectomies) two fold the times of white women (65.4% to 28.5% respectively) for treatment of fibroids.

In addition, Black women often were diagnosed with fibroids at earlier ages than white women (ages 35-40 to 40-44 respectively).

Black women in Los Angeles County make up 15% of hysterectomies reported. Twenty-five percent of Black women in LA reported having had a hysterectomy.

† California health Interview Survey
Sexually Transmitted Disease

- **Asian Pacific/Islander**
- **Black/African American Women**
- **Latina**
- **White**

**Chart 2.14**

Incidence of Chlamydia annual new cases per 100,000 adult population

- Asian Pacific/Islander: 187
- Black/African American Women: 1836.6
- Latina: 658.7
- White: 211.4

**Chart 2.15**

Incidence of Gonorrhea annual new cases per 100,000 adult population

- Asian Pacific/Islander: 16.4
- Black/African American Women: 443.3
- Latina: 38.9
- White: 28.2

**Chart 2.16**

Incidence of primary and secondary syphilis annual new cases per 100,000 adult population

- Asian Pacific/Islander: 0.2
- Black/African American Women: 0.6
- Latina: 0.2
Percent of adults who report ever being tested for S.T.D's (syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, herpes and genital warts)

Chart 2.17

- Black: 49.9%
- Latina: 33%
- White: 44.9%
Reproductive Health Status

Cervical Cancer

- 70% of Cervical Cancer worldwide is caused by two strains of HPV 16 and 18.
- From 2003-2007 there has been an average 495 cases of cervical cancer per year.

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease

The mortality death rates from cervical cancer for African Americans has gone down drastically in the last 10 years. California African American's have lower mortality rates than the national numbers for Black women (3.6 per 100,000 vs. 4.3 per 100,000 in 2006 respectively). However both the U.S. national number, and the California’s State number for white women is lower than that of Black women at 2.2 per 100,000 and 2.5 per 100,000 respectively.

- 70% of Cervical Cancer worldwide is caused by two strains of HPV 16 and 18.
- From 2003-2007 there has been an average 495 cases of cervical cancer per year.

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease

- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Black
- Latina
- White

Chart 2.18

Cervical cancer death rate (age-adjusted per 100,000 female population in 2007)

Chart 2.19

Incidence of Pelvic Inflammatory Disease PID (annual new cases per 100,000 female population)

* National Cancer Institute State Cancer Profile Death Rate/Trend comparison by cancer, death years through 2006 california counties vs, United States retrieved August 2010
Reproductive Health Status

Pap Test
Eighty-six percent of women in Los Angeles County has had a pap smear in they last three years. The regularity of pap smears has a strong correlations with insurance. Only 77% of women with no insurance had a pap smear in the last three years compared to 86% of women who have Medi-cal and 90% of women who have private insurance.*

Almost 87% of Los Angeles Black women over 18 reported having a pap test in the last three years. Five percent reported having one over three years ago.†

* Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office of Health Assessments and Epidemiology, Health Assessment Unit, 2007, 2005 Los Angeles County Health Surveys. Data are from 2007 Los Angeles County Health Survey and for adults for adults except where noted

† California Health Interview Survey 2007
In a study conducted by the Los Angeles County Public Health Department Black, and White women were shown to have higher rates of “riskier” behavior than Latinas. Riskier behaviors include having sex with multiple partners, having unprotected sex with people with unknown HIV/AIDS status and intravenous drug use.

The mean for sexual partners for Black women is 11.7 compared to Latinas which is 4.7. In the Straight to LA study conducted in Los Angeles County, 93% of Black women reported having unprotected sex with a partner.

Women of Color make up 85% of the new female AIDS case.

More Facts

- Blacks accounted for 49% of the estimated 35,962 AIDS cases diagnosed in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- Nationally, by the end of 2007, 40% of the 562,793 persons who died of AIDS were Black
- African Americans/Blacks make up Twenty-two percent of people in Los Angeles County living with HIV/AIDS.

* An Epidemiological Profile of HIV/AIDS Los Angeles County Public Health Department 2009, HIV Epidemiology Program Division of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

† Center for Disease Control HIV topics http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/aa/index.htm

‡ Black AIDS Institute - AIDS in Black American fact sheet
Reproductive Health Status

HIV/AIDS

Chart 2.22

Percent of adults who report having an HIV test in the past 2 years

Chart 2.23

Black women who have been tested for HIV/AIDS

Has Been tested for HIV

Has Not been tested for HIV

Reproductive Health Status - HIV/AIDS
...and other reasons that make me wanna holla!

