

Facing the Facts:

A Statistical Look at the Health Status of Minorities in Indiana

This report was compiled by the Indiana Minority Health Coalition Research and Training Center. Health data was provided by the Indiana State Department of Health. Demographic data was provided by STATS Indiana. The book presents profiles of racial/ethnic groups (Black, Hispanic and White) for the State of Indiana, as well as selected counties and major cities for the years 1999 to 2001. The information in this document offers a preliminary snapshot of the health of Indiana residents by racial/ethnic category.

The details of this report highlight the health gap between minority and non-minority Indiana residents. For the state of Indiana, the age-adjusted death rates due to heart disease, cancer and stroke from were higher for African American (Black) residents compared to Hispanic and Caucasian (White) residents.

African Americans (Blacks) consistently died at higher rates from heart disease, cancer and/or stroke during one to three years of the observed period in Allen, Clark, Grant, La Porte, Lake, Madison, Marion, St. Joseph, Tippecanoe and Vanderburgh counties. Although the rates were not available, the number of deaths attributed to heart disease, cancer and/or strokes among African American (Black) residents increased during part or all of this three year period in Floyd, Harrison, Howard, Vigo and Wayne counties. Though the rates were not available for Hispanic residents, but the number of deaths increased from heart disease, cancer and/or stroke in Delaware County. The age-adjusted rates of African Americans (Blacks) and Hispanics were not available due unstable rates in Elkhart County.

The information presented in this report indicates apparent health disparities in Indiana among racial/ethnic minority populations. Possible reasons for the disparities in health may be attributed to differences in access to health care services, health insurance coverage and having a primary care provider. The Indiana Minority Health Coalition plans to conduct a comprehensive assessment of Indiana's minority health status through the collection of primary data and examination of existing data.