2010 Baltimore City Health Disparities Report Card
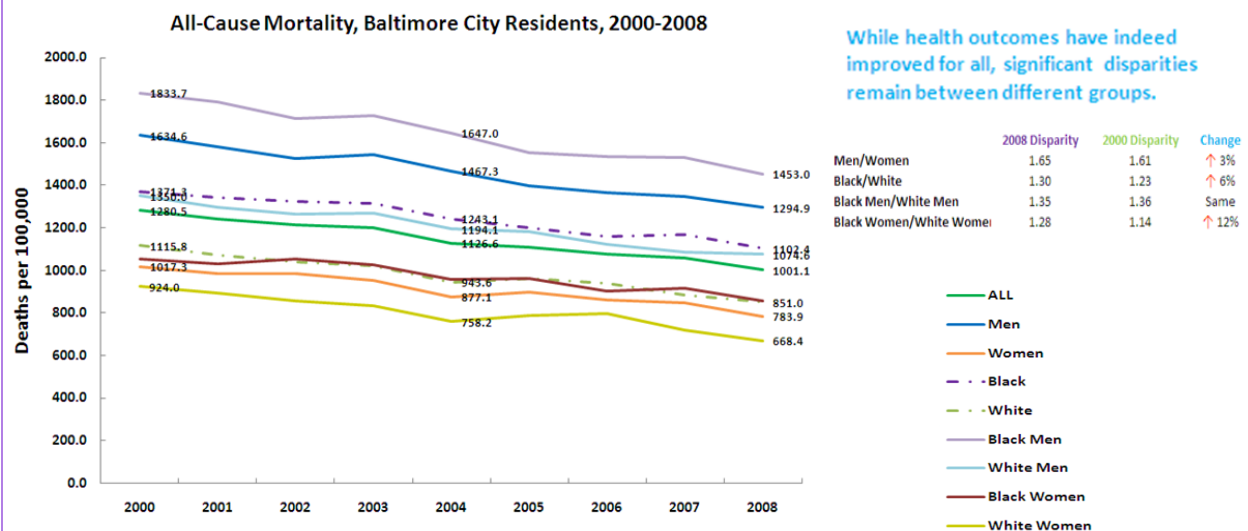
Baltimore City Health Department, Office of Epidemiology and Planning, May 2010

Overview

Much like the rest of the country, many of the major health outcomes in Baltimore have improved gradually over the last decade. Indeed, all-cause mortality has declined 22% from where it was in 2000. This is true not only for the City overall, but also for different demographic groups within the City. For men, mortality has fallen 21%, and for women it has fallen 23%. For Blacks, mortality has declined 20%, while White mortality has dropped 24%. Mortality from causes like stroke, heart disease, and diabetes has also declined substantially since 2000.

However, while health outcomes have indeed improved for all, significant disparities remain between different groups. Perhaps most troubling is that many disparities have not only gone without improvement, but some have actually gotten worse. Moreover, Baltimore City still fares worse than the rest of the state of Maryland on almost every major health indicator, including heart disease, infant mortality, and asthma. Direct and deliberate action is needed to improve Baltimore's standing within the state in regards to health—and the disparities between Baltimore and Maryland will only improve if disparities between groups within the City are improved.

All-Cause Mortality, Baltimore City Residents, 2000-2008

While health outcomes have indeed improved for all, significant disparities remain between different groups.

	2008 Disparity	2000 Disparity	Change
Men/Women	1.65	1.61	↑ 3%
Black/White	1.30	1.23	↑ 6%
Black Men/White Men	1.35	1.36	Same
Black Women/White Women	1.28	1.14	↑ 12%

This report is the first comprehensive examination of health disparities in Baltimore, covering 30 health indicators. It is intended not only to serve as a one-stop shop for assessing major health indicators by important demographic and socioeconomic stratifiers, but also to offer guidance in planning strategic policy, systems, and behavioral interventions aimed at eliminating health disparities in the City. This report, and successive versions, will help to monitor disparities and direct attention and resources to where they are needed most.

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Background

Health disparities are commonly defined as differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of diseases and other adverse health conditions that exist among specific population groups. For example, differences in health measures between racial/ethnic groups, between men and women, between people with different levels of income or education, between different age groups, or between neighborhoods would all be considered health disparities.