Physical Activity/Nutrition

Women between the ages of 18-39 are the most likely to eat fast food at least once a week and drink a soda or sweetened drink once a day.*

Chart 3.1  Physical Activity level of Black Women in Los Angeles County

- Forty-nine percent of Black women in Los Angeles meet the recommended guidelines for physical activity each week.†
- **Physical Activity Guidelines**: One of the following criteria must be fulfilled: 1) Vigorous Activity - hard physical activity causing heavy sweating, large increases in breathing and heart rate for 20+ minutes, 3 days or more a week. 2) Moderate activity - physical activity causing light sweating, slight increases in breathing and heart rate for 30 minutes, 5 days or more a week. 3) a combination of moderate/vigorous activity more than 5 days a week.‡

**Nutrition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chart 3.2</th>
<th>Food &amp; Sweetened Beverages</th>
<th>Asian/Pacific Islander</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Latina</th>
<th>White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent of women who consume five or more servings of fruits and vegetables a day</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>26.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of women who eat fast food at least once a week</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>41.7</td>
<td>40.1</td>
<td>29.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of women who drink at least one soda or sweetened drink a day</td>
<td>19.2 (Statistically unstable)</td>
<td>43.5</td>
<td>40.1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office of Health Assessments and Epidemiology, Health Assessment Unit, 2007, 2005 Los Angeles County Health Surveys. Data are from 2007 Los Angeles County Health Survey and for adults for adults except where noted.

† California Health Interview Survey 2007

‡ Center for Disease Control [http://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/everyone/guidelines/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/everyone/guidelines/index.html)
Obesity

- Thirty-three percent of Black women in Los Angeles County are considered obese or have a body mass index 30.0 or higher. Twenty-eight percent are considered overweight with a BMI between 25.0-29.99. *
- One in 10 Black women in Los Angeles County reported eating five servings of fruits and vegetables a day. †
- The highest amount of women diagnosed with diabetes and hypertension are in SPA 6. The lowest rates are in SPA 5. ‡

Quick Facts §

- Studies have shown that Obesity can causes infertility among women.
- Seventy-six percent of biological mother reported receiving information about healthy weight gain during pregnancy.

* California Health Interview Survey 2007 adults
† Health of Black Women in Los Angeles Vicki Mays Ph.D, M.S.PH Powerpoint presentation
‡ Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office of Health Assessments and Epidemiology; Health Assessment Unit, 2007, 2005 Los Angeles County Health Surveys. Data are from 2007 Los Angeles County Health Survey and for adults for adults except where noted
§ Preconception Health in LA County Women’s Health in the Reproductive Years, Los Angeles County of Public Health, March 2010
Diabetes/Heart Disease

At 38.2 people per 100,000, Black women have the highest rates of mortality due to diabetes in Los Angeles County women. However at 199.9 per 100,000, heart disease kills far more Black women a year.*

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*Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office of Health Assessments and Epidemiology, Health Assessment Unit, 2007, 2005 Los Angeles County Health Surveys. Data are from 2007 Los Angeles County Health Survey and for adults except where noted.
Daily Medication

Percent of women who take prescription medication on a daily basis

- Asian/Pacific Islander: 36.4%
- Black: 52.3%
- Latina: 33.9%
- White: 58.1%

Mental Health

- Average number of poor mental health days reported by adults in the past month
- Average number of poor physical health days reported by adults in the past month

Chart 3.6
Depression

Sixteen percent of Black and Latina women were diagnosed with depression. However the highest rates of depression diagnosed are among white women at 21%. Asian women are least likely to be diagnosed with depression (8.4%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asian/Pacific Islander</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Latina</th>
<th>White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosed with depression</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office of Health Assessments and Epidemiology, Health Assessment Unit, 2007, 2005 Los Angeles County Health Surveys. Data are from 2007 Los Angeles County Health Survey and for adults except where noted.
Smoking

About 14% of Californians’ 18 and over are smokers, which is lower than the national average. Women make up a smaller percentage of smokers than men.*

In California, Black people have the second highest rate of smoking (24.2) followed behind American Indian/Alaska Native (33.5).*

Alcohol

The highest rates of binge drinking happens among people who make over 300% of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL).†

Binge drinking for a women is define as: 4 or more drinks on at least one occasion in the past 30 day

