

**Selected Data
on the
Health of the Latino Population
in North Carolina**

September 2002

Table 1

Selected Results from the North Carolina BRFSS by Ethnicity and Race, 1997-2001*			
	Latino	White, Non-Latino	African American, Non-Latino
Percent			
Health was fair or poor	11.3	15.8	20.9
No health care coverage	25.6	11.3	17.6
There was a time during the last 12 months when they needed to see a doctor but could not due to the cost	16.6	10.8	15.9
Did not visit a doctor for a routine checkup in the past 2 years (1997-2000)	15.3	14.7	9.0
Had one or more permanent teeth removed due to decay or gum disease (1999, 2001)	43.0	60.9	72.1
Current smoker	30.5	25.9	23.3
Overweight (Body Mass Index >25)	59.0	54.8	67.3
Ever told by a doctor that they had high blood pressure (1997, 1999, 2001)	18.9	23.6	32.3
Never had their blood cholesterol checked (1997, 1999, 2001)	38.1	19.7	30.2
Number of respondents (1997-2001)	435	13,174	3,418

*Unless otherwise specified.

Note: The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is a random-digit-dialed telephone survey of the adult population of North Carolina. The survey is sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and has a standardized core set of questions administered in all 50 states. During 1997-2001, the BRFSS surveys were conducted only in English. Beginning in 2002, surveys were conducted in Spanish and English.

Table 2

Number of Deaths and Age-adjusted Death Rates by Ethnicity and Race North Carolina Residents, 1999-2000 (Deaths per 100,000 Population)						
	Latino		White		African American	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
All Causes (per 1,000)	1,089	5.9	108,392	8.9	30,980	11.9
Cancer	112	76.3	24,682	197.0	6,494	250.8
Diabetes	23	17.5	2,596	20.9	1,458	57.0
Heart Disease	125	99.4	30,494	251.6	7,887	312.5
Stroke	37	31.0	8,684	72.8	2,509	101.3
Pneumonia & Influenza	12	9.9	3,115	26.4	658	26.5
Chronic Lung Disease	10	7.2	6,392	51.5	833	33.3
Chronic Liver Disease	9	4.6	1,157	9.2	329	11.3
Septicemia	8	5.5	1,391	11.5	640	25.5
Nephritis	7	4.8	1,537	12.7	877	34.9
Suicide	29	4.1	1,612	13.4	189	5.4
AIDS	18	3.7	201	1.7	716	21.6
Homicide	122	17.0	564	4.8	669	18.7
Motor Vehicle Injuries	242	30.7	2,338	19.9	713	21.4
Other Injuries	84	12.6	2,700	22.7	763	26.2

Note: Surname matching was used to enhance ascertainment of Latino deaths. 2000 census population (x2) was used for the denominators (2000 population = 378,963 for Latinos). The U.S. 2000 population was used as the standard for age adjustment.

Factors that could contribute to the lower death rates for chronic diseases among Latinos:

- 1) healthy migrant effect
- 2) persons may return to their country when they become seriously ill and therefore no death certificate is filed in North Carolina.

Table 3

Data from Live Birth Certificates by Ethnicity, Race, and Place of Birth of Mother North Carolina Residents, 1996-2000					
	Latina, U.S. born	Latina, Mexico born	Latina, Other born	White, Non- Latina	African American, Non-Latina
Percent low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams)	7.1	6.0	6.1	7.2	13.8
Percent smoked during pregnancy	7.8	0.6	1.7	17.8	11.1
Percent prenatal care began after 1st trimester	19.4	35.7	26.4	9.6	25.5
Infant deaths per 1,000 live births	6.3	6.1	5.0	6.6	15.0
Number of live births	6,395	28,029	8,358	354,130	139,944

Table 4

Number of Reported Pregnancies and Pregnancies per 1,000 Females by Ethnicity, Race, and Age North Carolina Residents, 2000						
	Latina		White		African American	
Age	Number of Pregnancies	Rate	Number of Pregnancies	Rate	Number of Pregnancies	Rate
15-17	706	104.5	3,620	36.4	2,762	68.6
18-19	1,486	216.2	7,949	108.6	4,688	159.5
20-44	11,750	160.8	87,000	81.9	32,835	92.0

Note: Pregnancies include live births, induced abortions, and fetal deaths >20 weeks gestation.

