

Measuring racial health disparities in a state-level health scorecard

Presented by: Mary Ann Honors, PhD, MPH

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Main Findings

Several states exhibit higher levels of racial disparities across **multiple measures of health**.

Including multiple measures of racial health disparities in a **state health scorecard** allows stakeholders to **see patterns in disparities**.

Introduction

Racial health disparities are the result of generations of social, economic, environmental and structural inequities that are influenced by racism.

America's Health Rankings **scorecards include multiple measures of health.**

Including measures of disparity can **assist stakeholders** giving them the information they need for **data-driven decision making** through **advocacy, policymaking and communication** efforts.

Methodology

Calculated state-level prevalence rates and racial disparities for six health measures:

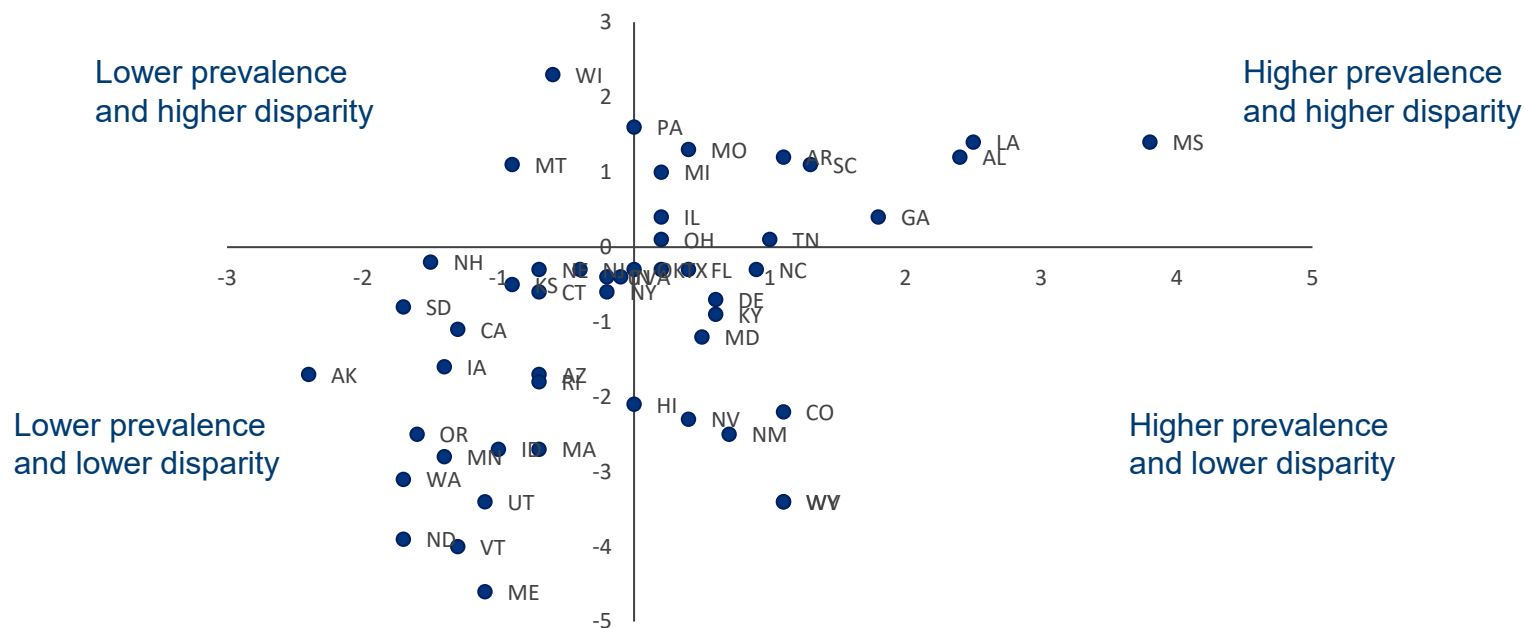
- **children in poverty**
- **poverty among seniors**
- **high school graduation**
- **premature death**
- **early death among seniors**
- **low birthweight**

Disparities were calculated as the difference between the racial/ethnic group with the highest and the lowest rates or the difference between Black and white rates.

Examined correlations between rates and disparities compared with US averages for each measure and examined patterns within states across the six measures.

Results

Of the six measures, only **low birthweight had a modest correlation between rate and disparity** ($r = 0.47$).



Results

Arkansas, Ohio and South Carolina had higher disparity and less healthy rates than the US average for **four of the six measures**.

	Children in Poverty		Early Death		Low Birthweight		High School Graduation		Seniors in Poverty	
	Value	Disparity	Value	Disparity	Value	Disparity	Value	Disparity	Value	Disparity
Arkansas	24.7	24.1	2329	3.2	9.4	8.2	89.2	14.7	10.5	2.8
Ohio	19.5	29.7	2043	3.3	8.5	7.1	82.1	17	8.3	2.6
South Carolina	22.6	23.6	1916	3.5	9.6	8.1	81	17	10.1	3.1
US Average	18	19.2	1765	3	8.3	7	85.3	15.6	9.4	2.7
Georgia	18	26.3	2015	2.8	10.1	7.4	81.6	10.3	10.4	2.2

Georgia had a lower disparity and less healthy rate than the US average for **five of the six measures**.

Author Contact Information

Mary Ann Honors, PhD, MPH, Elise Parks-Santangelo, MPH, Kristin Shaw, MPH, Sarah Milder, MPH, Tom Eckstein, MBA, Arundel Metrics, Inc.

maryann@arundelmetrics.com

Data are available at: AmericasHealthRankings.org