Mississippi

Behavioral Risk Factors Survey

2003

Annual Report

Mississippi State Department Of Health

2003
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Report (BRFSS)

Mississippi State Department of Health
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Introduction

It is generally acknowledged by health care professionals that certain behavior patterns are associated with disease, injury and death. Among these are cigarette smoking, physical inactivity, alcohol consumption and risky sexual behavior. The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is a surveillance system designed to estimate the prevalence of these and other health risk factors in all states in the United States. The results provide a tool for evaluating health trends, assessing the risk of chronic disease, and measuring the effectiveness of policies, programs and awareness campaigns.

The BRFSS is a cooperative agreement between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Mississippi State Department of Health. The first survey was done in 1984 when the data was collected at one given point in time. The survey was repeated in 1988 using the same methodology. Beginning in 1990 there has been an annual survey with the data being collected monthly.

The BRFSS survey contains a set of core questions provided by the CDC to gather comprehensive standard information nationwide. The questions are related to health status, access to health care, health awareness, lifestyle, and preventive health. Individual states are allowed to include questions addressing specific issues that are of particular interest to that state.

Methodology

A. SAMPLING DESIGN

The Mississippi BRFSS is a random sample telephone survey. Utilizing the disproportionate stratified sample (DSS) design with random digit dialing and the Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) system, the survey has the potential to represent 93 percent of all households in Mississippi that have telephones according to BellSouth data. A sample size of 3,043 interviews over a 12-month period was selected to obtain a 95 percent confidence interval of ±2.5% on risk factor prevalence estimates in the adult population. Prevalence estimates by individual demographic variables, comprising smaller sample sizes, do not achieve the same level of accuracy as the total sample.

Interviewers, contracted by the MSDH, contact the residences during weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. and Saturdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. After a residence has been contacted, one adult (18 years of age or older) is randomly selected to be interviewed from all adults residing in the household. Interviews are collected during a two-week period each month.

B. QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire, designed through cooperative agreements with the CDC, is divided into three sections. The first section contains questions on health risk behavior; the second section contains demographic information; and the third contains optional modules covering topics of interest to the state.

C. DATA ANALYSIS

The data collected by the MSDH Office of Public Health Statistics was compiled and weighted by the CDC. Weighted counts were based on the 2002 Mississippi population estimates to accurately reflect the population demographics. The weighting factor considered the number of adults and telephone lines in the household, and age/race/sex distribution of the general population. Therefore, the estimated prevalence of any risk factor from the survey represents the total population of Mississippi residents very well. The reader should be aware that the numbers presented in the tables of this report reflect the actual, non-weighted observations for each cell while the percentages in each cell represent the weighted prevalence.

This report presents the percentage of high-risk behavior within each demographic group for each of the risk factors along with certain chronic diseases. The demographic information for persons reporting high-risk behavior or chronic disease is also presented. The demographic information collected and presented in this survey covers sex, age, race, education, household income, and employment status.

D. Limitations of the Data

All data collection systems are subject to error, and records may be incomplete or contain inaccurate information. All information in this survey is self-reported; people may not remember essential information, a question may not mean the same thing to different respondents, and some individuals may not respond at all. It is not always possible to measure the magnitude of these errors or their impact on the data. The user must make his or her own evaluation of the data.

E. Sample Size

Sample sizes vary by question and response category due to non-response and skip patterns within the survey instrument. Overall estimates generally have relatively small sampling errors, but estimates for certain population subgroups may be based on small numbers and have relatively large sampling errors. Interpreting estimates that are based on small numbers of respondents can mislead the reader into believing that a given finding is more precise than it actually is. When the number of events is small and the probability of such an event is small, considerable caution must be observed in interpreting the estimates and/or differences between groups and areas. The BRFSS recommends not interpreting percentages where the denominator is based upon fewer than 50 non-weighted respondents. In the tables of results, such situations are marked with an asterisk indicating: “Sample size less than 50."

Definition of Terms and Risk Factors

Alcohol Consumption

Binge Drinking Risk Factor - Respondents who report that they have had at least five drinks on one or more occasion during the past thirty days.

Heavy Drinking Risk Factor - Male respondents who report having more than two drinks per day and female respondents who report having more than one drink per day during the past thirty days.

Arthritis

Arthritis Awareness - Respondents who have been told by a doctor or other health professional that they have some form of arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, lupus, or fibromyalgia.

The reader should note that the definition of "arthritis" has changed since the last report. In prior years it included respondents who not only had been diagnosed with arthritis but also those who reported pain or stiffness in the joints for at least thirty days during the previous year.

Asthma

Asthma Awareness - Respondents who report being told they have asthma by a doctor, nurse or other health professional.

Current Asthma - Respondents who report that being told they have asthma by a doctor, nurse or other health professional and who still suffer from the condition.

Breast Cancer Screening

Mammogram and Clinical Breast Examination (CBE) - Female respondents, age 40 and older, who report that they have ever had a mammogram and a CBE.

Mammogram and CBE within two years - Female respondents, age 50 and older, who report that they have had a mammogram and a CBE within the last two years.

Cervical Cancer Screening

Pap Smear - Female respondents who have not had hysterectomies and who report that they have ever had a pap smear.

Pap Smear Within 3 Years - Female respondents who have not had hysterectomies and who report that they have had a pap smear within the last three years.

Cholesterol

Cholesterol Checked - Respondents who report that they have ever had their blood cholesterol checked.

Cholesterol Checked in Past Five Years - Respondents who report having had their blood cholesterol checked within the past five years.

Cholesterol High - Respondents who have had their blood cholesterol checked and who have ever been told that their blood cholesterol is high by a doctor, nurse, or other health professional.

Colorectal Cancer Screening

Sigmoidoscopy/Colonoscopy Examination - Respondents age 50 and older who report ever having had a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy test.

Blood Stool Test - Respondents age 50 and older who have ever had a home blood stool test.

Diabetes

Diabetes Awareness - Respondents who report they have ever been told by a doctor that they have diabetes.

Disability

Limited Activity - Respondents who report that their activity is limited in any way because of physical, mental or emotional problems.

Special Equipment Requirements - Respondents who report having health problems that require the use of special equipment such as a cane, wheelchair, special bed or special telephone.

Exercise

Exercise: Last 30 Days - Respondents who report that, excluding their regular job, in the past 30 days they participated in any physical activity or exercise such as running, walking, calisthenics, golf, or gardening.

Falls

Fall in past three months - Respondents age 45 and above who report having a fall in the past three months.

Fruits and Vegetables

Fruit and vegetable consumption - Respondents who report that they eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables per day.

Health Insurance

Health Care Coverage - Respondents who report they have no health care coverage, including health insurance, Health Maintenance Organizations, or Medicare.

Unable to See a Doctor - Respondents who report that they needed to see a doctor within the past 12 months but were unable because of the cost.

Health Status

Self-Reported Health Status - Respondents who report that their general health status is fair or poor.

HIV/AIDS

Never Tested for HIV - Respondents age 18-64 who report that they have never been tested for HIV, excluding tests done as part of a blood donation.

High Risk Behavior - Respondents age 18-64 who report that they have used intravenous drugs, have been treated for a sexually transmitted or venereal disease, have given or received drugs or money in exchange for sexual favors, or have had anal intercourse without a condom during the past year.

Hypertension

Hypertension Awareness - Respondents who have ever been told they have high blood pressure by a doctor, nurse or other health professional.

Taking Blood Pressure Medicine - Respondents who have been told they have high blood pressure by a doctor, nurse or other health professional and who are taking medication to control it.

Immunization

Flu Shots - Respondents who report that they have received a flu shot within the last twelve months.

Pneumonia Shots - Respondents who report that they have ever received a pneumonia shot.

Physical Activity

Moderate Physical Activity - Respondents who report doing 30 or more minutes per day of moderate physical activity and for five or more days per week of moderate physical activity. Moderate physical activities are those such as brisk walking, bicycling, vacuuming or gardening that causes small increases in breathing or heart rate. This measures *Healthy People 2010* Objective 22.2 - Target $\geq$30%.

Vigorous Physical Activity - Respondents who report doing 20 or more minutes per day of vigorous physical activity and three or more days per week of vigorous physical activity. Vigorous physical activities are those such as running, aerobics or heavy yard work that causes large increases in breathing or heart rate. This measures *Healthy People 2010* Objective 22.3 - Target $\geq$30%.

No Leisure Time Physical Activity - Respondents that report doing no moderate or vigorous physical activity or exercise. This measures *Healthy People 2010* Objective 22.1 - Target $\leq$20%

Prostate Cancer

Prostate Cancer Screening - Male respondents, age 40 and older, who report that they have ever had a Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) test used to check for prostate cancer.

Residential Fire

Smoke Alarms - Respondents who report that they do not have smoke alarms in their place of residence.

Smoke Alarms Tested - Respondents who report that their smoke alarms were not tested within the past year.

Smoking Status

Cigarette Smoker - Respondents who have ever smoked 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and report currently smoking every day or some days. This relates to *Healthy People 2010* Objective 27.1a - Target ≤12%.

Weight Based on Body Mass Index (BMI)

Healthy Weight: - Respondents whose body mass index (BMI) is 18.5 ≤ BMI ≤ 24.9. This measures *Healthy People 2010* Objective 19.1 - Target ≥60%.

Overweight - Respondents whose body mass index (BMI) is 25.0 ≤ BMI ≤ 29.9.

Obese - Respondents whose body mass index (BMI) ≥30.0. This measures Health People 2010 Objective 19.2 - Target ≤15%.

Survey Results

Health Care Coverage

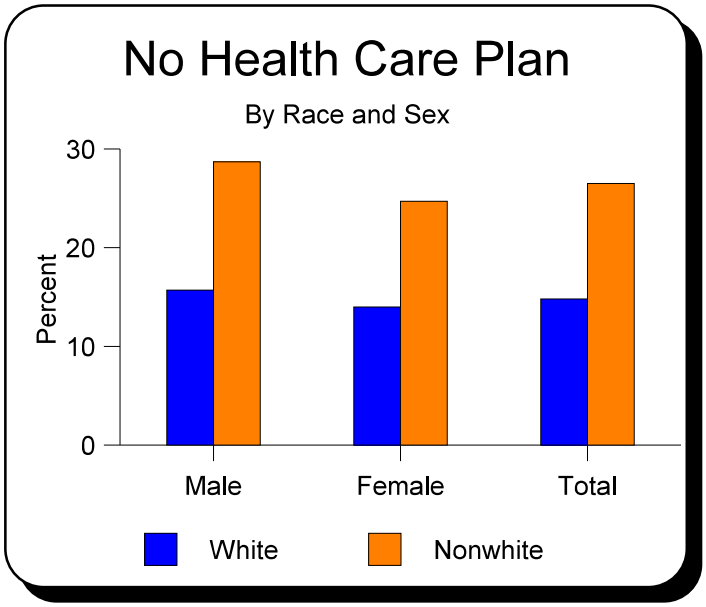

Figure 1

The questions in this section are designed to estimate the number of people who cannot obtain the health care they need because they are not covered by a health care plan or cannot afford to pay for insurance coverage. People at risk are those who have no health insurance, prepaid plans, Medicare, or other government assisted programs such as the military, the VA or Medicaid.

In 2003, 19 percent of the respondents indicated they had no health care plan compared to 18.6 percent in 2001. According to the survey, nonwhite males have the highest rate of non-coverage at a rate of 28.7 percent; nonwhite females were next at 24.7 percent (Figure 1).

Viewed by age categories, nonwhites from the age of 45 to 54 reported the highest prevalence of no health care coverage at 32.9 percent (Figure 2).

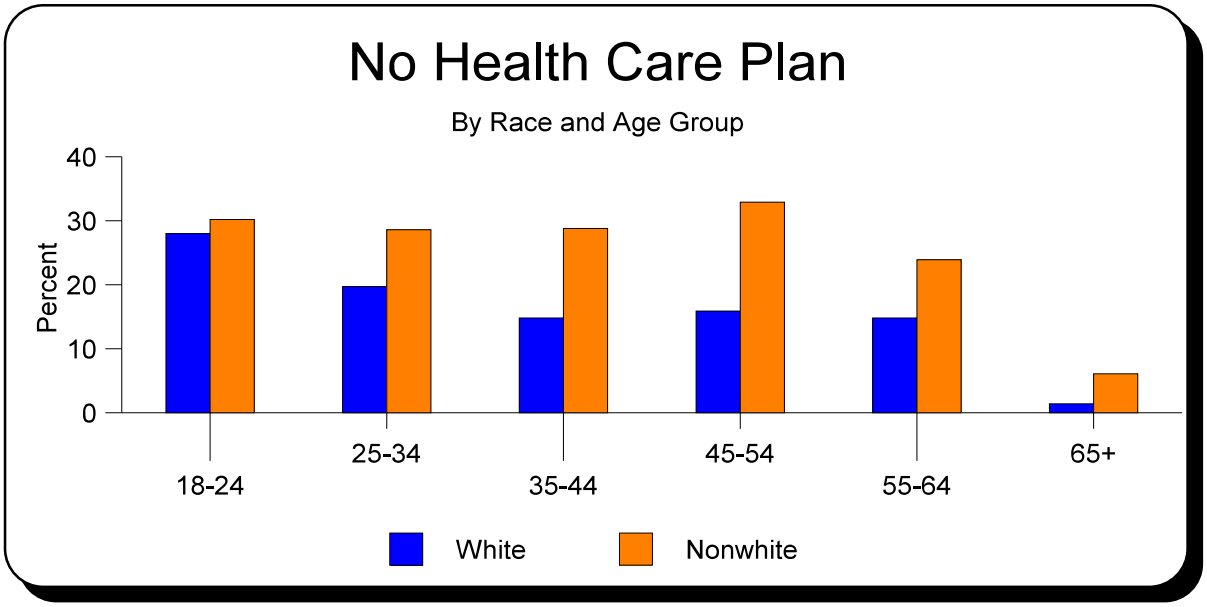

Figure 2

In 2003, 18.4 percent of the population was unable to see a doctor when they needed to during the past twelve months because of cost. Twenty-four percent of those were nonwhite and 15.2 percent were white. Almost 36 percent of people whose annual incomes were less than $15,000 per year reported that they were unable to see a doctor because of the cost: 31.3 percent were white and 39.1 percent were nonwhite (Figure 3).

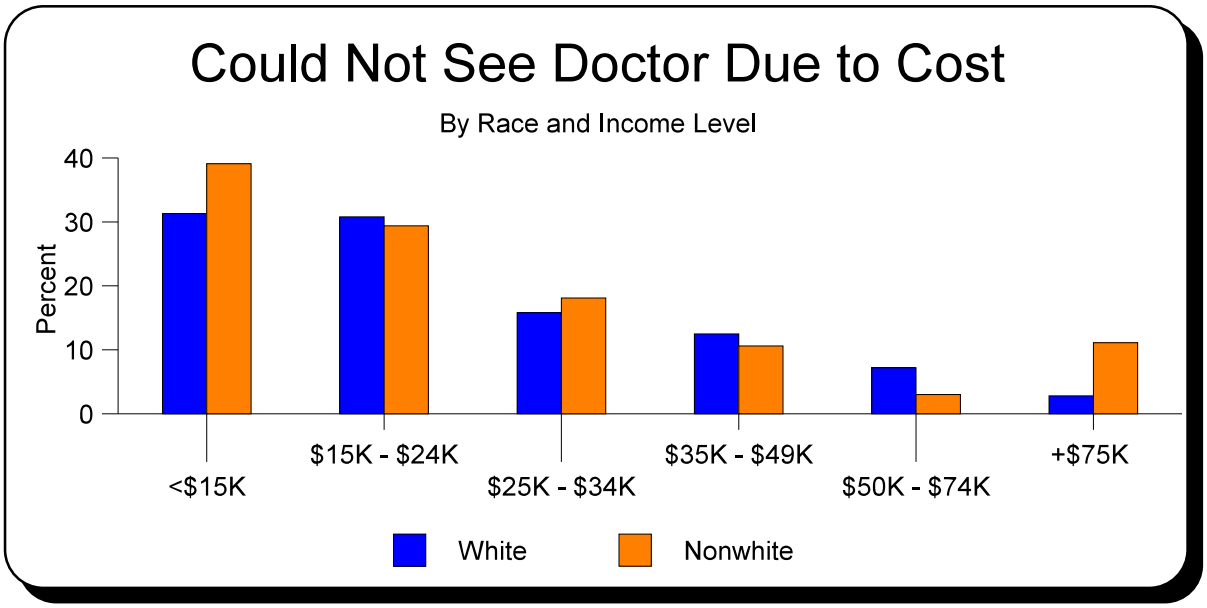

Figure 3

Persons Who Have No Kind of Health Care Plan

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	151	15.7	120	28.7	273	20.2
Female	220	14.0	249	24.7	473	17.9
Age Group						
18-24	48	28.0	40	30.2	88	29.0
25-34	75	19.7	82	28.6	157	23.4
35-44	73	14.8	90	28.8	163	20.0
45-54	89	15.9	89	32.9	179	21.9
55-64	75	14.8	51	23.9	128	17.4
65+	10	1.4	13	6.1	24	2.6
Education						
< High School Graduate	88	26.0	104	29.1	194	27.5
High School Graduate or GED	140	18.5	150	31.5	291	23.5
Some College or Technical School	86	12.1	76	24.4	162	16.0
College Graduate	56	7.7	38	14.5	96	9.5
Income						
< $15,000	80	30.3	128	33.9	208	32.1
$15-$24,999	109	30.1	109	30.4	220	30.3
$25-$34,999	59	17.0	50	31.9	109	22.4
$35-$49,999	42	9.4	24	16.2	66	11.2
$50-$74,999	31	8.7	8	9.9	39	8.9
$75,000+	12	3.2	3	4.8*	15	3.4
Employment Status						
Employed	201	14.5	200	24.7	402	17.9
Not Employed	50	47.8	71	54.7	121	51.6
Student/Homemaker	54	18.1	34	26.1	90	21.1
Retired/Unable to work	65	7.5	64	17.7	132	11.1
Total	289	14.8	240	25.9	536	18.6

* Sample size less than 50

Unable to See a Doctor in Last Twelve Months Because of Cost

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	118	12.2	82	16.6	200	13.7
Female	308	18.0	305	30.4	618	22.6
Age Group						
18-24	33	18.5	38	23.4	71	20.7
25-34	80	19.5	75	23.0	156	21.2
35-44	101	19.1	101	28.1	202	22.4
45-54	106	18.9	85	26.6	192	21.7
55-64	66	12.4	50	26.5	117	16.0
65+	40	4.9	34	14.1	76	7.3
Education						
< High School Graduate	91	25.2	126	31.9	220	28.5
High School Graduate or GED	155	17.7	131	23.6	287	20.0
Some College or Technical School	110	14.2	95	23.5	206	17.2
College Graduate	69	8.2	35	13.9	104	9.6
Income						
< $15,000	95	31.3	157	39.1	253	35.6
$15-$24,999	123	30.8	126	29.4	251	30.1
$25-$34,999	55	15.8	35	18.1	91	16.9
$35-$49,999	63	12.5	16	10.6	79	12.0
$50-$74,999	29	7.2	4	3.0	33	6.4
$75,000+	12	2.8	3	11.1*	15	3.8
Employment Status						
Employed	214	13.0	186	19.8	401	15.4
Not Employed	50	51.3	58	36.7	108	43.3
Student/Homemaker	50	16.5	20	17.3	70	16.7
Retired/Unable to work	112	12.5	123	31.2	239	18.8
Total	426	15.2	387	24.0	818	18.4

* Sample size less than 50

Health Status

Questions related to health status attempt to determine how people look at their personal health and how well they function physically, psychologically and socially while engaged in normal, daily activities. The questions are important in that they can indicate dysfunction and disability not measured in standard morbidity and mortality data.

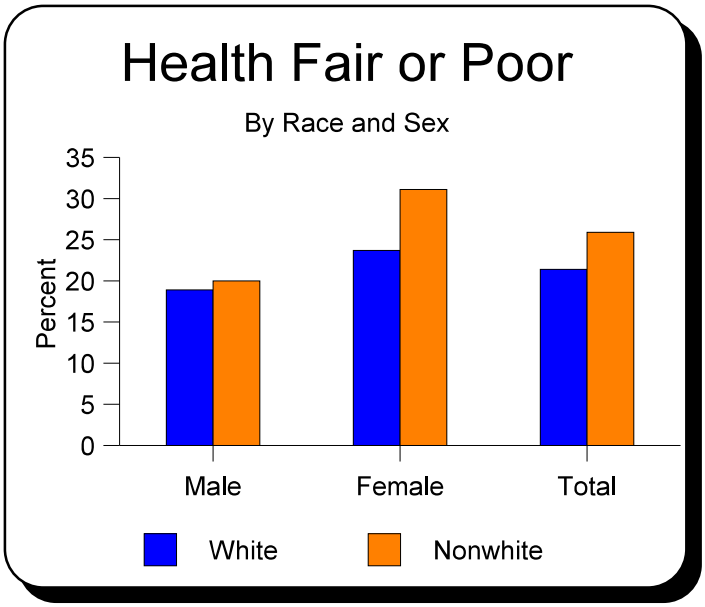

Figure 4

Females of both races reported their health as worse than males (Figure 4). Nonwhite respondents report their health as worse than whites. Nonwhite respondents reported fair or poor health at a rate of 25.9 percent compared to 21.4 percent for whites.

Not surprisingly, reported fair or poor health tended to increase with age. Persons in the 18 to 24 age group reported a rate of 6.8 percent while those more than 65 years of age reported a rate of 43.9 percent (Figure 5).