Table 5

Percentage of Pregnancies to Married Women by Ethnicity, Race, and Age North Carolina Residents, 2000			
Age	Latina	White	African American
15-17	29.7	18.3	1.3
18-19	40.7	35.6	6.1
20-44	58.8	77.0	35.4

Table 6

Pregnancy and Postpartum Conditions from the PRAMS Survey by Ethnicity and Race July 1997 - December 2000 Live Births to North Carolina Residents			
	Latina	White, Non-Latina	African American, Non-Latina
Number Interviewed	374	3,803	1,870
Percent			
Unintended pregnancy	37.5	37.1	67.5
Breastfed	82.9	62.8	38.0
Smoked last 3 months of pregnancy	2.3	18.2	8.0
Drank alcohol last 3 months of pregnancy	2.0	4.7	2.6
Baby sleeps on back	50.9	54.2	38.7
Tested for HIV	87.1	75.0	88.5
Loaded guns in house	1.5	9.5	2.6
Physical abuse before pregnancy by husband or partner	2.7	4.1	6.7
Physical abuse during pregnancy by husband or partner	3.0	3.2	5.4
Physical abuse after pregnancy by husband or partner	2.5	2.0	3.6
Income less than \$14,000	63.1	18.5	45.1
Using birth control when got pregnant	46.6	43.2	40.8
Using birth control now	82.7	87.1	86.4
Pregnancy very hard or worst time	5.8	8.0	14.0
Very depressed now	4.9	7.2	9.2
Took multivitamin/folic acid every day before pregnancy	17.2	29.4	15.5

Note: PRAMS (Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System) is a survey of new mothers based on a random sample of birth certificates. Approximately 1,800 women are interviewed each year. Several mailed surveys are followed by telephone surveys of non-respondents. The overall response rate is approximately 73 percent. Written and phone surveys were completed in English and in Spanish, at 3 to 5 months postpartum. This survey is sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and has a standardized core set of questions administered in about 25 states.

Table 7

Birth Defects per 10,000 Live Births by Ethnicity and Race, 1995-1999			
	Latino	White, Non-Latino	African American, Non-Latino
Defect			
Neural Tube Defects, All	18.4	8.8	7.2
Anencephalus	6.1	1.9	2.0
Spina Bifida	10.0	5.7	3.6
Encephalocele	2.3	1.3	1.6
Hydrocephalus	8.5	8.8	13.6
Microcephalus	8.8	4.5	8.6
Anotia/Microtia	11.7	5.2	8.2
Conotruncal Defect	9.7	11.2	10.4
Orofacial Cleft	16.4	16.8	11.0
Pyloric Stenosis	14.3	27.4	12.4
Down Syndrome	18.7	11.7	11.9
Hypospadias/Epispadias	24.9	49.4	44.3
Intestinal Stenosis	5.6	5.2	6.2
Obstruction of Genitourinary Tract	15.8	19.0	15.6
Total Live Births	34,159	347,573	137,606

Note: Data are from the North Carolina Birth Defects Monitoring Program.

Table 8

Data from the Medical Examiner's Office by Ethnicity and Race Deaths from Non-Natural Causes, 1996-2000 Number Tested for Alcohol and Blood Alcohol Level (Age 15+ only)					
	No. Tested for Alcohol	Percent 0.0	Percent .01-.07	Percent .08-.15	Percent .16 or more
Motor Vehicle and Other Unintentional Injury Deaths					
Latino	656	46.5	7.8	14.9	30.8
White, Non-Latino	7,748	68.2	5.5	9.1	17.2
African American, Non-Latino	2,800	62.0	8.1	9.2	20.7
Homicide					
Latino	265	40.8	14.0	20.8	24.5
White, Non-Latino	1,124	60.8	10.1	13.7	15.5
African American, Non-Latino	1,672	59.2	14.5	14.0	12.3
Suicide					
Latino	75	45.3	13.3	21.3	20.0
White, Non-Latino	3,696	68.5	8.1	9.8	13.6
African American, Non-Latino	425	72.2	13.2	6.1	8.5
All Other					
Latino	10	30.0	30.0	20.0	20.0
White, Non-Latino	206	71.4	7.3	10.7	10.7
African American, Non-Latino	66	83.3	10.6	4.6	1.5