

Introduction

This report examines the current health status of King County residents and recent trends, mostly spanning the last 10 years of available data. As in the last *Health of King County* issued in 1998, a range of health indicators—including social determinants of health, behavioral risks, access to care and diseases—are described by age, gender, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, time trend and place of residence. Selection of the health indicators is based on the impact on health status, severity and frequency of the condition, whether a disease is amenable to prevention and early detection, and data availability.

The major sources of data are statistical files on births, deaths, hospitalizations, physician reports of sexually transmitted diseases and other communicable diseases, HIV/AIDs surveillance; the Washington State Cancer Registry; the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey; and the U.S. Census. Local, state and national data sources (as descriptions of terms used in the report and other technical information) are described in Data Sources and Technical Notes in Appendix A.

Changes to *Health of King County 2006* include the following:

- It is provided primarily as a web-based report, with live links aiding navigation within the report. Because no report of this kind can contain all relevant information on a subject due to space limitations, live links also provide access to other relevant reports and sources of data.
- It is based in part on a 2005 web-based project, *Public Health Core Indicators* for Seattle and King County (at <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/reports/coreindicators/>). More data on several of the indicators found in this report can be found on this site, and contextual links to the Core Indicators home page are provided within the report.
- Each chapter includes two or more sections. Most sections follow a set outline, including a brief description of the public health importance and data summary, trends for King County and its Regions, patterns by Health Planning Area and Focus on Disparities. Each chapter is designed to stand on its own as a mini-report on a topic area.
- Health Planning Areas have recently been re-defined to be as consistent as possible with current and anticipated suburban city boundaries outside of Seattle and, inside of Seattle city limits, in consultation with city's Department of Neighborhoods. Profiles containing health and demographic data for each Health Planning area are available in Appendix B.

We hope you find this report useful. If you would like further information, please call the Epidemiology, Planning and Evaluation Unit at 206-296-6817 or e-mail us at data.request@kingcounty.gov.