African Americans are disproportionately affected by hepatitis C.

- African Americans comprise about 11 percent of the U.S. population, but account for 25 percent of all hepatitis C cases.\(^1\)
- Between 2011 and 2015, the rate of hepatitis C-related deaths for African Americans was roughly double that for whites.\(^2\)
- From 1990 to 2014, the liver cancer death rate increased by 57 percent for African Americans.\(^3\)
- In 2014, chronic liver disease and cirrhosis were among the top 10 leading causes of death among African Americans 45 to 64 years of age.\(^4\)

African Americans face discriminatory barriers to care and treatment for hepatitis C.

- African Americans are more likely to be deemed ineligible for lifesaving hepatitis C treatment than other racial groups, even when controlling for other medical factors.\(^5\)
- Compared to other racial groups, African Americans are less likely to be tested for hepatitis C and less likely to be linked to care after a diagnosis.\(^6\)

Although African Americans have experienced larger gains in health coverage than whites under the Affordable Care Act, significant racial disparities in access to coverage remain.

- African Americans are nearly twice as likely as whites to be uninsured.\(^7\)
- Nearly half of uninsured nonelderly African Americans are eligible for coverage under the Medicaid expansion.\(^8\)
- Uninsured nonelderly African Americans are twice as likely as uninsured whites to not qualify for coverage under Medicaid because their state did not expand Medicaid.\(^9\)

African Americans are far more likely than whites to be incarcerated in jails and prisons, where hepatitis C is especially widespread.

- In 2014, about one third of the incarcerated population was African American.\(^10\)
- African Americans are incarcerated at more than five times the rate of whites.\(^11\)
- In 2014, approximately 3 percent of all African American men were in prison with a sentence of at least one year.\(^12\)
- Approximately one in three individuals in U.S. jails and prisons have hepatitis C.\(^13\)
- In state prisons, which incarcerate about 90 percent of all prisoners in the U.S., fewer than 1 percent of prisoners with hepatitis C are receiving treatment.\(^14\)

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\(^6\) Id.
\(^8\) Id.
\(^10\) Id.
\(^11\) Id.

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