



Health Disparities and Its Impact on Health Center Patients

NJPCA contact: Selina Haq, PhD at shaq@njpca.org

According to the Health Resources and Services Administration, Health disparities are defined as “population-specific differences in the presence of diseases, health outcomes, or access to healthcare.”

Health disparities exist across many dimensions and racial/ethnic backgrounds play a significant role as a determinant of health disparities.

Racial/ethnic minorities (African Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and Latinos) experience higher rates of chronic health conditions along with higher rates of mortality and poorer health outcomes compared to Whites.

New Jersey Health Centers serve a highly diverse racial/ethnic population

46.6% patients are Hispanic/Latino

24.4% are African American

2.4% are Asian

1.6% are Multi-racial

Health Disparities Matter

Among 62,703 Health Center **hypertensive** patients, 38.1% are Hispanic/Latino and 33.5% are African Americans compared to 21.7% White patients.

Among 35,708 Health Center patients with **diabetes**, 44.3% are Hispanic/Latino and 28.7% are African American compared to 19.3% who are white.

Health disparities also impact birth outcomes. In 2017, among 613 **low birth weight** (LBWs) babies born to Health Center patients, 59.2% were Hispanic/Latino and 29.7% were African American compared to 18.3% who were white.