Health in Metro Atlanta:
A Deep Dive into Inequities That Persist in the Region

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The Headlines

HARVARD T.H. CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

News

Health disparities between blacks and whites run deep

Being a person of color in America is bad for your health. That’s the theme of a new op-ed

REUTERS

Health

OCTOBER 23, 2017 / 9:38 AM / 2 YEARS AGO

Heart health disparities take toll on African-Americans

Will Boggs MD

ARC

Life Expectancy Is Associated With Segregation in U.S. Cities

REGIONAL IMPACT + LOCAL RELEVANCE
# The Economic Burden Of Health Inequalities in the United States

*Thomas A. LaVeist, Ph.D., Darrel J. Gaskin, Ph.D., and Patrick Richard, Ph.D.*

Many people of color suffer higher rates of morbidity, premature death and face inadequate access to quality health care. Racial and ethnic inequities in health and health care can impose significant costs on various segments of society, including individuals,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost of Health inequality / disparity from 2003-2006</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of direct medical care expenditures for African Americans, Asians &amp; Hispanics due to health inequalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated direct medical care expenditure reduction if health disparities for minorities were eliminated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimated indirect cost reduction if health inequalities for minorities were eliminated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Combined cost of health inequalities and premature death</td>
</tr>
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</table>
$1.24 Trillion
Number of Health Status and Outcome Measures for which Groups fared Better, the Same, or Worse Compared to Whites

- **Asian**
  - Better: 25
  - Worse: 2
  - No Difference: 7
  - Data Limitations: 2

- **Hispanic**
  - Better: 13
  - Worse: 4
  - No Difference: 5
  - Data Limitations: 2

- **Black**
  - Better: 2
  - Worse: 24
  - No Difference: 1
  - Data Limitations: 1

- **AIAN**
  - Better: 6
  - Worse: 20
  - No Difference: 6
  - Data Limitations: 3

- **NHOPII**
  - Better: 2
  - Worse: 18
  - No Difference: 6
  - Data Limitations: 3

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation
Quick Look At Health Inequities: Access

Persons with a usual primary care provider (percent)

- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only
- 2 or more races
- Black or African American only, not Hispanic or Latino
- White only, not Hispanic or Latino
- American Indian or Alaska Native only
- Asian only
- Hispanic or Latino

Source: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS), AHRQ
Quick Look At Health Inequities: Behaviors

Obesity among adults (age adjusted, percent, 20+ years)

- Black or African American only, not Hispanic or Latino
- White only, not Hispanic or Latino
- Mexican American

Source: National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), CDC/NCHS
Quick Look At Health Inequities: Outcomes

Persons with diagnosed diabetes whose A1c value is greater than 9%

Source: National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), CDC/NCHS
Setting the Demographic Stage
Race and Ethnicity Change 2010-18

Source: ESRI Demographics
“Non-White” Populations To Continue To Drive Growth
Younger Generations the Most Diverse

Race/Ethnicity By Age Groups, 20 Counties, 2017

- 0-14: % White 39.9%, % Non-White 60.1%
- 15-34: % White 42.4%, % Non-White 57.6%
- 35-49: % White 48.0%, % Non-White 52.0%
- 50-69: % White 60.2%, % Non-White 39.8%
- 70+: % White 70.8%, % Non-White 29.2%

Source: Census Estimates
Inequities Exist Everywhere
Homeownership

Breakdown:

Percent owner-occupied households by race/ethnicity: Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA Metro Area, 2015

- All: 63.0%
- White: 75.3%
- Black: 47.7%
- Latino: 43.1%
- Asian or Pacific Islander: 63.3%
- Native American: 56.7%
- Mixed/other: 55.0%
- People of color: 48.8%

Source: IPUMS, accessed from National Equity Atlas
Wages

Breakdown:

Source: IPUMS, accessed from National Equity Atlas
What Are We Missing Out On?

Breakdown:
Actual GDP and estimated GDP with racial equity in income (billions): Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA Metro Area, 2015

- Actual: $343.97
- Projected (no racial gaps in income/employment): $429.15
Inequities Manifest Themselves Spatially Too
The Infamous “Redlining” Map

- Best
- Still Desirable
- Definitely Declining
- Hazardous

Source: Mapping Inequality, Richmond University
Does This History Matter?

Current Poverty Rate by Redlining Area

- Hazardous: 27.6%
- Declining: 17.1%
- Desirable & Best: 10.9%

Source: HOLC; Neighborhood Nexus
Lack of Health Insurance

77:
% population that is “non-white” in the darkest orange areas (i.e. those areas with the highest rates of no insurance).

46:
% population that is “non-white” in all other areas.

Source: American Community Survey, via Neighborhood Nexus
In 2015, roughly 18% of neighborhoods in the metro area were considered to be “food deserts” – compared to only eight percent in 2010.
Notice Any Similarities?
% Population Identified as “Non-White”
Health Inequities Between White and Black Residents

Premature Deaths: Years of Life Lost before Age 75

Source: GA DPH, Office of Health Indicators for Planning (OHIP), accessed from OASIS
Health Inequities Among White & Black Residents: Cardiovascular Diseases

Premature Deaths Due to Cardiovascular Diseases
ARC 10 Counties

Source: GA DPH, Office of Health Indicators for Planning (OHIP), accessed from OASIS
Life Expectancy

Life expectancy at birth: **87.6** (longest in the state)

Life expectancy at birth: **63.6** (second lowest in the state)
Notice a Pattern?

Life Expectancy at Birth:
- Up to 65
- 65 to 75
- 75 to 80
- 80 to 85
- 85 and above

Unemployment Rate, 2012-2016
Let’s Look at Income Inequality...
Atlanta’s Wealthy is VERY Wealthy...

Source: Brookings
But Atlanta still has the highest level of Income Inequality... by far

Income inequality: 95/20 ratio in Atlanta City, GA

Breakdown:

95/20 ratio (95th percentile income divided by 20th percentile income): Atlanta City, GA vs. U.S., 2015
It’s A Southern Thing?

Source: Equality of Opportunity Project
In Sum: Inequities Are a “Systems” Challenge

- The VAST Majority of Recent and Expected Growth has/will Come from Populations identified as “Non-White”

- The City of Atlanta Has Highest Levels of Income Inequality in the Nation

- The Atlanta Region Has Some of the Lowest Upward Economic Mobility Rates in the Nation

- Spatial Patterns in the Region Exacerbate These Inequities

- A lot of the Inequities We See in Health Outcomes Are Related to these “Social Determinant” Factors
T-SPLOSTS

- 2 TSPLOSTS – COA, Fulton

MARTA Sales Tax

- ~2.5 Billion in new transit service