

# HEALTH INDICATORS FOR WOMEN IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

## Highlighting Disparities by Ethnicity and Poverty Level

### SELECTED DATA POINTS

#### Healthcare Coverage and Access

- The percent of uninsured women decreased from 26% in 2011 to 10% in 2015. Latinas experienced the largest decrease, but still account for the highest percent of uninsured women (14%).
- The percent of women with Medi-Cal increased from 20% in 2011 to 36% in 2015, accounting for the majority of newly insured.
- Over one-fifth (22%) of Asian women report having no regular source of care, followed by Latinas (18%), black women (15%), and white women (10%).

#### Poverty, Education and Economic Well-Being

- Over half of women in LA County (53%) are living in poverty (< 200% of the Federal Poverty Level).
- Low-income women have higher prevalence of obesity and diabetes than women living at higher incomes.
- Poverty is linked to higher food insecurity, living in unsafe neighborhoods and homelessness.
- One in four women (25%) in LA County have less than a high school education.
- Latinas and American Indian/Alaskan Native women have the highest poverty rates and lowest education levels compared to women from other race/ethnic groups.
- The gender wage gap (ratio of women's to white men's median earnings) is 80% for white women, but for Latinas and black women is 38% and 58%, respectively.
- Women with less than a college degree have a higher prevalence of obesity and diabetes than women who have a college or postgraduate degree.
- Black women have the highest unemployment rate (14% compared to 9% overall among women).

- Among single women with children, black women have the highest poverty rate (61% compared to 38% overall among women).

#### Trauma, Stress, Discrimination & Homelessness

- The number of homeless women in LA County increased by 55%, from 9,348 in 2013 to 14,461 in 2016.
- The highest proportion of homeless women are black women (40%), followed by Latinas (29%) and white women (23%).
- 70% of families that rent and are headed by a single woman spend 30% or more of their income on rent.
- Among unsheltered homeless women, 37% report having a mental illness, 35% report experiencing domestic violence, and 26% report having a substance use disorder.
- More than 60% of mothers with a recent live birth report experiencing a stressful event during their last pregnancy.
- Over half (54%) of black mothers with a recent live birth report experiencing at least one incident of discrimination over her lifetime, compared to 38% of Latino, 35% of white, and 32% of Asian mothers.

#### Health Disparities by Race/Ethnicity

- 43% of black women in LA County are at-risk for heart disease compared to 28% of women overall.
- Black women and Latinas have higher rates of obesity (36% and 32%, respectively) compared to 24% of women overall.

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## SELECTED DATA POINTS

### Health Disparities by Race/Ethnicity (cont'd)

- Black women have the highest incidence of cervical, colorectal, and lung cancers and white women have the highest incidence of invasive breast cancer and skin cancer.
- American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) women have the highest rates of obesity or overweight, high blood pressure, deaths from coronary heart disease, and deaths from diabetes.
- AI/AN women in LA County are more likely to rate their health as fair or poor, smoke cigarettes, seriously think about committing suicide, and experience intimate partner violence than other women.
- Coronary heart disease mortality, the leading cause of death for LA County women, continued to decline from an age-adjusted mortality rate of 101 per 100,000 population in 2009 to 89 per 100,000 in 2013.
- AI/AN and black women have coronary heart disease mortality rates that are approximately 50%-60% higher than the rate for women overall.
- Cancer related mortality continues to decline, but black women have the highest cancer-related mortality rate at 164 deaths per 100,000 population compared to 124 per 100,000 for women in general.
- Alzheimer's disease, the 3rd leading cause of death for women, accounts for 11% of deaths among women.
- Unintentional drug overdose is now the 4th leading cause of premature death among women in Los Angeles County, after coronary heart disease, breast cancer, and lung cancer. ♦

