

QUICK START GUIDE

Compare **RATES** to uncover health disparities (unfair differences).

We would expect the number of deaths to differ among racial groups, but not the risk of dying. Remember, a disturbing racial health disparity may not represent a very large number of deaths.

Heart Disease Deaths by Race/Ethnicity Contra Costa County 2002–2004

	Deaths	Percent	Rate
White	4,056	76.8%	182.3
African American	581	11.0%	*305.5
Asian	318	6.0%	**116.8
Latino	290	5.5%	**131.7
Contra Costa	5,280	100%	179.9

* Significantly higher rate compared to the county.
** Significantly lower rate.

The **TOTAL** number tells you the overall size of the problem.

You will need to compare this to other tables to determine if this number is big or small.

The **PERCENT** gives you an easy way to see how a health problem is spread across our county's population.

When comparing two groups (rows) for the risk of illness you should look at **RATES**, not percents.

For more help understanding the rates and numbers used in this report see "Introduction" on page 17 ...or call CHAPE staff at (925) 313-6171.