

Section 11: Minority Health Issues

The Status of DuPage County Minority Access to Quality Health Care

This section will examine health indicators by racial and ethnic breakdown. Mortality, Death by Years Potential Life Lost (YPLL), births and use of preventive services will be covered.

DuPage County Population

As can be seen from Table 11.2, about 16 percent of DuPage County's population is minority.

Table 11.1

DuPage County 2000 Population		
Ethnicity	Number of People	Percent of Total Population
Hispanic	81,366	9
Non-Hispanic	822,795	91
Total	904,161	100

Table 11.2

DuPage County 2000 Population		
Race	Number of People	Percent of Total Population
White	759,924	84.0
Black	27,600	3.1
Asian + PI	71,469	7.9
Other	45,168	5.0
Total	904,161	100.0

DuPage County Mortality

Top Five Leading Causes of Death by Race/Ethnicity, 2000

Table 11.3

Rank	White	Hispanic	Black	Asian
1	Heart Disease	Heart Disease	Heart Disease	Cancer
2	Cancer	Cancer	Cancer	Heart Disease
3	CVD	Accidents	CVD	CVD
4	Chronic Lung Dis.	CVD	Accidents	Accidents
5	Accidents	Diabetes	Diabetes	Chronic Lung Dis.

Leading Causes of Death by Race

Table 11.4

DuPage Mortality 3 Year Average - (1999 – 2001) DuPage County			
Race	Number of Deaths	Average Deaths per Year	Percent of Total Deaths
Asian	458	153	2.7
Black	261	87	1.5
White	16,144	5,381	95.7
Other	8	3	0.0
Total	16,871	5,624	100.0

Cause Specific Deaths by Race

The following tables show causes of death by Asian, Black and White races. Before reviewing these tables, one must keep in mind the racial distribution of DuPage County: 84 percent White, 7.9 percent Asian and Pacific Islander (API), 3.1 percent Black and 5 percent other. DuPage County has a very small minority population; therefore minority mortality numbers will be equally small. The information provided is significant nonetheless, as we gain an understanding about mortality differences among the racial groups in DuPage County.

The data included in the following tables was obtained from the IPLAN Data System. For these indicators, IPLAN does not calculate a death rate per 100,000 deaths. The death rate provided is not age-adjusted, and was calculated based on the three-year average (1999 to 2001) of deaths divided by the 2000 population. The number of deaths was based on the ICD-10 coding system.

Table 11.5

Coronary Heart Disease Mortality Three Year Average (1999-2001)				
Race	Total Number of Deaths (1999 – 2001)	Percent of Deaths Under 65 Years	DuPage Mortality Rate	Illinois Mortality Rate
Total	3,724	15.1	137	197
Asian/PI	110	22.7	51	
Black	45	28.9	54	
White	3,598	14.7	158	

Table 11.6

Cerebrovascular Disease Mortality Three Year Average (1999-2001)				
Race	Total Number of Deaths (1999 – 2001)	Percent of Deaths Under 65 Years	DuPage Mortality Rate	Illinois Mortality Rate
Total	1,299	8.5	48	60
Asian/PI	33	24.2	15	
Black	19	31.6	23	
White	1,247	7.7	55	

Table 11.7

Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis Mortality Three Year Average (1999-2001)				
Race	Total Number of Deaths (1999 – 2001)	Percent of Deaths Under 65 Years	DuPage Mortality Rate	Illinois Mortality Rate
Total	163	56.4	6	9
Asian/PI	3	66.7	*	
Black	1	100.0	*	
White	159	57.2	7	

*Number of deaths was too low to calculate accurate rate.

Table 11.8

Breast Cancer Mortality Three Year Average (1999-2001)				
Race	Total Number of Deaths (1999 – 2001)	Percent of Deaths Under 65 Years	DuPage Mortality Rate	Illinois Mortality Rate
Total	398	41.7	15	31
Asian/PI	12	100.0	6	
Black	11	72.7	13	
White	375	38.9	16	

Table 11.9

Lung Cancer Mortality Three Year Average (1999-2001)				
Race	Total Number of Deaths (1999 – 2001)	Percent of Deaths Under 65 Years	DuPage Mortality Rate	Illinois Mortality Rate
Total	1,061	28.1	39	55
Asian/PI	19	26.3	9	
Black	15	73.3	18	
White	1,027	27.5	45	

Table 11.10

Colorectal Cancer Mortality Three Year Average (1999-2001)				
Race	Total Number of Deaths (1999 – 2001)	Percent of Deaths Under 65 Years	DuPage Mortality Rate	Illinois Mortality Rate
Total	444	25.0	16	22
Asian/PI	11	54.5	5	
Black	6	66.7	*	
White	427	23.7	19	

*Number of deaths was too low to calculate accurate rate.

