

Support Material: Hennepin County Declares Racism a Public Health Crisis

First, Hennepin County is the most populated of Minnesota's 87 counties, with a population of 1.27M in 2019 and a "Race and Hispanic Origin" breakdown as follows:

– White alone, percent	74.4%
– Black or African American alone	13.6%
– American Indian and Alaska Native alone	1.1%
– Asian alone	7.5%
– Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.1%
– Two or More Races	3.2%
– Hispanic or Latino	7.0%
– White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	68.6%

[U.S. Census Bureau (2020), Retrieved from

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/hennepincountyminnesota>]

Second, as of June 19, 2020, eleven United States counties have passed resolutions declaring racism a public health crisis:

1. Milwaukee County (Milwaukee, WI), population 946K in 2019 [*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (2020), Retrieved from <https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/local/milwaukee/2019/05/20/abele-signs-resolution-declaring-racism-public-health-crisis/3741809002/>].
2. Franklin County (Columbus, OH), population 1.32M in 2019 [*The Columbus Dispatch* (2020), Retrieved from <https://www.dispatch.com/news/20200519/racism-declared-public-health-crisis-by-franklin-county-commissioners>].
3. Dallas County (Dallas, TX), population 2.64M in 2019 [*The Dallas Morning News* (2020), Retrieved from <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/2020/06/17/racism-is-a-public-health-crisis-dallas-county-commissioners-declare/>].
4. Summit County (Akron, OH), population 541K in 2019 [*Akron Beacon Journal* (2020), Retrieved from <https://www.beaconjournal.com/news/20200615/summit-county-declares-racism-public-health-crisis>].
5. Montgomery County (Dayton, OH), population 532K in 2019 [*Dayton Daily News* (2020), Retrieved from <https://www.daytondailynews.com/news/local/montgomery-county-declares-racism-public-health-crisis/Zfs8vHukNtjuLORxJfUFGI/>].
6. Mecklenburg County (Charlotte, NC), population 1.11M in 2019 [*The Charlotte Observer* (2020), Retrieved from <https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article243554862.html>].
7. Kalamazoo County (Kalamazoo, MI), population 265K in 2019 [*WWMT West Michigan News Channel* (2020), Retrieved from <https://wwmt.com/news/local/kalamazoo-county-declares-racism-a-public-health-crisis>].
8. Douglas County (Omaha, NE), population 517K in 2019 [*KETV Omaha News Channel* (2020), Retrieved from <https://www.ketv.com/article/douglas-county-board-of-health-declares-racism-a-public-health-crisis/32891594>].
9. Montgomery County (Rockville, MD), population 1.05M in 2019 [*Bethesda Magazine* (2020), Retrieved from <https://bethesdamagazine.com/bethesda-beat/government/county-council-declares-racism-a-public-health-crisis/>]

10. King County (Seattle, WA), population 2.25M in 2019 [*KIRO Seattle News Channel (2020)*, Retrieved from <https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/king-county-board-health-passes-resolution-declaring-racism-public-health-crisis/L27IQPLEFZFBTDM7GSCVM4RFDY/>].
11. Pierce County (Tacoma, WA), population 905K in 2019 [*KVI Talk Radio (2020)*, Retrieved from <http://kvi.com/news/local/racism-declared-public-health-crisis-in-pierce-county-2020>].

Last, Hennepin County public health has compiled fact sheets on various health topics that affect Hennepin County community residents, members and employees. Each fact sheet is organized in a similar manner, with a review of the current status for each selected topic, and where possible breakdowns by race/ethnicity, age, income, education and/or geography are provided, and in some cases comparison to state, local or national data and trend data.

As of June 19, 2020, there were 35 printable PDFs available on this Hennepin webpage. Of the 35 files, 1 did not report data related to race/ethnicity and is indicated with an asterisk (*) at the beginning of the title. Of the remaining 34 files, 5 did not report findings that express health disparity along lines of race/ethnicity and are indicated with 2 asterisks (**) at the beginning of the title. [Retrieved from <https://www.hennepin.us/your-government/research-data/public-health-data>].

