



Data snapshot

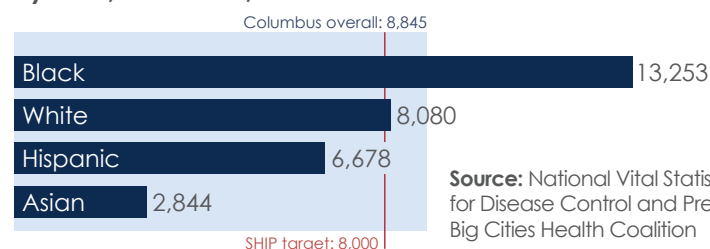
Closing health gaps in Columbus

Background

Every member of the Columbus community deserves to reach their full health potential. However, historical and modern-day policies and practices result in unfair differences in opportunities to live a healthy life. This data snapshot explores some of the underlying reasons why some groups of Columbus residents live shorter and less healthy lives.

Black residents of Columbus die earlier than those of other races.

Years of potential life lost before the age of 75, per 100,000 population by race, Columbus, 2023



Source: National Vital Statistics Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, via Big Cities Health Coalition

What are years of potential life lost?

Years of potential life lost (YPLL) is an estimate of the time a person would have lived had they not died prematurely (or died before average life expectancy). When measured across a community, it shows the thousands of years of life lost annually to early death.

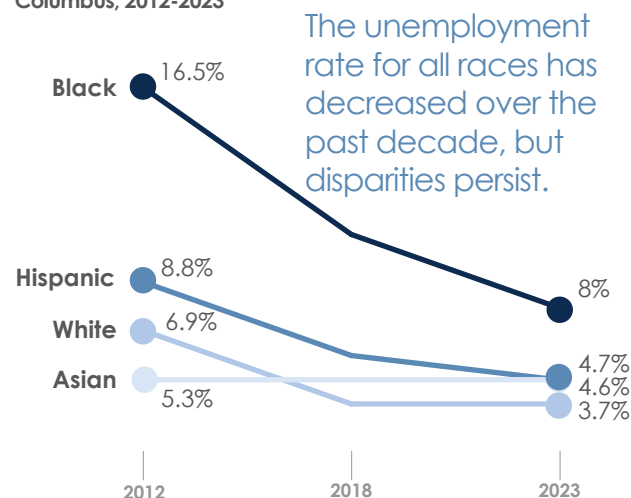
Community conditions

Our health depends largely on the conditions of our communities. Yet research finds that not everyone has the same access to the resources and environments that promote health and well-being.

Unemployment

Research finds that employment can support health when it provides access to a living wage and benefits such as health insurance and paid leave.

Percent of population, ages 16 and older, who are unemployed, Columbus, 2012-2023



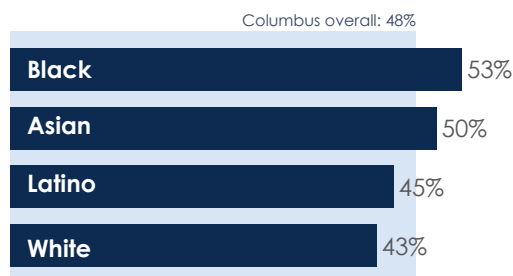
Source: American Community Survey, 5-year estimates via Big Cities health Coalition

The unemployment rate for all races has decreased over the past decade, but disparities persist.

Housing cost burden

Stable and safe housing influences access to jobs, healthy food, quality healthcare and educational opportunities and reduces stress. Housing is especially important during pregnancy and for families with young children, impacting maternal, child and family well-being.

