

# Social & Health Conditions of Black Women

15,000 Black women in Dane County make up 6% of the female population.<sup>1</sup>

*“Our primary concern is to keep Black women alive and to move ourselves and our families from surviving to thriving. But to do that starts with confronting where we are and engaging everyone in the solutions. We’re pulling back the curtain so we can chart a new course for Black Women’s health.”*

Lisa Peyton Caire, 2017

Founder, Black Women’s Wellness Day, Madison, WI



## In Dane County, the State of Wisconsin, and across the US, Black women are more likely to:

- Live and die from largely treatable and preventable illnesses.
- Have limited access to quality healthcare services and be uninsured or underinsured.
- Face social and economic barriers that contribute to and compound poor health outcomes.

## Black women of all ages in Dane County die at a higher rate than White women<sup>2</sup>



- 60 years was the average age at death for Black women in Dane County in 2015 (45 deaths).



- In Dane County, leading causes of death for Black women are: Cancer, Heart disease, Diabetes, Stroke & Alzheimer’s.

## Social & economic conditions contribute to early deaths

- High rates of poverty, unemployment, incarceration, and low rates of high school graduation, can contribute to conditions that lead to early death.<sup>3</sup>



8 in 10 Black women work<sup>4</sup>



4 in 10 Black women live in poverty<sup>5</sup>



2 in 10 Black women have a Bachelor’s degree or higher<sup>6</sup>

- In Dane County, median annual pay for a Black woman who holds a full-time, year-round job is just under \$30,000 compared to \$45,000 for a White woman. This contributes to a high poverty rate regardless of employment status.<sup>7</sup>
- Nearly 60% of Black family households are headed by a woman, compared to 12% of White family households.<sup>8</sup>
- The four-year high school graduation rate for Black students in Dane County is 63% compared to 92% for White students.<sup>9</sup>
- Incarceration rates for Black men and women in Dane County are higher than those of Whites.<sup>10</sup>

## Black babies in Dane County are also impacted

### Birth outcomes

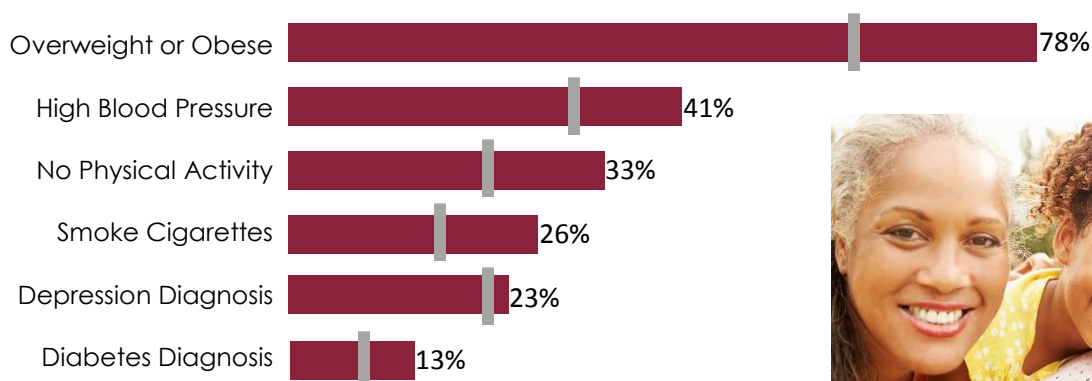
- Accumulated stress over a lifetime due to poverty, racial segregation, and institutionalized racism has a negative impact on Black women's health and on birth outcomes.<sup>11, 12</sup>
- Black women with a college degree are more likely to give birth prematurely than White women who have not completed high school.<sup>13</sup>



## Health risk factors play a role in poor health and early death

- Some conditions that contribute to risk factors include: targeted advertising, late disease diagnosis, lack of places to exercise, and limited access to healthy food.

Wisconsin data for **Black women** are the red bars, data for **White women** are the grey lines.<sup>16</sup>



## But we can change this...NOW IS THE TIME TO:

**ELEVATE** the voices and leadership of Black women as advocates and experts.

**ENGAGE** women and girls in health promotion and positive social support networks.

**CONNECT** Black women and their families to health services and community resources that foster physical, mental, and economic well-being.

