

# Health Equity & Digital Divide in Tennessee

In Tennessee, health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities and rural populations are prevalent, resulting in significant health and financial costs to the state. This document provides a snapshot of the state of health and health disparities in Tennessee, highlighting the challenges and opportunities for advancing health equity.

## TENNESSEE BY THE NUMBERS

### POPULATION: About 7 Million

2% Asian | 17% Black | 3% Other | 78% White



22% live in a rural area

**Ethnicity:**  
6% Hispanic

## Tennessee Health Disparities

### DIABETES BY POPULATION<sup>1</sup>

13.8%

General Population

Black

White

14.4%

14%

### MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE BY POPULATION<sup>2</sup>

Per 100K Live Births

60

40

20

0

White

Black

Hispanic

**National Average**  
10.9%

### HYPERTENSION

39% of all adults have hypertension<sup>3</sup>

# Social Determinants of Health in Tennessee



**12%** Living in poverty



**10%** Living without health insurance

**12%** Black/African Americans Living Without Health Insurance



**113,000** Living Within the Medicaid Coverage Gap



**100** Medically Underserved Areas



**88** Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas



**7%** Zero car households

## The Digital Divide

Digital health tools provide primary care clinicians with opportunities to address the social determinants of health. However, many Tennesseans lack access to internet and needed technology at home.

Households without access to the internet

**20%**



Households without access to broadband

**25%**



Households without any type of computer

**15%**



Households that access the internet only through a smartphone



**7%**

1 United Health Foundation, America's Health Rankings (Diabetes prevalence, 2019). Available at: <https://www.americashealthrankings.org/>.

2 United Health Foundation, America's Health Rankings (Maternal mortality, 2019). Available at: <https://www.americashealthrankings.org/>.

3 United Health Foundation, America's Health Rankings (High blood pressure, 2019). Available at: <https://www.americashealthrankings.org/>.