Health disparities are a serious concern at the national, state, and local levels. Baltimore has consistently fared worse than the rest of Maryland and the rest of the country on many health indicators, including heart disease, stroke, cancer, infant mortality, and asthma, to name a few. Health disparities such as those in Baltimore are called health inequities when they are the result of unfair and systematic social, political, economic, and environmental policies and practices. **Health inequities** are thus the subset of health disparities that are unjust and avoidable—they can be prevented and eliminated with appropriate action.

These disparities are driven largely by differences in residents' access to resources and opportunities that promote and enhance health. These health promoting and enhancing resources and opportunities are called **social determinants of health (SDoH)**, and include factors like access to healthy food, healthy housing, healthcare, safe neighborhoods, education and employment opportunities, and transportation—all of which are influenced by policy decisions. Generally speaking, those of higher education and income have greater access to and control over these health determinants, thus enabling them to live longer and healthier lives. Indeed, some of the largest disparities revealed in this report are between those of differing education or income levels.

In essence, SDoH are the conditions in which we live, learn, work, and play. The World Health Organization and other leading public health authorities have unequivocally stated that the SDoH are mostly responsible for inequities in health.* As such, eliminating health disparities in Baltimore cannot happen without deliberate and sustained action on the social determinants of health.

Notes

This report is the first of what will be an iterative process to monitor health status and disparities in Baltimore. While the report is intended to be comprehensive, it is by no means exhaustive, and there are certainly other significant health indicators that can and will potentially be included in future reports.

Due to current data limitations, disparities affecting Latino, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native American/Alaskan Native residents were not analyzed and reported here. However, this should not be taken as indication that there are no such disparities. As data becomes available, further analyses and indicators will be included.

It should also be noted that disparities also persist by geography (e.g. neighborhood) and other factors such as language proficiency, immigration/citizenship status, occupation type, sexual orientation, literacy levels, and disability status. While these disparities are not examined here, such disparities remain important.

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*For more on social determinants of health and health equity, see: *Closing the Gap in a Generation: Health Equity Through action on the Social Determinats of Health*, WHO (2008); *Promoting Health Equity: A Resource to Help Communities Address Social Determinants of Health*, CDC (2008); *Restructuring Government to Address Social Determinants of Health*, Prevention Institute (2008); *Tackling Health Inequities Through Public Health Practice: An Action Handbook*, NACCHO (2006); *Guidelines for Achieving Equity in Public Health Practice*, NACCHO (2009)

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Methods

Disparity ratios were based on a single year of data. The 95% confidence intervals for the disparity ratios were estimated to help account for the effects of random variation, which could affect the comparison of rates based on small numbers. Grades for the disparity ratios were assigned according to these confidence intervals.

Disparity Ratios:

Disparity ratios were obtained by dividing the rate of the group in question by the rate for the reference group. Unless otherwise noted, disparity ratios for each indicator were calculated as follows:

Locality: Baltimore City rate/Maryland rate
Race: Black rate/White rate
Gender: Men's rate/Women's rate
Education: High School or Less rate/Bachelor's or More rate, or Less than Bachelor's rate/Bachelor's or More rate
Income: <$15,000 rate/$75,000+ rate.

Grading:

A: No significant disparity
B: Significant disparity and disparity ratio 95%CI lower limit <1.10
C: Significant disparity and disparity ratio 95%CI lower limit 1.10-1.25
D: Significant disparity and disparity ratio 95%CI lower limit 1.25-1.5
F: Significant disparity and disparity ratio 95%CI lower limit >1.5

The grading scale used in this report was created by the Office of Epidemiology and Planning as an internal system to evaluate progress as the city works to address health disparities. These grades are not meant to be compared to places outside Baltimore City.

The Report Card

The Health Disparities Report Card is an aggregate of report cards for individual health indicators examined under each of four major sections: Mortality and Infant Health (13 indicators), Health Status (7 indicators), Health Care (3 indicators), and Healthy Homes and Communities (6 indicators). Each Mortality and Infant Health report card contains 6 columns: the demographic group, the 2008 rate/percent for each demographic group, the 2008 disparity ratio for comparison groups, the 2000 disparity ratio for the same comparison groups, the per-cent change in the disparity ratio from 2000 to 2008, and a letter grade. The grade is based solely on the 2008 disparity ratio. The 2000 disparity ratio and the percent change are shown only to provide context and a cursory understanding of where Baltimore stands relative to 2000.

The remaining individual health indicator report cards in the Health Status, Healthcare, and Healthy Homes and Communities sections are based on data from the 2009 Baltimore Community Health Survey and are similar to the Mortality and Infant Health report cards, with a few key differences based on the availability of data.