Table 11.11

Cervical Cancer Mortality Three Year Average (1999-2001)				
Race	Total Number of Deaths (1999 – 2001)	Percent of Deaths Under 65 Years	DuPage Mortality Rate	Illinois Mortality Rate
Total	26	61.5	1	3
Asian/PI	1	100.0	*	
Black	0	0.0	*	
White	25	60.0	1	

*Number of deaths was too low to calculate accurate rate.

Table 11.12

Prostate Cancer Mortality Three Year Average (1999-2001)				
Race	Total Number of Deaths (1999 – 2001)	Percent of Deaths Under 65 Years	DuPage Mortality Rate	Illinois Mortality Rate
Total	229	7.4	8	23
Asian/PI	2	0.0	*	
Black	3	66.7	*	
White	224	6.7	10	

*Number of deaths was too low to calculate accurate rate.

Top Five Leading Causes of Death by Race and YPLL

Table 11.13

Asian Mortality 3 Year Average (1999 – 2001) DuPage County			
Cause	Number of Deaths	Average Deaths per Year	Percent of All Asian Deaths
Heart Disease	131	44	37.8
Malignant Neoplasm	114	38	32.9
CVD	33	11	9.5
Accidents	32	11	9.2
5 th Leading Cause	NA		
Other	148	49	42.7

Table 11.14

Asian Mortality 3 Year Average (1999 – 2001) Top Five Causes of Death by YPLL*	
Cause	3 Year YPLL
Perinatal Condition	907
Accidents	811
Malignant Neoplasm	689
Congenital Malformation	647
Diseases of the Heart	549

Source: IPLAN Data System

*YPLL to age 65

Table 11.15

Black Mortality 3 Year Average (1999 – 2001) DuPage County			
Cause	Number of Deaths	Average Deaths per Year	Percent of All Black Deaths
Heart Disease	59	20	22.6
Malignant Neoplasm	58	19	22.2
CVD	19	6	7.3
Nephritis	14	5	5.4
Accidents	14	5	5.4
Other	97	32	37.2

Table 11.16

Black Mortality 3 Year Average (1999 – 2001) Top Five Causes of Death by YPLL*	
Cause	3 Year YPLL
Perinatal Condition	647
Malignant Neoplasm	484
Accidents	388
Diseases of the Heart	260
Congenital Malformation	182

Source: IPLAN Data System

*YPLL to age 65

Table 11.17

White Mortality 3 Year Average (1999 – 2001) DuPage County			
Cause	Number of Deaths	Average Deaths per Year	Percent of All White Deaths
Heart Disease	4,713	1,571	29.2
Malignant Neoplasm	4,066	1,355	25.2
CVD	1,247	416	7.7
CLRD	730	243	4.5
Accidents	484	161	3.0
Other	4,904	1,635	30.4

Table 11.18

White Mortality 3 Year Average (1999 – 2001) Top Five Causes of Death by YPLL*	
Cause	3 Year YPLL
Malignant Neoplasm	12,574
Accidents	10,023
Perinatal Condition	7,720
Diseases of the Heart	7,415
Congenital Malformation	3,588

Source: IPLAN Data System

*YPLL to age 65

Motor Vehicle Accidents, Homicides, and Suicides

Table 11.19

Motor Vehicle Accident Deaths Rate per 100,000 3 Year Average - (1999 – 2001) DuPage County			
Ethnicity	DuPage County		
	Number	Percent Under 65 Yrs	Rate*
Total	190	86.3	7.0
Hispanic	30	96.7	12.3
Non-Hispanic	160	84.4	6.5

*Rate is not age-adjusted. Based on average yearly deaths (1999-2001)/2000 population.

Table 11.20

Motor Vehicle Accident Mortality				
Race	Total Number of Deaths (1999 – 2001)	Percent of Deaths Under 65 Years	DuPage Mortality Rate	Illinois Mortality Rate
Total	190	86.3	7	12
Asian/PI	22	72.7	10	
Black	5	100.0	*	
White	162	85.8	7	

*Number of deaths was too low to calculate accurate rate.

Table 11.21

Homicides Rate per 100,000 3 Year Average - (1999 – 2001) DuPage County			
Ethnicity	DuPage County		
	Number	Percent Under 65 Yrs	Rate*
Total	38	94.7	1.4
Hispanic	9	100.0	3.7
Non-Hispanic	29	93.1	1.2

*Rate is not age-adjusted. Based on average yearly deaths (1999-2001)/2000 population.

Table 11.22

Homicides				
Race	Total Number of Deaths (1999 – 2001)	Percent of Deaths Under 65 Years	DuPage Mortality Rate	Illinois Mortality Rate
Total	38	94.7	1	12
Asian/PI	3	100.0	*	
Black	5	100.0	*	
White	30	93.3	1	

*Number of deaths was too low to calculate accurate rate.