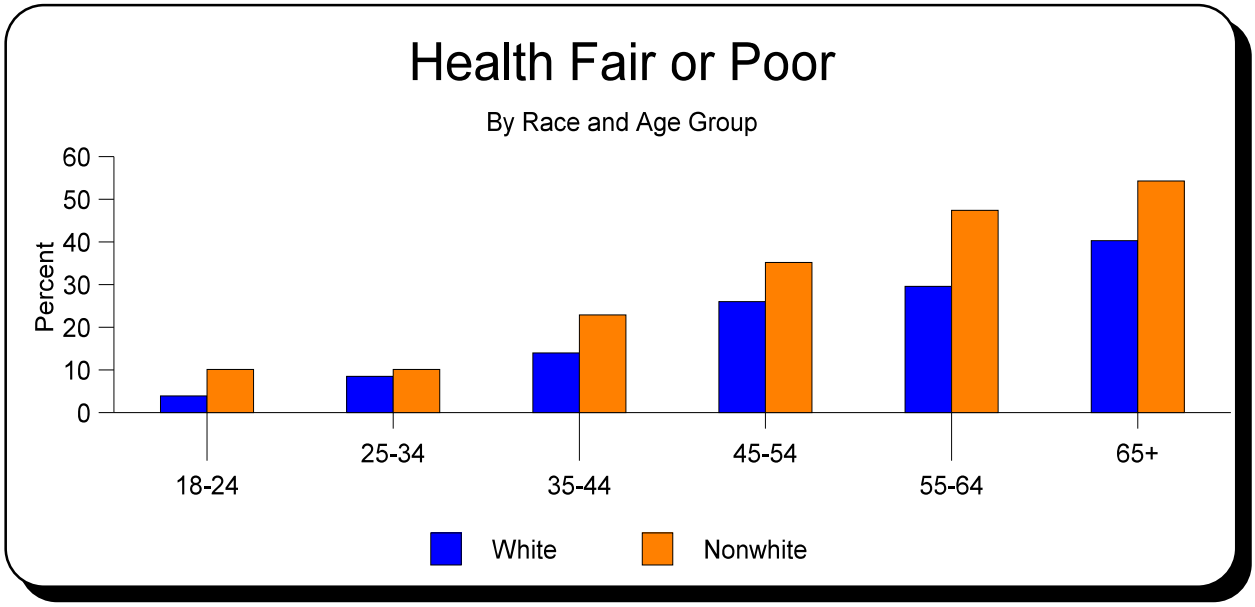

Figure 5

Health Fair or Poor

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	237	18.9	107	20.0	346	19.4
Female	473	23.7	338	31.1	815	26.3
Age Group						
18-24	11	3.9	16	10.1	27	6.8
25-34	33	8.5	33	10.1	66	9.1
35-44	68	14.0	73	22.9	141	17.3
45-54	148	26.0	110	35.2	258	29.1
55-64	162	29.6	84	47.4	248	34.4
65+	286	40.3	125	54.3	415	43.9
Education						
< High School Graduate	207	44.3	190	42.4	401	43.4
High School Graduate or GED	252	24.4	145	25.9	397	24.9
Some College or Technical School	154	17.5	68	17.6	223	17.6
College Graduate	96	10.1	40	13.0	137	10.9
Income						
< $15,000	183	52.7	187	43.7	373	47.9
$15-$24,999	158	31.8	127	29.8	288	31.0
$25-$34,999	85	20.0	34	17.0	119	18.8
$35-$49,999	86	17.4	22	13.4	108	16.3
$50-$74,999	49	10.1	5	8.6	54	9.8
$75,000+	25	5.6	2	1.9*	27	5.2
Employment Status						
Employed	192	10.3	136	15.7	328	12.2
Not Employed	28	19.3	26	14.0	54	16.4
Student/Homemaker	58	17.2	17	11.7	75	15.3
Retired/Unable to Work	431	49.1	266	62.6	703	53.6
Total	710	21.4	445	25.9	1,161	23.0

* Sample size less than 50

Tobacco Use

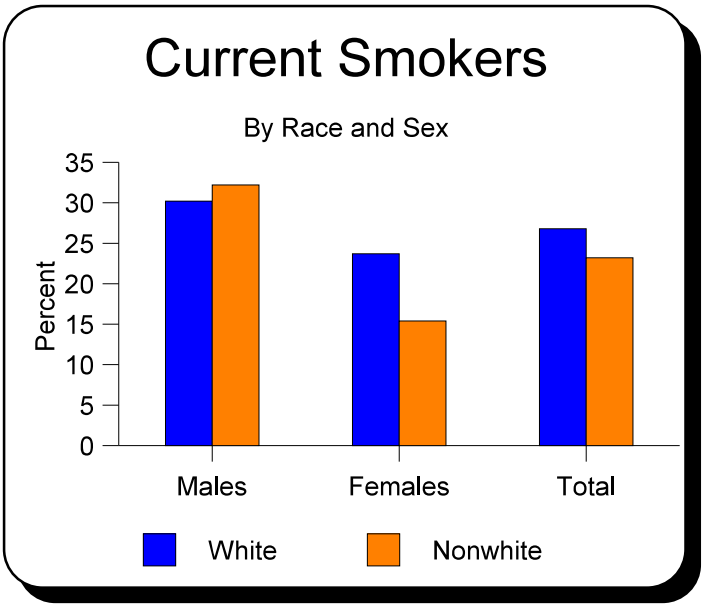

Figure 6

Tobacco use is the single leading preventable cause of death in Mississippi and the United States. Each year, about one-fifth of Mississippians die of tobacco-related causes. Health problems related to tobacco use include cancers, lung disease, and heart disease. Over the past decade the percentage of current adult smokers has not changed significantly. During the same period smokeless tobacco and cigar use among adults has increased. Mississippi was the first state to reach a settlement with the tobacco industry. The Mississippi State Department of Health has drafted a state tobacco plan that includes strategies to prevent initiation of tobacco use among youth, promote cessation among youth and adults, and eliminate exposure to environmental tobacco smoke.

The group with the largest percentage of current smokers is nonwhite males at 32.2 percent followed by white males at 30.2 percent and white females at 23.7 percent. The group with the lowest percentage of current smokers is nonwhite females at 15.4 percent (Figure 6). Overall, the rate of current smoking in Mississippi is 25.5 percent. The *Healthy People 2010* objective is 12 percent.

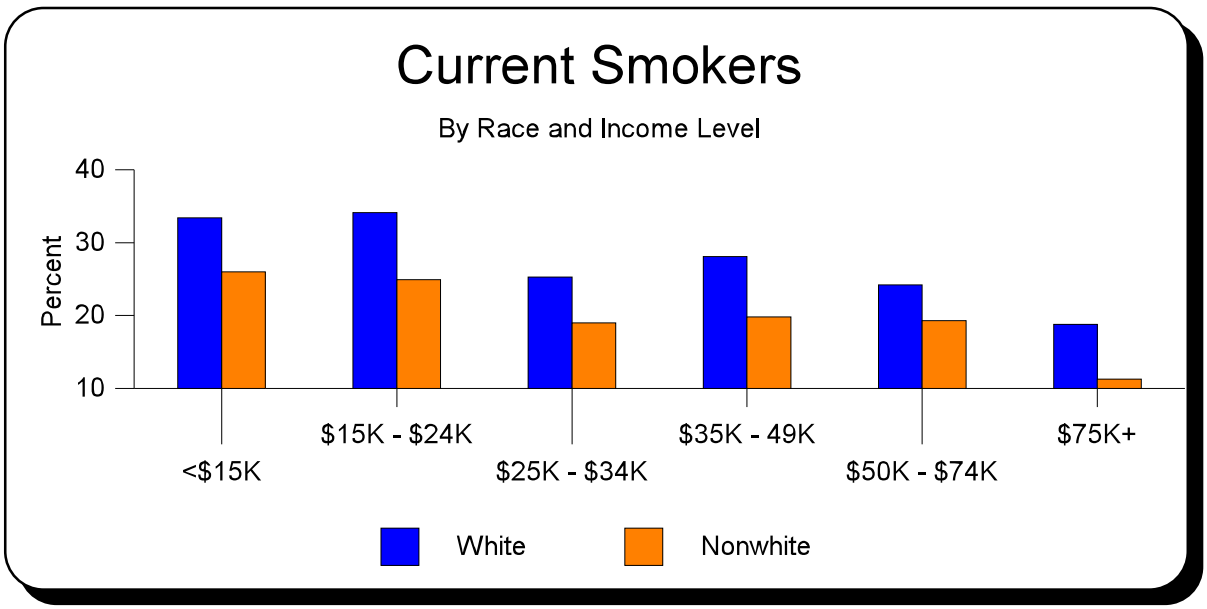

Figure 7

Persons Who Have Smoked at Least 100 Cigarettes and Who Now Smoke

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	304	30.2	153	32.2	459	31.0
Female	426	23.7	176	15.4	603	20.6
Age Group						
18-24	61	37.6	31	22.1	92	30.5
25-34	122	31.9	51	17.9	173	26.0
35-44	168	31.4	78	25.6	246	29.2
45-54	192	31.7	94	35.7	286	32.9
55-64	111	24.1	43	23.7	155	23.9
65+	74	9.3	30	12.4	105	10.3
Education						
< High School Graduate	137	39.8	104	29.3	243	34.7
High School Graduate or GED	257	29.7	121	25.3	378	27.9
Some College or Technical School	209	28.5	73	21.3	282	26.2
College Graduate	125	15.0	31	12.6	157	14.4
Income						
< $15,000	99	33.4	105	26.0	205	29.5
$15-$24,999	141	34.1	92	24.9	234	29.5
$25-$34,999	94	25.3	38	19.0	132	22.9
$35-$49,999	135	28.1	25	19.8	160	25.8
$50-$74,999	105	24.2	15	19.3	120	23.2
$75,000+	76	18.8	6	11.3*	82	17.8
Employment Status						
Employed	456	29.7	178	23.2	634	27.4
Not Employed	49	55.8	40	31.3	89	42.4
Student/Homemaker	52	16.0	14	10.5	67	14.1
Retired/Unable to Work	172	19.5	96	24.7	270	21.3
Total	730	26.8	329	23.2	1,062	25.5

* Sample size less than 50

Diabetes

Diabetes was the seventh leading cause of death in Mississippi for the year 2002 with a death rate of 23.1 per 1000 population. According to the 2003 BRFSS survey, 11 percent of all respondents reported being told by a doctor that they have diabetes. This represents an increase of 28.4 percent over the rate of 8.5 percent reported in 2002 and 18.3 percent over the rate of 9.3 percent reported in 2001.

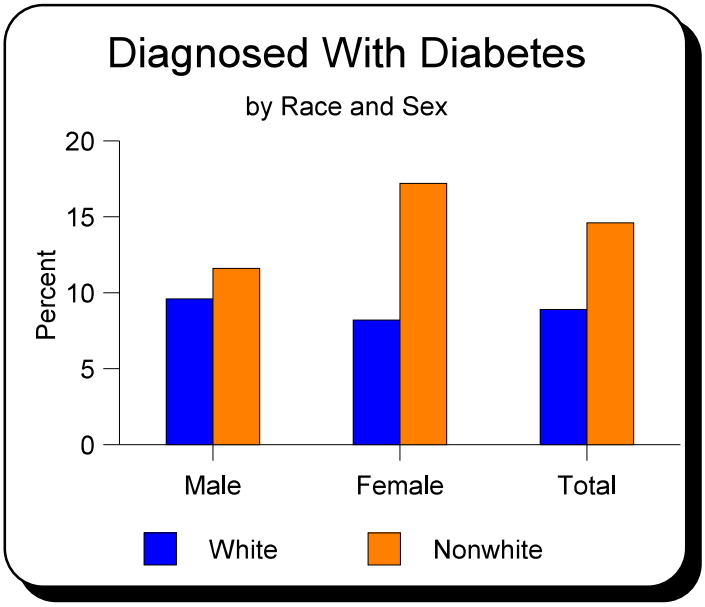

Figure 8

Nonwhite females continue to comprise the largest group having a rate of 17.2 percent followed by nonwhite males with a rate of 11.6 percent. White males responded with a rate of 9.6 percent and white females were the lowest at 8.2 percent (Figure 8).

The rate of diabetes showed a marked difference by categories of education. Respondents who did not complete high school reported rates of 18.8 percent which is almost twice that in other education categories. Those with a high school education reported a rate of 11.2 percent; those with some college work, a rate of 8.6 percent; and college graduates a rate of 7.4 percent.

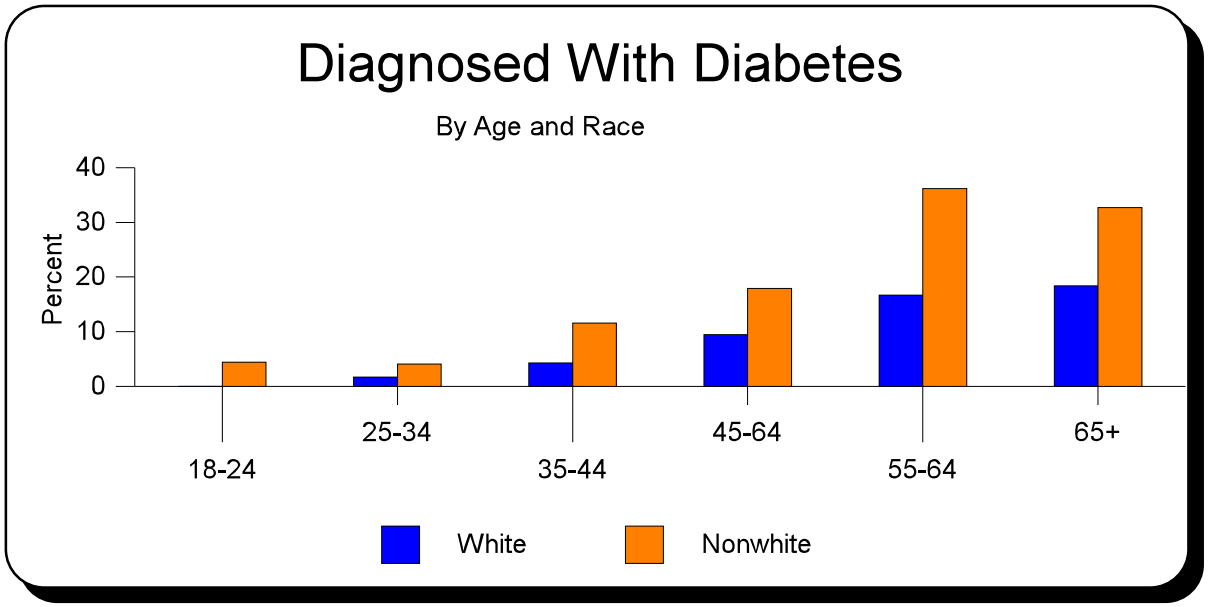

Figure 9

There are obvious differences appear by age of the respondent in the rate of diabetes. Only 4.2 percent of respondents under age 45 reported having diabetes while 18.6 percent of those above 45 reported they had diabetes. Respondents 65 years and older reported a rate of 17.4 percent (Figure 9).

Ever Told by Doctor You Have Diabetes

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	122	9.6	70	11.6	194	10.4
Female	163	8.2	182	17.2	348	11.5
Age Group						
18-24	0	0.0	5	4.4	5	2.0
25-34	8	1.7	13	4.1	21	2.7
35-44	24	4.3	35	11.6	59	7.0
45-54	51	9.5	58	17.9	110	12.5
55-64	79	16.7	65	36.2	145	21.8
65+	122	18.4	73	32.7	198	22.3
Education						
< High School Graduate	56	12.4	109	24.8	169	18.9
High School Graduate or GED	100	10.3	76	12.8	176	11.2
Some College or Technical School	78	8.6	37	8.7	115	8.6
College Graduate	51	5.7	30	11.9	82	7.4
Income						
< $15,000	58	16.6	94	22.1	154	20.1
$15-$24,999	60	11.5	57	12.3	118	12.0
$25-$34,999	38	9.1	27	13.2	65	10.6
$35-$49,999	43	8.5	16	7.4	59	8.2
$50-$74,999	27	6.2	6	6.8	33	6.3
$75,000+	24	5.1	6	17.9*	30	6.7
Employment Status						
Employed	106	6.2	87	9.7	193	7.4
Not Employed	10	6.0	11	5.6	21	5.8
Student/Homemaker	16	5.0	11	8.3	27	6.2
Retired/Unable to Work	153	17.3	143	33.3	301	23.0
Total	285	8.9	252	14.6	542	11.0

* Sample size less than 50

Hypertension Awareness

Early detection of high blood pressure allows treatment that can prevent many complications of the disease. Untreated high blood pressure increases the risk of stroke, heart attack and kidney failure. High blood pressure can be controlled by losing weight, taking medication, exercising, not smoking, managing stress and lowering sodium and alcohol intake.

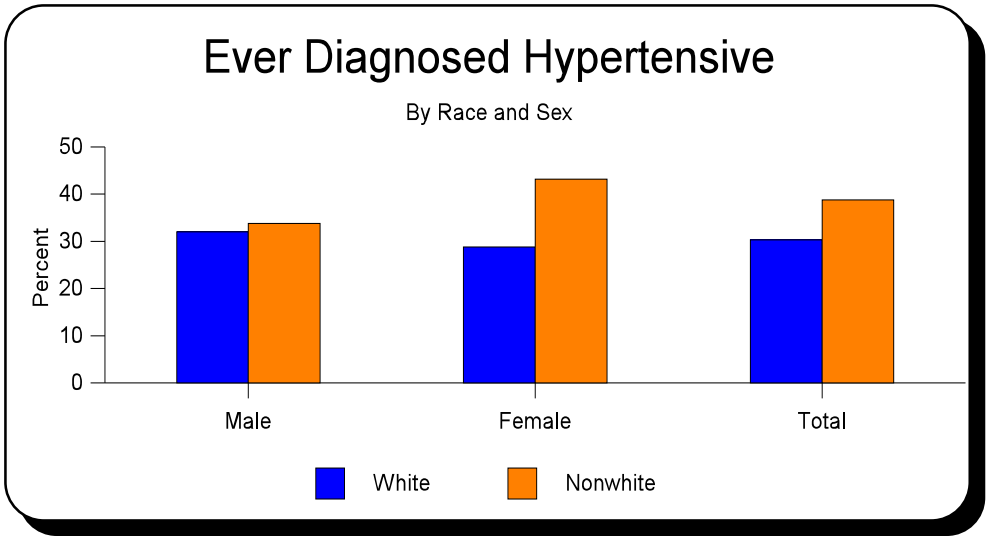

Figure 10

Two indicators of hypertension in Mississippi are available in this report; a) respondents who have ever been told they have high blood pressure by a health care professional and b) respondents who are taking medication to control high blood pressure.

The 2003 BRFSS survey indicates that approximately 33.4 percent of the people surveyed in Mississippi have been told they have high blood pressure by a health care professional.

Nonwhites were more likely to be hypertensive that whites. The overall rate of hypertension among nonwhites in Mississippi was 38.8 percent compared to 30.3 for whites. Slightly more than 42 percent of the nonwhite females in the survey said they had been told they were hypertensive compared to 28.8 percent of the white females (Figure 10). Approximately 33.8 percent of the

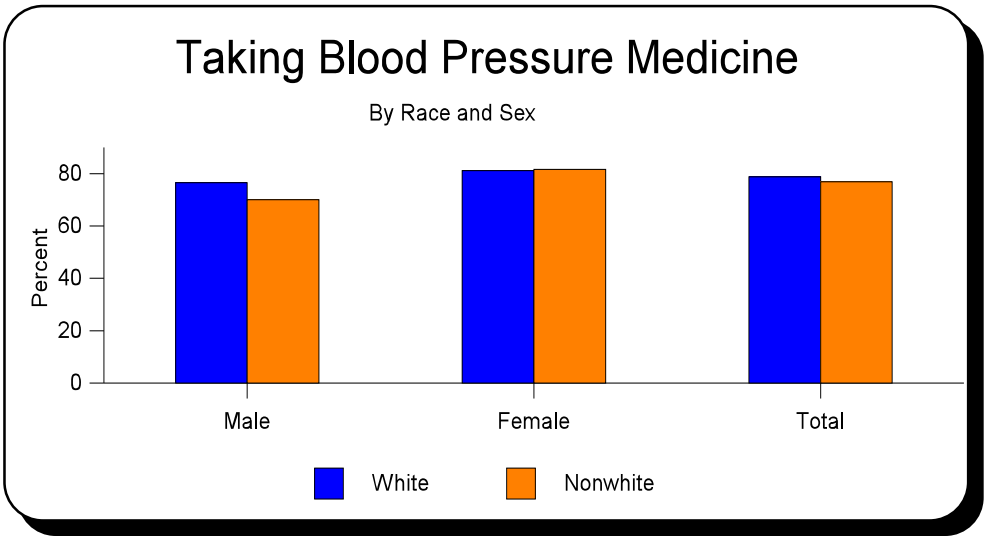

Figure 11

nonwhite male respondents had been told they were hyperten-sive. The white male rate was 32 percent.

Of the respondents who reported having high blood pressure, 78.1 percent said they were taking medication. Nonwhite females reported the highest rate for taking medication with a rate of 81.6 percent followed by white females at 81.2 percent. White males reported 76.5 percent and nonwhite males were the lowest at 70 percent (Figure 11).