The final overall grade for the 2010 Health Disparities Report Card was calculated like a typical grade point average, factoring in every grade assigned in the individual report cards (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0). The final grade is not weighted in any way.

2010 Baltimore City Health Disparities Report Card

Mortality and Infant Health

-2008 mortality rates are age-adjusted and reported as deaths per 100,000-

All-Cause Mortality

Demographic Group	2008 Rate	2008 Disparity Ratio	2000 Disparity Ratio	Disparity Change from 2000	Grade
Baltimore City	1001.1	1.35	N/A	N/A	D
Maryland (w/o Baltimore)	743.8				
Black	1102.4	1.30	1.23	5.3%	C
White	851.0				
Men	1294.9	1.65	1.61	2.6%	F
Women	783.9				
Black Men	1453.0	1.35	1.36	-0.6%	D
White Men	1074.6				
Black Women	858.7	1.28	1.14	12.7%	C
White Women	668.4				
HS Education or Less	1950.7	2.65	2.19	21.1%	F
Some College or Associates Degree	721.2				
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	735.5				

Heart Disease

Demographic Group	2008 Rate	2008 Disparity Ratio	2000 Disparity Ratio	Disparity Change from 2000	Grade
Baltimore City	256.3	1.35	N/A	N/A	D
Maryland (w/o Baltimore)	189.8				
Black	272.2	1.15	1.05	9.1%	B
White	237.5				
Men	338.9	1.73	1.59	8.6%	F
Women	196.3				
Black Men	367.7	1.20	1.06	13.4%	B
White Men	306.0				
Black Women	209.0	1.17	1.07	9.4%	B
White Women	178.5				
HS Education or Less	524.3	3.31	2.18	51.9%	F
Some College or Associates Degree	183.5				
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	158.3				

All Cancer

Demographic Group	2008 Rate	2008 Disparity Ratio	2000 Disparity Ratio	Disparity Change from 2000	Grade
Baltimore City	216.3	1.23	N/A	N/A	C
Maryland (w/o Baltimore)	176.2				
Black	237.1	1.24	1.12	11.0%	C
White	190.8				
Men	283.4	1.63	1.64	-0.6%	D
Women	173.9				
Black Men	315.8	1.28	1.26	1.3%	B
White Men	247.4				
Black Women	191.2	1.27	1.03	23.4%	B
White Women	150.5				
HS Education or Less	420.7	2.24	1.52	47.3%	F
Some College or Associates Degree	174.8				
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	187.9				

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Lung Cancer

Demographic Group	2008 Rate	2008 Disparity Ratio	2000 Disparity Ratio	Disparity Change from 2000	Grade
Baltimore City	60.3	1.24	N/A	N/A	C
Maryland (w/o Baltimore)	48.8				
Black	62.7	1.08	0.92	17.7%	A
White	57.9				
Men	85.1	1.94	2.06	-5.9%	F
Women	43.9				
Black Men	90.7	1.15	1.01	13.5%	A
White Men	79.1				
Black Women	45.5	1.08	0.86	25.2%	A
White Women	42.2				
HS Education or Less	119.5				
Some College or Associates Degree	48.0	2.53	1.83	38.4%	F
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	47.2				

Colon Cancer

Demographic Group	2008 Rate	2008 Disparity Ratio	2000 Disparity Ratio	Disparity Change from 2000	Grade
Baltimore City	20.5	1.26	N/A	N/A	B
Maryland (w/o Baltimore)	16.3				
Black	23.9	1.48	1.33	11.1%	B
White	16.2				
Men	25.5	1.47	1.24	18.5%	B
Women	17.3				
Black Men	31.7	1.77	1.26	40.8%	B
White Men	17.9				
Black Women	19.4	1.34	1.49	-9.9%	A
White Women	14.5				
HS Education or Less	40.6				
Some College or Associates Degree	11.0	2.71	1.90	42.6%	D
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	15.0				

Breast Cancer (Women)

Demographic Group	2008 Rate	2008 Disparity Ratio	2000 Disparity Ratio	Disparity Change from 2000	Grade
Baltimore City	27.4	1.08	N/A	N/A	A
Maryland (w/o Baltimore)*	25.3				
Black	--	--	--	--	--
White	--				
Men	--	--	--	--	--
Women	--				
Black Men	--	--	--	--	--
White Men	--				
Black Women	31.6	1.51	1.24	21.6%	A
White Women	21.0				
HS Education or Less	50.5				
Some College or Associates Degree	30.7	1.71	0.82	109.0%	A
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	29.5				

