

Opportunities

Women's Health - A Local Profile is designed to be a first step towards identifying and describing key women's health issues and concerns in Franklin County. It is intended for use as a resource for the many organizations and individuals in Franklin County committed to the health and well-being of women. While the Women's Health Report provides a good overview into the health of women in Franklin County, it also identifies areas where further research and actions need to be taken. The following recommendations are intended to provide a framework and broad direction regarding opportunities for health improvement.

- **Improve collection and availability of accurate data related to women's health**
- **Identify and implement evidence-based best practices designed to improve women's health**
- **Coordinate efforts, recognize and build on existing community assets and successful initiatives around women's health**

For a complete copy of *Women's Health - A Local Profile*, visit the Columbus Public Health website at www.publichealth.columbus.gov.

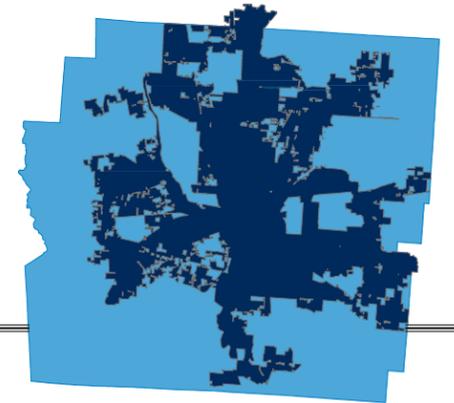


240 Parsons Avenue
Columbus, OH 43215
www.publichealth.columbus.gov

Women's Health A Local Profile

Franklin County, Ohio

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Women represent greater than 50% of the over 1 million people residing in Franklin County. In most age groups, women account for half of the population. The only exception is among people 65 years and older, where women represent over 60% of the population. In addition, the growing diversity among women in Franklin County is apparent in the racial/ethnic distribution across age groups. While non-Hispanic Whites account for 84% of the 65 and over population, they account for only 66% of the population under age 5. Women constitute 65% of the labor force in Franklin County. Eighty-five percent of Franklin County women are high school graduates and over 30% have a college degree.

Women's Health - A Local Profile provides available data in major areas of women's health, including health behaviors, health status, and health care utilization. It is intended as a reference to help guide decision-making for programs, policies, and planning aimed at improving women's health. Highlights from across all of these areas are provided below.

Demographics

- ☞ In 2000, the population in Franklin County surpassed 1 million, with females representing 51.4% of the total population.
- ☞ Of the female population in Franklin County, 75.2% report being White, 18.5% report being Black, 4% report being of other races and 2.2% report being of two or more races. Almost 2% report being Hispanic or Latina of any race.
- ☞ In Franklin County, regardless of race and age, men still lead women in median earnings. In 1999, the median earning for men was 26% higher than the median earning for women (\$37,672 and \$29,856, respectively)
- ☞ 12.6% of women in Franklin County are living below the federal poverty level. Over two times as many Black women compared to White women are living below the federal poverty level (24.3% versus 9.1%, respectively).

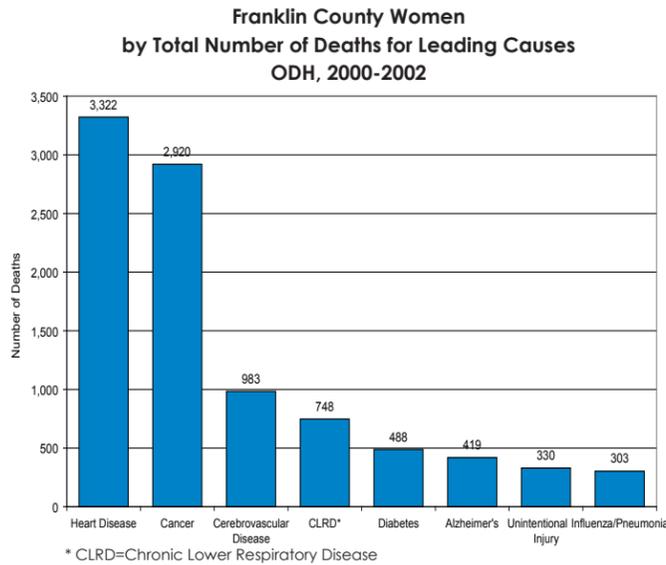
Health Behaviors

- ☞ Among Franklin County women, 41.5% report getting the recommended amount of moderate physical activity and 32.4% get the recommended strength training.
- ☞ Less than 20% of Franklin County women consume the recommended 5 servings of fruits and/or vegetables per day. Four percent eat less than one serving daily.
- ☞ A quarter (25.3%) of all Franklin County women are currently cigarette smokers.

