

Kidney Health Disparities

African American, Hispanic, American Indian and Alaska Native adults are twice as likely as white adults to have diabetes, which is the leading cause of chronic kidney disease (CKD).

- Compared to non-Hispanic white adults, the risk of diagnosed diabetes is 18% higher among Asian Americans, 66% higher among Hispanics, and 77% higher African American adults.
- High blood pressure, obesity, and a family history of kidney disease are also major risk factors for CKD and disproportionately affect minority communities.
- Diabetes increases the risks of kidney disease. African Americans with diabetes are 3 to 6 times more likely to suffer from kidney disease.
- The incidence of reported ESRD in people with diabetes is more than 3.8 times greater in African Americans, 3.3 times greater for Native Americans and 1.5 times greater in Hispanic Americans than in the general diabetes population.

CKD and its progression to kidney failure (also known as End Stage Renal Disease, or ESRD) disproportionately affect minority communities.

- African American adults are 3.7 times more likely to have kidney failure.
- Hispanic Americans adults are 1.5 times more likely and Native Americans are 1.4 times more likely to develop kidney failure when compared with white adults.
- Asian Americans adults are also at an increased risk for kidney failure.

Many people already know they have diabetes or high blood pressure but are not aware they may also have kidney disease.

- For instance, the prevalence of CKD in Jackson, Mississippi was 20% but only 15.8% of the community knew about CKD.
- Access to education and treatment is crucial to minority communities. When kidney disease is diagnosed early, kidney failure and its serious complications can be prevented or delayed.
- Improving education and treatment options can substantially improve health care outcomes while reducing health care costs.

When kidney failure happens, dialysis and kidney transplantation are the only options.

- Patients in kidney failure can only live if they undergo regular dialysis treatments or obtain a kidney transplant.
- More than 97,000 patients are on the waiting list for kidney transplants, with African-Americans alone comprising 33% of those patients.
- African Americans are also less likely to receive an organ from a living donor. In 2016, 5,629 living donor transplants were performed, with only 678 on African-American patients.
- African Americans are 11 times more likely to receive a transplant if they have private insurance coverage.
- According to the Organ Procurement and Transplant Network, in 2016 only 27% of kidney transplants were to African American recipients.