*MD rate includes males in the numerator

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Prostate Cancer

Demographic Group	2008 Rate	2008 Disparity Ratio	2000 Disparity Ratio	Disparity Change from 2000	Grade
Baltimore City	40.1	1.71	N/A	N/A	D
Maryland (w/o Baltimore)	23.5				
Black	--	--	--	--	--
White	--				
Men	--	--	--	--	--
Women	--				
Black Men	55.4	2.55	1.53	66.4%	F
White Men	21.7				
Black Women	--	--	--	--	--
White Women	--				
HS Education or Less	63.4	2.06	1.46	40.8%	B
Some College or Associates Degree	55.1				
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	30.8				

Stroke

Demographic Group	2008 Rate	2008 Disparity Ratio	2000 Disparity Ratio	Disparity Change from 2000	Grade
Baltimore City	48.0	1.23	N/A	N/A	B
Maryland (w/o Baltimore)	39.0				
Black	52.2	1.24	1.46	-15.1%	A
White	42.1				
Men	53.7	1.21	1.11	8.8%	A
Women	44.5				
Black Men	57.8	1.18	1.66	-28.9%	A
White Men	49.0				
Black Women	49.2	1.34	1.40	-3.9%	B
White Women	36.6				
HS Education or Less	93.2	1.73	2.48	-30.4%	C
Some College or Associates Degree	24.3				
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	54.0				

Diabetes

Demographic Group	2008 Rate	2008 Disparity Ratio	2000 Disparity Ratio	Disparity Change from 2000	Grade
Baltimore City	29.3	1.41	N/A	N/A	C
Maryland (w/o Baltimore)	20.8				
Black	36.2	1.85	1.46	26.5%	D
White	19.6				
Men	37.4	1.54	1.23	24.9%	C
Women	24.3				
Black Men	49.9	2.33	1.28	81.7%	D
White Men	21.4				
Black Women	27.9	1.42	1.64	-13.5%	A
White Women	19.6				
HS Education or Less	59.2	3.93	3.11	26.5%	F
Some College or Associates Degree	16.0				
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	15.0				

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HIV/AIDS

Demographic Group	2008 Rate	2008 Disparity Ratio	2000 Disparity Ratio	Disparity Change from 2000	Grade
Baltimore City	37.7	10.48	N/A	N/A	F
Maryland (w/o Baltimore)	3.6				
Black	55.8	7.70	8.17	-5.8%	F
White	7.3				
Men	52.9	2.12	2.24	-5.3%	F
Women	24.9				
Black Men	81.8	7.70	8.06	-4.5%	F
White Men	10.6				
Black Women	36.1	9.87	10.50	-6.0%	F
White Women	3.7				
HS Education or Less	90.5	11.51	8.74	31.6%	F
Some College or Associates Degree	19.0				
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	7.9				

Homicide

Demographic Group	2008 Rate	2008 Disparity Ratio	2000 Disparity Ratio	Disparity Change from 2000	Grade
Baltimore City	32.3	5.05	N/A	N/A	F
Maryland (w/o Baltimore)	6.4				
Black	45.7	5.99	11.46	-47.7%	F
White	7.6				
Men	58.4	7.06	7.85	-10.1%	F
Women	8.3				
Black Men	87.4	11.59	13.49	-14.1%	F
White Men	7.5				
Black Women	9.0	1.18	5.57	-78.7%	A
White Women	7.6				
HS Education or Less	54.6	13.60	N/A	N/A	F
Some College or Associates Degree	9.4				
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	4.0				

Infant Mortality

Demographic Group	2008 Rate*	2008 Disparity Ratio*	2000 Disparity Ratio	Disparity Change from 2000	Grade
Baltimore City	12.1	1.51	1.58	-4.3%	D
Maryland	8.0				
Black Women	14.3	1.96	2.05	-4.4%	C
White Women	7.3				
HS Education or Less	13.5	1.65	N/A	N/A	D
Some College or Associates Degree	11.1				
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	8.2				

*Rates by education level are for 2006

Low-birthweight

Demographic Group	2008 %*	2008 Disparity Ratio*	2000 Disparity Ratio	Disparity Change from 2000	Grade
Baltimore City	12.8	1.38	1.59	-13.4%	D
Maryland	9.3				
Black Women	14.9	1.80	1.94	-7.2%	F
White Women	8.3				
High School Education or Less	15.4	1.80	N/A	N/A	D
Some College or Associates Degress	15.3				
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	8.5				