Ever Told That You Have High Blood Pressure

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	394	32.0	191	33.8	587	32.7
Female	592	28.8	478	43.2	1,075	34.0
Age Group						
18-24	10	5.9	21	14.6	31	9.9
25-34	32	8.7	62	19.5	94	13.2
35-44	93	19.8	108	33.9	201	25.1
45-54	200	36.4	164	50.6	364	41.1
55-64	223	44.2	133	70.8	357	51.0
65+	423	58.2	177	79.8	606	63.9
Education						
< High School Graduate	184	40.0	249	56.2	438	48.0
High School Graduate or GED	338	32.5	211	36.2	550	34.0
Some College or Technical School	246	28.4	125	31.2	371	29.3
College Graduate	217	24.8	83	29.6	301	26.0
Income						
< $15,000	165	44.4	229	56.0	397	51.2
$15-$24,999	179	37.4	175	36.0	356	36.8
$25-$34,999	129	29.5	69	31.1	198	29.9
$35-$49,999	140	26.7	43	24.3	184	26.2
$50-$74,999	130	27.4	30	33.3	160	28.4
$75,000+	99	23.9	13	33.5*	112	25.1
Employment Status						
Employed	375	21.7	266	29.2	641	24.2
Not Employed	37	27.5	45	25.9	82	26.7
Student/Homemaker	72	19.7	32	21.5	104	20.2
Retired/Unable to Work	501	55.4	326	76.1	834	62.4
Total	986	30.3	669	38.8	1,662	33.4

* Sample size less than 50

Blood Pressure Medicine

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	312	76.5	147	70.0	461	74.3
Female	489	81.2	403	81.6	897	81.4
Age Group						
18-24	2	13.8*	6	31.2*	8	25.6
25-34	14	46.6*	30	44.5	44	45.3
35-44	48	48.7	77	67.9	125	58.4
45-54	157	80.0	141	81.7	298	80.8
55-64	193	88.8	121	89.7	315	89.2
65+	383	90.4	171	97.4	560	92.7
Education						
< High School Graduate	145	74.5	220	84.9	370	80.7
High School Graduate or GED	281	80.2	164	71.2	446	76.6
Some College or Technical School	202	80.6	94	69.7	296	76.9
College Graduate	172	78.1	71	80.0	244	78.7
Income						
< $15,000	144	87.6	198	82.0	345	84.3
$15-$24,999	148	80.3	132	70.6	282	75.8
$25-$34,999	105	80.8	58	80.2	163	80.6
$35-$49,999	104	71.0	33	67.8*	138	70.5
$50-$74,999	105	78.6	22	72.1*	127	77.2
$75,000+	77	74.1	10	64.6*	87	72.6
Employment Status						
Employed	267	68.5	192	66.9	459	67.8
Not Employed	27	62.2*	32	60.9*	59	61.5
Student/Homemaker	62	81.9	19	51.6*	81	70.7
Retired/Unable to Work	444	89.2	307	91.9	758	90.4
Total	801	78.8	550	76.9	1,358	78.1

* Sample size less than 50

Cholesterol Awareness

Persons having elevated blood cholesterol levels experience twice the risk of developing coronary heart disease. Studies reveal that small reductions in cholesterol levels are effective in reducing risks.

For those with high cholesterol readings, changes in diets along with increasing physical activity will reduce the level approximately 75 percent of the time. The National Cholesterol Education Program recommends that healthy adults more than twenty years old have their blood cholesterol levels checked at least once every five years.

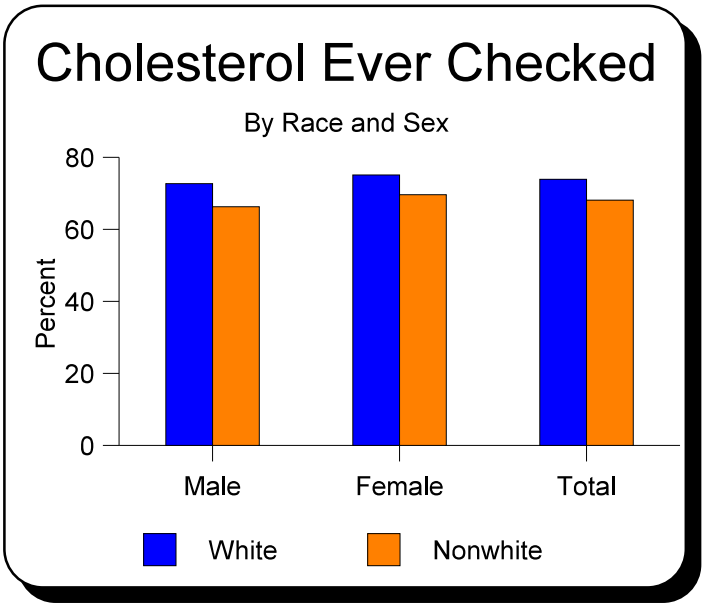

Figure 12

Approximately 72 percent of those surveyed reported that they have had their cholesterol checked (Figure 12) and 66.8 percent reported that it had been checked in the past five years (Figure 13). This is a slight decrease from 68 percent reported in 2001 and but an increase from 62 percent in 1999. White respondents were more likely to have had their cholesterol checked within five years reporting a rate of 68 percent than nonwhites who reported a rate of 64.4 percent.

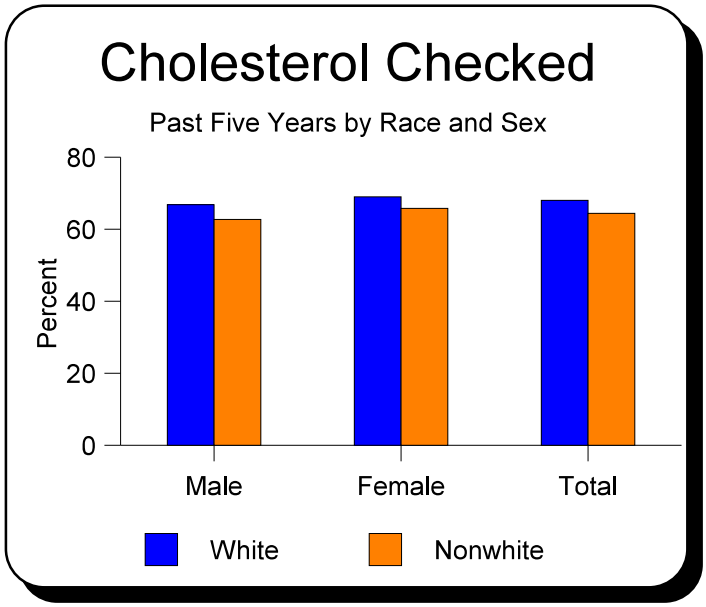

Figure 13

Nonwhite male respondents reported the lowest rate for examinations with a rate of 62.7 percent which is just below 62.9 percent reported in 2001 and a significant increase from 52.4 percent reported in 1999.

Approximately 23.6 percent of the respondents said they have ever been told their blood cholesterol is high but in those age 50 and above, the rate was 40.1 percent.

Ever Had Blood Cholesterol Checked

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	856	72.7	328	66.3	1,187	70.5
Female	1,445	75.1	733	69.6	2,190	73.2
Age Group						
18-24	63	37.9	78	52.2	141	44.5
25-34	226	54.6	195	63.2	422	58.3
35-44	381	73.5	202	65.3	583	70.4
45-54	485	82.2	234	74.4	720	79.4
55-64	456	89.7	156	87.1	614	89.0
65+	675	94.2	189	83.8	871	91.5
Education						
< High School Graduate	285	64.3	280	66.7	571	65.5
High School Graduate or GED	705	73.0	332	63.6	1,040	69.5
Some College or Technical School	630	73.2	246	70.1	877	72.2
College Graduate	678	80.7	203	77.4	885	80.0
Income						
< $15,000	261	75.5	270	66.5	535	70.6
$15-$24,999	355	70.4	274	66.1	633	68.4
$25-$34,999	298	69.9	144	69.9	443	70.0
$35-$49,999	374	71.9	126	75.8	501	73.1
$50-$74,999	337	74.5	65	72.8	402	74.0
$75,000+	378	87.4	40	83.1*	418	86.9
Employment Status						
Employed	1,197	71.3	574	68.3	1,775	70.3
Not Employed	69	50.7	74	52.6	143	51.7
Student/Homemaker	211	59.3	66	55.0	279	57.9
Retired/Unable to Work	822	91.1	346	80.9	1,177	87.7
Total	2,301	73.9	1,061	68.1	3,377	71.9

* Sample size less than 50

Cholesterol Checked in Past 5 Years

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	791	66.8	311	62.7	1,105	65.4
Female	1,333	69.0	698	65.8	2,043	68.0
Age Group						
18-24	56	33.3	75	49.3	131	40.7
25-34	203	48.5	187	60.5	391	53.7
35-44	351	67.6	190	60.9	541	65.1
45-54	445	75.7	225	70.5	671	73.8
55-64	421	82.6	150	84.4	573	83.1
65+	635	89.1	175	77.5	817	86.1
Education						
< High School Graduate	260	57.7	266	63.6	532	60.7
High School Graduate or GED	653	68.0	311	59.3	967	64.8
Some College or Technical School	581	67.0	233	65.2	815	66.4
College Graduate	627	74.4	199	75.6	830	74.7
Income						
< $15,000	233	67.6	255	62.0	492	64.7
$15-$24,999	328	64.7	259	62.1	591	63.5
$25-$34,999	279	66.0	139	67.0	419	66.5
$35-$49,999	346	66.2	120	71.9	467	67.8
$50-$74,999	319	69.9	64	71.9	383	70.0
$75,000+	354	81.8	40	83.1*	394	81.9
Employment Status						
Employed	1,107	65.3	546	64.1	1,657	64.9
Not Employed	61	46.3	71	49.1	132	47.8
Student/Homemaker	192	54.2	63	53.8	257	54.2
Retired/Unable to Work	762	84.8	328	76.9	1,099	82.2
Total	2,124	68.0	1,009	64.4	3,148	66.8

* Sample size less than 50

Ever Told That Cholesterol High

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	324	25.8	108	18.8	433	23.4
Female	521	25.5	239	20.6	763	23.7
Age Group						
18-24	5	2.4	6	5.4	11	3.7
25-34	32	7.7	35	10.2	67	8.7
35-44	100	20.4	49	14.7	149	18.3
45-54	181	31.8	101	32.4	282	31.9
55-64	199	38.5	67	36.7	267	38.1
65+	325	45.8	87	38.1	415	43.8
Education						
< High School Graduate	139	27.5	128	29.7	269	28.4
High School Graduate or GED	285	27.9	99	15.3	385	23.1
Some College or Technical School	228	25.1	63	15.6	291	22.1
College Graduate	192	22.8	57	20.5	250	22.3
Income						
< $15,000	133	36.7	112	26.6	246	30.9
$15-$24,999	158	30.5	86	16.6	245	23.7
$25-$34,999	95	21.9	42	17.3	137	20.1
$35-$49,999	128	24.9	31	17.8	160	23.1
$50-$74,999	103	21.8	14	17.1	117	20.8
$75,000+	121	27.3	8	21.8*	129	26.6
Employment Status						
Employed	354	20.0	149	16.6	503	18.8
Not Employed	23	17.3	21	11.1	44	13.9
Student/Homemaker	67	16.2	12	9.3	79	13.7
Retired/Unable to Work	399	44.5	165	36.5	568	41.7
Total	845	25.7	347	19.7	1,196	23.6

* Sample size less than 50

Breast Cancer Screening

A mammogram and a breast examination by a medical professional (clinical breast exam or CBE) are recommended yearly by the American Cancer Society and the National Cancer Advisory Board for women over the age of 40. The American Cancer Society states that women between the ages of 20 and 39 should have a clinical breast examination every three years, and all women over age 20 should do breast self examinations (BSE) every month

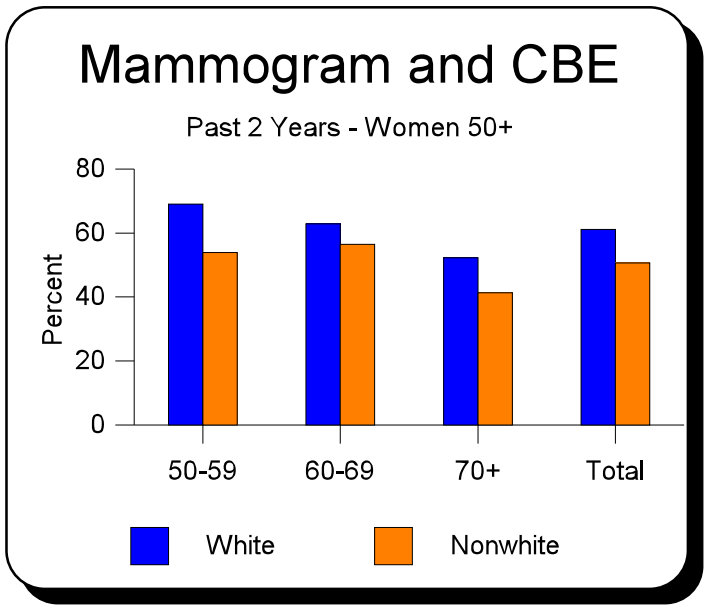

Figure 14

The MSDH breast and cervical cancer program has established a goal to reduce breast cancer deaths to no more than 24.0 per 100,000 female population by 2003. In 2002, the age adjusted death rate for breast cancer was 26.5 per 100,000 female population: 22.2 for whites and 35.5 for nonwhites. The rate for 2001 was 28.2 with a rate of 24.5 for white females and 35.6 for nonwhites.

The 2003 BRFSS survey indicated that 77.6 percent of the women in Mississippi age 40 and above had ever had a mammogram and a clinical breast examination (CBE). In women age 50 and older, white respondents had a mammogram and CBE within two years at a rate of 61.1 percent compared to a rate of 50.6 percent for nonwhites.

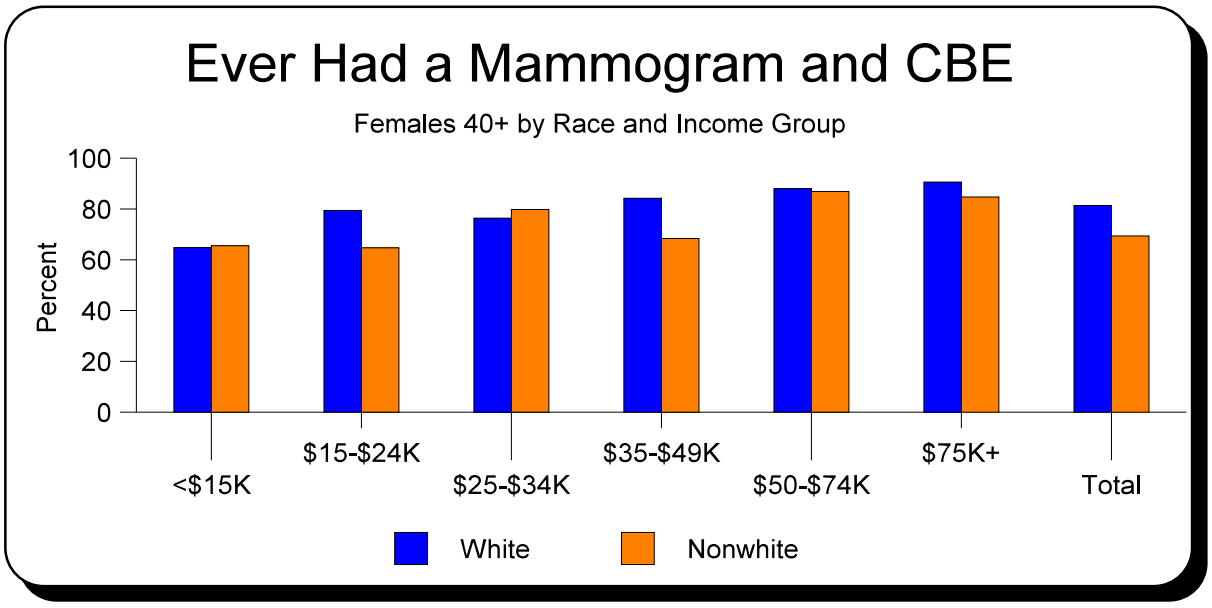

Figure 15

Year 2010 National Health Objective

Increase to at least 70.0 percent the proportion of women aged 50 and older who have received a clinical breast examination and mammogram within the preceding one to two years.

2003 BRFSS data revealed that 58.1 percent of Mississippi women aged 50 and older have received a clinical breast examination and mammogram within the preceding one to two years.

Centers for Disease Control surveys reveal that early detection of breast cancer has increased considerably in recent years, but in 1993 in the United States, only 47 percent of the women aged 50-64 years and 39 percent of women aged 70 years or older reported having a recent mammogram.

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program follows the National Cancer Advisory Board recommendations; however, because of increased incidence and mortality among older women, the program targets women aged 50 to 64.

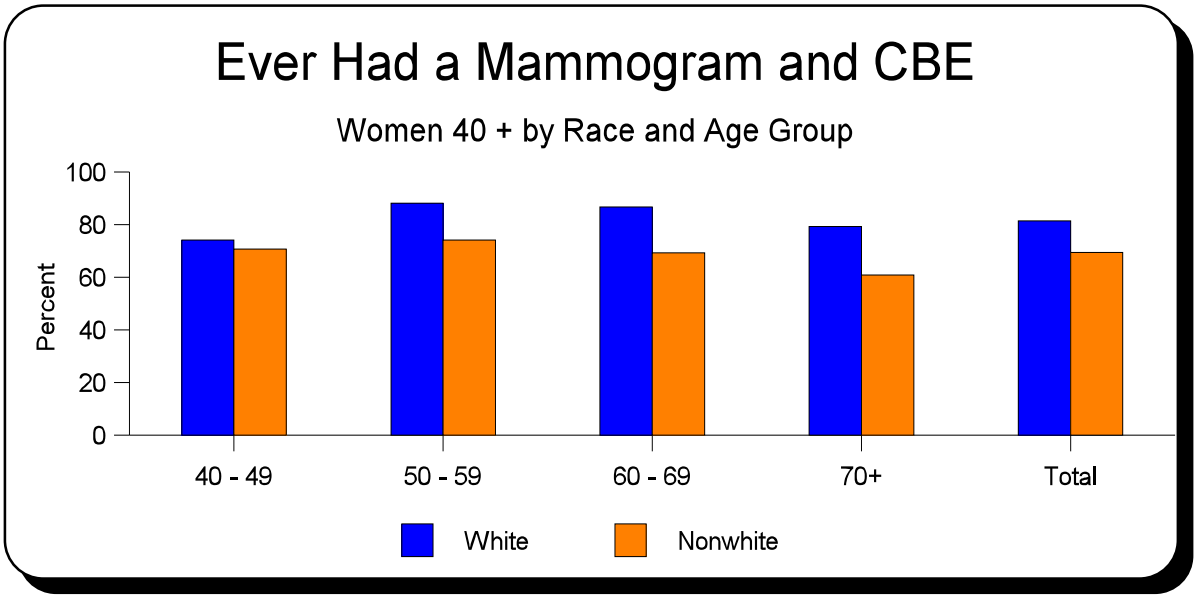

Figure 16

Ever Had a Mammogram and CBE (Females 40+)

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Age Group						
40-49	258	74.2	165	70.7	423	72.9
50-59	303	88.2	110	74.1	414	83.6
60-69	246	86.7	83	69.3	332	81.6
70+	272	79.3	65	60.8	340	74.6
Education						
< High School Graduate	147	71.1	148	69.9	299	70.2
High School Graduate or GED	379	80.7	122	58.5	503	74.2
Some College or Technical School	298	83.5	74	78.5	373	82.4
College Graduate	255	87.7	78	81.9	333	86.3
Income						
< $15,000	135	64.8	137	65.5	275	65.3
$15-$24,999	198	79.4	100	64.7	301	73.6
$25-$34,999	125	76.4	45	79.8	170	77.3
$35-$49,999	165	84.2	32	68.4*	198	81.8
$50-$74,999	125	88.0	17	86.9*	142	87.9
$75,000+	144	90.6	18	84.7*	162	89.9
Employment Status						
Employed	457	84.7	181	71.5	639	80.7
Not Employed	29	69.8*	26	57.1*	55	63.2
Student/Homemaker	145	79.0	21	60.8*	166	75.8
Retired/Unable to Work	445	79.7	195	70.7	646	76.4
Total	1,079	81.4	423	69.4	1,509	77.6

* Sample size less than 50

Had a Mammogram and a CBE in the Past Two Years (Women 50+)

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Age Group						
50-59	241	69.0	84	53.9	326	64.2
60-69	180	62.9	66	56.5	248	61.0
70+	180	52.3	43	41.3	225	49.6
Education						
< High School Graduate	74	40.1	80	47.1	156	43.4
High School Graduate or GED	223	62.1	57	45.6	282	58.3
Some College or Technical School	168	67.3	24	57.9*	193	65.9
College Graduate	136	70.1	32	72.2*	168	70.6
Income						
< $15,000	64	36.6	69	44.6	134	40.6
$15-$24,999	116	59.6	42	52.3	161	57.4
$25-$34,999	75	65.1	14	52.0*	89	62.7
$35-$49,999	103	78.3	16	68.9*	120	77.4
$50-$74,999	68	74.0	7	100.0*	75	75.8
$75,000+	65	72.4	6	100.0*	71	74.2
Employment Status						
Employed	209	68.9	51	48.4	261	63.8
Not Employed	14	67.0*	14	65.5*	28	66.2
Student/Homemaker	79	55.4	7	32.1*	86	51.3
Retired/Unable to Work	298	58.0	121	52.9	423	56.2
Total	601	61.1	193	50.6	799	58.1

* Sample size less than 50

Cervical Cancer Screening

According to *Healthy People 2010*, cervical cancer is the tenth most common cancer among females in the United States. An estimated 12,800 new cases were expected in 2000 with the higher number of cases coming from the nonwhite population. The number of deaths from cervical cancer in the year 2000 was estimated at 4,600. Cervical cancer accounts for about 1.7 percent of cancer deaths among females.

