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FROM VITAL &amp; HEALTH STATISTICS OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE ■ Public Health Service | Number 27 ■ April 14, 1978

## Health Characteristics of Minority Groups, United States, 1976<sup>1</sup>

There is increasing interest in the health characteristics of the minority groups in the population of the United States, especially those of the two largest minority groups, the black population and the population of Spanish origin.

Since its inception in 1957, the Division of Health Interview Statistics, by means of the Health Interview Survey (HIS), has collected data on the race of respondents in order to present estimates of health variables by racial group. Beginning in 1976, information on respondents' national origin or ancestry has been obtained in the HIS, primarily in an effort to identify persons of Spanish background. This report presents statistics on several health characteristics for four population groups: the total United States civilian noninstitutionalized population, those of Spanish origin, the black population, and all others. "Spanish origin" refers to those persons aged 17 years and over who, regardless of race, were reported as being of Central or South American ancestry, Chicano, Cuban, Mexican, Mexicano, Mexican-American, Puerto Rican, or other Spanish origin. Data for children under the age of 17 are stated in accordance with the race and reported origin of their parents. (See Technical Notes.) The approximately 495,000 persons reported to be of Spanish origin and classified as black by the interviewer were counted in both of these minority categories.

The tables present data for the four population groups by age and income. The age distri-

butions of the four population groups are quite different, with larger proportions of the Spanish and black groups than of the total population being under the age of 17. Approximately 41.3 percent of the Spanish population was under 17 years of age, 37.0 percent of the black population was under 17, and only 28.9 percent of the total U.S. population was under 17 years of age. Because of these differences in the age distributions, comparisons should be made within age groups or by using age-adjusted percentages. Table 1 shows the crude rates and the age-adjusted (by the direct method) rates for the various health characteristics that are presented in detail in tables 2-5. The age-adjusted data can be compared directly since the rates assume identical age distributions of all groups. However, the unadjusted percentages are the actual ones, and any quotation of percentages and age-specific rates should be of the crude rates rather than of the adjusted data.

Statistics for six health characteristics and population figures are shown in tables 2-5. The total population for the four population groups and the percent of the population with limitation of activity are shown in table 2. Table 3 presents the proportion of the population with a doctor visit in the year preceding the interview and the proportion with a short-stay hospital episode during the year before the interview. In table 4, the number of days of restricted activity and days of bed disability per person per year are shown. The number of currently employed persons aged 17 years and over and the number of days lost from work per person per year are shown in table 5.

<sup>1</sup>This report prepared by Claudia S. Moy and Charles S. Wilder, Division of Health Interview Statistics.

Table 1. Unadjusted and age-adjusted percentages or rates of selected health characteristics, by national origin or race and family income: United States, 1976

