

# Health Disparities in the Medi-Cal Population

## Neighborhood Safety



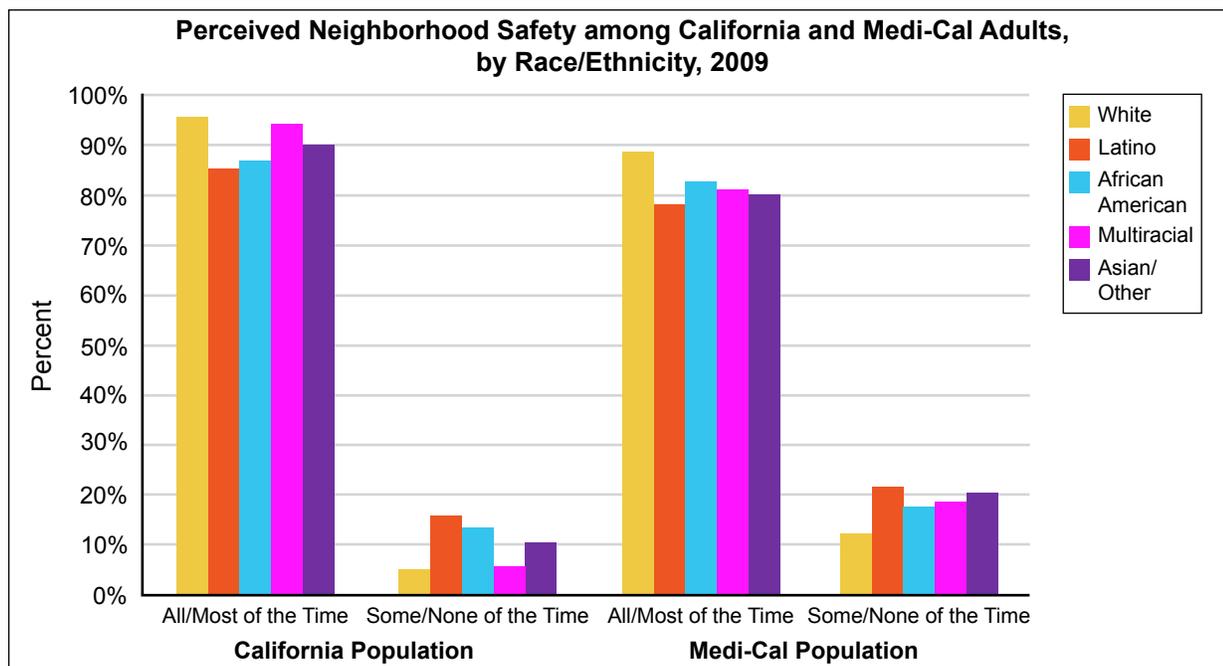
Poor neighborhood safety has been associated with poor health outcomes in adults.<sup>1</sup> Research has shown that a lack of neighborhood safety is associated with obesity, low physical activity,<sup>2-3</sup> increased tobacco use in pregnant women,<sup>4</sup> depression in Korean adults,<sup>5</sup> and decreased adherence to diabetes self-management among adult type 2 diabetics.<sup>6</sup> Overall, adults who perceive their neighborhoods to be unsafe may be less able to participate in low-cost activities (i.e., walking) and may experience increased stress. These factors may in turn lead to maladaptive coping<sup>4</sup> and an inability to manage their health.<sup>6</sup>

In California, White adults were more likely to report feeling safe in their neighborhood all or most of the time (95.5%), followed by the Multiracial group (94.1%), Asians/Others (89.9%), African Americans (86.3%), and Latinos (84.9%) (see Figure).

In the California Medi-Cal population, White adults were more likely to report feeling safe in their neighborhood all or most of the time (88.4%), followed by African Americans (81.2%), the Multiracial group (80.4%), Asians/Others (79.9%), and Latinos (78.3%). Regardless of race/ethnicity, the Medi-Cal population reported lower rates of feeling safe in their neighborhood as compared to the general California population.



**Figure**



Source: California Health Interview Survey, 2009.

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[Link to Data Sources and Methods](#)