

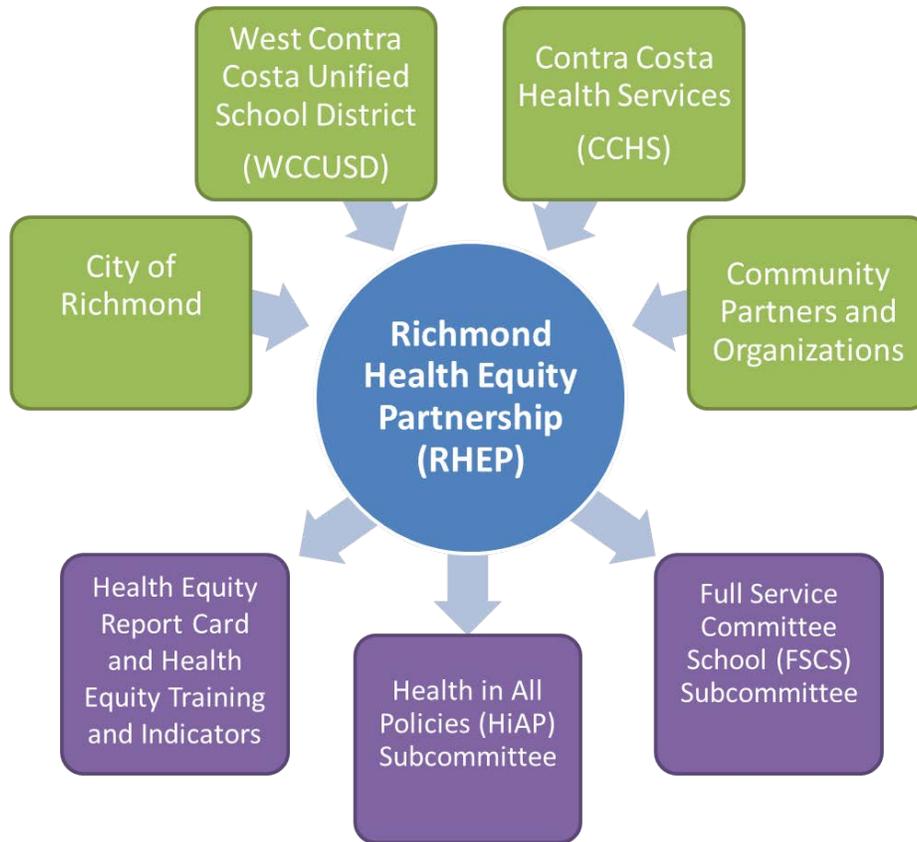
The Richmond Health Equity Report Card



Prepared for The Richmond Health Equity Partnership by Contra Costa Health Services
with support from The California Endowment



The Richmond Health Equity Partnership was created to bring together various stakeholders and agencies committed to improving the health of the people of Richmond. This included the City of Richmond, the West County Unified School District, and Contra Costa Health Services. An alignment of efforts across agencies with a unified goal of eliminating health inequities can improve the wellbeing, quality of life, and life expectancy for those who live and work in the city of Richmond. The purpose of this report is to present indicators relevant to health and health outcomes to inform programs and policies in Richmond.



The health of a community is driven by many factors, including the health behaviors of individuals, access to healthcare, but also the environment and social structure of the community. Health equity is defined as differences in health outcomes that are driven by social injustice. Health differences can be driven by many factors, including genetics, but when we state that a health difference is an inequity, we are defining that difference as a result of social injustice and that equitable treatment of the affected community should eliminate that difference. Health equity issues are broader than just the business of health and are driven by economic opportunity, quality education, community environment, and systemic racism and social prejudice.

The Health Equity Report Card was created with an attention to the systems and environment that lead to health inequities. In this report we identify populations of concern and key indicators which can be used to measure progress toward health equity in the City. The report is divided into seven sections. Each section contains data from a variety of sources and that data is broken down into racial/ethnic categories or income categories when available. We are limited by the data available, but have provided the most detailed analysis possible for the chosen indicators. When local data is not available, Contra Costa or Bay Area data is presented. Racial and ethnic breakdowns are provided as a means of illustrating the effect of social prejudice and racism on health indicators, these breakdowns are not representative of biological or genetically relevant distinctions. It is both the difference in opportunity and fair treatment, but also the stress of institutional racism that drives worse health outcomes in marginalized populations.

Key Findings

Economic Security and Education

- Female headed households suffer disproportionately from poverty.
- Hispanic/Latino families have the highest poverty rate in Richmond and that rate has been increasing.
- Less educated residents are more likely to live in poverty.
- African American residents are less likely to participate in the labor force.
- The median earnings in Richmond are inadequate to support families with one adult and multiple children.
- Hispanics/Latinos have the lower educational attainment than other residents.
- Graduation rates are similar across ethnic groups, but post-secondary enrollment is lowest among Hispanic/Latino and socioeconomically disadvantaged graduates.

