Health Equity & Digital Divide in Kentucky

In Kentucky, health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities and rural populations are prevalent, resulting in significant health and financial costs to the state. This document provides a snapshot of the state of health and health disparities in Kentucky, highlighting the challenges and opportunities for advancing health equity.

POPULATION: About 4.5 Million

KENTUCKY BY THE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

41% live in a rural area

Kentucky Health Disparities

DIABETES BY POPULATION

- General Population: 13.7%
- Black: 14.6%
- White: 13.9%

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE BY POPULATION

- Per 100K Live Births:
  - White: 3
  - Black: 20

HYPERTENSION

39% of all adults have hypertension
Social Determinants of Health in Kentucky

- 16% Living in poverty
- 6% Living without health insurance
  - 7% Black/African Americans Living Without Health Insurance
- 102 Medically Underserved Areas
- 93 Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas
- 7% Zero car households

The Digital Divide

Digital health tools provide primary care clinicians with opportunities to address the social determinants of health. However, many Kentuckians lack access to internet and needed technology at home.

- Households without access to the internet: 20%
- Households without access to broadband: 24%
- Households without any type of computer: 16%
- Households that access the internet only through a smartphone: 7%

1 United Health Foundation, America's Health Rankings (Diabetes prevalence, 2019). Available at: https://www.americashealthrankings.org/.
2 United Health Foundation, America's Health Rankings (Maternal mortality, 2019). Available at: https://www.americashealthrankings.org/.
3 United Health Foundation, America's Health Rankings (High blood pressure, 2019). Available at: https://www.americashealthrankings.org/.