

Health Disparities in Anne Arundel County

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a health disparity is a “preventable difference in the burden of disease, injury, violence or opportunities to achieve optimal health that are experienced by socially disadvantaged populations.” These populations can be defined by race, ethnicity, gender, education, income, disability, geographic location, sexual orientation or other factors. Health disparities can lead to disproportionate rates of illness and disease, and premature death and disability. Reducing health disparities lowers direct health care costs and lowers indirect costs associated with illness and premature death¹.

The Anne Arundel County Department of Health is committed to reducing health disparities so that everyone in the county can live their healthiest life.

Compiled in 2019 by:
Kathleen Elliott, MPH
Office of Assessment and Planning
3 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401
Phone: 410-222-0983

Demographics, 2017²

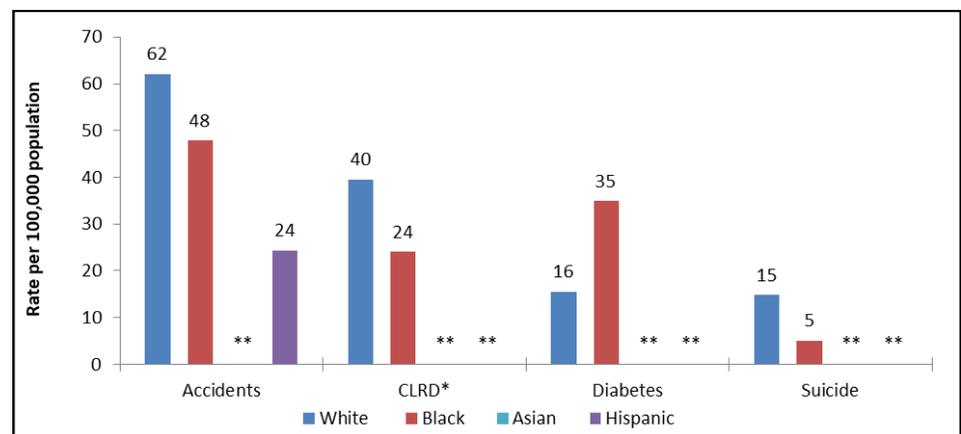
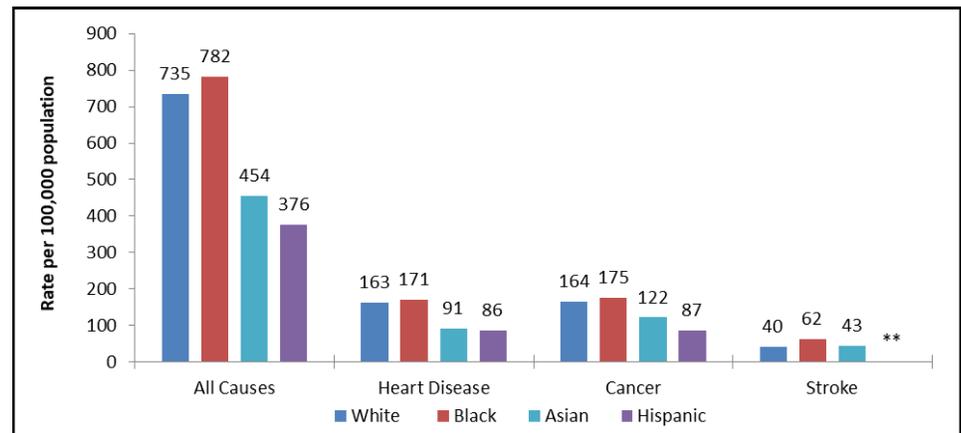
Total Population	573,235
White	390,946 (68.2%)
Black	93,437 (16.3%)
Asian	21,210 (3.7%)
Hispanic (any race)	45,286 (7.9%)

Median Age (in years)²:

White	42.4
Black	34.8
Asian	38.2
Hispanic (any race)	26.8

In Anne Arundel County, Black residents continue to have a higher age-adjusted mortality rate compared to White, Asian and Hispanic residents. Mortality rates for heart disease, cancer, stroke and diabetes are higher in Black residents compared to White, Asian and Hispanic residents. White residents have higher mortality rate of accidents, chronic lower respiratory disease, and suicide compared to Black, Asian and Hispanic residents.²

