



2025 HEALTH OF DEKALB

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DeKalb Public Health
Decatur, Georgia

June 2025

A Message to Our Community

We're pleased to share the 2025 Health of DeKalb report. DeKalb Public Health has published a series of reports, called Status of Health Reports, that were completed every five years to examine a snapshot of health in our community. This year, however, we are taking a new direction and rethinking the delivery of this data and information to the public in a more streamlined approach.

We have compiled and analyzed data on a wide array of health indicators across many topics, including infectious diseases and chronic illnesses. We will use the report's findings to identify needs and priorities as we work to better serve our community.

One's health is impacted by many factors—beyond just the care received in a doctor's office. The conditions where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age affect their well-being. These factors include economic stability and access to education. This understanding is central to the field of public health. Creating a healthier community involves addressing the challenging issues that contribute to health inequity.

We trust that you'll find the 2025 Health of DeKalb report helpful. We hope that it prompts you to adopt habits that contribute to your own good health. It's also our hope that the report inspires you to work with others to address our community's health issues. Public health is everyone's health. Together, we can protect, promote, and improve the health and well-being of all DeKalb County residents.

Sincerely,



Sandra J. Valenciano, MD, MPH

District Health Director/CEO



Calvin Patimeteeporn, MSPH

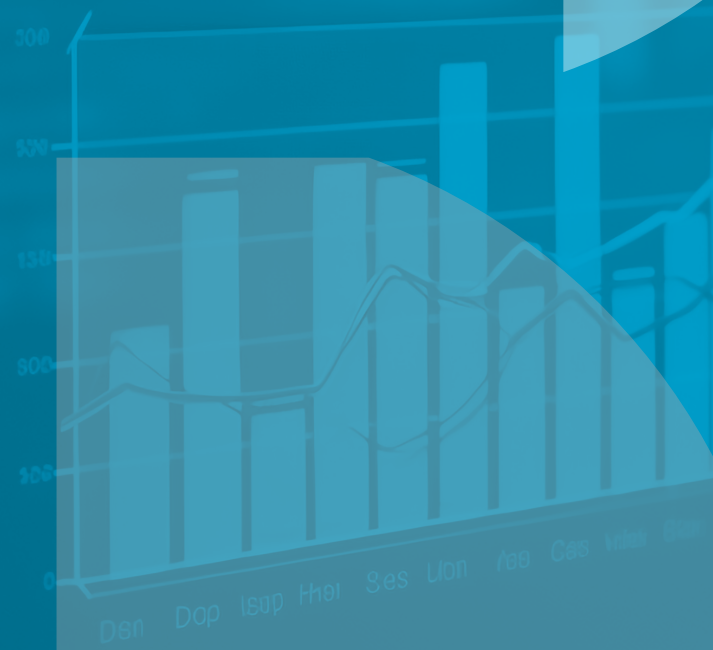
Chief Epidemiologist



TABLE OF CONTENTS

METHODOLOGY	8
PROFILE OF DEKALB COUNTY	12
LEADING CAUSES	16
DEATH	18
PREMATURE DEATH	20
HOSPITALIZATION	21
CHRONIC DISEASES	22
CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES	24
DIABETES	26
CANCER	28
INFECTIOUS DISEASES	30
COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019)	31
MPOX	34
VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES	36
HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV)	38
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES	40
TUBERCULOSIS	42
OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES	44
INJURIES	46
INTENTIONAL INJURIES	48
UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES	50
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	52
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH	56
REFUGEE HEALTH	60
ORAL HEALTH	64
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	68
LEAD EXPOSURE	70
WEST NILE VIRUS	72
TRENDS IN DEKALB COUNTY	74
APPENDICES	76
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	78
GLOSSARY OF TERMS	79
SOURCES	82

METHODOLOGY





This report covers the years 2018 to 2023, as the last report covered 2013 to 2017 and there was a delay in producing the report due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This six-year period was selected to account for the delay as well as utilize the most recent available data.

This section explains the data sources, statistical methods, terminology, and limitations of the 2025 Health of DeKalb report.

Data Sources

Demographic data

The county population estimates were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

Health data

Claratel Behavioral Health

- Claratel Behavioral Health provided the data for the Behavioral Health section.

DeKalb Public Health

- Oral Health: Our Oral Health Program provided the data on services delivered at our clinics for the Oral Health section.
- Environmental Health: Our Environmental Health Division provided data for the Environmental Health section.
- Refugee Health: Our Refugee Clinic provided the data for the Refugee Health section.

Georgia Department of Public Health

- Georgia Comprehensive Cancer Registry: The Georgia Comprehensive Cancer Registry collects information on all cancer cases diagnosed among Georgia residents. The registry staff provided cancer data for the Chronic Diseases section.
- HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Section: The HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Section provided HIV/AIDS data for the Infectious Diseases section.
- Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS): OASIS is a set of web-based tools for analyzing Georgia's public health data. Data from OASIS are used throughout the report.
- State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SendSS): Georgia law requires that health care providers notify the state's public health system of diagnosed cases of over 70 diseases and conditions. These are known as "notifiable diseases." SendSS is the reporting system that collects these data. SendSS data are included in the Infectious Diseases section.
- Tuberculosis: The Tuberculosis Clinic provided the tuberculosis data for the Infectious Diseases section.

Statistical Methods

Percentages

For the most part, disease- and death-related data related to sex are analyzed using percentages. A percentage expresses the number of cases per 100.

Rate

A rate is calculated by dividing the number of people that have a disease or condition by the total number of people in the population and multiplying by 100,000, unless otherwise indicated.

A morbidity rate is the rate of the occurrence of a particular disease or condition. A mortality rate is the rate of death caused by a particular disease or condition.

Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL)

YPLL is used to compare causes of premature death. For this report, a premature death is a death before the age of 75. An individual's YPLL is calculated by subtracting their age at death from 75 years.

An example: Two people die in a motor vehicle crash. One person is 27 years old and the other is 73 years old. YPLL is calculated as follows:

- Since $75 - 27 = 48$, the person who died at age 27 lost 48 years of potential life.
- Since $75 - 73 = 2$, the person who died at age 73 lost 2 years of potential life.

Given that $48 + 2 = 50$, these two people together lost a total of 50 years of potential life. This is expressed as 50 Years of Potential Life Lost or 50 YPLL.

For this report, DeKalb County residents who died before the age of 75 in 2018 through 2023 were grouped by their cause of death. Then, each group's YPLL was calculated. Each total indicates the effect each cause of premature death had on the county's residents.

Census Tracts

The census tract maps were created using R programming software or sourced from OASIS. In the Diabetes section, the number of hospitalizations per census tract due to all types of diabetes was mapped. In the Cancer section, the number of deaths per census tract was mapped.

For 2018-2023, the average morbidity and mortality rates were calculated per 100,000 persons using the 2020 census tract population estimates.

Finally, each tract is filled with a shade of color that indicates the value of its morbidity or mortality rate. Census tracts with lower rates have a lighter shade than those with higher rates.

Terminology

Throughout the report:

- The term "Black" is used to indicate Black or African American.
- The term "Hispanic" is used to indicate Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.
- The term "non-Hispanic" is used to indicate not of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.

Limitations

The 2025 Health of DeKalb Report has these limitations:


- Oral health data are limited to oral health services provided at DeKalb Public Health.
- Behavioral health data are limited to data from Claratel Behavioral Health.

Also, the OASIS website reports the following issue with its All Years Death Data:

- Hispanic ethnicity is most likely under-reported on death certificates. Several studies conducted in a number of states indicate that there may be under-reporting of Hispanic ethnicity on death certificates. A cursory review of linked Georgia data shows a 35% decrease from Hispanic-at-birth to non-Hispanic at death, and a 25% decrease from Hispanic-mother-during-delivery to non-Hispanic at death.



PROFILE OF DEKALB COUNTY



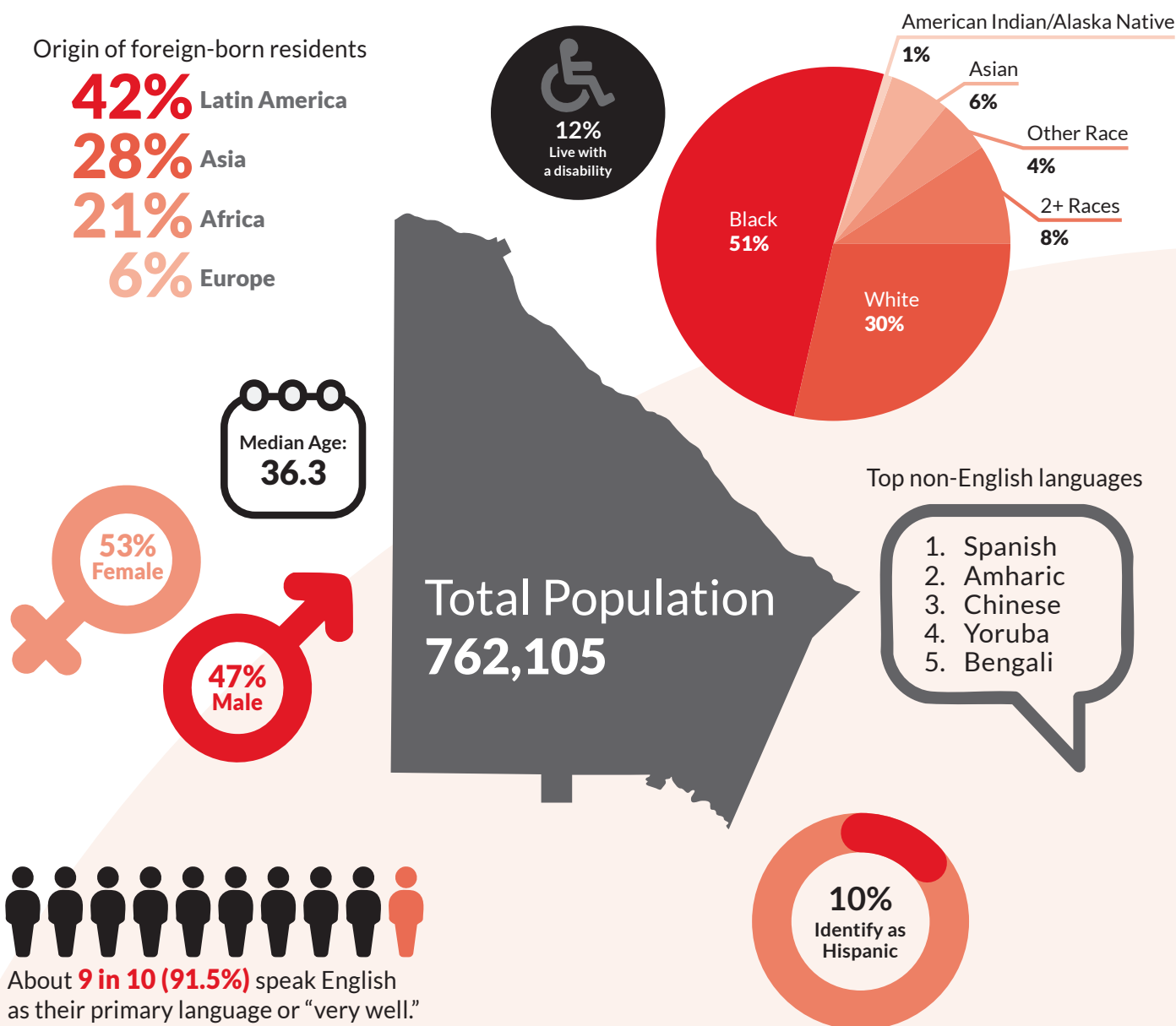
DeKalb County is a diverse, vibrant community. While the county includes part of the city of Atlanta, DeKalb has its own unique character. This section provides an overview of a number of aspects of the county.

DEKALB COUNTY PROFILE



Demographics

A review of the demographic makeup of DeKalb County provides an understanding of the diverse population DeKalb Public Health serves. Knowing the community helps us tailor our services.



Social Determinants of Health

The “social determinants of health” are the non-medical factors that influence a person’s well-being. They include the conditions in which people live, work, learn, and play.

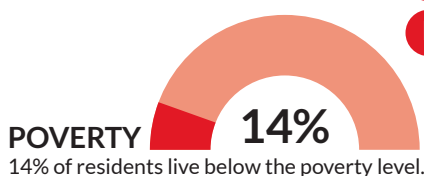
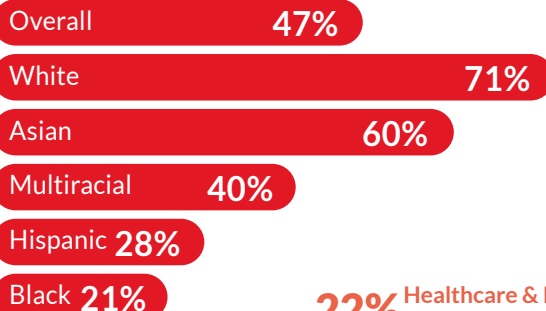


HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

87% of residents have private or public health insurance.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Almost half of residents (47%) over the age of 25 have a bachelor's degree or higher. While 71% of White adults have at least a bachelor's degree, only 21% of Black residents do.



POVERTY

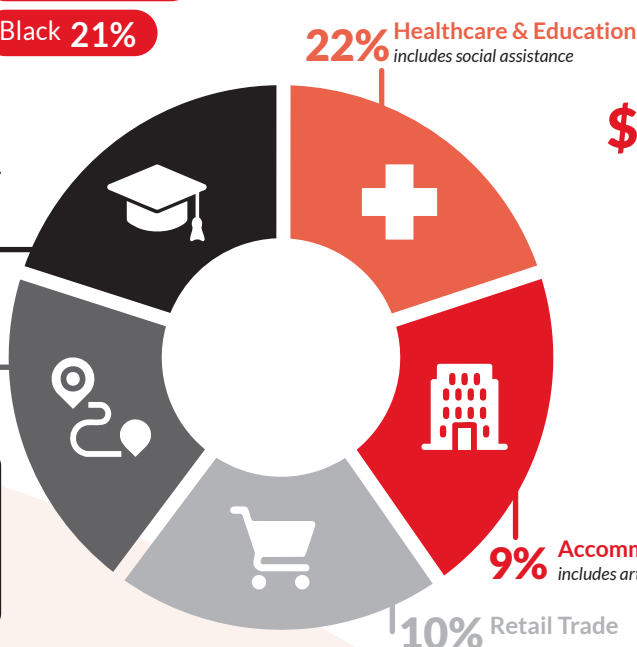
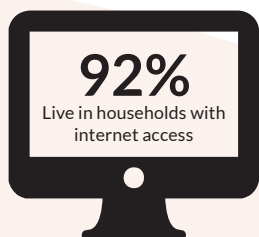
14% of residents live below the poverty level.



Professional & Administrative
includes science and waste management services



Transportation & Warehousing
includes utilities



INCOME

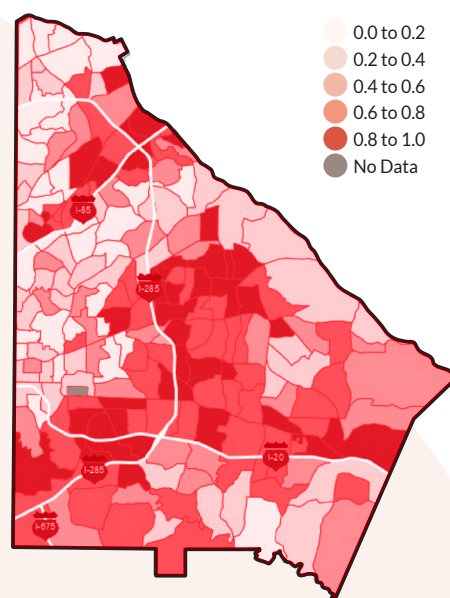
The median income is \$77,683. The median income for White residents is 2x that of Hispanic residents.

Social Vulnerability Index

The social vulnerability index measures demographic and socioeconomic factors that adversely affect communities in the event of a stressor. Stressors include natural disasters (like tornadoes), human-caused disasters (like chemical spills), and disease outbreaks (like a pandemic). The index helps in preparing for and responding to emergencies. It also identifies areas of other types of vulnerability.


Communities in darker red shades have higher levels of vulnerability, including:

- Chamblee
- Clarkston
- Stone Mountain
- Redan
- McNair



LEADING CAUSES



A photograph of a male doctor with glasses and a female patient looking at a tablet together. The doctor is wearing a white lab coat over a dark shirt and tie. The patient is wearing a plaid shirt. The image has an orange tint and a semi-transparent blue circle on the left side.

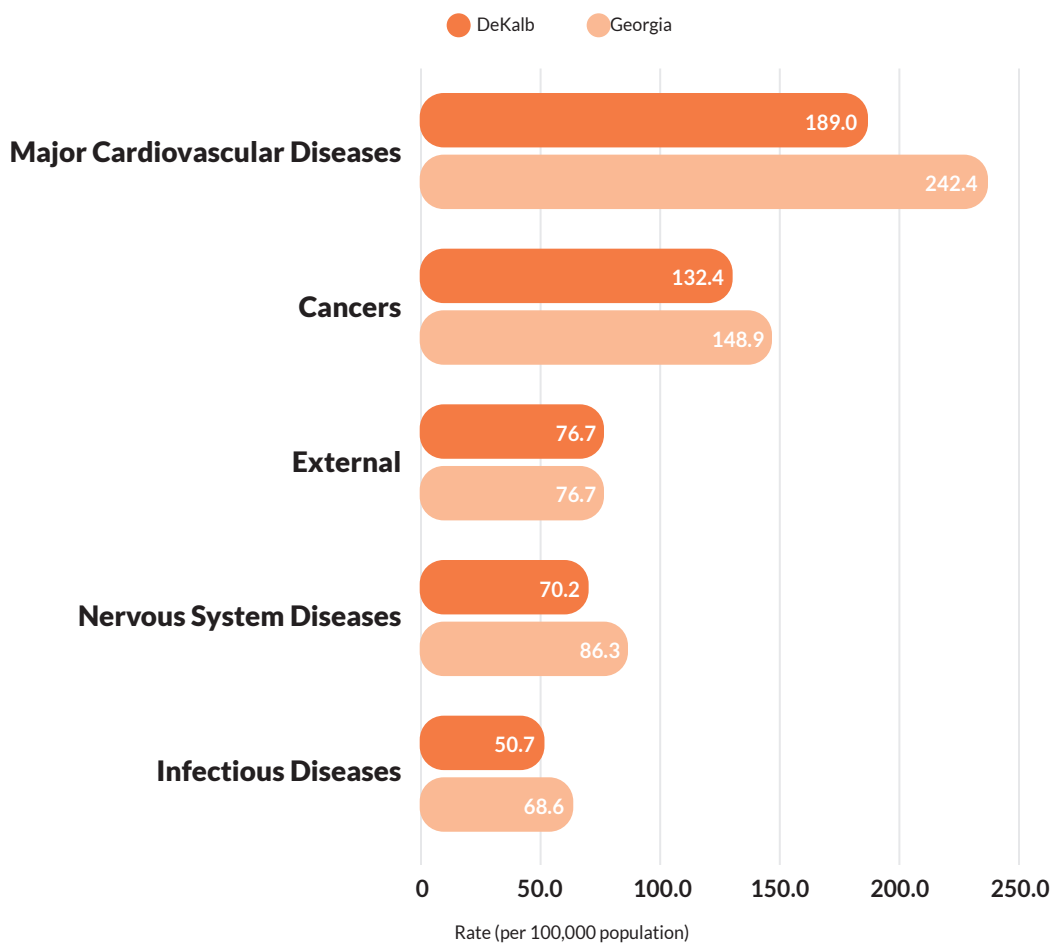
The term “leading causes” refers to the most common causes of illness or death in a population over a given period of time. Such causes in terms of death, early death, and hospitalizations serve as an indicator of relevant health issues in the community.

