

# Black Youth Project

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## FACTSHEET: HEALTH

Black Youth Project researchers surveyed 1,590 Black, White and Hispanic young people between the ages of 15 and 25 about their attitudes regarding their own health and the health care system. Responses were broken down by race/ethnicity, sex, and age.

Key findings include the following:

- The majority of Black and Hispanic youth believe that race affects the quality of healthcare one receives and the response of the government to health crises such as AIDS.
- The majority of Black youth and the near majority of Hispanic youth receive most of their medical care from community health clinics and hospitals unlike White youth who most often receive their medical care from a private doctor.
- Yet, Black youth are less likely than either White or Hispanic youth to report that there were times during the past year when they thought they should see a health care provider but did not.
- While Black youth are more likely than either Hispanic or White youth to report knowing someone personally with HIV or AIDS, they are less likely than Hispanic youth to rate their chances of getting HIV/AIDS as high.

### Access to Health Care

- Young people of different races and ethnicities report significant differences in how they access healthcare. The majority of white youth (59%) report receiving medical care from a private doctor, nearly 20% more than black youth. The percentage of youth who report receiving care from a private doctor are:
  - 59% of White youth
  - 40% of Black youth
  - 39% of Hispanic youth
- The majority of Black youth receive most of their medical care from a community health clinic or a hospital—or more specifically, an emergency room. The percentage of youth who report receiving care in these different types of facilities are:

#### Community Health Clinic

30% of Black youth

29% of Hispanic youth

16% of White youth

#### Hospital or Emergency Room

25% of Black youth

20% of Hispanic youth

16% of White youth

- White youth are nearly 10 percentage points more likely to report that there were times during the past year when they thought they should see a health care provider but did not. The percentage of youth who did not go see a health care provider are:
  - 30% of Black youth
  - 39% of White youth
  - 36% of Hispanic youth

## **HIV and AIDS**

- Black youth are more likely to report knowing someone personally with HIV or AIDS. The percentage of youth who know someone personally with AIDS are:
  - 38% of Black youth
  - 32% of Hispanic youth
  - 22% of White youth
- Yet, Hispanic youth are more likely to rate their chances of getting AIDS at very high or high. The percentage of youth who rate their chances as very high or high are:
  - 13% of Hispanic youth
  - 11% of Black youth
  - 5% of White youth
- Among these, Hispanic and Black males are most likely to qualify their risk of AIDS as very high or high. The percentage of males who qualify their risk as very high or high are:
  - 18% of Hispanic males
  - 14% of Black males
  - 6% of White males

## **Race and Health Care**

- An overwhelming majority of Black youth believe that the government would do more to find a cure for AIDS if more White people had the disease. The percentage of youth who believe this are:
  - 68% of Black youth
  - 50% of Hispanic youth
  - 34% of White youth
- A majority of Black and Hispanic youth believe that Blacks are treated less fairly than Whites in the health care system. The percentage of youth who believe this are:
  - 59% of Black youth
  - 52% of Hispanic youth
  - 32% of White youth