

PUBLIC HEALTH

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HEALTHIER WASHINGTON**

What Do We Know About the Health of Minority Populations in Washington State?

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August 23, 2006

Lots!

Washington's Minority Populations

U.S. Census, 2000

Hispanic/ Latino origin	Asian	Black/ African American	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	White (not of Hispanic /Latino origin)
7.5%	5.5%	3.2%	1.6%	0.4%	78.9%
					(U.S. 69.1%)

Total state population: 5.9 million

**A statewide
assessment
of
health
disparities
by
race,
ethnic group,
poverty
and
education**

The
Health
of
Washington
State
2004 Supplement

September 2004



The Washington State Department of Health
is pleased to provide you with the
2004 Supplement to the 2002 Health of Washington State.

The *2004 Supplement* provides information
on health indicators by race and ethnicity.
It also contains information on the relationship
of health with poverty and education.

HIVAIDS	Lung Cancer
Tuberculosis	Melanoma of the Skin
Meningococcal Disease	Diabetes
Hepatitis A	Motor Vehicle Deaths
Hepatitis B	Drowning
Coronary Heart Disease	Traumatic Brain Injury Deaths
Stroke	Suicide
Female Breast Cancer	Homicide
Invasive Cervical Cancer	Adolescent Pregnancy & Childbearing
Colorectal Cancer	Children with Special Health Care Needs

www.doh.wa.gov/HWS



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Disparities Exist in Washington!

Definition of Disparity

- A health disparity is a difference in rate of illness, disease, or conditions among different populations.
- Disparity not only means *difference*, but also *inequality*.

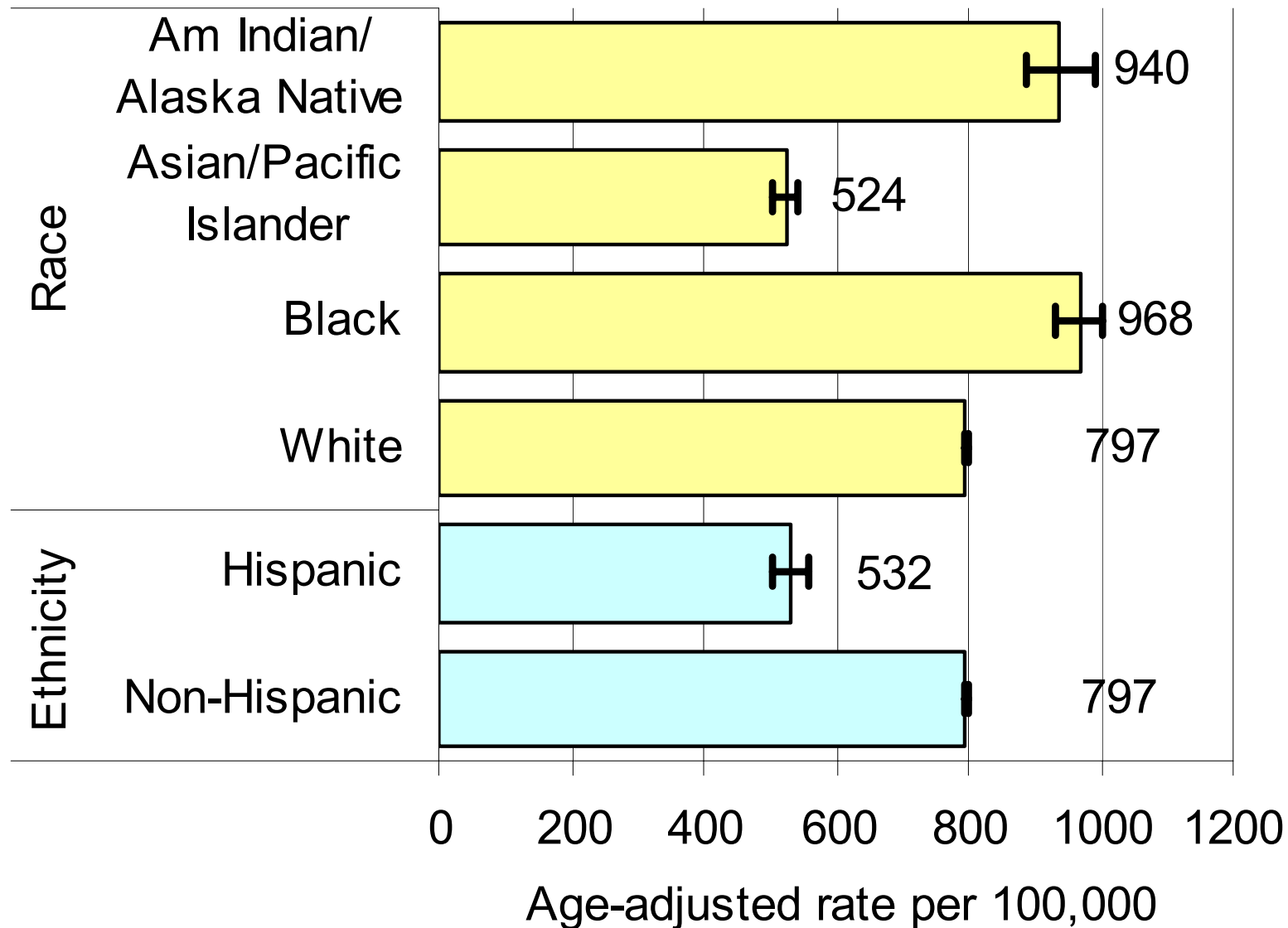
**“Of all the forms of inequality,
injustice in health is the most
shocking and the most
inhumane.”**

