

## **Note about statistics by race and Hispanic/Latino ethnicity in the Kalamazoo County Health Surveillance Data Book:**

Although racial distinctions reflect a social construct rather than a biological predisposition toward particular health outcomes, it is evident that health disparities exist among groups of people as classified by “race”. Because it is important to monitor disparities in health, racial classifications are utilized in analyses of health data.

Hispanic/Latino ethnicity also does not reflect a biological predisposition toward particular health outcomes, but disparities by ethnicity are also evident and are monitored in the analyses of health data.

In the Kalamazoo County Health Surveillance Data Book, analyses are presented by ethnicity and/or race. The particular ethnicity and race groupings used for the various health surveillance indicators in the Data Book follow the current conventions used by the Michigan Department of Community Health in the compilation of statistics for the state.

For some health surveillance indicators, Hispanic/Latino ethnicity is not a separate category from racial groups. In these instances, Hispanic/Latino and non-Hispanic/Latino individuals are distributed among the racial groups, and Hispanic/Latino statistics are additionally presented as a separate group. For other health surveillance indicators, Hispanic/Latino ethnicity is exclusive; data are presented for white non-Hispanic/Latino, black non-Hispanic/Latino, and Hispanic/Latino groups.

Where ethnicity is treated as not exclusive from race, the charts, tables and narrative in the Data Book label the groups as “white”, “black” and “Hispanic”. Where ethnicity is an exclusive designation, the groups are labeled “white non-Hispanic”, “black non-Hispanic”, and “Hispanic”.

Statistics are derived from various data sources; therefore, the racial and ethnic classification of individuals is subject to the limitations of each of the data collection methods.