



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

# 2010 General Population Toplines

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# **INTRODUCTION**

This study is based on a national random sample of 3,159 telephone interviews with adults age 18 and ov er including 1, 329 non-Hispanic Whites, 855 non-Hispanic African Americans, 591 Hispanic/Latinos, and 179 Asian American/Pacific I slanders. 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, 2010. Percentages are based on weighted dat a. Percentages may not total exactly 100% due to rounding.

# **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	40%	59%	1%	0%
African American	56%	44%	0%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	49%	51%	0%	0%
AA/PI	32%	64%	4%	0%
Total	43%	56%	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	21%	79%	1%	0%
African American	26%	72%	3%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	23%	75%	2%	0%
AA/PI	22%	77%	1%	0%
Total	22%	77%	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	7%	92%	1%	0%
African American	13%	85%	2%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	12%	87%	0%	0%
AA/PI	4%	93%	3%	0%
Total	8%	91%	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	8%	92%	0%	0%
African American	22%	76%	2%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	11%	87%	1%	0%
AA/PI	8%	89%	3%	0%
Total	10%	89%	1%	0%

#### The Office of Minority Health's National Partnership for Action

Race or Ethnic Group	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused
White	7%	92%	1%	0%
African American	16%	82%	2%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	6%	91%	3%	0%
AA/PI	2%	96%	2%	0%
Total	8%	91%	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%	71%	2%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	19%	80%	1%	0%
AA/PI	8%	85%	7%	0%
Total	19%	79%	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	42%	29%	28%	1%	0%
African American	61%	17%	21%	1%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	53%	23%	22%	1%	0%
AA/PI	56%	23%	21%	0%	0%
Total	47%	27%	26%	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	10%	20%	70%	0%	0%
African American	23%	19%	57%	0%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	27%	28%	45%	1%	0%
AA/PI	13%	22%	64%	1%	0%
Total	14%	21%	65%	0%	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	2%	6%	92%	1%	0%
African American	15%	19%	64%	2%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	13%	25%	61%	1%	0%
AA/PI	13%	19%	68%	0%	0%
Total	6%	11%	83%	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	8%	50%	36%	6%	0%
African American	6%	21%	67%	6%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	17%	42%	35%	5%	0%
AA/PI	8%	47%	42%	4%	1%
Total	9%	45%	40%	6%	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%	43%	43%	9%	0%
African American	14%	28%	56%	2%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	14%	42%	35%	7%	1%
AA/PI	8%	52%	36%	4%	0%
Total	7%	42%	43%	8%	0%

#### 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	5%	44%	44%	7%	0%
African American	16%	20%	60%	4%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	14%	41%	38%	8%	0%
AA/PI	14%	47%	36%	64%	0%
Total	8%	41%	45%	6%	0%

# 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

		Just As			
Race or Ethnic Group	More Likely	Likely	Less Likely	Don't Know	Refused
White	33%	54%	6%	7%	1%
African American	54%	31%	10%	4%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	36%	50%	8%	6%	0%
AA/PI	46%	40%	7%	8%	0%
Total	37%	<b>50%</b>	7%	6%	1%

#### ... 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%	73%	10%	6%	0%
African American	43%	38%	17%	2%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	19%	62%	14%	5%	0%
AA/PI	13%	53%	30%	4%	0%
Total	17%	66%	12%	5%	0%

#### ... Hypertension

Race or Ethnic Group	More Likely	Just As Likely	Less Likely	Don't Know	Refused
White	37%	50%	10%	3%	0%
African American	84%	10%	5%	0%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	40%	46%	10%	5%	0%
AA/PI	41%	49%	5%	4%	0%
Total	44%	44%	9%	3%	0%

#### ... Diabetes

Race or Ethnic Group	More Likely	Just As Likely	Less Likely	Don't Know	Refused
White	30%	55%	10%	5%	0%
African American	72%	19%	8%	0%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	38%	45%	12%	4%	0%
AA/PI	40%	47%	9%	4%	0%
Total	37%	49%	10%	4%	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	1%	75%	21%	3%	0%
African American	3%	42%	54%	1%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	6%	58%	33%	3%	0%
AA/PI	1%	77%	22%	1%	0%
Total	2%	68%	27%	3%	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	54%	26%	14%	5%	1%
African American	86%	9%	5%	0%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	46%	36%	15%	3%	0%
AA/PI	55%	20%	23%	2%	0%
Total	<b>57%</b>	25%	14%	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%	39%	31%	5%	0%
African American	51%	28%	19%	2%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	28%	38%	31%	3%	0%
AA/PI	30%	33%	28%	9%	0%
Total	29%	37%	30%	4%	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%	35%	46%	4%	0%
African American	50%	28%	20%	2%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	16%	40%	39%	4%	0%
AA/PI	25%	35%	38%	2%	0%
Total	19%	35%	41%	4%	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	2%	64%	30%	4%	0%
African American	9%	27%	59%	1%	5%
Hispanic/Latino	11%	51%	33%	5%	1%
AA/PI	4%	50%	44%	1%	0%
Total	4%	57%	35%	3%	1%