Table 11.23

Suicide Deaths Rate per 100,000 3 Year Average - (1999 – 2001) DuPage County			
Ethnicity	DuPage County		
	Number	Percent Under 65 Yrs	Rate*
Total	180	85.6	6.6
Hispanic	3	66.7	1.2
Non-Hispanic	177	85.9	7.2

*Rate is not age-adjusted. Based on average yearly deaths (1999-2001)/2000 population.

Table 11.24

Suicides				
Race	Total Number of Deaths (1999 – 2001)	Percent of Deaths Under 65 Years	DuPage Mortality Rate	Illinois Mortality Rate
Total	180	85.6	7	12
Asian/PI	9	88.9	*	
Black	3	66.7	*	
White	167	85.6	7	

*Number of deaths was too low to calculate accurate rate.

Maternal and Child Health Issues

Live Births

Table 11.25

Percent of Live Births 3 Year Average - (1999 – 2001) DuPage County			
Race	DuPage County		
	Number	Average	Percent
Total	40,348	13,449	
Asian	4,166	1,389	4.3
Black	1,516	505	18.4
White	34,602	11,534	77.1
Other	64	21	0.2

Teen Births by Race/Ethnicity

Table 11.26

Percent of Births to Teens DuPage County			
Ethnicity	1999	2000	2001
Hispanic	4.1	4.1	4.1
Non-Hispanic	0.8	0.8	0.6

The percentage of Hispanic births to teens has remained steady over the past three years, at more than four times the percentage of births to non-Hispanic teens.

Table 11.27

Percent of Births to Teens – 3 Year Average DuPage County (1999 – 2001)			
Race	DuPage County		Illinois
	Number	Percent	Percent
Total	525	1.3	4.1
Asian	10	0.2	0.6
Black	65	4.3	9.6
White	447	1.3	2.9

Percent of Mothers Who Begin Prenatal Care in the First Trimester

Table 11.28

Year	DuPage Latino	DuPage non-Latino	Illinois Latino	Illinois non-Latino
1997	69.5	91.5	71.1	83.4
1998	68.1	91.3	71.7	83.5
1999	68.6	91.2	70.0	83.5
2000	68.3	90.5	71.1	83.3
2001	69.5	91.1	74.5	84.0

Table 11.29

Percent of Mothers with 1st Trimester Care 3 Year Average - (1999 – 2001) DuPage County and Illinois			
Race	DuPage County		Illinois
	Number	Percent	Percent
Total	35,186	87.2	81.1
Asian	3,621	86.9	81.9
Black	1,189	78.4	69.5
White	30,330	87.7	83.9

The percent of DuPage County Latino mothers who began prenatal care in the first trimester varies substantially from the non-Hispanic mothers, as can be seen in Table 11.28. Table 11.29 shows a disparity between Black and all other races when comparing first trimester care.

Low Birth Weight (LBW) and Very Low Birth Weight (VLBW)

Percent of All Births by Ethnicity

Table 11.30

Birth Weight	Ethnicity	
	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
2001		
Low Birth Weight	6.1	6.8
Very Low BW	1.6	1.3
2000		
Low Birth Weight	5.5	6.6
Very Low BW	1.3	1.3
1999		
Low Birth Weight	6.2	6.7
Very Low BW	1.4	1.4

Table 11.31

Percent Low Birth Weight 3 Year Average - (1999 – 2001) DuPage County and Illinois			
Race	DuPage County		Illinois
	Number	Percent	Percent
Total	2,666	6.6	8.0
Asian	390	9.4	8.4
Black	167	11.0	14.0
White	2,105	6.1	6.5

Table 11.32

Percent Very Low Birth Weight 3 Year Average - (1999 – 2001) DuPage County and Illinois			
Race	DuPage County		Illinois
	Number	Percent	Percent
Total	542	1.3	1.6
Asian	79	1.9	1.3
Black	49	3.2	3.4
White	413	2.1	1.2

Hispanic LBW and VLBW percent of total births almost always either equal or fall below the percentages of non-Hispanic LBW and VLBW. These percentages hold true despite the lower percentage of Hispanic pregnant women begin prenatal care in their first trimester. Asians have the greatest percentage of LBW infants.