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

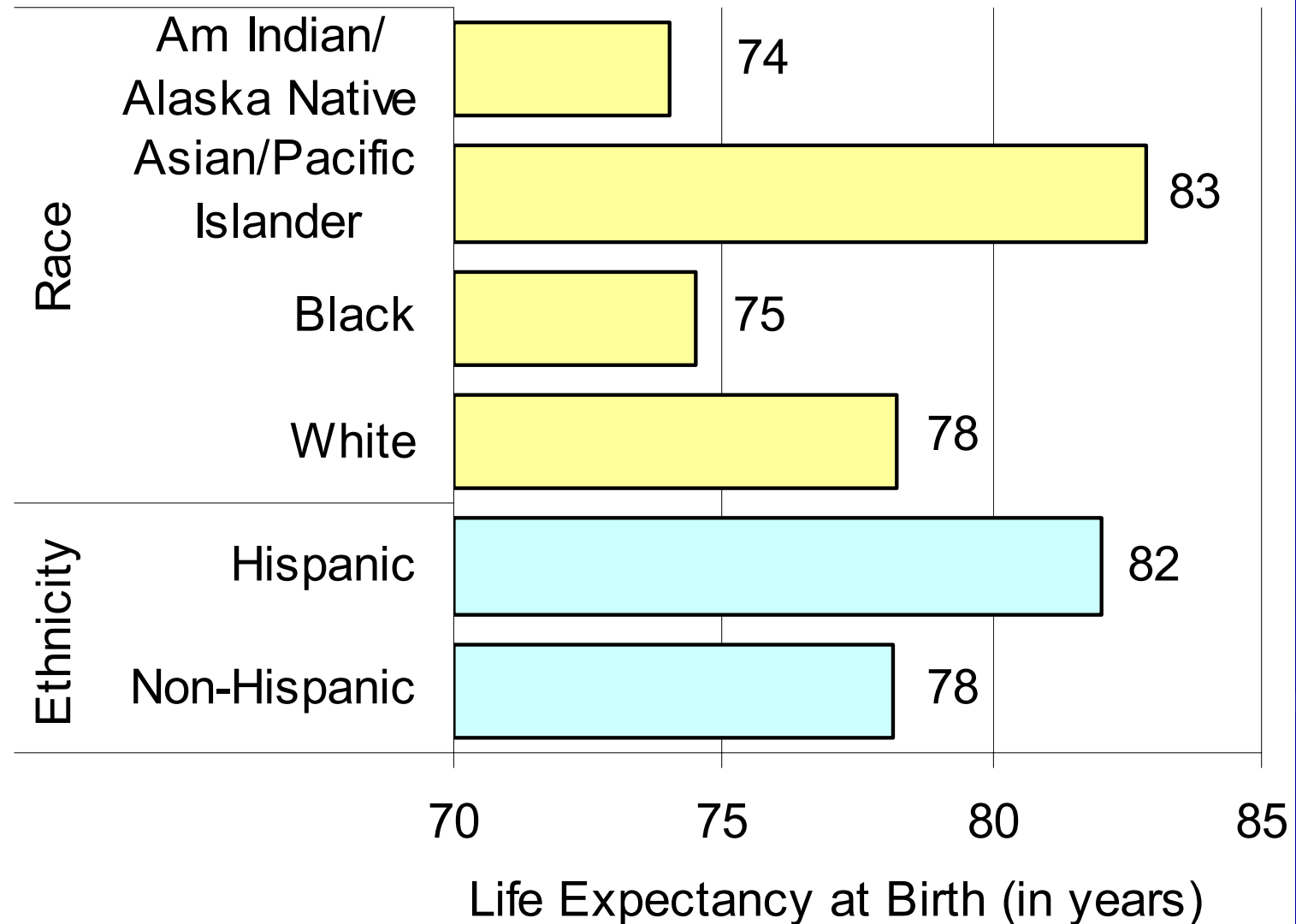
March 25, 1966

**Chicago, 2nd National Convention of the
Medical Committee for Human Rights**

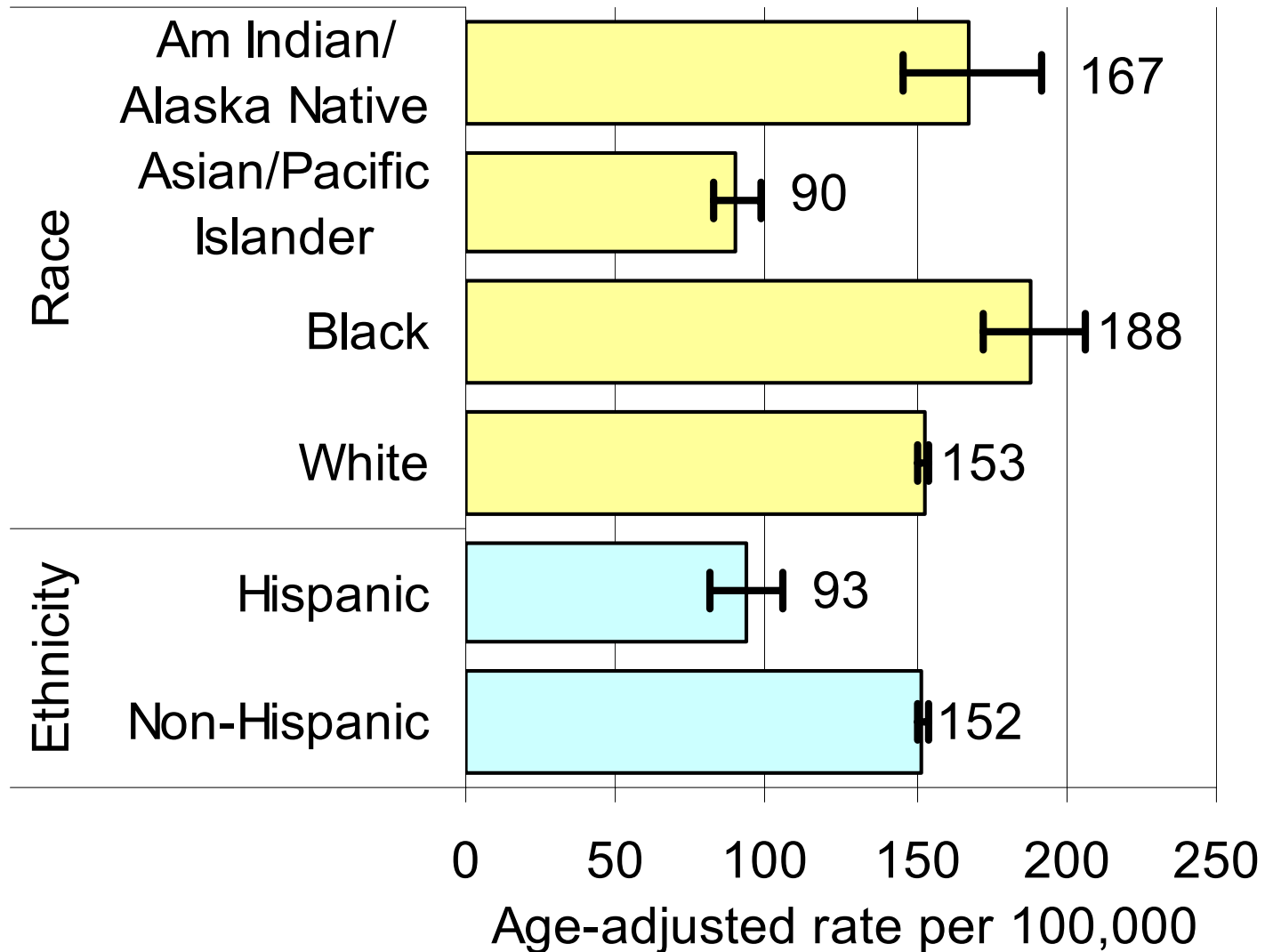
