



Trends in U.S. Public Awareness of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities (1999–2010)

2009 General Population Toplines

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INTRODUCTION

This study is based on a national random sample of 2,996 telephone interviews with adults age 18 and over including 1,218 Whites, 806 African Americans, 620 Hispanic/Latinos, and 145 Asian American/Pacific Islanders. Interviews with the public were conducted in the respondent's language of choice using trained NORC interviewers for English and Spanish interviews and the Language Line Service for interviews in other languages. The surveys were designed, conducted, and analyzed by researchers at NORC in consultation with external technical advisors and OMH project leadership. The surveys were in the field from April – June, 2009. The margin of error for the public survey is +/- 3.5 percent for results based on the full sample, +/- 5.5 percent for the subsample of Whites, +/- 6.8 percent for African Americans, +/- 7.7 percent for Hispanics/Latinos, and +/- 16 percent for Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders.

TOPLINES

In the last year, have you heard or read anything about racial and ethnic disparities in health and health care in America?

Race or Ethnic Group	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused
White	38%	61%	1%	0%
African American	36%	63%	0%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	44%	55%	1%	0%
AA/PI	33%	65%	2%	0%
Total	39%	61%	1%	0%

Have you ever heard of any of the following public health campaigns or read any of the following publications?

The US Department of Health and Human Services' Healthy People 2010

Race or Ethnic Group	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused
White	13%	86%	1%	0%
African American	21%	79%	0%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	21%	78%	1%	0%
AA/PI	18%	81%	1%	0%
Total	16%	83%	1%	0%

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's National Healthcare Disparities Report

Race or Ethnic Group	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused
White	6%	93%	1%	0%
African American	22%	78%	1%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	22%	77%	1%	0%
AA/PI	3%	96%	1%	0%
Total	10%	88%	1%	0%

The Institute of Medicine's 2003 report, Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care

Race or Ethnic Group	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused
White	6%	92%	2%	0%
African American	22%	77%	1%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	18%	80%	2%	0%
AA/PI	7%	92%	1%	0%
Total	10%	88%	2%	0%

The Office of Minority Health's National Partnership for Action

Race or Ethnic Group	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused
White	6%	93%	1%	0%
African American	21%	78%	1%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	18%	81%	1%	0%
AA/PI	3%	96%	1%	0%
Total	10%	89%	1%	0%

The PBS Documentary: Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?

Race or Ethnic Group	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused
White	18%	80%	2%	0%
African American	27%	72%	1%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	24%	73%	3%	0%
AA/PI	13%	87%	0%	0%
Total	20%	78%	2%	0%

Thinking about people like yourself, is...a major problem, a minor problem or not a problem?

... being able to afford the cost of health insurance and necessary medical care

Race or Ethnic Group	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not A Problem At All	Don't Know	Refused
White	44%	27%	28%	0%	0%
African American	54%	20%	25%	1%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	62%	16%	21%	1%	0%
AA/PI	37%	15%	45%	3%	1%
Total	48%	24%	28%	1%	0%

... having enough doctors and other health providers near where they live

Race or Ethnic Group	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not A Problem At All	Don't Know	Refused
White	12%	24%	63%	1%	0%
African American	27%	25%	48%	0%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	31%	27%	40%	1%	0%
AA/PI	16%	40%	43%	0%	1%
Total	17%	25%	57%	1%	0%

... having difficulty getting care because of your race or ethnic background

Race or Ethnic Group	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not A Problem At All	Don't Know	Refused
White	6%	5%	88%	1%	0%
African American	19%	20%	59%	1%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	15%	31%	51%	3%	0%
AA/PI	10%	16%	73%	0%	0%
Total	9%	12%	77%	1%	0%

Do you think the average African American is better off, just as well off, or worse off than the average White person in terms of:

getting needed health care

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	9%	47%	34%	9%	1%
African American	11%	38%	48%	2%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	17%	39%	34%	10%	1%
AA/PI	4%	42%	30%	24%	0%
Total	10%	45%	36%	9%	0%

infant mortality—that is, a baby's chance of surviving after birth

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	5%	39%	39%	16%	1%
African American	11%	39%	39%	12%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	7%	41%	36%	16%	0%
AA/PI	5%	26%	43%	25%	1%
Total	6%	39%	39%	16%	1%

life expectancy—that is, how long someone can expect to live

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	4%	46%	43%	7%	0%
African American	16%	29%	49%	5%	1%
Hispanic/Latino	18%	35%	36%	11%	0%
AA/PI	8%	27%	42%	24%	0%
Total	8%	41%	43%	8%	1%

Do you think the average African American is more likely, just as likely, or less likely to be diagnosed with...as the average White person?

