

# **Racial, Ethnic, and Economic Disparities in California Medicare Fee-for-Service**

## **African Americans**

**Selected indicators from:**

***Medicare Fee-For-Service In California:  
Disparities in Quality by Place, Race and Economic Status***

California HealthCare Foundation and CMRI

# African Americans hospitalized more often than state and national average *for four out of five conditions studied.*

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Inpatient Condition	African Americans	California	U.S.*
Acute myocardial infarction # hospitalized % of population	1,832 1.0%	30,180 0.8%	509,000 2.2%
Atrial fibrillation # hospitalized % of population	711 0.4%	17,834 0.5%	n/a
Congestive heart failure # hospitalized % of population	4,926 2.8%	55,216 1.6%	757,000 2.2%
Pneumonia # hospitalized % of population	4,428 2.5%	64,476 1.9%	810,000 2.4%
Stroke # hospitalized % of population	4,392 2.5%	60,360 1.8%	704,000 2.1%

\* Source: 1999 National Hospital Discharge Survey, age 65 years and over

# African Americans have higher rate of colorectal cancer and late stage diagnosis for breast and colorectal cancer.

	Breast Cancer			Colorectal Cancer		
	African American	California	U.S.*	African Americans	California	U.S.*
Cancer Incidence, 1998 (cases per 100,000 population; age 65+) †	240	259	n/a	350	306	n/a
% late stage diagnosis, 1998 (as % of all diagnoses; age 65+) ‡	6.9%	2.6%	6%	14.1%	11.1%	20%

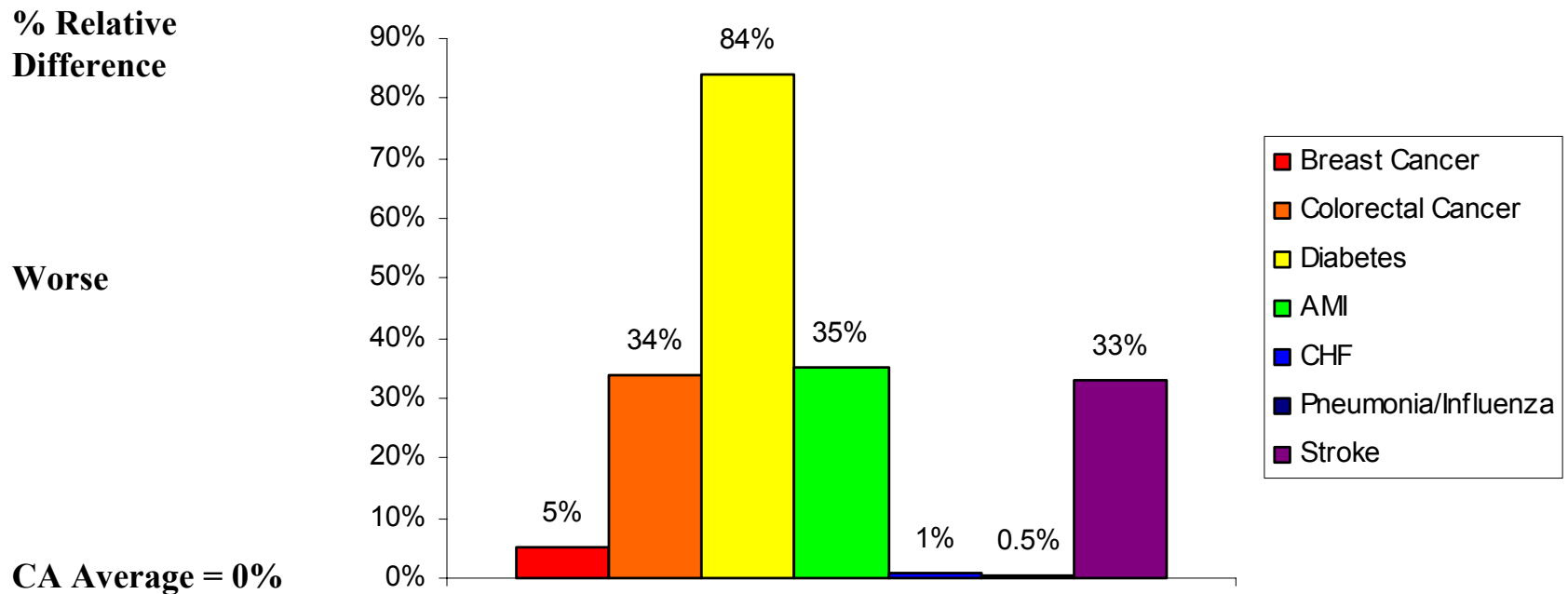
\* Source: SEER Cancer Statistics Review 1973-1999

† Number of newly diagnosed cancer cases (average age-adjusted annual incidence over five years - 1994-1998). California Cancer Registry public use file *Cancer in California: 1988-1998*.

‡ Based on staging criteria published by the American Joint Committee on Cancer, a late stage diagnosis identifies advanced cancer, which has a higher risk of death than earlier stages.