**MOBILIZE** community and health partners to create sustainable solutions.

**TRANSFORM** Black women's health through systems and policy change.

[www.ffbww.org](http://www.ffbww.org)

[www.publichealthmdc.com](http://www.publichealthmdc.com)

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**FOUNDATION FOR  
BLACK WOMEN'S  
WELLNESS**

**Public Health**  
MADISON & DANE COUNTY  
*Healthy people. Healthy places.*

Full citations are available from Public Health Madison & Dane County.

<sup>1-3, 14, 15, 16</sup> Wisconsin Department of Health Services, <sup>4-8</sup> United States Census Bureau, <sup>9</sup> Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction,

<sup>10</sup> Oliver P. (2008), <sup>11</sup> Wallace M, et al. (2013), <sup>12</sup> Duru O.K., et al. (2012), <sup>13</sup> Unnatural Causes (2008)

## Social & Health Conditions of Black Women Citations (9/1/17)

<sup>1</sup> Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics. Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) data query system, <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/index.htm>, Population Module, Dane County, accessed July 2017.

<sup>2</sup> WISH Mortality Module, Dane County, accessed July 2017.

Age-adjusted mortality rates per 100,000 population, for females by race, Dane County, 2011-2015:

	Age of Death			
	0 - 14	15 - 44	45 - 64	65+
White	6.1	24.7	69.8	449.9
Black	18.3	45.5	157.0	667.6

The **average age at death** refers to the average age at which the individuals died from various causes during the specified year. In Dane County in 2015, the average age at death for black females was 60 from all causes of death. The total number of deaths was 45. Among the 45 females who died, the age range spans from less than 1-year-old to more than 65+ years old. This includes infant deaths and child deaths that occurred at much younger ages and deaths due to chronic diseases that occur at older ages which impacts the average age at death.

<sup>3</sup> Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics. *Wisconsin Life Expectancy Report, 2010-2014* (P-01551). August 2016.

<sup>4-8</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2011–2015, Dane County.

<sup>4</sup> Sex by age by employment status for the population 16 years and over.

<sup>5</sup> Poverty status in the past twelve months.

<sup>6</sup> Sex by educational attainment for the population 25 years and over.

<sup>7</sup> Median earnings in the past 12 months (in 2015 inflation adjusted dollars) by sex by work experience in the past 12 months for the population 16 years and older over with earnings in the past 12 months.

<sup>8</sup> Household Type. (Definitions of households and families are found here:

[https://cber.cba.ua.edu/asdc/households\\_families.html](https://cber.cba.ua.edu/asdc/households_families.html)).

<sup>9</sup> Four year cohort graduation rate for the four largest school districts in Dane County combined, 2015-16

<https://apps2.dpi.wi.gov/reportcards/>

<sup>10</sup> Pamela Oliver. Racial Disparities in Dane County (2008).

<http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/~oliver/RACIAL/Reports/Racial%20Disparities%20in%20Wisconsin%20and%20Dane%20County%20Oct%202008BW.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Wallace M, Harville E, Theall K, et al. Neighborhood poverty, allostatic load, and birth outcomes in African American and White women: Findings from the Bogalusa Heart Study. *Health Place*. 2013 Nov; 24: 260-266.

<sup>12</sup> Duru OK, Harawa NT, Kermah D, and Norris KC. Allostatic load burden and racial disparities in mortality. *J Natl Med Assoc*, 2012; 104 (1-2): 89-95.

<sup>13</sup> Unnatural Causes, "When the Bough Breaks," California Newsreel, 2008.

<sup>14</sup> WISH Infant Mortality Module, Dane County, accessed July 2017.

<sup>15</sup> WISH Low Birthweight Module, Dane County, accessed July 2017.

<sup>16</sup> Wisconsin Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFS), Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics. Wisconsin State-level estimates for selected indicators, Black women vs White women (unpublished data). All indicators are from 2012-2016 BRFS data except high blood pressure (2011, 2013 & 2015 BRFS data), August 2017.