



BLACK CHILD HEALTH FACT SHEET

There were more than 4.1 million births in the United States in 2005, of which over 600,000, or about one in seven, were to Black mothers.

- ◆ A Black baby is born uninsured every five minutes. One out of every eight babies born uninsured is Black.
- ◆ One out of seven Black children is uninsured. Eighteen percent of the uninsured children are Black.
- ◆ Black children are almost twice as likely to be uninsured as White children.
- ◆ More than three-quarters of uninsured Black children have a working parent, and more than half have a parent who works full-time throughout the year.
- ◆ Black infants are more than twice as likely as White infants to die before their first birthday.
- ◆ Babies born to Black mothers are almost twice as likely as those born to White mothers to be low birthweight.
- ◆ Babies born to Black mothers are 57 percent more likely than those born to White mothers to be preterm.
- ◆ Less than half of Black children are in excellent health. Black children are twice as likely to be in only poor or fair health as White children
- ◆ One out of eight black children has asthma as compared to one out of twelve White children.
- ◆ More than one out of four black children ages 2 through 19 has untreated tooth decay.
- ◆ Black teenagers are more than twice as likely as White teenagers to have gone more than two years without a dental visit, are 41% less likely to have dental sealants on their permanent teeth, and are 59% more likely to have untreated tooth decay.
- ◆ One in three Black children is poor. The number of poor Black children increased by about 196,000 in the past six years to reach 3.8 million.
- ◆ Three out of seven Black babies are born into poverty and more than half of all poor Black children live in extreme poverty.
- ◆ Out of the 5.5 million children living in extreme poverty in America, 1.8 million are Black.

Last Updated: April 2008

SOURCES:

Births:
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics Report, Vol 55(1) (September 29, 2006), Table 32.

Infant deaths:

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Health E-Stats, "Deaths: Final Data for 2005," Table 1, at http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/hestats/finaldeaths04/finaldeaths05_tables.pdf

Health status and access (and one dental fact):

Bloom B, Cohen RA *Summary Health statistics for U.S. Children: National Health Interview survey, 2006*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 10(234), 2007.

Dental health status and access:

Dye BA, Tan S, Smith V et al. *Trends in oral health status: United States, 1988-1994 and 1999-2004*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 11(248), 2007.

Health insurance:

U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Annual and Social Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.

Poverty:

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, 2006 Annual Social and Economic Supplement, Detailed 2006 Poverty Tables, POV01, "Age and Sex of All People, Family Members and Unrelated Individuals Iterated by Income-to-Poverty Ratio and Race," at http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032007/pov/new01_000.htm and POV34, "Single Year of Age-Poverty Status," at http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032007/pov/new34_000.htm
Accessed April 2008. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

NOTES:

Poverty facts: The 2006 U.S. Census poverty threshold for a four-person family with two children is \$20,444. A family is considered extremely poor if their family income is below half of the poverty threshold which is \$10,222.

Uninsured: The statement on the working status of parents of uninsured Black children refers to uninsured Black children with at least one parent in the household.

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