

**Minority Health Disparities in Pennsylvania  
Adult Behavioral Health Risk Factors (2016):**

**Publication date: February 2018**

Please keep in mind that, as you digest the data provided, many factors influence health outcomes. Where one lives, works and plays impacts one’s health and quality of life. Interrelationships among the social determinants of health (SDoH), such as income, education, housing and transportation, all contribute to a community’s chances to thrive.

**Black, non-Hispanic adults in Pennsylvania reported significantly higher percentages than white, non-Hispanic adults for:**

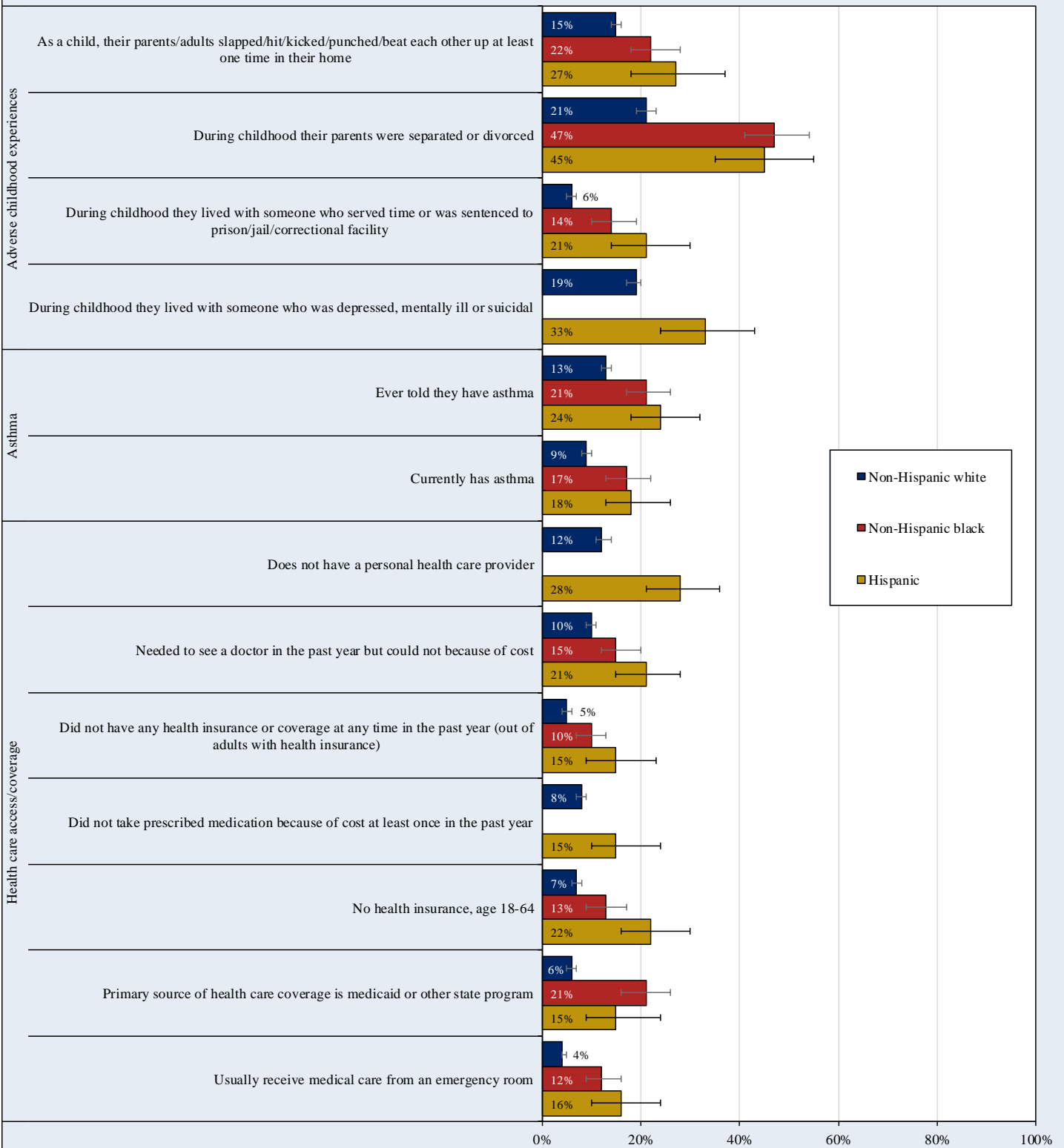
Adverse childhood experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a child, their parents/adults slapped/hit/kicked/punched/beat each other up at least one time in their home</li> <li>During childhood, their parents were separated or divorced</li> <li>During childhood, they lived with someone who served time or was sentenced to prison/jail/correctional facility</li> </ul>
Asthma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ever told they have asthma</li> <li>Currently has asthma</li> </ul>
Health care access/coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needed to see a doctor in the past year but could not because of cost</li> <li>Did not have any health insurance or coverage at any time in the past year (out of adults with health insurance)</li> <li>No health insurance, age 18-64</li> <li>Primary source of health care coverage is Medicaid or other state program</li> <li>Usually receive medical care from an emergency room</li> </ul>
Mental/physical health status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fair or poor general health</li> <li>Average 6 or fewer hours of sleep in a 24-hour period</li> <li>Have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs</li> <li>Poor physical or mental health prevented usual activities 1 or more days in the past month</li> </ul>
Immunization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Did not have a tetanus shot since 2005</li> </ul>
Oral health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Had any permanent teeth removed because of tooth decay or gum disease</li> </ul>
Overweight and obesity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overweight (BMI GE 25)</li> <li>Obese (BMI GE 30)</li> </ul>
Tobacco use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current smoker (smokes every day or some days)</li> <li>Smokes some days</li> </ul>
Antibiotics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Believe that taking antibiotic medicine to treat cold or flu symptoms is always appropriate</li> <li>Felt they needed to persuade their health care provider to prescribe antibiotic (out of adults prescribed antibiotic medicine in the past year)</li> </ul>

