

Focus on Influenza ■ Columbus, Ohio

INFLUENZA-ASSOCIATED HOSPITALIZATIONS

Figure 1. Influenza Associated Hospitalization Rates by Race Columbus, Ohio (August 1 - December, 2009)

ALL CASES BY RACE

Since August 1, 2009, Blacks were hospitalized for influenza at a rate of 76.1 cases per 100,000 population compared to a rate of 27.7 cases per 100,000 population for Whites. Thus, Blacks are 2.7 times more likely to have an influenza-associated hospitalization than their White counterparts.

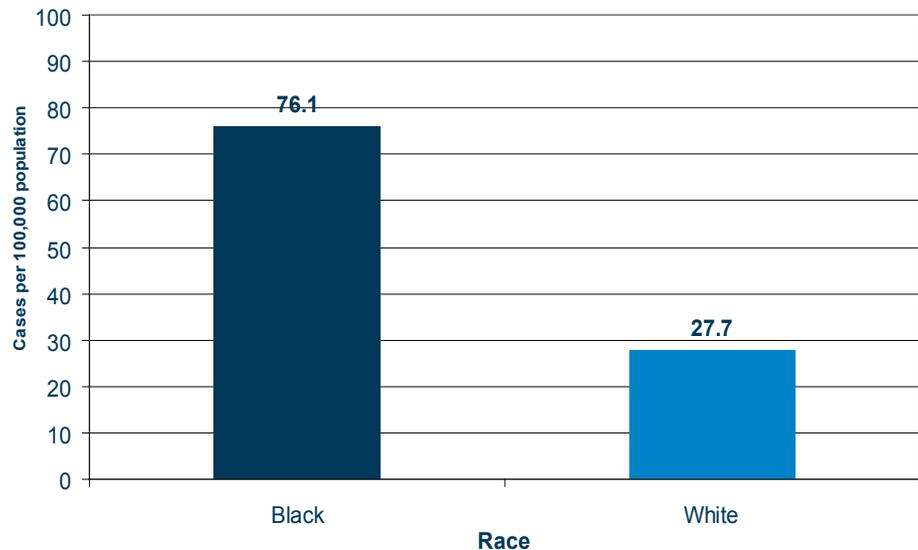
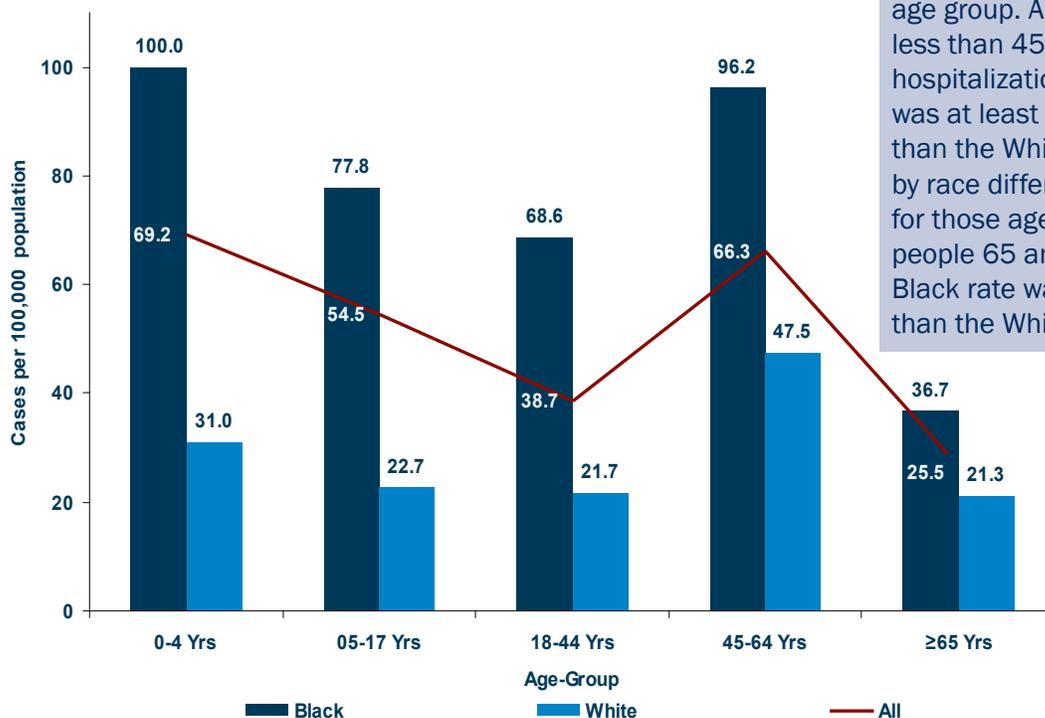


Figure 2.

Influenza Associated Hospitalization Rates by Race and Age Columbus, Ohio (August 1 - December, 2009)

ALL CASES BY RACE AND AGE

The racial difference in rates was further examined by age group. Among people less than 45 years old, the hospitalization rate for Blacks was at least 3 times higher than the White rate. The rates by race differed by two-fold for those aged 45-64. Among people 65 and older, the Black rate was slightly higher than the White rate.



VACCINATION AGAINST H1N1 2009 PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

Through 13 large clinics between October 20th and December 22nd, 2009, CPH vaccinated more than 18,000 people.

VACCINATION BY RACE

Of the people vaccinated by CPH, less than 14% were Black. The population in Columbus is about 26% Black. This gap illustrates a real need for the medical and public health community to re-double efforts to reach a population that is being disproportionately affected by this influenza pandemic.

