

CONSIDERING CULTURE BOX 14.1

The Ongoing Challenge of Disparities in Health Care

Office of Minority Health and Health Equity issued a report in 2013 listing key factors that influence health and lead to health disparity. Below are just a few of the findings from this report. For the entire report, visit www.cdc.gov/

Mortality

- The rates of premature death (death before age 75 years) from stroke and coronary heart disease were higher among non-Hispanic Blacks than among Whites.
- The infant mortality rate for non-Hispanic Black women was more than double that for non-Hispanic White women in both 2005 and 2008.

Morbidity

- Women, minority racial/ethnic groups (except Asian/Pacific Islanders), the less educated, those who spoke a language besides English at home, and those with a disability were more likely to report fair or poor self-rated health, more physically unhealthy days, and more mentally unhealthy days than others.
- Non-Asian racial/ethnic minorities continue to experience higher rates of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) diagnoses than whites. Compared with Whites, a lower percentage of Blacks diagnosed with HIV were prescribed an antiretroviral therapy and a lower percentage of both Blacks and Hispanics had suppressed viral loads.

Health Care Access and Preventive Health Services

- During 2010, approximately two of five Hispanic adults and one of four non-Hispanic black adults were classified as uninsured. In 2010 the uninsured rate for adults aged 18 to 34 years was approximately double the uninsured rate for adults aged 45 to 64 years.

Behavioral Risk Factors

- Despite an 18% decrease in adolescent birth rates during 2007–2010, rates for non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic teenagers remain approximately double those for non-Hispanic Whites and Asian/ Pacific Islanders.

Environmental Hazards

- The likelihood of working in a high-risk occupation—an occupation with an elevated injury and illness rate—is greatest for those who are Hispanic, are low wage earners, were born outside of the United States, have no education beyond high school, or are male.

Social Determinants of Health

- The highest percentage of adults not completing high school were Hispanic, persons at <1.9% of the federal poverty level, those with a disability, or foreign born. The highest percentage of adults living below the federal poverty level were non-Hispanic Black or Hispanic, those with less than a high school education, those with a disability, or foreign born.

Modified from Office of Minority Health and Health Equity, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2013): CDC Health Disparities and Health Inequalities Report, 2013 (website). Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/healthequity/about/index.html>

attention to their significant negative effect on large segments of the population.

You can read more in Considering Culture Box 14.1, which contains additional information about the latest trends in health disparities.

The Health Care Team

A wide array of providers deliver care across the variety and spectrum of health care settings presented in this

chapter. At one time, physicians and nurses were the central members of the health care team, but as health care became complex and technology expanded, a number of other health disciplines developed. Today there are many different health care providers who come from a variety of educational backgrounds. Physicians, nurses, and all the other individuals who work with patients are called the health care team, or **multidisciplinary team**. *Multidisciplinary* refers to the presence of more than one