Age-Adjusted Mortality Rate by Race/Ethnicity, Anne Arundel County, 2013-2017²

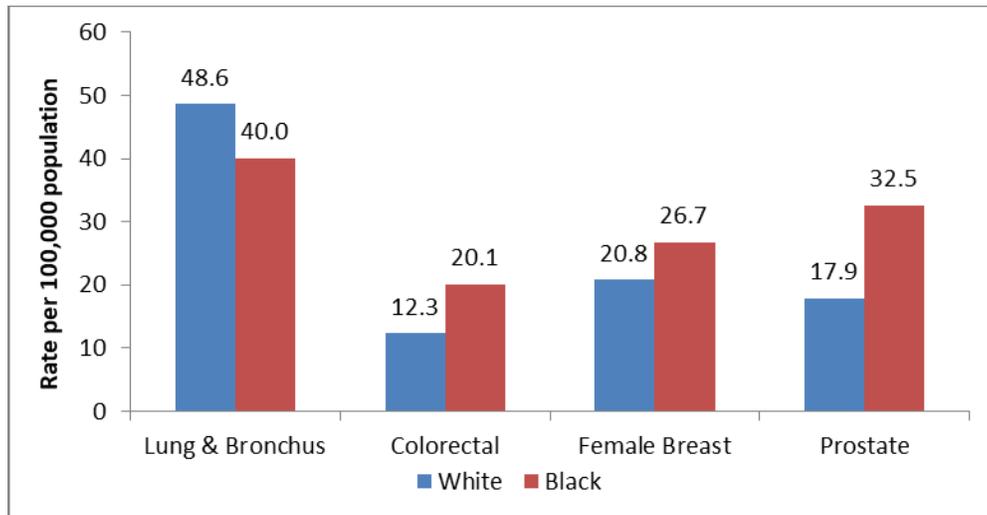


*CLRP– Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease, includes diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma

**Suppressed because there are too few deaths in this category to calculate a stable rate.

Mortality rates of colorectal cancer, female breast cancer and prostate cancer are higher in Black Anne Arundel County residents compared to White residents. White residents have a higher mortality rate of lung and bronchus cancer compared to Black residents.⁴

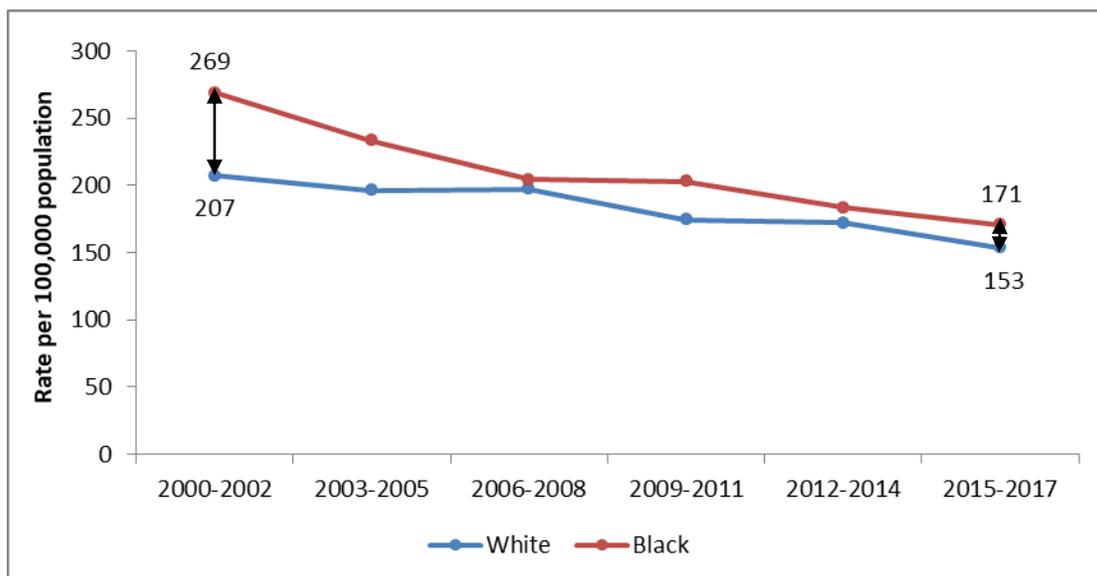
Age-Adjusted Cancer Mortality Rate by Race Anne Arundel County, 2011-2015⁴