DEATH



This section presents the leading causes of death from 2018-2023.

Major cardiovascular diseases were the leading cause of death in DeKalb County and Georgia.

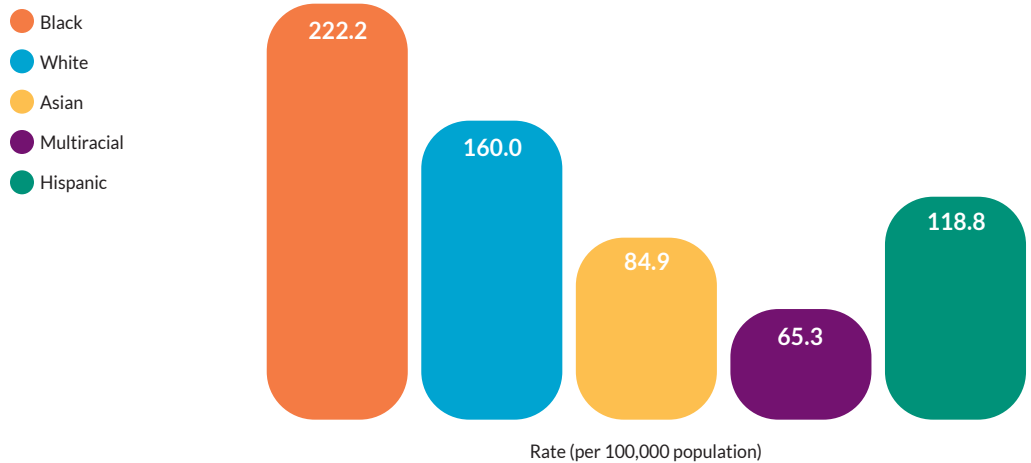


Data: Age-adjusted death rate for the five leading causes of death, DeKalb County and Georgia, 2018-2023.

Demographics

Race and Ethnicity

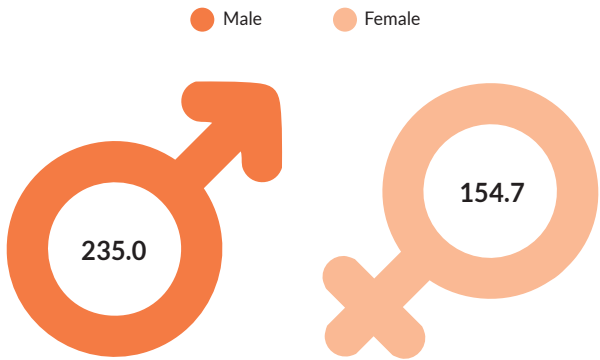
The death rate due to major cardiovascular diseases was highest among non-Hispanic Black residents.



Data: Age-adjusted death rate due to major cardiovascular diseases by race and ethnicity, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Sex

The death rate due to major cardiovascular diseases was higher among male residents.



Data: Age-adjusted death rate due to major cardiovascular diseases by sex, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Age

By age group, the leading causes of death were:

0-1 year old:
Fetal and infant conditions

1-29 years old:
External causes - Homicide

30-44 years old:
External causes - Accidental poisoning*

45+ years old:
Major cardiovascular diseases

Data: Leading causes of death by age group, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

*Accidental poisoning and exposure to noxious substances that may cause injury, illness, or death, including drugs, alcohol, and inhalants. However, overdoses involving suicide or homicide are excluded.

PREMATURE DEATH



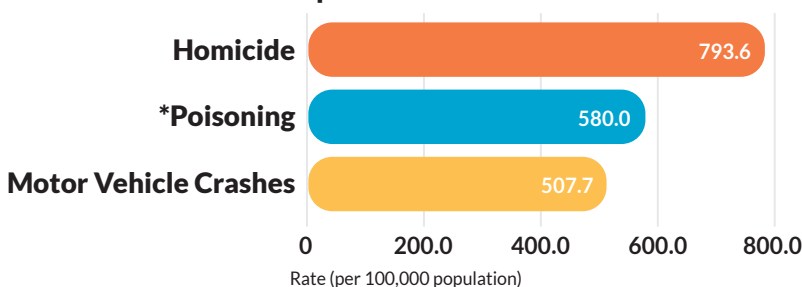
A premature death is one that occurs before the age of 75. It's described by using years of potential life lost or YPLL. YPLL is calculated by subtracting the age at death from 75. For example, a death at age 35 results in a YPLL of 40 years (75 - 35 = 40). Each premature death adds to the county's total YPLL.

External causes were the leading cause of premature death.



Data: Leading causes of premature death, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Among external causes, homicide was the top cause of premature death.



Data: Top three external causes of premature death, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

*Accidental poisoning and exposure to noxious substances that may cause injury, illness, or death, including drugs, alcohol, and inhalants. However, overdoses involving suicide or homicide are excluded.

Source: Online Analytical Statistical Information System, Georgia Department of Public Health, 2025.

Demographics

Race and Ethnicity

External causes were the top cause of premature death for all races and ethnicities. The leading cause of premature death by race and ethnicity were:

Asian: Suicide

Black: Homicide

Multiracial: Suicide

White: Accidental poisoning

Hispanic: Motor vehicle crashes

Data: Leading causes of premature death by race and ethnicity, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Sex

Male residents were four times more likely to die prematurely than female residents.

Homicide:

#1 among male residents

Accidental Poisoning:

#1 among female residents

Data: Premature death rate by sex, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Age

By age group, the leading cause of premature death were:

0-29 years old:

External causes - Homicide

30-44 years old:

External causes - Accidental poisoning*

45-64 years old:

Major cardiovascular diseases

65+ years old:

Cancers

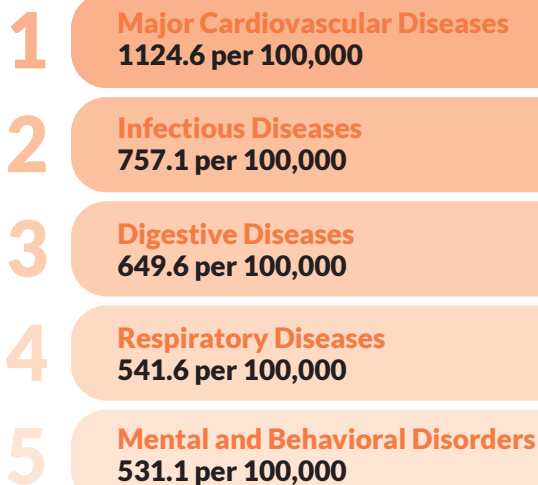
Data: Premature death rate by age group, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

HOSPITALIZATION



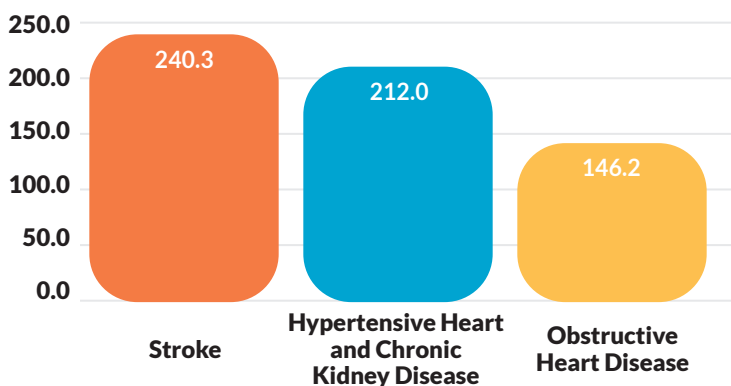
A hospitalization is defined as an instance where an individual is discharged from a healthcare facility. A person can be counted more than once if they are readmitted.

Major cardiovascular diseases were the leading cause of hospitalizations.



Data: Age-adjusted rates for the leading causes of hospitalization, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Stroke was the top cause of hospitalization due to major cardiovascular diseases.



Data: Top three causes of hospitalization due to major cardiovascular diseases by rate, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Source: Online Analytical Statistical Information System, Georgia Department of Public Health, 2025.

Demographics

Race and Ethnicity

Major cardiovascular diseases were the leading cause of hospitalization for all races and ethnicities, with stroke being the top cause.

Sex

Male residents had a higher hospitalization rate due to major cardiovascular diseases.



Data: Hospitalization rate due to major cardiovascular diseases by sex, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Age


By age group, the leading causes of hospitalization were:

- 0-1 year old:** Respiratory diseases
- 1-29 years old:** Mental and behavioral disorders
- 30+ years old:** Major cardiovascular diseases

Data: Leading causes of hospitalization by age group, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

The background consists of several overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in shades of yellow and orange. These shapes include rectangles, squares, and rounded corners, creating a layered, abstract effect. The colors range from a light, pale yellow to a deeper, more saturated orange.

CHRONIC DISEASES



Chronic diseases are defined broadly as conditions that last one year or more and require ongoing medical attention or limit activities of daily living or both. They are often preventable and are frequently manageable through early detection, good nutrition, adequate exercise, and treatment.

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES

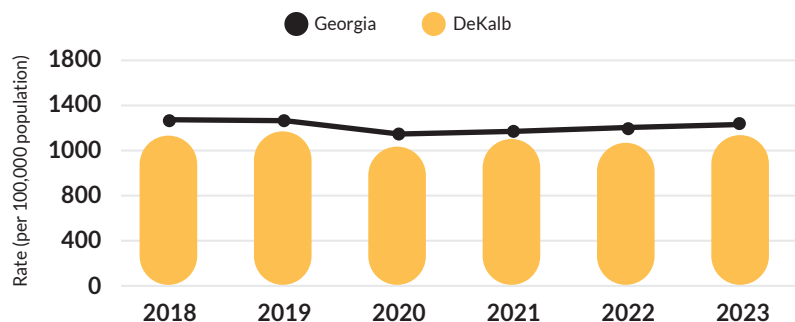


Cardiovascular diseases affect the heart and/or blood vessels. Major cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) include high blood pressure, hypertensive heart disease, obstructive heart disease, and stroke.

The data below are for 2018-2023. All rates are per 100,000 residents.

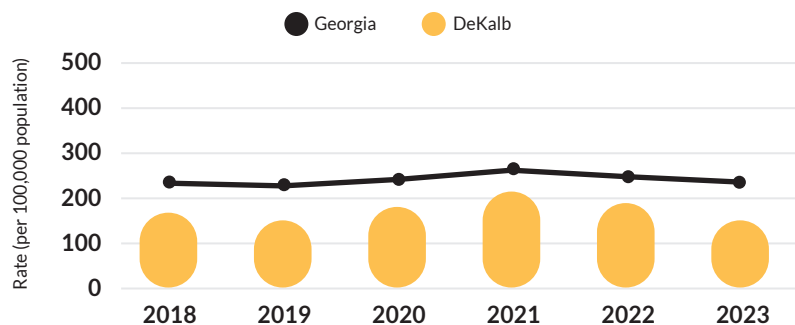
DeKalb County and Georgia

DeKalb County's rate of hospitalization due to CVDs was lower than Georgia's.



Data: Age-adjusted hospitalization rate due to major cardiovascular diseases, DeKalb County and Georgia, 2018-2023.

DeKalb County's rate of death due to CVDs was lower than Georgia's.



Data: Age-adjusted death rate due to major cardiovascular diseases, DeKalb County and Georgia, 2018-2023.

DeKalb County

Hospitalization Rates

141.5 Hypertensive heart disease

146.3 Obstructive heart disease, including heart attack

240.3 Stroke

Death Rates

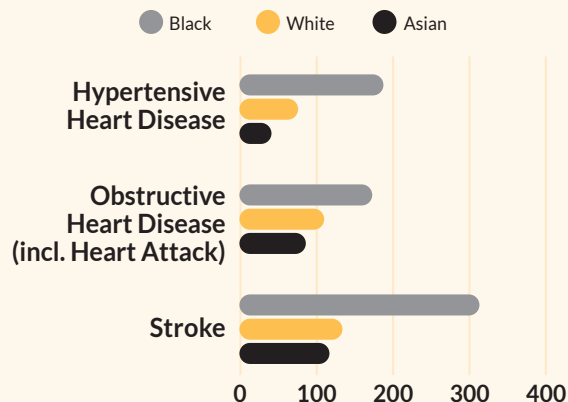
26.9 Hypertensive heart disease

46.8 Obstructive heart disease, including heart attack

37.9 Stroke

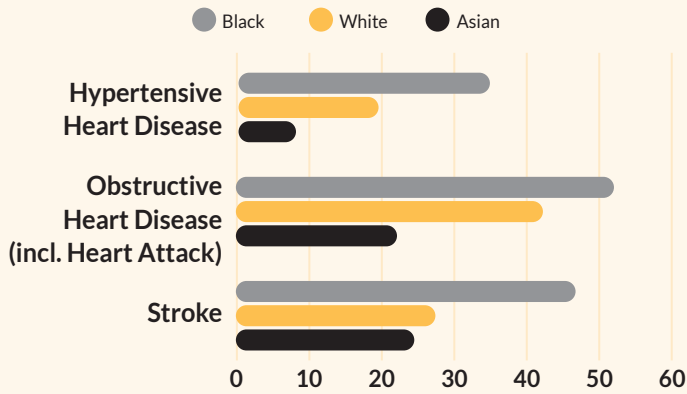
Demographics

Black residents had the highest rate of CVD-related hospitalizations.



Data: Age-adjusted hospitalization rate due to major cardiovascular diseases by race, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Black residents had the highest rate of CVD-related deaths.



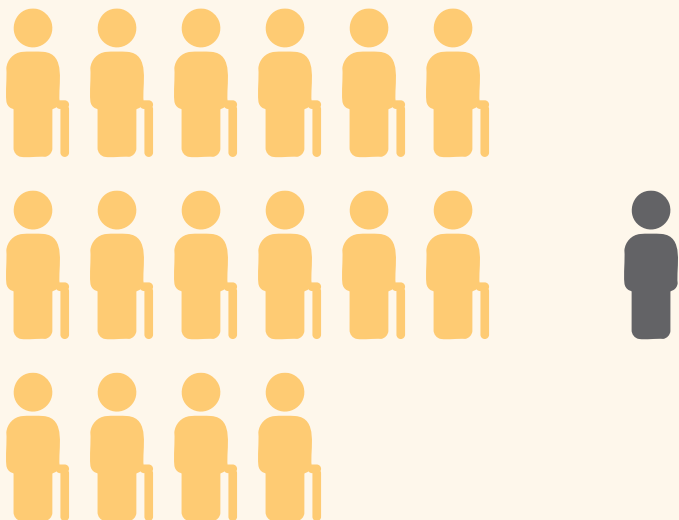
Data: Age-adjusted death rate due to major cardiovascular diseases by race, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Hispanic residents had lower CVD hospitalization and death rates than non-Hispanic residents.

The CVD hospitalization rate among those 65 and older was 7 times higher than among those younger than 65.



The CVD death rate among those 65 and older was 16 times higher than among those younger than 65.



Source: Online Analytical Statistical Information System, Georgia Department of Public Health, 2025.

Trends

Trends in CVD hospitalizations from 2018 to 2023 showed a...

27.7%▼ decrease in hypertensive heart disease.

12.6%▼ decrease in obstructive heart disease, including heart attack.

6.4%▼ decrease in stroke.

Trends in CVD deaths showed a...

64.9%▲ increase in hypertensive heart disease.

4.2%▼ decrease in obstructive heart disease, including heart attack.

6.5%▼ decrease in stroke.

Quick Facts

- In DeKalb County, male residents had a higher rate of hospitalization due to a cardiovascular disease than female residents.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that heart disease is the #1 cause of death and disability in the U.S.

What You Can Do



Have your blood pressure and cholesterol checked and ask your doctor if they are in a healthy range.



Choose healthy foods and drinks with limited saturated fats, trans fats, salt, sugars, and alcohol.



Maintain a healthy weight.



Don't smoke or if you do, quit.



Get regular physical activity.

DIABETES

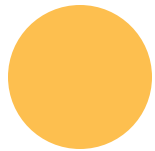


Diabetes affects the pancreas's ability to produce or use the hormone insulin. Insulin helps regulate the glucose (sugar) level in the blood.

The types of diabetes are:



Type 1: An autoimmune disease where the pancreas doesn't produce any insulin.



Gestational Diabetes: When a pregnant woman has a high glucose level due to the pancreas not producing enough insulin.



Type 2: When the pancreas produces too little insulin or the body rejects the insulin being produced.



Prediabetes: When the body's glucose level is elevated but not to the point of a diabetes diagnosis.

Quick Facts

- In 2021, 38.4 million people of all ages—or 11.6% of the U.S. population—had diabetes.
- In 2022, a little over 1 million people (10.9% of Georgia's adults 18 and over) had a diagnosis of diabetes.
- Risk factors for type 2 diabetes, gestational diabetes, and prediabetes include having high blood pressure and being overweight or obese.

What You Can Do



Get plenty of exercise and follow a nutritious diet to reach and maintain a healthy blood pressure and weight.



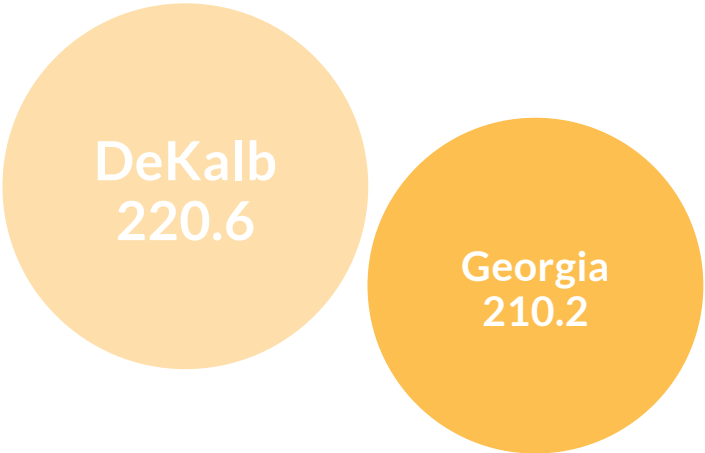
Ask your healthcare provider about getting a blood sugar test.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021 and 2022.

Diabetes in DeKalb County

In 2021, 10.7% of DeKalb adults ages 20 and older had a diagnosis of diabetes.

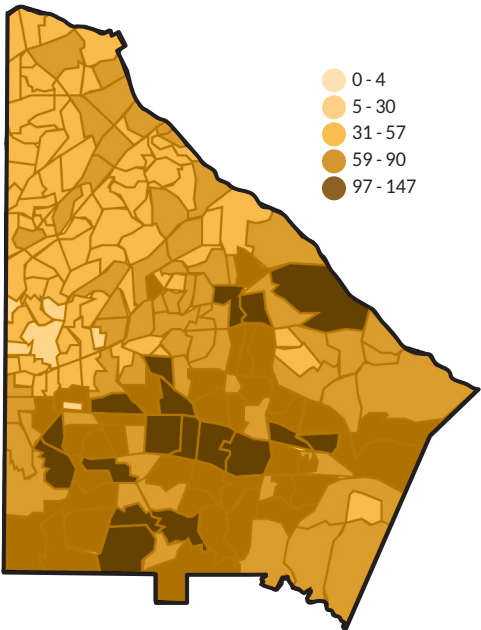
DeKalb County residents had a higher rate of hospital visits for diabetes than Georgia residents.



Age-Adjusted Rate (per 100,000 population)

Data: Age-adjusted hospital discharge rate for diabetes, DeKalb County and Georgia, 2018-2023.

South DeKalb residents had more hospital visits for diabetes than other DeKalb residents.

