



DID YOU KNOW?

Black communities face longstanding disparities in health and health care. Existing health disparities, such as underlying health conditions and barriers to getting health care, make Black communities especially vulnerable in public health emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Black Kansans have almost a **two times higher positive COVID-19 case rate** (450.0 vs. 242.5 cases per 100,000 population) and about **4.5 times higher death rate** (25.7 vs 5.7 deaths per 100,000 population) compared to White Kansans¹. What might be driving these disparities?



- **Racial residential segregation** can cause individuals to live further from grocery stores and medical facilities.



- **Lack of paid sick leave:** Workers without **paid sick leave** might be more likely to continue to work even when they are sick.



- **Lack of health insurance:** Could impact testing and treatment. Compared to White Kansans, Black Kansans are 1.6 times more likely to be **uninsured**².



- **Serious underlying medical conditions:** Compared to White Kansans, Black Kansans experience higher death rates and higher prevalence of chronic conditions^{2,3}.



- **Stigma and systemic inequalities:** Increased levels of chronic and toxic stress are a risk factor for poor health outcomes and health care disparities.

What YOU can do:



- [Follow Guidance for seeking medical care](#) if you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever, cough or difficulty breathing. [Follow steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick.](#)



- [Take care of your mental health](#) to make yourself, the people you care about, and your community stronger. It's ok to NOT be ok, find resources [here](#).



- Find ways to connect with your friends and family members and engage with your community while [limiting face-to-face contact with others](#).

What COMMUNITIES can do:



- Prioritize resources for organizations that serve minority populations.



- To prevent the spread of COVID-19, [promote precautions](#) to protect individuals in your community, including using cloth face coverings and equip communities with supplies to make them.