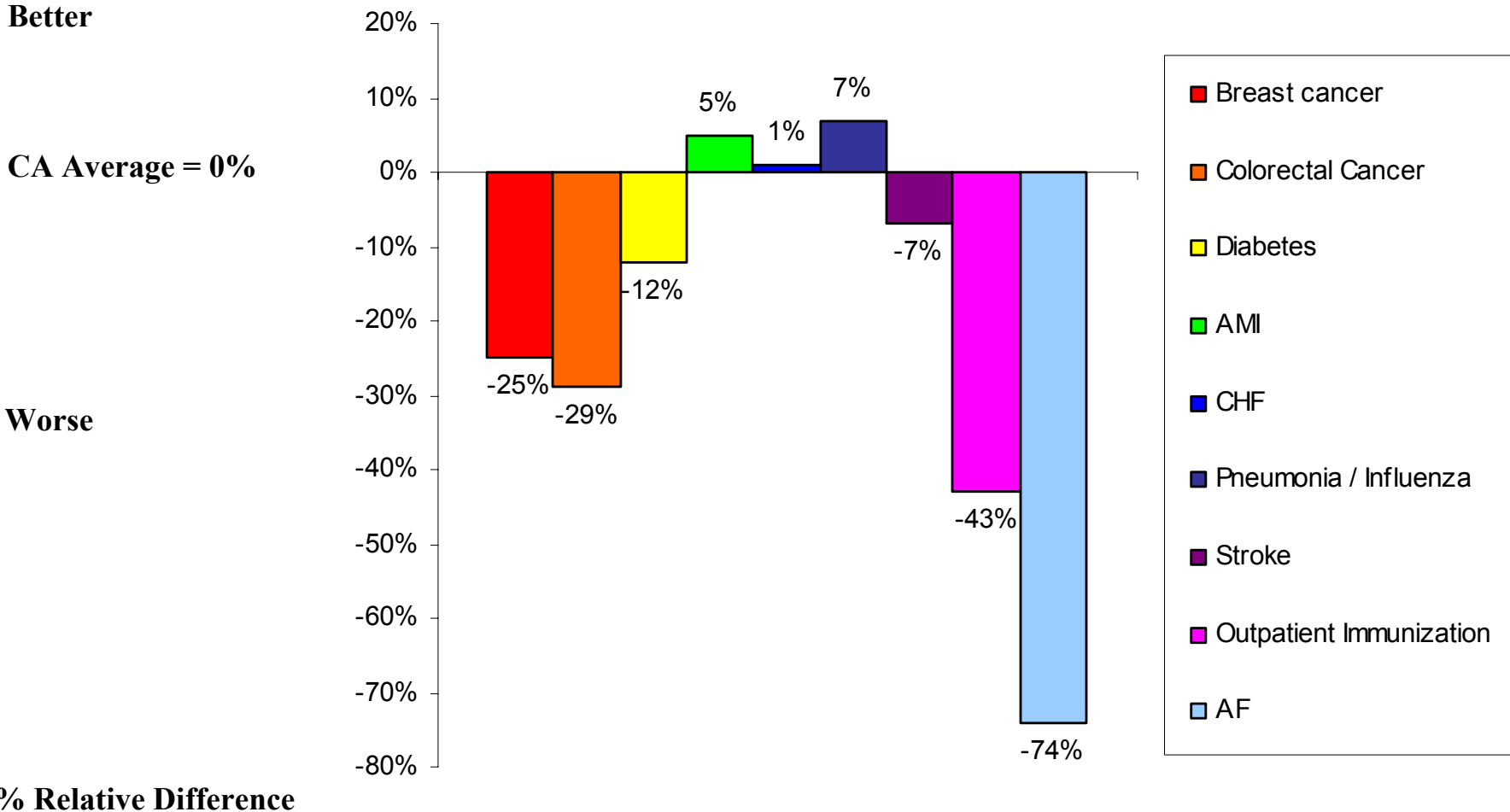
# African-American Mortality Rates by Selected Conditions – All Higher Than California Average

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A negative percentage rate indicates a lower mortality rate than the California average.

# On most quality indicators studied African Americans received worse quality of care than California average.



# Socio-economic status does not explain low quality indicator performance for African Americans compared with national and California averages.

SES Category	SES Status	Breast Cancer Mammography	Colorectal Cancer Screening	Diabetes: Annual A1C test	Diabetes: Biennial eye exam	Diabetes: Biennial lipid	Outpatient Immunization: Influenza	Outpatient Immunization: Pneumococcal Vaccine
Dual Eligible	DE	35	15	59	69	60	13	18
	Not	43	13	64	64	67	14	18
Educated Neighborhood	E	34	12	52	65	63	12	14
	Not	33	14	63	68	63	14	19
Impoverished Neighborhood	I	34	13	53	66	64	12	15
	Not	37	14	64	68	63	14	19
Hispanic Neighborhood	H	34.5	13	54	66	64	12	15
	Not	40	14	64	68	62	14	19
CA	all	52	21	70	72	73	26	28
US	all	56	44	71	69	57	66	46

Note: DE= Dual Eligible, E = undereducated neighborhood, I=impoverished area, H=Hispanic area, Not = Does not reside in lower SES area

Percent relative difference in rate/100,000 Population, 1999, as compared to the California average

# Questions for Further Study

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These data appears to be consistent both internally and with other published reports regarding the health status and quality of care issues facing African Americans.

- What is the best strategy for improving African American health status and quality of care?
- What factors, beyond quality indicator performance, affect African American health status?