The result is that 29 out of 34 files reported findings that express health disparity along lines of race/ethnicity. Meaning, 85% of Hennepin’s published public health fact sheets report findings that express health disparity along lines of race/ethnicity.

For reference, the 35 PDFs are organized below in a similar manner as the webpage. When available, direct excerpts related to race/ethnicity are included as sub-bullets.

Chronic conditions and mortality:

1. Adults with one or more chronic diseases or health conditions (2014)
 - a. “Chronic health conditions disproportionately impact non-Hispanic US Born black, lower education, and low income populations in Hennepin County.”
 - b. “Figure 2. Percentage of adults age 25 and older with one or more chronic health conditions by race/ethnicity, 2014

i. NH-US Born Black	70.4%
ii. NH-White	50.3%
iii. Hispanic/Latino	49.6%
iv. NH-Asian	46.6%”
2. Infant mortality – rate of deaths to infants under age one (2017)
 - a. “In Hennepin County, racial and ethnic disparities mirror those seen nationally, with the highest rates of infant mortality among babies born to US-born African American mothers.”
3. Adult weight status (2014)
 - a. “Non-Hispanic US-born black adults are more likely to be obese compared to other selected racial/ethnic groups in Hennepin County.”

- b. “Figure 3. Percentage of adults age 25 and older who are obese by race/ethnicity (2014)
 - i. Hispanic/Latino 27%
 - ii. NH-Asian 19%
 - iii. NH-US Born Black 46%
 - iv. NH-White 21%”
- 4. Adolescents who are overweight or obese in suburban Hennepin County (2016)
 - a. “American Indian, Hispanic and black/African American, and multiracial 9th graders reported the highest rates of overweight and obesity.”
 - b. “Figure 1. Ninth grade students who are overweight or obese by race/ethnicity (2016)
 - i. Hispanic/Latino 33%
 - ii. American Indian 53%
 - iii. Black 31%
 - iv. Asian 14%
 - v. White 17%
 - vi. Multiple Races 31%”

Infectious disease:

- 5. HIV infection rate (2017)
 - a. “HIV infection is disproportionately found in minority populations, especially the Black/African American population.”
- 6. Chlamydia rate (2017)
 - a. “Chlamydia infection is disproportionately found in minority populations, especially the Black/African, Hispanic, and American Indian populations.”
- 7. Gonorrhea rate (2017)
 - a. “Gonorrhea remains disproportionately high in the American Indian and the Black/African American population.”
- 8. Early syphilis rate (2017)
 - a. “Syphilis is reported disproportionately in minority populations; the populations with the highest rates of early syphilis were the American Indian, Black/African American, and Hispanic populations.”

Nutrition, physical activity and substance use:

- 9. Adults engaging in no leisure-time physical activity (2014)
 - a. “Non-Hispanic US-born blacks are most likely to engage in no leisure time physical activity compared to adults from other racial and ethnic groups.”
 - b. “Figure 3. Percentage of adults age 25 and older who engage in no leisure time physical activity by race/ethnicity (2014)
 - i. Hispanic/Latino 23.7%
 - ii. NH-Asian 24.9%
 - iii. NH-US Born Black 35.2%
 - iv. NH-White 11.0%”
- 10. Adults drinking one or more sugar-sweetened beverages daily or more often (2014)
 - a. “Non-Hispanic US born black adults are more likely to consume sugar sweetened beverages compared to other selected racial/ethnic groups in Hennepin County.”

