

African American Health

Key Findings

The African American data was collected by convenience sampling, due to low response rates from the mailing campaign. Additional surveys were administered at selected community venues. In 2005, 4% of African American adults were without healthcare coverage. Just over one-fifth (21%) of adults had at least one alcoholic drink in the past month. Under one-third (31%) of adults were current smokers. 18% used marijuana and 20% used recreational drugs in the past 6 months. Half (50%) of adults were obese and 36% were overweight.

General Health and Health Care

- ◆ In 2005, 4% of African American adults were without healthcare coverage.
- ◆ 15% of adults rated their health as fair or poor.
- ◆ 72% of African American adults had been to the doctor for a routine checkup.
- ◆ 48% of adults had been to the dentist in the past year.
- ◆ 55% of adults were diagnosed with high blood pressure and 40% with high blood cholesterol.
- ◆ 56% of women had a Pap smear within the past year and 43% had a clinical breast exam in the past year.
- ◆ 13% of males had a PSA test and 6% had a digital rectal exam in the past year.
- ◆ 19% of African American adults had been diagnosed with diabetes.

Risk Behaviors

- ◆ Just over one-fifth (21%) of African American adults had at least one alcoholic drink in the past month.
- ◆ Under one-third (31%) of African American adults were considered current smokers.
- ◆ 18% of African American adults used marijuana in the past 6 months.
- ◆ 20% of adults used recreational drugs in the past 6 months.
- ◆ 12% of adults had more than one sexual partner.
- ◆ Half (50%) of African American adults were obese for their body mass index (BMI) and 36% were considered overweight.
- ◆ 41% of adults exercised three or more days in the past week for at least 30 minutes.
- ◆ 17% of adults kept a firearm in or around their home.

Ohio African American Males Leading Causes of Death 2000-2002

Total Deaths: 17,667

- #1 Heart Disease (26% of all deaths)
- #2 Cancers (24%)
- #3 Stroke (6%)
- #4 Accidents-Unintentional Injuries (5%)
- #5 Diabetes Mellitus (4%)

(Source: ODH Information Warehouse, updated 9-29-04)

Ohio African American Females Leading Causes of Death 2000-2002

Total Deaths: 17,536

- #1 Heart Disease (28% of all deaths)
- #2 Cancers (22%)
- #3 Stroke (7%)
- #4 Diabetes Mellitus (6%)
- #5 Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease (3%)

(Source: ODH Information Warehouse, updated 9-29-04)

African Americans and Diabetes

- ❖ 3.2 million African Americans ages 20 years and older (or 13.3 percent) have diabetes, one-third of whom are undiagnosed.
- ❖ On average, African Americans are 1.8 times more likely to have diabetes as non-Hispanic whites of similar age.

(Source: The Diabetes Epidemic Among African Americans, National Diabetes Education Program)