


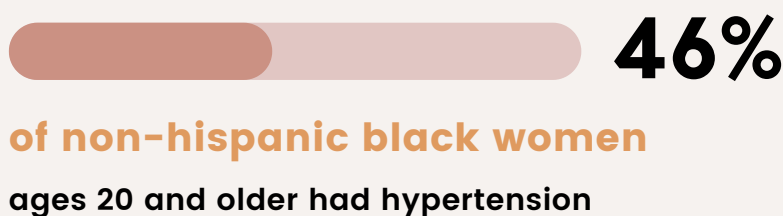


Health Equity Project

Women of color are disproportionately burdened with health issues, chronic illness, and disability. Across race, ethnicity, and gender, the leading causes of death for women of color are cancer, heart disease, and stroke. Contributing to the disproportionate rates of death and morbidity from food-related illnesses, the physical, social, and economic way in which we are born, live, work, and play increases those burdens.



Various research studies on chronic illness and disability amongst women of color cite feelings of isolation as barriers to receiving culturally responsive care to help effectively manage their health. The lack of representation and accessibility to practitioners of color in various healing modalities makes it difficult to be seen and heard in a way that promotes community, shared experiences, and optimal health.



The highest rates of poverty are experienced by American Indian/Alaska Native women, Black women, and Latinas. They are also disproportionately represented among women living in poverty. While Latinas represent 18.1% of all women in the U.S. population, they constitute 27.1% of women in poverty. Similarly, Black women represent 22.3% of women in poverty but make up only 12.8% of all women in the U.S. population.

Poverty amongst women of color is also directly linked to the socioeconomic impact of disability and diseases that women of color face.