- b. “Figure 3. Percentage of adults age 25 and older who consumed sugar sweetened beverages by race/ethnicity, 2014

i. Hispanic/Latino	29%
ii. NH-Asian	25%
iii. NH-US Born Black	43%
iv. NH-White	18%”
- 11. **Children and adolescents who consumed five or more fruits/vegetables per day (2015)
 - a. “The consumption of fruits and vegetables did not vary much by race/ethnicity among 9th graders, according to the Minnesota Student Survey 2016.”
- 12. Adults who consumed five or more fruits/vegetables per day (2015)
 - a. “Non-Hispanic US Born Blacks are least likely to have five or more servings a day of fruits and vegetables compared to adults from other racial and ethnic groups.”
 - b. “Figure 3. Percentage of adults age 25 and older who had five or more servings a day of fruits and vegetables by race/ethnicity (2014)

i. Hispanic/Latino	30.9%
ii. NH-Asian	28.6%
iii. NH-US Born Black	26.2%
iv. NH-White	36.7%”
- 13. Adolescent past 30-day alcohol use (2016)
 - a. “American Indian, Hispanic and multiracial students were more likely to drink in the past 30 days compared to other students. American Indian students were also more likely to report binge drinking compared to other students.”
 - b. “Figure 3. Percentage of 9th graders using alcohol in past 30 days by race/ethnicity, 2016

i. Hispanic	14%
ii. American Indian	20%
iii. Black or African American	5%
iv. Asian	5%
v. White	7%
vi. Multiracial	11%”
- 14. **Adults drinking alcohol excessively (2014)
 - a. “There is no significant difference in rates of excessively alcohol use by race and ethnicity.”
- 15. Tobacco use among adolescents in suburban Hennepin County (2019)
 - a. “Hispanic, white, and multiracial students used tobacco at higher rates compared to other students for any tobacco, and specifically e-cigarettes.”
- 16. Adults currently smoking (2014)
 - a. “Smoking rates remain significantly higher among US-born blacks compared to adults from other racial and ethnic groups.”
 - b. “Figure 3. Percentage of adults age 25 and older who are current smokers by race/ethnicity, 2014

i. Hispanic/Latino	3.9%
ii. NH-Asian	8.5%
iii. NH-US Born Black	14.4%

- iv. NH-White 7.2%”
- 17. Adults exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke at home (2014)
 - a. “Figure 3. Percentage of adults age 25 and older who are exposed to SHS at home by race/ethnicity (2014)
 - i. Hispanic/Latino 2%
 - ii. NH-Asian 7%
 - iii. NH-US Born Black 15%
 - iv. NH-White 4%”
- 18. Adolescent past 30-day drug (marijuana and non-prescribed prescription drugs) use (2016)
 - a. “Hispanic and multi-racial students used marijuana or non-prescribed prescriptions drugs at the highest rates compared to their classmates.”
 - b. “Figure 2. Students (all grades) reporting drug use (marijuana or non-prescribed prescription drugs) in past 30 days by race/ethnicity
 - i. Hispanic/Latino 15%
 - ii. African American 13%
 - iii. Asian 6%
 - iv. White 9%
 - v. Multi-races 15%”

Preventative health care and access to services:

- 19. Adults with dental health insurance and dental care utilization (2014)
 - a. “Several groups were more likely to have no dental visit within the last year, especially males (24%), young adults aged 25 to 34 (25%), populations of color (30%), being LGBT (26%).”
- 20. *Children with a dental visit in the past year (2015)
 - a. No race/ethnicity data reported.
- 21. Children (24-35 months) up to date on immunizations (2017)
 - a. “Though older data, the report still highlights there were disparities among populations of color for the 4:3:1 Series at 24 months in Minnesota.”
 - b. “Figure 2. Percent of up-to-date at 24 months by race & ethnicity, 2001
 - i. NH White 85%
 - ii. American Indian 73%
 - iii. Asian/Pacific Islander 66%
 - iv. Hispanic/Latino 65%
 - v. NH Black 62%”
- 22. Adults without usual place of care (2014)
 - a. “No usual place of care disproportionately affected some Hennepin County populations, including females (20%), young adults (27% for those age 25 to 34, and 24% for those aged 35-44), Hispanics (28%) and those having less than a high school education (29%).”
- 23. Adults with unmet medical care needs (2014)
 - a. “Overall, females (13%) reported a higher rate of unmet medical care needs than males (13% vs. 11%) and young adults (13% to 15% for those under 55) reported higher rate than older adults (10% or under). The populations

affected the most are US-born blacks (25%), low income (21%), and LGBT (21%), especially those identifying as bisexual (28%).”

