

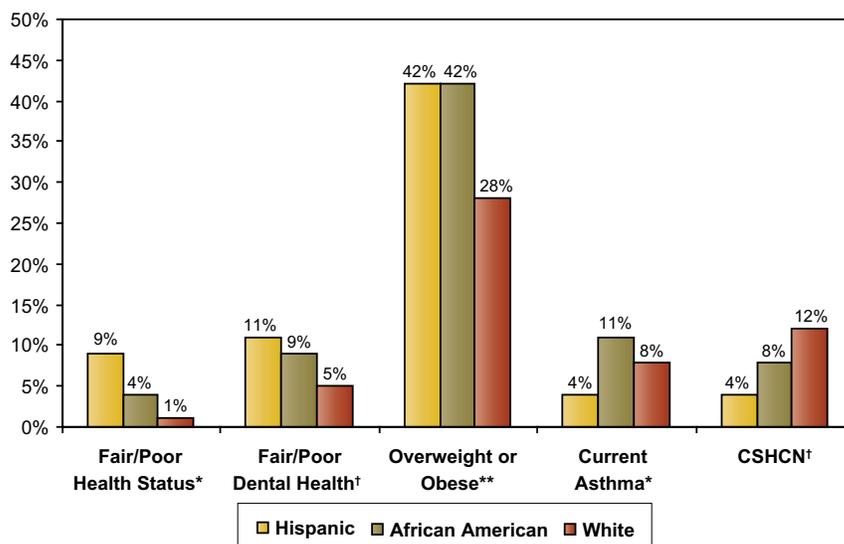
Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Child Health: North Carolina 2008



July 2009

Health Status

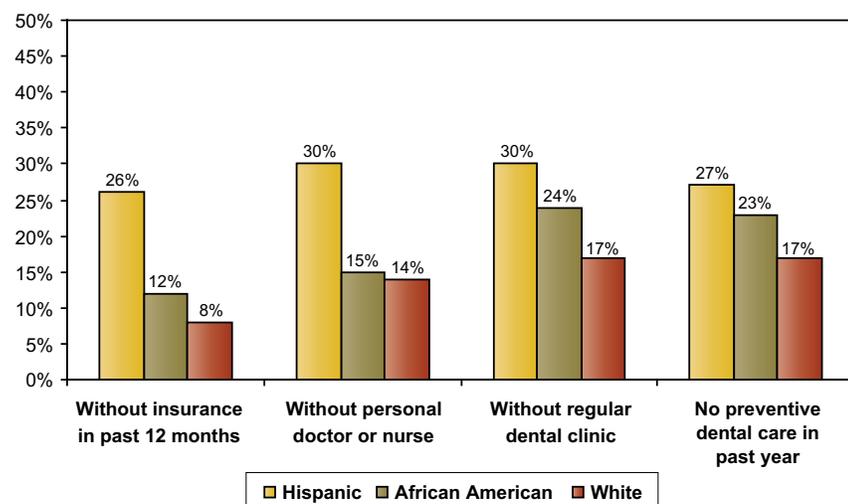
Significant disparities in children’s health are found across race and ethnicity groups.¹ In North Carolina, Hispanics are more likely to report their child as having fair or poor general health (9%) than are African Americans (4%) or whites (1%). Similarly, whites are less likely to report their child as having fair or poor dental health (5%) than are either Hispanics (11%) or African Americans (9%). Hispanics and African Americans (ages 10–17) are more likely to be classified as overweight or obese based on BMI percentiles as compared to white children (42% vs. 28%). Hispanics are less likely to be diagnosed with asthma (4%) than African Americans (11%) and whites (8%). White children are more likely to be considered a “child with special health care needs” (CSHCN) (12%) than are either African American (8%) or Hispanic (4%) children.



* Ages birth-17 † Ages 1-17 ** Ages 10-17

Health Care Access and Use

On indicators of health care access and use, Hispanic children consistently fare far worse than whites and African Americans.