*Percents by education level are for 2006

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Health Status

-Percentages are based on adult respondents to the 2009 Baltimore City Community Health Survey-

Fair or Poor Health Status (report of general health)			
Demographic Group	2008 %	2008 Disparity Ratio	Grade
Baltimore City	20.2	--	--
Black	20.9	1.17	A
White	17.8		
Men	20.0	0.99	A
Women	20.3		
Less than a Bachelor's Degree	25.1	3.14	F
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	8.0		
Household Income <$15,000	42.8		
Household Income $15,000-24,999	23.5		
Household Income $25,000-49,999	15.0	4.16	F
Household Income $50,000-74,999	14.6		
Household Income $75,000+	10.3		

Obesity (based on height/weight report)			
Demographic Group	2008 %	2008 Disparity Ratio	Grade
Baltimore City	33.8	--	--
Black	42.3	2.03	F
White	20.8		
Men*	28.1	1.39	B
Women	39.1		
Less than a Bachelor's Degree	39.5	2.03	F
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	19.5		
Household Income <$15,000	39.4		
Household Income $15,000-24,999	37.9		
Household Income $25,000-49,999	40.8	2.39	F
Household Income $50,000-74,999	36.1		
Household Income $75,000+	16.5		
*Men are reference group			

Diabetes (ever diagnosed)			
Demographic Group	2008 %	2008 Disparity Ratio	Grade
Baltimore City	13.6	--	--
Black	16.3	1.85	D
White	8.8		
Men*	12.9	1.12	A
Women	14.4		
Less than a Bachelor's Degree	16.2	2.49	F
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	6.5		
Household Income <$15,000	26.8		
Household Income $15,000-24,999	14.9		
Household Income $25,000-49,999	9.5	3.67	F
Household Income $50,000-74,999	15.1		
Household Income $75,000+	7.3		
*Men are reference group			

High Blood Pressure (ever diagnosed)			
Demographic Group	2008 %	2008 Disparity Ratio	Grade
Baltimore City	36.4	--	--
Black	41.3	1.44	C
White	28.6		
Men*	33.8	1.14	A
Women	38.6		
Less than a Bachelor's Degree	40.7	1.62	D
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	25.2		
Household Income <$15,000	55.4		
Household Income $15,000-24,999	36.2		
Household Income $25,000-49,999	31.5	2.06	D
Household Income $50,000-74,999	36.2		
Household Income $75,000+	26.9		
*Men are reference group			

Household Asthma (someone in household currently has asthma)			
Demographic Group**	2008 %	2008 Disparity Ratio	Grade
Baltimore City	28.0	--	--
Black	31.4	1.46	B
White	21.5		
Men*	24.4	1.26	A
Women	30.7		
Less than a Bachelor's Degree	33.0	2.04	D
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	16.2		
Household Income <$15,000	39.3		
Household Income $15,000-24,999	34.4		
Household Income $25,000-49,999	23.3	2.16	D
Household Income $50,000-74,999	30.1		
Household Income $75,000+	18.2		

**Demographic characteristics are for the respondent, not necessarily for the individual with asthma

*Men are reference group

Child Asthma (emergency department visits for those <18)			
Demographic Group	2006 Rate*	2006 Disparity Ratio	Grade
Baltimore City	399.9	3.51	F
Maryland	113.8		
Black	510.6	5.97	F
White	85.5		
Men	496.5	1.66	F
Women	299.4		
Less than a Bachelor's Degree	N/A	--	--
Bachelor's Degree or Higher			
Household Income <$15,000			
Household Income $15,000-24,999			
Household Income $25,000-49,999	N/A	--	--
Household Income $50,000-74,999			
Household Income $75,000+			
*Rates are per 10,000			

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Smoking (current smoker)			
Demographic Group	2008 %	2008 Disparity Ratio	Grade
Baltimore City	28.0	--	--
Black	29.6	1.10	A
White	26.9		
Men	35.1	1.54	C
Women	22.8		
Less than a Bachelor's Degree	33.9	2.29	F
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	14.8		
Household Income <$15,000	36.0		
Household Income $15,000-24,999	35.9		
Household Income $25,000-49,999	28.9	2.38	F
Household Income $50,000-74,999	16.8		
Household Income $75,000+	15.1		