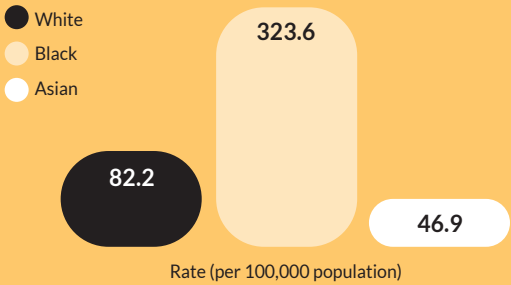


Data: Number of diabetes hospital discharges by census tract, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Source: Online Analytical Statistical Information System, Georgia Department of Public Health, 2025.

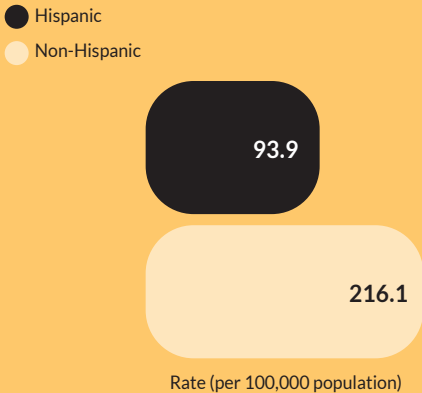
Demographics

Black residents had almost 4 times the rate of hospital visits for diabetes compared to White residents.



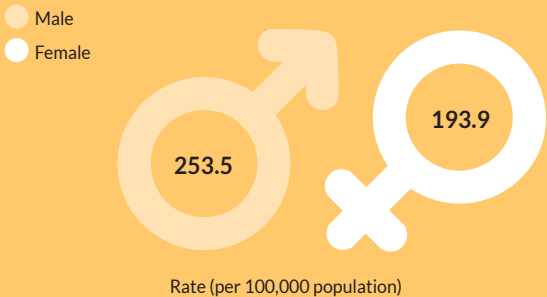
Data: Age-adjusted hospital discharge rate for diabetes by race, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Non-Hispanic residents had more than 2 times the rate of hospital visits of Hispanic residents.



Data: Age-adjusted hospital discharge rate for diabetes by ethnicity, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Male residents had more hospital visits than female residents.



Data: Age-adjusted hospital discharge rate for diabetes by sex, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

CANCER

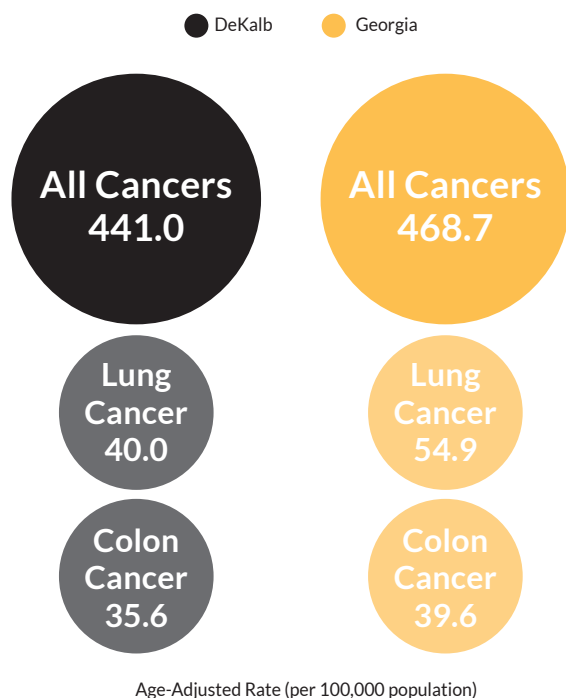


According to the National Cancer Institute, cancer is a disease in which some of the body's cells grow uncontrollably and can spread to other parts of the body. There are many types of cancer.

The case data below are for 2018-2022, while the death data are for 2018-2023.

DeKalb County vs. Georgia

DeKalb County's rate of cancer was lower than Georgia's. Lung cancer and colon cancer were the top cancers for both the county and the state.



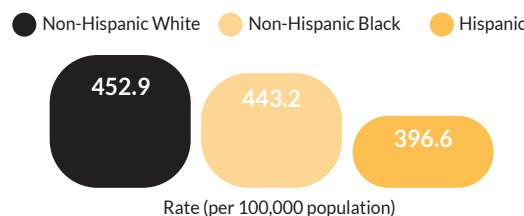
Data: Age-adjusted cancer case rate, DeKalb County and Georgia, 2018-2022.

Source: Georgia Comprehensive Cancer Registry, 2025.

DeKalb County

Race and Ethnicity

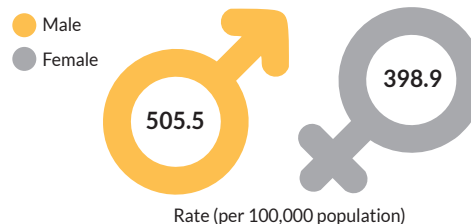
Non-Hispanic Whites had a higher cancer rate than non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanics.



Data: Cancer rate by race and ethnicity, DeKalb County, 2018-2022.

Sex

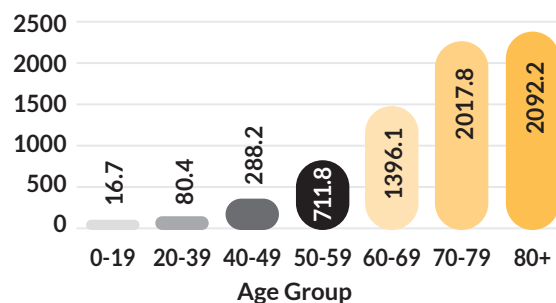
Male residents had a higher cancer rate.



Data: Cancer rate by sex, DeKalb County, 2018-2022.

Age

People aged 70 and over had a higher cancer rate than younger people.

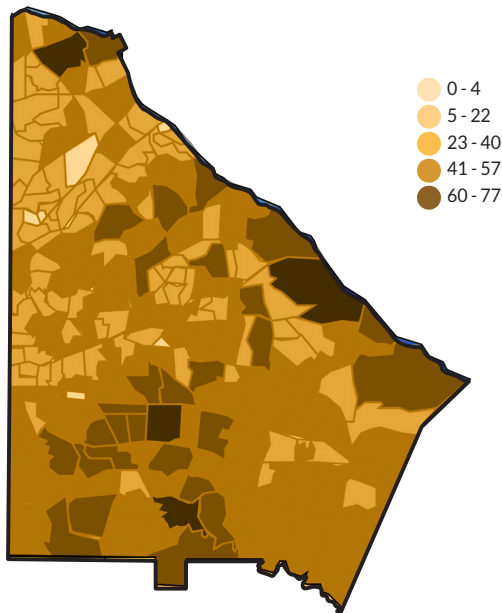


Data: Cancer rate by age group, DeKalb County, 2018-2022.

Source: Georgia Comprehensive Cancer Registry, Georgia Department of Public Health, 2025.

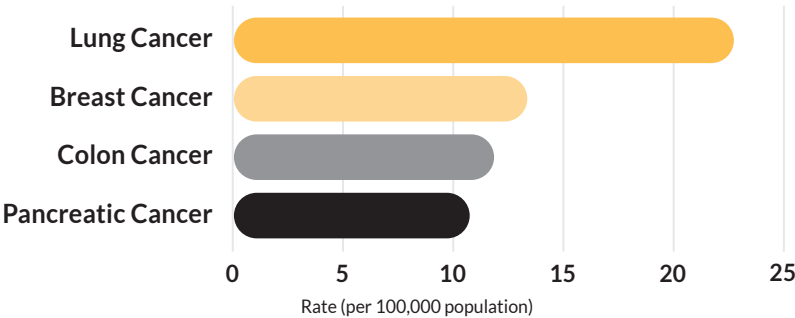
Cancer Deaths in DeKalb County

There were more cancer deaths in the southern and eastern parts of the county than in other parts.



Data: Number of cancer deaths by census tract, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

The top four causes of cancer-related deaths were lung, breast, colon, and pancreatic cancer.



Data: Top four causes of cancer-related deaths, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Source: Online Analytical Statistical Information System, Georgia Department of Public Health, 2025.

Quick Facts

- As of January 2022, there were about 18.1 million cancer survivors in the U.S. The number of survivors is projected to increase to 22.5 million by 2032.
- About 40.5% of men and women will be diagnosed with cancer at some point during their lifetimes (based on 2017–2019 data).
- Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Georgia, causing one out of every five deaths in 2023.

Source: National Cancer Institute, 2020; Tonorezos et al., 2024.

What You Can Do



Eat a healthy diet.



Maintain a healthy weight.




Don't start smoking or if you do, quit.



Follow cancer screening recommendations.



INFECTIOUS DISEASES

A person wearing a white lab coat is seated at a desk in a laboratory, working on a computer. The computer monitor displays a software interface with a central image of a molecular structure and various data panels on the left and right. The background shows laboratory equipment, including a rack of test tubes and other scientific instruments. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter.

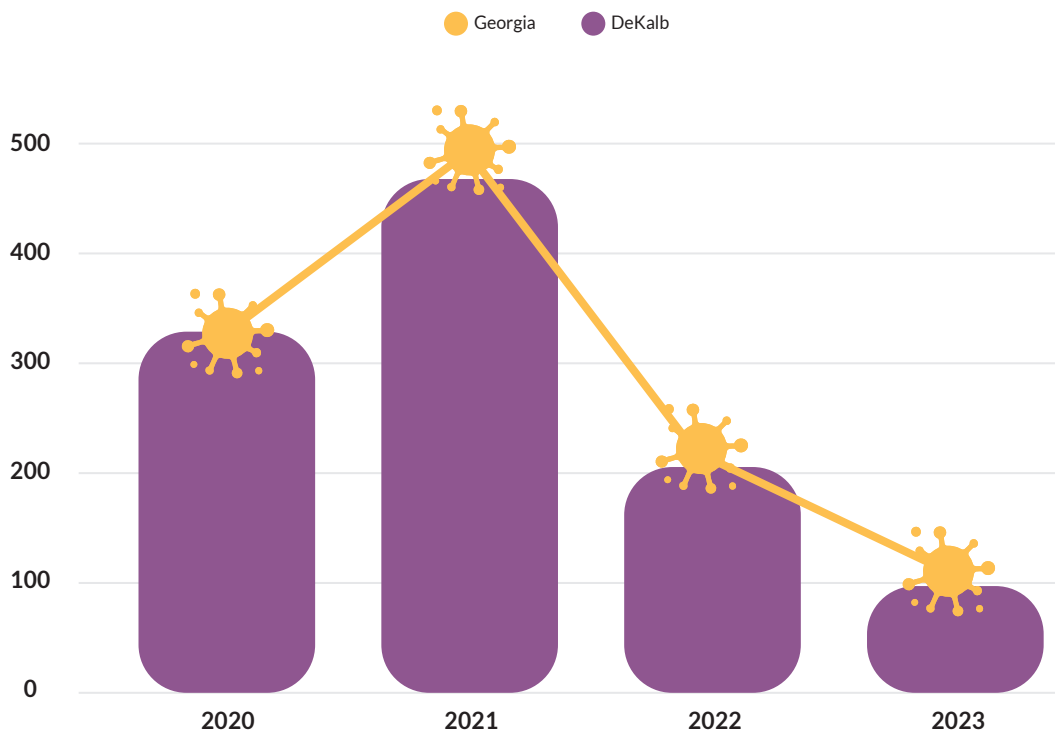
Infectious diseases are caused by microorganisms, including bacteria, viruses, and parasites. Some infectious diseases can spread easily on food or from person to person and can cause outbreaks that make many people ill.

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019)



COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. From March 2020 to May 2023, a global pandemic greatly impacted many aspects of everyday life.

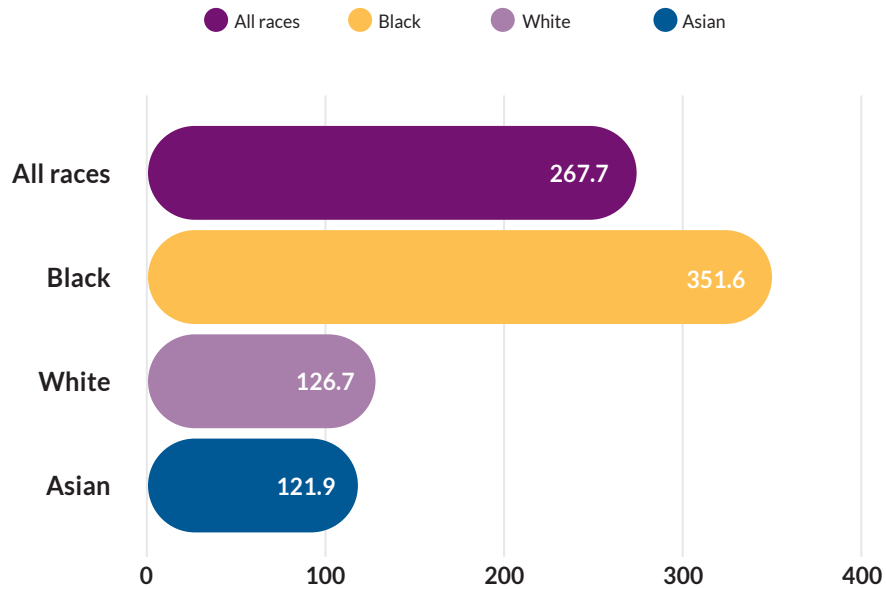
In 2021, the rate of COVID-19 hospitalizations peaked in both Georgia and DeKalb County.



Data: COVID-19 hospitalization discharge rate (per 100,000) by year, DeKalb County and Georgia, 2020-2023.

Source: Online Analytical Statistical Information System, Georgia Department of Public Health, 2024.

From 2020 to 2023, Black DeKalb residents experienced a much greater burden of COVID-19-related hospitalization than those of other races.



Data: COVID-19 hospitalization discharge rate (per 100,000) by race, DeKalb County, 2020-2023.

Quick Facts

From 2022-2023 in DeKalb County:

- COVID-19 was the 5th highest cause of death.
- Male residents had higher rates of hospitalization than female residents.
- Persons aged 65 and older had higher rates of hospitalization than persons under age 65.
- Newborns and children aged 0-4 had more visits to the ER than those of other ages.
- Despite a huge decline in COVID-19 incidence, community spread is still prevalent and puts children and the elderly at risk.

What You Can Do



Stay up to date on your COVID-19 vaccine. Check CDC guidelines or with your healthcare provider.



Get tested when you feel sick. Common symptoms include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, and fatigue.



Take precautions when sick, including masking, good hand hygiene, and steps for cleaner air.



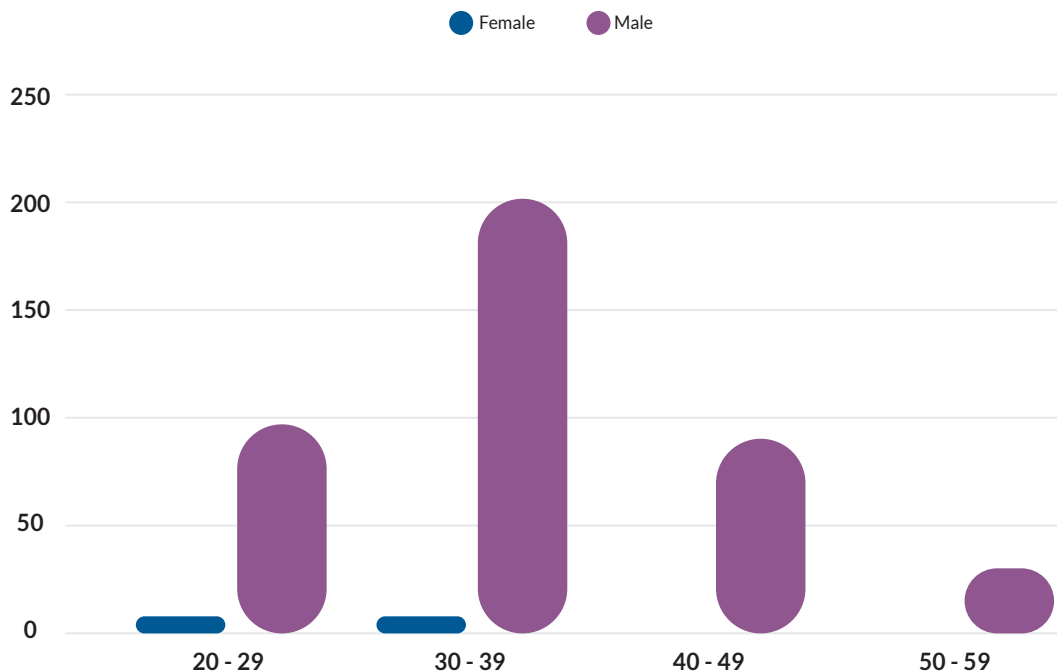
If you test positive for COVID-19, isolate until 24 hours after your symptoms have improved and fever has resolved.

MPOX

Mpox is a viral illness that's usually spread through close or intimate contact with someone with mpox or by touching items they've used. The most common symptom is lesions that can look like pimples or blisters and may be painful or itchy. Other symptoms include fever, chills, body aches, swollen lymph nodes, fatigue, and respiratory problems.

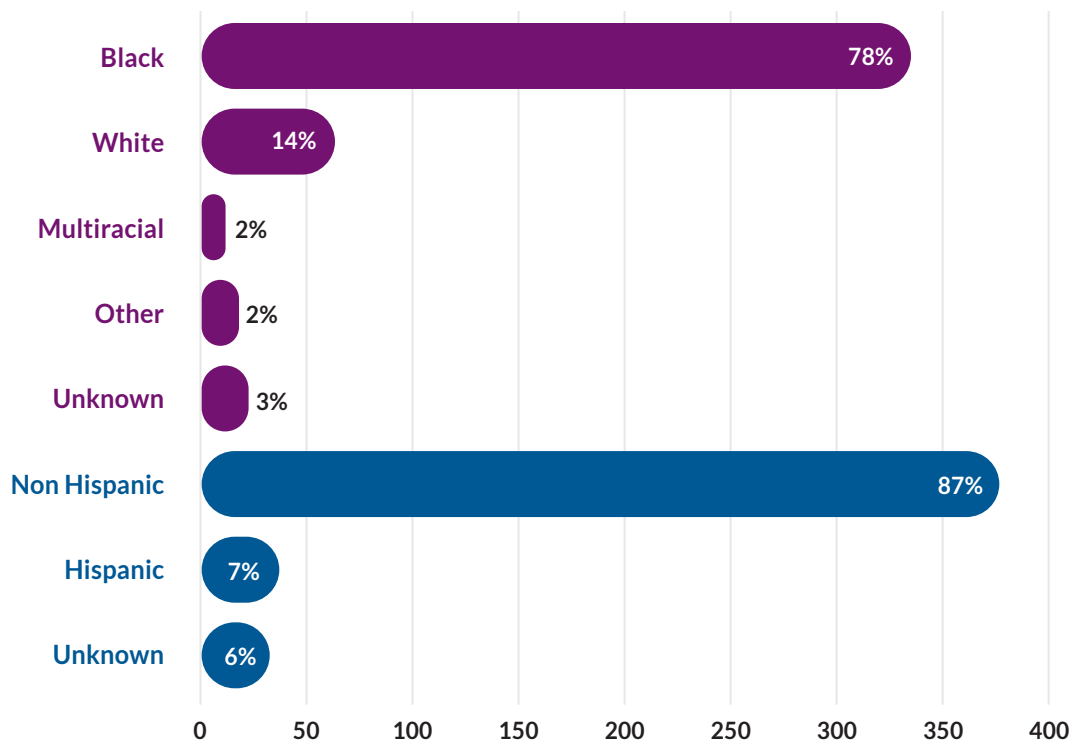
An mpox outbreak reached DeKalb County in 2022. The data shown below are for 2022-2023.

Most DeKalb County cases were among male residents in their 30s.



Data: Number of mpox cases by age group and sex, DeKalb County, 2022-2023

Most cases were among non-Hispanic Black residents.



Data: Number and percentage of mpox cases by race and ethnicity, DeKalb County, 2022-2023.