Characteristics and family income	Total population	Spanish origin <sup>1</sup>	Black <sup>1</sup>	Other	Total population	Spanish origin <sup>1</sup>	Black <sup>1</sup>	Other
<u>Limitation of activity due to chronic conditions</u>	Unadjusted percentage or rate				Age-adjusted <sup>2</sup> percentage or rate			
All incomes <sup>3</sup> .....	14.3	9.5	14.8	14.6	14.3	13.5	17.4	14.0
Less than \$5,000.....	28.8	17.2	24.9	31.3	23.1	19.7	24.9	23.0
\$5,000-\$9,999.....	17.1	9.5	12.3	19.0	16.3	13.4	16.0	16.6
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	11.3	6.6	9.7	11.8	13.2	12.3	13.3	13.3
\$15,000 or more.....	8.8	6.1	7.1	9.0	10.8	*12.1	10.4	10.8
<u>Doctor visit in past year</u>								
All incomes <sup>3</sup> .....	75.5	69.5	73.5	76.2	75.5	70.4	74.2	76.2
Less than \$5,000.....	76.7	70.6	75.7	77.8	76.0	70.7	76.5	77.0
\$5,000-\$9,999.....	73.8	67.7	70.1	75.3	73.6	68.8	71.7	74.8
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	75.1	70.2	74.4	75.5	75.5	72.2	75.5	75.8
\$15,000 or more.....	77.3	73.1	78.5	77.4	77.6	73.8	78.2	77.7
<u>Short-stay hospital episode in past year</u>								
All incomes <sup>3</sup> .....	10.6	9.3	10.0	10.8	10.6	10.4	10.6	10.6
Less than \$5,000.....	14.0	11.1	12.7	14.7	12.8	11.7	13.7	12.6
\$5,000-\$9,999.....	11.9	10.2	9.0	12.7	11.7	11.4	9.9	12.0
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	10.4	8.5	9.4	10.7	11.0	*9.8	10.6	11.1
\$15,000 or more.....	9.1	7.6	9.0	9.1	9.7	*9.1	9.0	9.7
<u>Days of restricted activity per person per year</u>								
All incomes <sup>3</sup> .....	18.2	17.1	20.6	18.0	18.2	20.3	23.3	17.6
Less than \$5,000.....	32.5	26.5	30.7	33.8	28.4	29.2	31.2	28.1
\$5,000-\$9,999.....	20.3	18.4	17.4	21.1	19.8	21.0	21.2	19.7
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	15.7	14.8	15.4	15.8	16.8	19.0	17.6	16.7
\$15,000 or more.....	12.8	10.0	13.7	12.9	13.9	*13.2	14.9	13.8
<u>Days of bed disability per person per year</u>								
All incomes <sup>3</sup> .....	7.1	8.4	9.0	6.8	7.1	9.3	9.9	6.6
Less than \$5,000.....	12.1	14.9	12.3	11.7	11.0	16.3	12.8	10.1
\$5,000-\$9,999.....	8.2	8.1	7.7	8.4	8.0	8.8	9.2	7.8
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	5.9	7.0	5.9	5.9	6.3	*6.4	5.9	6.2
\$15,000 or more.....	5.1	4.8	7.5	4.9	5.7	*4.2	*8.5	5.5
<u>Days lost from work per currently employed person per year</u>								
All incomes <sup>3</sup> .....	5.3	4.9	7.4	5.1	5.3	5.0	7.4	5.1
Less than \$5,000.....	5.8	*5.7	7.4	5.5	5.9	*	7.2	5.5
\$5,000-\$9,999.....	6.1	5.1	7.1	6.0	6.2	*5.4	7.1	6.1
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	5.5	5.9	6.2	5.4	5.5	*5.6	*6.0	5.4
\$15,000 or more.....	4.7	3.6	8.4	4.5	4.6	*	8.2	4.4

<sup>1</sup>Persons reported as both of Spanish origin and black are included in both categories.

<sup>2</sup>Adjusted by the direct method to the age distribution of the civilian noninstitutionalized population or that of the currently employed population.

<sup>3</sup>Includes unknown income.

Table 2. Population and percent of population with limitation of activity due to chronic conditions, by national origin or race, family income, and age: United States, 1976

Family income and age	Total population	Spanish origin <sup>1</sup>	Black <sup>1</sup>	Other	Total population	Spanish origin <sup>1</sup>	Black <sup>1</sup>	Other
<u>All incomes<sup>2</sup></u>	Number of persons in thousands				Percent of population with limitation of activity			
All ages .....	210,643	12,218	24,863	174,057	14.3	9.5	14.8	14.6
Under 17 years .....	60,891	5,041	9,206	46,945	3.7	2.8	3.7	3.9
17-44 years .....	84,701	4,970	9,666	70,199	8.9	7.7	10.5	8.7
45-64 years .....	43,253	1,669	4,110	37,519	24.3	23.5	32.3	23.4
65 years and over .....	21,799	538	1,882	19,394	45.4	45.9	52.8	44.6
<u>Less than \$5,000</u>								
All ages .....	28,987	2,206	6,841	20,099	28.8	17.2	24.9	31.3
Under 17 years .....	6,547	841	2,436	3,366	5.3	6.3	4.8	5.7
17-44 years .....	9,789	851	2,213	6,764	14.9	13.6	16.7	14.5
45-64 years .....	4,876	303	1,138	3,455	49.0	37.3	51.8	49.0
65 years and over .....	7,775	211	1,054	6,514	53.4	46.0	59.4	52.7
<u>\$5,000-\$9,999</u>								
All ages .....	42,543	3,614	6,698	32,324	17.1	9.5	12.3	19.0
Under 17 years .....	12,202	1,447	2,722	8,090	4.1	*2.0	4.1	4.5
17-44 years .....	16,363	1,491	2,641	12,261	10.4	7.0	10.0	10.8
45-64 years .....	7,842	504	983	6,361	31.3	27.6	29.1	31.9
65 years and over .....	6,136	173	353	5,612	43.1	42.2	46.5	42.9
<u>\$10,000-\$14,999</u>								
All ages .....	44,471	2,744	4,216	37,615	11.3	6.6	9.7	11.8
Under 17 years .....	14,125	1,213	1,560	11,423	3.6	*2.1	2.8	3.9
17-44 years .....	19,533	1,141	1,841	16,574	8.6	6.4	8.1	8.8
45-64 years .....	8,506	330	697	7,488	22.5	14.8	24.4	22.6
65 years and over .....	2,308	60	119	2,130	39.6	58.3	41.2	39.0
<u>\$15,000 or more</u>								
All ages .....	75,797	2,486	4,092	69,307	8.8	6.1	7.1	9.0
Under 17 years .....	22,511	1,006	1,368	20,176	3.3	*2.0	2.8	3.4
17-44 years .....	33,202	1,100	1,925	30,213	6.5	4.9	6.1	6.6
45-64 years .....	17,443	345	714	16,395	15.7	16.5	14.3	15.8
65 years and over .....	2,641	35	86	2,524	38.7	*60.0	40.7	38.2

