



# Health Disparities Profiles



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Office on Women's Health





Copyright information:

All material appearing in this report is in the public domain and may be reproduced or copied without permission; citation as to source, however, is appreciated.

Suggested citation:

*Health Disparities Profiles*. Washington, DC: DHHS Office on Women's Health. 2008.

Website:

For more information about Health Disparities Profiles or to access data files directly, visit:

<http://www.womenshealth.gov/quickhealthdata/>



.....

# Introduction

The *Health Disparities Profiles* examine key health indicators at the state level for different racial and ethnic populations in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Twenty one health indicators are presented, which highlight some of the key areas related to health disparities among different populations. It can be used as a reference for policymakers and program managers to identify areas where major health disparities exist in each state.

Development of these profiles was sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services' Region VIII Office on Women's Health as a tool to help identify changes in vulnerable and underserved populations at the state level, where most decisions regarding health policy are developed and implemented. The data presented are taken from *Quick Health Data Online (QHData, [www.womenshealth.gov/quickhealthdata](http://www.womenshealth.gov/quickhealthdata))*. The information represents only a small portion of the data available from *QHData*, which addresses many other health topics.

The *Health Disparities Profiles* are intended to present data in a straightforward, user-friendly manner. More technically detailed publications can be obtained from the original data sources (National Vital Statistics System and the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System) and from *QHData*.

The first section of this report contains health disparities profiles for the 52 geographic areas. Each profile contains population statistics and data on each of the 21 featured health and mortality indicators, for the total population and by race and Hispanic origin, and includes a brief summary that highlights how each state or territory fares on the presented indicators. *Healthy People 2010 Midcourse Review* targets are included for comparison, where available.<sup>1</sup> Finally, the state or territory's relative ranking on each indicator is presented, with lower numerical ranking values indicating better health status relative to other states and territories.

Two appendices provide information on the sources of data (Appendix I) and explanations of terms and analytic issues (Appendix II).

---

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Healthy People 2010 Midcourse Review*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, December 2006. Available at: <http://www.healthypeople.gov/Data/midcourse/>

Office on Women's Health  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW Room 712E  
Washington, DC 20201  
Telephone: (202) 690-7650  
Fax: (202) 205-2631

Quick Health Data Online  
files may be downloaded from:

<http://www.womenshealth.gov/quickhealthdata/>