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RACE DISPARITIES IN NYC'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Federal law specifically prohibits racial and ethnic discrimination in health care.

- ◆ Yet, the State Department of Health has allowed **communities of color to have fewer health care resources.**
- ◆ In the last 10 years, **8 out of 12 hospital closures in NYC occurred in communities of color.** In some cases, more than 90% of the patients using those hospitals were African American, Latino, and Asian American.
- ◆ Communities of color in NYC are also more likely to have **serious shortages of primary care physicians.**

Due to the unequal distribution of health care resources, NYC's communities of color are more likely to have health problems, but are less likely to access medical treatment.

- ◆ Infants in East Flatbush (Brooklyn) are **5 times more likely to die** than infants in Murray Hill (Manhattan). East Flatbush is 88% African American and Murray Hill is 81% white.
- ◆ Citywide, the death rate of African American babies is **almost 3 times higher** than white babies.
- ◆ African American men are expected to die **6 years earlier** than white men.
- ◆ African Americans and Latinos are **more likely to have diabetes** even if their income is identical to white New Yorkers.
- ◆ African Americans are diagnosed with HIV at a rate **6 times higher** than white New Yorkers.

The NYC Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene found that “eliminating health disparities in New York City would save thousands of lives each year.”

Sources: 42 U.S.C. § 2000d; 45 C.F.R. § (b)(2); Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care, Institute of Medicine (2003); Dangerous and Unlawful: Why Our Health Care System is Failing New York Communities and How to Fix It, Opportunity Agenda (2006); Summary of Vital Statistics 2004, Bureau of Statistics, NYC DOHMH (2005); Health Disparities in New York City, NYC DOHMH (2004). (last rev. 01/10/07)