Note: White and Black include Hispanics. Ethnicity is not captured in this data. Data on other races was suppressed due to fewer than 20 deaths in each category.

The disparity in cancer mortality between White and Black residents has decreased; from 2000 to 2017, there was 71 percent reduction in the cancer mortality disparity between White and Black residents. Although cancer deaths have declined for both White and Black residents in the Anne Arundel County, Black residents still have higher cancer mortality rates compared to White residents.

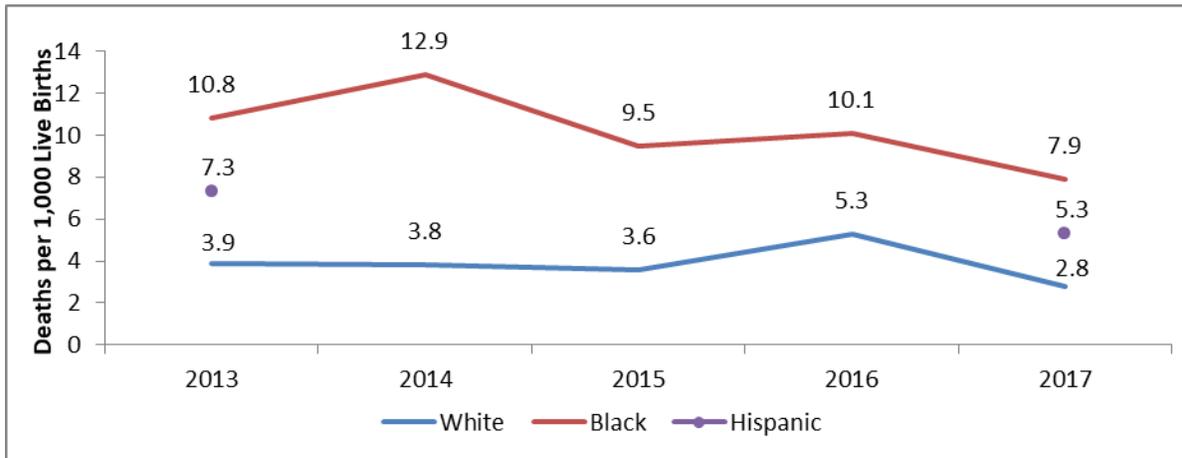
Age-Adjusted Cancer Mortality Rate by Race Anne Arundel County, 2000-2017²



Note: White and Black include Hispanic; other races were suppressed due to fewer than 20 deaths.

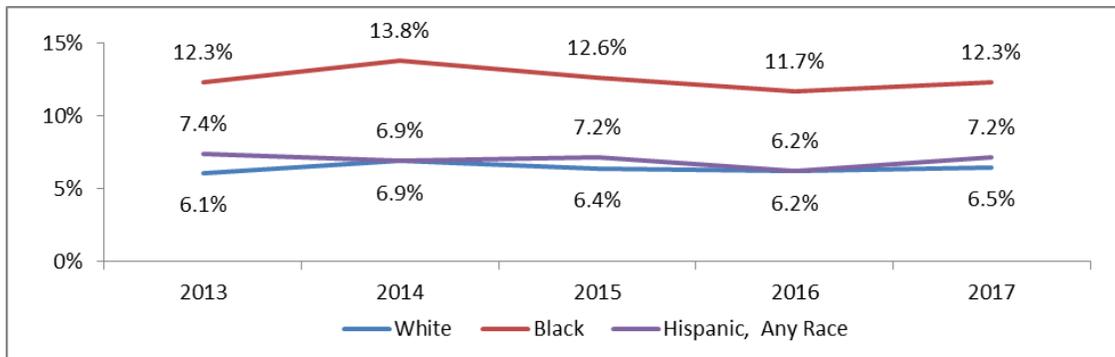
In Anne Arundel County, there were 4,242 births in 2017. The infant mortality rate in White infants is much lower than that of both Hispanic and Black infants. Low birth weight and lack of first term prenatal care can increase an infant’s risk of death in the first days of life and lead to other health problems later in life. Black women were much more likely to have low birth weight infants and late or no prenatal care than White and Hispanic women.⁴

