

SELF-REPORTED HEALTH STATUS

In 2008, 61.4 percent of adults reported being in excellent or very good health; this did not vary significantly by sex (data not shown). Among both sexes, self-reported health status declines with age. Women and men aged 75 years and older were least likely to report excellent or very good health (35.6 and 34.4 percent, respectively), compared to 69.2 percent of women and 73.2 percent of men aged 18–44 years.

The proportion of women reporting excellent or very good health also varies with race and eth-

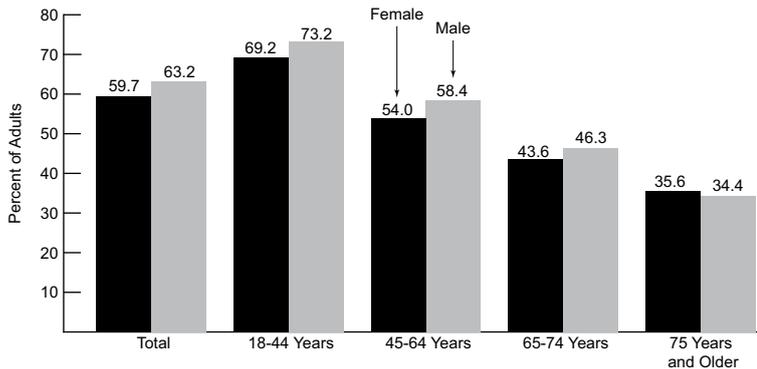
nicity. Non-Hispanic Asian and non-Hispanic White women were most likely to report excellent or very good health in 2008 (65.8 and 63.4 percent, respectively). In comparison, 43.0 percent of non-Hispanic women of multiple races, and slightly more than 48 percent of non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic women reported excellent or very good health. Approximately 1 in 5 non-Hispanic Black, non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic, and non-Hispanic women of multiple races reported fair or poor health status.

Self-reported health status among women improves as household income increases. Women

with household incomes below the poverty level were least likely to report excellent or very good health (35.2 percent), followed by women with incomes of 100–199 percent of poverty (45.7 percent). Women with higher household incomes were significantly more likely to report being in excellent or very good health; 60.2 percent of women with household incomes of 200–399 percent of poverty and 72.8 percent of those with incomes of 400 percent or more of poverty reported excellent or very good health (data not shown).

Adults Aged 18 and Older Reporting Excellent or Very Good Health, by Age and Sex, 2008*

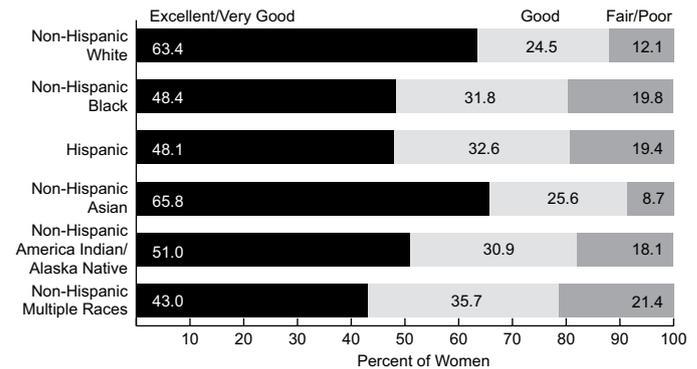
Source II.1: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey



*Rates reported are age-adjusted.

Self-Reported Health Status of Women Aged 18 and Older, by Race/Ethnicity, 2008*

Source II.1: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey



*Rates reported are age-adjusted. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

LIFE EXPECTANCY

The overall life expectancy of a baby born in 2007 was 77.9 years (data not shown); this varied, however, by sex and race. A baby girl born in the United States in 2007 could expect to live 80.4 years, 5.0 years longer than a male baby, whose life expectancy would be 75.4 years (data not shown). The differential between male and female life expectancy was greater among Blacks than Whites. Black males born in 2007 could expect to live 70.0 years, 6.8 years fewer than Black females (76.8 years). The difference between White males and females was 4.9 years, with life expectancies at birth of 75.9 and 80.8 years, respectively. White females could expect to live 4.0 years longer than Black females. The lower life expectancy among Blacks may be partly accounted for by higher infant mortality rates, as well as higher mortality rates throughout the lifespan.⁸

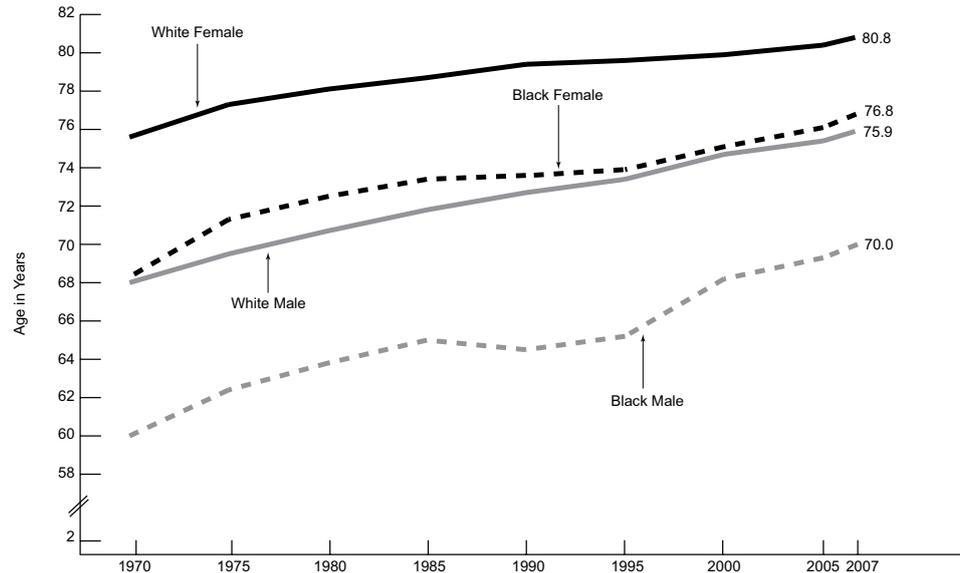
Life expectancy has increased since 1970 for males and females in both racial groups. Between 1970 and 2007, White males' life expectancy increased from 68.0 to 75.9 years (11.6 percent), while White females' life expectancy increased from 75.6 to 80.8 years (6.9 percent). During the same period, the life expectancy for Black males increased from 60.0 to 70.0 years (16.7 percent), while life expectancy increased from 68.3 to 76.8 years (12.4 percent) for Black females.

While life expectancy estimates have not historically been calculated and reported for the Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaska Native populations, the U.S. Census Bureau has calculated projected life expectancies for these groups. An American Indian/Alaska Native female born in 2010 is expected to live 81.5 years, while a male is expected to live 76.6 years. Among Hispanics

born in 2010, females are expected to have a life expectancy of 83.7 years and males 78.4 years. Asian females born in that year are expected to live 81.1 years, while life expectancy for Asian males is 76.3 years. In comparison, non-Hispanic White females and males born in 2010 are projected to live 81.1 and 76.3 years, respectively (data not shown).⁹

Life Expectancy at Birth, by Race* and Sex, 1970–2007

Source II.4: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics



*Both racial categories include Hispanics.