... Auto Immune Deficiency Disorder (AIDS) or the HIV virus

Race or Ethnic Group	More Likely	Just As Likely	Less Likely	Don't Know	Refused
White	33%	47%	7%	12%	0%
African American	46%	33%	15%	6%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	39%	43%	8%	9%	0%
AA/PI	34%	39%	8%	19%	0%
Total	36%	44%	9%	11%	0%

... Cancer (including cancer of the stomach, prostate, or bladder)

Race or Ethnic Group	More Likely	Just As Likely	Less Likely	Don't Know	Refused
White	12%	64%	13%	10%	0%
African American	45%	36%	13%	5%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	17%	46%	27%	10%	0%
AA/PI	9%	61%	8%	21%	0%
Total	17%	57%	15%	10%	0%

... Hypertension

Race or Ethnic Group	More Likely	Just As Likely	Less Likely	Don't Know	Refused
White	34%	49%	10%	7%	0%
African American	65%	16%	16%	3%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	35%	38%	15%	13%	0%
AA/PI	31%	45%	4%	20%	0%
Total	38%	43%	11%	8%	0%

... Diabetes

Race or Ethnic Group	More Likely	Just As Likely	Less Likely	Don't Know	Refused
White	30%	51%	11%	7%	0%
African American	74%	14%	9%	2%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	37%	36%	21%	6%	0%
AA/PI	31%	48%	9%	13%	0%
Total	37%	44%	12%	7%	0%

When going to a doctor or health clinic for health care services, do you think most African Americans receive a higher quality of health care, the same quality of health care, or a lower quality of health care as most Whites?

Race or Ethnic Group	Higher Quality	Same Quality	Lower Quality	Don't Know	Refused
White	3%	73%	19%	5%	0%
African American	1%	50%	48%	1%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	5%	57%	32%	5%	0%
AA/PI	2%	57%	26%	16%	0%
Total	3%	67%	25%	5%	0%

How big of a problem do you think...is for the average African American? Is this a major problem, a minor problem or not a problem at all for the average African American?

... being able to afford the cost of health insurance and necessary medical care

Race or Ethnic Group	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not A Problem At All	Don't Know	Refused
White	53%	27%	13%	7%	1%
African American	82%	11%	7%	0%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	46%	27%	22%	5%	0%
AA/PI	55%	12%	8%	25%	0%
Total	55%	24%	13%	7%	0%

... having enough doctors and other health providers near where they live

Race or Ethnic Group	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not A Problem At All	Don't Know	Refused
White	26%	33%	33%	7%	0%
African American	45%	25%	29%	2%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	23%	33%	31%	13%	0%
AA/PI	29%	27%	18%	27%	0%
Total	28%	32%	31%	8%	0%

... having difficulty getting care because of their race or ethnic background

Race or Ethnic Group	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not A Problem At All	Don't Know	Refused
White	14%	32%	45%	9%	0%
African American	49%	25%	22%	5%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	28%	27%	40%	5%	0%
AA/PI	15%	41%	37%	8%	0%
Total	21%	31%	40%	8%	0%

Do you think the average African American is better off, just as well off, or worse off as the average White person in terms of:?

how healthy they are

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	4%	63%	27%	6%	0%
African American	8%	45%	43%	4%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	14%	49%	32%	6%	0%
AA/PI	6%	56%	21%	16%	1%
Total	6%	58%	29%	6%	0%

getting routine medical care when they need it

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	3%	56%	35%	5%	0%
African American	11%	30%	56%	3%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	14%	46%	33%	7%	0%
AA/PI	9%	41%	34%	15%	1%
Total	6%	51%	37%	5%	0%

getting specialized treatments or surgery when they need it

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	3%	58%	33%	6%	0%
African American	8%	26%	65%	2%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	6%	47%	33%	13%	0%
AA/PI	10%	48%	27%	15%	0%
Total	4%	51%	37%	7%	0%

having health insurance

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	4%	45%	45%	6%	0%
African American	7%	17%	75%	1%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	8%	45%	37%	10%	0%
AA/PI	8%	33%	53%	5%	0%
Total	5%	41%	48%	6%	0%

Do you think the average Hispanic/Latino is better off, just as well off, or worse off than the average White person in terms of:

getting needed health care

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	11%	44%	39%	6%	1%
African American	11%	33%	50%	6%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	9%	35%	54%	3%	0%
AA/PI	12%	38%	42%	8%	0%
Total	11%	41%	43%	5%	0%

infant mortality—that is, a baby’s chance of surviving after birth

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	5%	55%	30%	9%	1%
African American	12%	36%	44%	7%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	7%	53%	34%	7%	0%
AA/PI	9%	52%	22%	16%	0%
Total	6%	52%	32%	9%	1%

life expectancy—that is, how long someone can expect to live

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	6%	57%	29%	7%	1%
African American	7%	34%	52%	7%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	12%	52%	30%	6%	0%
AA/PI	9%	47%	31%	14%	0%
Total	7%	53%	32%	7%	1%

Do you think the average Hispanic/Latino is more likely, just as likely, or less likely to be diagnosed with...as the average White person?

