

# Health Disparities in New Jersey

- Prostate cancer incidence rates for African-American men in northern New Jersey are among the highest in the nation.
- The cervical cancer rate for Latino women in New Jersey is 86 percent higher than the rate for non-Latinos.
- African-American women are 28 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than White women, although the incidence is higher among Whites.
- African-Americans are four times more likely than Whites to be hospitalized for asthma while Latinos are almost three times more likely than Whites to be hospitalized for asthma-related illness.
- Recent studies show that 32.2 percent of Latinos and 20.7 percent of African-Americans in New Jersey lack health insurance. Only 11.3 percent of Whites lack the same coverage.
- Recent data show that the age-adjusted prevalence of diabetes among all New Jersey adults age 50 and over was 13 percent. For African-Americans, it was 23 percent and for Latinos, 15 percent.
- The percentages of African-Americans and Latinos classified as overweight or obese are higher than those for Whites. African-Americans and Latinos also have lower rates of physical activity.
- Cancer is the leading cause of death for female Asian Americans. Lung cancer is the leading cause of death for Asian-American men. Vietnamese-American women have five times the rate of cervical cancer as white women, yet only half of Vietnamese women aged 18 and older report ever having a Pap smear.

## Our Commitment

UMDNJ-Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities is committed to ensuring that every individual, family and community has the human right to:

- Lead a healthy life
- Have individual dignity
- Have one's culture respected
- Receive health education
- Have access to quality care
- Live in a society that addresses individual health

## For More Information:

### UMDNJ-Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities

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### On the Web:

#### UMDNJ-IEHD

<http://www2.umdj.edu/iehdweb>

#### UMDNJ-School of Public Health

<http://sph.umdj.edu>



*The UMDNJ-School of Public Health is sponsored by the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in cooperation with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and New Jersey Institute of Technology and in collaboration with the Public Health Research Institute.*



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IEHD  
Institute for the Elimination  
of Health Disparities



Nation's First Collaborative School of Public Health



# Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities

*For two decades, health conditions for many Americans have improved significantly. This has not been the case for members of New Jersey's culturally and racially underserved communities, who are affected disproportionately by higher rates of illness and preventable death. The causes of many health disparities are complex, multifaceted and not thoroughly understood.*

*Closing this health gap requires that healthcare professionals, educators, government leaders and the community-at-large work collaboratively to identify and address the sources of health disparities. The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) School of Public Health's Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities serves as a resource to facilitate such an effort.*

## Mission and Vision

At the UMDNJ-School of Public Health, the Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities (IEHD) is working to lead and promote research aimed at better understanding the social, economic, and medical forces fostering health inequities. The Institute is accomplishing these goals by using strategies and solutions aimed at promoting long and healthy lives for members of New Jersey's culturally and racially underserved communities.

## Our Goals

Outcomes that reflect racial, ethnic and socioeconomic health disparities in New Jersey and throughout the nation include infant mortality, HIV/AIDS, violence and intentional injuries, asthma, cancer, diabetes, heart disease and stroke. Utilizing research, education programs, and collaborations that target these areas, IEHD aims to:

- Conduct, promote and facilitate research and intervention programs that foster discovery and integration.



- Apply and disseminate knowledge to close health gaps.
- Advocate to increase staff in underrepresented groups in the health professions to effectively reach underserved populations.
- Educate through various programs, such as sponsored forums and community information campaigns, and through a repository of research.
- Sponsor forums featuring nationally recognized speakers on the topic of health disparities.
- Establish strategic relationships with key organizations and individuals, with local, state, and national government, and with community groups.
- Develop and advocate for effective healthcare policies.
- Support an effective, efficient, ethical and accountable organization, with adequate resources to carry out and sustain the Institute's mission.



## Accomplishments

Since its inception in 2001, the Institute has, in its short tenure, already made significant contributions toward ending health disparities. IEHD has:

- In collaboration with the New Jersey City University and The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, received funding for the establishment of an Export Center of Excellence focused on addressing cancer disparities in New Jersey.
- Coordinated a statewide Cancer Disparities Conference with The Cancer Institute of New Jersey.
- Launched efforts to reduce the impact of environmental hazards by conducting outreach and education on asthma, lead poisoning, cancer, and respiratory illness.
- Collaborated with the Congressional Black Caucus Health Brain Trust to hold the forum *Elimination of Health Disparities: Bridging the Healthcare Divide*, a significant forum that featured discussions on the future of health care for racial and ethnic groups.
- Collaborated with local health centers to improve the health of New Jersey residents disproportionately affected by diabetes and hypertension.
- Sponsored internships for high school, undergraduate and graduate students in health disparities, and mentored faculty researchers of racially and ethnically diverse groups.