All Causes of Death, Mortality Rates By Race and Ethnicity Washington State, 2000-2002



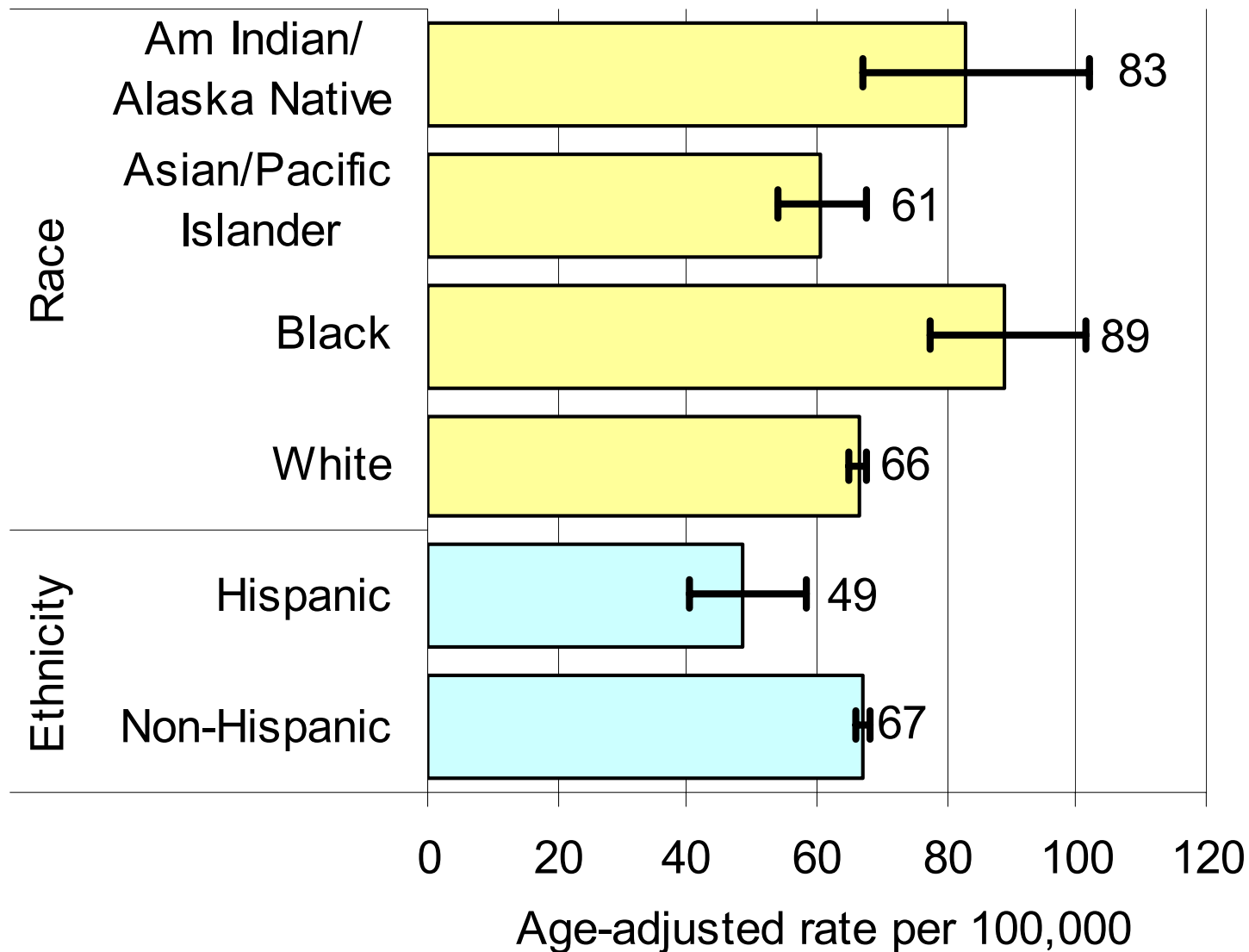
Life Expectancy by Race and Ethnicity Washington State, 2000-2002



