

WHY DO U.S. CANCER HEALTH DISPARITIES EXIST?

Complex and interrelated factors contribute to cancer health disparities in the United States. For racial and ethnic minorities, adverse differences in many, if not all, of these factors are directly influenced by structural and systemic racism. The factors may include, but are not limited to, differences or inequalities in:

Social Factors:

- Education
- Income
- Employment
- Health literacy



Psychological Factors:

- Stress
- Mental health



Clinical Factors:

- Access to health care
- Quality of health care



Environmental Factors:

- Air and water quality
- Transportation
- Housing
- Community safety
- Access to healthy food sources and spaces for physical activity



Behavioral Factors:

- Tobacco use
- Diet
- Weight
- Physical activity
- Adherence to cancer screening and vaccination recommendations



Genetic and biological factors



Cultural Factors:

- Cultural beliefs
- Cultural health beliefs



General health

- Infection with certain pathogens, such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)
- Having other health conditions, such as diabetes