Quick Facts

From 2022-2023 in DeKalb County:

- There were 430 confirmed or probable mpox cases.
- Almost half of the cases (48%) were among HIV-positive individuals.
- Half of the cases (50%) were among individuals who had a recent male partner.

What You Can Do



Discuss mpox vaccination with a healthcare provider.



Avoid close contact with people who have mpox lesions.



If you have symptoms, wear a mask, cover all lesions, and contact a healthcare provider to discuss testing and treatment.

VACCINE- PREVENTABLE DISEASES



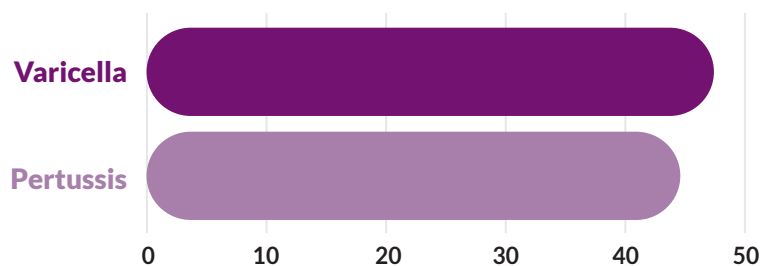
Vaccine-preventable diseases are diseases that can be protected against with an immunization. They include:

- Diphtheria
- *Haemophilus influenzae* - Type B (Hib) only
- Measles
- Mumps
- *Neisseria meningitidis* (Meningococcal Disease)
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
- Rubella (German Measles)
- *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (not all types)
- Tetanus
- Varicella (Chickenpox)

This section presents data for DeKalb County from 2018-2023.

Varicella and Pertussis

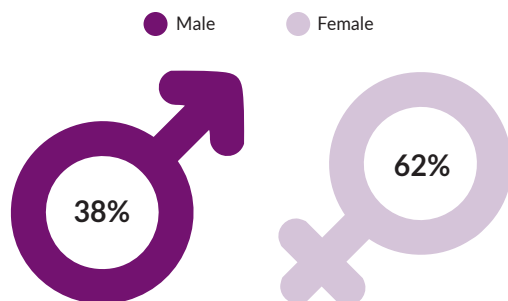
**Varicella and pertussis were the most common vaccine-preventable diseases.
There was a total of 92 confirmed cases.**



Data: Number of confirmed varicella and pertussis cases, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

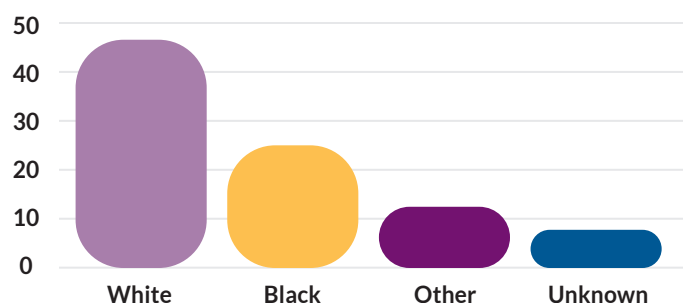
Demographics

**The majority of varicella and pertussis cases
were among female residents.**



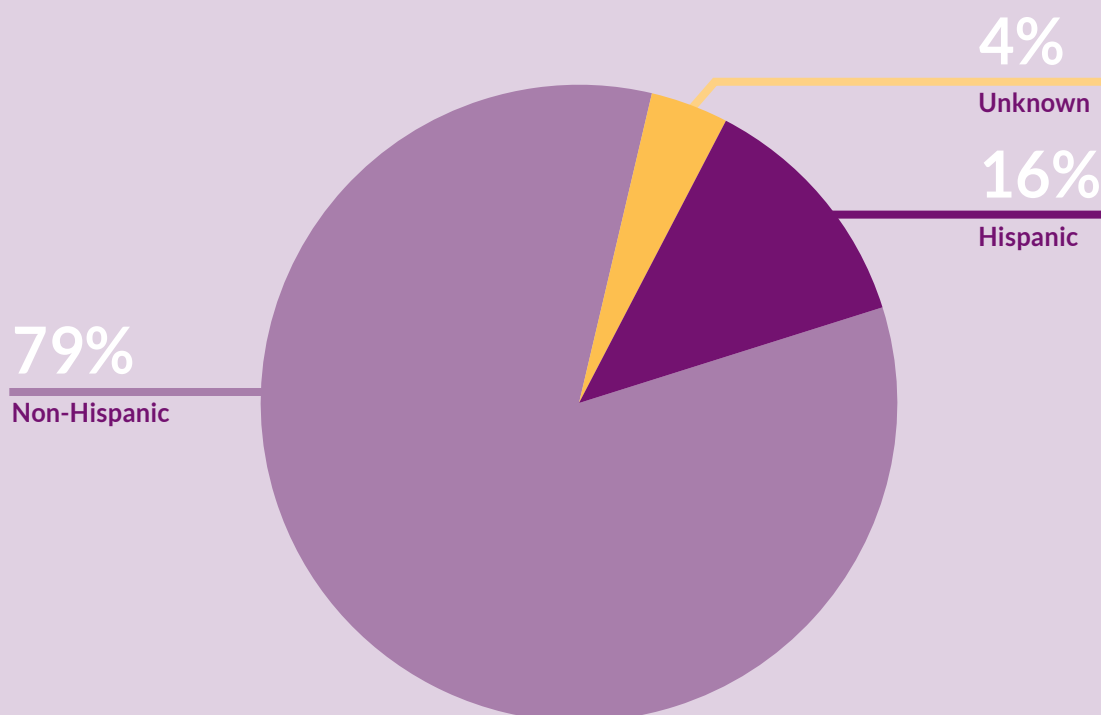
Data: Percentage of confirmed varicella and pertussis cases by sex, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

**About half (49%) of the varicella and pertussis cases
were among White residents.**



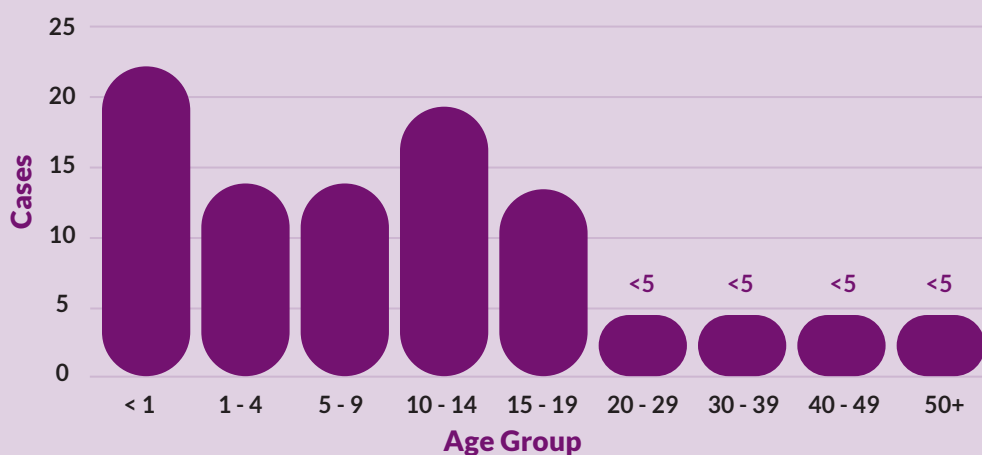
Data: Number of confirmed varicella and pertussis cases by race, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Hispanic residents made up 16% of the varicella and pertussis cases.



Data: Percentage of confirmed varicella and pertussis cases by ethnicity, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Individuals age 19 and under made up 87% of the pertussis and varicella cases.



Data: Number of confirmed varicella and pertussis cases by age group, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

What You Can Do



Get immunized against vaccine-preventable diseases.



If you're sick, stay home and away from others to prevent spreading the disease.



Stay up to date on vaccines. Some vaccines become less effective over time, so require boosters to continue working.

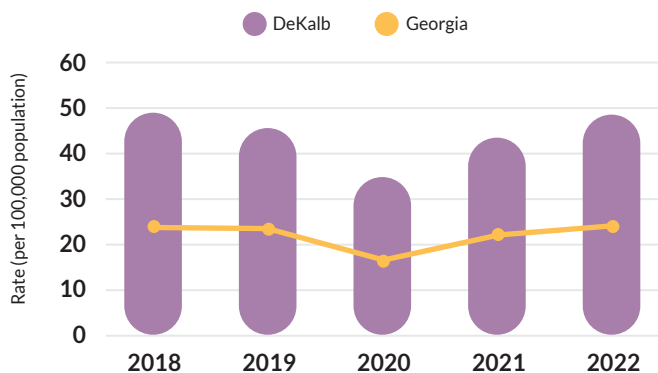
HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV)



Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is a virus that attacks the body's immune system. If not treated, HIV can develop into a condition known as acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). Although HIV cannot be eliminated, individuals can suppress the virus by using antiretroviral therapy.

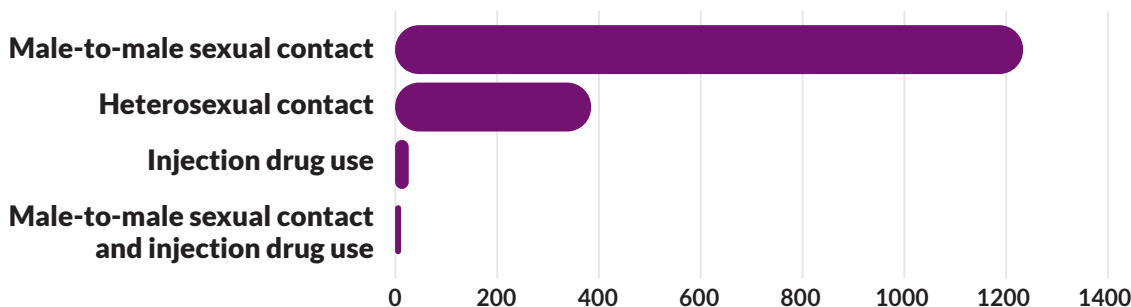
The data below are for 2018-2022.

DeKalb County's HIV rate consistently exceeded Georgia's.



Data: Rate of HIV cases, DeKalb County and Georgia, 2018-2022.

Male-to-male sexual contact was the most common HIV transmission type in DeKalb County.



Note: There was not enough data to report on cases with no risk identified or reported.
Data: Number of HIV cases by transmission type, DeKalb County, 2018-2022.

Demographics

Residents aged 18-34 had the highest rate of HIV.

Across cisgender and transgender residents, cisgender men had the highest percentage of HIV cases.

Among all races, the highest percentage of cases was among Black residents.

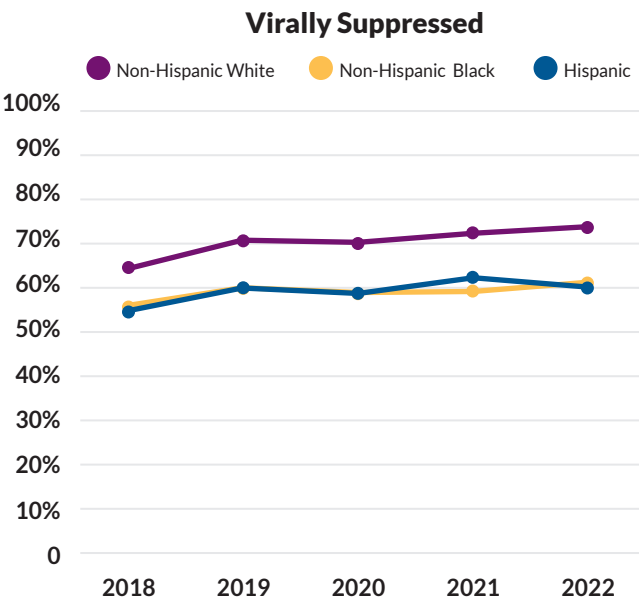
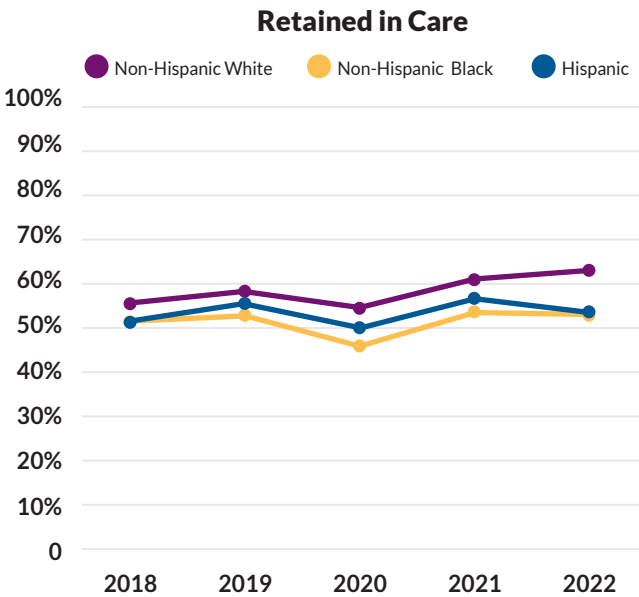
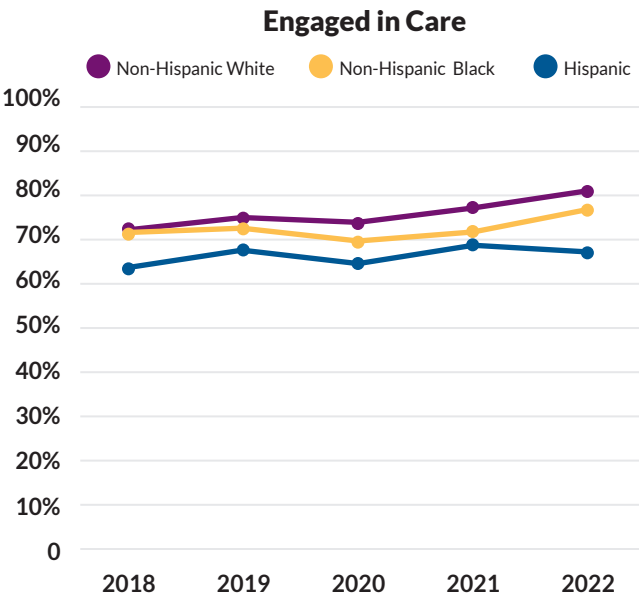
HIV Care Continuum

The HIV Care Continuum is used to evaluate care and treatment success based on three targets.

The targets are:

- **Engaged in care:** Individual completed one HIV clinic visit per year.
- **Retained in care:** Individual completed two HIV clinic visits per year.
- **Virally suppressed:** Of the individuals retained in care, those with an HIV viral load of <200 copies of virus/ml of blood.

The percentage of DeKalb residents with HIV who met all three HIV Care Continuum targets increased among non-Hispanic White, non-Hispanic Black, and Hispanic residents.



Data: Percentage of individuals meeting HIV Care Continuum targets, DeKalb County, 2018-2022.

Source: HIV Epidemiology Section, Georgia Department of Public Health, 2025.

What You Can Do



Stay educated on HIV.



Get tested for HIV.



Use a condom during sex.

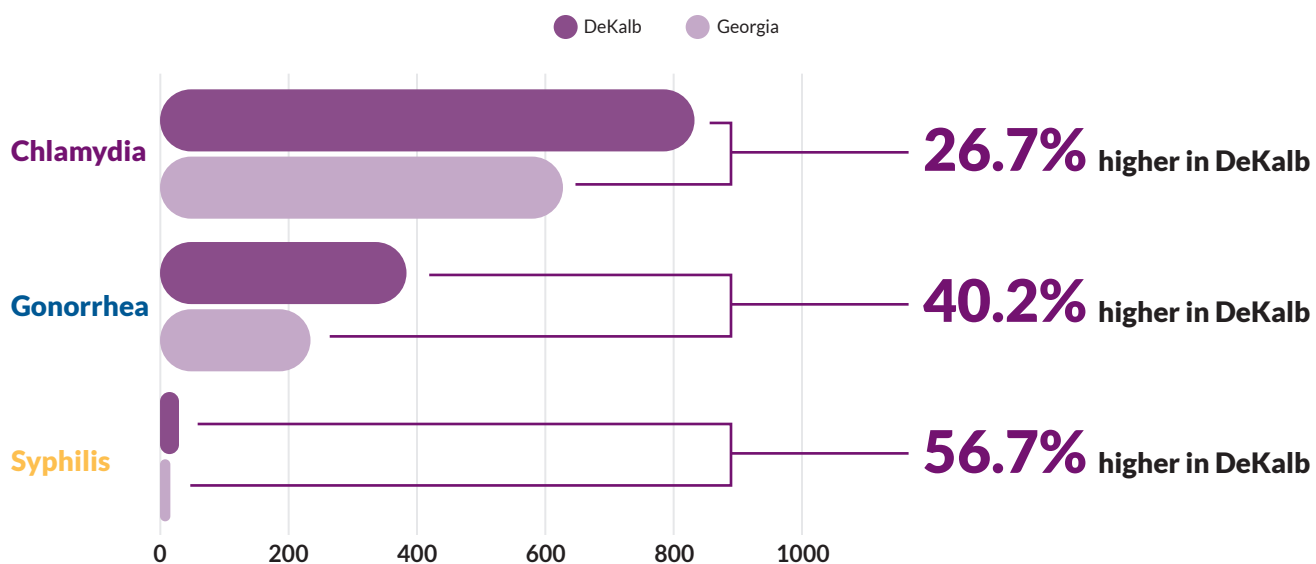
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES



Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are spread from person to person through sexual contact. Some diseases can also be passed from mother to baby in the womb or during vaginal childbirth. This chapter presents 2018-2023 data on three common STDs: chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis.

In this section, syphilis refers to primary and secondary syphilis, unless otherwise specified.

DeKalb County's rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis were higher than Georgia's.



Trends in STD rates among DeKalb residents showed a...

▲ 9.7%
net increase in
chlamydia.

▲ 42.7%
net increase in
gonorrhea.

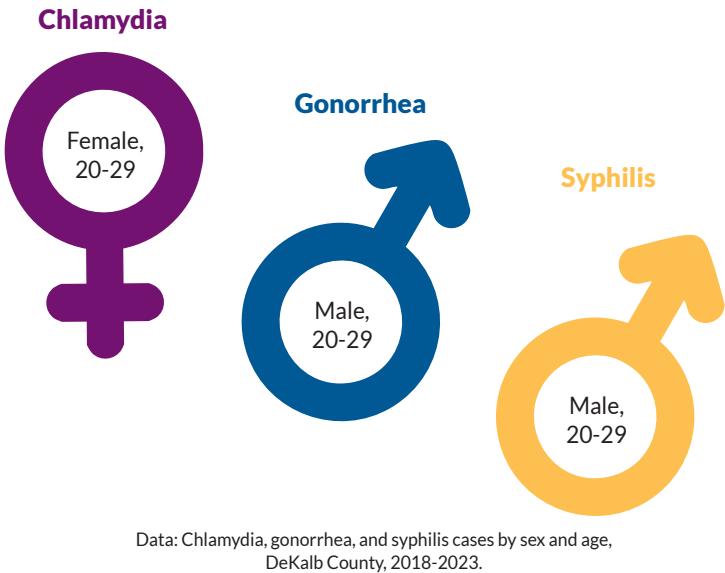
▼ 27.7%
net decrease in
syphilis.