Infant Mortality by Race/Ethnicity, Anne Arundel County, 2013-2017⁴

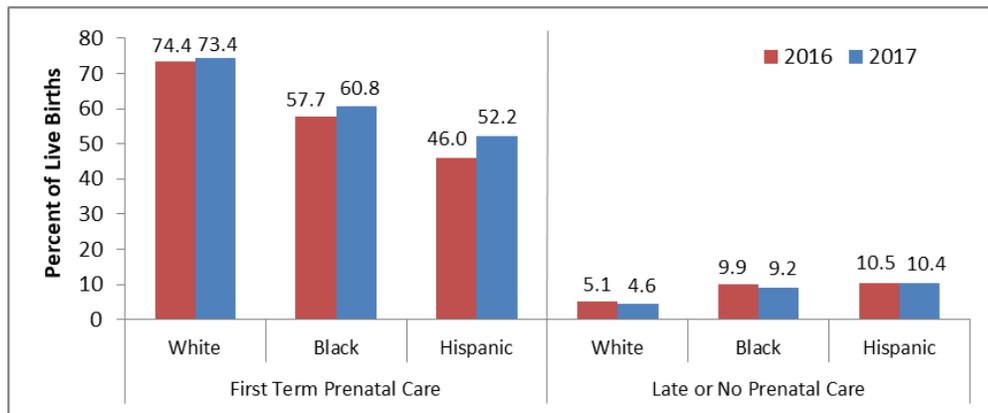


Data for Hispanic infants was suppressed for the years of 2014–2016 due to fewer than 5 deaths.

Percent of Low Birth Weight Infants by Race/Ethnicity, Anne Arundel County, 2013-2017⁴