<sup>1</sup>Persons reported as both of Spanish origin and black are included in both categories.

<sup>2</sup>Includes unknown income.

NOTE: For official population estimates for more general use, see U.S. Bureau of the Census reports on the civilian population of the United States in *Current Population Reports*, Series P-20, P-25, and P-60.

Table 3. Percent of population with a doctor visit or short-stay hospital episode in the past year, by national origin or race, family income, and age: United States, 1976

Family income and age	Total population	Spanish origin <sup>1</sup>	Black <sup>1</sup>	Other	Total population	Spanish origin <sup>1</sup>	Black <sup>1</sup>	Other
<u>All incomes<sup>2</sup></u>	Percent of population with a doctor visit in past year				Percent of population with a short-stay hospital episode in past year			
All ages.....	75.5	69.5	73.5	76.2	10.6	9.3	10.0	10.8
Under 17 years.....	74.2	67.6	67.6	76.2	5.5	5.4	4.7	5.7
17-44 years.....	75.4	69.8	76.9	75.6	11.4	12.0	13.5	11.0
45-64 years.....	75.2	71.2	76.1	75.2	12.5	10.8	12.0	12.6
65 years and over.....	80.0	79.4	78.8	80.2	18.3	17.1	12.9	18.8
<u>Less than \$5,000</u>								
All ages.....	76.7	70.6	75.7	77.8	14.0	11.1	12.7	14.7
Under 17 years.....	71.6	69.6	68.2	74.7	6.7	6.5	6.3	7.1
17-44 years.....	78.3	70.3	80.6	78.7	13.7	13.3	18.5	12.2
45-64 years.....	75.8	69.6	78.2	75.6	16.6	13.9	14.8	17.5
65 years and over.....	79.7	77.7	80.3	79.7	18.9	*16.1	13.3	19.9
<u>\$5,000-\$9,999</u>								
All ages.....	73.8	67.7	70.1	75.3	11.9	10.2	9.0	12.7
Under 17 years.....	69.7	66.0	62.3	72.9	5.9	5.4	4.3	6.6
17-44 years.....	75.0	66.9	75.6	75.8	13.0	13.1	12.3	13.1
45-64 years.....	72.7	69.8	73.4	72.8	13.7	12.9	11.2	14.2
65 years and over.....	80.6	82.1	79.9	80.6	18.4	*18.5	13.9	18.7
<u>\$10,000-\$14,999</u>								
All ages.....	75.1	70.2	74.4	75.5	10.4	8.5	9.4	10.7
Under 17 years.....	74.3	64.2	68.5	76.0	6.3	5.4	4.9	6.5
17-44 years.....	75.8	75.4	79.3	75.4	11.7	11.1	12.1	11.7
45-64 years.....	73.5	72.4	73.3	73.5	12.3	*9.1	10.2	12.6
65 years and over.....	81.2	81.7	84.9	81.1	18.6	*18.3	*21.8	18.5
<u>\$15,000 or more</u>								
All ages.....	77.3	73.1	78.5	77.4	9.1	7.6	9.0	9.1
Under 17 years.....	78.0	73.6	77.9	78.2	4.7	3.7	2.9	4.9
17-44 years.....	76.1	71.8	78.3	76.1	9.9	10.3	12.6	9.7
45-64 years.....	78.3	75.1	81.0	78.3	11.5	*8.7	11.1	11.6
65 years and over.....	81.2	*80.0	73.3	81.5	19.2	*20.0	*8.1	19.6

<sup>1</sup> Persons reported as both of Spanish origin and black are included in both categories.

<sup>2</sup> Includes unknown income.