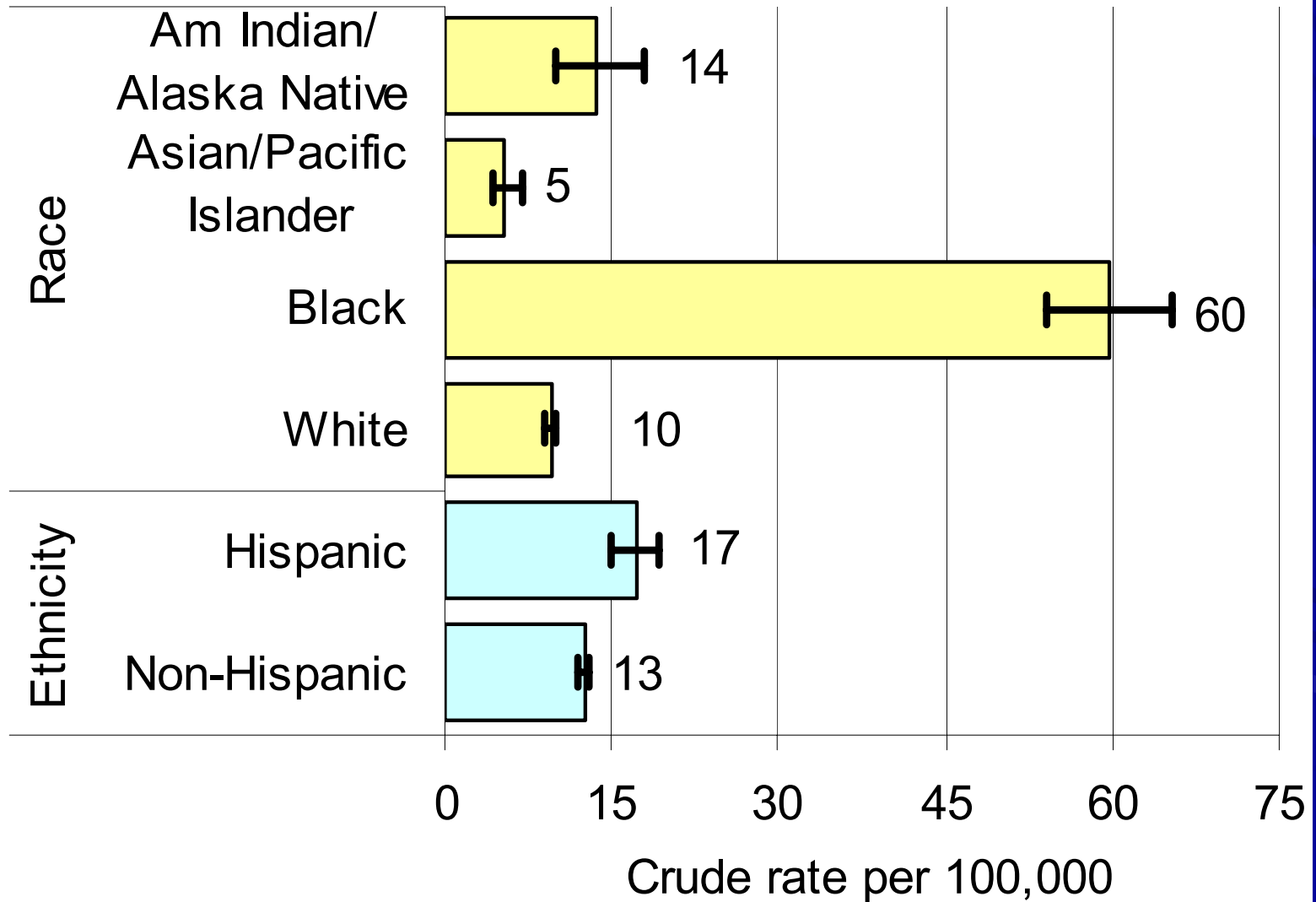
Coronary Heart Disease, Mortality Rates By Race and Ethnicity Washington State, 2000-2002