**Hispanic adults in Pennsylvania reported significantly higher percentages than white, non-Hispanic adults for:**

Adverse childhood experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a child, their parents/adults slapped/hit/kicked/punched/beat each other up at least one time in their home</li> <li>• During childhood, their parents were separated or divorced</li> <li>• During childhood, they lived with someone who served time or was sentenced to prison/jail/correctional facility</li> <li>• During childhood, they lived with someone who was depressed, mentally ill or suicidal</li> </ul>
Asthma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ever told they have asthma</li> <li>• Currently has asthma</li> </ul>
Health care access/coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not have a personal health care provider</li> <li>• Needed to see a doctor in the past year but could not because of cost</li> <li>• Did not have any health insurance or coverage at any time in the past year (out of adults with health insurance)</li> <li>• Did not take prescribed medication because of cost at least once in the past year</li> <li>• No health insurance, age 18-64</li> <li>• Primary source of health care coverage is Medicaid or other state program</li> <li>• Usually receive medical care from an emergency room</li> </ul>
Mental/physical health status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental health not good 1 or more days in the past month</li> <li>• Average 6 or fewer hours of sleep in a 24-hour period</li> <li>• Have difficulty dressing or bathing</li> <li>• Have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering or making decisions because of a physical, mental or emotional condition</li> </ul>
Immunization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did not have a tetanus shot since 2005</li> </ul>
Health literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Somewhat or very difficult to understand information from doctors, nurses or other health professionals</li> </ul>
Antibiotics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Believe that taking antibiotic medicine to treat cold or flu symptoms is always appropriate</li> </ul>

