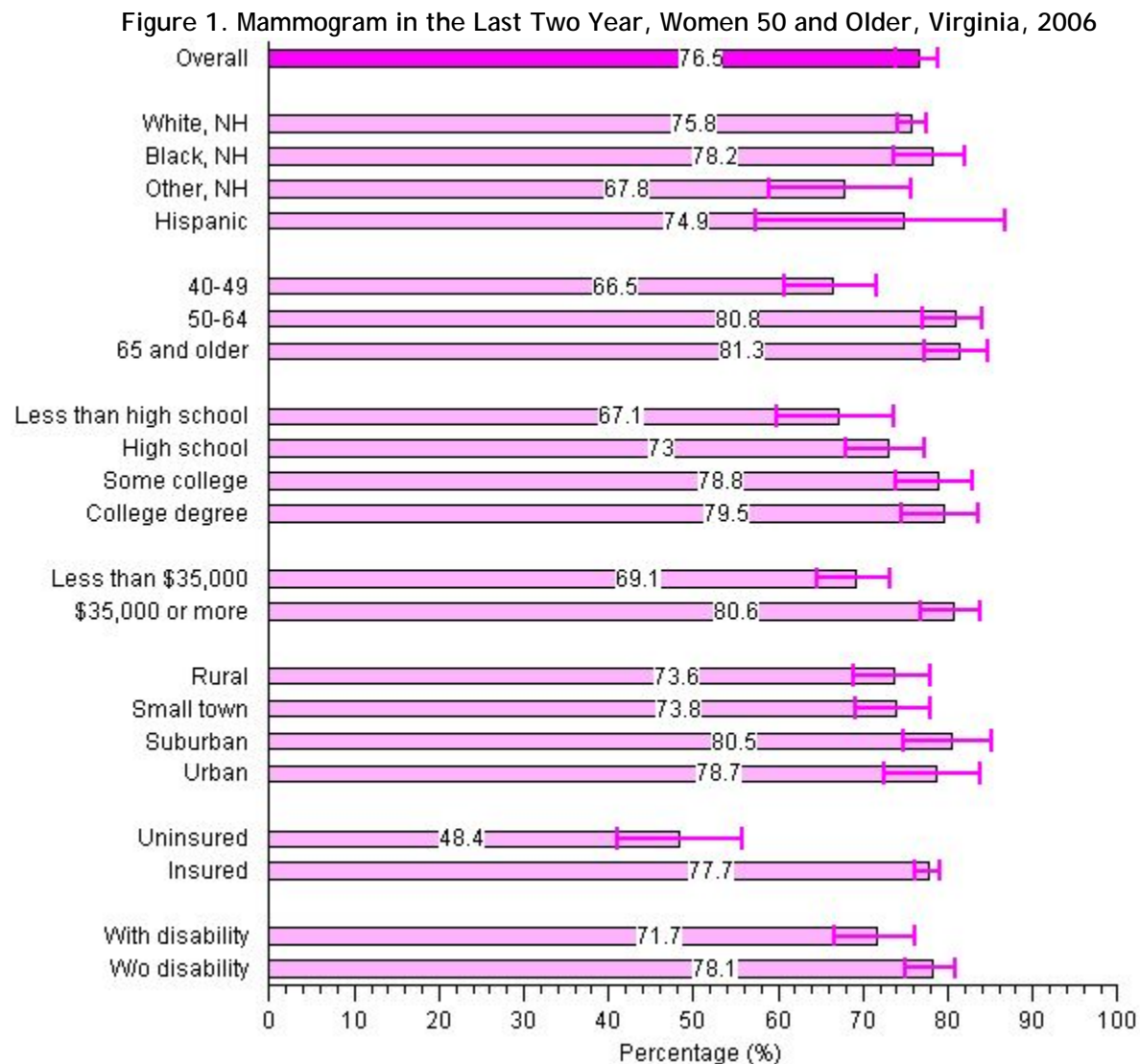


Cancer Screening: Group Differences

Health disparities occur in who is likely to get cancer and die from cancer. For example, blacks have a higher mortality rate than whites for most preventable cancers, like lung cancer and prostate cancer. Some of these differences are attributable to varying rates of screening and engaging in risk behaviors like smoking.

Mammography

According to the 2006 Virginia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), three out of four (76.5%) women ages 50 and older received a mammogram within the past two years. Although mammography rates were similar between black and white women, women from other racial groups had a much lower rate. Mammography rates were lower among women who were low income, less educated, uninsured, and with a disability (Figure 1).