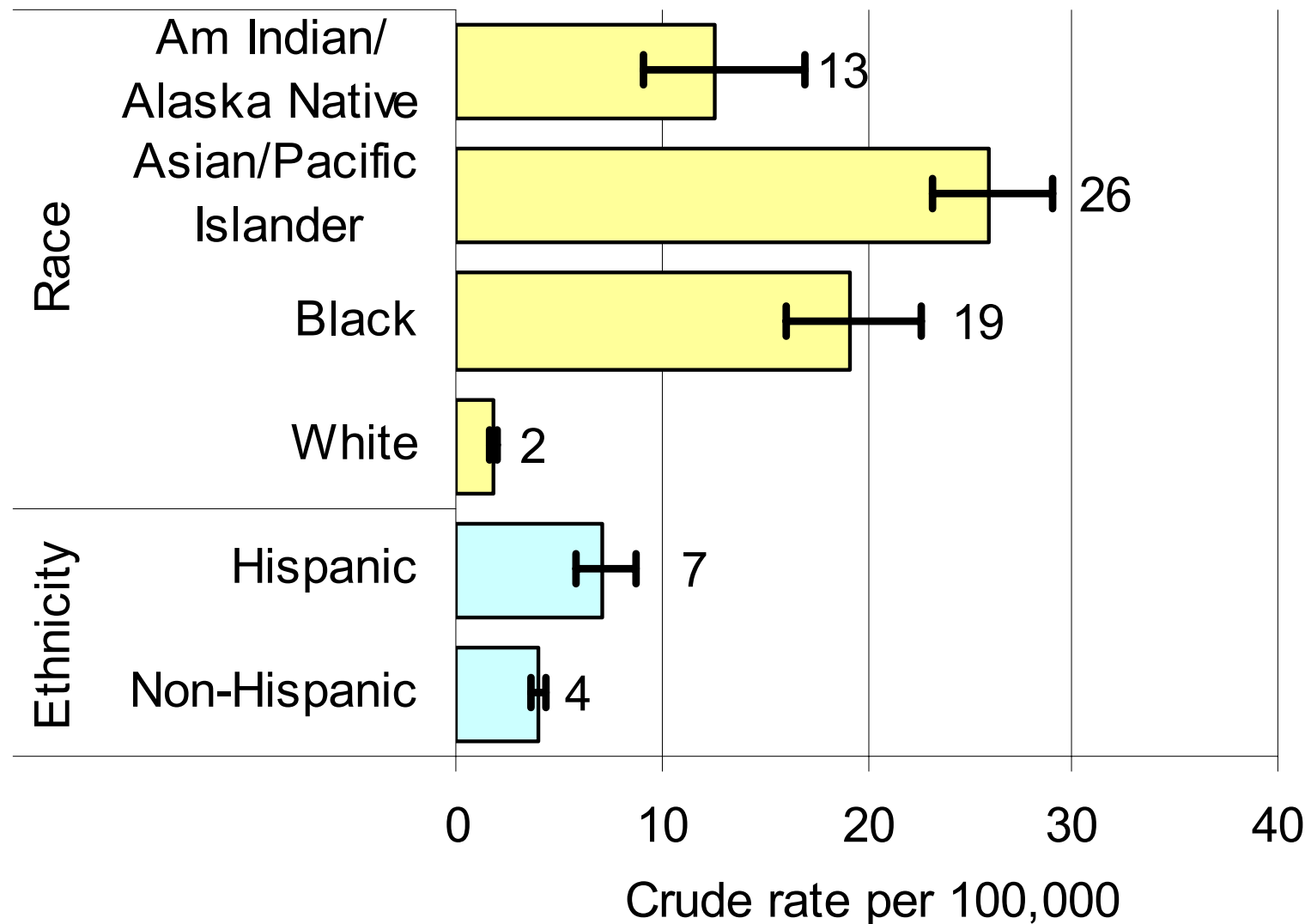
Stroke, Mortality Rates By Race and Ethnicity Washington State, 2000-2002



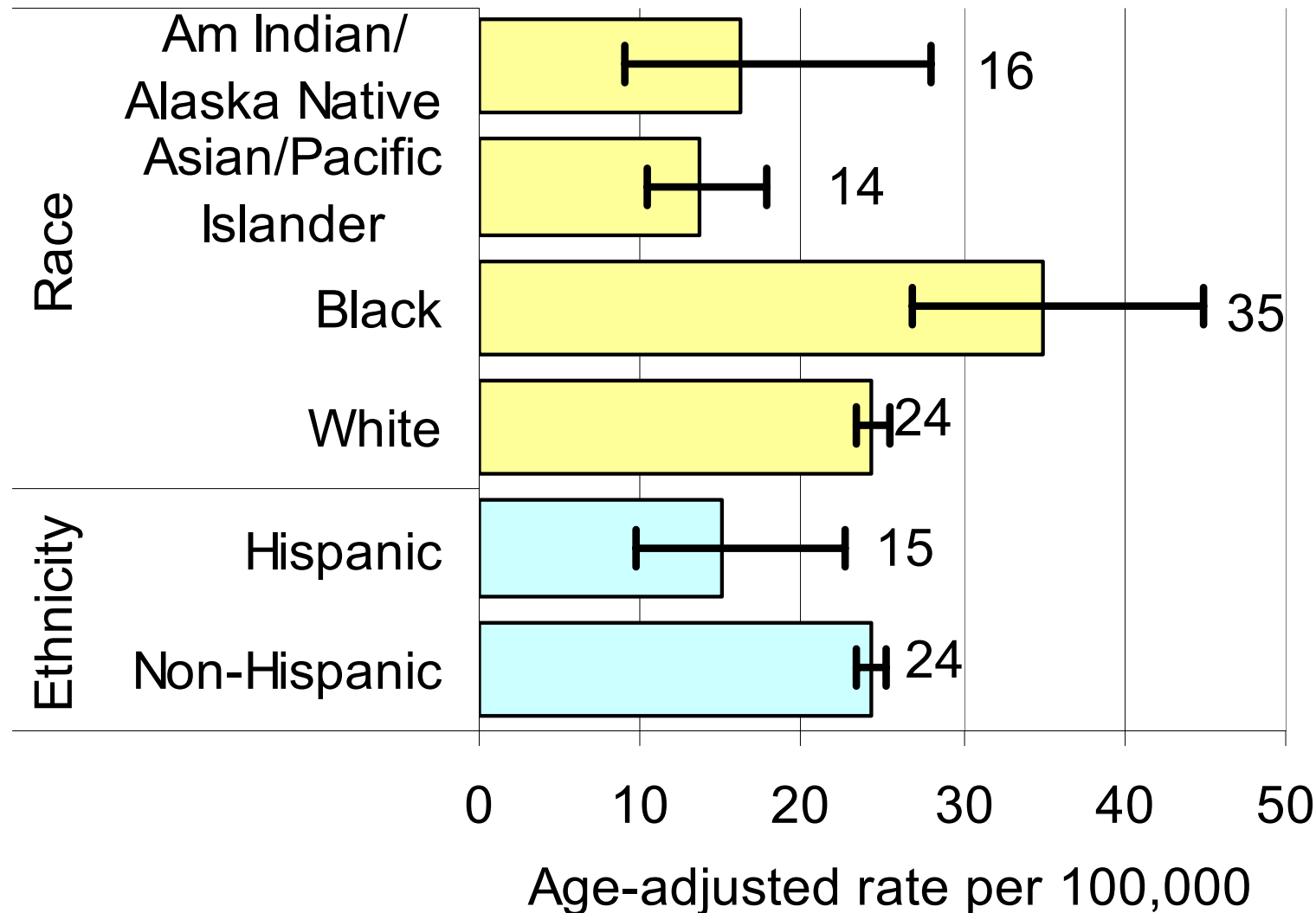
HIV/AIDS, Incidence Rates By Race and Ethnicity Washington State, 2000-2002