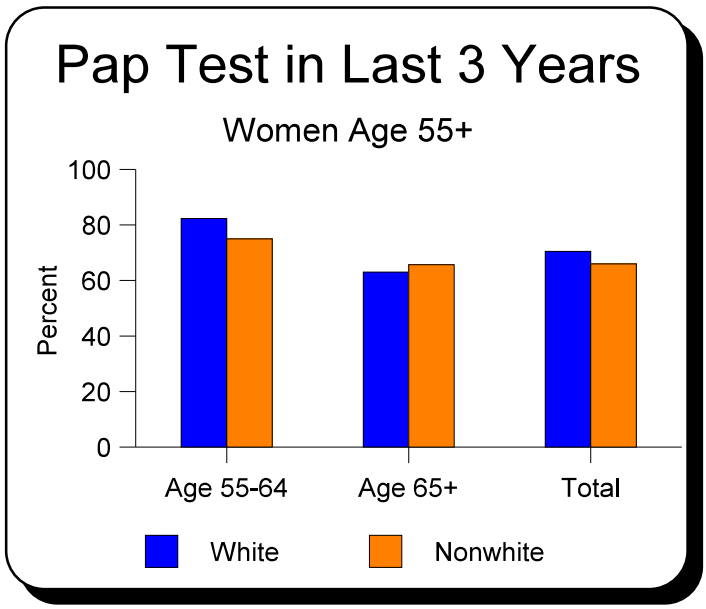

Figure 17

There is a body of evidence to suggest that screening can reduce the number of deaths from cervical cancer. Invasive cervical cancer is preceded in a large proportion of cases by pre-cancerous changes in cervical tissue that can be identified with a Pap test. If cervical cancer is detected early, the likelihood of survival is almost 100 percent with appropriate treatment and followup. Risk is substantially decreased among former smokers in comparison to continuing smokers.

Year 2010 National Health Objectives

1. Increase to at least 97.0 percent the proportion of women aged 18 and older who have ever received a Pap test.

2003 BRFSS data indicate that 94.7 percent of Mississippi women aged 18 and older have received a Pap test. This figure represents a decrease from 95.2 percent reported in 2002 and 96.4 percent in 2001.

2. Increase to at least 90.0 percent the proportion of women aged 18 and older who have received a Pap test within the preceding one to three years.

The 2003 BRFSS data indicate that 84.4 percent of Mississippi women aged 18 and older have received a Pap test within the preceding one to three years which is a decrease from 86.3 percent reported in 2001.

Centers for Disease Control surveys for 1998 show that in the United States 92 percent of women aged 18 years or older reported ever having a Pap smear and 79 percent reported having one within the preceding three years. In Mississippi, in 2001 the rate of recent Pap screening among women ages 65 and older was substantially lower (58.5 percent).

Females 18+ Who Have Had a Pap Test in Past Three Years

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Age Group						
18-24	77	76.9	70	90.7	147	83.1
25-34	205	95.8	174	95.4	380	95.7
35-44	217	90.3	160	89.1	377	89.8
45-54	163	81.5	102	82.1	265	81.2
55-64	110	79.6	50	91.6	161	83.1
65+	113	63.2	37	48.3	153	58.5
Education						
< High School Graduate	80	70.3	114	76.9	196	73.4
High School Graduate or GED	235	80.5	206	83.3	442	81.8
Some College or Technical School	271	82.8	158	91.8	431	85.8
College Graduate	307	91.6	122	94.9	429	92.5
Income						
< $15,000	79	65.1	161	80.2	242	74.7
$15-$24,999	123	78.9	177	93.9	301	87.5
$25-$34,999	121	83.6	76	79.2	198	82.1
$35-$49,999	168	94.3	62	95.1	230	94.5
$50-$74,999	158	84.2	27	96.3*	185	85.7
$75,000+	142	94.2	24	93.9*	166	94.1
Employment Status						
Employed	524	88.6	363	90.9	888	89.5
Not Employed	44	85.7	72	91.8	116	89.1
Student/Homemaker	175	81.7	60	89.8	235	84.0
Retired/Unable to Work	150	66.9	105	67.4	259	66.8
Total	895	83.3	600	86.3	1,500	84.4

* Sample size less than 50

Females 18+ Who Have Ever Had a Pap Test

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Age Group						
18-24	80	80.5	72	93.3	152	86.2
25-34	214	100.0	180	98.8	395	99.5
35-44	235	99.4	170	95.5	405	97.9
45-54	195	97.7	117	96.0	312	96.4
55-64	135	98.2	54	98.1	190	98.2
65+	160	92.2	61	80.0	224	88.0
Education						
< High School Graduate	106	91.1	138	90.5	246	90.2
High School Graduate or GED	283	96.2	231	94.0	515	95.1
Some College or Technical School	309	93.3	166	96.8	477	94.4
College Graduate	329	97.5	127	97.8	456	97.6
Income						
< $15,000	109	88.8	187	92.2	298	91.0
$15-$24,999	151	97.6	188	99.0	340	98.4
$25-$34,999	140	95.5	82	88.8	223	93.0
$35-$49,999	181	100.0	65	99.3	246	99.8
$50-$74,999	172	92.5	28	100.0*	200	93.4
$75,000+	152	100.0	25	96.6*	177	99.4
Employment Status						
Employed	576	97.0	386	96.7	963	96.9
Not Employed	49	96.7	78	98.9	127	97.9
Student/Homemaker	191	89.7	66	96.9	257	91.8
Retired/Unable to Work	211	94.7	132	84.7	347	89.7
Total	1,029	95.0	662	94.7	1,696	94.7

* Sample size less than 50

Immunization

The sixth leading cause of death in Mississippi during 2002 was influenza and pneumonia producing a death rate of 27.8 per 1,000 population.

The *Healthy People 2010* goal for influenza vaccinations is that 90 percent of the noninstitutionalized people age 65 and older have been vaccinated in the preceding twelve months. The target for persons age 18 to 64 who are noninstitutionalized is 60 percent. Influenza vaccine can prevent the disease and its complications. In the elderly, the vaccine is less effective in disease prevention, but reduces severity of disease and the incidence of complications and death. It is an important intervention to reduce hospitalizations due to complications of influenza. Influenza vaccine is recommended for all persons 65 years of age and older, and for those with chronic health problems which put them at risk for complications.

In the 2003 BRFSS survey, 68.8 percent of the respondents age 65 and older reported they had received the influenza vaccine in the last 12 months. The proportion vaccinated in this age group reflected a marked difference according to race: 71.6 percent of whites reported having been vaccinated compared to only 60.2 percent for nonwhites. Vaccination rates did not differ greatly by sex: 32.2 percent of males and 33.5 percent of females reported receiving vaccine.

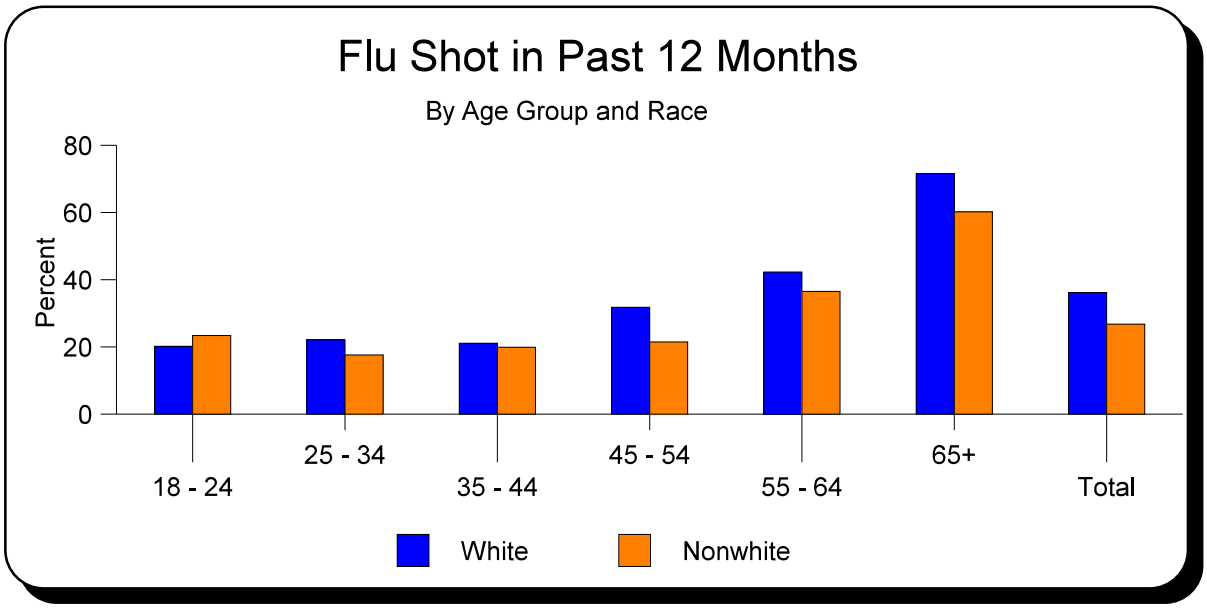

Figure 18

Only 23.6 percent of the respondents said that they had ever received a pneumonia vaccination. Respondents over the age of 65 reported a vaccination rate of 60.2 percent. As was the case with influenza vaccinations there was a marked difference with respect to race: 66.9 percent for whites but only 41.3 percent for nonwhites.

Flu Shot in Past 12 Months

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	410	34.4	141	28.0	553	32.2
Female	756	38.0	268	25.8	1,029	33.5
Age Group						
18-24	35	20.2	32	23.4	67	21.7
25-34	84	22.1	57	17.6	141	20.1
35-44	118	21.1	62	19.9	180	20.7
45-54	193	31.8	70	21.5	263	28.2
55-64	220	42.3	60	36.5	281	40.9
65+	507	71.6	127	60.2	639	68.8
Education						
< High School Graduate	175	38.6	139	34.5	317	36.7
High School Graduate or GED	345	33.3	121	22.9	467	29.3
Some College or Technical School	310	35.5	83	24.1	394	31.9
College Graduate	334	39.0	66	27.7	402	36.2
Income						
< $15,000	171	46.2	122	32.8	295	38.9
$15-$24,999	177	34.4	100	22.7	280	28.8
$25-$34,999	148	36.3	53	26.7	201	32.7
$35-$49,999	180	32.5	33	18.9	214	29.0
$50-$74,999	155	33.0	22	27.0	177	31.8
$75,000+	157	34.1	11	25.2*	168	33.0
Employment Status						
Employed	497	28.9	181	21.9	679	26.4
Not Employed	23	21.1	23	17.6	46	19.2
Student/Homemaker	101	28.1	19	21.2	120	25.6
Retired/Unable to Work	543	59.8	186	45.7	735	55.2
Total	1,166	36.2	409	26.8	1,582	32.9

* Sample size less than 50

No Flu Shot in the Past Twelve Months (Age 65+)

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	73	27.8	25	36.1	98	29.5
Female	140	28.3	70	41.5	214	31.8
Education						
< High School Graduate	46	27.5	59	40.3	107	33.6
High School Graduate or GED	77	29.8	22	47.9*	100	32.8
Some College or Technical School	43	25.4	7	23.7*	51	25.3
College Graduate	47	28.7	6	19.3*	53	27.7
Income						
< $15,000	38	25.0	39	37.8	79	30.3
$15-$24,999	52	30.6	15	39.8*	67	33.0
$25-$34,999	26	23.2	9	66.7*	35	28.6
$35-$49,999	27	34.5	1	3.5*	28	29.2
$50-$74,999	12	26.7	0	0.0*	12	26.7
$75,000+	10	25.8*	0	0.0*	10	24.7
Employment Status						
Employed	33	35.9	6	41.5*	39	36.8
Not Employed	4	42.4*	0	0.0*	4	37.4
Student/Homemaker	16	25.0	8	58.8*	24	30.2
Retired/Unable to Work	160	27.0	80	37.2	244	29.7
Total	213	28.1	95	39.4	312	30.9

* Sample size less than 50

Ever Had Pneumonia Vaccination

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	301	25.0	107	25.4	409	25.1
Female	513	24.9	162	16.2	680	21.8
Age Group						
18-24	22	14.8	32	25.6	54	19.8
25-34	25	6.2	33	14.1	58	9.5
35-44	62	12.8	42	15.6	104	13.9
45-54	90	14.3	37	11.5	127	13.3
55-64	142	26.6	38	23.1	181	25.8
65+	470	66.9	86	41.3	560	60.2
Education						
< High School Graduate	148	33.5	98	27.9	248	30.6
High School Graduate or GED	274	26.5	76	16.5	351	22.7
Some College or Technical School	218	24.2	56	18.2	275	22.3
College Graduate	172	19.5	38	20.9	212	19.9
Income						
< $15,000	145	38.3	84	22.0	230	29.0
$15-$24,999	156	30.9	76	22.6	234	27.0
$25-$34,999	125	28.7	25	13.3	150	23.0
$35-$49,999	116	23.2	25	21.5	142	23.0
$50-$74,999	64	14.1	11	14.1	75	14.0
$75,000+	73	15.9	6	18.0*	79	16.2
Employment Status						
Employed	230	14.0	106	15.8	337	14.6
Not Employed	18	12.6	23	24.4	41	19.0
Student/Homemaker	66	18.6	16	19.9	82	19.0
Retired/Unable to Work	497	55.2	124	30.0	626	46.7
Total	814	24.9	269	20.5	1,089	23.4

* Sample size less than 50

Never Had Pneumonia Vaccination (Age 65+)

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	78	29.7	32	46.3	111	34.3
Female	159	31.7	98	60.5	261	39.3
Education						
< High School Graduate	51	29.2	86	60.9	140	45.7
High School Graduate or GED	86	34.7	25	51.4*	112	37.4
Some College or Technical School	50	26.9	10	39.8*	61	28.5
College Graduate	50	30.6	8	29.6*	58	30.5
Income						
< $15,000	47	31.4	53	54.6	103	42.6
$15-$24,999	51	30.7	23	54.7*	75	37.2
$25-$34,999	25	20.7	7	49.0*	32	24.2
$35-$49,999	26	31.1	3	17.3*	29	28.4
$50-$74,999	15	28.3	0	0.0*	15	28.3
$75,000+	14	37.6*	0	0.0*	14	36.0
Employment Status						
Employed	39	36.3	7	37.0*	46	36.4
Not Employed	3	35.8*	0	0.0*	3	31.7
Student/Homemaker	21	34.0	6	47.6*	27	36.1
Retired/Unable to Work	174	29.6	116	56.5	295	37.3
Total	237	30.9	130	55.1	372	37.3

* Sample size less than 50

Overweight and Obesity

The proportion of overweight persons has increased substantially during the past twenty years. Morbidity related to being overweight is the second leading cause of death in the United States and causes approximately 300,000 deaths each year. Overweight persons substantially increase their risk of illness from hypertension, high cholesterol, Type 2 diabetes, heart disease and stroke, gallbladder disease, endometrial, breast, prostate and colon cancers and arthritis. Overweight people may also suffer from social stigmatization, discrimination and low self-esteem.

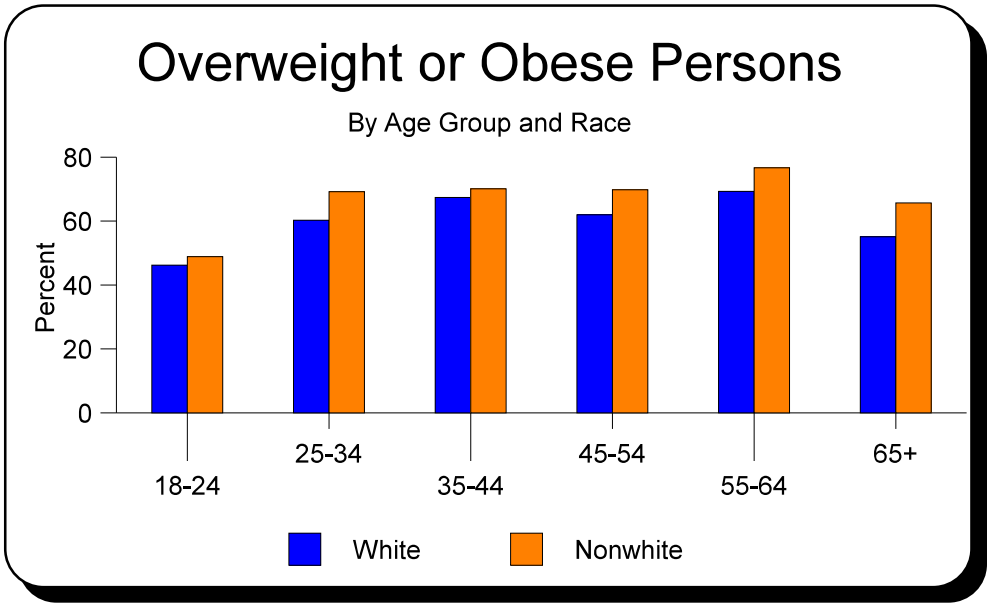

Figure 19

Weight may be controlled by dietary changes such as decreasing caloric intake and by increasing physical activity. According to the 2003 BRFSS study 62.2 percent of those surveyed in Mississippi reported themselves as being either overweight (BMI ≥ 25) or obese (BMI ≥30). In year 2002 the self-reported rate was 60.8 percent and in 2001 it was 60.9 percent.

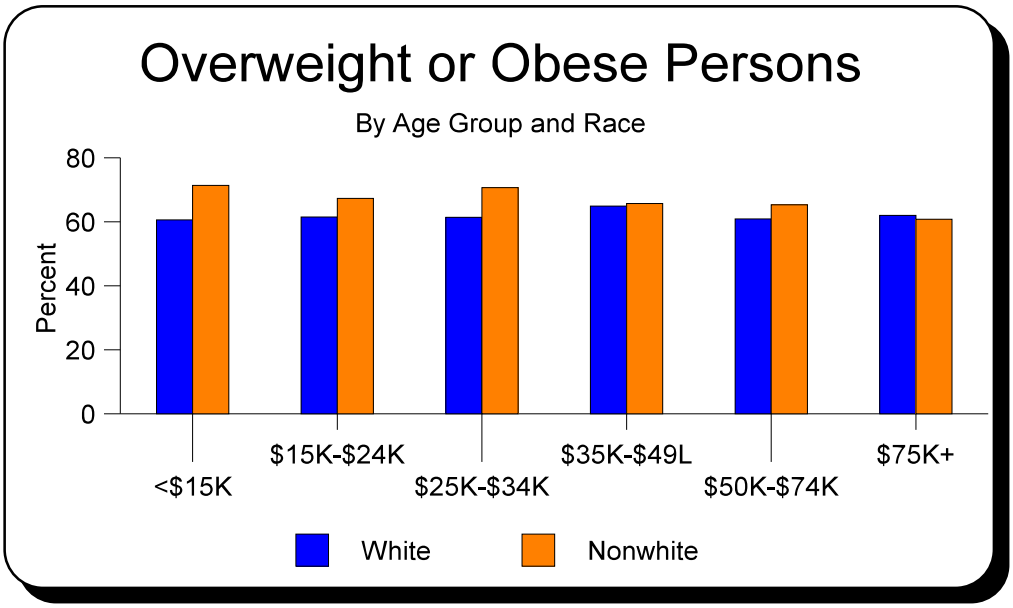

Figure 20

People at Risk From Being Overweight or Obese (Based on BMI)

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	806	72.1	305	62.7	1,114	68.9
Female	898	49.2	705	68.1	1,612	56.1
Age Group						
18-24	78	46.2	75	48.9	153	47.4
25-34	220	60.3	208	69.2	428	63.8
35-44	324	67.4	221	70.1	545	68.4
45-54	340	62.0	218	69.8	560	64.8
55-64	338	69.3	140	76.7	480	71.2
65+	400	55.1	144	65.7	551	58.1
Education						
< High School Graduate	257	65.1	265	63.4	529	64.6
High School Graduate or GED	554	63.4	342	65.0	898	64.0
Some College or Technical School	469	59.9	235	68.6	705	62.7
College Graduate	422	54.6	168	66.4	591	57.5
Income						
< $15,000	199	60.6	279	71.4	481	66.8
$15-$24,999	275	61.5	281	67.3	558	64.3
$25-$34,999	238	61.4	140	70.7	378	64.6
$35-$49,999	304	64.9	110	65.7	415	65.2
$50-$74,999	255	60.9	52	65.3	308	61.8
$75,000+	242	62.0	31	60.8*	273	61.9
Employment Status						
Employed	952	62.2	557	66.7	1,510	63.7
Not Employed	65	63.3	89	60.3	154	61.6
Student/Homemaker	163	51.1	59	48.8	223	50.3
Retired/Unable to Work	521	59.2	304	73.3	835	64.2
Total	1,704	60.2	1,010	65.6	2,726	62.2

* Sample size less than 50

Persons With Healthy Weight

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	282	26.0	146	34.8	429	29.0
Female	824	45.9	229	23.9	1,057	37.9
Age Group						
18-24	89	50.1	67	48.2	156	49.2
25-34	170	37.7	84	28.1	255	33.9
35-44	173	28.5	74	24.4	247	27.0
45-54	214	33.0	66	25.1	280	30.2
55-64	153	28.2	32	17.9	186	25.5
65+	298	42.1	48	20.2	347	36.2
Education						
< High School Graduate	125	32.0	83	27.3	208	29.4
High School Graduate or GED	324	32.6	123	31.8	449	32.4
Some College or Technical School	299	37.4	98	27.1	398	34.1
College Graduate	355	41.3	70	28.2	427	38.0
Income						
< $15,000	119	36.3	78	20.2	198	27.1
$15-$24,999	170	34.6	102	28.3	274	31.5
$25-$34,999	143	35.3	48	27.0	192	32.5
$35-$49,999	179	33.5	42	31.3	221	32.8
$50-$74,999	165	36.8	25	29.5	190	35.3
$75,000+	172	35.8	17	39.2*	189	36.3
Employment Status						
Employed	572	34.2	217	29.3	792	32.6
Not Employed	42	31.5	38	33.3	80	32.5
Student/Homemaker	145	46.5	43	45.8	189	46.3
Retired/Unable to Work	347	37.6	77	18.2	425	30.9
Total	1,106	36.3	375	29.0	1,486	33.7

* Sample size less than 50

Colorectal Cancer Screening

In 2002, the death rate for colorectal cancer in Mississippi was 66.4 per 100,000 among people age fifty and older. Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States. An estimated 130,200 cases (66,600 females and 63,600 males) of CRC and 56,300 deaths (28,500 females and 27,800 males) from CRC were expected to occur in 2000. When cancer-related deaths are estimated separately for males and females, however, CRC becomes the third leading cause of cancer death behind lung and breast cancers for females and behind lung and prostate cancers for males.