#### 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%	60%	34%	3%	0%
African American	6%	22%	70%	1%	1%
Hispanic/Latino	7%	54%	37%	3%	0%
AA/PI	10%	52%	36%	2%	0%
Total	4%	54%	39%	3%	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%	62%	31%	4%	0%
African American	7%	18%	74%	1%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	8%	52%	37%	3%	0%
AA/PI	3%	63%	32%	1%	1%
Total	4%	55%	37%	3%	0%

#### having health insurance

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	2%	47%	47%	4%	0%
African American	5%	15%	79%	1%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	10%	42%	46%	2%	0%
AA/PI	6%	43%	49%	1%	0%
Total	4%	42%	51%	3%	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	9%	44%	42%	3%	1%
African American	14%	18%	65%	2%	1%
Hispanic/Latino	6%	30%	64%	0%	0%
AA/PI	6%	37%	56%	1%	0%
Total	9%	39%	49%	3%	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%	56%	32%	6%	0%
African American	10%	42%	43%	4%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	10%	55%	32%	2%	0%
AA/PI	8%	60%	30%	3%	0%
Total	7%	54%	34%	5%	0%

#### 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%	58%	33%	5%	1%
African American	17%	33%	53%	5%	1%
Hispanic/Latino	12%	53%	33%	2%	0%
AA/PI	8%	57%	32%	2%	0%
Total	6%	54%	35%	5%	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	18%	64%	10%	7%	1%
African American	42%	38%	13%	7%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	21%	61%	15%	2%	0%
AA/PI	21%	61%	14%	4%	0%
Total	21%	60%	12%	6%	1%

# ... 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%	72%	14%	5%	1%
African American	35%	37%	22%	5%	1%
Hispanic/Latino	27%	60%	12%	2%	0%
AA/PI	6%	68%	20%	5%	0%
Total	14%	66%	15%	5%	1%

#### ... Hypertension

Race or Ethnic Group	More Likely	Just As Likely	Less Likely	Don't Know	Refused
White	14%	64%	15%	5%	0%
African American	53%	26%	16%	4%	1%
Hispanic/Latino	40%	46%	11%	3%	0%
AA/PI	20%	54%	23%	3%	0%
Total	23%	57%	15%	5%	0%

#### ... Diabetes

Race or Ethnic Group	More Likely	Just As Likely	Less Likely	Don't Know	Refused
White	16%	64%	15%	5%	0%
African American	46%	34%	16%	4%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	47%	45%	7%	2%	0%
AA/PI	15%	60%	23%	2%	0%
Total	24%	<b>57%</b>	14%	4%	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	5%	64%	29%	2%	0%
African American	2%	23%	71%	4%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	2%	50%	46%	1%	0%
AA/PI	0%	69%	29%	1%	1%
Total	4%	57%	37%	2%	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	55%	25%	16%	4%	0%
African American	67%	20%	11%	2%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	65%	25%	9%	0%	0%
AA/PI	58%	17%	24%	1%	0%
Total	58%	24%	14%	3%	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	24%	36%	36%	4%	0%
African American	46%	29%	23%	2%	1%
Hispanic/Latino	40%	36%	23%	1%	0%
AA/PI	21%	44%	32%	2%	0%
Total	29%	35%	33%	3%	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	20%	32%	43%	4%	0%
African American	50%	24%	21%	5%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	28%	43%	28%	1%	0%
AA/PI	20%	35%	44%	1%	0%
Total	25%	33%	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	6%	62%	28%	3%	0%
African American	5%	33%	57%	3%	2%
Hispanic/Latino	6%	52%	41%	1%	0%
AA/PI	6%	55%	37%	1%	0%
Total	6%	57%	34%	3%	1%

#### 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	4%	52%	40%	4%	0%
African American	4%	27%	65%	3%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	5%	38%	56%	0%	0%
AA/PI	5%	56%	38%	1%	0%
Total	4%	47%	45%	3%	0%

