

HEALTH

NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

DISEASE STATISTICS & AFRICAN-AMERICANS

African Americans suffer disproportionately from diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, AIDS, various forms of cancer, high blood pressure, stroke and glaucoma. More Black babies die before their first birthday in America than in any other developed nation in the world.

Virtually every demographic cohort of the Black community is represented in this national tragedy. But African Americans are not the only people affected by these statistics. Health care costs the nation over \$809 billion and accounted for 12 percent of the gross national product in 1991. (Prospective Payment Assessment Commission).

Death rates in minority communities have continued to escalate during an era when life expectancy for the white population has never been higher. Statistics for African Americans are the most consistently appalling in the preventable disease category.

For example, while death by CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE is on the decline, the prevalence in Black men is still 37% higher (364.2 per 100,000) than in white men (265.6 per 100,000). In Black women the rate is 64% higher (242.9 per 100,000) than in white women (148.1 per 100,000).

DIABETES, a disease which leads to loss of limbs and blindness when treated improperly, disproportionately affects Blacks and Hispanics who represent 22% of all of the people with diabetes.

Thirty percent of reported AIDS cases in 1991 are Black (population 12%), while

54% of children with AIDS under the age of 13 are Black.

CANCER rates in 1991 were highest among Black males (298.1 per 100,000 population) followed by white males (212.7), Black females (160.1) and white females (138.3).

Lung and bronchus cancer, the leading cause of cancer in Blacks, affect Black men 50% more than their white counterparts and the incidence in Black females has continually risen since 1973. Colo-rectal cancer

is the second leading cause of death. Again Blacks are disproportionately affected by this disease.

Black women die from cancer of the cervix 2.5 times more than white women and while they get breast cancer less than white women, they are more likely to die from breast cancer. Death rates for prostate cancer and esophageal cancer in Black males are much higher than for white males.

Blacks die from STROKE almost twice as often as whites. Blacks under 65 die almost three times as often. These statistics are even more startling when regions are factored in. (The South has been labeled the stroke belt of the nation). In 1988, Black males had a 93% higher mortality rate than their white counterparts. Blacks with high blood pressure are 17 times more likely to have kidney disease.

Blacks suffer from HYPERTENSION 33% more than whites. Black males suffer from hypertension 4 times more than white males, and black females

suffer from hypertension 2 times more than white females. Hypertension is a major risk factor for congestive heart failure, kidney disease and stroke.

Statistics representing Blacks with KIDNEY DISEASE are much more distressing. High blood pressure is a risk factor for kidney disease and Blacks are 4 times more likely to suffer from high blood pressure than whites.

GLAUCOMA is the leading cause of blindness in Blacks, is five times more likely to occur in Blacks, and Fifteen times more likely to cause blindness in Blacks between the ages of 45 and 63 than whites in the same age group.

An estimated 69% of the general population has heard of RADON, while only 48% of the Black population has heard of radon. Since cigarette smoking is more prevalent among black men and women than white men and women, the combined effect of smoking and radon exposure leads to greater lung cancer risk among blacks.

These statistics must be eradicated!

FREE "AIM FOR GOOD HEALTH" FAIR TO BE HELD AT A.D. GUY BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

On Saturday, July 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., people of all ages will have an opportunity for a free health screenings, testing, immunizations and more during the "Aim for Good Health" Fair. The free event will be held at the A.D. Guy Unit (817 North N Street) and the Martin Luther King Committee Building (across the street at 1316 Morgan St.). (Both locations are at the corner of Washington and Martin Luther King Blvd.)

The free health fair is sponsored by the Boys & Girls Clubs on Las Vegas, the Clark County Health District, the Residents Council of Marble Manor and the Dr. Martin Luther King Committee. Free services will include: immunizations (parents should bring children's records), Sickle Cell screenings, pregnancy testing, HIV testing, cholesterol screenings, hearing tests, height/weight checks and adult health evaluations through computerized lifestyle analysis. In addition, low-cost blood screens, and coupons for check-ups will be available. At the King Center will be physical screenings provided by University of Nevada School of Medicine as well as private physicians.

Continuous entertainment will include Metro's latest squad car, McGruff and many other displays. Community agencies participating include: Community Counseling, Bridge Counseling, Aid for AIDS of Nevada, Family & Child Treatment, Con-

sumer Credit Counseling, WE CAN, EOB Health Services, Nevada Treatment Center, March of Dimes, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, 4-H, the American Cancer Society, National Kidney Foundation, Multiple Sclerosis Society, Ne-

vada Donor Network, Community Food Bank and Many more.

Refreshments and raffle giveaways will be offered. At the end of the day participants will have a card outlining their health status. For more information call 367-2582.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE TO HOST CONVENTION

The University of Nevada School of Medicine's Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) will host the national AHEC workshop July 12-15 at the Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas. General session speakers include those who have distinguished themselves nationally as both innovators and experts in the areas

of health care and education reform.

Among the prominent national health care leaders slated to present at the conference are David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D., president of Meharry Medical College in Nashville and a member of the Hillary Rodham

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ATTENTION LUNG PATIENTS

The Better Breathers Club will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, July 21, 1993 at 1:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall, Christ Church Episcopal, 2000 S. Maryland Pkwy.

Michael Naylor, Clark County Health District, Air Pollution Control Department, will be our guest speaker. Sponsored by the American Lung Association of Nevada, the Better Breathers Club is an educational and emotional support group for lung patients and their families. There are no dues or membership fees. For more information, contact the American Lung Association of Nevada at 454-2500.

YOUR GRANDCHILDREN SHOULD BE SEEN, NOT BLURRED.



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LAS VEGAS BLACK TAVERN ASSOCIATION

*Thank You
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Success Of The
Tuesday Round Robin
(Tuesdays at 5:30 pm until?)*

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