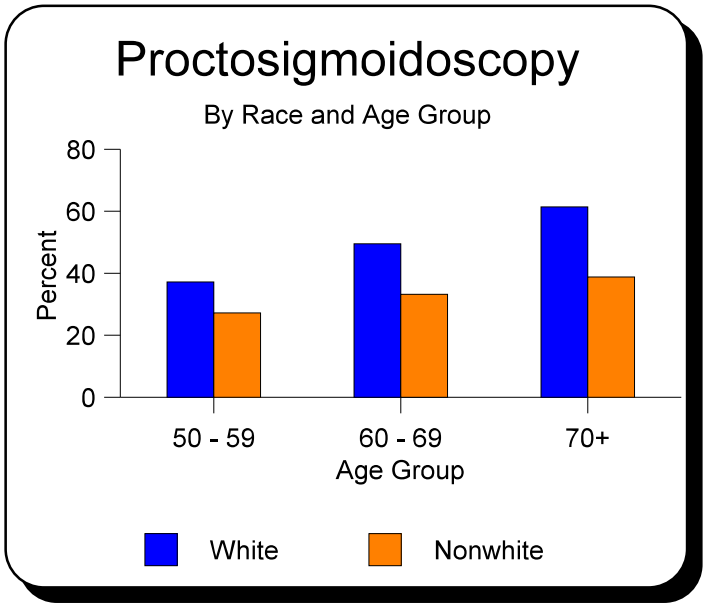

Figure 21

Risk factors for CRC may include age, personal and family history of polyps or colorectal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, inherited syndromes, physical inactivity (colon only), obesity, alcohol use and a diet high in fat and low in fruits and vegetables. Detecting and removing precancerous colorectal polyps and detecting and treating the disease in its earliest stages will reduce deaths from CRC. Fecal Occult Blood Testing and sigmoidoscopy are widely used to screen for CRC and barium enema and colonoscopy are used as diagnostic tests.

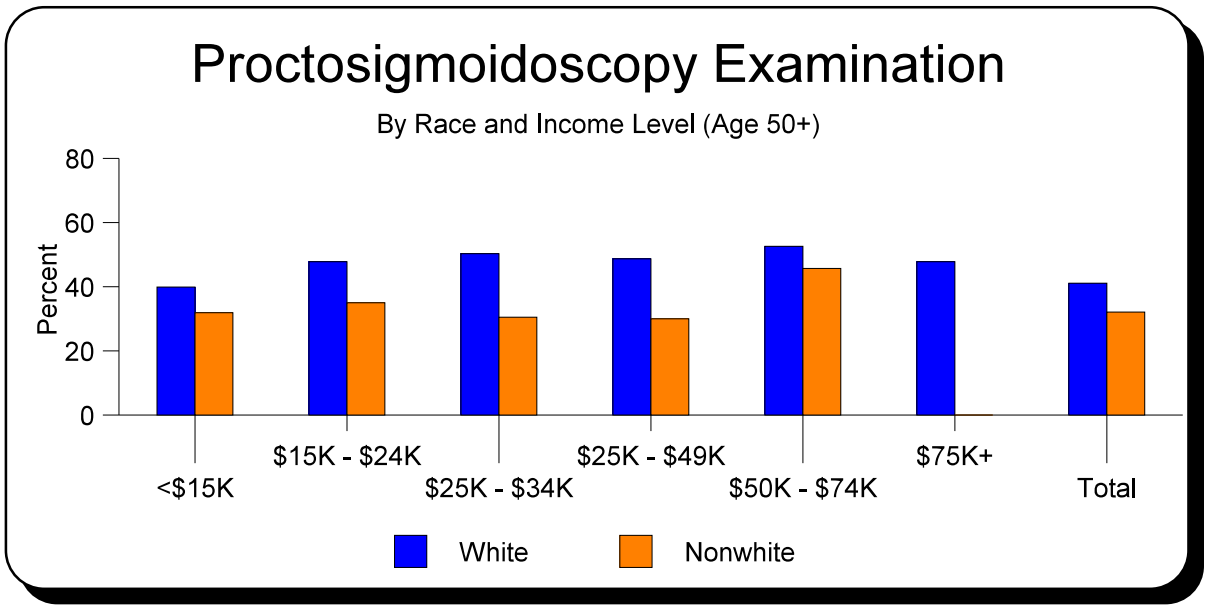

Figure 22

Digital rectal examinations (DRE) and proctosigmoidoscopic examinations are designed to detect colorectal cancer and other problems at an early stage to enhance the success of medical intervention. The American Cancer Society recommends a DRE annually after age forty and a proctoscopy every three to five years after age fifty.

The 2003 BRFSS data for Mississippi indicates that 43.9 percent of those surveyed who were age 50 or older had ever had a protosigmoidoscopy examination. For persons aged 50-59 the rate was 34.1 percent compared to 31.2 percent in 2001; for those 60-69 it was 44.5 percent, an increase from 39.7 percent in 2001. For those were age 70 and older the rate was 48.4 percent compared to 48.4 percent in 2001 (Figure 21).

Ever Had Proctosigmoidoscopy (Persons 50+)

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	255	45.6	50	27.3	305	40.5
Female	489	51.3	138	35.8	630	46.7
Age Group						
50-59	217	37.2	73	27.2	291	34.1
60-69	219	49.5	57	33.2	277	44.5
70+	308	61.4	58	38.8	367	55.6
Education						
< High School Graduate	99	41.9	77	26.5	178	33.5
High School Graduate or GED	256	48.6	58	36.1	315	45.5
Some College or Technical School	197	51.1	29	35.7	226	48.2
College Graduate	192	51.1	24	40.2	216	49.2
Income						
< $15,000	94	39.9	66	31.9	160	35.4
$15-$24,999	138	47.8	44	35.0	185	43.7
$25-$34,999	100	50.3	19	30.5*	119	45.4
$35-$49,999	107	48.7	16	30.0*	123	44.4
$50-$74,999	92	52.6	7	45.7*	99	51.8
$75,000+	86	47.8	0	0.0*	86	46.1
Employment Status						
Employed	219	39.4	44	23.1	264	35.2
Not Employed	15	37.5*	10	36.0*	25	36.8
Student/Homemaker	68	50.7	8	28.9*	76	46.9
Retired/Unable to Work	441	55.8	126	38.3	569	50.2
Total	744	48.7	188	32.1	935	43.9

* Sample size less than 50

Ever Had Home Blood Stool Test (Persons 50+)

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	228	41.1	50	24.2	278	36.4
Female	391	40.5	94	25.7	485	36.0
Age Group						
50-59	185	31.3	58	21.6	243	28.3
60-69	196	43.7	44	26.1	240	38.4
70+	238	49.3	42	29.4	280	44.2
Education						
< High School Graduate	86	36.4	60	23.0	146	28.9
High School Graduate or GED	192	37.5	40	24.0	232	34.2
Some College or Technical School	165	43.7	20	23.9	185	40.0
College Graduate	175	45.0	24	36.4	199	43.5
Income						
< $15,000	67	31.1	45	23.4	112	26.9
$15-$24,999	110	37.4	29	20.1	139	31.7
$25-$34,999	90	45.5	19	33.6*	109	42.6
$35-$49,999	89	40.0	17	29.9*	106	37.6
$50-$74,999	76	42.8	4	18.1*	80	40.2
$75,000+	78	41.5	2	35.6*	80	41.3
Employment Status						
Employed	183	31.9	44	21.6	227	29.2
Not Employed	9	20.5*	8	26.5*	17	23.2
Student/Homemaker	55	41.0	6	27.1*	61	38.6
Retired/Unable to Work	371	48.2	86	27.2	457	41.6
Total	619	40.8	144	25.0	763	36.2

* Sample size less than 50

Arthritis

The various forms of arthritis affect more than 15 percent of the U.S. population—over 43 million persons—and more than 20 percent of the adult population, making arthritis one of the most common conditions in the United States according to the *Healthy People 2010* publication.

The significant public health impact of arthritis is reflected in a variety of measures. First, arthritis is the leading cause of disability. Arthritis limits the major activities (for example, working, housekeeping, school) of nearly 3 percent of the entire U.S. population (seven million persons), including nearly one out of every five persons with arthritis. Arthritis trails only heart disease as a cause of work disability. As a consequence, arthritis limits the independence of affected persons and disrupts the lives of family members and other care givers.

Health-related quality-of-life measures are consistently worse for persons with arthritis, whether the measure is healthy days in the past 30 days, days without severe pain, "ability days" (that is, days without activity limitations), or difficulty in performing personal care activities. One of the national goals for *Healthy People 2010* is to reduce the rate of adults with chronic joint symptoms that limit the activity of a person to 21 percent. In Mississippi, the 2003 BRFSS survey showed that 31.1 percent of the population had been diagnosed with arthritis by a health

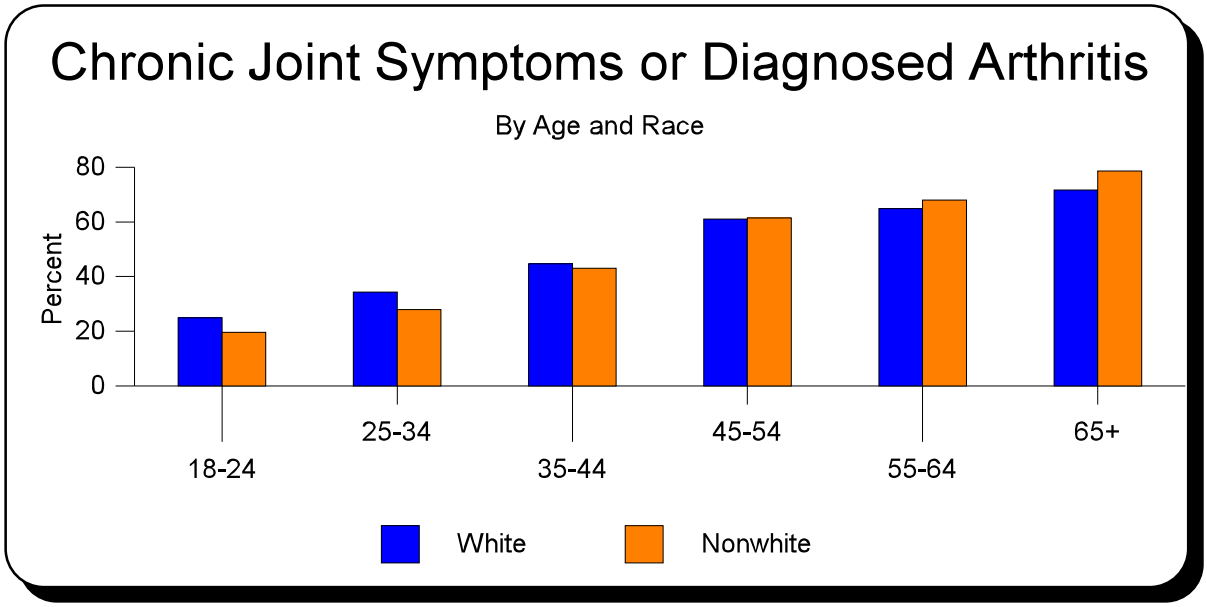

Figure 23

care professional. As noted in the "Definitions of Terms and Risk Factors", the question in the current report has been amended so that only those who have actually been diagnosed with arthritis by a health care professional are being reported. In 2001, the report included those who had reported pain or stiffness in the joints for at least 30 days during the previous year.

As seen in Figure 23, the proportion increases with age. Sixty-two percent of respondents over the age of 61.6 reported being diagnosed with arthritis. There was a noticeable difference by

race with this age group. The rate for whites was 59.5 percent while nonwhites reported a rate of 68 percent. Only 4.4 percent of those 18-24 years old reported this condition.

Diagnosed with Arthritis

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	352	29.0	130	23.1	483	27.0
Female	728	36.3	374	32.0	1,110	34.8
Age Group						
18-24	10	5.1	7	3.6	17	4.4
25-34	44	11.7	26	9.5	71	11.1
35-44	110	20.2	71	20.7	181	20.4
45-54	231	41.9	133	41.2	364	41.5
55-64	257	49.9	111	61.2	370	52.8
65+	426	59.5	154	68.0	585	61.6
Education						
< High School Graduate	205	43.2	208	45.7	418	44.5
High School Graduate or GED	381	37.4	142	22.0	525	31.5
Some College or Technical School	281	31.1	92	22.3	374	28.3
College Graduate	213	24.0	61	21.8	275	23.5
Income						
< $15,000	176	47.6	197	46.9	376	47.5
$15-$24,999	201	39.2	121	27.2	326	33.4
$25-$34,999	159	35.9	60	25.5	220	32.3
$35-$49,999	166	31.3	33	17.2	199	27.4
$50-$74,999	120	26.4	12	12.3	132	23.8
$75,000+	92	21.4	6	8.0*	98	19.7
Employment Status						
Employed	393	22.4	173	19.1	569	21.4
Not Employed	31	21.4	36	17.5	67	19.3
Student/Homemaker	96	26.6	19	11.7	115	21.3
Retired/Unable to Work	560	61.7	276	61.3	842	61.4
Total	1,080	32.8	504	27.8	1,593	31.1

* Sample size less than 50

Asthma

According to the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Healthy People 2010* publication, asthma is a serious and growing health problem. An estimated 14.9 million persons in the United States have asthma. The number of people with asthma increased by 102 percent between 1979–80 and 1993–94.

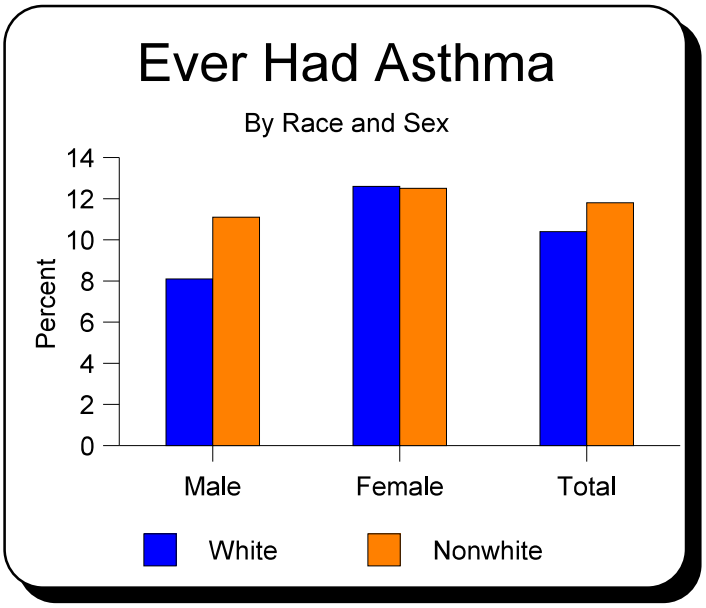

Figure 24

Most of the problems caused by asthma could be averted if persons with asthma and their health care providers managed the disease according to established guidelines. Effective management of asthma comprises four major components: controlling exposure to factors that trigger asthma episodes, adequately managing asthma with medicine, monitoring the disease by using objective measures of lung function and educating asthma patients to become partners in their own care. Such prevention efforts are essential to interrupt the progression from disease to functional limitation and disability and to improve the quality of life for persons with asthma.

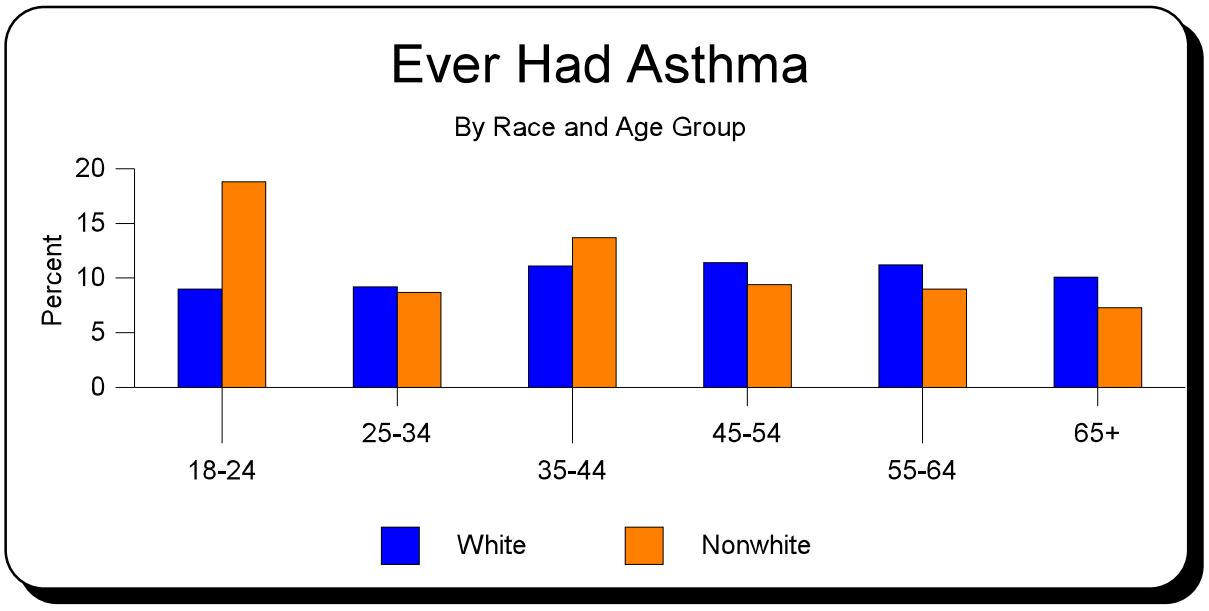

Figure 25

In Mississippi, the 2003 BRFSS survey revealed that 10.9 percent of the respondents said that they had ever had asthma, an increase from 10.6 percent reported in 2002 and 9.2 percent in

2001. The nonwhite rate in 2003 was 11.8 percent compared to 10.4 percent for white respondents. In 2002 the rates were 11.0 percent and 10.5 percent respectively. Figure 25 shows that the nonwhite rate exceeded the white rate in all age groups except for those in the 25-34 group. Women of both races reported a higher rate than men.

Ever Had Asthma

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	93	8.1	48	11.1	141	9.1
Female	221	12.6	116	12.5	339	12.5
Age Group						
18-24	17	9.0	25	18.8	42	13.5
25-34	39	9.2	28	8.7	67	9.0
35-44	57	11.1	41	13.7	98	12.1
45-54	67	11.4	31	9.4	98	10.7
55-64	60	11.2	17	9.0	78	10.6
65+	72	10.1	20	7.3	93	9.4
Education						
< High School Graduate	74	16.9	51	15.0	127	15.9
High School Graduate or GED	102	10.7	54	10.9	156	10.8
Some College or Technical School	69	8.4	41	12.4	110	9.7
College Graduate	69	8.9	18	8.2	87	8.7
Income						
< $15,000	54	15.2	50	14.3	104	14.6
$15-$24,999	60	13.8	43	10.7	105	12.4
$25-$34,999	42	9.8	22	10.7	64	10.1
$35-$49,999	43	9.3	12	7.6	55	8.8
$50-$74,999	31	7.2	6	8.6	37	7.4
$75,000+	34	7.2	2	10.8*	36	7.6
Employment Status						
Employed	129	7.8	64	8.8	193	8.1
Not Employed	18	13.7	17	18.3	35	16.2
Student/Homemaker	36	13.2	19	14.8	55	13.7
Retired/Unable to Work	131	14.7	64	14.5	197	14.6
Total	314	10.4	164	11.8	480	10.9

* Sample size less than 50

People Who Currently Have Asthma

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	47	4.4	29	7.1	76	5.3
Female	148	8.2	84	8.4	234	8.3
Age Group						
18-24	8	4.9	12	10.5	20	7.5
25-34	26	6.1	15	4.8	41	5.5
35-44	33	6.4	33	10.6	66	8.0
45-54	38	6.3	22	6.5	60	6.3
55-64	42	7.6	14	7.4	57	7.6
65+	47	6.8	17	6.1	65	6.6
Education						
< High School Graduate	57	12.1	42	12.4	101	12.2
High School Graduate or GED	66	6.7	35	6.3	101	6.5
Some College or Technical School	37	4.7	26	7.4	63	5.6
College Graduate	35	4.8	10	4.8	45	4.8
Income						
< $15,000	44	11.9	41	10.8	85	11.2
$15-$24,999	39	9.2	25	5.3	66	7.3
$25-$34,999	23	5.5	16	8.1	39	6.4
$35-$49,999	22	4.0	5	2.6	27	3.6
$50-$74,999	17	4.1	4	6.2	21	4.4
$75,000+	18	4.2	2	10.8*	20	5.0
Employment Status						
Employed	71	4.2	39	5.7	110	4.7
Not Employed	14	10.8	12	11.2	26	11.0
Student/Homemaker	20	8.0	9	7.2	29	7.7
Retired/Unable to Work	90	9.9	53	11.5	145	10.4
Total	195	6.4	113	7.8	310	6.9

* Sample size less than 50

Exercise and Physical Activity

On average, physically active people outlive those who are inactive. Regular physical activity helps to maintain the functional independence of older adults and enhances the quality of life for people of all ages. The role of physical activity in preventing coronary heart disease (CHD) is of particular importance, given that CHD is the leading cause of death and disability in the United States and in Mississippi. Physically inactive people are almost twice as likely to develop CHD as persons who engage in regular physical activity. The risk posed by physical inactivity is almost as high as several well-known CHD risk factors such as cigarette smoking, high blood pressure and high blood cholesterol. Physical inactivity is more prevalent than any of these other risk factors.