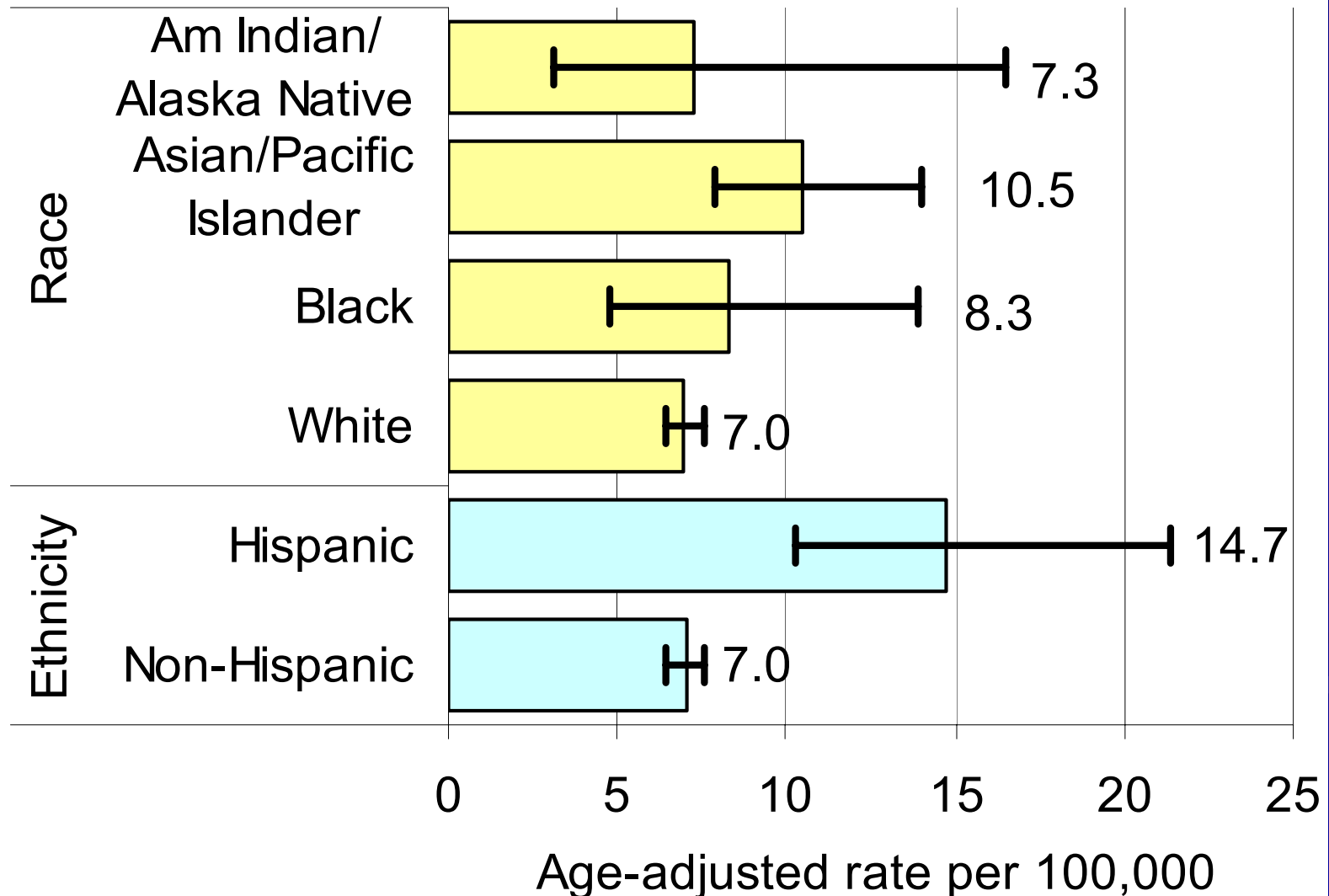
Tuberculosis, Incidence Rates By Race and Ethnicity Washington State, 2000-2002