Percent of owner- and renter-occupied households that spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs, Columbus, 2022



Source: IPUMS USA 5-year estimate, via National Equity Atlas

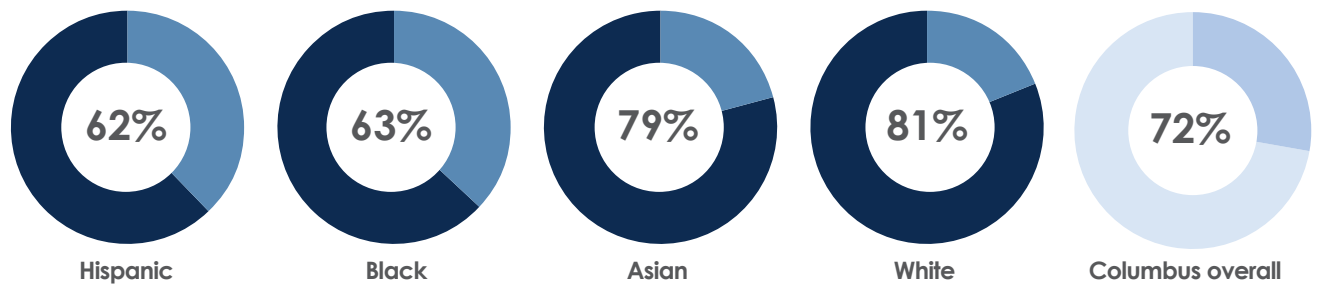
Maternal and infant health in Columbus

Like Ohio overall, Columbus has troubling disparities in infant and maternal mortality by race.

Prenatal care

Women of color are less likely to be seen by a doctor in the early months of their pregnancies. Bias in the health care system can also result in misdiagnoses and the health concerns of patients of color being taken less seriously, impacting birth outcomes.¹

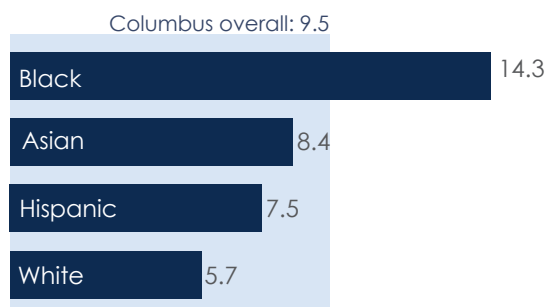
Percent of births for which prenatal care began in the first trimester, Columbus, 2022



Infant mortality

In Columbus, the Black infant mortality rate is 2.5 times higher than the white infant mortality rate.

Number of infant deaths (before age 1) per 1,000 live births, Columbus, 2023



Maternal deaths

Black moms are 2.4 times more likely to die due to pregnancy or childbirth than white moms in Columbus.

Maternal deaths during pregnancy or within 42 days after giving birth (per 100,000 live births, average of annual rates for years 2010-2023), Columbus



Source: National Vital Statistics Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, via Big Cities Health Coalition

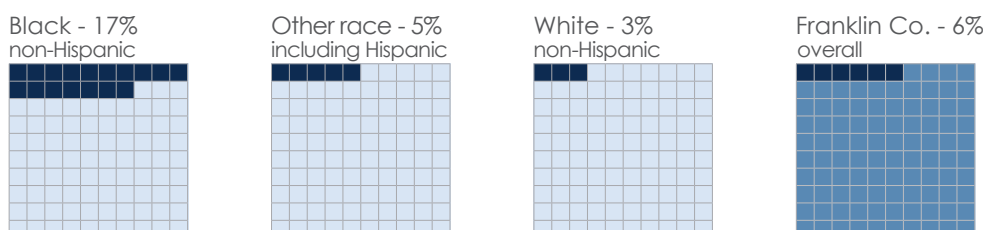
Unfair treatment in healthcare settings

Experiencing unfair treatment in healthcare settings contributes to differences in health outcomes.

Experiencing racism in health care

Percent of adults, ages 18 and older, who reported being treated worse in healthcare settings due to their race, Franklin County 2022

Black residents of Franklin County are nearly three times more likely to report being treated worse in healthcare settings due to race than Franklin County residents overall.

