

Special Report to the People of District 5

From Commissioner Emma I. Darnell

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“Is the doctor in?”

Fulton scores low in Health Disparities Study

The Georgia Department of Community Health has recently issued its first “report card” on disparities in minority health outcomes. The report concludes that Fulton County is one of 16 counties in the state with the “greatest health needs.” Based on “years of potential life lost” under the age of 75, Fulton County earned an “F” failing grade when it comes to mortality disparity rates.

In addition to the mortality study, the report, titled “Health Disparities Report 2008: A County-Level Look at Health Outcomes for Minorities in Georgia,” reports other findings in other key categories including: Social and Economic indicators (social determinants); Illness Events; Birth Outcomes; Health Care Access; Mental Health Care Access; Dental Health Care Access; and Health Insurance Coverage.

“It is clear that although Fulton County has made a significant financial commitment to the elimination of health disparities, much work remains to be done,” stated Commissioner Darnell.

“I look forward to a review of the recommendations of the County Manager and County health officials in this important area.”

For more information, and to read the full report, go to www.fultoncountyga.gov/emma

Health Report Card

Minority Health Outcome Category	County Grade
Social and Economic Indicators	C
Mortality (Deaths)	F
Illness Events (Hospital Admits & Emergency Visits)	D
Prenatal Care & Birth Outcomes	D
Primary Care Access	B
Physician Racial-Ethnic Diversity	F
Mental Health Care Access	C
Oral Health Care Access	Partial-County HPSA
% Speaking non-English Language at Home	13.3%
% Estimated to Have No Health Insurance	15.5%

Black-White racial inequalities in health outcomes cost Fulton County 28,022 excess years of potential life lost due to premature deaths.

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