Infant Mortality Rate by Ethnicity

(Rates per 1,000 live births)

Table 11.33

	Ethnicity	
	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
2001		
Infant Mortality	5.3	7.3
Neonatal	4.1	5.5
Post Neonatal	**	1.8
2000		
Infant Mortality	**	6.6
Neonatal	**	5.6
Post Neonatal	**	1.1
1999		
Infant Mortality	9.2	5.5
Neonatal	7.3	4.6
Post Neonatal	**	1.0

**Number of deaths was too low to calculate accurate rate.

Table 11.34

Infant Mortality Rate 3 Year Average - (1999 – 2001) DuPage County and Illinois			
Race	DuPage County		Illinois
	Number	Rate/1000	Rate/1000
Total	259	6.4	8.0
Asian	32	7.7	5.0
Black	16	10.6	16.2
White	210	6.1	6.2

Table 11.35

Neonatal Mortality Rate 3 Year Average - (1999 – 2001) DuPage County and Illinois			
Race	DuPage County		Illinois
	Number	Rate/1000	Rate/1000
Total	204	5.1	5.4
Asian	6.2	1.9	3.5
Black	11	7.3	10.2
White	166	4.8	4.4

In 2000 and 2001, Hispanic infant mortality was lower than the non-Hispanic infant mortality rate. Overall, we usually find Hispanic birth outcomes to be better than non-Hispanic birth outcomes, despite the fact that a lower percentage of Hispanic pregnant women begin prenatal care in their first trimester. This did not hold true in 1999, where infant and neonatal mortality were both higher than non-Hispanic infant mortality.

Asian infant mortality rates must be examined with caution. The number of Asian infant deaths is so low that validity may be questionable. In 2001, 13 of the total 93 infant deaths were Asian. In 2000, there were 11 Asian infant deaths, 10 of which were neonatal.

Oral Health

In 2000, 17.7 percent of Hispanics reported problems that could have been helped by a medical, dental or mental health professional. However, when reviewing the percent of Hispanics who had not seen a dentist in the past 12 months, 29.6 percent received no care. Given that almost 30 percent of Hispanics had received no dental care in the past year, one might have expected more people to respond positively to “problems that could have been helped by a dentist” if they were aware of the importance of routine dental care. In addition, 25.5 percent of DuPage County Hispanics had not seen a dentist in the past year due to cost, compared to 8.7 percent of the general population. Lack of education and cost are major barriers for dental care within the Hispanic community of DuPage County.

Preventive Health Care

In 2000, the percentage of Hispanics receiving preventive care was consistently lower than that of the general DuPage population. This is not surprising, as many Latino residents have no usual source of health care. Without the advantage of access to a primary care provider, preventive care is inconsistent at best.

- 84.7 percent of Hispanic adults had their blood pressure checked within the last year versus 90.2 percent of the general population.
- 69.6 percent of Hispanic adults ever had their cholesterol checked versus 82.7 percent of the general population.
- 65.9 percent of Hispanic adults ever had a clinical breast exam versus 87.5 percent of the general population.
- About *half* as many Hispanic adult women ever had a mammogram when compared to women in the general population.
- 90.4 percent of Hispanic adults ever had a pap test versus 94.7 percent of the general population.
- Fewer Hispanic adults received a flu shot during the past year.
- Fewer Hispanic adults ever received a pneumonia vaccination.
- Fewer Hispanic adults received a tetanus vaccination during the past year.

Improving primary care access for the Hispanic population and/or funding for clinics to provide preventive services would help to reduce Latino health disparities in DuPage County.

Nutrition

Nutrition is essential for adequate growth, development and well-being. Overall, Hispanic adult's eating habits tend to mimic the eating habits of the general DuPage population. However, a few findings are noteworthy.

- A greater percentage of Hispanic adults eat less than five servings of fruits and vegetables per day when compared to the general population.
- A greater percentage of Hispanic adults sometimes/rarely/never have two balanced meals per day when compared to the general population.
- 55% of Hispanic adults perceive themselves to be overweight.
- Almost *five* times as many Hispanic adults have been concerned about having enough food for their family in the past 30 days when compared to the general population.

A healthy eating habits educational campaign within Hispanic communities could prove beneficial.

At-Risk Behaviors

At-risk behaviors among Hispanic adults are an area of concern. While disturbing, these behaviors are preventable. In 2000, in a one-month time period, almost twice as many Hispanic adults had driven after having had too much to drink, and more than one and one half as many Hispanic adults had ridden with a driver who has had too much to drink as compared to the general population. A greater percentage of Hispanic adults had not tested all smoke detectors in their house in the last six months. 62.4 percent of Hispanic adults had no fire escape plan. 9.3 percent of Hispanic adults sometimes/seldom/never wear seatbelts.

Work Hazards

The percent of Hispanic adults exposed to hazards or safety problems at work was much higher than the general population. In 2000, 32.3 percent of Hispanic adults were exposed to hazards or safety problems at their workplace as compared to 19.7% of the general population. This equates to about 17,000 Hispanic workers facing work hazards every day. However, the average number of work days missed due to a job related illness or injury in the preceding years was slightly lower for Hispanics. This might be due to the lower safety levels on the job, language barriers, access to health care and the need to continue to work even when injured (missed income.)