Table 4. Days of restricted activity or bed disability per person per year, by national origin or race, family income, and age: United States, 1976

Family income and age	Total population	Spanish origin <sup>1</sup>	Black <sup>1</sup>	Other	Total population	Spanish origin <sup>1</sup>	Black <sup>1</sup>	Other
	Days of restricted activity per person per year				Days of bed disability per person per year			
<b>All incomes<sup>2</sup></b>								
All ages.....	18.2	17.1	20.6	18.0	7.1	8.4	9.0	6.8
Under 17 years.....	11.0	14.3	7.5	11.3	5.1	7.8	3.9	5.0
17-44 years.....	14.2	12.9	19.1	13.6	5.6	7.0	8.5	5.1
45-64 years.....	25.4	26.5	39.1	23.8	8.9	10.5	16.9	8.0
65 years and over.....	40.0	53.1	52.5	38.4	15.1	20.5	18.5	14.6
<b>Less than \$5,000</b>								
All ages.....	32.5	26.5	30.7	33.8	12.1	14.9	12.3	11.7
Under 17 years.....	12.2	16.4	8.5	13.7	6.5	10.3	5.0	6.7
17-44 years.....	21.6	19.1	25.7	20.8	8.6	10.2	11.7	7.5
45-64 years.....	53.6	49.5	57.7	52.5	18.9	27.8	22.3	16.9
65 years and over.....	50.3	64.2	63.3	47.8	16.9	33.5	19.7	15.9
<b>\$5,000-\$9,999</b>								
All ages.....	20.3	18.4	17.4	21.1	8.2	8.1	7.7	8.4
Under 17 years.....	11.2	15.6	6.7	11.9	5.1	7.1	3.5	5.3
17-44 years.....	16.1	13.5	17.7	16.1	6.5	7.3	7.5	6.1
45-64 years.....	30.6	34.0	36.7	29.4	11.8	*10.0	15.4	11.4
65 years and over.....	36.4	39.2	44.4	35.8	14.6	*17.4	19.7	14.2
<b>\$10,000-\$14,999</b>								
All ages.....	15.7	14.8	15.4	15.8	5.9	7.0	5.9	5.9
Under 17 years.....	11.0	13.2	8.2	11.1	4.6	6.8	3.5	4.5
17-44 years.....	14.4	13.1	16.8	14.3	5.5	7.6	6.5	5.3
45-64 years.....	22.3	17.9	25.5	22.2	7.6	*6.2	10.6	7.3
65 years and over.....	31.5	*60.7	*31.4	30.7	11.4	*0.8	*0.9	12.3
<b>\$15,000 or more</b>								
All ages.....	12.8	10.0	13.7	12.9	5.1	4.8	7.5	4.9
Under 17 years.....	10.5	10.7	5.5	10.8	4.9	6.6	*3.8	4.8
17-44 years.....	10.8	8.2	15.8	10.6	4.2	*3.4	7.2	4.0
45-64 years.....	17.5	*9.7	22.7	17.4	5.8	*4.4	14.3	5.4
65 years and over.....	28.0	*46.2	*21.9	27.9	13.1	*.	*14.8	13.2

<sup>1</sup>Persons reported as both of Spanish origin and black are included in both categories.

<sup>2</sup>Includes unknown income.

Table 5. Currently employed population 17 years and over and days lost from work per currently employed person per year, by national origin or race, family income, and age: United States, 1976

Family income and age	Currently employed persons in thousands				Days lost from work per currently employed person per year			
	Population	Spanish origin <sup>1</sup>	Black <sup>1</sup>	Other	Population	Spanish origin <sup>1</sup>	Black <sup>1</sup>	Other
<u>All incomes<sup>2</sup></u>								
All ages, 17 years and over.....	87,119	3,976	8,394	74,838	5.3	4.9	7.4	5.1
17-44 years.....	57,268	2,977	5,689	48,661	5.0	4.6	7.7	4.8
45-64 years.....	26,974	939	2,423	23,630	6.1	6.1	7.2	6.0
65 years and over.....	2,887	60	282	2,547	4.0	*3.7	*4.0	4.0
<u>Less than \$5,000</u>								
All ages, 17 years and over.....	6,891	493	1,279	5,137	5.8	*5.7	7.4	5.5
17-44 years.....	4,631	364	756	3,523	5.0	*4.8	6.3	4.8
45-64 years.....	1,603	105	406	1,097	7.6	*9.6	8.9	6.9
65 years and over.....	657	*23	117	517	7.5	*2.0	*9.6	7.3
<u>\$5,000-\$9,999</u>								
All ages, 17 years and over.....	15,603	1,118	2,268	12,239	6.1	5.1	7.1	6.0
17-44 years.....	10,491	826	1,578	8,105	5.9	4.3	6.9	5.9
45-64 years.....	4,234	274	619	3,345	7.2	*7.3	8.4	6.9
65 years and over.....	878	*18	71	790	*3.6	*9.9	*.	3.8
<u>\$10,000-\$14,999</u>								
All ages, 17 years and over.....	19,748	987	1,796	16,986	5.5	5.9	6.2	5.4
17-44 years.....	13,734	763	1,279	11,704	5.6	6.2	7.1	5.4
45-64 years.....	5,625	217	489	4,929	5.6	*5.0	*4.3	5.8
65 years and over.....	389	*8	*28	353	*1.9	*.	*.	*2.1
<u>\$15,000 or more</u>								
All ages, 17 years and over.....	38,212	1,064	2,075	35,101	4.7	3.6	8.4	4.5
17-44 years.....	24,860	814	1,483	22,581	4.2	*3.0	8.5	3.9
45-64 years.....	12,785	248	571	11,973	5.8	*5.8	8.6	5.7
65 years and over.....	567	*2	*20	546	*0.8	*.	*.	*0.8