#### getting specialized treatments or surgery when they need it

		Just As			
Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	5%	53%	38%	4%	0%
African American	4%	24%	68%	3%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	4%	43%	52%	1%	0%
AA/PI	2%	56%	40%	1%	1%
Total	4%	48%	44%	3%	0%

#### having health insurance

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	5%	32%	56%	4%	0%
African American	8%	12%	77%	3%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	4%	24%	71%	0%	0%
AA/PI	2%	42%	56%	1%	0%
Total	5%	31%	61%	3%	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	8%	77%	8%	6%	0%
African American	9%	56%	29%	5%	1%
Hispanic/Latino	9%	66%	17%	7%	0%
AA/PI	5%	72%	22%	1%	0%
Total	8%	73%	13%	6%	1%

#### 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	8%	77%	7%	7%	0%
African American	11%	63%	19%	5%	2%
Hispanic/Latino	13%	69%	11%	7%	0%
AA/PI	9%	87%	3%	0%	0%
Total	9%	<b>75%</b>	9%	6%	0%

#### 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%	62%	8%	6%	0%
African American	34%	45%	16%	4%	2%
Hispanic/Latino	28%	56%	10%	7%	0%
AA/PI	39%	52%	8%	1%	0%
Total	26%	59%	9%	6%	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	5%	61%	25%	8%	0%
African American	18%	40%	35%	5%	1%
Hispanic/Latino	9%	60%	26%	5%	0%
AA/PI	9%	42%	49%	1%	0%
Total	8%	<b>57%</b>	28%	7%	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	3%	70%	21%	6%	0%
African American	12%	39%	43%	5%	1%
Hispanic/Latino	9%	57%	30%	5%	0%
AA/PI	14%	72%	13%	1%	0%
Total	6%	64%	25%	5%	0%

#### ... Hypertension

Race or Ethnic Group	More Likely	Just As Likely	Less Likely	Don't Know	Refused
White	6%	60%	29%	6%	0%
African American	18%	28%	49%	4%	2%
Hispanic/Latino	9%	53%	33%	5%	0%
AA/PI	23%	60%	16%	1%	0%
Total	9%	55%	31%	5%	1%

#### ... Diabetes

Race or Ethnic Group	More Likely	Just As Likely	Less Likely	Don't Know	Refused
White	4%	57%	33%	6%	0%
African American	16%	28%	50%	4%	1%
Hispanic/Latino	9%	49%	36%	5%	0%
AA/PI	11%	54%	34%	1%	0%
Total	7%	<b>52%</b>	36%	5%	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	5%	85%	7%	3%	0%
African American	3%	61%	32%	3%	1%
Hispanic/Latino	5%	78%	13%	4%	0%
AA/PI	5%	80%	15%	0%	0%
Total	4%	81%	12%	3%	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%	34%	32%	5%	0%
African American	26%	41%	27%	4%	1%
Hispanic/Latino	21%	46%	28%	5%	0%
AA/PI	31%	47%	22%	0%	0%
Total	27%	37%	30%	5%	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	10%	33%	52%	5%	1%
African American	24%	38%	34%	2%	1%
Hispanic/Latino	12%	51%	32%	4%	0%
AA/PI	19%	40%	41%	0%	0%
Total	13%	36%	46%	4%	1%

#### ... 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%	23%	67%	4%	1%
African American	23%	34%	37%	4%	2%
Hispanic/Latino	10%	35%	51%	4%	0%
AA/PI	12%	33%	54%	1%	0%
Total	9%	27%	60%	4%	1%

# 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	23%	69%	5%	3%	1%
African American	25%	53%	17%	5%	1%
Hispanic/Latino	17%	66%	12%	4%	0%
AA/PI	18%	73%	9%	0%	0%
Total	22%	66%	7%	4%	1%

#### 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	7%	81%	8%	4%	1%
African American	7%	55%	32%	4%	1%
Hispanic/Latino	9%	72%	15%	4%	0%
AA/PI	9%	73%	19%	0%	0%
Total	7%	76%	13%	4%	1%

#### 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%	82%	10%	4%	1%
African American	9%	56%	30%	4%	1%
Hispanic/Latino	8%	72%	17%	4%	0%
AA/PI	11%	79%	10%	0%	0%
Total	6%	77%	13%	4%	1%

#### having health insurance

Race or Ethnic Group	Better Off	Just As Well Off	Worse Off	Don't Know	Refused
White	5%	76%	13%	6%	1%
African American	14%	52%	28%	4%	1%
Hispanic/Latino	7%	65%	23%	4%	0%
AA/PI	4%	70%	24%	1%	0%
Total	7%	71%	17%	5%	1%