



Census Information Center Community Counts

The Presidential Election, 2008 By

Tiffany Davis, B.A.

November 4, 2008 marks a historic election day for the United States. In a closely watched nomination process, Senator Barack Obama—IL won the Democratic nomination for president. Senator Obama is the first African-American ever to win the nomination. His opponent, John McCain, is also a member of the Senate, and hails from Arizona.

In many counties across Georgia, the opportunity to vote early in the presidential election for the presidential candidates is available. Although the voter registration deadline

for Fulton County has passed, I urge everyone who is registered to either vote early or vote ON election day: NOVEMBER 4, 2008. In Fulton County, there are multiple voting precincts and you will be assigned to one depending on your address. There are several online resources to find more information about where and when to vote. Please go to :

www.fultoncountyga.gov/index.php/government-news/fulton-county-online-election-information-center.html

for more information. If you want more information about the candidates, includ-

ing their stances on various issues, please visit their personal homepages:

www.johnmccain.com

www.barackobama.com

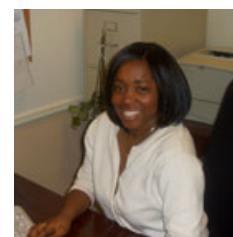


New Graduate Assistant

As of October 2008, Tiffany Davis became the new graduate assistant for the Spelman CIC. Ms. Davis received her B.A. in Sociology from Dartmouth College in 2006, and is currently enrolled in a Sociology PhD program at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. Her research interests include, but are not limited to,

gentrification, community development, crime, race and ethnicity. Ms. Davis is currently completing her master's thesis, which explores the impact of gentrification on homicide rates in Chicago, IL from 1970-1995. After completion of her doctoral program, Ms. Davis plans on becoming both a data analyst and re-

searcher in either the non-profit sector or government.



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Census Information Center Resources

- www.census.gov
- www.cdc.gov/sceintific.htm
- www.quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/13000.html
- www.scorecard.org/env-releases/state.tcl?fips_state_code=13

Health Disparities in the United States

What is a health disparity?

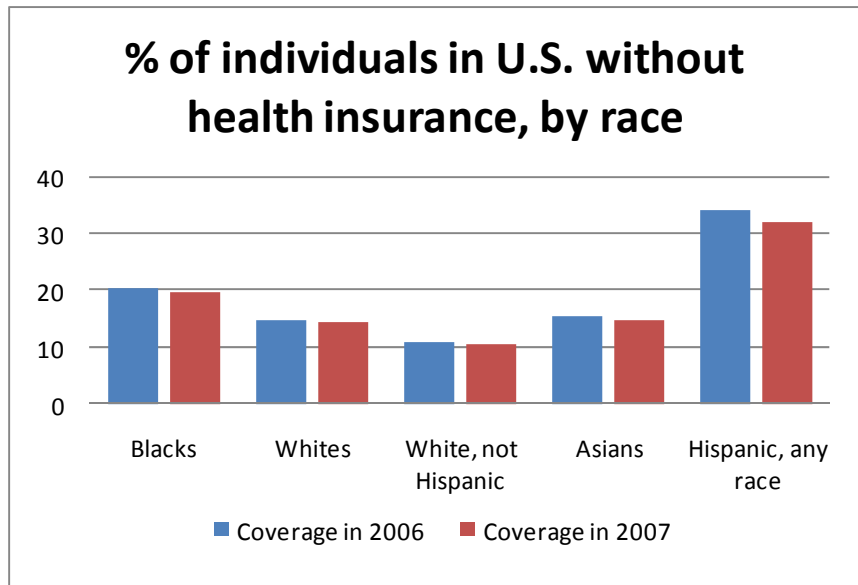
A health disparity is an inequality related to health. For example, certain segments of the population may experience different treatment because of their individual characteristics (such as race, class, origin, sex, etc.). Or certain populations may have less access to health care.

Last year, over 15 percent of people living in the United States did not have health insurance. This percentage represents 299,106 Americans who are uninsured. Between 2006 and 2007, this number declined by 0.6.

A closer examination of uninsured individuals in the United States provides interesting evidence of health disparities.

Recent statistics concerning health care in the United States continue to vary by race. For example, differential coverage, access, treatment, and outcomes exist for some populations. Figure 1 shows some of these differences in coverage.