<sup>1</sup>Persons reported as both of Spanish origin and black are included in both categories.

<sup>2</sup>Includes unknown income.

NOTE: For official population estimates for more general use, see U.S. Bureau of the Census reports on the civilian population of the United States in *Current Population Reports*, Series P-20, P-25, and P-60; and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics monthly report, *Employment and Earnings*.

### SYMBOLS

Data not available-----	---
Category not applicable-----	...
Quantity zero-----	-
Quantity more than 0 but less than 0.05-----	0.0
Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision-----	*

TECHNICAL NOTES

**SOURCE OF DATA:** The data presented in all tables in this report were derived from household interviews of the Health Interview Survey. These interviews were conducted in a probability sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. During 1976 approximately 113,000 persons living in a total of 40,000 households were included in the sample. A more detailed description of the sample design and a copy of the questionnaire used in collecting the information are shown in "Current Estimates From the Health Interview Survey: United States, 1976," *Vital and Health Statistics*, Series 10, No. 119. The health characteristics presented are defined there also. Other definitions are presented in Series 1, No. 11 of *Vital and Health Statistics*.

**SAMPLE:** Since the estimates shown are based on a sample of the population, they are subject to sampling error. Table I shows the standard

errors of aggregates of persons and disability days, and table II shows standard errors of percentages of persons.

Table II. Standard errors, expressed in percentage points, of estimated percentages for population estimates

Base of percentages shown in thousands	Estimated percentages				
	2 or 98	5 or 95	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
500.....	1.1	1.8	2.4	3.5	4.0
1,000.....	0.8	1.2	1.7	2.5	2.9
2,000.....	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.8	2.0
5,000.....	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.3
10,000.....	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.9
20,000.....	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6
30,000.....	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.5
50,000.....	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4
100,000.....	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3

Table I. Standard errors of estimates of aggregates

Size of estimate in thousands	Standard error in thousands		
	Population	Restricted-activity and bed-disability days	Work-loss days
70.....	15	...	...
100.....	18	...	...
500.....	40	...	...
1,000.....	57	695	551
5,000.....	125	1,554	1,233
10,000.....	174	2,199	1,745
20,000.....	237	3,113	2,472
50,000.....	325	4,935	3,929
100,000.....	550	7,009	5,603
200,000.....	...	9,998	8,054
500,000.....	...	16,205	...
1,000,000.....	...	24,000	...
2,000,000.....	...	36,000	...

National Origin of Persons Under 17 Years of Age

If both parents were of the same origin, this origin was assigned to the children.

If origin of parents differed and one was of Spanish origin, the Spanish origin was assigned to the children; if neither parent was of Spanish origin, the origin of the mother was assigned to the children.

If only one parent or other relative was in the household, the origin of that person was assigned to the children.

In other cases, unknown origin was assigned.

Recent Issues of *Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics*

- No. 26. Contraceptive Efficacy Among Married Women 15-44 Years of Age in the United States, 1970-73 (Issued: April 6, 1978)
- No. 23. Office Visits to General Surgeons: National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, United States, 1975 (Issued: March 22, 1978)
- No. 25. Office Visits to Doctors of Osteopathy: National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, United States, 1975 (Issued: March 22, 1978)
- No. 22. Office Visits by Persons Aged 65 and Over: National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, United States, 1975 (Issued: March 24, 1978)
- No. 24. Utilization of Selected Medical Practitioners: United States, 1974 (Issued: March 24, 1978)

A complete list of *Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics* is available from the Scientific and Technical Information Branch.

## NCHS

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