... Auto Immune Deficiency Disorder (AIDS) or the HIV virus

Race or Ethnic Group	More Likely	Just As Likely	Less Likely	Don't Know	Refused
White	13%	60%	15%	12%	0%
African American	39%	26%	26%	9%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	33%	49%	15%	4%	0%
AA/PI	22%	51%	9%	17%	0%
Total	20%	53%	16%	10%	0%

... Cancer (including cancer of the stomach, prostate, or bladder)

Race or Ethnic Group	More Likely	Just As Likely	Less Likely	Don't Know	Refused
White	8%	67%	16%	9%	0%
African American	28%	32%	31%	9%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	38%	46%	9%	7%	0%
AA/PI	19%	53%	6%	21%	0%
Total	16%	58%	16%	9%	0%

... Hypertension

Race or Ethnic Group	More Likely	Just As Likely	Less Likely	Don't Know	Refused
White	14%	63%	14%	9%	0%
African American	44%	21%	28%	7%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	39%	42%	16%	4%	0%
AA/PI	15%	57%	6%	21%	0%
Total	22%	54%	16%	8%	0%

... Diabetes

Race or Ethnic Group	More Likely	Just As Likely	Less Likely	Don't Know	Refused
White	16%	61%	15%	8%	0%
African American	35%	30%	28%	7%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	56%	27%	14%	3%	0%
AA/PI	15%	56%	14%	15%	0%
Total	25%	52%	16%	8%	0%

When going to a doctor or health clinic for health care services, do you think most Hispanics/Latinos receive a higher quality of health care, the same quality of health care, or a lower quality of health care as most Whites?

Race or Ethnic Group	Higher Quality	Same Quality	Lower Quality	Don't Know	Refused
White	4%	65%	27%	4%	0%
African American	7%	35%	54%	4%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	2%	48%	49%	1%	0%
AA/PI	0%	60%	34%	6%	0%
Total	4%	58%	34%	3%	0%

How big of a problem do you think...is for the average Hispanic/Latino? Is this a major problem, a minor problem or not a problem at all for the average Hispanic/Latino?

... being able to afford the cost of health insurance and necessary medical care

Race or Ethnic Group	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not A Problem At All	Don't Know	Refused
White	54%	27%	13%	5%	0%
African American	54%	26%	15%	5%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	67%	23%	9%	1%	0%
AA/PI	71%	12%	11%	6%	0%
Total	57%	25%	13%	4%	0%

... having enough doctors and other health providers near where they live

Race or Ethnic Group	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not A Problem At All	Don't Know	Refused
White	25%	37%	33%	5%	0%
African American	48%	25%	22%	5%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	39%	37%	19%	6%	0%
AA/PI	21%	38%	36%	6%	0%
Total	30%	36%	29%	5%	0%

... having difficulty getting care because of their race or ethnic background

Race or Ethnic Group	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not A Problem At All	Don't Know	Refused
White	18%	33%	43%	5%	1%
African American	41%	31%	26%	3%	0%
Latino	34%	36%	28%	2%	0%
AA/PI	16%	40%	41%	4%	0%
Total	24%	34%	38%	4%	0%

Do you think the average Hispanic/Latino is better off, just as well off, or worse off as the average White person in terms of:?

how healthy they are

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	7%	60%	27%	6%	1%
African American	12%	46%	38%	4%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	5%	47%	44%	4%	0%
AA/PI	12%	50%	25%	13%	0%
Total	7%	55%	31%	6%	0%

getting routine medical care when they need it

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	5%	53%	37%	5%	0%
African American	11%	35%	51%	3%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	4%	48%	45%	3%	0%
AA/PI	11%	48%	34%	7%	0%
Total	6%	49%	40%	5%	0%

getting specialized treatments or surgery when they need it

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	4%	54%	37%	4%	0%
African American	15%	26%	55%	4%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	3%	45%	49%	3%	0%
AA/PI	11%	52%	30%	7%	0%
Total	6%	49%	41%	4%	0%

having health insurance

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	5%	34%	57%	4%	0%
African American	13%	20%	64%	4%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	2%	23%	67%	7%	0%
AA/PI	5%	38%	46%	11%	0%
Total	6%	30%	59%	5%	0%

Do you think the average Asian American/Pacific Islander is better off, just as well off, or worse off than the average White person in terms of:

getting needed health care

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	7%	72%	11%	9%	1%
African American	17%	40%	34%	9%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	13%	59%	17%	11%	0%
AA/PI	14%	70%	13%	4%	0%
Total	10%	66%	15%	9%	0%

infant mortality—that is, a baby's chance of surviving after birth

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	5%	74%	9%	11%	1%
African American	20%	53%	15%	11%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	10%	57%	20%	13%	0%
AA/PI	19%	69%	6%	6%	0%
Total	8%	69%	11%	11%	1%

life expectancy—that is, how long someone can expect to live

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	23%	60%	7%	9%	0%
African American	27%	49%	13%	10%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	31%	49%	10%	9%	0%
AA/PI	31%	51%	11%	6%	1%
Total	25%	57%	9%	9%	0%

Do you think the average Asian American/Pacific Islander is more likely, just as likely, or less likely to be diagnosed with...as the average White person?

