



# Health, United States, 2015

## About NCHS

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is the nation's principal health statistics agency, providing data to identify and address health issues. NCHS compiles statistical information to help guide public health and health policy decisions.

Collaborating with other public and private health partners, NCHS employs a variety of data collection mechanisms to obtain accurate information from multiple sources. This process provides a broad perspective to help understand the population's health, influences on health, and health outcomes.

## Health, United States

*Health, United States, 2015* is the 39th annual report on the health status of the nation, produced by NCHS and submitted by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to the President and Congress. The report includes data from a variety of federal government and private-sector sources, organized around four major subject areas: health status and determinants, health care utilization, health care resources, and health care expenditures.

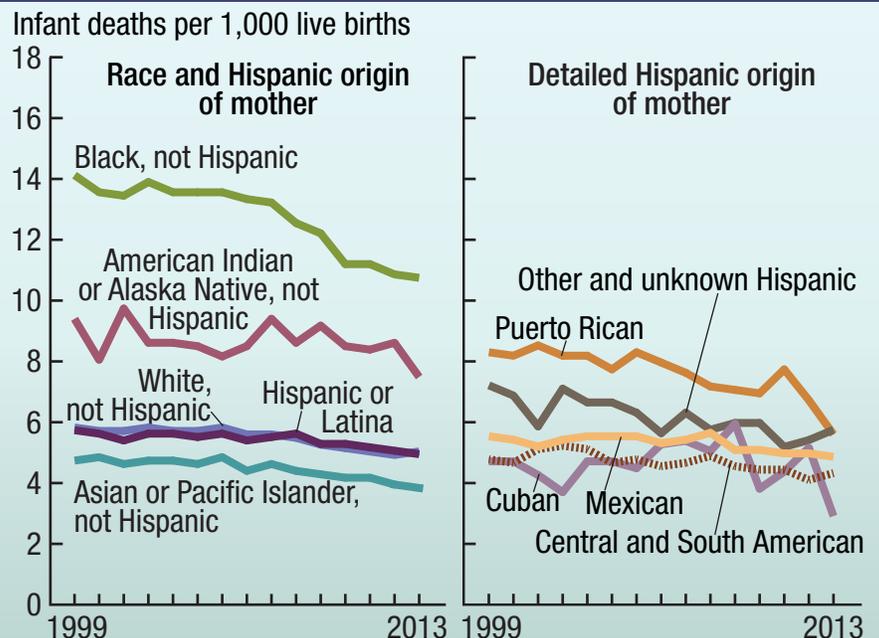
Each year, *Health, United States* includes a special feature. To coincide with the 30th anniversary of the 1985 Report of the Secretary's Task Force on Black and Minority Health, the 2015 report includes a special feature on racial and ethnic health disparities. The 1985 report was released by then-Secretary of Health and Human Services Margaret Heckler and is known as the Heckler Report. The Heckler Report documented significant disparities in the burden of disease and mortality experienced by black persons and other minorities compared with white persons and laid out an ambitious national agenda to improve minority health.

## Selected Findings From the "Special Feature on Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities"

### Infant mortality

- Throughout 1999–2013, infant mortality rates were highest among infants born to non-Hispanic black women (11.11 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2013) and lowest among infants born to non-Hispanic Asian or Pacific Islander women (3.90 in 2013).
- The difference between the highest (non-Hispanic black) and lowest (non-Hispanic Asian or Pacific Islander) infant mortality rates was stable during 1999–2006 (9.41 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 1999), then narrowed to 7.21 in 2013.

### Infant mortality rates, by race and Hispanic origin and detailed Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 1999–2013



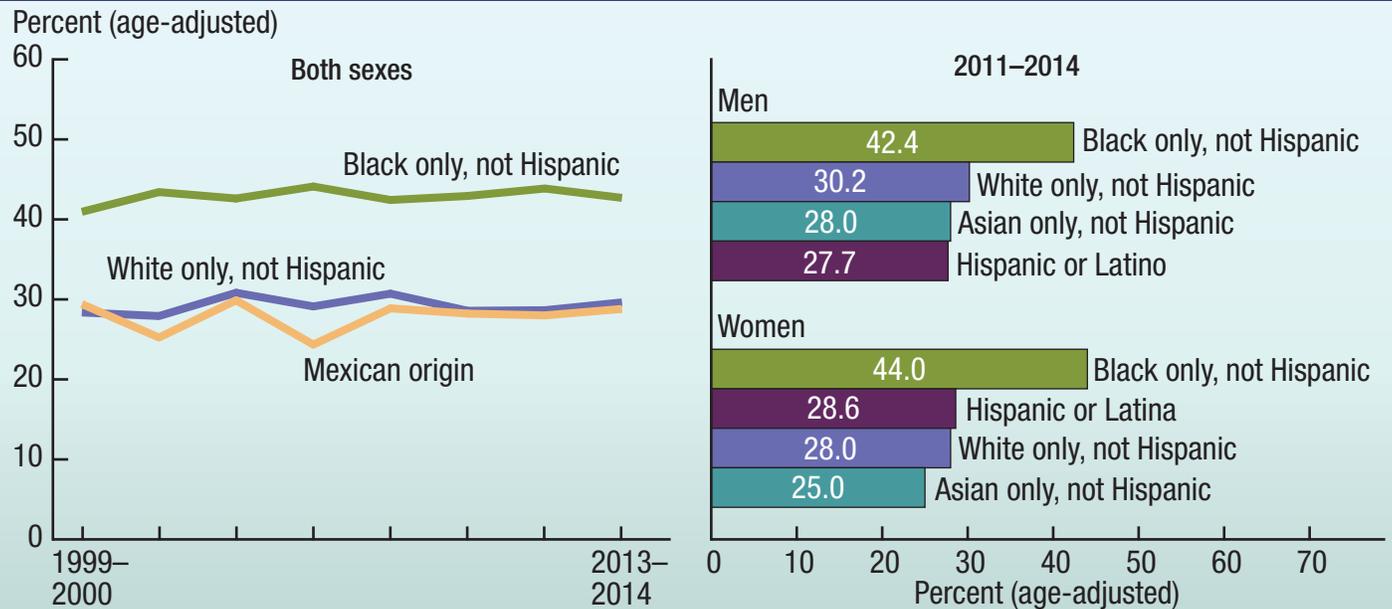
NOTE: See *Health, United States, 2015* data table for Figure 19.  
SOURCE: NCHS, *Health, United States, 2015* and National Vital Statistics System.

