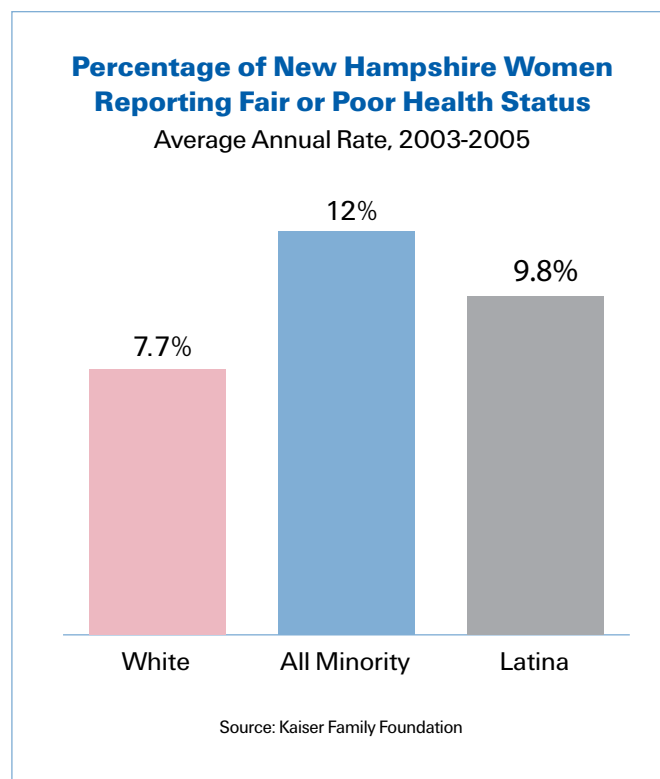


Health Care Discrimination Harms Communities of Color in New Hampshire

Rapidly escalating medical costs and insurance premiums, rising numbers of people without coverage, and rip-offs by monopolistic private insurers have dominated the New Hampshire political dialogue surrounding President Barack Obama's plans for comprehensive health reform. On Capitol Hill, the American public is witnessing an historic clash of Washington special interest groups fighting to protect their revenue streams. Yet no one has more at stake than the 103 million people of color in the U.S.,¹ including the 87,000 in New Hampshire.² Throughout the nation's history, communities of color have been forced to accept health care that bears little resemblance to what is experienced by members of more advantaged

groups. For people of color in New Hampshire and nationwide, life is shorter, chronic illness more prevalent and disability more common. These are predictable side-effects of a health care system that provides these communities in New Hampshire with narrower opportunities for regular health services, fewer treatment options and lower-quality care.

Life expectancy for African Americans in New Hampshire is 6 to 10 years shorter than for whites.³ About 32 percent of Latinos and 20 percent of other non-whites in New Hampshire are uninsured, compared with 12 percent of whites.⁴



New Hampshire Disparities

- In New Hampshire, about 9.2 percent of Latino adults have been diagnosed with diabetes, a rate 18 percent higher than whites.⁵
- Among adult Latinos in New Hampshire, 12 percent have asthma, a rate 20 percent higher than whites.⁶
- In New Hampshire, 34 percent of Latina women received no early prenatal care, compared with 35 percent for African Americans and 18 percent for whites.⁷
- Despite growing evidence of racial disparities in health status and medical services, no system exists in New Hampshire for collecting comprehensive state and local data on disparities. As a result, many questions about the health of people of color in New Hampshire remain unanswered. For example, it is not known how many African Americans or Latinos (compared to whites) have forgone care because they can't afford it.
- The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that 6.5 percent of New Hampshire's labor force is unemployed.⁸
- In New Hampshire, 143,754 people were uninsured in 2007.⁹
- About 32 percent of Latinos are uninsured, almost three times the rate for white people.¹⁰
- Health insurance premiums for New Hampshire working families have skyrocketed, increasing 79 percent from 2000 to 2007.¹¹
- The full cost of employer-sponsored health insurance in New Hampshire is projected to grow at an annual rate of 8.3 percent, compared to a 2.3 percent increase in income.¹²
- About 90,000 working non-elderly adults in New Hampshire lack health insurance. That comprises 74 percent of the total non-elderly uninsured population.¹³

New Hampshire Racial and Ethnic Disparities by Health Indicator

Health Indicator	White	African American	Latino	Other
Annual AIDS Case Rate (per 100,000 population)	3.2	102.5	28.7	-
Living in Poverty	7.8%	-	26%	-
Uninsured	12%	-	32%	20%

Note: - denotes insufficient data in state.

Source: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. "Key Health Indicators by Race/Ethnicity and State," 2009 update.

Endnotes

¹ US Census Bureau, "USA QuickFacts," 2008. Accessed at <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/00000.html>.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Kaiser Family Foundation, "Key Health Indicators by Race/Ethnicity and State," 2009 update.

⁵ Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Public Health and Science, Office of Women's Health. Quick Health Data Online, 2008.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Cara James, et al., "Putting Women's Health Care Disparities on the Map: Examining Racial and Ethnic Disparities at the State Level," Kaiser Family Foundation, June 2009. Accessed at <http://www.kff.org/minorityhealth/upload/7886.pdf>.

⁸ Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Local Area Unemployment Statistics." Accessed at <http://www.bls.gov/web/lauhsthl.htm>.

⁹ Kaiser Family Foundation, "Health Insurance Coverage of the Total Population, states (2006-2007), U.S. (2007)." Accessed at <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparebar.jsp?ind=125&cat=3>.

¹⁰ Kaiser Family Foundation, "Key Health Indicators by Race/Ethnicity and State," 2009 update.

¹¹ Families USA, "Premiums versus Paychecks," September 2008. Accessed at <http://www.familiesusa.org/resources/publications/reports/premiums-vs-paychecks-2008.html>.

¹² New America Foundation, "The State of State Health: The Cost of Failure (2007)" Accessed at <http://statehealth.newamerica.net/>.

¹³ Peter Harbage, Ben Furnas, "Health Care in Crisis," Center for American Progress, May 4, 2009. Accessed at http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/05/working_uninsured_map.html.