Hispanic children (26%) are two to three times more likely to be uninsured within the past year as African Americans (12%) and whites (8%). Hispanics are also more likely to use clinics, including hospital outpatient departments, as their usual source of care, which may explain why a substantially higher proportion of Hispanic children do not have a personal doctor or nurse (30% vs. 15% African Americans, 14% whites). Hispanics (30%) and African Americans (24%) are more likely than whites (17%) to report not having a dentist or dental clinic who they visit regularly, which is also seen

¹This fact sheet includes data collected in 2008 based on 2,987 parental surveys of children from birth to age 17: 61 percent white non-Hispanic, 21 percent black or African American non-Hispanic, 12 percent Hispanic or Latino, and 6 percent other. The groups labeled “white” and “African American” in the charts exclude children of Hispanic ethnicity. The effect of other factors on racial and ethnic disparities in child health (e.g., income, age, sex) is beyond the scope of this fact sheet and will be examined in a more detailed statistical report.

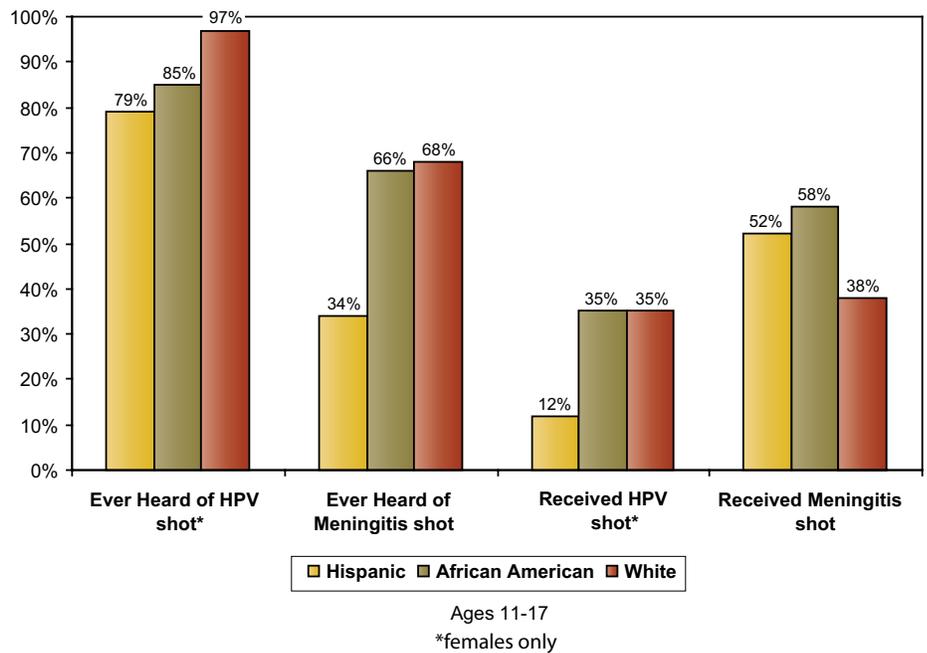
NC CHAMP is a surveillance system that collects information about the health characteristics of children from birth to age 17.

For further information about NC CHAMP, please visit www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/champ.

in lack of preventive dental care within the past year. Both Hispanic (27%) and African American (23%) children are less likely to have visited a dentist within the past year than are white children (17%).

Immunizations

Parents of white children (97%) are more likely to have heard of the HPV vaccine compared to 85 percent of African Americans and 79 percent of Hispanics. Among parents that have ever heard of the HPV vaccine, 35 percent of both white and African American children have received a HPV shot, compared to only 12 percent of Hispanic children. Similar rates of whites (68%) and African Americans (66%) have ever heard of the meningitis vaccine, compared to only 34 percent of Hispanics. Among parents that have ever heard of the meningitis vaccine, however, white children (38%) are less likely to receive the meningitis shot compared to more than half of both Hispanic (52%) and African American (58%) children.



Breastfeeding

Only 53 percent of mothers of African American children report initiating breastfeeding, compared to 72 percent of whites and 80 percent of Hispanics. Among those who initiated breastfeeding, higher rates of African Americans (43%) and whites (41%) breastfed for less than three months, compared to 26 percent of Hispanics. Hispanics are more likely to continue breastfeeding for six months to a year (38%) than either African Americans (25%) or whites (26%). Similar rates of Hispanics (17%) and whites (16%) breastfeed for more than one year, as compared to African Americans (10%). In general, Hispanics are more likely to initiate breastfeeding and continue breastfeeding for longer periods of time, particularly compared to African Americans.

