

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 (e.g., discrimination, segregation). The factors contributing to differences or inequalities include:

SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS

- Education
- Income
- Employment
- Health literacy and numeracy
- English language proficiency



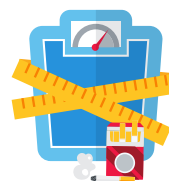
CLINICAL FACTORS

- Access to quality health care that is culturally appropriate
- Access to health insurance
- Cultural fluency of health care provider



BEHAVIORAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS

- Tobacco use
- Alcohol use
- Stress
- Access to safe spaces for physical activity
- Access to healthy nutritional choices
- Access and adherence to risk reduction/preventive care
- Access to culturally tailored mental health care



CULTURAL FACTORS

- Beliefs
- Health-related beliefs



ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

- Transportation
- Housing
- Geographic location



GENETIC AND BIOLOGICAL FACTORS

- Ancestry-related genetic differences



GENERAL HEALTH

- Having other health conditions or comorbidities, e.g., infection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV); having diabetes.