Data: Age-adjusted rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

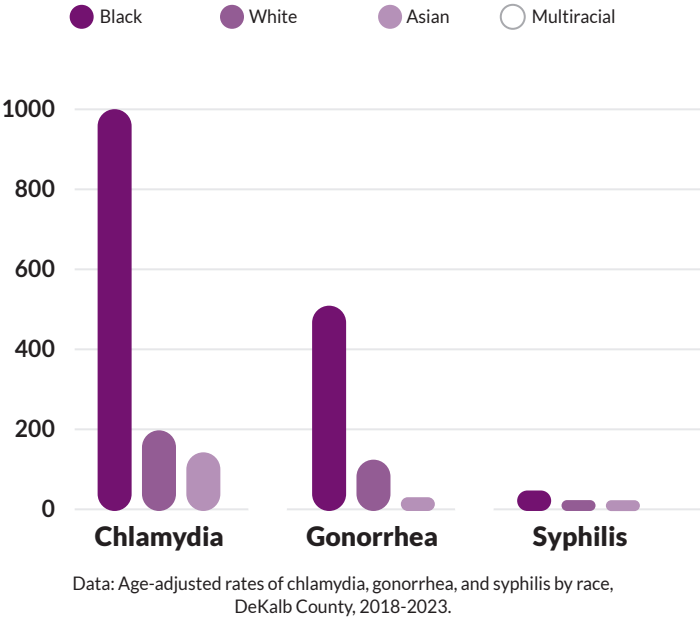
Source: Online Analytical Statistical Information System, Georgia Department of Public Health, 2024.

Demographics

Individuals aged 20-29 had the highest percentage of cases for each STD.



Black residents had the highest rates of each STD.

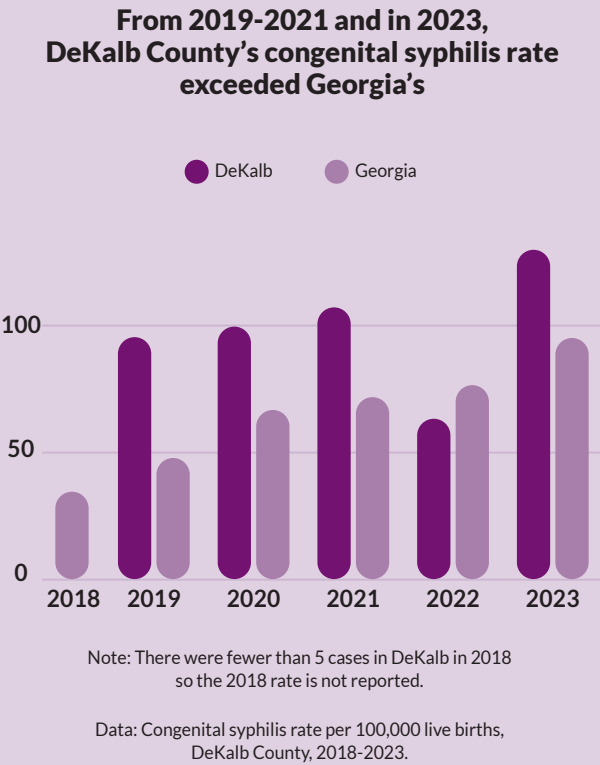


Hispanic residents had lower STD rates than non-Hispanic residents.

Source: Online Analytical Statistical Information System, Georgia Department of Public Health, 2024.

Congenital Syphilis

Congenital syphilis occurs when a mother with syphilis passes it to their baby during pregnancy or birth.



What You Can Do

- Stay educated on STDs.
- Get tested for STDs.
- Wear a condom during sex.

TUBERCULOSIS



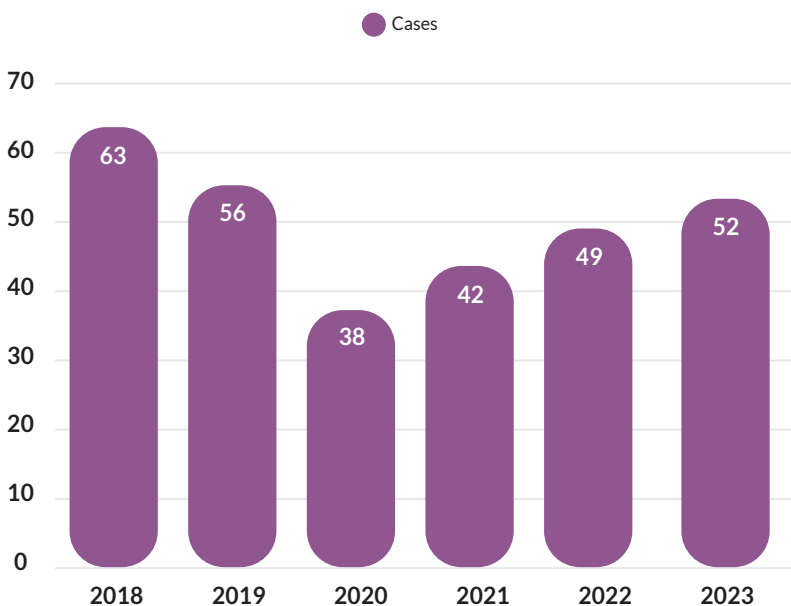
Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The germs primarily affect the lungs but can also infect other parts of the body. TB in the lungs can be spread through the air by coughing, sneezing, speaking, or singing.

There are two types of TB cases:

- **Active:** Individual has symptoms and can transmit bacteria to others.
- **Latent:** Individual does not have symptoms and poses no transmission risk. If untreated, latent TB can progress to active TB.

The data below are for DeKalb County from 2018-2023.

There was a total of 300 reported cases of TB.



Data: Number of tuberculosis cases by year, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Of the high-risk populations, the largest increase in the number of infections was among individuals who are HIV-positive.



Note: HIV status is not reported for all TB cases.

Data: Trends among populations at high risk for tuberculosis, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Of the high-risk populations, the majority of cases were among foreign-born individuals.

11.4%

Substance Use

0.3%

Long-term Care Residents

1.7%

Correctional Inmates

4.9%

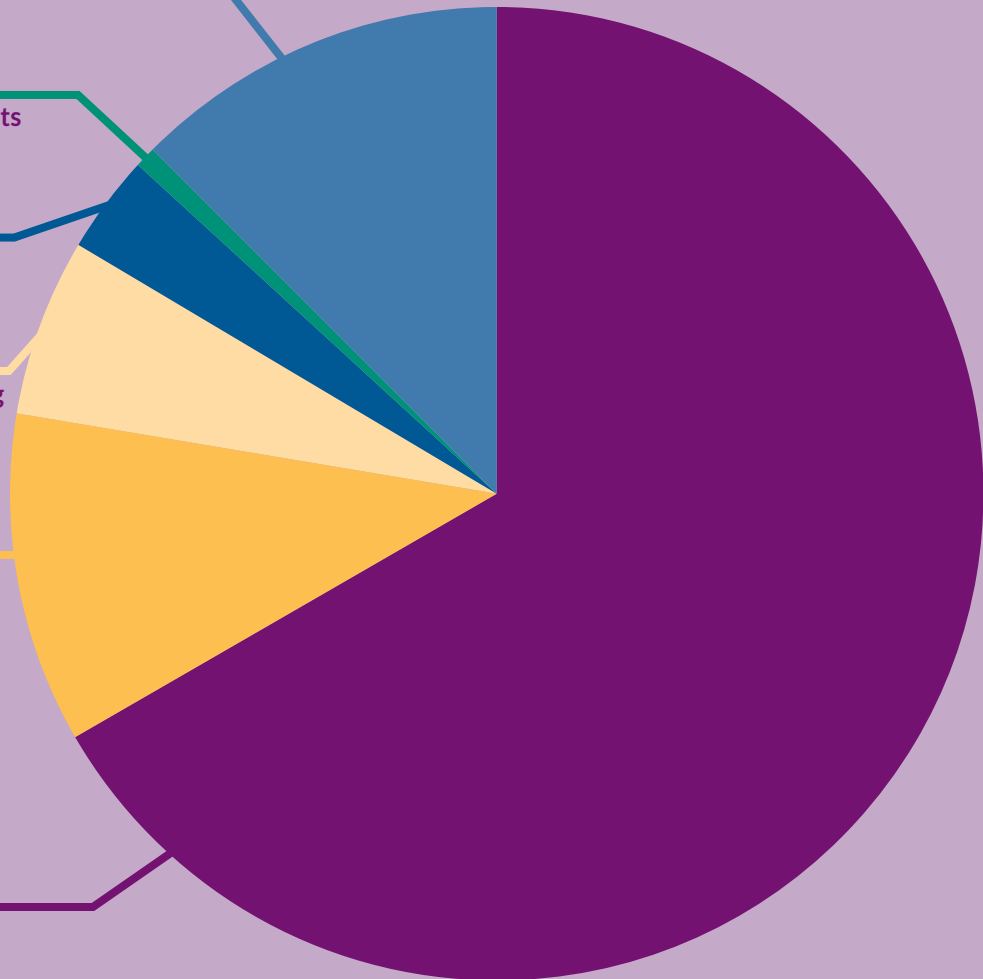
Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

10.3%

HIV Positive

60.9%

Foreign-born



Note: HIV status is not reported for all TB cases.

Data: Percentage of tuberculosis cases among high-risk populations, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Quick Facts

- In 2023, DeKalb County reported the highest number of tuberculosis cases in Georgia, with a total of 52 cases—the most of any county in the state.
- In Georgia, from 2018 to 2023, the number of reported TB cases had a net decrease of 9.2%.
- Newborns and children aged 0-4 had more visits to the ER than those of other ages.

What You Can Do



If you're in a high-risk group for TB, get tested regularly.



If you're diagnosed with active or latent TB, begin treatment right away.

Source: Tuberculosis Program, Georgia Department of Public Health, 2024.

OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES



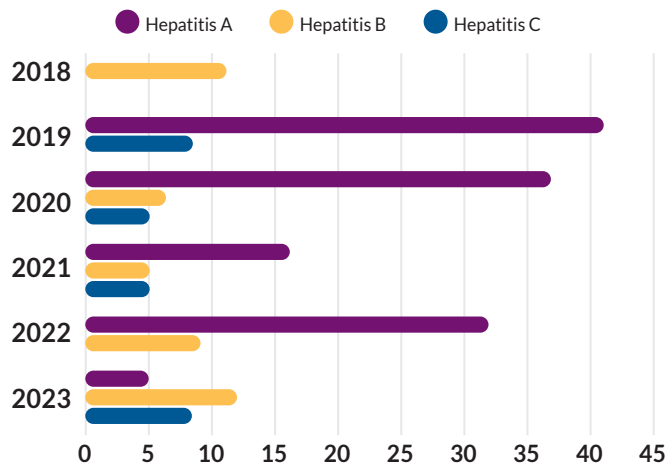
Hepatitis

Hepatitis is inflammation of the liver, caused by a group of viruses. The three most common types of hepatitis are A, B, and C.

Infections can be either acute or chronic. Acute hepatitis is a short-term illness that occurs within the first six months of exposure to the virus, while chronic hepatitis lasts at least 6 months. Acute hepatitis A infection does not develop into chronic infection, but hepatitis B and C can become chronic.

The data below are for DeKalb County for 2018-2023.

Hepatitis A was the most common type of acute hepatitis.

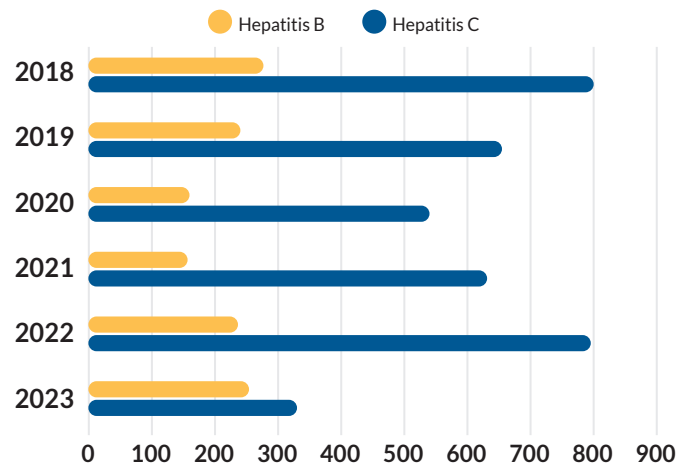


Note(s): Years with <5 cases are not shown.

There was a national rise in hepatitis A cases in 2018-2023 due to a person-to-person outbreak that affected 38 states, including Georgia. DeKalb County saw a large increase in cases starting in 2019. The outbreak was declared over in Georgia in March 2023.

Data: Number of confirmed cases of acute hepatitis A, B, and C, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Hepatitis C was the most common form of chronic hepatitis.



Data: Number of confirmed cases of chronic hepatitis B and C, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Source: State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System, Georgia Department of Public Health., 2024.

Quick Facts

- DeKalb County's rates of all types of acute hepatitis were lower than Georgia's.
- DeKalb County's rate of chronic hepatitis B exceeded Georgia's, while the county's rate of chronic hepatitis C was lower than Georgia's.

What You Can Do



Have children vaccinated against hepatitis A and B. There is no vaccine to prevent hepatitis C.

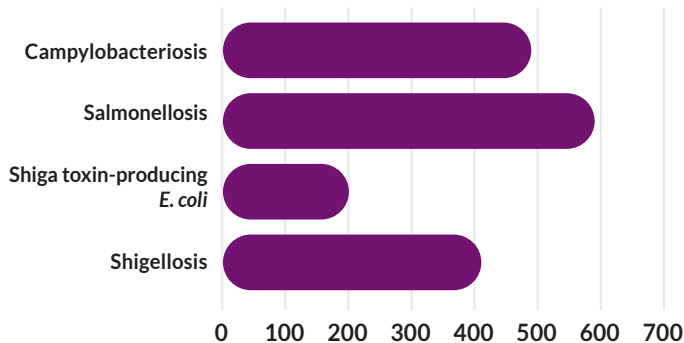


Get screened for hepatitis C if you're an adult or pregnant.

Gastrointestinal Illnesses

Gastrointestinal illnesses are caused by organisms that enter the body through the mouth or intestinal tract. They're usually spread through contaminated food or water or by contact with an infected person's vomitus or feces.

From 2018-2023, salmonellosis was the most common type of gastrointestinal illness.



Data: Number of cases of campylobacteriosis, salmonellosis, shiga toxin-producing *E. coli*, and shigellosis, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Quick Facts

- Many gastrointestinal illnesses go unreported. Cases are reported only when confirmed by a laboratory stool test, which is not done for every illness.
- From 2018-2023, DeKalb County's rates of campylobacteriosis and salmonellosis were lower than Georgia's. The county's rates of shiga-toxin producing *E. coli* and shigellosis were greater than the state's.

What You Can Do



Wash hands properly.



Stay hydrated and only consume safe water and food.

Invasive Bacterial Diseases

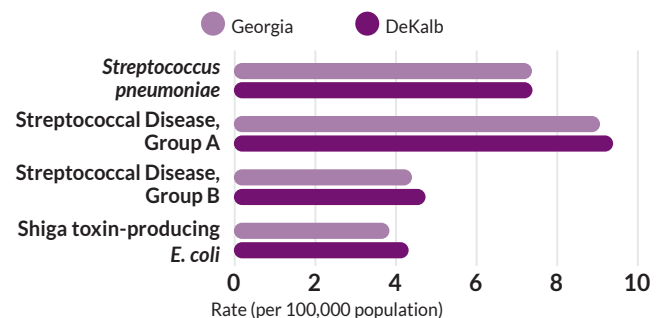
Invasive bacterial diseases are caused by bacteria that invade parts of the body that are normally free from germs, like blood.

These diseases include:

- Pneumococcal diseases are caused by the *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacterium. Examples: ear infections, meningitis.
- Streptococcal Group A diseases are caused by group A *Streptococcus* bacteria. Examples: strep throat, scarlet fever, impetigo.
- Streptococcal Group B diseases are caused by group B *Streptococcus* bacteria. Examples: blood-stream infections, skin and soft-tissue infections, bone and joint infections.
- Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* is a type of *E. coli* bacteria that can cause severe illness. Examples: diarrhea, vomiting.

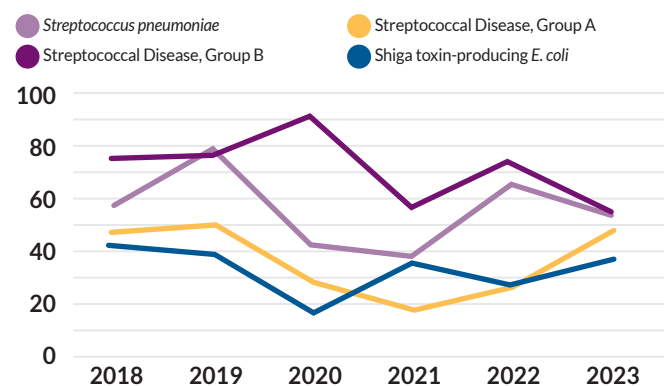
Source: State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System, Georgia Department of Public Health. 2024.

From 2018-2023, DeKalb County's rates of streptococcal disease groups A and B and shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* were higher than Georgia's.



Data: Rates of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, streptococcal disease Groups A and B, and shiga toxin-producing *E. coli*, DeKalb County and Georgia, 2018-2023.

From 2018-2023, there was a net decrease in the number of cases of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, streptococcal disease Group B, and shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* in DeKalb County.



Data: Number of cases of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, streptococcal disease Groups A and B, and shiga toxin-producing *E. coli*, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.



INJURIES

A photograph of a severely damaged white car on a city street. The car's front end is crushed, and its hood is crumpled. In the background, there are multi-story brick buildings and other parked cars. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. On the left side, there is a large, white, circular graphic element that partially obscures the car and the background.

Injuries cause suffering, disability, and death, but they are often overlooked as a public health issue.

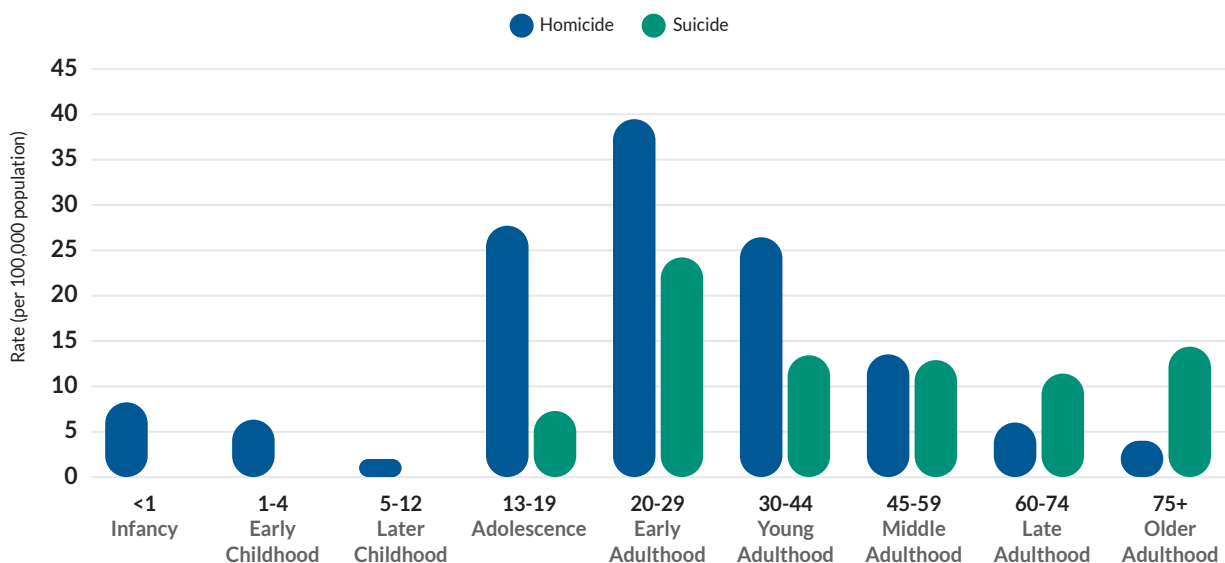
INTENTIONAL INJURIES



Intentional injuries are meant to cause harm to another person or oneself. The intentional injuries that cause death are homicide and suicide. The most common intentional injury types that cause hospitalization are assault and self-harm.

