



ACHIEVING HEALTH EQUITY

The “Helping Everyone Achieve a LifeTime of Health” (HEALTH) Research Institute is an interdisciplinary, university-wide research institute at the University of Houston (UH) whose mission is to address and eliminate a broad range of health disparities through cutting-edge prevention and intervention research. Health disparities are differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of disease seen between specific population groups that systematically confer disadvantage in the attainment of full health potential. The following are examples of health disparities in the United States:

Community Advisory Board (CAB) Affiliations

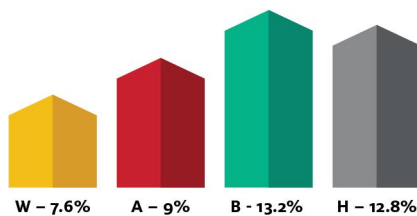
- African American Health Coalition
- Asian American Health Coalition
- Hispanic Health Coalition
- Houston Health Department
- The Rose - Breast Health Care Organization
- YMCA of Greater Houston
- American Diabetes Association
- Veritex Community Bank
- Harris Health System

Health insurance coverage: Percent uninsured



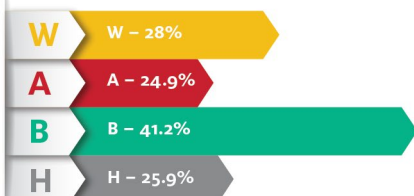
Source: 2015 US Census, <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2016/leto/p60-352.html>

Diabetes: Rates of diagnosis



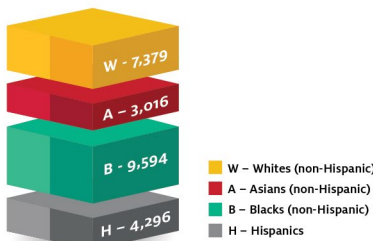
Source: <http://www.diabetes.org/diabetes-basics/statistics/>

Hypertension: Prevalence



Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db220.htm>

Years of potential life lost: All causes



Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/2013/021.pdf>


These and other systematic differences arise as a result of unfair, unjust, and unnecessary societal inequities. Thus, members of the HEALTH Research Institute are committed to collaborating with our community partners to design innovative research studies that provide novel multi-domain (e.g., biological, behavioral, built environment, sociocultural environment, & healthcare system) and multilevel (e.g., individual, interpersonal, community, societal) solutions to creating health equity for all.





HEALTH Research Institute

Helping Everyone Achieve a LifeTime of Health

OUR VALUES

 **Innovation** – Pursuit of innovative and rigorous scientific inquiry that generates new knowledge which leads to a sustainable impact on mitigating – and ultimately eliminating – health disparities.

 **Empowerment** - Capacity to partner with stakeholders to derive a shared vision that empowers community-embedded change agents who are equipped to improve their quality and length of life.

 **Solutions** - Working with our community to discover and promote sustainable solutions to real-world health challenges.

DRIVEN BY COMMUNITY EXPERTISE

The HEALTH Research Institute builds strong partnerships with community stakeholders in Houston and beyond to inform research, intervention and dissemination strategies, and includes an active Community Advisory Board with partners representing a diverse range of interests, experience, and expertise.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY LEADERSHIP

Our leadership team includes a Director (Dr. Obasi), Co-Director (Dr. Reitzel), and an Executive Board comprised of UH faculty and community representatives. Moreover, members of the HEALTH Research Institute currently span Biomedical Engineering; Graduate College of Social Work; College of Medicine; The Law Center; Health and Human Performance; Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences; and the Psychology Department.



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Representative Funding Sources Supporting Research in the HEALTH Research Institute



UNITED HEALTH FOUNDATION*