

Black Men Face Alarming Health Inequities in Pennsylvania

Black males in Pennsylvania have significant disparities, poor health outcomes and bear a disproportionate burden of disease compared to the general population.

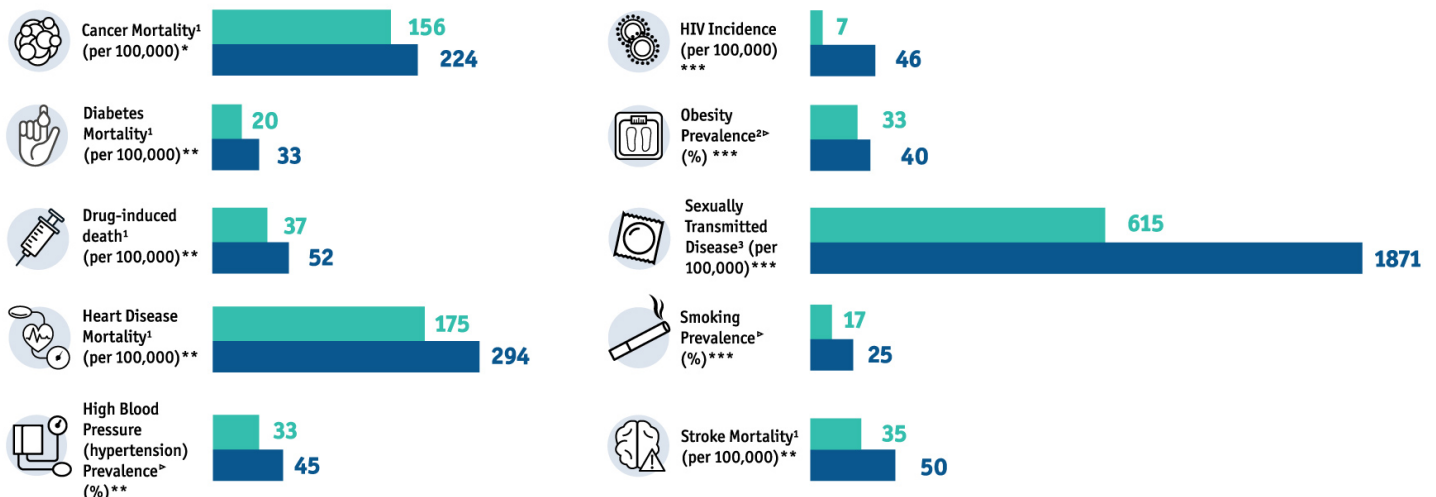
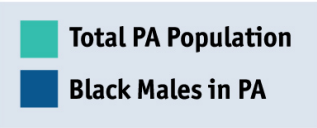
Goal

To improve health equity and access to healthcare, including addressing social determinants of health for Black men through: advocacy, policies, insurance coverage, employee wellness programs and funding for research and programs.

Structure

The PA Cancer Coalition's **Men's Health Workgroup, Disparities Subcommittee, and Policy Subcommittee** have compiled data and continue to disseminate the information so that organizations can work together to address inequities in Black men's health.

Facts on the health of Black males^ compared to the general population by disease prevalence and mortality



[^]The term Black or African American is defined by the United States Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, United States Census of Population and Housing 2000. Black men 18 and older are 4.2% of Pennsylvania's population.
^{**}Data is from 2018.
^{***}Data is from 2019.

¹The mortality rate is age-adjusted.
²Data is for individuals 18 years of age or older.
³Obesity is defined as body mass index of 30 or higher.
³Sexually Transmitted Disease: includes chlamydia, gonorrhea, and primary and secondary syphilis
 Sources:
 • Enterprise Data Dissemination Informatics Exchange (EDDIE)
 • BRFSS, <https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/brfssprevalence>
 • <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Programs/HIV/2019%20HIV%20Surveillance%20Annual%20Report.pdf>



What You Can Do

Health System

- Improve doctor-patient communication through culturally appropriate education.
- Provide culturally competent health messaging.
- Eliminate negative or fear-based messaging.
- Engage Black men to serve as health mentors or ambassadors.
- Utilize family members to encourage regular doctor visits.
- Seek expertise and guidance from Black communities.

Employer

- Offer a robust worksite wellness program.
- Know your screening rates.
- Educate employees on the importance of regular check-ups: age-specific screenings, insurance coverage, how to schedule, and safety during COVID-19.
- Review benefits offered to eliminate unintended financial penalties.
- Communicate frequently with your employees on health-related benefits and activities.
- Provide targeted reminders around birthdays and other special events.
- Offer incentives such as wellness rewards and PTO for preventive care activities.
- Offer on-site screenings where possible.
- Utilize expertise from health systems and insurers.

Legislator/Policy maker

- Allocate funds for interventions to improve health equity and access for Black men.
- Advocate for legislation to reduce barriers and increase access to healthcare for Black men.
- Facilitate access to insurance coverage for men. Eliminate high insurance co-pays, which act as a deterrent for testing and screening.
- Mandate the establishment of representation for Black men on health advisory boards and committees.
- Mandate better protections for communities of color that suffer greater rates of health problems, often due to their proximity and regular exposure to sources of toxic waste (ex. landfills, power stations, factories, and waste facilities).
- Allocate funds for primary prevention efforts to stop health problems and prevent disparities before they start.
- Advocate for stronger tobacco control mandates.

Allied Stakeholder

- Invest in funding for Community Health Workers (CHWs) and patient navigators from Black communities, to better facilitate community-clinical linkages (serve as health ambassadors).
- Invest in community projects that emphasize the importance of family and community to motivate individuals to make good health decisions.
- Invest in community-based interventions that actively engage Black men in the health of family members.
- Invest in communications that eliminate false assumptions and stereotypes.
- Invest in digital, mobile health projects that can guide meaningful interactions between clinicians and Black men.
- Invest in community-level advocacy and policy that protect communities of color from health risks associated with environmental toxins/carcinogens that are at the root of health disparities.

Join PA Cancer Coalition

You can join the PA Cancer Coalition to make change by collaborating with organizations in Pennsylvania. Complete an online membership form. There are no membership fees. pacancercoalition.org/membership-profile