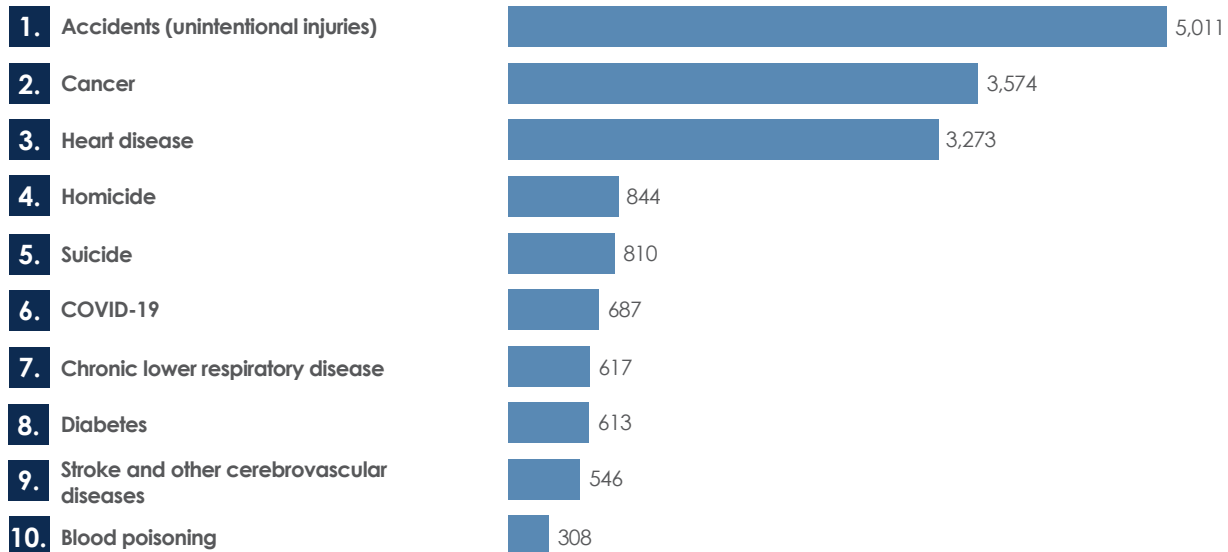


Source: Ohio Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey 2022

Leading causes of working-age death in Columbus

Unintentional injuries, including overdose deaths, are the leading cause of death for people in Columbus ages 18-64. Other causes of early death include cancer, heart disease, homicide and suicide.

Leading causes of death, by number of deaths, ages 18-64, Franklin County, 2018-2023

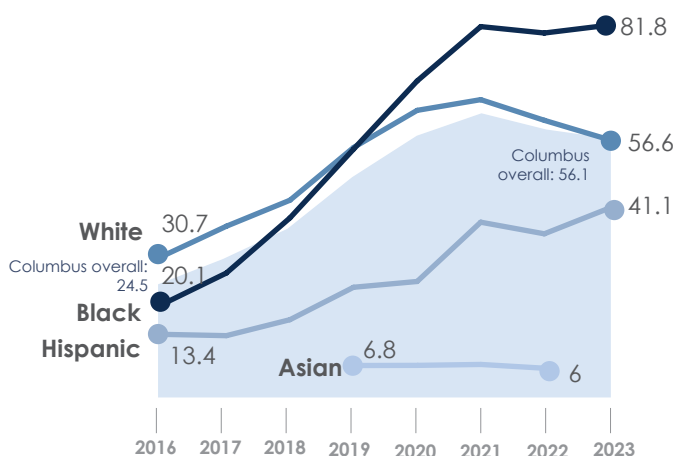


Source: CDC WONDER

Opioid overdose deaths

The overdose death rate for Black residents of Columbus surpassed the rate for white residents in 2019 and has continued to increase. Exposure to trauma, barriers to treatment and experiences of discrimination drive these trends.²

Number of opioid-related overdose deaths, per 100,000 population, age-adjusted, Columbus



Note: Data was unavailable or suppressed for Asian residents from 2016-2019 and 2023

Source: National Vital Statistics System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention via Big Cities Health Coalition

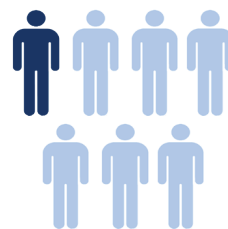
Adult current smoking

Smoking contributes to several causes of early death, including cancer, heart disease, respiratory diseases and stroke. Communities with lower incomes experience a much greater impact of tobacco use than communities with higher incomes. These higher rates are driven by a variety of factors, including chronic and persistent stress and targeted marketing practices.³

Percent of adults 19 and up who report smoking every day or some days in the past month, Franklin County, 2023



1 in 4 (24%) Columbus residents earning less than 206% of the poverty level smoked in the past month.



