Health Equity & Digital Divide in Tennessee

In Tennessee, 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 Tennessee, highlighting the challenges and opportunities for advancing health equity.

POPULATION: About 7 Million

2% Asian | 17% Black | 3% Other | 78% White

TENNESSEE BY THE NUMBERS:
- Ethnicity: 6% Hispanic
- 22% live in a rural area

Tennessee Health Disparities

DIABETES BY POPULATION

General Population
- 13.8%

Black
- 14.4%

White
- 14%

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE BY POPULATION

Per 100K Live Births
- White
- Black
- Hispanic

HYPERTENSION

39% of all adults have hypertension

National Average
10.9%
Social Determinants of Health in Tennessee

12% Living in poverty

10% Living without health insurance
12% Black/African Americans Living Without Health Insurance

113,000 Living Within the Medicaid Coverage Gap

100 Medically Underserved Areas

88 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 Tennesseans lack access to internet and needed technology at home.

Households without access to the internet 20%

Households without access to broadband 25%

Households without any type of computer 15%

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/.