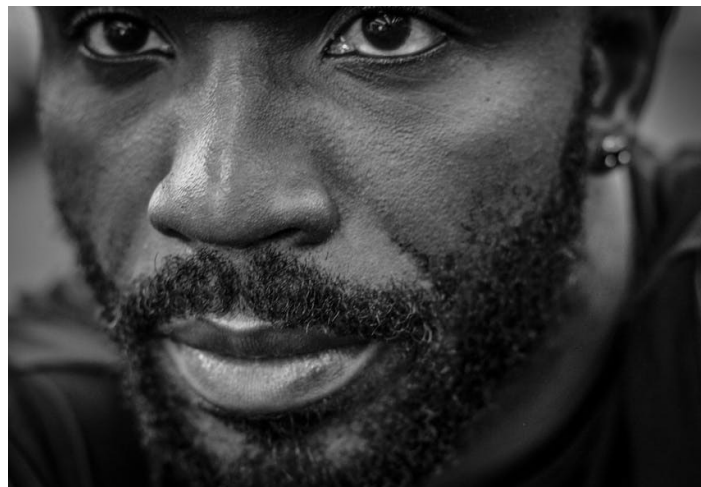


The Social & Health Conditions of Black Men

Black men face significant disparities that affect health and wellbeing

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek. We are the hope of those boys who have so little, who've been told that they cannot have what they dream, that they cannot be what they imagine. Yes, they can.”

- President Barack Obama, 2008



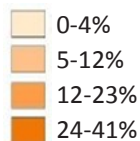
Where we live, learn, work, and play is very important in determining our health

Social and economic conditions, such as education, income, and where we live are as important to our health as our behavior, healthcare, and genetics combined.¹

In Dane County:

- 15,600 Black males make up 6% of the male population²
- Blacks are more likely to live in segregated neighborhoods³

Percent Black by census block group.³



Black men face challenges that impact their health

Education⁴

Have a high school degree or less



Economics⁵

Live in poverty



Incarceration⁶

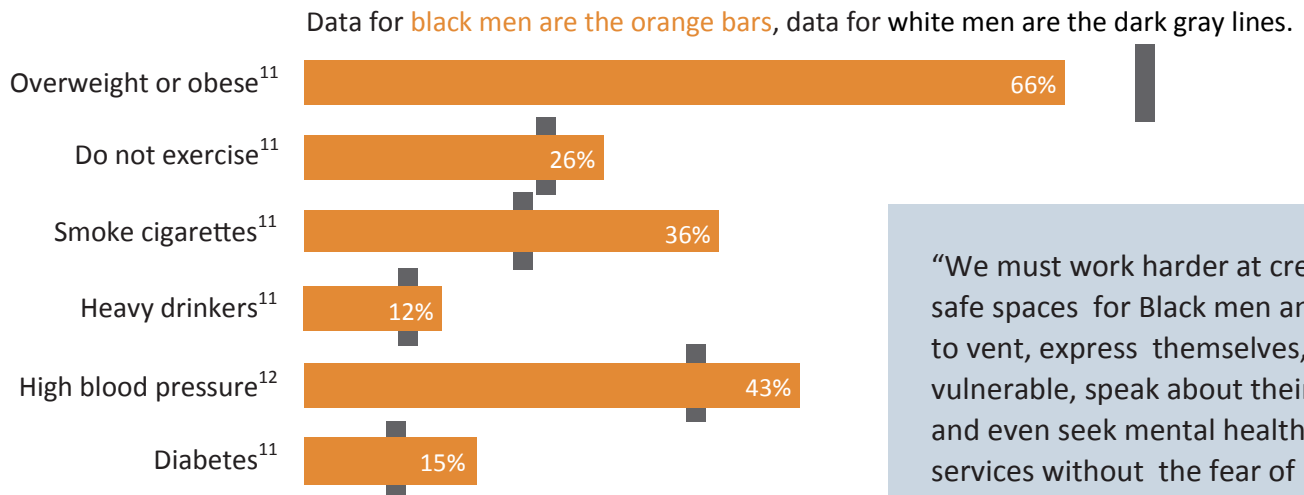
Living behind bars

10X More likely than white men to be incarcerated

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The social conditions of Black men contribute to poor health outcomes

- Heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes are the leading causes of death in Black men.⁷
- Although the gap is getting smaller nationally, Black men in Wisconsin die 7 years younger than White men.^{8,9,10}
- Lack of access to healthy food, safe places to exercise, and targeted alcohol and tobacco advertising in low-income neighborhoods contribute to these risk factors and health outcomes.



A lack of safe spaces impact mental health

- 16% of Blacks in the U.S. had a diagnosed mental illness in the past year.¹³
- Suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death among Black men ages 15-24 in Wisconsin.⁷
- Black men in the U.S. are less likely to access mental health services than other men.¹³

“We must work harder at creating safe spaces for Black men and boys to vent, express themselves, be vulnerable, speak about their pain and even seek mental health services without the fear of being criticized or looked down upon. Most important, we need to stop equating being ‘devoid of emotions’ with manhood.”

- Kellee Terrell, BET, 2013

Black men face unique sexual health challenges

- Poverty, access to health care, higher rates of sexually transmitted infections (STI) in sexual networks, and high rates of incarceration contribute to high STI rates in Black men and women in the US.¹⁴
- Chlamydia rates are 8 times higher in Blacks than Whites in Dane County.¹⁵
- Erectile dysfunction is a common complication of diabetes.¹⁶
- 1 in 3 Black gay and bisexual men in Wisconsin is living with HIV.¹⁷

“As African-American men in Dane County, we must accept that the future of our youth depends on the examples we set for them today. If we start educating our males about their health when they are boys, we’ll naturally grow a healthier crop of men. Let all unite and get well together.”

- Aaron Gabriel Perry, 2017

Full citations available from Public Health Madison & Dane County

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