

Black Kansas in Review: Health Report Executive Summary

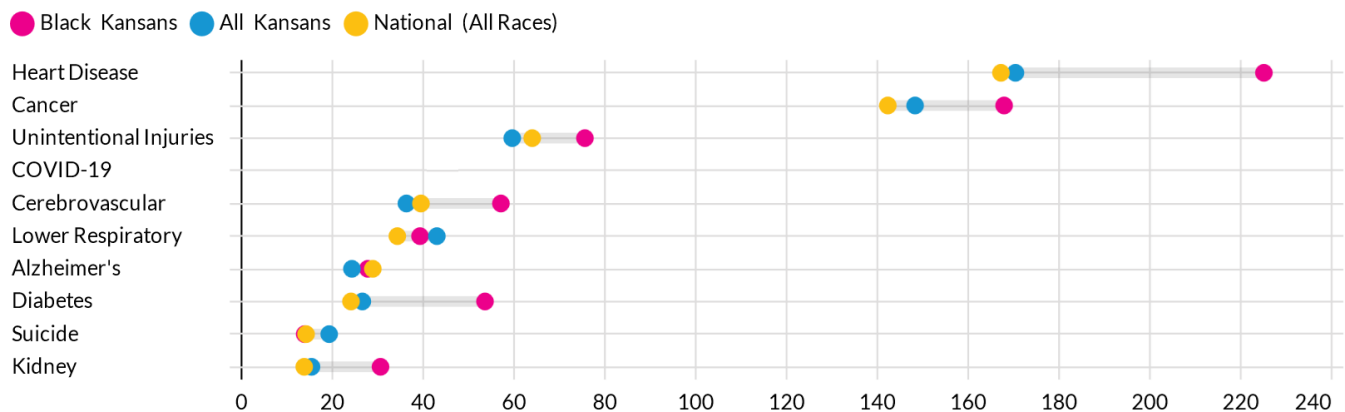
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In 2024, the Urban Institute’s Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy (CNP) conducted an assessment of the health status of Black Kansans, shedding light on critical health disparities across the state. This effort underscores the importance of documenting and analyzing health metrics for several key reasons:

- **Promoting Health Equity:** Data can reveal significant sociodemographic variations and offer a basis for strategies to improve health outcomes for all Kansans.
- **Shaping Policy:** Findings have important policy implications, as they can provide an evidence base for policies addressing health care and broader social factors affecting health.
- **Empowering Communities:** Comprehensive data can equip community-based organizations to be data-informed advocates for meaningful changes tailored to the specific needs of Black Kansans.

Using data from 2022, CNP’s assessment revealed that the most common causes of death for all Kansans are heart disease, cancer, unintentional injuries, cerebrovascular events (strokes), lower respiratory illnesses, Alzheimer’s disease, diabetes, suicide, and kidney disease. In most cases, significant disparities exist between the rate of death for Black Kansans compared to all races in Kansas and nationally, emphasizing the need for more targeted and culturally appropriate interventions and the need for more comprehensive health data collection.

FIGURE 1
State-level Mortality



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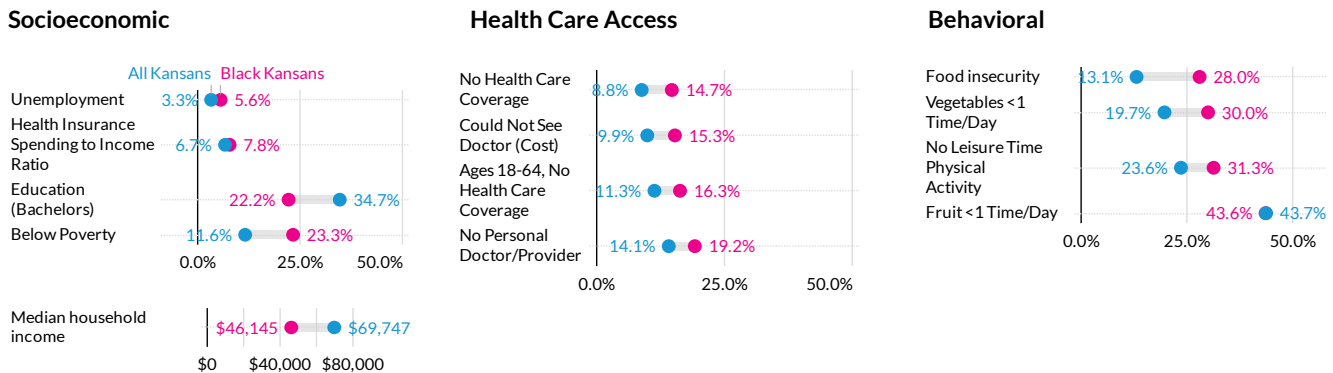
Sources: Kansas Health Matters, "Kansas Health Data and Resources," accessed December 13, 2024. <https://www.kansashealthmatters.org/>; HD Pulse, "Health Outcomes Kansas Mortality-Table Accidents and Adverse Effects," accessed December 13, 2024, <https://hdpulse.nlmhd.nih.gov/data-portal/mortality/>; US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "COVID Mortality by State," accessed December 13, 2024, https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/covid19_mortality_final/COVID19.htm; US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "COVID-19 Mortality Update-United States, 2022," accessed December 13, 2024, <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7218a4.htm>.

Note: Age-adjusted mortality rate per 100,000.

Studies estimate that clinical care impacts only 20 percent of county-level variation in health outcomes,^a while social determinants of health (SDOH) affect as much as 50 percent. SDOH includes factors such as housing, food and nutrition, the physical environment, and social and economic mobility. Data in Figure 2 show that Black Kansans experience high rates of social and economic factors that negatively affect health. Black Kansans fare poorer

compared with all Kansans across all measures of socioeconomic status. Despite spending a higher proportion of income on health insurance, Black Kansans are worse off in terms of healthcare access. With the exception of fruit intake, Black Kansans also perform worse on diet and exercise measures. Because Black Kansans are burdened by chronic disease, excess mortality, and insufficient income, their ability to advance and prosper and thereby contribute to the productivity of their families and communities is severely constrained.

FIGURE 2
State-level Social Determinants of Health



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Sources: Kansas Health Matters, "Kansas Health Data and Resources," accessed December 13, 2024, <https://www.kansashealthmatters.org/>; American Community Survey, Kansas Behavioral Response Surveillance System. ^a Amellia Whitman, Nancy De Lew, Andre Chappel, Victoria Aysola, Rachael Zuckerman, and Benjamin D. Somers, *Addressing Social Determinants of Health: Examples of Successful Evidence-Based Strategies and Current Federal Efforts HP-2022-12* (Washington, DC: ASPE, April 1, 2022), <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/e2b650cd64cf84aae8ff0fae7474af82/SDOH-Evidence-Review.pdf>.

Based on CNP’s research, advocates, policymakers, and other stakeholders can take several actions to promote a healthier and more equitable future for all Kansans. These recommended actions include:

- Data dissemination to support evidence-based interventions and community involvement.
- Collaborative efforts among policymakers, nonprofits, and communities.
- Policies, programs, and investments that address broader social determinants (e.g., economic opportunity, food security, health care access).
- Investment in preventative care (e.g., screenings, chronic disease management).
- Better data collection efforts that capture the diversity of Black Kansans and related disaggregated data (e.g., geographically, economically, immigrant generation, disability status).
- Increased philanthropic, government, and private investments to support Black-led, Black-serving community organizations and others who advocate for Black Kansans.

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