

## Economics, Race/Ethnicity, and Health in Maryland

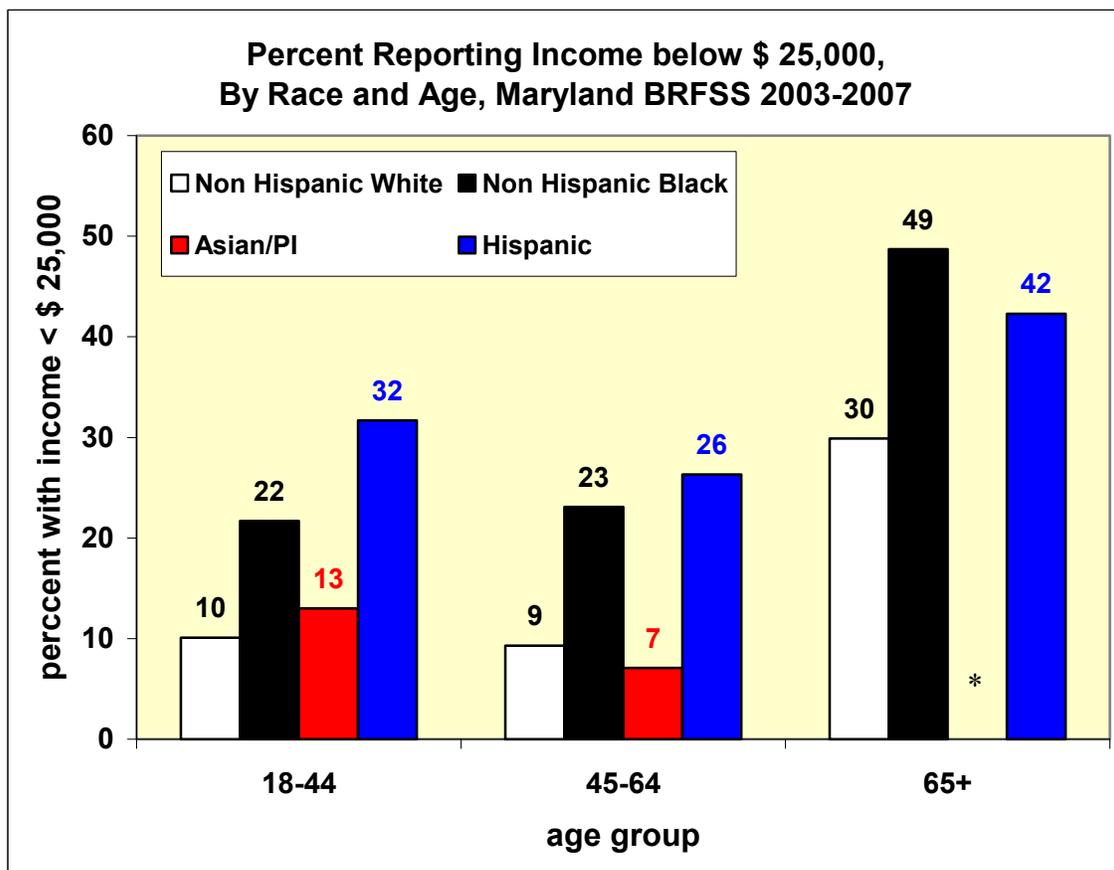
The charts on the following pages illustrate

- The relationship of income to race/ethnicity
- The relationship of income to self-reported health
- The relationship of self-reported health to race/ethnicity
- The recent increase in unemployment in Maryland

Income disparity by race/ethnicity explains some, but not all, of the health disparity by race/ethnicity.

### Minority Populations in Maryland have Lower Income than Whites

The Chart below from the Maryland Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Data, illustrates that minority populations have more members with low incomes, compared to Whites. (*American Indian data could not be reported due to small numbers.*)



