

2009 Health Disparity Fact Sheet

Hispanics/Latinos in Colorado



This fact sheet provides information about some of the major health indicators for the Hispanic/Latino population in Colorado. Like other communities of color, Hispanics/Latinos experience some differences in health, risk factors and behaviors in comparison to other population groups. The data presented show comparisons between the Hispanic/Latino population and the State's population as a whole and identifies where there are differences. The disparity column shows if the Hispanic/Latino rate is statistically worse (red), better (green) or the same (white) as the state rate. If it is the same, that means there is no statistically significant difference.

There are nearly 840,000 Hispanics/Latinos in Colorado. They make up almost 18% of the population and are the largest racial/ethnic minority group in the State. (2007 data, State Demography Office, Colorado Department of Local Affairs)

	Hispanic/Latino Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Demographics			
Median household income ¹	\$35,941	\$52,015	Worse
Percent of population living below poverty ¹	23.1%	12.0%	Worse
High school graduation rate ²	57.1%	75.0%	Worse

- The median household income for Hispanics/Latinos is \$16,074 less than the state median.
- Twice as many Hispanics/Latinos are living below the poverty level than the overall state population.
- Fewer Hispanics/Latinos graduate from high school than the state's population as a whole.

	Hispanic/Latino Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Maternal Child Health			
Infant mortality (<i>infant deaths per 1,000 live births</i>) ³	7.2	6.1	Same
Low birth weight births ³	8.5%	9.0%	Same
Unintended pregnancy ⁴	47.0%	39.7%	Worse
Births to teens ages 15-17 (<i>births per 1,000 population, 2006</i>) ³	69.6	23.7	Worse
Women reporting 3 or more stressors during pregnancy ⁴	27.9%	27.0%	Same
Women who drank during last three months of pregnancy ⁴	6.1%	10.8%	Better
Women who smoked during last three months of pregnancy ⁴	5.9%	10.3%	Better
Childhood obesity (ages 2-14) ⁵	24.1%	13.8%	Worse

- Infant death and low weight births are similar to the population as a whole.
- Almost half of Latina births are from unplanned pregnancies.
- The Latina teen birth rate is 3 times higher than the state rate.
- Latinas are less likely to drink or smoke during pregnancy, but report the same amount of stress as other women.
- Hispanic/Latino children are almost twice as likely to be obese.

	Hispanic/Latino Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Health and risk behaviors⁶			
Cigarette smoking	22.0%	19.1%	Worse
Binge drinking (5 or more drinks in one sitting)	19.8%	16.8%	Worse
No physical activity	30.9%	17.7%	Worse
Eat fewer than 5 fruits and vegetables per day	78.4%	74.9%	Worse
Obese (BMI>=30)	25.1%	18.0%	Worse
Overweight (BMI>=25)	64.1%	54.5%	Worse
Mental health was not good 8 or more days (in the past 30 days)	14.4%	11.9%	Worse

Hispanics/Latinos are more likely to exhibit risk behaviors than the State's population as a whole. They are:

- More likely to smoke and engage in binge drinking.
- Less likely to participate in any kind of physical activity or eat five or more fruits and vegetables a day.
- More likely to be overweight or obese.
- More likely to experience more than one week a month of poor mental health in the last month.

	Hispanic/Latino Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Health care and access			
No health insurance ⁶	40.3%	16.6%	Worse
Women 40+ who have not had a mammogram in last 2 years ⁶	36.8%	28.4%	Worse
Women who have not had a pap test in last 3 years ⁶	12.5%	13.2%	Same
Have high blood pressure ⁶	15.4%	20.7%	Better
Have diabetes	6.2%	4.9%	Worse
Have asthma	6.5%	8.1%	Better

- More than twice as many Hispanics/Latinos are uninsured than Coloradans as a whole.
- Latinas are less likely to have had a mammogram, but just as likely to have had a pap test.
- Fewer Hispanics/Latinos have been told by a doctor that they have high blood pressure.
- More Hispanics/Latinos have diabetes, but fewer have asthma than the total State population.

	Hispanic/Latino Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Infectious Diseases (Incidence rates per 100,000 population)			
Tuberculosis ⁷	6.3	2.4	Worse
Gonorrhea ⁸	87.9	49.9	Worse
HIV/AIDS ⁸	16.4	12.8	Worse

- Hispanics/Latinos have a higher rate of new cases of infectious diseases than the state population.

10 leading causes of death⁹	
Hispanic/Latino Coloradans	All Coloradans
Cancer	Heart Disease
Heart Disease	Cancer
Stroke	Chronic Respiratory Diseases
Unintentional Injuries	Stroke
Diabetes	Unintentional Injuries
Chronic Respiratory Diseases	Alzheimer's Disease
Alzheimer's Disease	Flu and Pneumonia
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	Diabetes
Flu and Pneumonia	Suicide
Kidney Disease	Atherosclerosis

- The top two leading causes of death, cancer and heart disease, are the same for Hispanics/Latinos as they are for the State's population as a whole. Diabetes is ranked fifth for Hispanics/Latinos, but 8th for the State. Chronic liver disease and kidney disease are in the top 10 causes of death for Hispanics/Latinos, but not for the state as a whole. Suicide and atherosclerosis is in the top 10 for the state, but not for the Hispanic/Latino population.

¹ American Community Survey, 2006 (tables S1903 and S1701)

² Colorado Department of Education, 2007

³ Vital Statistics, 2002-2006, Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

⁴ Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, 2004-2006, Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

⁵ Colorado Child Health Survey, 2005-2007, Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

⁶ Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2004-07, Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

⁷ Tuberculosis Program, 2002-06, Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

⁸ STI/HIV Section, 2002-06, Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

⁹ Vital Statistics, 2002-2006 age adjusted rates, Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

For more information or for a copy of the full 2009 Health Disparities Report, go to www.cdphe.state.co.us/ohd

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