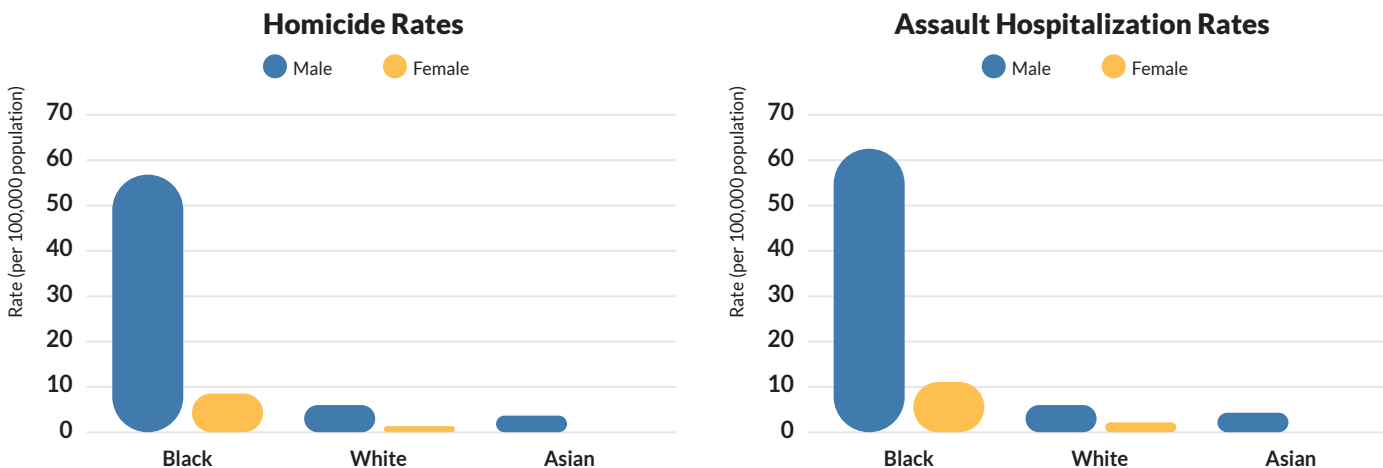
The data below are from 2018-2023.

The death rates due to homicide and suicide were highest among adults in their 20s.



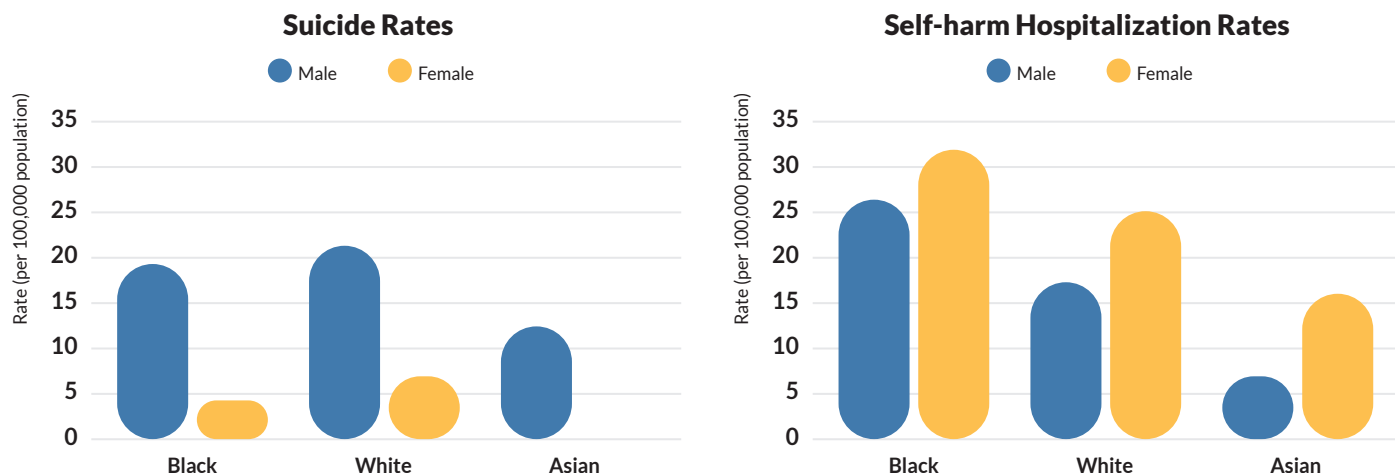
Data: Death rate due to homicide and suicide by age group, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Homicide and assault hospitalization rates were highest among Black males residents.



Data: Homicide and assault hospitalization rates by race, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Death rates from suicide were highest among White male residents, while hospitalization rates due to self-harm were highest among Black female residents.



Note: There were <5 suicide deaths among Asian female residents, so no rate is shown.
Data: Suicide and self-harm hospitalization rates by race and sex, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

From 2018-2023, trends in intentional injury rates showed a...



Quick Facts

- Suicide rates were highest among White male residents, while hospitalization rates for self-harm were highest among Black female residents. However, both groups saw a decrease in these rates from 2018 to 2023.
- Suicide rates were highest among adults in their 20s, while hospitalization rates for self-harm were highest among teenagers.
- Homicide and assault hospitalization rates among teenagers decreased from 2018 to 2023.

What You Can Do



Learn about and practice conflict resolution.



Practice safe dating and healthy relationship habits.



Promote firearm safety.



Look for suicide warning signs, such as talking of desire to hurt or kill oneself, increasing alcohol or drug use, feeling hopeless, and withdrawing from friends and family. Call the 24/7 suicide hotline at 988 when needed.

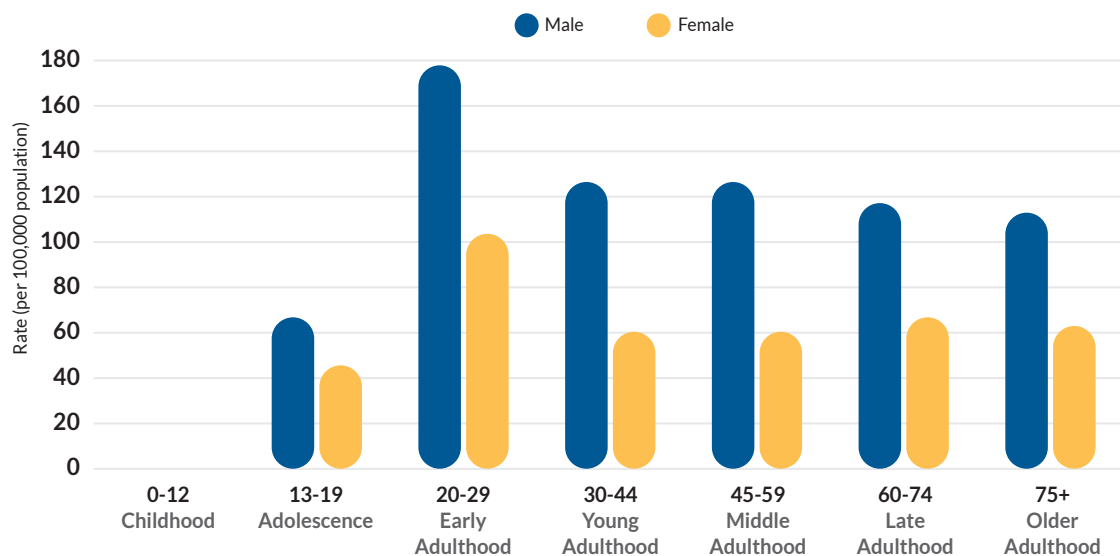
UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES



Unintentional injuries are unplanned, and many are preventable. The most common types of unintentional injuries in DeKalb County are motor vehicle crashes and falls.

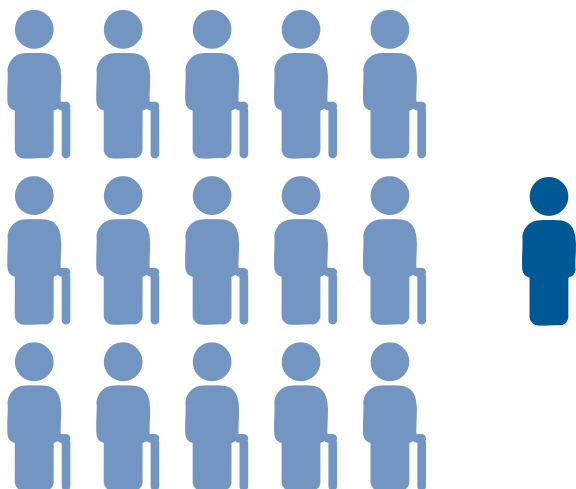
The data below are for DeKalb County from 2018-2023.

Hospitalization rates due to motor vehicle crashes were highest among male residents in their 20s.

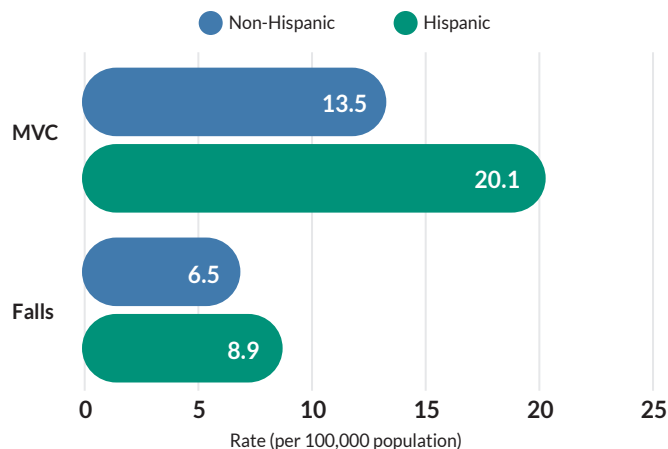


Data: Hospitalization rate due to motor vehicle crashes by age group and sex, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

The hospitalization rate due to falls among those 65 and older was 15 times higher than among those younger than 65.

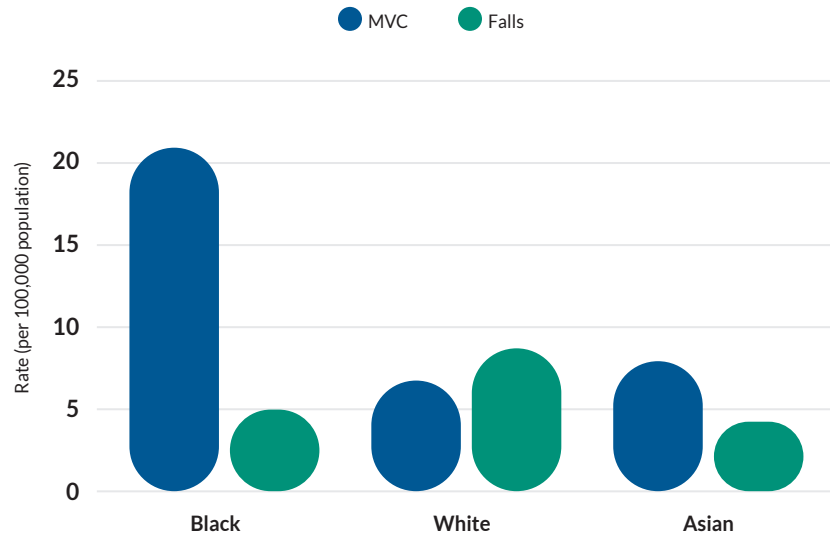


The death rates due to motor vehicle crashes (MVC) and falls were higher among Hispanic residents than among non-Hispanic residents.



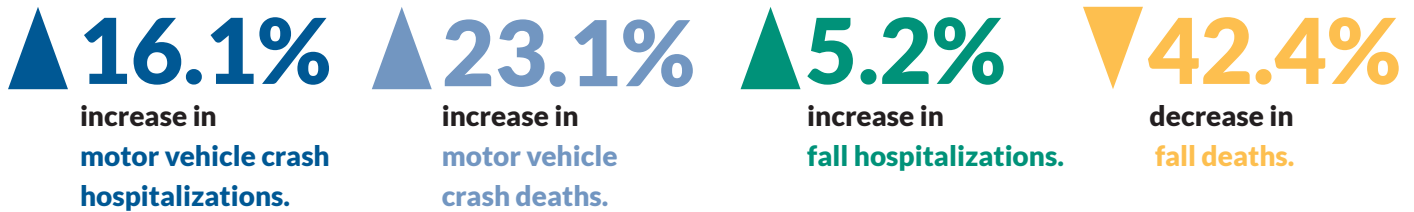
Data: Death rate due to motor vehicle crashes and falls by ethnicity, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

The death rate due to motor vehicle crashes was highest among Black residents, while the death rate due to falls was highest among White residents.



Data: Death rate due to motor vehicle crashes and falls by race, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

From 2018-2023, trends in unintentional injury rates showed a...



Quick Facts

- The hospitalization rate due motor vehicle crashes was highest among Hispanic residents and Black residents.
- The hospitalization rate due to falls was highest among Hispanic residents and White residents.
- Death and hospitalization rates due to falls were highest among male residents and adults 65 years old and older.

What You Can Do



To promote motor vehicle safety:

- Drive only when sober and alert.
- Do not text or use a cell phone while driving.
- Wear a seat belt to prevent injury and fatality in a crash.



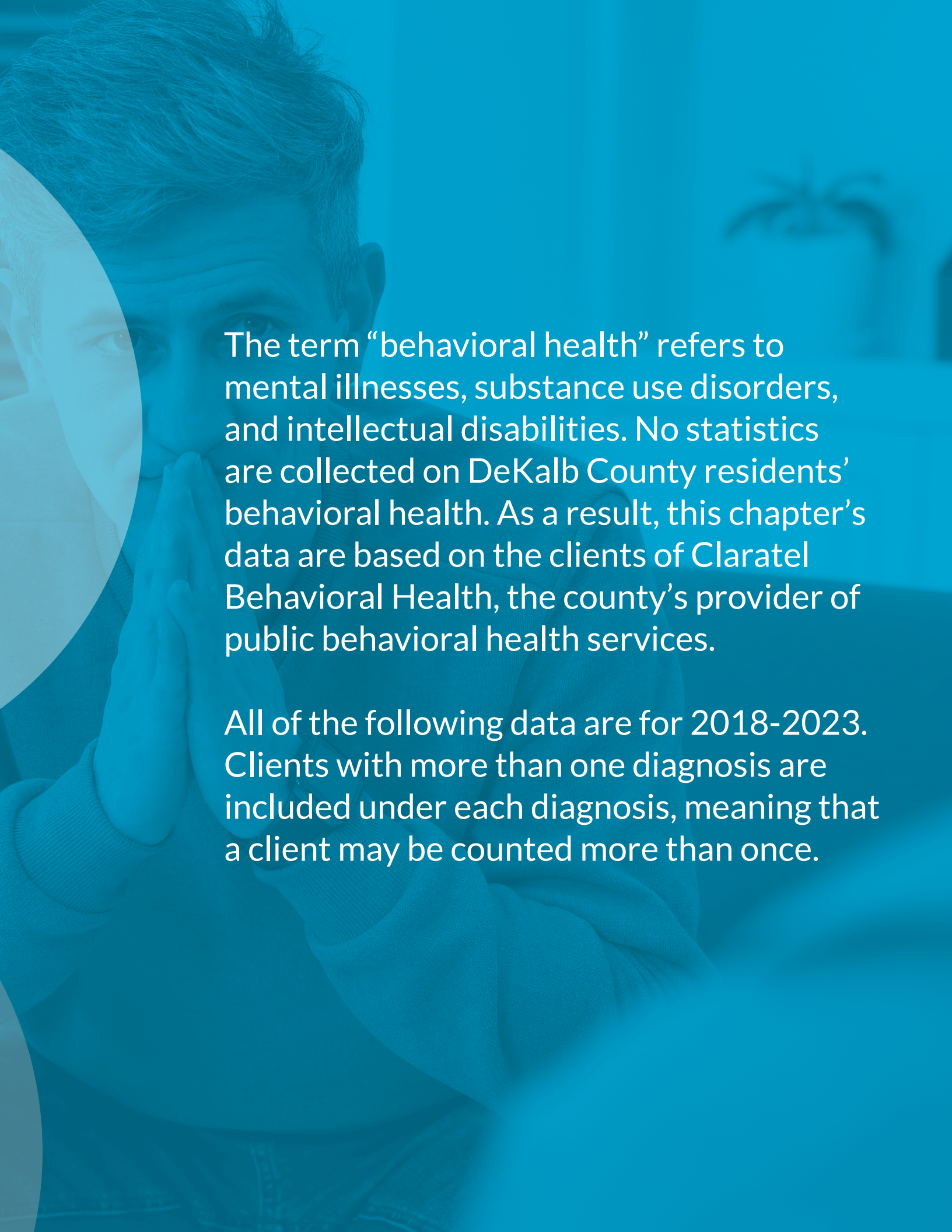
To prevent falls:

- Increase physical activity.
- Improve home safety.
- Use assistive devices.

Source: Online Analytical Statistical Information System, Georgia Department of Public Health, 2025.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



The term “behavioral health” refers to mental illnesses, substance use disorders, and intellectual disabilities. No statistics are collected on DeKalb County residents’ behavioral health. As a result, this chapter’s data are based on the clients of Claratel Behavioral Health, the county’s provider of public behavioral health services.

All of the following data are for 2018-2023. Clients with more than one diagnosis are included under each diagnosis, meaning that a client may be counted more than once.

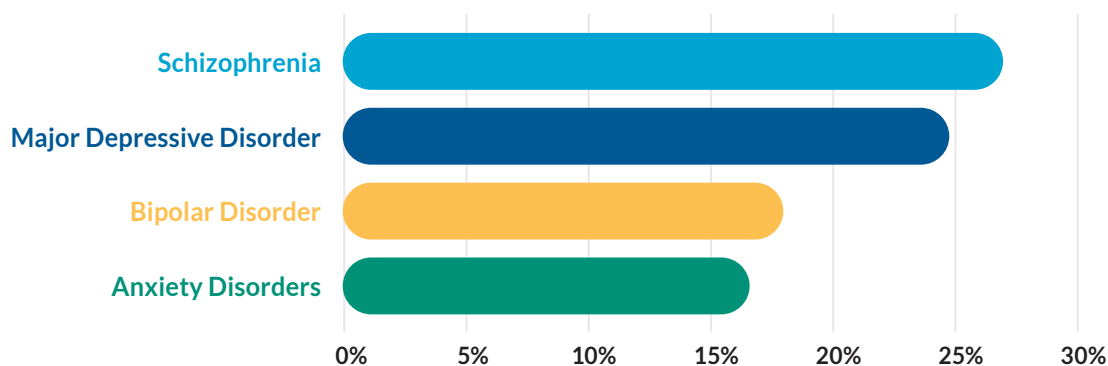
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



Mental Illnesses

Mental illnesses are disorders that affect a person's thinking, mood, and/or behavior and range from mild to severe. From 2018-2023, Claratel served 30,862 clients with an average of 5,143 clients per year.

The most common diagnosis was schizophrenia.



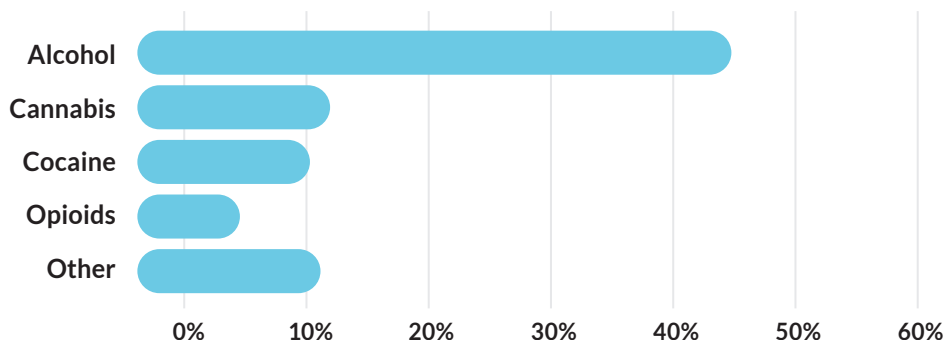
Data: Percentage of mental health clients by diagnosis, Claratel Behavioral Health, 2018-2023.