Full Service and Safe Communities

- Violent crime rates and perceptions of violence are decreasing among residents.
- Lower income communities in Richmond have lower voter turnout than higher income communities.
- White residents report having greater contact with their neighbors than residents of other race/ethnic groups.
- White students report feeling more safe in school while Asian students report bullying due to race.
- High poverty households are less prepared for disasters.

Residential and Built Environment

- Many communities in Richmond lack access to stores with fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Half of Richmond stores that sell tobacco are within 1,000 feet of a school.
- Most Richmond residents live within a quarter mile of a park.

- Some low income communities in Richmond have lower rates of vehicle ownership and less access to public transit.
- People in lower income communities are more likely to have moved within the past year.
- Racial isolation has increased for Hispanics/Latinos in Richmond in recent years.
- Concentrated poverty has increased in recent years.
- Lower income home owners in Richmond are less likely to be housing cost burdened than lower income renters.

Environmental Health and Justice

- Diesel particular matter emissions are higher in Richmond than in other neighboring cities in West Contra Costa County.
- Lower income communities experience a greater burden of hazardous materials contaminated clean-up sites, hazardous waste facilities and generators, and chemical releases from facility emissions.

Quality and Accessible Health and Social Services

- More than half of households receiving public assistance are female headed households with children and no male present.
- More than half of households living in poverty are female headed households with children and no male present.
- The central and southeast regions of West Contra Costa have less access to primary care physicians, dentists, and psychiatrists than the northeast region of West Contra Costa.
- African Americans are more likely to have avoidable hospitalizations than other race/ethnic groups in Richmond.
- Hispanics and the unemployed have the lowest access to health insurance.
- Most childcare centers in Richmond have high immunization rates.
- Higher poverty individuals are less likely to have recommended cancer screenings.

Health Behaviors

- African American youth are more likely to be exposed to adults who smoke and African American are more likely to be smokers.
- Hispanic and African American youth are more likely to consume sugar sweetened beverages
- Children in lower income households are less likely to consume a diet high in fruits and vegetables.
- Breakfast is a concern for children attending schools in Richmond, as almost a quarter of students surveyed reported not eating anything before school.
- Food insecurity is a greater concern in African American and Latino/Hispanic populations.
- Over a third of students surveyed in Richmond schools do not walk or bike to school.
- Hispanic/Latino students in Richmond schools are at an increased risk for alcohol use.
- African American students in Richmond schools are at an increased risk for marijuana use.
- African American students are at an increased risk for unprotected sex.

Health Outcomes

- Asian and Hispanic/Latino residents have the longest life expectancy in Richmond.
- African Americans have the highest mortality rate in both the younger and older populations.
- Heart disease, cancer, and stroke are the leading causes of death in Richmond.
- Heart disease, cancer, and homicide are responsible for the greatest years life lost for Richmond males.
- African American males are at a higher risk for cancer incidence.
- African American and Hispanic/Latino residents experience a greater risk of diabetes diagnosis but African Americans have the greatest risk of death due to diabetes.
- African Americans are more likely to be diagnosed with hypertension and have the highest death rates due to hypertension, heart disease, and stroke.
- Richmond has more emergency room and hospitalizations due to asthma than Contra Costa.
- African Americans are more likely to have been diagnosed with asthma and are much more likely to visit an emergency room or be hospitalized due to asthma.
- Young people and African American residents have the highest rates of gonorrhea and chlamydia infections.
- African Americans in Richmond experience a greater risk of HIV infection than other groups
- Although male sexual contact is the most common mode of transmission in Richmond, transmission by infection drug use or adult heterosexual contact are more common in Richmond than in Contra Costa.
- The population of people living with HIV in Richmond is more likely to be older than 40 years old than in Contra Costa.
- There is no longer a difference in preterm or low birthweight births in Richmond compared to Contra Costa.
- Teen births occur more frequently in Richmond than in Contra Costa, but the teen birth rate in Richmond has been declining.
- Hospitalizations due to alcohol or drug use are most common among White and African American residents in Richmond.
- Hispanic/Latino students in Richmond experience a greater risk of depression and suicidal thoughts.
- White adults experience a greater risk of suicidal thoughts and death due to suicide.
- Low income, Hispanic/Latino, and African American adults experience a greater risk of psychological distress.
- Rates for hospital and emergency visits due to unintentional injury, any intentional injury, and injury due to a gun are higher for African American residents than other groups in Richmond.