* Center for Disease Control Tobacco Control State highlights 2010
† Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office of Health Assessments and Epidemiology, Health Assessment Unit, 2007, 2005 Los Angeles County Health Surveys. Data are from 2007 Los Angeles County Health Survey and for adults for adults except where noted.
Life Styles & Social Determinants

Chart 3.11

Unintentional drug-overdose death rate (age adjusted per 100,000 population)

- Asian/Pacific Islander (small cell size - data not reported due to confidentiality)
- Black
- Latina
- White

Original data: 6.6, 1.8, 6.3
Criminal Violence

- 6.2% of Black women in Los Angeles County reported experiencing physical or sexual violence in the past year.*

- Nationally African Americans account for a disproportionate number of intimate partner violence. In 2005 African Americans made up 1/3 of intimate violent partner homicides.†

- Eighty-Five percent of Black Women agree or strongly agree that the nearby playground/park is safe during the day.*

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* California Health Interview Survey 2007

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Chart 3.12

Percent of adults (18-65) who reported ever experiencing physical or sexual violence

- Asian/Pacific Islander (small cell size data not reported due to confidentiality)
- Black
- Latina
- White

Chart 3.13

Homocide Rate (age-adjusted per 100,000)
Rates of emergency room visits for intimate partner violence (treated and released home per 100,000 adults)

- Asian/Pacific Islander: 2.9
- Black: 20.4
- Latina: 13.5
- White: 8.3

Rates of hospitalizations for non-fatal poisonings from suicide attempt per 100,000 adults

- Asian/Pacific Islander: 21.6
- Black: 46
- Latina: 30
- White: 64.5
Teen Health

Teen Facts

Reproductive Health

- 76.5% of Black females between the ages of 12-17 reported being tested for an S.T.D within the past month. ¹

- 36 per 1000 live births to adolescent females (15-19 years of age) are Black. ²

- 77.5% of Black females reported using a condom during their last sex act. ³

- 56% of Black females between the ages of (14-17) reported not to have had sex. ⁴

Poverty

- 44% of Black female adolescents live in a household with incomes less than 200% of poverty level. ⁴

Physical Fitness

- 19.8% of Black female adolescents are considered overweight or obese (with a BMI above the 95th percentile). ⁵

¹ 2005 California Health Interview Survey
² Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office of Health Assessments and Epidemiology, Health Assessment Unit 2005 Los Angeles County Health Surveys
³ Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office of Health Assessments and Epidemiology, Health Assessment Unit 2005 Los Angeles County Health Surveys
⁴ Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office of Health Assessments and Epidemiology, Health Assessment Unit 2005 Los Angeles County Health Surveys
⁵ Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office of Health Assessments and Epidemiology, Health Assessment Unit 2005 Los Angeles County Health Surveys
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**Teen Health**

Chart T.1 Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office of Health Assessments and Epidemiology, Health Assessment Unit 2005 Los Angeles County Health Surveys.
Closing Comments Opening Notes

This report is the start of a conversation, a dialog and importantly the continuation of our quest to eliminate health disparity for African American and Black women and girls. This quest Black Women for Wellness is on includes fabulous, dedicated professionals, community advocates, grassroots leadership, elected officials and you. Why else would you read this compilation of statistics concerning our health and well being other than your interest in the well being of the Black women you know and love. This quest is community centered, it cannot be accomplished by an individual...way too big a task yet it cannot be accomplished without individuals as we make up the entities and skill set needed.

The statistics in the publication do not contain an analysis for many reasons, having all the numbers in one place stunned us, we want to share a picture with hope and dreams to spin the numbers for a motivating message rather than the stark reality they present. Many times with public health professionals we explain the numbers when they frankly speak for themselves.

Our educational systems have shared analytical skills, but often not enough information that shares insights into the facts at hand, the historical and the cultural trends as example to assist with critical thinking. We ask that as you read these facts you bring a gender lens, which is fed by a historical insight that you analyze with compassion and remember community health rather than individuals’ health is the goal. We ask that this information is used to address governmental systems, institutional policies and community barriers rather than hold the person completely responsible and accountable for the health disparity we see illustrated.

Our cast of warriors:

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Black Women for Wellness gives thanks to the tremendous amount of energy, skill, dedication, creativity, commitment and passion that went into gathering the data for this report. The folks mentioned above went so far beyond the call of duty, that we have no doubt our victory, our ability to eliminate health disparity facing our community.

Peace
Janette Robinson Flint
BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS

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