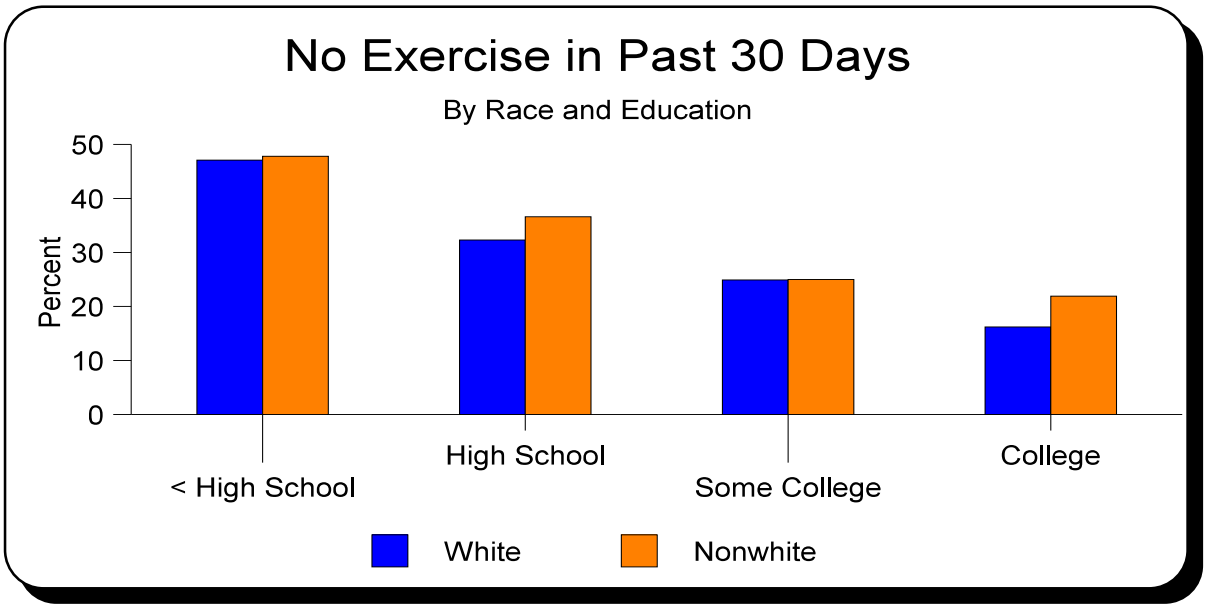

Figure 26

Regular physical activity is important for people who have joint or bone problems and has been shown to improve muscle function, cardiovascular function, and physical performance. People with osteoporosis may respond positively to regular physical activity, particularly weight bearing activities such as walking and especially when combined with appropriate drug therapy and calcium intake. In Mississippi, 33.4 percent of the population is reported as not participating in any physical activity outside of work in the past 30 days. People with less education (Figure 26) and in lower income levels (Figure 27) and reported the highest percentage of physical inactivity.

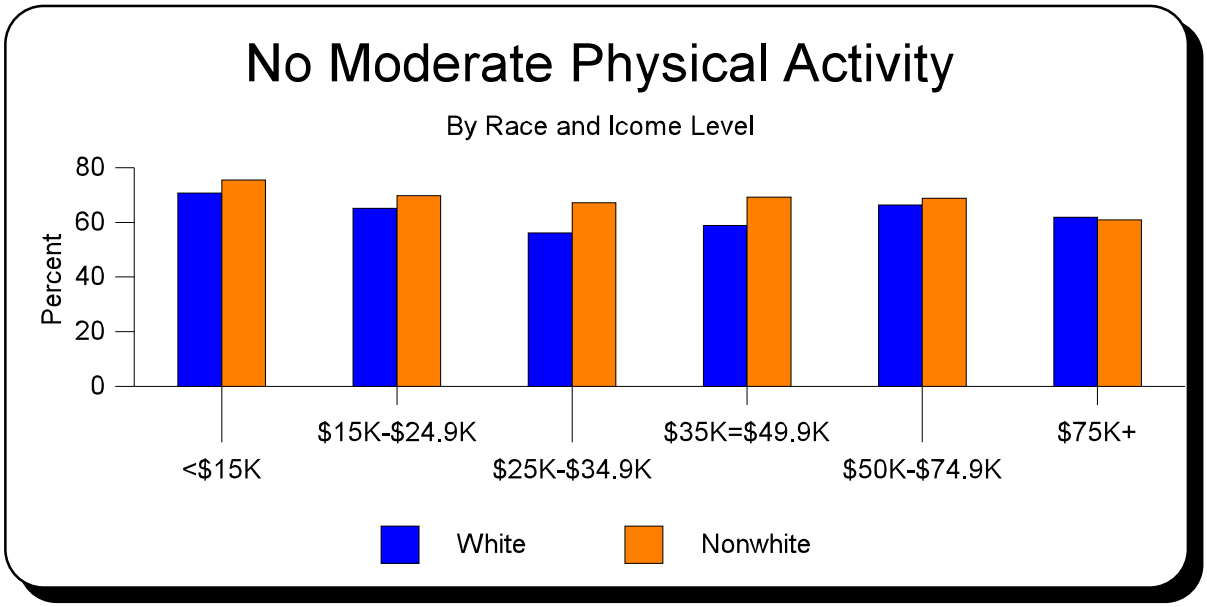
No Moderate Physical Activity
By Race and Icome Level
Percent
80
60
40
20
0
<$15K
$15K-$24.9K
$25K-$34.9K
$35K=$49.9K
$50K-$74.9K
$75K+
White
Nonwhite

Figure 27

People Who Are Physically Inactive

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	165	13.7	104	19.2	269	15.6
Female	350	17.7	313	30.4	669	22.4
Age Group						
18-24	15	9.2	32	22.4	47	15.2
25-34	35	9.6	46	12.7	81	10.9
35-44	52	9.8	77	23.6	129	14.9
45-54	88	14.0	75	23.1	164	17.2
55-64	98	18.1	62	32.1	161	21.7
65+	226	31.1	122	52.3	352	36.6
Education						
< High School Graduate	133	28.7	170	43.4	305	35.8
High School Graduate or GED	179	17.5	152	25.9	333	20.8
Some College or Technical School	119	12.9	62	15.3	183	13.7
College Graduate	81	10.0	32	10.5	113	10.1
Income						
< $15,000	117	32.9	157	38.0	275	35.6
$15-$24,999	102	20.6	102	23.3	205	21.9
$25-$34,999	63	15.2	34	17.2	97	15.9
$35-$49,999	52	9.7	23	12.7	76	10.7
$50-$74,999	42	9.9	4	5.3	46	9.1
$75,000+	28	5.8	4	5.9*	32	5.8
Employment Status						
Employed	164	9.7	145	16.3	309	11.9
Not Employed	27	21.7	40	29.3	67	25.8
Student/Homemaker	42	12.2	24	19.3	66	14.7
Retired/Unable to Work	281	30.1	208	47.4	495	36.0
Total	515	15.8	417	25.2	938	19.2

* Sample size less than 50

Meet Moderate Physical Activity Recommendations

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	338	30.8	97	20.5	435	27.2
Female	520	29.8	215	23.1	735	27.3
Age Group						
18-24	61	34.2	37	21.8	98	28.5
25-34	142	34.7	80	26.8	222	31.3
35-44	181	35.7	80	24.8	261	31.6
45-54	171	29.0	69	26.2	240	28.0
55-64	129	25.9	28	15.5	157	23.2
65+	169	23.5	17	7.7	186	19.3
Education						
< High School Graduate	92	26.4	53	14.8	145	20.5
High School Graduate or GED	255	29.4	103	21.1	358	26.1
Some College or Technical School	252	33.0	82	24.5	334	30.2
College Graduate	259	30.8	74	30.5	333	30.6
Income						
< $15,000	63	19.1	66	19.6	129	19.3
$15-$24,999	128	28.9	83	23.3	211	26.1
$25-$34,999	137	36.2	57	24.9	194	32.0
$35-$49,999	167	36.5	43	26.6	210	33.7
$50-$74,999	141	30.9	24	26.9	165	30.1
$75,000+	151	36.6	17	34.7*	168	36.3
Employment Status						
Employed	487	30.5	203	25.0	690	28.5
Not Employed	32	32.0	33	28.1	65	29.9
Student/Homemaker	121	41.0	27	21.1	148	34.0
Retired/Unable to Work	218	24.9	49	12.2	267	20.4
Total	858	30.3	312	21.9	1,170	27.2

* Sample size less than 50

Meet Vigorous Physical Activity Recommendations

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	244	23.7	100	25.9	345	24.4
Female	258	16.0	132	13.5	390	15.0
Age Group						
18-24	62	35.8	44	32.3	106	34.2
25-34	111	27.4	77	27.5	188	27.4
35-44	110	21.4	54	18.4	164	20.3
45-54	102	18.9	43	15.1	145	17.5
55-64	46	8.9	8	5.2	54	7.9
65+	70	10.3	4	1.1	74	7.9
Education						
< High School Graduate	38	12.5	16	4.0	54	8.2
High School Graduate or GED	126	16.6	76	22.3	202	18.7
Some College or Technical School	146	22.6	69	22.5	215	22.6
College Graduate	192	24.1	71	31.2	264	25.8
Income						
< $15,000	29	11.9	37	12.1	66	12.0
$15-$24,999	63	15.5	47	14.2	110	14.8
$25-$34,999	74	20.2	44	22.2	118	20.9
$35-$49,999	97	22.5	43	30.0	140	24.5
$50-$74,999	87	20.8	24	33.6	111	23.0
$75,000+	110	28.1	20	43.2*	130	29.9
Employment Status						
Employed	342	23.4	165	22.1	507	22.9
Not Employed	23	24.4	29	22.3	52	23.3
Student/Homemaker	61	23.8	25	33.0	87	27.1
Retired/Unable to Work	76	8.6	13	4.7	89	7.2
Total	502	19.7	232	19.3	735	19.5

* Sample size less than 50

No Exercise During Past 30 Days

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	287	24.9	138	28.0	427	26.0
Female	584	30.9	409	39.7	998	34.1
Age Group						
18-24	31	17.4	43	29.1	74	22.7
25-34	86	21.8	95	29.5	181	25.0
35-44	116	22.2	111	34.1	227	26.6
45-54	186	31.7	117	37.1	304	33.6
55-64	175	34.3	70	32.9	246	34.1
65+	276	37.9	109	49.3	389	40.8
Education						
< High School Graduate	202	47.1	190	47.8	394	47.2
High School Graduate or GED	319	32.3	193	36.6	514	34.0
Some College or Technical School	210	24.9	98	25.0	309	25.0
College Graduate	138	16.2	64	21.9	203	17.7
Income						
< $15,000	167	49.3	190	48.2	357	48.4
$15-$24,999	170	37.2	152	35.8	324	36.6
$25-$34,999	130	32.1	52	26.6	182	30.0
$35-$49,999	124	24.6	37	25.3	162	25.0
$50-$74,999	103	22.4	17	18.1	121	21.8
$75,000+	51	11.0	11	16.1*	62	11.6
Employment Status						
Employed	392	23.0	260	30.2	653	25.5
Not Employed	36	30.7	52	39.4	88	35.5
Student/Homemaker	73	21.6	28	19.7	102	21.0
Retired/Unable to Work	369	41.7	206	47.8	580	43.7
Total	871	28.0	547	34.3	1,425	30.2

* Sample size less than 50

Prostate Cancer Screening

According to the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed form of cancer (other than skin cancer) in males and the second leading cause of cancer death among males in the United States. Prostate cancer was expected to account for an estimated 180,400 cases and 31,900 deaths in 2000, or about 29 percent and 11 percent of the cases and deaths due to all cancers, respectively. The death rate for prostate cancer in Mississippi for 2002 was 28.4 per 100,000. The death rate for nonwhites was twice that of whites: 41.2 for nonwhites compared to 20.6 for white. Prostate cancer is most common in men aged 65 years and older, who account for approximately 80 percent of all cases of prostate cancer. Digital rectal examination (DRE) and the prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test are two commonly used methods for detecting prostate cancer.

Although several treatment alternatives are available for prostate cancer, their impact on reducing death from prostate cancer when compared with no treatment in patients with operable cancer is uncertain. Efforts aimed at reducing deaths through screening and early detection remain controversial because of the uncertain benefits and potential risks of screening, diagnosis, and treatment.

The 2003 BRFSS survey for Mississippi indicated that 59.3 percent of males 40 years of age and older reported ever having had a PSA test. The overall rate for white respondents was 61.0 percent while nonwhites reported a rate of 55.2 percent.

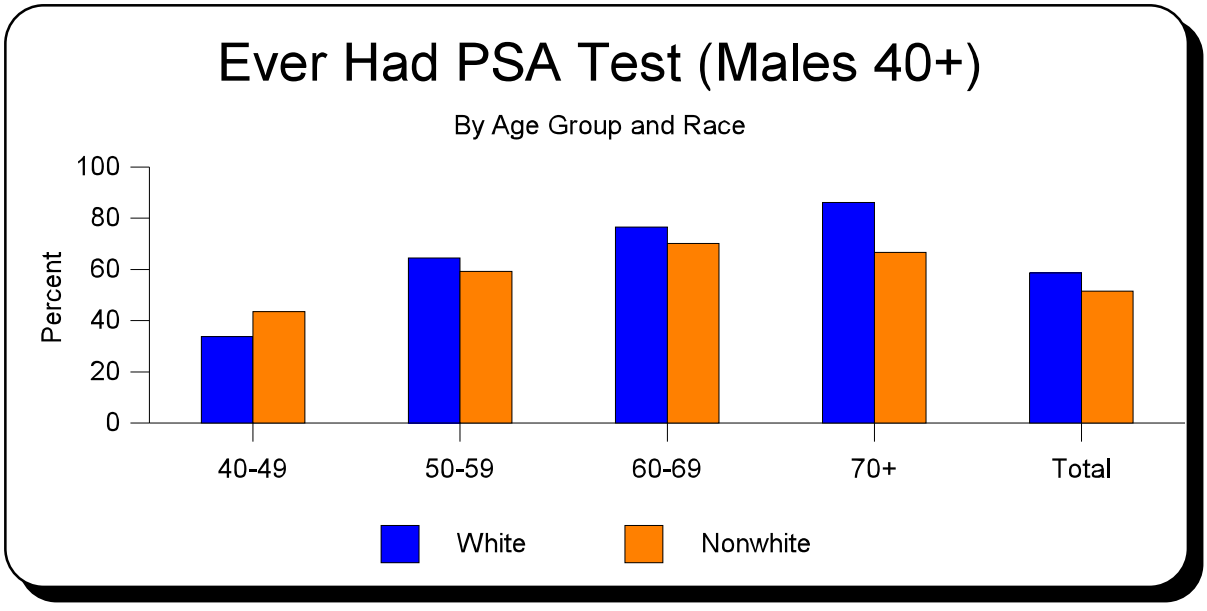

Figure 28

Ever Had a PSA Test (Males 40+)

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Age Group						
40-49	82	33.8	39	43.5	121	37.1
50-59	143	64.5	56	59.3	199	62.9
60-69	124	76.5	34	70.1*	160	75.4
70+	141	86.2	29	66.7*	170	81.8
Education						
< High School Graduate	46	45.9	54	50.7	101	48.6
High School Graduate or GED	139	55.2	36	47.2	175	52.8
Some College or Technical School	121	62.3	40	63.3	161	62.6
College Graduate	182	72.1	28	68.6*	211	71.6
Income						
< $15,000	38	49.5	32	51.9	71	51.7
$15-$24,999	68	58.1	32	43.5	101	52.8
$25-$34,999	79	71.7	28	57.0*	107	66.9
$35-$49,999	87	54.4	25	60.6*	112	56.0
$50-$74,999	72	53.7	16	66.9*	88	55.7
$75,000+	107	75.3	7	83.5*	114	76.0
Employment Status						
Employed	242	52.5	80	50.7	322	51.8
Not Employed	8	41.0*	5	30.8*	13	35.8
Student/Homemaker	1	25.1*	0	0.0*	1	22.4
Retired/Unable to Work	239	76.6	73	69.4	314	74.8
Total	490	61.0	158	55.2	650	59.3

* Sample size less than 50

Disability

Traditionally, the health status of persons with disabilities has been associated with medical care, rehabilitation services and long-term care financing according to *Healthy People 2010.* A number of health care professionals believe that these are misconceptions resulting in a lack of emphasis on health promotion that target people with disabilities and has led to an increase in secondary conditions such as social, emotional, family and community problems.

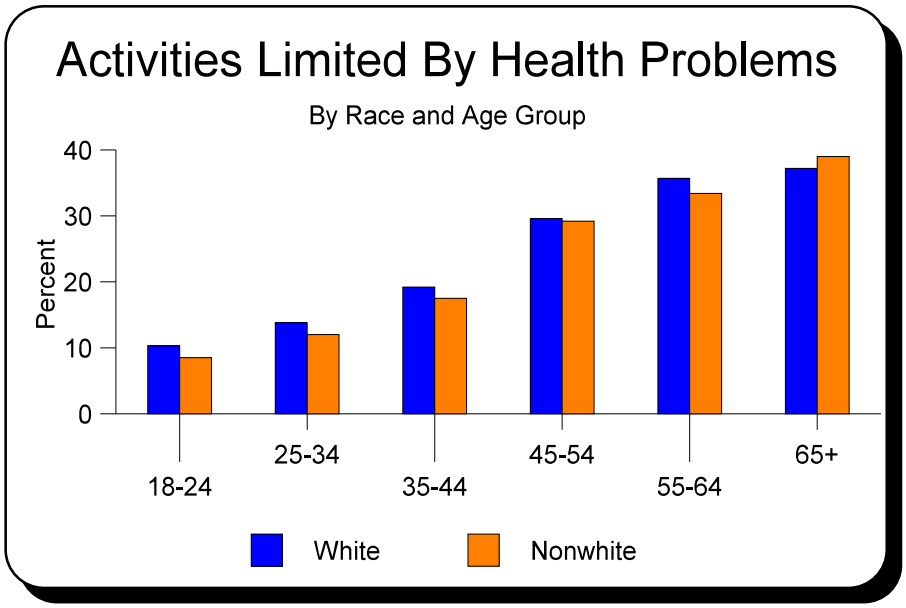

Figure 29

According to the Centers for Disease control and Prevention (CDC), people who have activity limitations report having had more days of pain, depression, anxiety, and sleeplessness and fewer days of vitality during the previous month than people not reporting activity limitations. In view of the increased rates of disability, it is important to target activities and services that address all aspects of health and well-being, as well as providing access to medical care. For an older person with a disability, it is important to target conditions that may threaten their well-being.

There are few data systems that identify those with disabilities as a sub-population. Despite the paucity of data, some disparities between people with and without disabilities have been noted. These disparities include excess weight,

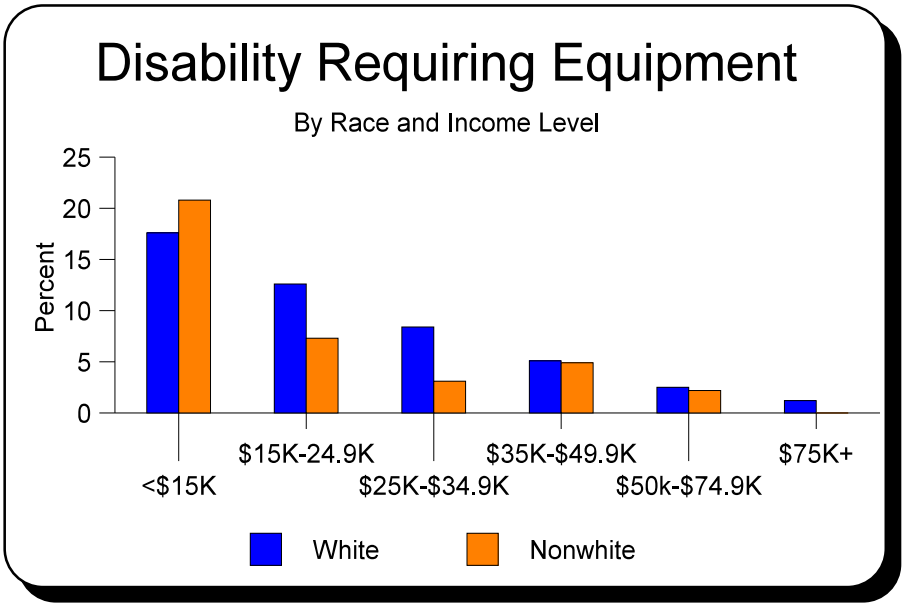

Figure 30

reduced physical activity, increased stress, and less frequent mammograms for women over age 55 years with disabilities.

It was noted in *Healthy People 2000* that persons with disabilities have increased health concerns and susceptibility to secondary conditions. People who have activity limitations report having had more days of pain, depression, anxiety, and sleeplessness and fewer days of vitality during the previous month than people not reporting activity limitations.