24. Adults with unmet mental health care needs (2014)

- a. “Mental health care needs were much higher among females, adults who are US-born blacks, LGBT, low income, low education and those with a disability.”

Maternal, infant and child health:

25. Teen parent report card – 2017

- a. “Teen birth rates are nine to 13 times higher for black, Native American, and Latino teens.”

26. Repeat teen births – Rates of repeat births to mothers 15 to 19 years old, per 1,000 females in the population

- a. “While repeat teen birth rates have declined across all racial/ethnic groups in Hennepin County, disparities persist for teens of color, particularly Black/African American, American Indian, and Hispanic teens.”

27. Pre-term Births – Singleton births at less than 37 weeks of gestation (2014)

- a. “Disparities persist in the percentage of preterm births within some racial and ethnic subpopulations, especially African American and American Indian mothers.”

28. **Maternal age – Births to first-time mothers aged 35 or older (2014)

- a. “White mothers have their first babies at 35 or older at higher rates than other racial and ethnic groups.”

29. **Foreign-born mothers – Births to mothers who were born outside of the U.S. or U.S. territories (2014)

- a. “About three-quarters of births to Asian and Hispanic mothers were to mothers born outside of the United States, while half of births to black mothers were to those foreign-born. The proportion of births to foreign-born Hispanic and Asian mothers has declined, while the proportion of births to foreign-born black mothers has increased slightly since 2005.”

Mental health:

30. Adults with frequent mental distress (2014)

- a. “Adults identifying as US-born blacks, of low income, low education, reported a disproportionately high rate of FMD compared to other residents in Hennepin County.”
- b. “Figure 2. Percentage who experienced frequent mental distress by selected race/ethnicity, 2014

i. All Adults	7.8%
ii. Hispanic/Latino	7.0%
iii. Asian	9.1%
iv. US-Born Black	22.7%
v. White	6.5%

31. Adolescent mental health and treatment in suburban Hennepin County (2016)

- a. “Hispanic, black or African American and multiracial 9th graders were more likely to report signs of depression compared to other students.”

- b. “Figure 3. Percentage of ninth graders reporting signs of depression by race/ethnicity, 2016
- | | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| i. Hispanic | 24% |
| ii. American Indian | 16% |
| iii. Black or African American | 24% |
| iv. Asian | 22% |
| v. White | 17% |
| vi. Multiracial | 30%” |

32. Adolescent suicidality (2016)

- a. “Hispanic, American Indian and multiracial 9th graders were more likely to consider suicide in the past year than other students.”
- b. “Figure 2. Percentage of 9th graders seriously considering suicide by race/ethnicity
- | | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| i. Hispanic | 12% |
| ii. American Indian | 13% |
| iii. Black or African American | 10% |
| iv. Asian | 11% |
| v. White | 9% |
| vi. Multiracial | 15%” |

Social connectedness and environment:

33. Adolescents well connected to caring adults (2014)

- a. “9th graders of color in suburban Hennepin County are less likely to feel they are connected with a caring adult compared to their white counterparts. This is true for whether or not the adult is a parent or not.”
- b. “The percentage of white suburban Hennepin County 9th graders connected with a non-parent adult is 60.1% with the rate for students of other racial or Hispanic ethnicity groups at or below 50%.”

34. Adults reporting discrimination at least once a month (2014)

- a. “The percent of adults in Minneapolis who at least once a month were in situations where they felt unaccepted because of their race, ethnicity, or culture is highest among non-Hispanic black or African Americans even when considering the general perceived safety of the neighborhood overall.”

35. **Neighborhood cohesion (2014)

- a. “The percent of adults in Minneapolis who somewhat or strongly agree that people in their neighborhood are willing to help one another is lowest among non-Hispanic black or African Americans who live in relatively unsafe neighborhoods and highest among non-Hispanic black or African Americans and non-Hispanic Asian or Asian Americans.”