

# Snapshot: 49507: THE IMPACT OF ZIP CODE ON HEALTH



GRAND RAPIDS  
African American  
Health Institute

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**23% of Black residents** live below federal poverty level.



**40% of Households** earn under \$50,000



**15% of Children** have tested positive for elevated lead levels.



Black drivers are stopped 2-3x more than White drivers



Life expectancy is 10 years less than Kent County

This one-page snapshot compares conditions in the 49507 zip code to the City of Grand Rapids, the State of Michigan, and the United States. The disparities outlined below reflect long-standing policy decisions, patterns of disinvestment, and structural barriers that continue to shape health outcomes today.

## WEALTH: THE FOUNDATION OF HEALTH

Households in the 49507 earn approximately \$20,000–\$25,000 less per year than the national median. About 23 percent of residents live below the federal poverty line, roughly double the national rate, increasing exposure to housing instability, food insecurity, and chronic stress.

## JOBLESSNESS AND HOUSING INSTABILITY

Unemployment in areas overlapping the 49507 has historically remained higher than city and county averages, with Black residents experiencing the greatest disparities. More than 40 percent of households earn under \$50,000 annually, placing many at risk of being housing cost-burdened.

## CHILDHOOD LEAD EXPOSURE

Approximately 15 percent of children in the 49507 have tested positive for elevated blood lead levels, nearly three times the national average. Exposure is driven primarily by aging housing stock and lead-based paint, not water systems.

## POLICING, SURVEILLANCE, AND STRESS

Public records show higher concentrations of aerial surveillance and mobile camera deployment in neighborhoods overlapping the 49507. Historic traffic stop data show Black drivers were stopped 2-3x the rate of white drivers, contributing to chronic stress that impacts mental and cardiovascular health.

## LIFE AND DEATH OUTCOMES

Life expectancy in the 49507 is estimated in the low to mid-70s, compared to more than 80 years in wealthier areas of Kent County. Black infant mortality rates locally range from 10.8 to 14.5 deaths per 1,000 births, more than double the national average.

## CONCLUSION

Health justice in the 49507 requires closing income gaps, reducing preventable exposure to environmental and enforcement-related stressors, and addressing disparities in life expectancy and infant mortality. These figures represent real lives, real futures, and real policy choices.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau (ACS), Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Kent County Health Department, GRAAHI Health Equity Index.