Figure 1

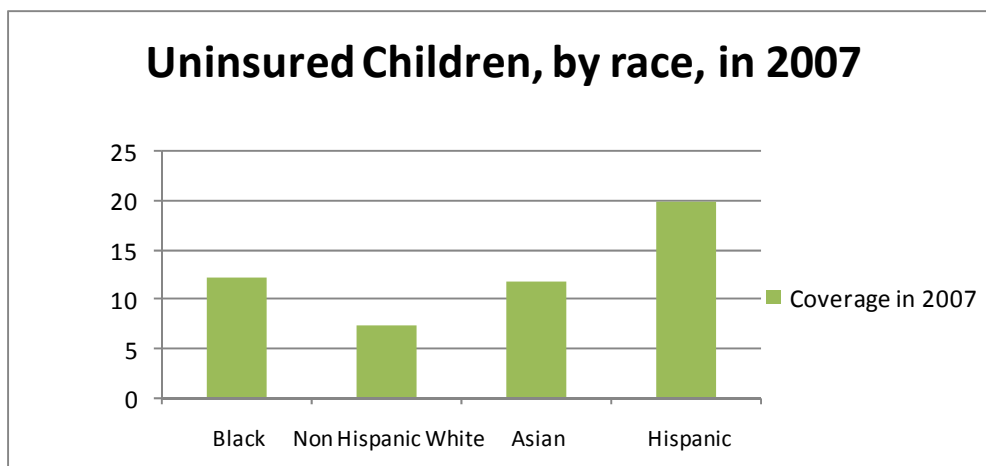


Source: US Census Bureau [Income, Poverty and Health Insurance in the United States: 2007](#)

Figure 1 shows that the racial/ethnic group with the largest percentage of uninsured Americans is Hispanic. Although the percentage of insured Hispanics decreased between 2006 and 2007, the figure for 2007 was higher than any other racial group. Non-hispanic whites had the lowest percentage of uninsured citizens, followed by all whites, Asians, and Blacks.

Figure 2 demonstrates that these same differences among races exist for children.

Figure 2



Source: US Census Bureau Health Insurance 2007

Is treatment within the health care system equal?

Past evidence provides support for the existence of health disparities in treatment. In a report published by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), inequality in treatment existed among several hospital procedures studied. For example, a study published in 2000 found that hospital procedures were not equally provided to all patients. Specifically, in a hospital study that focused on nine hospital procedures:

- Five procedures were significantly less common among African American patients than among white patients
- three of these same five were less common among Hispanics than whites, and
- two were less common among Asian Americans than whites.

Other studies from AHRQ provided additional evidence of disparities in patient care for various conditions and care settings. For example, with respect to heart disease, “African Americans are 13 percent less likely to undergo coronary angioplasty and one-third less likely to undergo bypass surgery than are whites” (AHRQ 2007). Another study found that “among preschool children hospitalized for asthma, only 7 percent of black and 2 percent of Hispanic children, compared with 21 percent of white children, are prescribed routine medications to prevent future asthma-related hospitalizations” (AHRQ 2007).



Top 15 States with highest percentage of uninsured persons, 2006-2007

Texas	24.8
New Mexico	22.7
Florida	20.7
Louisiana	20.2
Mississippi	19.8
Arizona	19.6
California	18.5
Nevada	18.4
Oklahoma	18.4
Georgia	17.6
Arkansas	17.5
Alaska	17.4
Oregon	17.3
North Carolina	17.2
Colorado	16.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2005 to 2008 Annual Social and Economic Supplements

What is the Census Information Center???

Spelman College

Census Information Center

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350 Spelman Lane S.W

Atlanta, GA 30314

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*Spelman CIC Serves Its
Community*

The Census Information Center (CIC) is a cooperative program between the U.S. Census Bureau and 52 national, regional, and local non-profit organizations. This program represents the interest of underserved communities. The centers serve as repositories of census data and reports, making census information and data available to the public and the communities they serve. The CICs use census data in areas such as program planning, assessing advocacy needs, defining service areas, public policy development, developing new business enterprises, and conducting race/ethnic related research. Individually, and in concert with other community service organizations, the Spelman College's CIC focuses on strengthening community development organizations by improving access to information and national resources for Atlanta University Center (AUC) faculty and students, local activists, minority low income groups, housing, and neighborhood development organizations. Most of the Spelman's CIC projects involve assessment of area needs and local population characteristics.



Spelman College

Census Information Center History

The Spelman College Census Information Center (CIC) was established in 2000 by economics professor Dr. Romie Tribble, and is now directed by Dr. Bruce Wade, professor and former chair of the [Department of Sociology and Anthropology](#).

The CIC is a cooperative program between the U.S. Bureau of the Census and 52 national, regional and local non-profit organizations, and represents the interests of underserved communities.

The centers serve as repositories of census data and reports, making census information and data available to the public and the communities they serve. The CICs use census data in areas such as program planning, needs assessments, defining service areas, developing new business enterprises, and con-

ducting demographic and social research.

The Primary Objectives are:

- ⇒ Make the Spelman's CIC a resource for information on Census related data for diverse community groups.
- ⇒ Promote university community involvement in community development.
- ⇒ Promote AUC student and faculty development and involvement in community services.
- ⇒ Promote awareness of the Census as a resource base.
- ⇒ Encourage AUC students and faculty to integrate Census material in their classrooms, research and career plans.

References

- US Census Bureau Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2007*. Retrieved October 26, 2008 from <http://www.pdfdownload.org/pdf2html/pdf2html.php?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.census.gov%2Fprod%2F2008pubs%2Fp60-235.pdf&images=yes>
- Addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care" Fact Sheet*. AHRQ Publication No. 00-PO41, February 2000. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD. Retrieved October 28, 2008 from <http://www.ahrq.gov/research/dispar.htm>