Healthcare

-Percentages are based on adult respondents to the 2009 Baltimore City Community Health Survey-

No Health Insurance			
Demographic Group	2008 %	2008 Disparity Ratio	Grade
Baltimore City	17.1	--	--
Black	20.9	2.07	D
White	10.1		
Men	22.1	1.74	C
Women	12.7		
Less than a Bachelor's Degree	20.1	2.05	C
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	9.8		
Household Income <$15,000	20.2		
Household Income $15,000-24,999	25.2		
Household Income $25,000-49,999	20.3	3.81	F
Household Income $50,000-74,999	13.3		
Household Income $75,000+	5.3		

Unmet Healthcare Needs (last 12 months)			
Demographic Group	2008 %	2008 Disparity Ratio	Grade
Baltimore City	22.8	--	--
Black	27.3	1.78	B
White	15.3		
Men	23.1	1.05	A
Women	21.9		
Less than a Bachelor's Degree	27.5	2.22	D
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	12.4		
Household Income <$15,000	31.9		
Household Income $15,000-24,999	34.2		
Household Income $25,000-49,999	23.7	5.23	F
Household Income $50,000-74,999	14.9		
Household Income $75,000+	6.1		

Unmet Mental Healthcare Needs (last 12 months)			
Demographic Group	2008 %	2008 Disparity Ratio	Grade
Baltimore City	23.4	--	--
Black	33.5	3.68	D
White	9.1		
Men	32.8	1.79	A
Women	18.3		
Less than a Bachelor's Degree	28.6	3.67	F
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	7.8		
Household Income <$15,000			
Household Income $15,000-24,999			
Household Income $25,000-49,999	--	--	--
Household Income $50,000-74,999			
Household Income $75,000+			

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Healthy Homes and Communities

-Percentages are based on adult respondents to the 2009 Baltimore City Community Health Survey-

Exposure to Violence (last 12 months)

Demographic Group	2008 %	2008 Disparity Ratio	Grade
Baltimore City	19.1	--	--
Black	21.5	1.47	A
White	14.6		
Men	28.4	2.54	F
Women	11.2		
Less than a Bachelor's Degree	23.8	3.05	F
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	7.8		
Household Income <$15,000	20.3		
Household Income $15,000-24,999	22.6		
Household Income $25,000-49,999	26.1	1.72	B
Household Income $50,000-74,999	8.7		
Household Income $75,000+	11.8		

Neighborhood is Very Dangerous (self-report)

Demographic Group	2008 %	2008 Disparity Ratio	Grade
Baltimore City	9.8	--	--
Black	12.5	3.47	F
White	3.6		
Men	13.5	2.14	C
Women	6.3		
Less than a Bachelor's Degree	12.8	5.12	F
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	2.5		
Household Income <$15,000	17.0		
Household Income $15,000-24,999	17.6		
Household Income $25,000-49,999	8.5	14.17	F
Household Income $50,000-74,999	4.1		
Household Income $75,000+	1.2		

Seen Signs of Mice/Rats in Household (last 12 months)

Demographic Group	2008 %	2008 Disparity Ratio	Grade
Baltimore City	37.2	--	--
Black	39.3	1.17	A
White	33.5		
Men	38.4	1.07	A
Women	35.8		
Less than a Bachelor's Degree	38.8	1.20	A
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	32.3		
Household Income <$15,000	43.0		
Household Income $15,000-24,999	38.5		
Household Income $25,000-49,999	35.1	1.46	B
Household Income $50,000-74,999	34.0		
Household Income $75,000+	29.4		

Seen Signs of Roaches in Household (last 12 months)

Demographic Group	2008 %	2008 Disparity Ratio	Grade
Baltimore City	16.2	--	--
Black	20.1	1.97	C
White	10.2		
Men	17.7	1.16	A
Women	15.3		
Less than a Bachelor's Degree	19.5	2.53	F
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	7.7		
Household Income <$15,000	20.2		
Household Income $15,000-24,999	26.4		
Household Income $25,000-49,999	24.1	3.61	F
Household Income $50,000-74,999	7.7		
Household Income $75,000+	5.6		

Food Insecurity (last 30 days)**

Demographic Group	2008 %	2008 Disparity Ratio	Grade
Baltimore City	23.3	--	--
Black	29.6	2.37	D
White	12.5		
Men	26.7	1.32	A
Women	20.2		
Less than a Bachelor's Degree	28.7	2.84	F
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	10.1		
Household Income <$15,000	38.9		
Household Income $15,000-24,999	36.8		
Household Income $25,000-49,999	16.7	5.81	F
Household Income $50,000-74,999	19.5		
Household Income $75,000+	6.7		

