

## QUESTION 1: Which health conditions disparately impact Latinos?

### ANSWER:

Hispanics<sup>1</sup> are more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to be affected by several health conditions, including diabetes, asthma, HIV/AIDS, and their complications. As suggested below, these conditions can have serious consequences on Latinos' well-being.

### DIABETES

Hispanics are more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to have diabetes and be hospitalized or die from complications of the disease.

- Among people ages 20 years or older, more than one in ten (10.4%) Hispanics have physician-diagnosed diabetes, compared to about one in 15 (6.6%) non-Hispanic Whites, one in nine (11.8%) non-Hispanic Blacks, and one in 13 (7.5%) non-Hispanic Asians<sup>2</sup> (see Figure 1). Among Hispanics, 8.2% of Cubans, 11.9% of Mexicans, and 12.6% of Puerto Ricans have been diagnosed with diabetes.<sup>3</sup>
- In 2004, Hispanics were about four times more likely to be hospitalized for uncontrolled diabetes—suffering 51 such hospitalizations per 100,000 people—than non-Hispanic Whites, who have a rate of 12.9 per 100,000.<sup>4</sup>
- Hispanics are more likely than Whites to die of diabetes. The age-adjusted diabetes death rate for Hispanics (33.6 deaths per 100,000 people) was nearly 50% greater than that of Whites (21.5 per 100,000) in 2005.<sup>5</sup>

### ASTHMA

Generally, incidence of asthma among Hispanics does not differ much from incidence among non-Hispanic Whites, with the significant exception of Puerto Ricans.

- While Hispanics' overall asthma rate is similar to that of non-Hispanic Whites, Puerto Ricans are substantially more at risk of having the condition and suffering from acute asthma attacks. After adjusting for age, Puerto Ricans were about twice as likely (15.6%) to have been diagnosed with asthma by a physician than non-Hispanic Whites (7.7%)<sup>6</sup> (see Table 1).
- This disparity is even higher among children: one in five Puerto Rican children under age 18 have asthma, compared to nearly one in ten (9%) Hispanic children overall and one in 13 (7.9%) White children.<sup>7</sup>
- Puerto Ricans were more than two times more likely (9.4%) to report having an asthma attack in the past year than Whites (4.2%) and Hispanics overall (3.7%).<sup>8</sup>

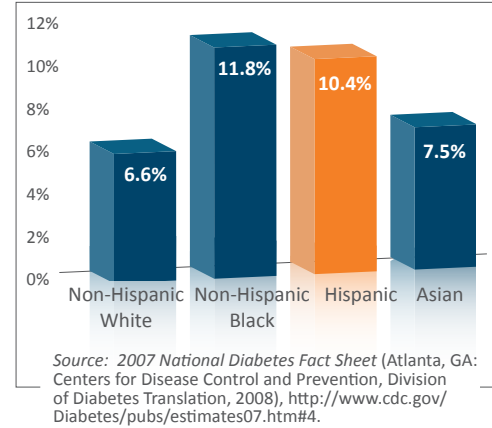
### HIV/AIDS

Latinos, along with other minority groups, are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS.

- Researchers estimate that Hispanics have the second-highest rate of HIV infection in the U.S.<sup>9</sup> In 2006, Hispanics' rate of HIV infection was three times (29.3 per 100,000 people) the rate of non-Hispanic Whites (11.5 per 100,000)<sup>10</sup> (see Figure 2).
- Latinos represent nearly one in five (19%) people in the United States and U.S. territories who have been diagnosed with AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic.<sup>11</sup> By the end of 2006, an estimated 81,000 Hispanics had died from the disease.<sup>12</sup>
- The island of Puerto Rico has the sixth-highest rate of AIDS cases in the U.S., behind the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Maryland, New York, and Florida.<sup>13</sup> In 2007, Puerto Rico had 21.5 AIDS cases per 100,000 people, compared to a rate of 12.5 per 100,000 nationally.<sup>14</sup>