In the 2003 BRFSS survey, 23.4 percent of Mississippians reported that their activities were limited because of health problems compared to 19.1 percent in 2001. White respondents reported a rate of 24.9 percent up from 20.1 in 2001 while nonwhites reported a rate of 20.5 percent an increase from 17.3 in 2001. Figure 29 reflects the fact that these limitations increase with age for both races. People over the age of 65 report a rate of 31.9 percent (31.0 for whites and 34.7 for nonwhites) but the 18-24 age group had a rate of only 7.7 percent (9.9 for white and 4.9 for nonwhites).

Only 6.9 percent of the population have health problems that require special equipment such as a wheelchair, special bed, cane or special telephone. Figure 30 shows that those with lower incomes tend to require special equipment for health problems.

Activities Limited Because of Health Problems

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	275	23.0	99	18.1	376	21.4
Female	514	26.8	247	22.6	764	25.3
Age Group						
18-24	17	10.3	11	8.5	28	9.4
25-34	49	13.8	35	12.0	84	13.0
35-44	101	19.2	55	17.5	156	18.6
45-54	172	29.6	97	29.2	269	29.4
55-64	187	35.7	59	33.4	247	35.2
65+	262	37.2	88	39.0	354	38.0
Education						
< High School Graduate	167	40.5	145	35.2	314	37.9
High School Graduate or GED	252	25.1	111	19.3	364	22.9
Some College or Technical School	211	23.5	56	13.4	268	20.3
College Graduate	158	18.2	33	11.8	192	16.7
Income						
< $15,000	176	50.9	156	39.7	333	44.7
$15-$24,999	158	33.0	87	19.9	247	26.7
$25-$34,999	99	24.2	29	14.8	128	20.7
$35-$49,999	102	20.2	14	10.2	117	17.7
$50-$74,999	78	17.7	7	8.4	85	16.0
$75,000+	60	13.3	2	4.7*	62	12.2
Employment Status						
Employed	236	14.0	83	9.9	319	12.6
Not Employed	36	26.5	27	14.7	63	20.0
Student/Homemaker	72	20.8	10	7.3	82	16.0
Retired/Unable to Work	444	51.7	226	54.7	675	52.8
Total	789	24.9	346	20.5	1,140	23.4

* Sample size less than 50

Health Problems Requiring Special Equipment

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	83	7.1	55	8.8	138	7.6
Female	181	8.8	119	10.3	301	9.3
Age Group						
18-24	1	0.6	1	0.9	2	0.8
25-34	8	2.4	4	0.8	12	1.7
35-44	15	2.9	14	4.4	29	3.5
45-54	50	9.4	41	11.8	91	10.2
55-64	49	8.9	31	16.9	80	10.9
65+	141	20.4	83	39.2	225	24.9
Education						
< High School Graduate	70	15.3	85	19.1	155	17.0
High School Graduate or GED	90	8.7	48	7.6	138	8.2
Some College or Technical School	64	6.8	23	4.9	88	6.2
College Graduate	40	4.6	16	5.6	56	4.9
Income						
< $15,000	65	17.6	87	20.8	152	19.3
$15-$24,999	59	12.6	35	7.3	94	10.0
$25-$34,999	34	8.4	9	3.1	43	6.4
$35-$49,999	27	5.1	6	4.9	33	5.0
$50-$74,999	12	2.5	2	2.2	14	2.5
$75,000+	6	1.2	0	0.0*	6	1.1
Employment Status						
Employed	33	2.0	15	1.8	48	2.0
Not Employed	6	5.8	4	1.7	10	3.6
Student/Homemaker	16	4.3	6	2.8	22	3.7
Retired/Unable to Work	209	23.8	149	34.9	359	27.3
Total	264	8.0	174	9.6	439	8.5

* Sample size less than 50

HIV/AIDS

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) received designation as a legally reportable disease in July 1983. By 1990, AIDS had become the tenth leading cause of death in the United States. Individuals engaging in certain risky behaviors have greater risk of contracting AIDS. These behaviors include sharing needles and/or syringes, having unprotected sex (anal, oral or vaginal), having multiple sex partners, having a history of sexually transmitted diseases, abusing intravenous drugs and having sex with a person engaged in one of these risky behaviors. There were 348 new cases of AIDS and 397 cases of HIV reported in Mississippi in 2002.

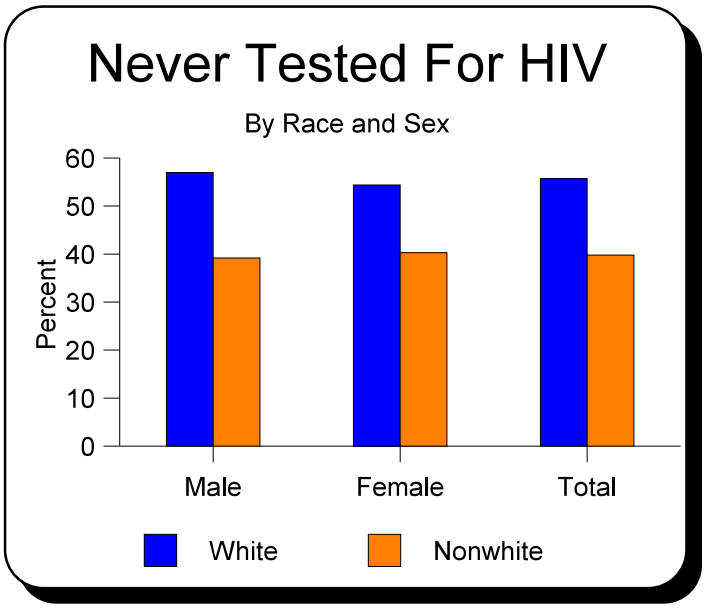

Figure 31

AIDS is a life threatening condition representing the later stages of infection with the human immuno-deficiency virus (HIV). Infection with HIV results in slow, progressive damage to the immune system and certain other organ systems. As the immune system weakens, certain opportunistic infections and cancers not normally seen in healthy individuals result in severe and frequently fatal illness. Between 800,000 and 900,000 persons in the United States are estimated to be infected with HIV, and many are unaware that they have the virus.

Questions about HIV and AIDS were only asked of those persons between the ages of 18 and 64. One of the questions was whether the respondent had ever been tested for the AIDS virus. In 2003, almost fifty (49.7) percent of the respondents reported that they had never been tested.

Nonwhites were more likely to have been tested than whites. The rate for nonwhite males who have never been tested was 39.2 percent and for nonwhite females it was 40.3 percent. The rate for white respondents who have never been tested was 57 percent for males and 54.4 percent for females.

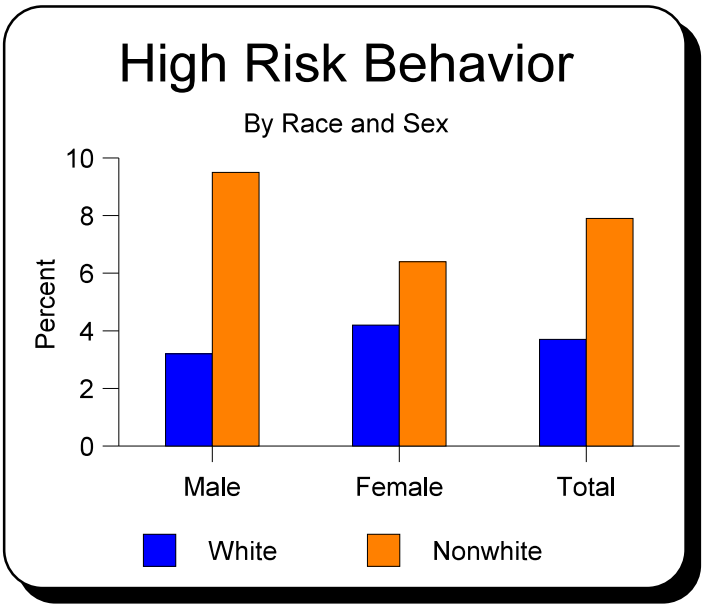

Figure 32

Ever Tested for HIV Other than Blood Donation (Age 18-64)

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	318	36.7	212	53.0	530	42.6
Female	519	40.2	461	53.0	982	45.2
Age Group						
18-24	68	35.4	89	51.9	157	42.9
25-34	227	55.4	217	71.0	445	62.1
35-44	239	44.3	180	55.5	419	48.5
45-54	200	34.4	131	41.6	331	36.7
55-64	100	20.9	52	30.1	152	23.2
Education						
< High School Graduate	96	40.1	119	47.6	215	43.5
High School Graduate or GED	223	36.4	215	47.1	439	41.1
Some College or Technical School	256	40.0	198	60.0	454	47.0
College Graduate	260	38.4	140	60.9	401	44.4
Income						
< $15,000	79	47.8	166	57.7	245	53.9
$15-$24,999	119	39.4	191	53.6	311	47.0
$25-$34,999	106	37.2	100	51.4	207	43.3
$35-$49,999	156	37.4	83	58.5	239	43.5
$50-$74,999	147	40.5	50	62.7	197	44.7
$75,000+	161	40.8	25	53.1*	186	42.4
Employment Status						
Employed	574	38.8	440	55.2	1,016	44.5
Not Employed	48	44.3	76	56.4	124	51.0
Student/Homemaker	101	37.8	49	42.2	150	39.4
Retired/Unable to Work	113	34.9	108	50.0	221	40.7
Total	837	38.5	673	53.0	1,512	43.9

* Sample size less than 50

Participated in High Risk Behavior During Past Year

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	26	3.2	41	9.5	67	5.5
Female	41	4.2	53	6.4	94	5.1
Age Group						
18-24	15	8.3	15	9.7	30	8.9
25-34	18	4.7	28	10.1	46	6.9
35-44	17	3.3	23	6.5	40	4.5
45-54	10	2.0	18	6.5	28	3.5
55-64	7	1.2	10	4.7	17	2.1
Education						
< High School Graduate	11	7.0	25	8.5	36	7.7
High School Graduate or GED	22	3.7	37	10.2	59	6.5
Some College or Technical School	14	2.9	18	6.3	32	4.1
College Graduate	20	3.1	14	4.8	34	3.6
Income						
< $15,000	7	5.1	28	11.5	35	9.0
$15-$24,999	7	2.1	28	7.7	35	5.2
$25-$34,999	12	4.5	13	7.8	25	5.8
$35-$49,999	16	3.7	9	5.4	25	4.2
$50-$74,999	12	4.1	2	4.0	14	4.1
$75,000+	5	1.8	2	2.3*	7	1.9
Employment Status						
Employed	45	3.4	59	8.0	104	5.0
Not Employed	6	8.5	15	10.9	21	9.8
Student/Homemaker	9	4.8	5	4.7	14	4.7
Retired/Unable to Work	7	2.4	15	7.5	22	4.4
Total	67	3.7	94	7.9	161	5.3

* Sample size less than 50

Falls

National data from *Healthy People 2010* reveal that in 1995, falls became the leading cause of injury deaths among adults aged 65 years and older in the United States. In 1997, falls were the cause of death for 9,023 citizens over the age of 65. Falls are the most common cause of injuries and hospital admissions for trauma among elderly persons. Since most fractures are the result of falls, understanding factors that contribute to falling is essential to designing effective intervention. For all ages combined, alcohol use has been implicated in 35 to 63 percent of deaths from falls. For persons aged 65 years and older, 60 percent of fatal falls occur in the home, 30 percent occur in public places, and 10 percent occur in health care institutions.

The *Healthy People 2010* data also notes that the most serious fall-related injury is hip fracture. Approximately 212,000 hip fractures occur each year in the United States among adults aged 65 years and older; 75 to 80 percent of all hip fractures are sustained by females. The impact of these injuries on the quality of life is enormous. Half of all elderly adults hospitalized for hip fracture cannot return home or live independently after the fracture. The total direct cost of all fall injuries for adults aged 65 years and older in 1994 was $20.2 billion. Factors that contribute to falls include difficulties in gait and balance, neurological and musculoskeletal disabilities, psycho-active medications, dementia, and visual impairment. There are occasions when, environmental hazards such as slippery surfaces, uneven floors, poor lighting on stairs, loose rugs, unstable furniture, and objects on floors become factors.

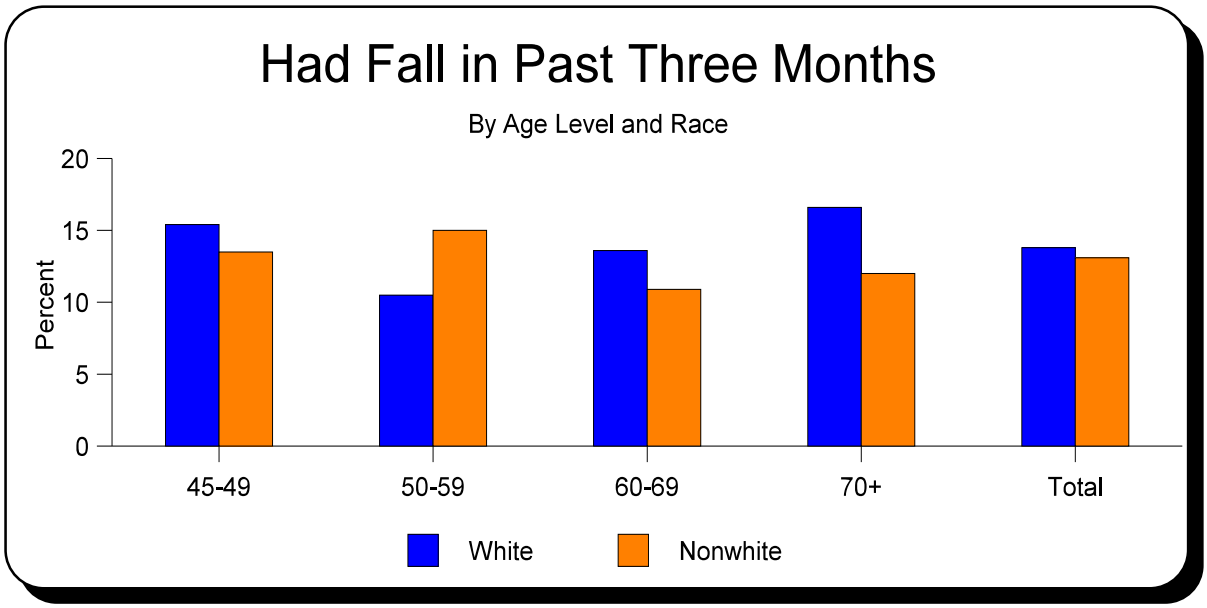

Figure 33

The national goal for *Healthy People 2010* is to reduce the deaths from falls to no more than 3.0 per 100,000 population. In 1998 the rate was 4.7. In 2002, Mississippi reported 179 deaths resulting from falls for a death rate of 6.2 per 100,000. Of those, 145 occurred in people age 65 and older for a death rate of 41.9 per 100,000.

The question relating to falls in the 2003 BRFSS survey for Mississippi was asked to those age 45 and above and 13.6 percent of the respondents reported that they had suffered a fall within the past three months. Of those, 39 percent said that the fall had resulted in an injury.

Had a Fall in the Past Three Months (Age 45+)

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	78	12.1	28	11.0	107	11.9
Female	184	15.2	81	14.8	266	15.1
Age Group						
45-49	45	15.4	25	13.5	70	14.7
50-59	66	10.5	41	15.0	107	11.8
60-69	65	13.6	24	10.9	90	13.0
70+	86	16.6	19	12.0	106	15.7
Education						
< High School Graduate	56	19.9	51	15.9	107	17.5
High School Graduate or GED	95	15.0	27	11.3	123	14.2
Some College or Technical School	66	12.4	17	10.6	83	12.0
College Graduate	45	10.2	13	12.3	59	10.8
Income						
< $15,000	54	20.3	43	17.0	97	18.5
$15-$24,999	59	18.8	20	10.5	80	16.1
$25-$34,999	27	11.7	9	9.3	36	11.0
$35-$49,999	37	12.9	6	11.3	44	13.1
$50-$74,999	19	8.3	4	6.9*	23	8.0
$75,000+	24	9.3	1	7.4*	25	9.2
Employment Status						
Employed	74	8.9	32	10.8	106	9.4
Not Employed	8	14.2*	5	9.2*	13	12.0
Student/Homemaker	19	12.5	2	9.2*	21	12.0
Retired/Unable to Work	161	18.9	70	16.1	233	18.1
Total	262	13.8	109	13.1	373	13.6

* Sample size less than 50

Fruits and Vegetables

Nutrition plays a vital role in achieving and maintaining optimum health. Dietary factors have a significant impact in decreasing the risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes mellitus, obesity and atherosclerosis. Some scientific studies have shown that greater fruit and vegetable consumption reduces the risk of cancer of the colon, breast, lung, oral cavity, larynx, esophagus, stomach, bladder, uterine cervix and pancreas.

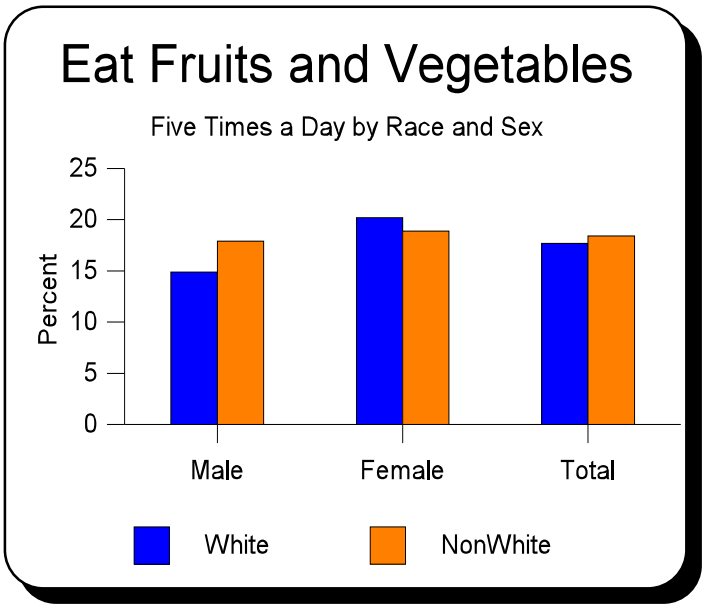

Figure 34

Fruits and vegetables are high in complex carbohydrates, fiber, minerals and vitamins and as a general rule are low in fat and calories. It is recommended that every person eat a variety of and a minimum of five servings of fruits and vegetables each day.

Based on the 2003 BRFSS Survey only 17.9 percent of the people in Mississippi reported that they consumed fruits and vegetables as much as five times per day. This represents a decrease from 19.2 percent reported in 2002 and 18.6 percent reported in the year 2000.

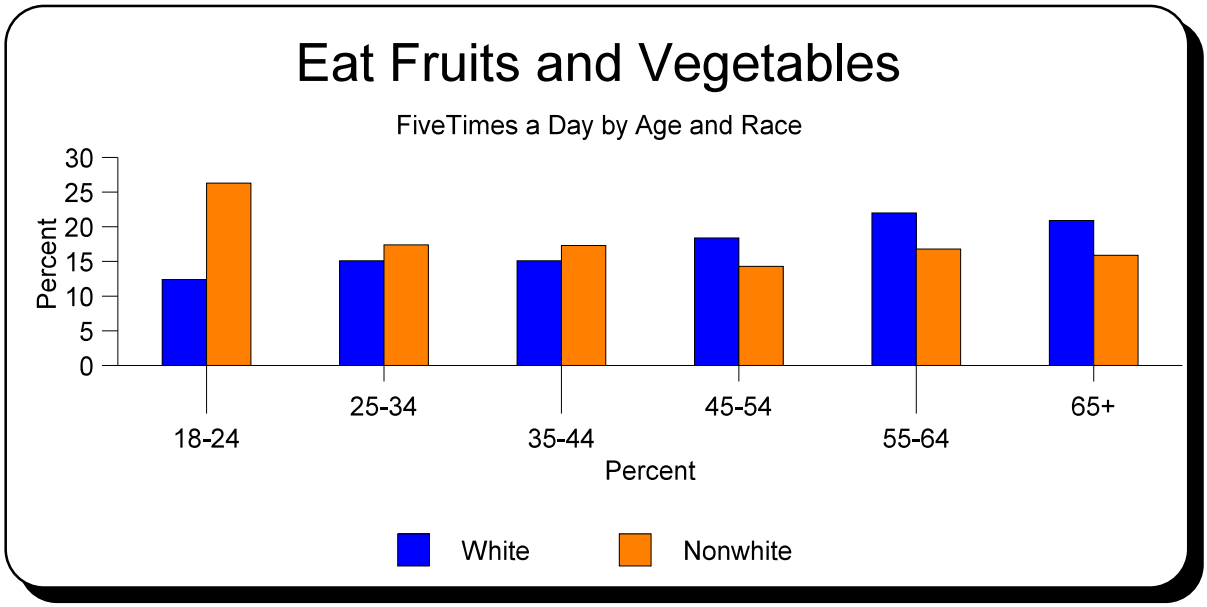

Figure 35

As noted in Figure 34 white females reported the highest rate of fruit and vegetables consumption at 20.1 percent. Next were nonwhite females at 18.9 percent which followed by nonwhite males at 17.9 percent. White males were the lowest at 14.8 percent.

