

Health Care Resources

The context note below has been adapted from the Reuters article, [“The Race Gap: How U.S. Systemic Racism Plays Out in Black Lives”](#)

Black adults are more than 1.5 times less likely to have health insurance than white adults. Health insurance allows people to access expensive medical care at reduced rates and is typically provided by a person’s employer if they qualify for “benefits”.

Health insurance, a solid indicator of healthcare access, had eluded Black adults more than white adults for a multitude of reasons. The gap in coverage between white and Black adults had been almost cut in half after the 2010 passage of the Affordable Care Act, from 9.9 percentage points to 5.5 in 2016. But progress has since stalled. The remaining gap may be a factor of lower incomes or the types of jobs Black people are more likely to hold. But the disparity in coverage means Black people are more likely to avoid accessing medical care due to the high costs of medicine and medical care.

Additionally, research has shown that racial and ethnic disparities also extend to the standard and quality of medical care patients receive, with people of color (particularly women of color) reporting issues and practices from their health care providers that are resulting in higher rates of negative health outcomes.

ARTICLE: [Scheinman, Ted. “The Historical Roots of Racial Disparities in American Health Care.” *The Smithsonian Magazine* \(April 2022\).](#)

ARTICLE: [Frakt, Austin. “Bad Medicine: The Harm That Comes from Racism.” *The New York Times* \(13 January 2020\).](#)

ARTICLE: [Huzar, Timothy. “Medical Mistrust Linked to Race/Ethnicity and Discrimination.” *Medical News Today* \(15 January 2021\).](#)

VIDEO: [“Racial Disparities in Healthcare are Pervasive.” *Healthcare Triage* \(8 April 2019\).](#)

ARTICLE & DATA: [Schumaker, Erin. “The Quality of Health Care You Receive Likely Depends on Your Skin Color.” *Huffington Post* \(29 June 2015\).](#)