\* Asian/PI data for age 65+ could not be reported due to small numbers

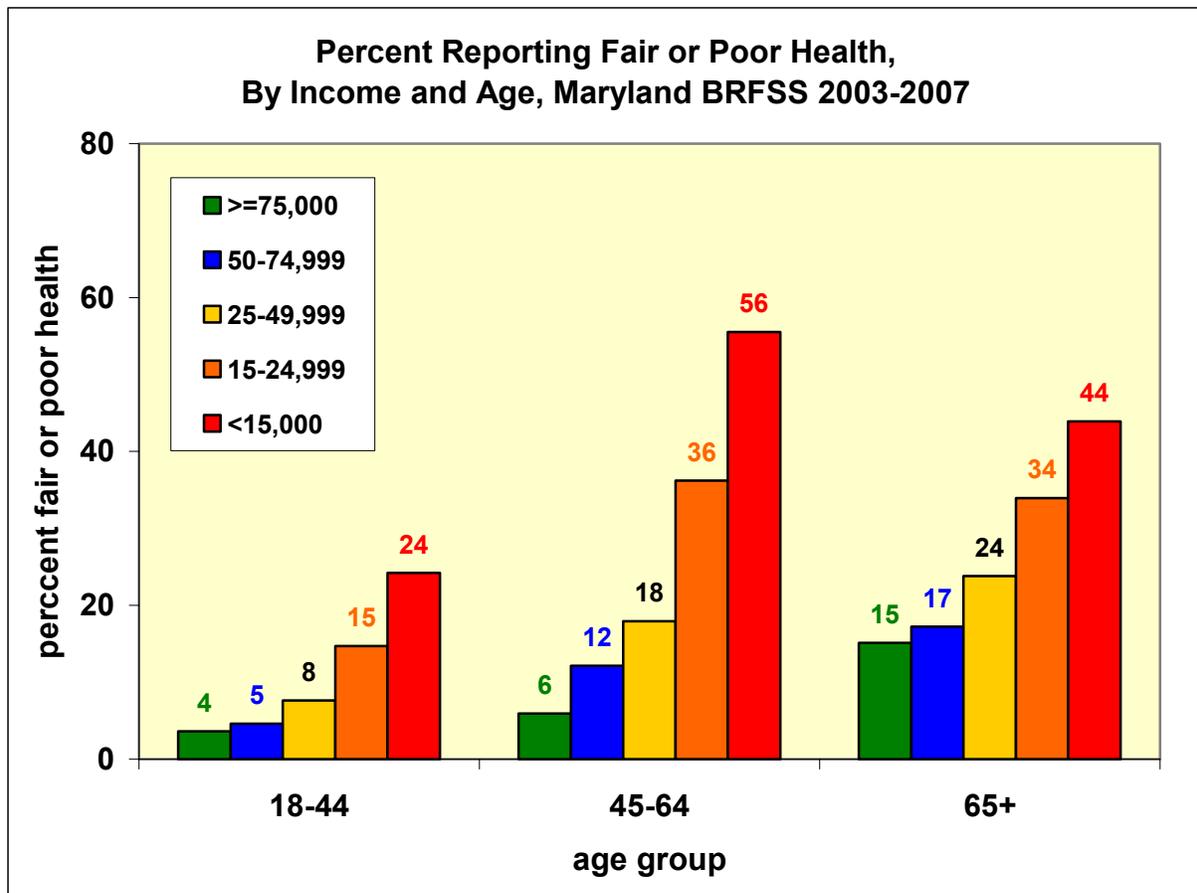
## Better health is strongly related to higher income

In the Maryland Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey, respondents are asked to rate their health as

- Excellent
- very good
- good
- fair, or
- poor

The chart below shows the percentage of respondents who reported their health as fair or poor (rather than good or better), by household income and by age groups.

In each age group, fewer people of high incomes (green and blue bars) report health as fair or poor, compared to people of low incomes (orange and red bars).



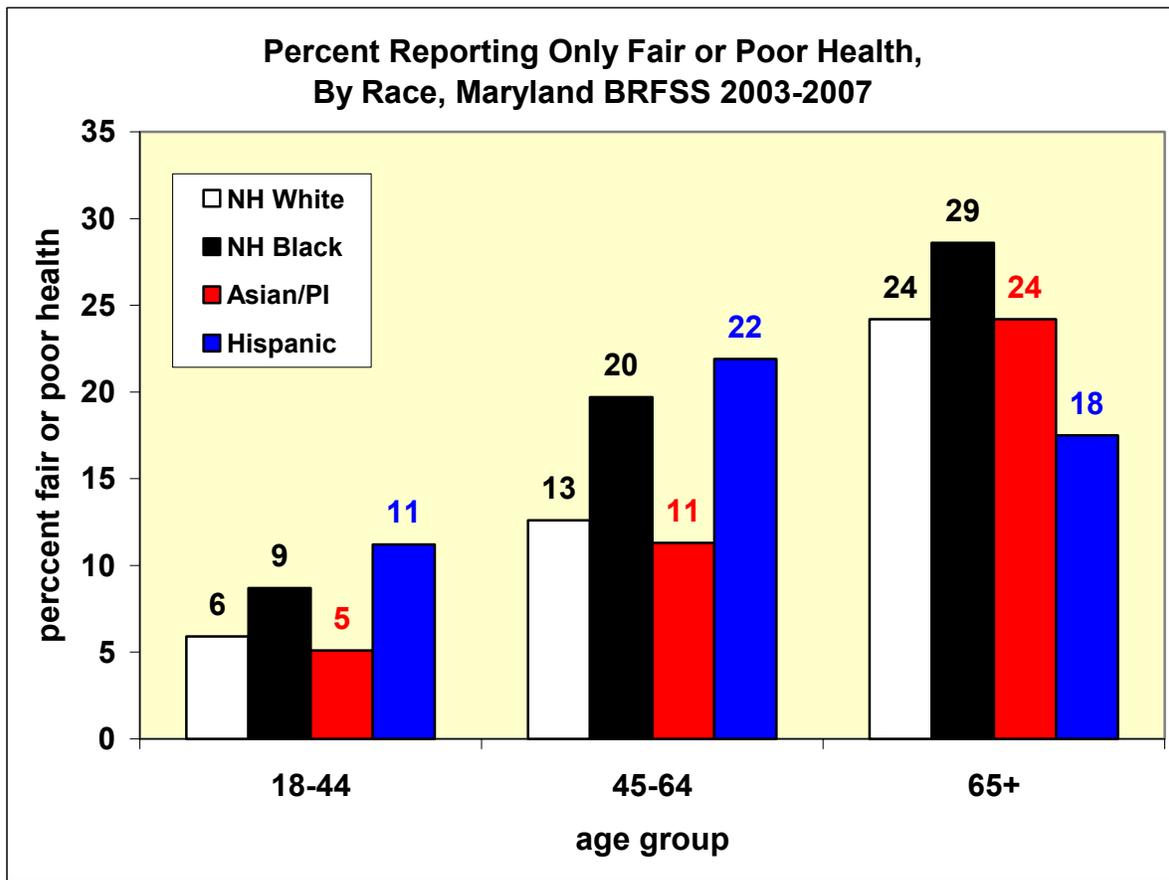
## African Americans and Hispanics are more likely to report that their health is less than good

