



California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

Fresno County Multicultural Health Fact Sheet

Introduction

The California Pan-Ethnic Health Network works to ensure that all Californians have access to health care and can live healthy lives. CPEHN gathers the strength of the state's new majority to build a united and powerful voice in health advocacy. We developed county-level fact sheets for Fresno, Los Angeles, Sacramento, and San Diego counties to provide community organizations with data to support their program planning and advocacy work.

Demographics

People of color make up 65.7% of Fresno County's population. Latinos are the largest racial/ethnic group, followed by Asians. Over one in three people of color in Fresno County live below the federal poverty level.

Table 1: Race/Ethnicity and Poverty in Fresno County

Race/Ethnicity	Population	Below Poverty
African American	5.5%	34%
Latino	49.3%	30.6%
Native American/Alaska Native	1.4%	34.3%
Asian	8.1%	38.5%
White	34.3%	20.3%

Note: Data and federally established poverty thresholds (\$17,029 for a family of four) from 1999.

Source: Health Data Summaries for California Counties 2006,
<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/hisp/chs/OHIR/reports/others/datasummaries2006.pdf>.

Language Needs

Over one in three (40.8%) people in Fresno County speak a language other than English at home. Of these, 31.5% speak Spanish at home and 6.2% speak an Asian language.

Source: www.censusscope.org.

Health Conditions

Communities of color still face high rates of certain health conditions. Over a third of African Americans and Asians in Fresno County are overweight or obese, leading to increased rates of diabetes. Asthma hospitalizations are over twice as high for Latinos as they are for Whites.

Table 2: Health Conditions in Fresno County

Race/Ethnicity	High Blood Pressure	Overweight or Obese	Diabetes (Type 1 and Type 2)	Adult Heart Disease	Asthma Hospitalization (All Ages)	Asthma Hospitalization (Children 0-14 years)
African American	30.5%	35.1%	22.4%	--	23%	30.9%
Latino	12.8%	21.5%	7.3%	4.5%	30.9%	34%
Native American/ Alaska Native	33.1%	--	--	--	--	--
Asian	23.2%	34.5%	10.1%	5.8%	--	--
White	32.8%	16.6%	5.1%	6.9%	14.8%	15.5%

Notes: For adults “Overweight or obese” include respondents who have a BMI of 25 or greater. For adolescents, “Overweight or obese” includes the respondents who have a BMI in the highest 95 percentile with respect to their age and gender.

Table 3: Cancer Rates in Fresno County

Race/Ethnicity	All Cancers	Breast Cancer	Prostate Cancer	Lung Cancer
African American	543.16	78.64	243.81	89.10
Latino	363.68	51.15	128.67	33.28
Native American/ Alaska Native	--	--	--	--
Asian	297.19	43.84	66.10	31.21
White	516.91	93.32	151.70	66.23

Note: All rates are per 100,000. Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Million Population.

Sources: California Health Interview Survey data, pooled 2003 and 2005, *Diabetes in California Counties: Prevalence, Risk Factors and Resources*, 2005, California Diabetes Program, California Department of Health Services, and California Cancer Registry data for 2001-2005.

Access to Care

Latinos in Fresno County (36.6%) were over twice as likely as Whites (17.2%) to be uninsured for all or part of the year. Latinos (19.2%) are also over twice as likely as Whites (9.9%) to be without a usual source of care.

Source: California Health Interview Survey data, pooled 2003 and 2005, for Fresno County’s population under the age of 65.

Additional Resources

For more information, go to CPEHN’s Multicultural Health Web Portal at www.cpehn.org.

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