... Auto Immune Deficiency Disorder (AIDS) or the HIV virus

Race or Ethnic Group	More Likely	Just As Likely	Less Likely	Don't Know	Refused
White	6%	60%	24%	9%	0%
African American	22%	28%	42%	8%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	17%	46%	30%	7%	0%
AA/PI	9%	52%	34%	5%	0%
Total	10%	53%	28%	9%	0%

... Cancer (including cancer of the stomach, prostate, or bladder)

Race or Ethnic Group	More Likely	Just As Likely	Less Likely	Don't Know	Refused
White	5%	61%	24%	9%	0%
African American	22%	36%	35%	7%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	18%	46%	29%	7%	0%
AA/PI	22%	62%	11%	6%	0%
Total	10%	56%	26%	8%	0%

... Hypertension

Race or Ethnic Group	More Likely	Just As Likely	Less Likely	Don't Know	Refused
White	6%	57%	26%	10%	0%
African American	20%	32%	41%	7%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	18%	42%	32%	7%	0%
AA/PI	21%	57%	16%	6%	0%
Total	11%	52%	29%	9%	0%

... Diabetes

Race or Ethnic Group	More Likely	Just As Likely	Less Likely	Don't Know	Refused
White	5%	52%	33%	10%	0%
African American	21%	25%	48%	6%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	11%	43%	39%	7%	0%
AA/PI	21%	47%	30%	2%	0%
Total	9%	47%	36%	9%	0%

When going to a doctor or health clinic for health care services, do you think most Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders receive a higher quality of health care, the same quality of health care, or a lower quality of health care as most Whites?

Race or Ethnic Group	Higher Quality	Same Quality	Lower Quality	Don't Know	Refused
White	4%	84%	7%	5%	0%
African American	6%	66%	21%	7%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	4%	74%	18%	4%	0%
AA/PI	1%	80%	18%	1%	0%
Total	4%	80%	11%	5%	0%

How big of a problem do you think...is for the average Asian American/Pacific Islander? Is this a major problem, a minor problem or not a problem at all for the average Asian American/Pacific Islander?

... being able to afford the cost of health insurance and necessary medical care

Race or Ethnic Group	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not A Problem At All	Don't Know	Refused
White	28%	39%	26%	7%	0%
African American	29%	43%	20%	7%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	22%	45%	25%	7%	0%
AA/PI	32%	31%	35%	2%	0%
Total	28%	40%	25%	7%	0%

... having enough doctors and other health providers near where they live

Race or Ethnic Group	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not A Problem At All	Don't Know	Refused
White	13%	34%	46%	7%	1%
African American	23%	39%	33%	6%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	18%	34%	42%	7%	0%
AA/PI	16%	35%	47%	2%	0%
Total	15%	35%	43%	7%	0%

... having difficulty getting care because of their race or ethnic background

Race or Ethnic Group	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not A Problem At All	Don't Know	Refused
White	6%	29%	60%	5%	1%
African American	18%	40%	34%	8%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	12%	33%	49%	7%	0%
AA/PI	10%	37%	51%	2%	0%
Total	8%	31%	54%	6%	0%

Do you think the average Asian American/Pacific Islander is better off, just as well off, or worse off as the average White person in terms of:?

how healthy they are

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	24%	64%	5%	6%	0%
African American	21%	58%	14%	7%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	23%	54%	15%	7%	0%
AA/PI	18%	60%	17%	5%	0%
Total	23%	61%	9%	6%	0%

getting routine medical care when they need it

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	5%	80%	10%	5%	0%
African American	13%	57%	24%	6%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	8%	66%	19%	6%	0%
AA/PI	12%	73%	13%	1%	0%
Total	7%	74%	13%	5%	0%

getting specialized treatments or surgery when they need it

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	4%	79%	11%	6%	0%
African American	14%	55%	23%	8%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	8%	67%	18%	7%	0%
AA/PI	12%	73%	14%	1%	0%
Total	6%	73%	14%	6%	0%

having health insurance

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	5%	69%	18%	8%	1%
African American	21%	43%	29%	7%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	12%	51%	28%	8%	0%
AA/PI	8%	72%	18%	2%	0%
Total	8%	63%	21%	8%	0%