Substance Use Disorders

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines substance use disorder as the use of selected substances, including alcohol, tobacco products, illicit drugs, inhalants, and other substances that can be consumed, inhaled, injected, or otherwise absorbed into the body with possible dependence and other detrimental effects.

From 2018-2023, Claratel served 4,922 clients with an average of 820 clients per year.

Alcohol abuse was the most common diagnosis.



Data: Percentage of substance use disorder clients by substance type, Claratel Behavioral Health, 2018-2023.

Crisis Services

A crisis can refer to a critical situation that requires immediate attention, including mental health or emergencies. Crisis centers are an alternative to hospitalization. Claratel's DeKalb Regional Crisis Center is a 36-bed, short-term, residential treatment facility and is the only crisis center in DeKalb County.

Quick Facts

- Among mental health clients:
 - There was a 65.7% increase in clients aged 0-17.
 - There was a 23.2% increase in clients with depressive episode disorder.
- About four in ten (41.9%) of all substance use disorder clients also had a mental disorder diagnosis.
- Among the substance use disorder clients, 66.8% were uninsured and fewer than 10% had private insurance.
- Among the crisis center clients:
 - There was an 11.6% increase.
 - 59.8% had a substance use disorder.
 - 51.4% were people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.
 - 75.2% were uninsured.

What You Can Do



Learn about the early warning signs of mental illness, such as eating or sleeping too much or too little and pulling away from people and usual activities. These are also warning signs of a substance use disorder.



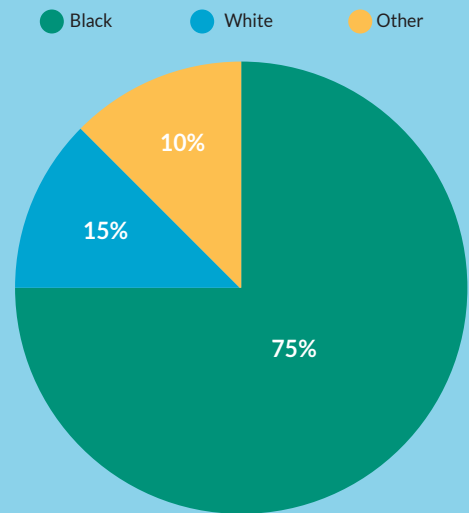
[https://](https://claratel.org)

Find out about Claratel Behavioral Health's services by visiting claratel.org or call (404) 892-4646.

Sources: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health; Claratel Behavioral Health, 2025.

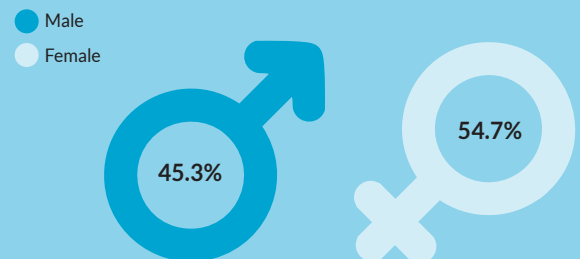
Demographics

About three-fourths of mental health clients were Black.



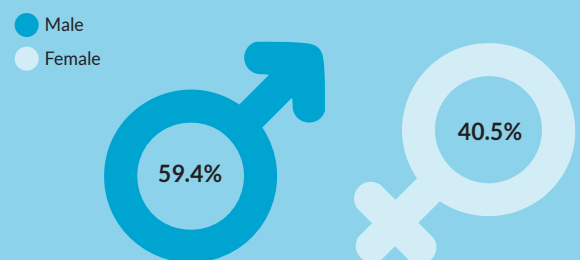
Data: Percentage of mental health clients by race, Claratel Behavioral Health, 2018-2023.

There were slightly more female mental health clients than male clients.



Data: Percentage of mental health clients by sex, Claratel Behavioral Health, 2018-2023.


There were more male substance use disorder clients than female clients.



Data: Percentage of substance use disorder clients by sex, Claratel Behavioral Health, 2018-2023.

The background is a solid teal color. It features several large, semi-transparent geometric shapes: a dark teal square in the top left, a light teal square in the top right, a light teal square in the bottom left, and a light teal square in the bottom right. A faint, semi-transparent image of a green plant with long, thin leaves is visible in the lower right quadrant.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

A photograph of a woman with curly hair holding a baby, overlaid with a teal gradient. A white circle is visible on the left side of the image.

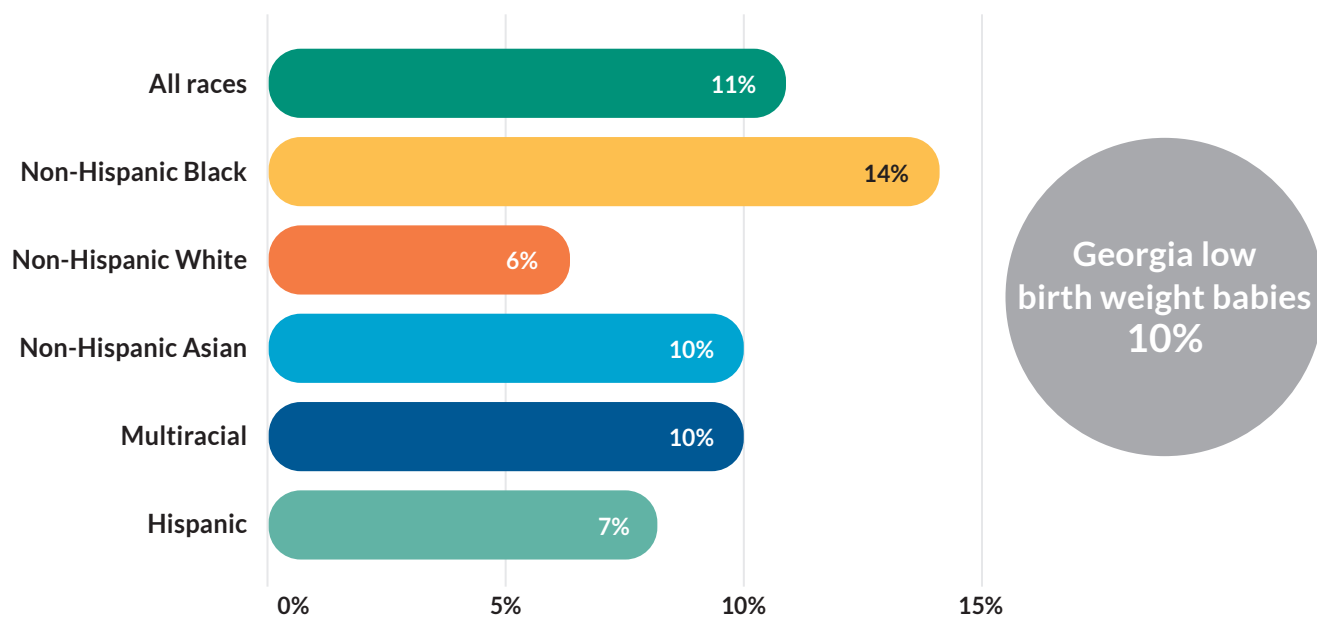
The field of maternal and child health includes the areas of pregnancy, birth, low birth weight, infant death, and breastfeeding.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH



The field of maternal and child health focuses on the health of pregnant people, new mothers, infants, and children. The well-being of these groups impacts the future of families, communities, and the health care system.

From 2018-2023, Black residents had the highest percentage of low birth weight babies.



Data: Percentage of low birth weight babies by race and ethnicity, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

From 2018-2023, there was a...

▼ **16.7%**
decrease in
fetal deaths.

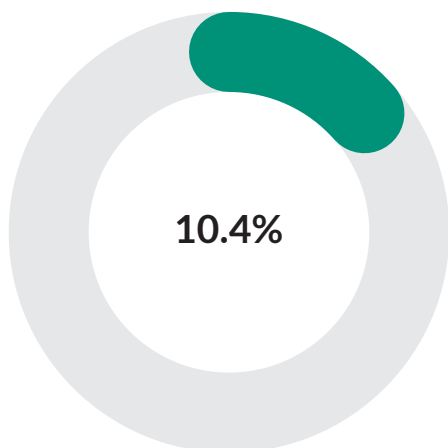
▼ **7.5%**
decrease in
infant mortality.

▼ **50.6%**
decrease in
SIDS deaths.

Data: Trends in fetal and infant deaths, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

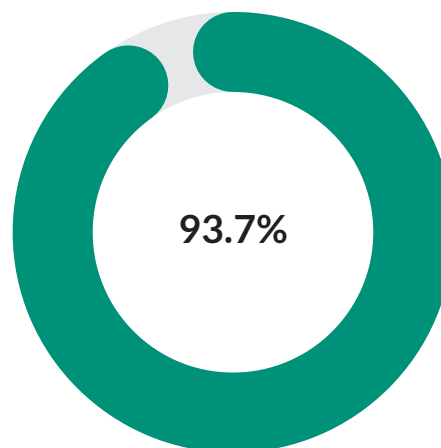
Source: Online Analytical Statistical Information System, Georgia Department of Public Health, 2024.

About one in ten mothers received no or late prenatal care.



Data: Percentage of mothers who received no or late prenatal care, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Over nine in ten newborns were breastfed.



Data: Percentage of breastfed newborns at hospital discharge, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Source: Online Analytical Statistical Information System, Georgia Department of Public Health, 2024.


Quick Facts

- From 2018 to 2021, there were 28 maternal deaths with most among Black female residents.
- From 2018 to 2023:
 - The birth rate was 40.9 live births per 1,000 female residents aged 10-55.
 - Black residents had a higher burden of fetal and infant deaths than those of other races.
 - DeKalb County residents had a higher percentage of late or no prenatal care than Georgia residents (8.5%). The percentages were even higher among DeKalb residents aged 15-17 (26.2%) and those identifying as multiracial (14.0%) or Hispanic (12.5%).
 - The percentage of breastfed newborns was higher among DeKalb County residents than among Georgia residents (82.4%).

Sources: Online Analytical Statistical Information System, Georgia Department of Public Health, 2024.
Women's Health Epidemiology Section, Georgia Department of Public Health, 2025.



REFUGEE HEALTH



A refugee, as defined by the Refugee Act of 1980, is a person who is outside of and unable or unwilling to avail himself/herself of the protection of their home country because of persecution or fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.

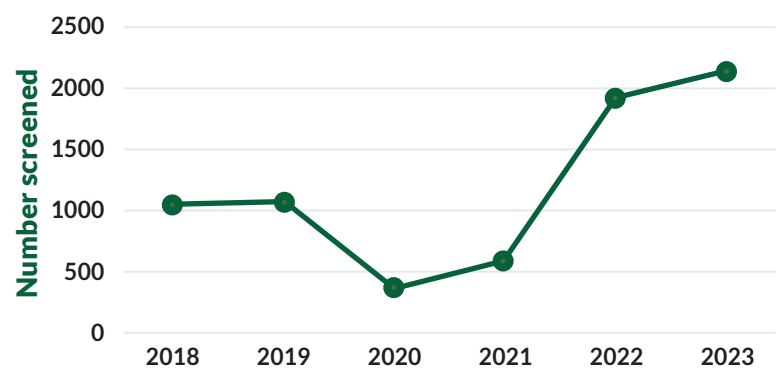
(Refugee Act of 1980)

REFUGEE HEALTH



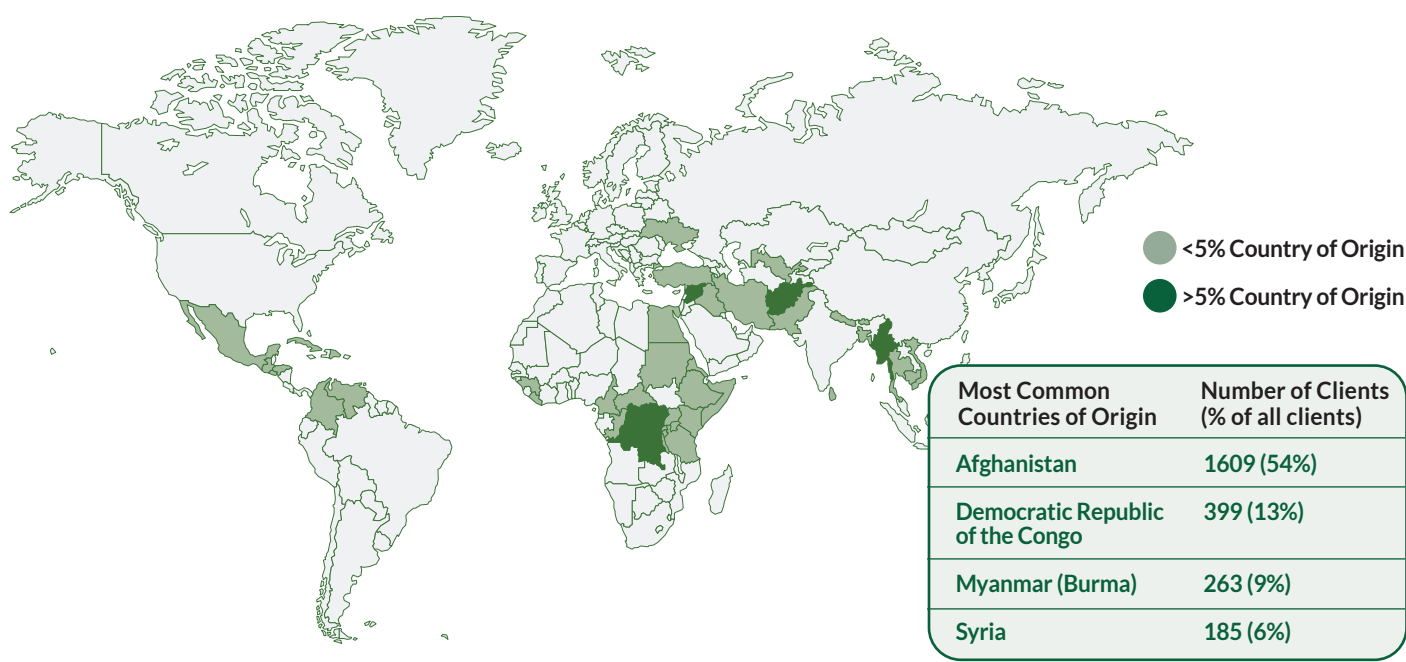
From 2018-2023, DeKalb Public Health provided physical and mental health screenings for 7,114 newly arrived refugees.

The number of refugees screened by DeKalb Public Health had a net increase from 2018 to 2023.



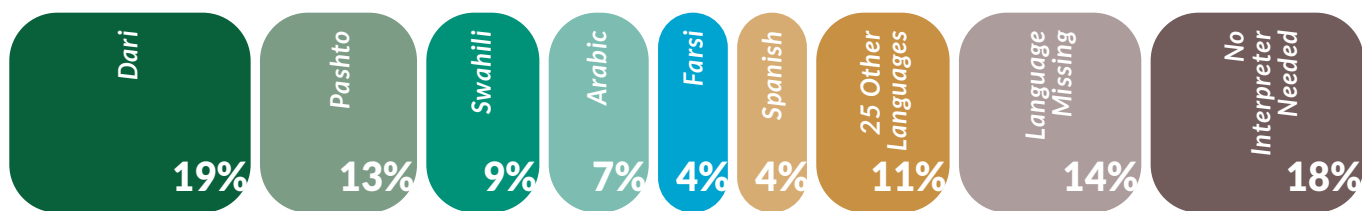
Data: Number of refugees screened by DeKalb Public Health by year, 2018-2023.

From 2020-2022, the most common country of origin was Afghanistan.



Data: Screened refugees' most common countries of origin, 2020-2022.

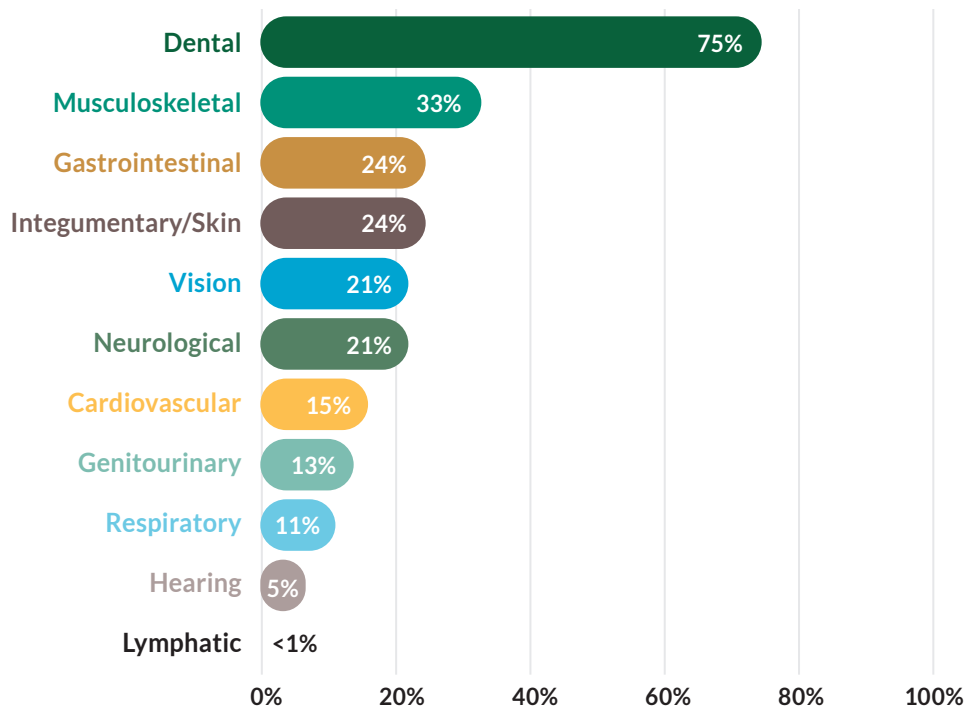
From 2020-2022, Dari was the most common language for which interpretation services were required.



Note: Percentages do not total 100 due to rounding.

Data: Percentage of screened refugees requiring interpreter by language, 2020-2022.

From 2020-2022, the most common type of concern was related to dental health.



Data: Percentage of screened refugees with specific health concerns, 2020-2022.

Source: TB-Refugee Health Program, DeKalb Public Health, 2024.

Quick Facts

- Among the refugees screened from 2020-2022:
 - They spoke a total of 31 languages.
 - 76% required an interpreter.
 - 78% had at least one physical health concern.
 - The average age was 22 years old.
 - More than half (59%) belonged to a family of at least 5 people.

Source: TB-Refugee Health Program, DeKalb Public Health, 2024.

A dentist in a white coat and mask is examining a patient's mouth with dental tools. The patient is reclined in a dental chair. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter and several white geometric shapes, including a large circle in the top right and a large rectangle in the bottom right.

ORAL HEALTH



Oral health is an important part of one's overall health. Oral diseases can both worsen other conditions and become worse due to other conditions.

ORAL HEALTH



Oral health includes not only the condition of the teeth and gums, but also of the lips, tongue, salivary glands, and throat.

The data below are for 2018-2023, unless indicated otherwise.