People Who Eat Five or More Servings of Fruits or Vegetables Per Day

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	176	14.8	74	17.9	251	15.9
Female	360	20.1	182	18.9	546	19.6
Age Group						
18-24	25	12.4	31	26.3	56	18.8
25-34	66	15.1	53	17.4	119	16.1
35-44	72	15.1	57	17.3	129	15.9
45-54	105	18.4	46	14.3	151	16.9
55-64	112	22.0	32	16.8	146	20.9
65+	151	20.9	35	15.9	187	19.5
Education						
< High School Graduate	51	12.8	52	11.6	105	12.2
High School Graduate or GED	137	15.0	82	20.3	219	17.0
Some College or Technical	143	16.5	70	21.1	213	18.0
College Graduate	204	24.0	52	21.0	259	23.4
Income						
< $15,000	52	15.2	62	15.9	115	15.6
$15-$24,999	73	15.8	62	16.9	138	16.5
$25-$34,999	75	18.8	37	19.1	112	18.9
$35-$49,999	93	16.8	37	22.7	130	18.3
$50-$74,999	73	16.0	25	34.9	98	19.4
$75,000+	100	23.7	9	23.5*	109	23.6
Employment Status						
Employed	266	15.8	144	18.7	412	16.8
Not Employed	18	16.7	22	15.1	40	15.8
Student/Homemaker	65	20.1	22	25.1	87	21.8
Retired/Unable to Work	186	20.6	68	16.2	257	19.1
Total	536	17.5	256	18.4	797	17.9

* Sample size less than 50

Alcohol Consumption

Excessive drinking has consequences for virtually every part of the human body. The wide range of alcohol-induced disorders is due, among other factors, to differences in the amount, duration, and patterns of alcohol consumption, as well as differences in genetic vulnerability to particular alcohol related consequences.

Alcohol use has been linked with a substantial proportion of injuries and deaths from motor vehicle crashes, falls, fires and drowning. It also is a factor in homicide, suicide, marital violence and child abuse and has been associated with high risk sexual behavior. Persons who drink even relatively small amounts of alcoholic beverages may contribute to alcohol-related death and injury in occupational incidents especially if they drink before operating a vehicle. In 1998, alcohol use was associated with 38 percent of all motor vehicle crash fatalities, a significantly lower percentage than in the 1980's.

According to the 2003 BRFSS survey, 26.7 percent of white respondents in the 18-24 year age group said they had indulged in binge drinking in the past 30 days (Figure 36) which is a small increase from 24 percent reported in 2002 and a marked decrease from 33.5 percent reported in 1999. Nonwhite respondents in the same age group reported a binge drinking rate of 19.3 percent which is much higher that the 9.9 percent reported in 1999. Males were almost three times more likely to indulge in binge drinking than females. Only 5.9 percent of female respondents said they had five or more drinks on one occasion during the last thirty days compared to 17 percent for males.

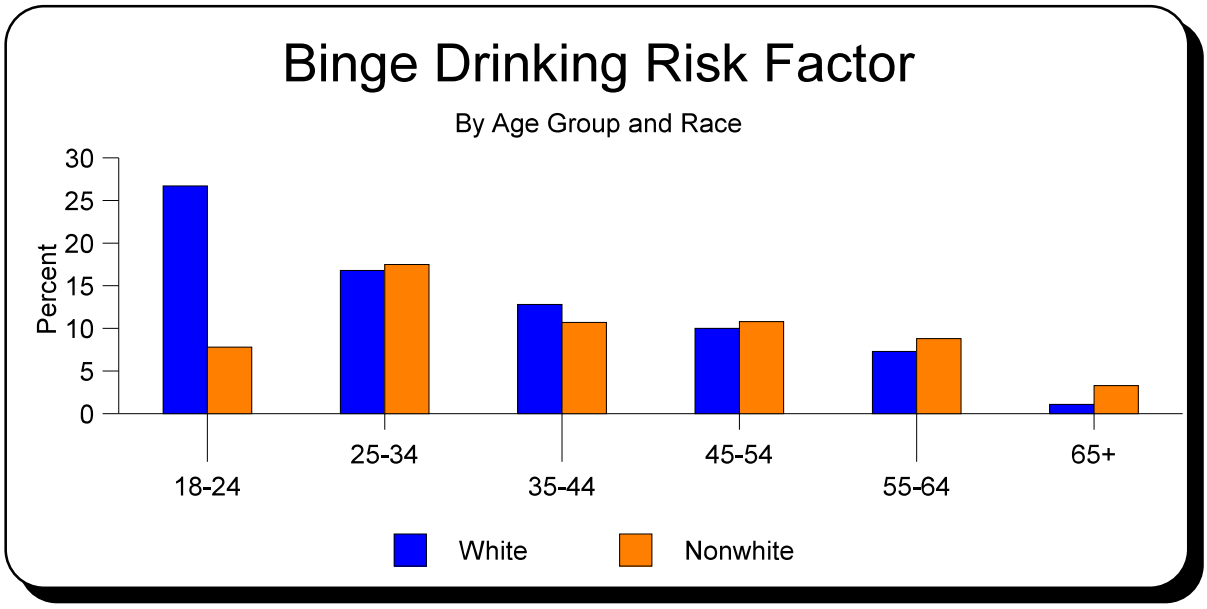

Figure 36

At Risk for Binge Drinking

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	172	16.9	84	17.1	257	17.0
Female	97	6.7	46	4.7	143	5.9
Age Group						
18-24	43	26.7	13	7.8	56	18.0
25-34	64	16.8	38	17.5	102	17.1
35-44	69	12.8	31	10.7	100	12.0
45-54	54	10.0	29	10.8	83	10.2
55-64	30	7.3	14	8.8	44	7.7
65+	8	1.1	5	3.3	13	1.6
Education						
< High School Graduate	30	13.9	36	9.9	66	11.9
High School Graduate or GED	74	10.1	43	9.4	117	9.8
Some College or Technical School	76	11.6	34	13.1	110	12.1
College Graduate	88	12.1	17	9.5	106	11.5
Income						
< $15,000	20	9.4	30	9.4	50	9.4
$15-$24,999	30	7.8	43	11.4	73	9.5
$25-$34,999	44	14.1	28	18.4	72	15.6
$35-$49,999	54	13.0	14	11.1	68	12.4
$50-$74,999	53	13.6	5	9.0	58	12.8
$75,000+	51	14.6	2	4.5*	53	13.4
Employment Status						
Employed	211	15.3	86	13.2	297	14.5
Not Employed	14	19.2	16	10.0	30	14.2
Student/Homemaker	22	9.7	7	5.9	30	8.4
Retired/Unable to Work	22	2.6	21	6.4	43	3.9
Total	269	11.6	130	10.4	400	11.2

* Sample size less than 50

At Risk for Heavy Drinking

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	60	5.2	37	8.3	97	6.2
Female	61	3.9	22	2.2	83	3.3
Age Group						
18-24	18	9.5	4	1.9	22	6.0
25-34	16	3.3	20	10.3	36	6.2
35-44	23	3.4	15	5.8	38	4.3
45-54	29	5.4	12	5.3	41	5.3
55-64	18	4.2	6	2.9	24	3.9
65+	16	2.5	1	1.0	17	2.1
Education						
< High School Graduate	11	5.5	22	6.9	33	6.1
High School Graduate or GED	34	3.9	20	4.6	54	4.2
Some College or Technical School	35	4.3	13	5.4	48	4.7
College Graduate	40	4.7	4	2.8	44	4.2
Income						
< $15,000	7	3.4	14	4.2	21	3.8
$15-$24,999	18	4.2	17	4.8	35	4.5
$25-$34,999	19	4.3	14	11.4	33	6.9
$35-$49,999	17	3.3	3	1.9	20	2.9
$50-$74,999	25	6.4	4	7.7	29	6.6
$75,000+	25	5.7	0	0.0*	25	5.0
Employment Status						
Employed	81	5.2	39	6.6	120	5.6
Not Employed	8	8.3	8	4.4	16	6.2
Student/Homemaker	12	4.0	4	2.6	16	3.5
Retired/Unable to Work	20	2.4	8	3.0	28	2.6
Total	121	4.5	59	5.1	180	4.7

* Sample size less than 50

Sunburn

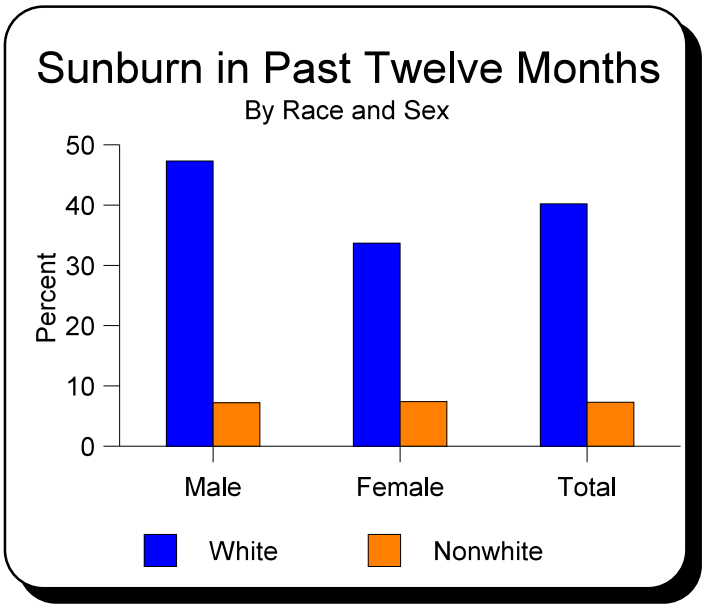

Figure 37

The American Cancer Society estimates that more than one million new cases of highly curable basal cell or squamous cell cancers and about 2,000 non-melanoma skin cancer deaths occurred in 2001. The most serious form of skin cancer is melanoma which was diagnosed in approximately 51,400 persons in 2001 causing an estimated 7,800 deaths. From 1981 to 1998 the incidence of melanoma increased an average 2.8 percent per year and mortality increased 0.4 percent per year.

The primary risk factor for skin cancer is excessive exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation, and personal characteristics associated with increased skin sensitivity to UV radiation such as fair skin and easy sunburning.

Current data suggest that cumulative UV exposure is important in the development of squamous cell carcinoma, whereas episodic UV exposure is more important in the development of melanoma and basal cell carcinoma . Sunburns whether received in childhood or adulthood have been associated with an increased risk in the development of melanoma and basal cell carcinoma.

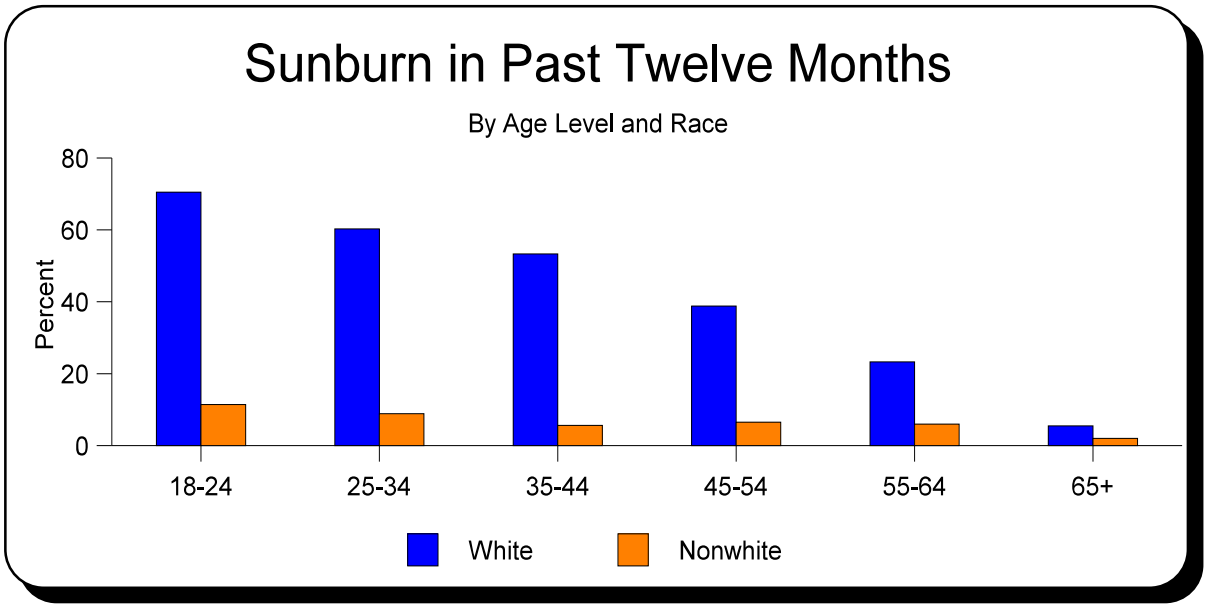

Figure 38

Measurement of sunburn is considered an important core component of routine surveillance of skin cancer prevention behavior. Sunburn is a good indicator of poor sun protection and represent a good measure of the UVR dose received.

The 2003 BRFSS survey revealed that 28.5 percent of respondents reported having suffered a sunburn with the past twelve months. As seen in Figure 37, a wide difference reported according race. White respondents reported a rate almost six times higher than nonwhites at 40.2 percent compared to only 7.3 percent for nonwhites. White males, with rate of 47.3 percent, were almost seven times more likely to have reported a sunburn than nonwhite males who had a rate of only 7.2 percent.

As indicated in Figure 38, sunburns tend to decrease with age and further highlight the clear differences with respect to race.

Had Sunburn in the Past Twelve Months

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	467	47.3	30	7.2	498	33.3
Female	548	33.7	70	7.4	618	24.1
Age Group						
18-24	119	70.5	15	11.4	134	43.4
25-34	241	60.3	25	8.9	266	38.6
35-44	279	53.3	22	5.6	301	35.6
45-54	215	38.8	20	6.5	235	27.6
55-64	113	23.3	11	6.0	124	18.8
65+	42	5.5	4	2.0	46	4.6
Education						
< High School Graduate	90	31.9	18	4.7	108	18.4
High School Graduate or GED	272	35.2	32	7.1	304	24.3
Some College or Technical School	312	45.0	25	6.4	337	32.6
College Graduate	340	45.4	25	13.1	366	37.3
Income						
< $15,000	70	25.4	28	9.2	98	16.1
$15-$24,999	135	33.8	23	8.0	158	21.0
$25-$34,999	126	36.4	11	3.5	137	24.3
$35-$49,999	205	46.2	11	5.2	216	34.9
$50-$74,999	182	45.6	11	13.6	193	39.7
$75,000+	205	51.4	7	20.4*	212	47.6
Employment Status						
Employed	733	50.3	56	6.2	789	35.3
Not Employed	46	50.0	11	9.6	57	27.9
Student/Homemaker	122	42.9	11	13.9	134	32.8
Retired/Unable to Work	114	14.1	22	5.6	136	11.1
Total	1,015	40.2	100	7.3	1,116	28.5

* Sample size less than 50

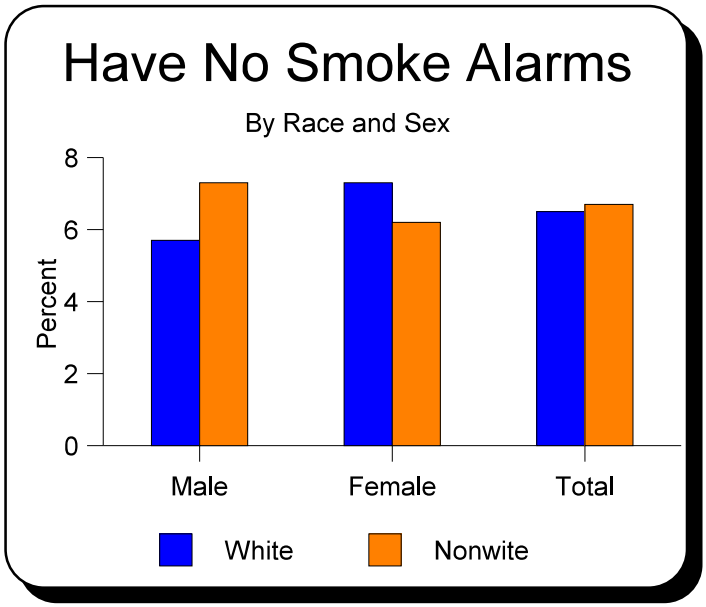

Figure 39

According to Healthy People 2010, there were 3,220 deaths in 1997 as a result of residential fires. Residential property loss caused by these fires was roughly $4.4 billion. In 1995, the cost of all fire-related deaths and injuries, including deaths and injuries to firefighters, was estimated at $15.8 billion. Fires are the second leading cause of unintentional injury death among children.

Compared to the total population, children aged 4 years and under have a fire death rate more than twice the national average. About 800 children aged 14 years and under die by fire each year, and 65 percent of these children are under the age of five. Children are disproportionately affected because they react less effectively to fire than adults, and they also generally sustain more severe burns at lower temperatures than adults.

Two-thirds of fire-related deaths and injuries among children under age five years occur in homes without functioning smoke alarms. Functioning smoke alarms on every level and in every sleeping area of a home can provide residents with sufficient warning to escape from nearly all types of fires. Therefore, functioning smoke alarms can be highly effective in preventing fire-related deaths. If a fire occurs, homes with smoke alarms are roughly half as likely to have a death occur as homes without smoke alarms.

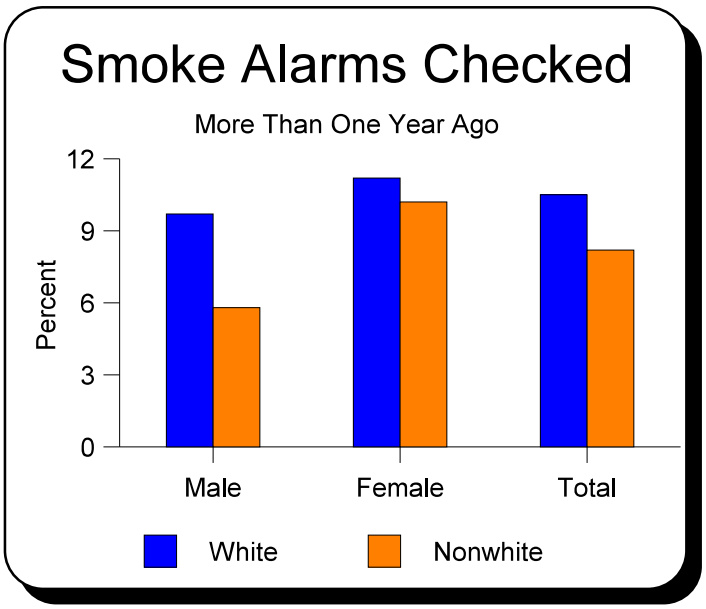

Figure 40

In 2002 there were 109 deaths in Mississippi related to fire for a death rate of 3.8 per 100,000 population. The rate for the nonwhite population was 2.7 times greater than for whites: 6.1 for nonwhites versus 2.3 for whites. The 2003 BRFSS survey in Mississippi showed that 6.6 percent of the respondents reported that their residences did not have smoke alarms. The was only a slight variation between races: 6.5 percent for whites against 6.7 percent for nonwhites (Figure 39).

Of those who reported having smoke alarms in their residences, 9.8 percent said that it had been more than one year since the alarms had been tested (Figure 40). More whites (10.5 percent) than nonwhites (8.2 percent) reported this factor

No Smoke Alarms in Residence

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	73	5.7	40	7.3	113	6.2
Female	140	7.3	65	6.2	206	6.9
Age Group						
18-24	9	6.1	8	4.8	17	5.5
25-34	12	2.6	20	6.0	32	4.0
35-44	26	4.9	15	5.3	41	5.1
45-54	45	7.4	11	3.9	56	6.2
55-64	49	9.2	22	10.6	71	9.5
65+	72	8.9	29	14.9	102	10.4
Education						
< High School Graduate	55	12.0	50	12.4	105	12.1
High School Graduate or GED	78	8.2	29	6.4	108	7.5
Some College or Technical School	45	4.6	18	4.0	63	4.4
College Graduate	34	3.8	8	2.9	42	3.6
Income						
< $15,000	51	15.3	27	7.8	78	11.0
$15-$24,999	39	7.5	27	6.5	66	7.0
$25-$34,999	33	7.1	8	5.7	41	6.6
$35-$49,999	22	4.1	8	4.0	30	4.0
$50-$74,999	23	5.9	2	2.9	25	5.4
$75,000+	13	3.2	1	0.9*	14	2.9
Employment Status						
Employed	81	4.5	43	5.5	124	4.8
Not Employed	11	8.8	7	4.1	18	6.3
Student/Homemaker	24	9.1	9	5.9	33	8.0
Retired/Unable to Work	97	9.6	46	11.4	144	10.2
Total	213	6.5	105	6.7	319	6.6

* Sample size less than 50

Smoke Alarms Not Checked Within the Past Year

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex						
Male	105	9.7	31	5.8	138	8.6
Female	202	11.2	93	10.2	297	10.8
Age Group						
18-24	11	6.1	13	8.1	24	7.0
25-34	46	11.1	18	6.5	64	9.2
35-44	56	10.8	34	9.7	90	10.4
45-54	76	13.2	22	7.2	99	11.3
55-64	58	12.9	16	10.0	75	12.2
65+	58	8.3	20	8.8	80	8.8
Education						
< High School Graduate	25	6.4	31	7.9	59	7.7
High School Graduate or GED	80	8.4	43	8.9	124	8.5
Some College or Technical School	90	11.1	25	6.5	115	9.6
College Graduate	112	14.2	25	9.6	137	13.0
Income						
< $15,000	26	9.4	30	7.6	57	8.8
$15-$24,999	32	6.4	32	7.7	66	7.1
$25-$34,999	47	12.0	24	10.7	71	11.5
$35-$49,999	50	8.8	17	10.1	67	9.1
$50-$74,999	52	12.4	6	6.5	59	11.6
$75,000+	74	18.0	5	14.2*	79	17.6
Employment Status						
Employed	192	11.5	71	8.3	265	10.5
Not Employed	6	7.3	11	6.0	17	6.6
Student/Homemaker	36	11.8	12	13.0	48	12.2
Retired/Unable to Work	72	7.9	30	6.7	104	7.7
Total	307	10.5	124	8.2	435	9.8

* Sample size less than 50

MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

January 2005

Equal Opportunity In Employment/Services