

Minority Women's Health

African Americans

African Americans have more disease, disability, and early death than Whites. Major health problems for African American women include cancer, diabetes, vision loss, tuberculosis, and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) (including HIV/AIDS). The leading causes of death for African American women are heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, and kidney disease. African Americans are about twice as likely to have diabetes as Whites of the same age and they are more likely to have other serious health problems caused by diabetes. Among women, two out of every three new HIV cases are African American. High rates of other STDs, including chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis are a problem as well.

African American women are less likely to receive health care; when they do receive care, they are more likely to receive it late. For example, African American mothers were twice as likely to have late or no prenatal care compared to White mothers in 2003. African American women are also less likely to be screened for cervical and breast cancer. This means that cancers tend to be found later and more African American women die from these cancers.

There are many possible reasons for these differences, including racism, poverty, cultural differences, lack of knowledge about the importance of screening or testing to prevent health problems, inability to get to the doctor, or lack of trust in the medical system.

Check out the health topics below for more information.

- Asthma
- Breast Cancer
- Cataracts
- Cervical Cancer
- Diabetes
- Glaucoma
- Heart Disease
- High Blood Pressure
- High Cholesterol
- HIV/AIDS
- Infant Deaths
- Kidney Disease
- Lupus

Related Information:

- [Tools to Help You Build a Healthier Life](#)
- [Getting Health Care and Talking to Your Doctor](#)
- [Illness and Disabilities](#)
- [Women's Health Statistics](#)

Are you a health care professional? See our section for [Health Professionals](#).

- Mental Health
- Osteoporosis
- Other Cancers
- Overweight and Obesity
- Pregnancy-related Death
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)
- Sickle Cell Anemia
- Smoking
- Stroke
- Tuberculosis (TB)
- Uterine Fibroids
- Violence

Current as of November 2006