Female Breast Cancer, Mortality Rates By Race and Ethnicity Washington State, 2000-2002



Invasive Cervical Cancer, Incidence Rates By Race and Ethnicity Washington State, 1999-2001



Summary

- Racial and ethnic minorities have poorer health status than the overall population.
- Minorities have higher rates of HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular disease, tuberculosis, cancer, diabetes and asthma.
- Minorities have poorer birth outcomes, higher teen birth rates, more behavioral risks, more injuries, and poorer access to health care.

Why do we Have Disparities in Health?

Contributing Factors

- Socioeconomic factors such as poverty
- Disproportionate environmental exposures
- Lack of providers with cultural competence
- Differential access to care
- Differential quality of care

Determinants of Health

Multiple levels of influence



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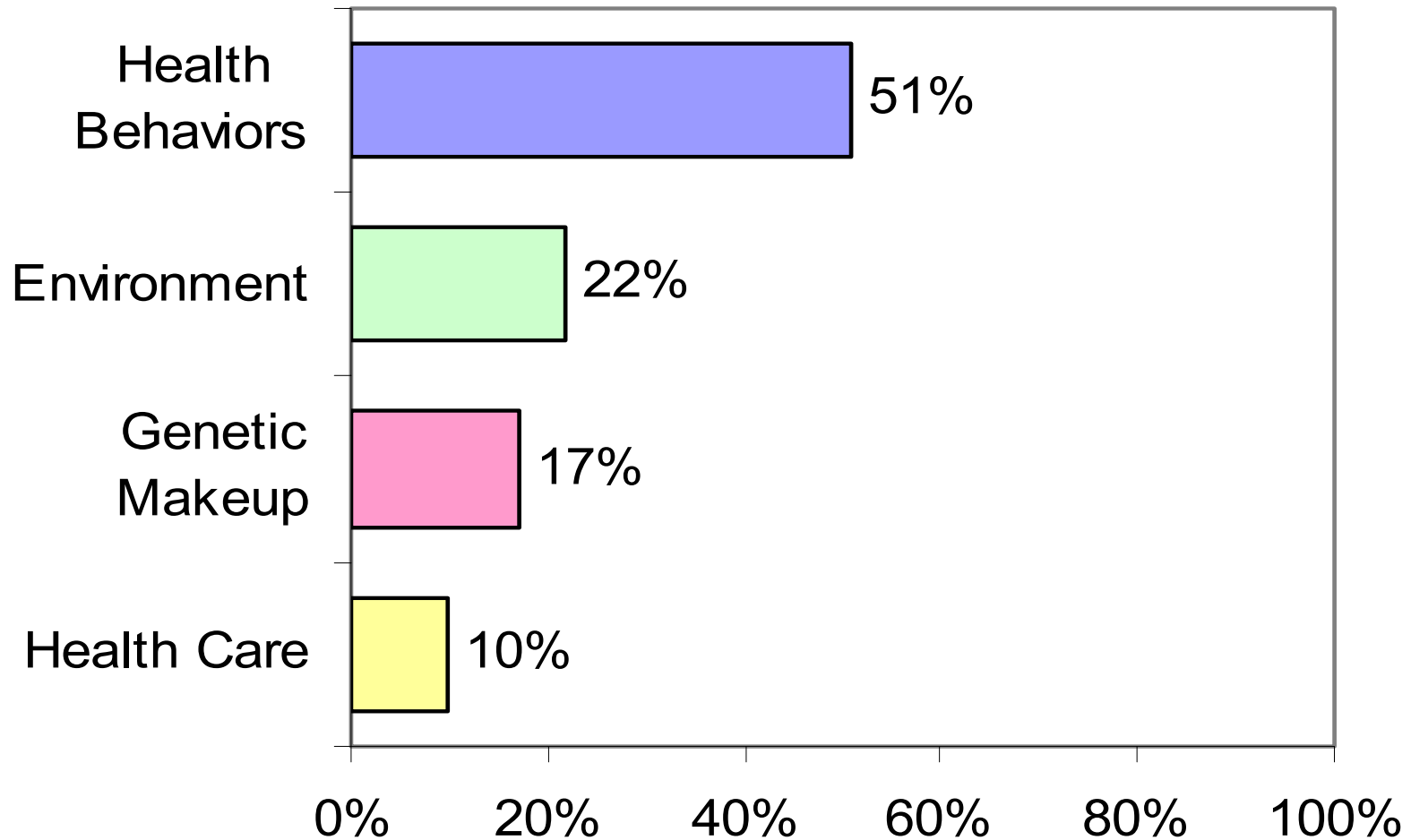
- Genetic and biological processes
- Individual behaviors and lifestyle
- Environments in which people live