**Concerned about having enough food

Energy Insecurity (last 3 years)**

Demographic Group	2008 %	2008 Disparity Ratio	Grade
Baltimore City	33.2	--	--
Black	37.2	1.34	A
White	27.7		
Men*	30.0	1.20	A
Women	36.1		
Less than a Bachelor's Degree	37.4	1.65	C
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	22.7		
Household Income <$15,000	45.8		
Household Income $15,000-24,999	44.2		
Household Income $25,000-49,999	38.0	3.32	F
Household Income $50,000-74,999	26.2		
Household Income $75,000+	13.8		

**Had trouble paying heating bill
*Men are reference group

Summary and Conclusion

Health disparities exist for every major indicator of health in Baltimore City. The largest of these disparities are those between residents of different income and education levels (key social determinants of health). Indeed, income and education disparities received "F"s on 26 of 43 indicators. Racial and ethnic disparities are also persistent, with Blacks faring worst on 21 of 29 indicators (no disparity on remaining 8). Moreover, Baltimore City as a whole fared worst on 13 of the 14 indicators assessed between the city and Maryland.

Health disparities will only be eliminated with collaborative multiagency and community efforts to ensure that all communities have fair access to the resources and opportunities necessary to be healthy.

2010 Final Grade:

D

While the obvious goal is to close gaps in health, it should be noted that disparities can improve for multiple reasons. It is possible, for example, for disparities to "improve" by better-off groups getting worse. This, of course, is no improvement at all. The goal is to improve the health of those most affected by disparities, while simultaneously continuing improvements for all.

For disparities to improve, then, efforts will need to confer larger gains to those worst-off. For example, if White all-cause mortality is 800 deaths per 100,000 and Black mortality is 1000 deaths, and mortality declines 80 deaths per 100,000 for both groups, the disparity would actually increase from 1.25 to 1.28. In order to simply maintain the existing disparity, Black mortality would need to decline by 100 deaths per 100,000. Thus, practically speaking, to eliminate health disparities, efforts must be deliberate and lead to larger improvements among the most burdened groups.

Since 2000, White mortality has declined at a pace that is 5% quicker than that for Blacks. If this trend continues, disparities will not only persist, but get worse. At the very least, the aim should be for equal improvements for all groups. However, if eliminating health disparities is indeed a priority, the aim should be to focus efforts to affect larger improvements for the most burdened groups (racial, socioeconomic, or otherwise). A diffuse approach, especially one that does not address social determinants of health, will not suffice.

Given the role that social determinants play in creating and maintaining disparities, future action should be directed at policy and systems changes to improve the daily conditions in which Baltimoreans live, learn, work, and play. This includes efforts to improve the food environment, housing conditions, educational opportunities, investment in early childhood, and access to safe park and recreation spaces, to name a few.

Moreover, efforts must proceed with the understanding that housing, education, economic, labor, transportation, and planning/zoning policies are, indeed, health policies. As such, collaborative and coherent action across all City agencies is essential for Baltimore to eliminate health disparities.

Summary and Conclusion

Health Disparities Summary Table

Mortality and Infant Health								
	Total Indicators	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**F**	**Final GPA**	**Final Grade**
All-cause	6	0	0	2	2	2	1.00	D
Heart	6	0	3	0	1	2	1.67	D
All-cancer	6	0	2	2	1	1	1.83	D
Lung Cancer	6	3	0	1	0	2	2.33	C
Colon Cancer	6	1	4	0	1	0	2.83	C
Breast Cancer	3	3	0	0	0	0	4.00	A
Prostate Cancer	3	0	1	0	1	1	1.33	D
Stroke	6	3	2	1	0	0	3.33	B
Diabetes	6	1	0	2	2	1	1.67	D
HIV/AIDS	6	0	0	0	0	6	0.00	F
Homicide	6	1	0	0	0	5	0.67	F
Infant Mortality	3	0	0	1	2	0	1.33	D
LowBirthweight	3	0	0	0	2	1	0.67	F
Total	66	12	12	9	12	21		
Total	66	12	12	9	12	21		
Baltimore/Maryland	13	1	2	3	5	2	1.62	D
Black/White	9	2	2	2	1	2	2.11	C
Men/Women	9	1	1	1	1	5	1.11	D
Black Men/White Men	10	2	3	0	2	3	1.90	D
Black Women/White Women	12	5	3	2	0	2	2.75	C
HS or Less/BA+	13	1	1	1	3	7	0.92	F

