

# Asthma Racial Inequities in California

## What are health inequities?

Health inequities are differences in health conditions and death rates across groups of people that are widespread, avoidable, unfair, and unjust

## Compared to White Californians:

- **Black Californians** are more likely to suffer from severe asthma and die from asthma

**5x**  
higher



emergency  
department  
visits

**4x**  
higher



hospital  
stays

**3x**  
higher



deaths from  
asthma

- **American Indian and Alaskan Native Californians** are more likely to have asthma and suffer from severe asthma

**1.3x**



more likely  
to have  
asthma

**1.4x**  
higher



emergency  
department  
visits

- **Hispanic or Latino Californians** are less likely to have asthma than White Californians, but are more likely to suffer from severe asthma

**1.3x**  
higher



emergency  
department  
visits

**1.2x**  
higher



hospital  
stays

## What causes health inequities in asthma?



Racism, classism, and discrimination  
in policies that disadvantage certain  
groups of people



Pollution in the environment that  
makes asthma symptoms worse

## And poor access to:



healthy and  
affordable  
housing



quality food  
choices



healthy schools  
and quality  
education



quality  
health  
care



**Data Sources:** California Health Interview Survey,  
California Office of State Health Planning and Development,  
California Department of Public Health Vital Records