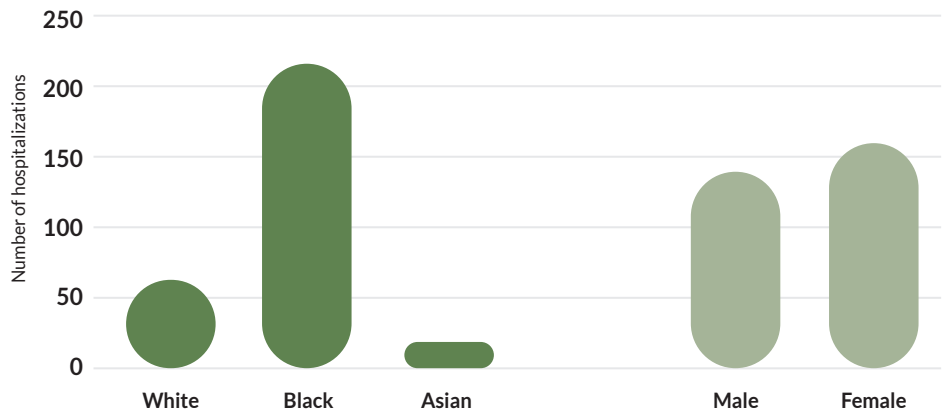
DeKalb County’s percentage of emergency room visits for dental conditions was similar to that of Georgia’s.

DeKalb: 1.4%
Georgia: 1.5%

Data: Percentage of emergency room visits for dental conditions, DeKalb County and Georgia, 2018-2023.

DeKalb County

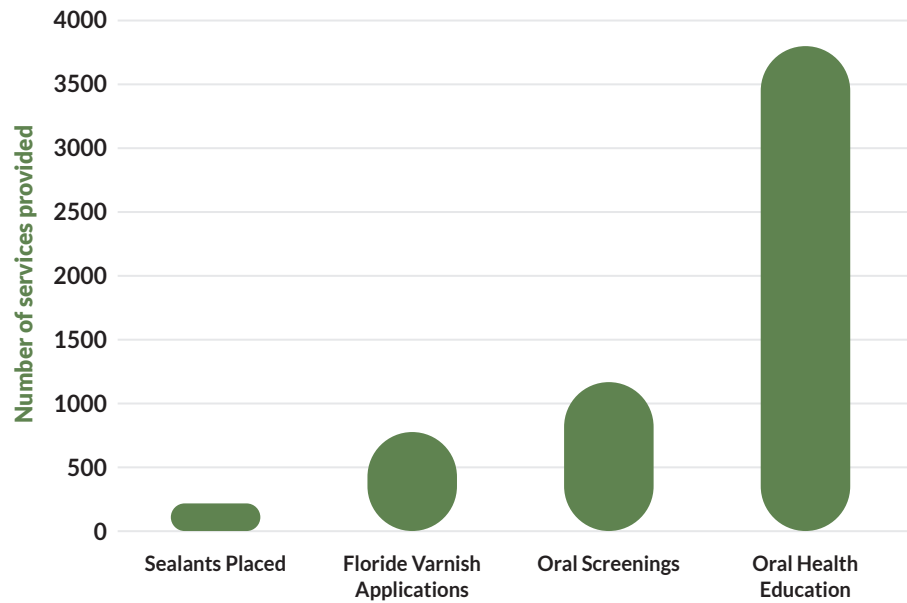
The majority of residents hospitalized for dental conditions were Black.



Data: Number of hospitalizations due to dental conditions by race and sex, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Source: Online Analytical Statistical Information System, Georgia Department of Public Health, 2025.

From 2020-2023, DeKalb Public Health's Oral Health Program provided almost 4,000 educational services.



Data: Number of oral health services by type of service, DeKalb Public Health, 2020-2023.

Source: Oral Health Program, DeKalb Public Health, 2025.

Quick Facts

- Oral health conditions were the top concern among DeKalb Public Health's Refugee Clinic's clients.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in the U.S.:
 - Children aged 6-9 from lower income households were more than two times as likely (25%) to have untreated cavities than those from higher income households (10%).
 - 1 in 5 adults (21%) aged 20-64 has at least one untreated cavity.
 - The conditions that most affect overall health and quality of life are cavities, severe gum disease, and severe tooth loss.

What You Can Do



Regularly brush and floss teeth.



Regularly attend dental check-ups.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The background of the image is a warm, orange-toned photograph of a laboratory. In the foreground, two clear plastic test tubes with black caps stand upright on a white surface. Behind them, a person wearing a white lab coat is partially visible, their hands near some equipment. The overall atmosphere is professional and scientific.

Within the scope of public health, the field of environmental health addresses the environment's impact on human health.

LEAD EXPOSURE

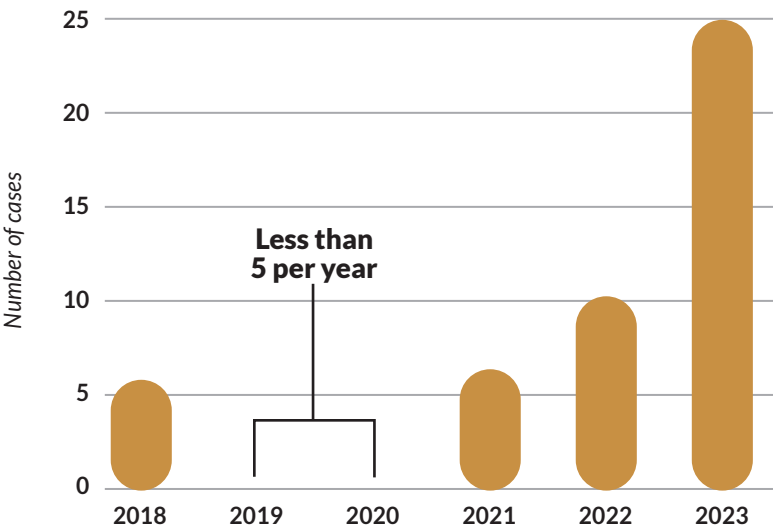
Lead is a metal that can have harmful health effects when ingested. It’s found throughout our natural and built environments.

The effects of lead exposure vary by age:

Unborn babies	Premature birth, low birth weight, miscarriage, and stillbirth
Children under 6 years old	Speech, language, and behavioral problems; low IQ; learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders; nervous system damage; coma; seizures; and death
Adults	Increased blood pressure, reproductive health problems, anemia, nervous system disorders, and memory and concentration problems

Source: Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Georgia Department of Public Health, 2025.

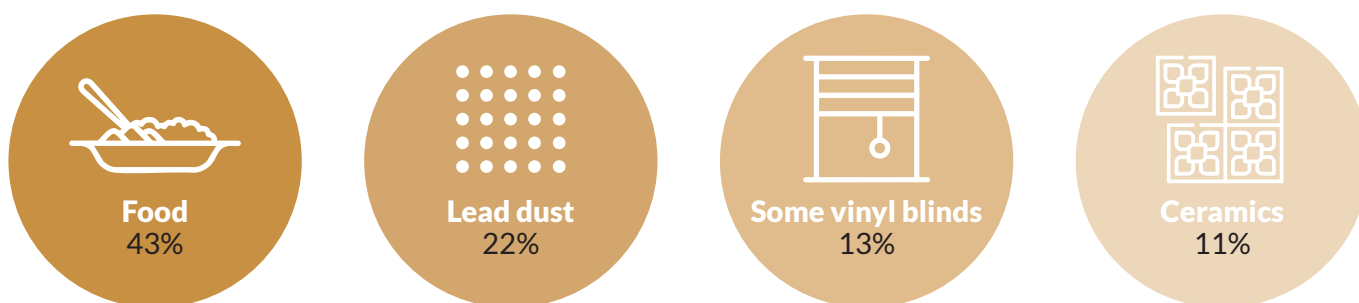
Lowering the elevated blood lead level (BLL) threshold in 2022 resulted in DeKalb County’s number of elevated cases increasing by 150% in 2023.



Note: In Georgia, in May 2022, the threshold for an elevated blood lead level was lowered from 5 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood to 3.5 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood.

Data: Number of cases of elevated blood lead level, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.
Source: Division of Environmental Health, DeKalb Public Health, 2025.

The leading source of lead exposure from 2018-2023 was food.



Data: Top sources of lead exposure, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Elevated BLL Case Demographics



Of all cases, 13% identified as Hispanic.

Data: Percentage of elevated blood lead level cases by sex, average age, race, and ethnicity, DeKalb County, 2018-2023.

Source: Division of Environmental Health, DeKalb Public Health, 2025.

Quick Facts

- If you have a child under 6 years old, get their blood tested for lead.
- Wash your child's hands often, especially before eating and after being outside.
- Activities with potential lead exposure include painting; construction; radiator repair; battery/scrap metal recycling; industries that use lead solder; handling guns and ammunition; roadwork; and stained glass, pottery, and jewelry production.
- If you have a work- or hobby-related lead exposure, you should change clothes before caring for your child, wash your clothes separately from the child's, and use laundry detergent made to remove lead.

Source: Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Georgia Department of Public Health, 2025.

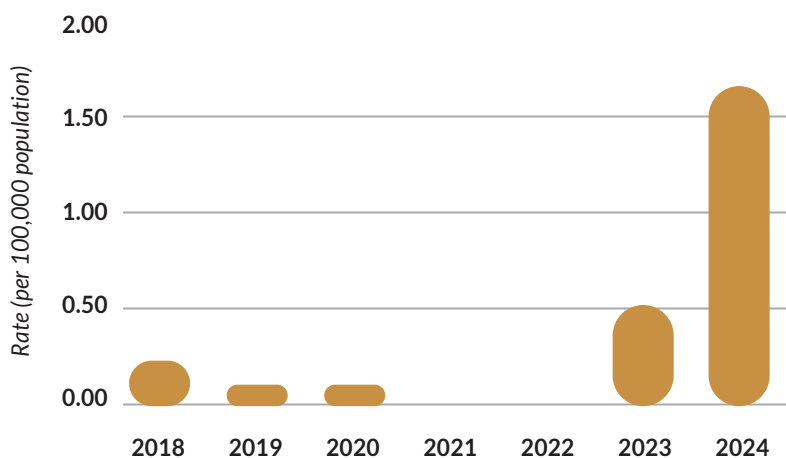
WEST NILE VIRUS



West Nile virus (WNV) disease is a viral illness that's usually spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. It's the most commonly reported mosquito-borne illness in DeKalb County.

Data for 2024 were included in this section due to the large increase in WNV cases that were reported that year.

The rate of WNV cases greatly spiked in 2024.

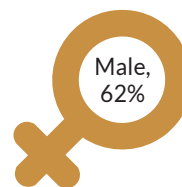


Data: West Nile virus infection rate by year, DeKalb County, 2018-2024.

Source: Online Analytical Statistical Information System, Georgia Department of Public Health, 2025.

Demographics

Gender



Average Age

57.8
Years

White
57%

Black
39%

Unknown
14%

76% of reported cases identified as not Hispanic.

Data: Percentage of West Nile virus cases by sex, average age, race, and ethnicity, DeKalb County, 2018-2024.

Source: Division of Environmental Health, DeKalb Public Health, 2025.

Quick Facts

- Many people who are infected with WNV have no symptoms.
- About 1 in 5 infected people will experience mild symptoms of WNV disease like a fever, joint pain, body aches, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. About 1 in 150 infected people will develop a severe illness, which can be fatal.
- Most people who are infected with WNV have lifelong protection from re-infection.
- There is no vaccine or medicine to prevent WNV disease in humans.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2025.

In DeKalb County	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of Human WNV Cases Reported	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	0	0	Less than 5	13
Number of Human WNV-related Deaths Reported	0	0	0	0	0	Less than 5	Less than 5
Percentage of Mosquito Pools Positive for WNV	17.5%	5.1%	8.3%	2.9%	9.5%	4.2%	5.5%

Notes: "Human WNV cases" includes probable and confirmed cases.
 "Human WNV-related deaths" includes cases that list WNV as a cause of death on the death certificate.
 Mosquito pools are groups of mosquitoes that are submitted together for testing.
 Data: Number of West Nile virus (WNV) cases and deaths and percentage of WNV-positive mosquito pools by year, DeKalb County, 2018-2024.

Source: Division of Environmental Health, DeKalb Public Health, 2025.

What You Can Do



Dump out standing water around your home to eliminate mosquito breeding sites. Check things like spare tires, buckets, toys, birdbaths, flowerpot saucers, and trash cans.



Use an EPA-registered mosquito repellent.



Wear loose-fitting clothing to cover skin.



Wear clothing treated with permethrin, which repels or kills mosquitoes.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2025.

TRENDS IN DEKALB COUNTY

2013-2017 TO 2018-2022



TOPIC	FOCUS	MEASURE	2013-2017 TOTAL	2018-2022 TOTAL	TREND
LEADING CAUSES	Deaths: Major cardiovascular diseases	Rate per 100,000	198.1	191.6	▼
	Premature deaths: External causes		1,683.2	2,533.8	▲
	Hospitalizations: Major cardiovascular diseases		1,225.4	1,126.3	▼
CHRONIC DISEASES	Cancer deaths	Rate per 100,000	150.1	132.5	▼
	Diabetes deaths		21.0	24.0	▲
INFECTIOUS DISEASES	HIV/AIDS deaths	Rate per 100,000	5.8	3.8	▼
	Tuberculosis cases	Count	320	248	▼
INJURIES	Intentional - overall	Rate per 100,000	20.1	30.4	▲
	Homicides		12.0	18.3	▲
	Suicides		7.9	11.7	▲
	Unintentional - overall*		30.2	44.0	▲
	Motor vehicle crashes		9.9	13.9	▲
	Falls		6.5	7.4	▲
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH	Infant deaths	Rate per 100,000	7.6	6.5	▼
	Low birth weight babies	Percentage	10.0	10.7	▲
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	West Nile virus cases	Count	11	<5	▼

Note: In the right column, a green arrow indicates a healthy trend, while a red arrow indicates an unhealthy trend.

*The Unintentional Injuries, Overall, data exclude overdoses.

The background is a light gray with several overlapping semi-transparent shapes in various shades of gray. These shapes include rectangles, squares, and large semi-circles. A network of thin, dark gray lines connects several small, dark gray cylindrical nodes. The nodes are positioned at various points across the page, with lines forming a web-like structure that spans the width and height of the image. The word "APPENDICES" is centered in the middle of the page in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

APPENDICES



Acknowledgements

DeKalb Public Health thanks the following individuals for their time and expertise in the creation of this report. It was a team effort with many parties involved.

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Glossary of Terms

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS): A weakening of the immune system caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Age-Adjusted Rate: A weighted average of the age-specific rate, where the weight is the proportion of persons in the corresponding age group of the population.

Anxiety Disorder: Any of a group of mental conditions that includes panic disorder.

Assault: When a person physically harms another person on purpose.

Bipolar Disorder: A major mood disorder in which both manic and depressive episodes occur.

Body Mass Index (BMI): A relationship between weight and height that is associated with body fat and health risks.

Breastfed Newborns: The number of live births reported to be breastfed upon hospital discharge.

Cancer: A class of diseases that begin when cells in a part of the body grow out of control.

Child: One to 12 years of age.

COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease 2019): A disease caused by a virus named SARS-CoV-2 and discovered in December 2019 in Wuhan, China. COVID-19 most often causes respiratory symptoms that can feel much like a cold, flu, or pneumonia, and may attack more than the lungs and respiratory system.

Diphtheria: A serious disease of the upper respiratory tract that is caused by bacteria that release a toxin into a person's body. This toxin can lead to respiratory failure, paralysis, heart failure and death.

Disability: A long-lasting physical, mental, or emotional condition that can make it difficult for a person to engage in activities such as walking, dressing, and working.

Discharges: The number of persons discharged alive from non-Federal acute-care facilities (hospitals) for illness.

Discharge Rate: The proportion or number of patients released from a hospital or healthcare facility over a given period of time.

External Causes: All causes that affect the human body that originate from an external source.

***Haemophilus influenzae* (type B):** A serious bacterial disease that can cause meningitis, pneumonia, and other serious infections in children under age five years.

Heart Attack: A condition caused by the partial or complete blockage of one or more of the coronary arteries. Also called myocardial infarction.

Heart Disease: Includes acute myocardial infarction; atherosclerosis; chronic rheumatic heart disease; diseases of the arteries, veins and capillaries; hypertensive disease and ischemic heart disease.

High Blood Pressure: A systolic blood pressure consistently over 140 millimeters of mercury (mmHg) or a diastolic blood pressure consistently over 90 mmHg. Also known as hypertension.

Hispanic or Latino: An ethnicity that includes people of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

Homicide: The intentional killing of a person by another person.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV): The virus that causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Hypertensive Heart Disease: Includes coronary artery disease, heart failure and enlargement of the heart that occur because of high blood pressure.

Incidence: The frequency of an event or a condition in relation to the population under examination.

Infancy: Under one year of age.

Infant Mortality: A death occurring to a person less than one year of age.

Infant Mortality Rate: The total number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

Intellectual Disability: An impairment of mental abilities that affects function.

Intentional Injury: An injury that is meant to cause harm to another person or to oneself. For example, assault, homicide, self-inflicted injury, and suicide.

Late or No Prenatal Care: Births where the mother received prenatal care after the 2nd trimester or not at all.

Low Birth Weight Baby: A baby that is delivered weighing less than 5.5 pounds.

Meningococcal Disease: A serious bacterial illness that affects the lining of the brain and spinal cord and may also cause blood stream infections.

Mood Disorder: Any mental disorder that has a disturbance of mood as the predominant feature. For example, major depression and bipolar disorder.

Morbidity: The occurrence of a particular disease or condition.

Mortality: Death caused by a particular disease or condition.

Motor Vehicle Crash: An accident in which any motorized vehicle (car, truck, motorcycle, etc.) was involved.

Mumps: An acute viral illness that causes swelling of the parotid or other salivary glands, headache, loss of appetite and low-grade fever.

Number of Fetal Deaths: Death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of human conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy.

Obese: An excess of body fat. Defined as a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30 or greater.

Obstructive Heart Disease: A condition characterized by weakened heart pumps, either due to previous heart attacks or current blockages of the arteries that supply blood to the heart.

Overweight: An excess of body fat. Defined as a Body Mass Index (BMI) higher than 25 but lower than 30.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough): A highly contagious respiratory disease caused by bacteria. The disease starts like a common cold then causes a series of coughing fits that can last for weeks.

Premature Death: Death before age 75.

Primary Syphilis: The first stage of syphilis. Symptoms include one or more painless sores on the genitals or in the mouth, anus, or rectum.

Rate: A ratio expressed as the number of occurrences or observations of some event within a specific period divided by either (a) the total number of possible occurrences of that event, or (b) a standardized number of units.

Rubella (German Measles): An acute viral illness that causes fever and rash. The disease causes birth defects if acquired by a pregnant woman.

Salmonellosis: An illness caused by the bacteria *Salmonella*. Symptoms include diarrhea, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, fever and headache.

Secondary Syphilis: The second state of syphilis, characterized by eruption of the skin and mucous membrane.

Shiga Toxin-Producing *Escherichia coli* (E. coli): A bacterium that produces Shiga toxin. The bacterium causes infection of variable severity characterized by diarrhea (often bloody) and abdominal cramps.

Stroke: The sudden, severe onset of the loss of muscular control with the reduction or loss of sensation and consciousness, caused by rupture or blocking of a cerebral blood vessel.

Substance Use Disorder: A maladaptive pattern of using alcohol, drugs or other substances to the detriment of social and work activities. Includes tolerance and/or withdrawal symptoms, drug-seeking behavior, and failure to quit.

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS): The term used for the cause of a sudden, inexplicable death of an infant or a very young child.

Suicide: The act of intentionally taking one's own life.

Teenager: A person who is 10 to 19 years of age.

Unintentional Injury: An injury that is the result of an unplanned action such as a motor vehicle crash, a fall, or a poisoning.

Varicella (Chickenpox): A highly contagious rash illness caused by a virus. Can lead to secondary skin infections, pneumonia, brain damage and death.

Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL): A measure of the number of potential years of life lost due to a specific cause of death. (See the Methodology section for more information.)

Years of Potential Life Lost Rate (YPLL Rate): The number of years of potential life lost after one year of age and prior to age 75 per 100,000 total population.

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