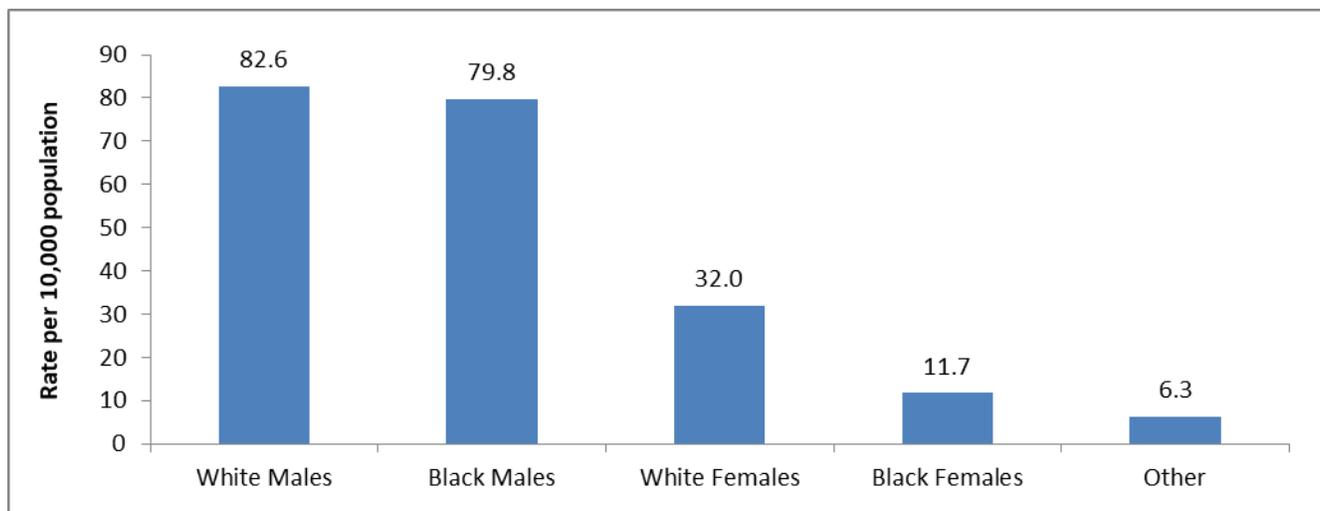


Prenatal Care Initiation by Race/Ethnicity, Anne Arundel County, 2013-2017⁴



Opioid overdoses skyrocketed in Anne Arundel County between 2017 and 2018, and there were over 2,000 overdoses in this time period. Both White and Black males in Anne Arundel County suffer disproportionately from opioid-overdoses compared to women and other races.⁶

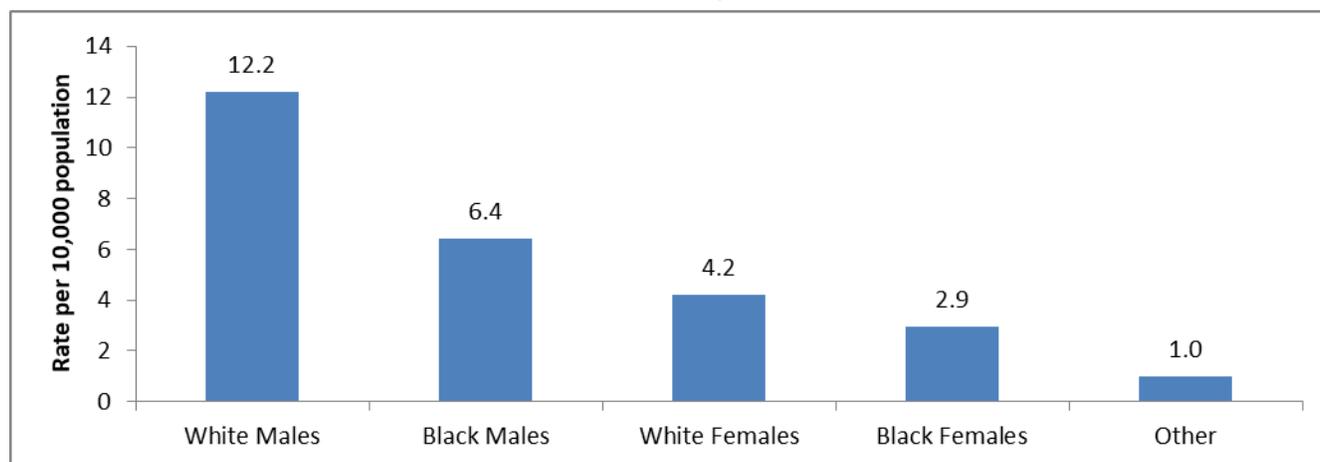
All Opioid-Involved Overdose Rates by Race and Sex, Anne Arundel County, 2017-2018⁶



Note: Ethnicity is not captured in this data, and Hispanic residents may be in any of the above categories. Other race includes both men and women as there were too few overdoses to be reported by sex.

Between 2017 and 2018, there were 321 opioid-involved overdose deaths. White males had a much higher rate of overdose death than all other categories of race and sex.

Fatal Opioid-Involved Overdose Rates by Race and Sex, Anne Arundel County, 2017-2018⁶



Note: Ethnicity is not captured in this data, and Hispanic residents may be in any of the above categories. Other race includes both men and women as there were too few overdoses to be reported by sex.

Data Sources:

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/su6203a2.htm>

²Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau

³CDC Wonder Online Database

⁴Maryland Department of Health, 2018 Cancer Report

⁵Maryland Department of Health, Vital Statistics Administration, 2013-2017 Annual Reports

⁶Anne Arundel County Police Department Sharepoint Line List, 2017-2018