### Hypertension

- The difference between the group with the highest (non-Hispanic black) and the group with the lowest (Mexican origin) age-adjusted percentage of adults 20 and over with hypertension was stable between 1999–2000 and 2013–2014.
- In 2013–2014, the difference between these two groups (42.7% age-adjusted for non-Hispanic black and 28.8% age-adjusted for Mexican-origin adults) was 13.9 percentage points.



## Hypertension among adults aged 20 and over, by sex and race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1999–2000 through 2013–2014



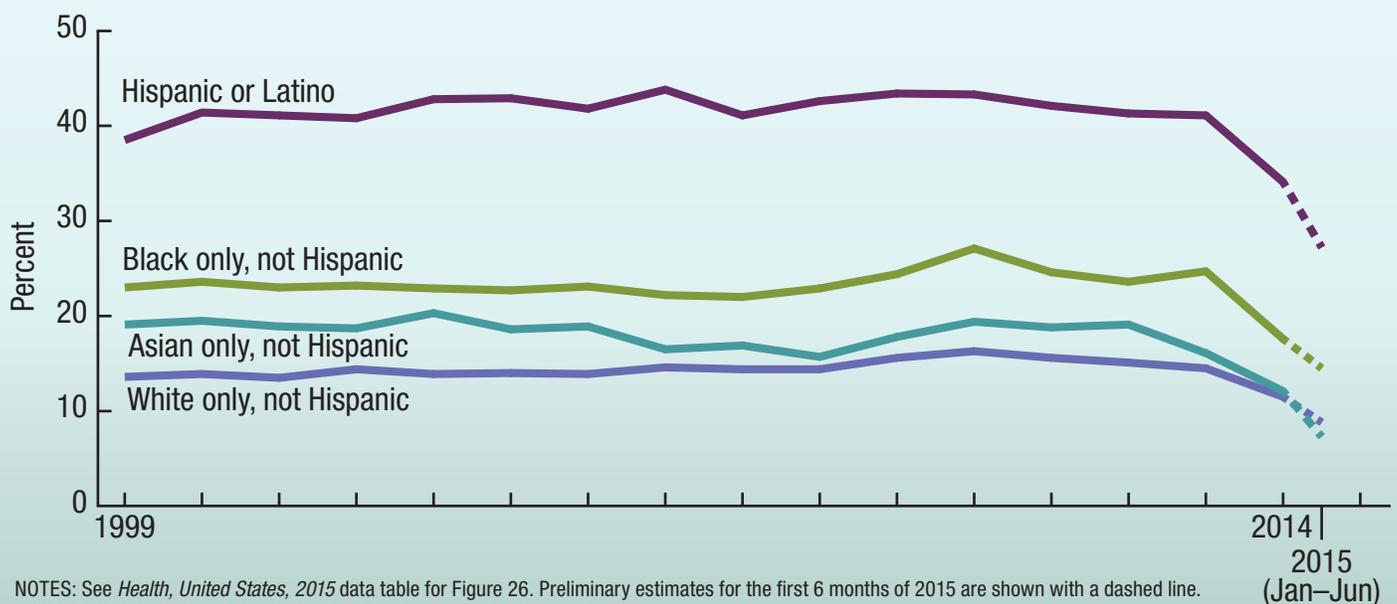
NOTES: Estimates are age-adjusted. Hypertension is having measured high blood pressure (systolic pressure of at least 140 mm Hg or diastolic pressure of at least 90 mm Hg) and/or respondent report of taking antihypertensive medication. Data for Hispanic adults was available starting in 2007–2008 and for non-Hispanic Asian adults in 2011–2012. See *Health, United States, 2015* data table for Figure 23.

SOURCE: NCHS, *Health, United States, 2015* and National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

## Health insurance coverage

- During 1999–June 2015, Hispanic adults aged 18–64 were more likely to be uninsured (27.2% in the first 6 months of 2015), and non-Hispanic white adults aged 18–64 were the least likely to be uninsured, except in the first 6 months of 2015, when non-Hispanic Asian adults had the lowest percentage uninsured (7.3% in the first 6 months of 2015).
- The difference between the groups with the highest and lowest percentages of uninsured adults narrowed from 24.9 percentage points in 1999 (between Hispanic and non-Hispanic white adults) to 19.9 percentage points in June 2015 (between Hispanic and non-Hispanic Asian adults).

## No health insurance coverage among adults aged 18–64, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1999–June 2015 (preliminary data)



NOTES: See *Health, United States, 2015* data table for Figure 26. Preliminary estimates for the first 6 months of 2015 are shown with a dashed line.

SOURCE: NCHS, *Health, United States, 2015* and National Health Interview Survey.