In the Maryland Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey, respondents are asked to rate their health as

- Excellent
- very good
- good
- fair, or
- poor

The chart below shows the percentage of respondents who reported their health as fair or poor (rather than good or better), by race/ethnicity groups and by age.

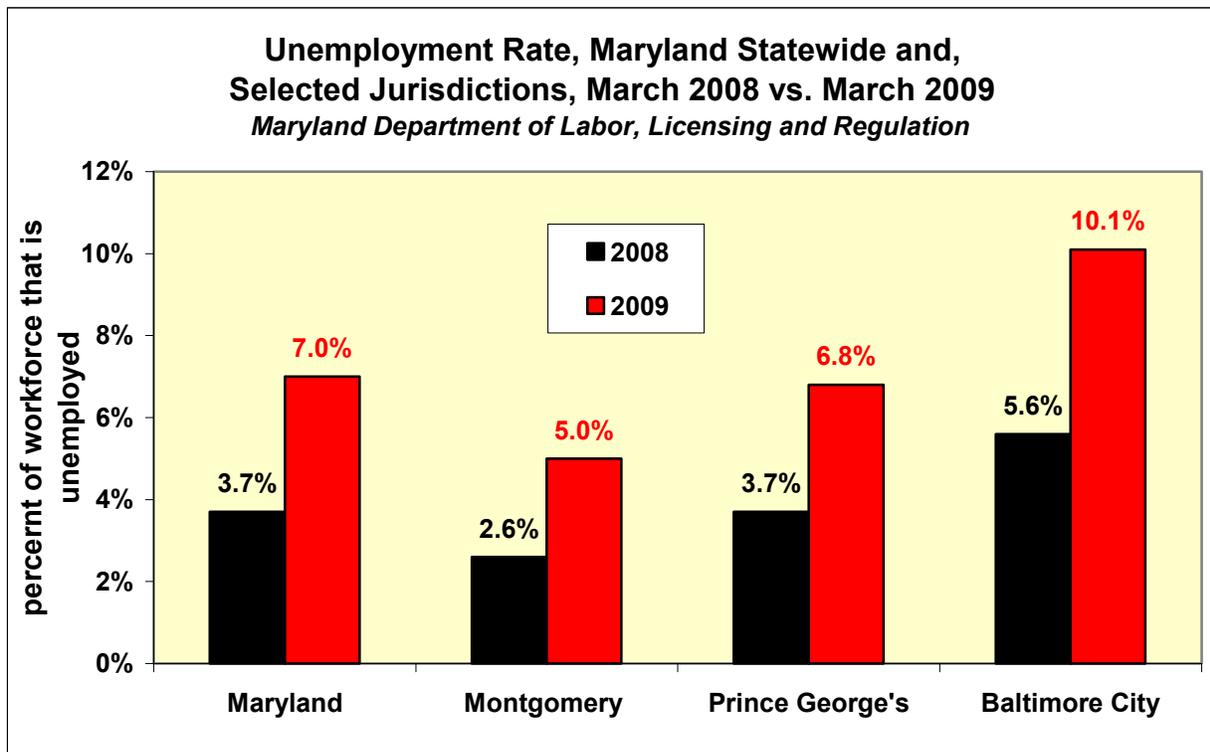
In each age group, African Americans report more fair or poor health compared to whites. Hispanics have more fair or poor health for young and middle-age adults. Hispanics have more fair or poor health for young and middle-age adults. (American Indian data could not be reported due to small numbers.)



## The Unemployment Rate has nearly doubled in Maryland between 2008 and 2009

The chart below illustrates the increase in the unemployment rates in Maryland and selected Jurisdictions between 2008 and 2009.

The State as a whole, and the jurisdictions, have seen nearly a doubling of the unemployment rates. Note that Baltimore City, with a high minority population, had one of the higher unemployment rates in 2008, and so a near doubling of its unemployment rate is a larger percentage point increase in unemployment for the City compared to other jurisdictions.



Minority populations face economic disadvantage in the best of times. In times of economic downturn, as we have now, minorities face a disproportionate burden of job losses, loss of income, loss of health insurance, and resulting threats to health.