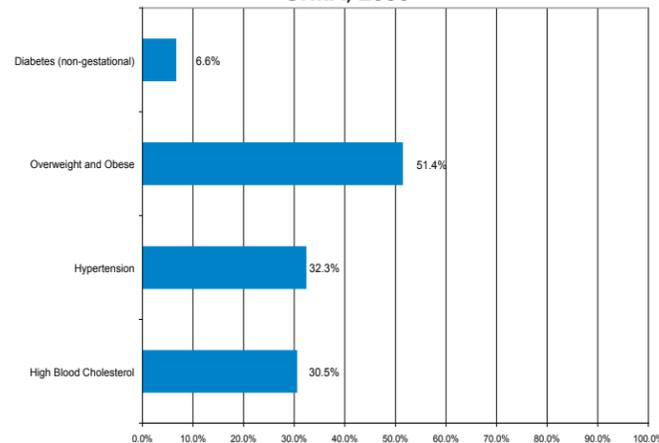
Health Status

Leading Causes

- Heart disease has been the leading cause of death for Franklin County women since at least 1994, and accounted for 28.3% of all female deaths in Franklin County between 1994 and 2002.
- Lung cancer, the second leading cause of death, is the primary cause of death due to cancer among women in Franklin County.



**Franklin County Women
Prevalence of Diagnosed Chronic Conditions
CHRA, 2000**



Chronic Disease Prevalence

- Nearly seven percent of all women in Franklin County have been diagnosed with non-gestational diabetes, which is the 5th leading cause of death in Franklin County women.
- Almost 28% of Franklin County women are overweight and 23.7% are considered obese.
- Over 30% of Franklin County women have been told by a health care professional that their blood pressure was high.
- Almost one third of Franklin County women have been told by a health care professional that their blood cholesterol was high.

Infectious Disease

- Franklin County women accounted for 15.1% of the total number of women living with HIV/AIDS in the state of Ohio.
- In 2003, the incidence of tuberculosis among Franklin County women was over 3 times the rate for women in Ohio.

Violence

- The three-year average age-adjusted homicide rates for Franklin County women from 1994-1996 through 2000-2002 is on average 16% higher than age-adjusted homicide rates for all women in Ohio.
- The rate for rape among Franklin County women is consistently higher than the rates for Cuyahoga County, Hamilton County, and the state of Ohio for every year from 2000 through 2003.

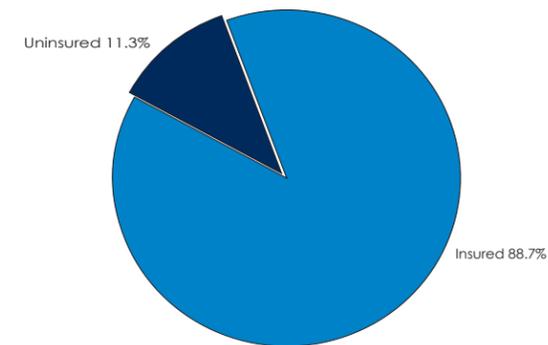
Mental Health

- Twenty percent of women in Franklin County report suffering from symptoms of depression. However, of these women, only 25% have seen a mental health professional within the last 12 months.

Reproductive Health

- In 2002, the fertility rate for Franklin County women was 66.4 per 1,000 women of reproductive age. The fertility rate for Black women in Franklin County has been consistently higher than for White women between 1990 and 2002.
- In 2002, there were 17,013 live births to Franklin County residents.
- In 2002, 88.0% of Franklin County women entered prenatal care during their first trimester. More White women in Franklin County enter prenatal care early in their pregnancy (i.e., the first trimester) than Black women (90.9% versus 78.8%).
- In 2003, 12.8% of Franklin County women who gave birth reported smoking during pregnancy.

**Franklin County Women
Percent of Insured and Uninsured
OFHS, 2003-2004**



Health Care Access and Utilization

- The majority of Franklin County women have some form of health insurance coverage (88.7%).
- Slightly more than 22% of women living at or below the federal poverty level are uninsured.

SPECIAL TOPIC: WOMEN 15 TO 44 YEARS

- In 2000, almost half of all females in Franklin County were between the ages of 15 years and 44 years or "of reproductive age."
- Over half of women living below poverty in Franklin County are of reproductive age.
- Among Franklin County women of reproductive age, 43.5% report getting the recommended amount of moderate physical activity and almost 40% get the recommended strength training.
- Less than 15% of Franklin County women consumed the recommended 5 servings of fruits and/or vegetables per day. Five percent eat less than one serving daily.
- Over one quarter (28.3%) of all Franklin County women are currently cigarette smokers.
- Among women of reproductive age, cancer was the leading cause of death in 2000 - 2002.
- One in five women of reproductive age has been told by a health professional her blood pressure was high.
- Slightly more than 16% of women of reproductive age have been told by a health professional their blood cholesterol was high.
- Among women of reproductive age 1.6% have been diagnosed with non-gestational diabetes.
- Over one quarter of Franklin County women of reproductive age are overweight and almost 1 in 5 is obese.
- Chlamydia remains the fastest spreading sexually transmitted disease among women of reproductive age in Franklin County, ahead of syphilis and gonorrhea.
- Women of reproductive age, accounted for 69.1% of the total female homicides in 2000-2002.
- 15.5% of women of reproductive age are uninsured.