RACIAL DISPARITIES IN CLEVELAND, OH

Advantage, and disadvantage, can begin before birth and stretch over a lifetime. Although our society has made great strides toward racial equality, marked differences remain in many key indicators of health, opportunity, and prosperity.

Cleveland’s population tends to be geographically divided by race. The Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor metropolitan area was the 8th most segregated metro in the nation out of the 50 metros with the largest African-American populations, according to an analysis of 2010 U.S. Census data.

But Cleveland isn’t divided only by geography. From the beginning of their lives, African-American babies have a greater likelihood of poor outcomes.

20.4% are born preterm (less than 37 weeks of gestation), compared to 13.2% of White babies.

3.8% are born at very low birth weight (less than 3.3 pounds), compared to 1.6% of White babies.

Both of these indicators are associated with an increased risk of infant mortality, or the death of a baby before its first birthday.

In Cuyahoga County, although the overall population is only 31 percent African American, 73 percent of those incarcerated are African American. The vast majority of these are male...

African-American children (from age 0 to 17) are more likely to grow up in poverty compared to their White peers.

18.1 deaths per 1,000 live African-American births

4.8 deaths per 1,000 live White births

42% White children, percent in poverty

58% African-American children, percent in poverty

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60% African-American family households

30% White family households

...contributing to the large proportion of female-headed family households with no husband present.

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Overall, African Americans tend to have poorer **education outcomes** than Whites in Cleveland.

Across the entire African-American population in Cleveland, **42 percent** live in **poverty**, compared to **28 percent** of Whites. Poverty, among other things, is associated with poorer health outcomes.

Education levels are often related to **earnings and employment**.

**Unemployment** (age 16+)
- **White**: 12%
- **African American**: 26%

**Median Income** (by household)
- **White**: $32,075
- **African American**: $19,661

However, education is not the only thing that affects economic success. African Americans also face disparities in access to jobs and the ability to build and maintain financial equity.

More African Americans rely on public transit to get to work than Whites...

- **16%** African Americans
- **5%** Whites

...and research indicates that of all mortgage loans made in Cuyahoga County in 2005, the **foreclosure rate** three years later for African Americans was more than triple that for Whites.

- **28%** African-American borrowers
- **8%** white borrowers

Disparities are also evident among specific **health conditions**. A 2008 survey of people in the Cleveland-Akron Combined Statistical Area found that African American rates were higher than White rates, even when controlling for income and education.

- **9.2%**↑ Overweight or obese
- **11.7%**↑ High blood pressure

All of these disparities may contribute to the fact that **life expectancy** for African Americans in Cleveland is lower than it is for Whites.

- **72.8 years** for African Americans
- **73.4 years** for Whites

References available at www.CommunitySolutions.com/Race-in-Cleveland. Unless otherwise noted, all data points are for Cleveland.