About 1 in 7 (13%) of Columbus residents overall are current smokers.

Source: Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey

Heart disease mortality

Number of deaths from heart disease per 100,000 population, age adjusted, 2023

Unfair differences in opportunities to live a healthy life result in Black residents of Columbus being most likely to die of heart disease.

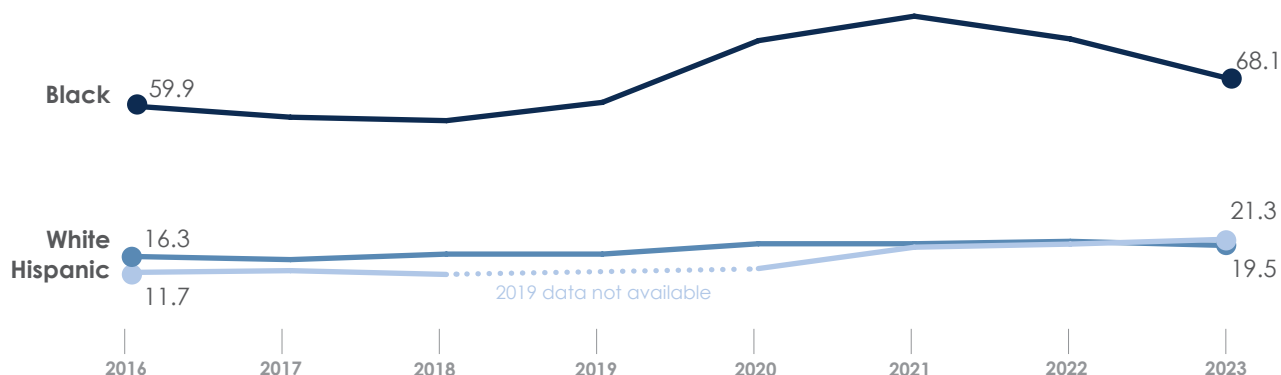


Source: National Vital Statistics System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention via Big Cities Health Coalition

Firearm mortality

Number of deaths from firearms among males, by race, per 100,000 population, age-adjusted, Columbus

Concentrated disadvantage, including poverty and unemployment, in Black communities can create conditions for community violence.⁴ Black men in Columbus are 3.5 times more likely to be victims of firearm death than white men.



Source: National Vital Statistics System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention via Big Cities Health Coalition

Resources

There are many effective strategies that state and local leaders can use to address inequities and increase opportunities for health and well-being in Columbus. The resources below outline many of those strategies.

- [Greater Columbus Community Health Improvement and Implementation Plan 2024-2027](#), Columbus Public Health
- [2023-2025 Community Assessment and Plan](#), ADAMHS Board of Franklin County
- [CelebrateOne Strategic Plan 2021-2026](#), City of Columbus
- [Social Drivers of Infant Mortality: Eliminating Racism Action Guide](#), Health Policy Institute of Ohio

Notes

1. Shavers, Vickie L. and Brenda S. Shavers. "Racism and Health Inequity among Americans." *Journal of the National Medical Association* 98, no. 3 (March 2006): 386-96.
2. Health Policy Institute of Ohio, "Taking action to strengthen Ohio's addiction response: Insights on addiction and race." 2021.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Unfair and Unjust Practices and Conditions Harm People with Low Socioeconomic Status and Drive Health Disparities," 2022.
4. Health Policy Institute of Ohio, "Criminal Justice and Health: Social Drivers of Violent Crime." 2024.