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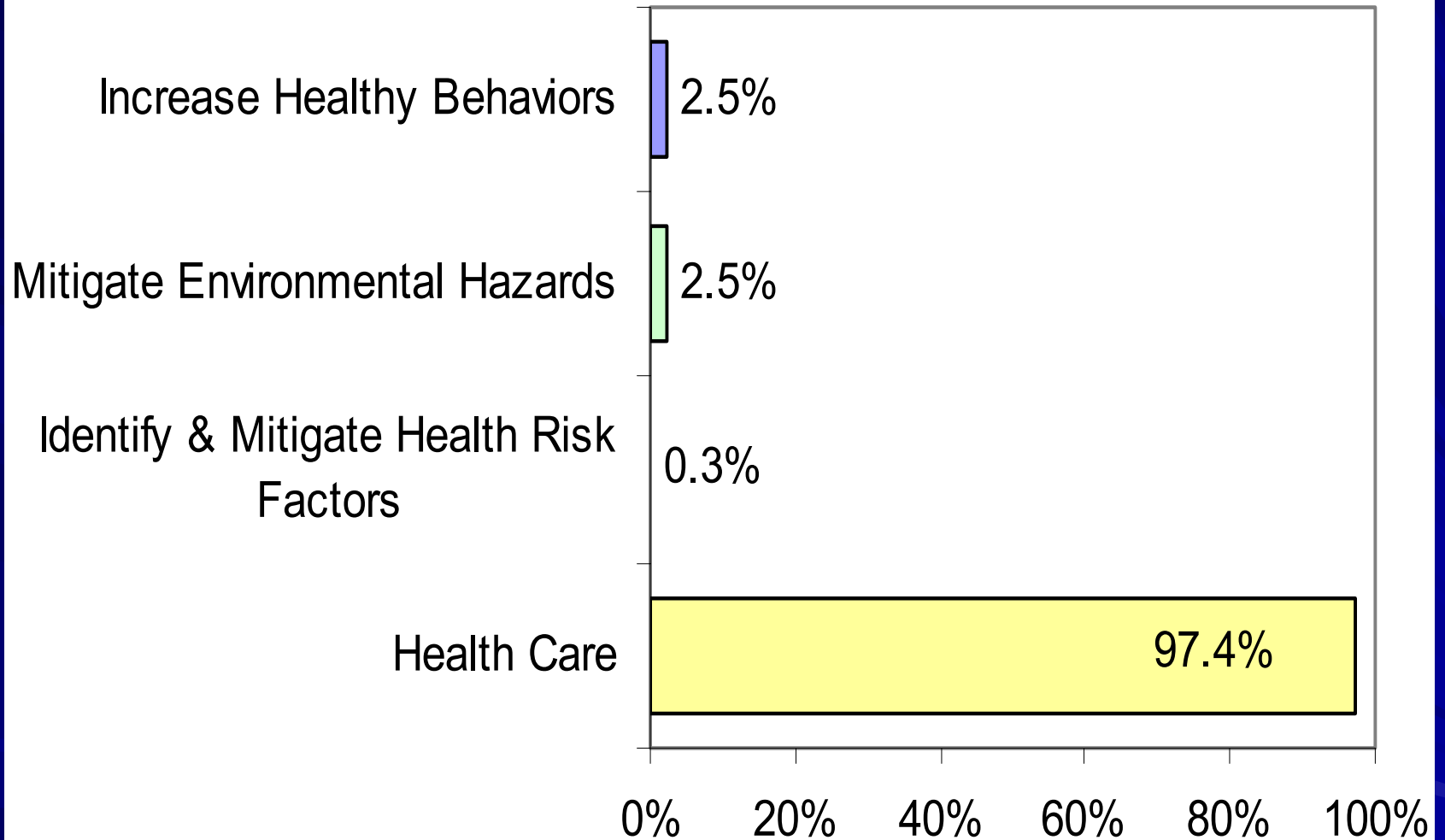


What Influences Our Health



Source: McGinnis, et. al, 2002

How we spend our money



Source: Priorities of Government II, Summer 2004

Interventions to Reduce Disparities:

- Increasing cultural competency
- Addressing poverty
- Providing educational support for minorities
- Focusing efforts on specific disparities
- Addressing social determinants

What are Social Determinants of Health?

Social determinants of health refer to societal conditions that affect health and that potentially can be altered by informed action.

- Job opportunities
- Opportunities for education
- Social norms – e.g., racial and ethnic discrimination or social isolation of vulnerable populations
- Housing conditions and exposure to environmental hazards
- Availability of services and access to resources

What are Social Determinants of Health?

Broad Categories

- Societal Resources – social institutions, economic systems, political structures, etc...
- Surroundings – neighborhoods, workplaces, built environments, etc...
- Social Relationships – discrimination, position in social hierarchy, social networks, etc...

Why are Social Determinants of Health Important?

Large gap between current health status and potential health status of the population.

- **2 out of every 3 deaths in the U.S. are premature**
- **8 million of the 12 million years lost annually in the U.S. before age 65 are unnecessary losses**

“Nowhere are the divisions of
race and ethnicity more
sharply drawn than in the
health of our people...”

Bill Clinton

February 21, 1998

Disparities Start Early

- “Building on a life-course perspective in maternal child health” editorial, maternal child health journal vol.7, no. 1, March 2003
- “Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Birth Outcomes: A life-Course Perspective” maternal child health journal vol. 7, no. 1, March 2003

Cost of NOT Addressing Disparities

- If the low birth weight rate for African American infants were the same as that for white infants, about 100 African American babies each year would have normal birth weight instead of low birth weight.
- This would result in a yearly savings of about **\$2.5 million in medical costs** during the first year of life for Medicaid infants.

Role Government Can Play

- Frame the issue accurately
- Collect data on race-ethnicity
- Collaborate with others on solutions
- Assure everyone has an equal “opportunity for health”
- Minorities in government need to be “the conscience that guides” policy

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