## Behavioral Health Risks, 2016

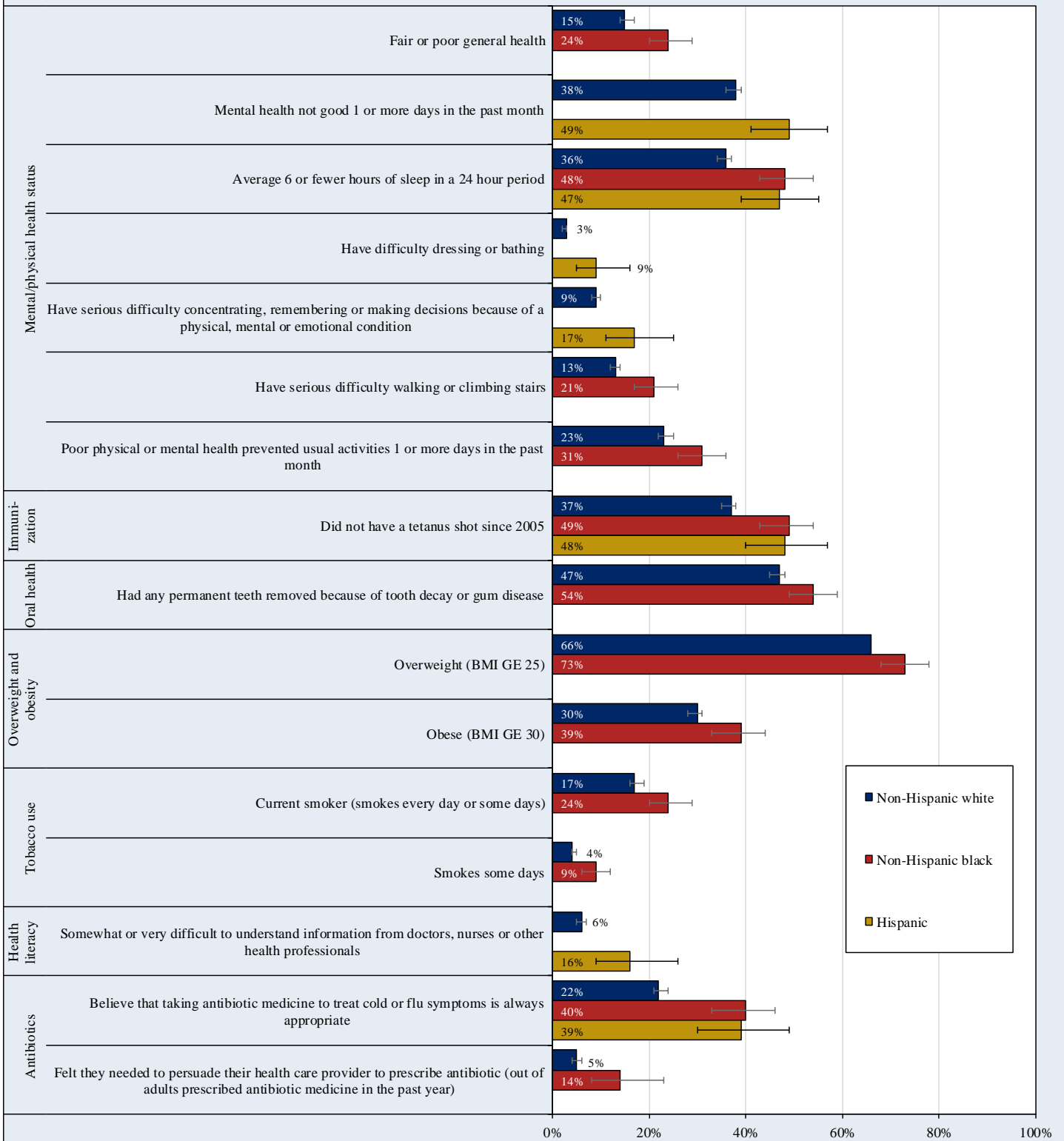
### Significant Differences Compared to White Pa. Residents



The symbol, —|—, represents a 95% confidence interval.  
 NOTE: In 2011, the BRFSS added numbers from a cell phone sample to the sample of landline telephones. This remedied a gap in coverage that had developed as people switched to cell phones. A new weighting methodology called “iterative proportional fitting” or “raking” was also introduced. Therefore, single-year measures should be re-benchmarked at the 2011 estimate values and not compared to BRFSS estimates from previous years.  
 SOURCE: Pa. Department of Health, Division of Health Informatics, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

## Behavioral Health Risks, 2016

### Significant Differences Compared to White Pa. Residents



The symbol,  $\pm$ , represents a 95% confidence interval.  
 NOTE: In 2011, the BRFSS added numbers from a cell phone sample to the sample of landline telephones. This remedied a gap in coverage that had developed as people switched to cell phones. A new weighting methodology called "iterative proportional fitting" or "raking" was also introduced. Therefore, single-year measures should be re-benchmarked at the 2011 estimate values and not compared to BRFSS estimates from previous years.  
 SOURCE: Pa. Department of Health, Division of Health Informatics, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System