Health Status								
	Total Indicators	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**F**	**Final GPA**	**Final Grade**
Fair/Poor Health	4	2	0	0	0	2	2.00	C
Obesity	4	0	1	0	0	3	0.75	F
Diabetes	4	1	0	0	1	2	1.00	D
Hypertension	4	1	0	1	2	0	2.00	C
Household Asthma	4	1	1	0	2	0	2.00	C
Child Asthma	3	0	0	0	0	3	0.00	F
Smoking	4	1	0	1	0	2	1.50	D
Total	27	6	2	2	5	12		
Total	27	6	2	2	5	12		
Baltimore/Maryland	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.00	F
Black/White	7	2	1	1	1	2	2.00	C
Men/Women	7	4	1	1	0	1	3.00	B
<BA/BA+	6	0	0	0	2	4	0.33	F
<$15,000/$75,000+	6	0	0	0	2	4	0.33	F

Healthcare								
	Total Indicators	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**F**	**Final GPA**	**Final Grade**
Uninsurance	4	0	0	2	1	1	0.75	F
Unmet Healthcare Needs	4	1	1	0	1	1	2.00	C
Unmet Mental Healthcare Need	4	2	0	0	1	1	2.25	C
Total	12	3	1	2	3	3		
Total	12	3	1	2	3	3		
Black/White	3	0	1	0	2	0	1.67	D
Men/Women	3	2	0	1	0	0	3.33	B
<BA/BA+	3	0	0	1	1	1	1.00	D
<$15,000/$75,000+	3	1	0	0	0	2	1.33	D

Healthy Homes and Communities								
	Total Indicators	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**F**	**Final GPA**	**Final Grade**
Exposure to Violence	4	2	0	0	0	2	2.00	C
Neighborhood is Very Dangerou	4	0	0	1	0	3	0.50	F
Seen Mice/Rats	4	3	1	0	0	0	3.75	B
Seen Roaches	4	1	0	1	0	2	1.50	D
Food Insecurity	4	1	0	0	1	2	1.25	D
Energy Insecurity	4	2	0	1	0	1	2.50	C
Total	24	9	1	3	1	10		
Total	24	9	1	3	1	10		
Black/White	6	3	0	1	1	1	2.33	C
Men/Women	6	4	0	1	0	1	3.00	B
<BA/BA+	6	1	0	1	0	4	1.00	D
<$15,000/$75,000+	6	1	1	0	0	4	1.17	D

2010 Baltimore City Health Disparities Report Card

Baltimore City Health Department, Office of Epidemiology and Planning, May 2010

Sources:

Mortality Data: BCHD analysis of Maryland Vital Statistics Profile data, 2008 and 2000. Population data from CDC Wonder (Vintage 2008) for years 2008 and 2000, and American Community Survey data, 2008. Rates age-adjusted to 2000 Census standard population, distributions #1 or #14.
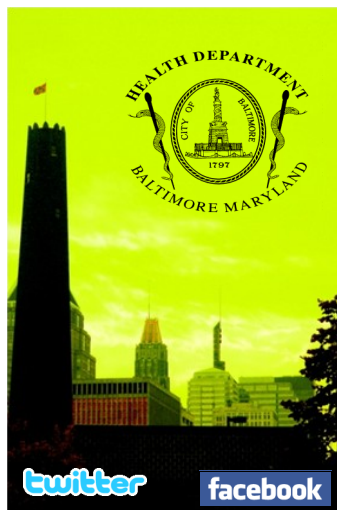
Infant Health Data: BCHD analysis of Maryland Vital Statistics data, 2008 , 2006, and 2000.

Health Status Data: Baltimore City Community Health Survey, 2009. Childhood Asthma data is from the 2009 Maryland Asthma Control Program's Baltimore City Asthma Profile, and BCHD analysis of 2006 HSCRC data.

Healthcare Data: Baltimore City Community Health Survey, 2009

Healthy Homes and Communities Data: Baltimore City Community Health Survey, 2009

The 2010 Health Disparities Report Card is available on the Baltimore City Health Department website at www.baltimorehealth.org. You can also follow the health department and comment on the Report Card on the health department's Facebook and Twitter pages.

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