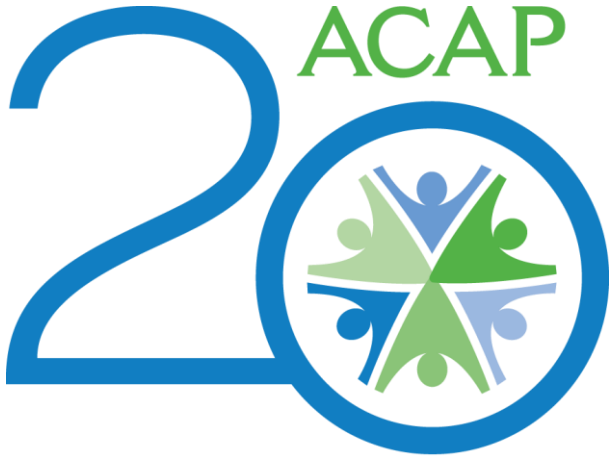


Racial Disparities in the Age of Covid-19: A Black Health Perspective

C. Virginia Fields

President & CEO

National Black Leadership Commission on Health, Inc.

National Black Leadership Commission on Health

MISSION

Champion promotion of health and prevention of diseases to reduce disparities and achieve equity within the black community.

VISION

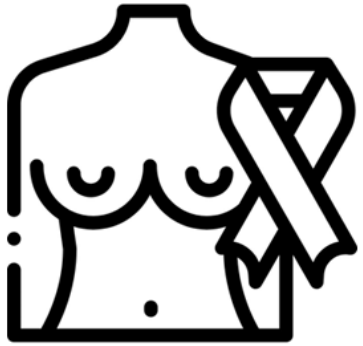
Reduce disparities and achieve equity to promote the health and well-being of Black communities through advocacy, policy, and action.

Focus Areas

HIV/AIDS

Hepatitis C

Prostate Cancer



Breast Cancer

Mental Health

Diabetes

Sickle Cell

Cardiovascular Disease

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Racial Health Inequity Persists

Black/African Americans make up **13.4%** of US population

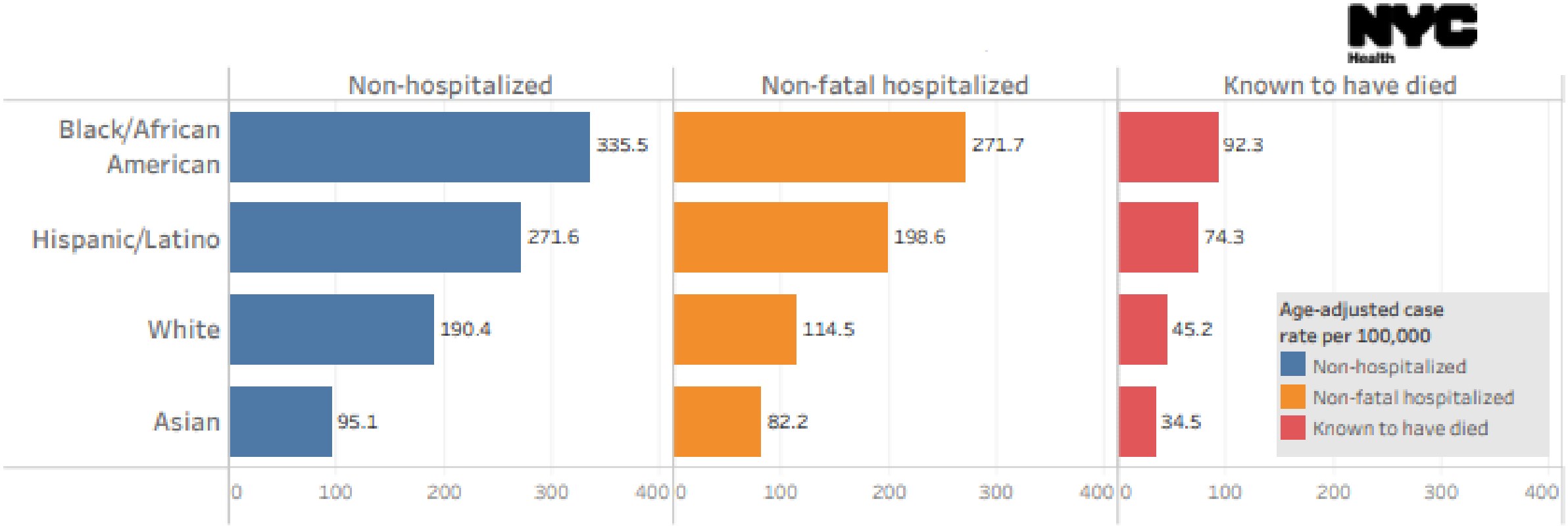
Black/African Americans ages 18-64 have a greater risk of early death than whites.

Black/African Americans ages 35-64 have double the risk for high blood pressure as whites.

Black/African Americans 18-49 are twice as likely as whites to die from heart disease.

Black/African Americans have higher mortality in prostate and breast cancer

The Current Reality



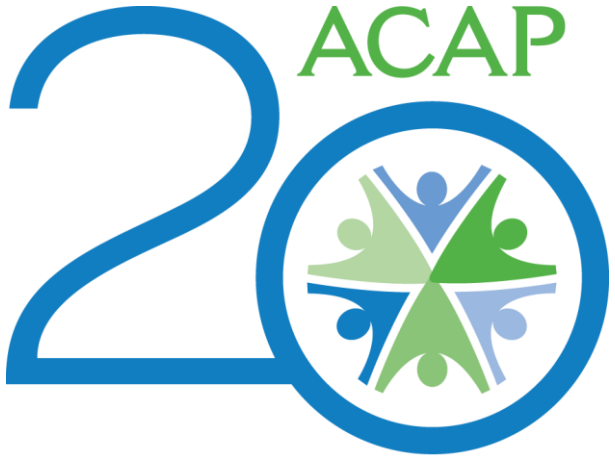
Age-adjusted rates of lab confirmed COVID-19 non hospitalized cases, estimated non-fatal hospitalized cases, and patients known to have died 100,000 by race/ethnicity group as of April 16, 2020

"ACAP will work diligently and purposefully to shine a light on racial disparities in health care,
and highlight meaningful efforts to eliminate them."

- **Margaret A. Murray**

CEO

Association for Community Affiliated Plans



Closing the Health Divide

Principles for addressing Racial health Disparities

Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Strengthening the Safety Net Since 2000

Principles for addressing Racial Health Disparities

I. Set the elimination of racial health disparities as a goal

II. Recognize the complexities of racial and ethnic communities. Engage discussion about race

III. Expand the Health Care Safety Net

IV. Diversify the Health Care Workforce

Principles for addressing Racial health Disparities

V. Promote the Collection and Dissemination of Data

VI. Combat diseases that disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minorities

VII. Enhance medical research that benefits all communities

VIII. Coordinate efforts of all stakeholders

What does success look like to your organization?

The Fierce Urgency of Now

"We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there "is" such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action."

— **Martin Luther King Jr.**