**Figure 1:**

Adults Ages 20 and Older Diagnosed with Diabetes by Race/Ethnicity, 2004–2006



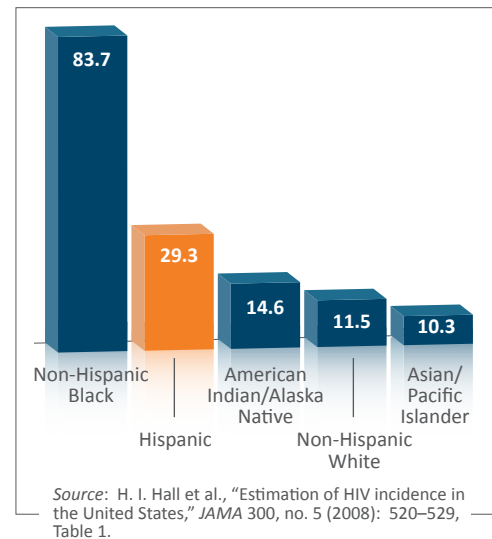
**Table 1:**

Age-Adjusted Asthma Prevalence Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 2005–2007	
Asian	5.0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	8.0%
Hispanic	6.4%
Puerto Rican	15.6%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	10.9%
Non-Hispanic Black	9.4%
Non-Hispanic White	7.7%

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Health Data Interactive system, using data from the "National Health Interview Survey," <http://205.207.175.93/HDI/ReportFolders/reportFolders.aspx>.

**Figure 2:**

Estimated Rates of HIV Infections per 100,000 People by Race/Ethnicity, 2006



## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> The terms “Hispanic” and “Latino” are used interchangeably by the U.S. Census Bureau and throughout this document to refer to persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, Dominican, Spanish, and other Hispanic descent; they may be of any race. Furthermore, unless otherwise noted, estimates in this document do not include the 3.9 million residents of Puerto Rico.

<sup>2</sup> *2007 National Diabetes Fact Sheet* (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Diabetes Translation, 2008), <http://www.cdc.gov/Diabetes/pubs/estimates07.htm#4> (accessed February 2009).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> NCLR calculation using data from Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, “Table 25: Admissions for uncontrolled diabetes without complications (excluding obstetric admissions and transfers from other institutions) per 100,000 population, age 18 and over, by race/ethnicity, United States, 2004,” NHDRnet, [http://nhdrnet.ahrq.gov/nhdr/jsp/nhdr.jsp?catId=207028&detailId=207025&sheetCode=&genTable\\_flg=Y](http://nhdrnet.ahrq.gov/nhdr/jsp/nhdr.jsp?catId=207028&detailId=207025&sheetCode=&genTable_flg=Y) (accessed February 2009).

<sup>5</sup> Kung et al., *Deaths: Final Data for 2005*, National Vital Statistics Reports, vol. 56, no. 9 (Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, 2008), [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr56/nvsr56\\_10.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr56/nvsr56_10.pdf) (accessed February 2009).

<sup>6</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Health Data Interactive system, using data from the “National Health Interview Survey,” <http://205.207.175.93/HDI/ReportFolders/reportFolders.aspx> (accessed February 2009).

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> H. I. Hall et al., “Estimation of HIV incidence in the United States,” *JAMA* 300, no. 5 (2008): 520–529, Table 1.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> *Fact Sheet: HIV/AIDS Among Hispanics/Latinos in the United States* (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2008), <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/hispanics/resources/factsheets/hispanic.htm#3> (accessed February 2009); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, vol. 18 (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2008), <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/2006report/default.htm> (accessed February 2009).

<sup>12</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*.

<sup>13</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation, “AIDS Case Rate per 100,000 Population, All Ages, 2007,” <http://www.statehealthfacts.kff.org/comparemaptable.jsp?ind=513&cat=11> (accessed February 2009).

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.