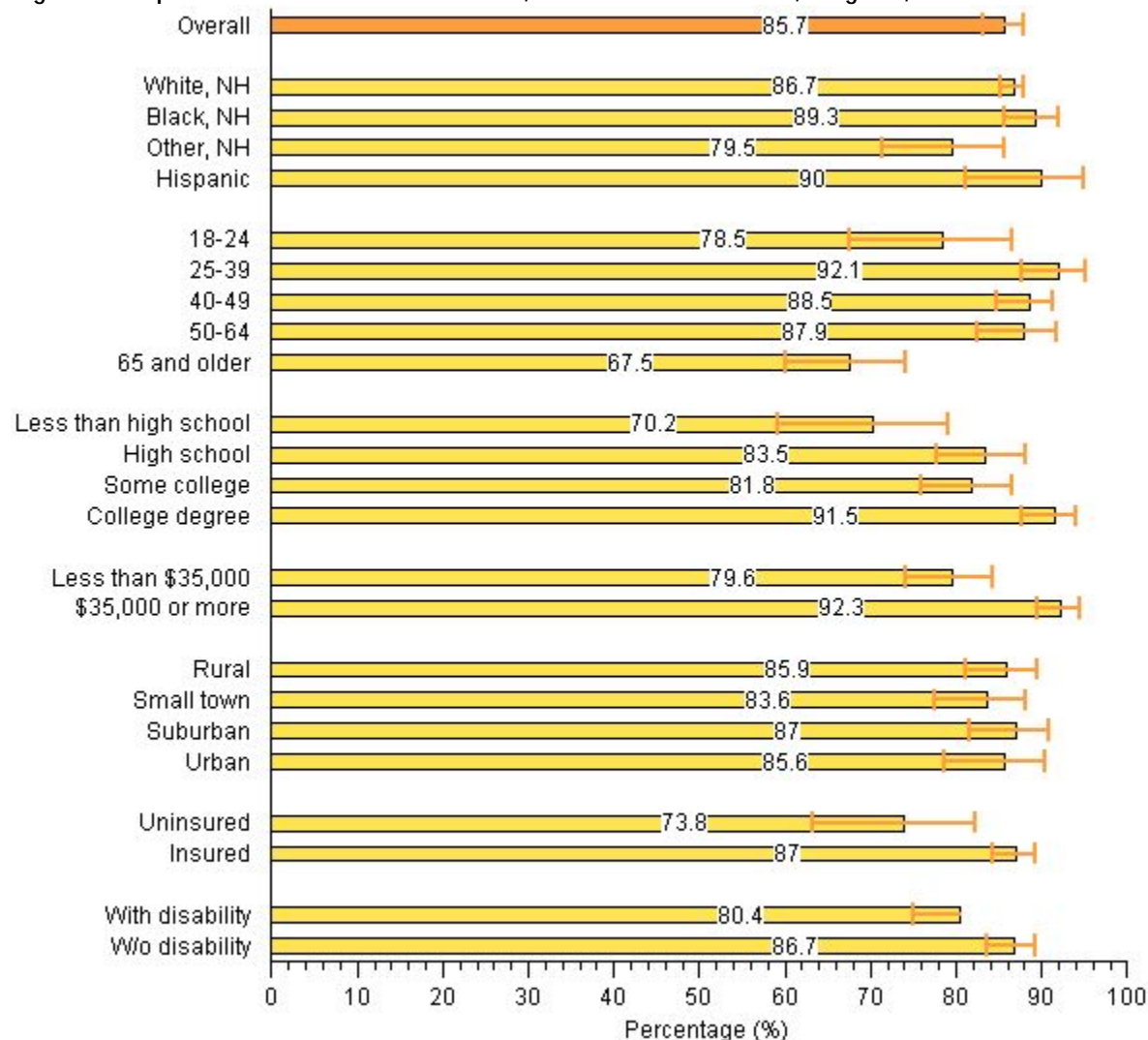


Source: Virginia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. 95% confidence intervals are shown. Rates by race were based on data from 2004 through 2006.

Pap Test

Almost 9 of 10 women (85.7%) ages 18 and older had a Pap test within the past three years. Although Pap test rates were similar between black and white women, women of other races had a lower rate. Women ages 65 and older also had a significantly lower rate of screening than younger women. Pap test rates were lower among women who were less educated, lower income, uninsured, and with a disability (Figure 2).

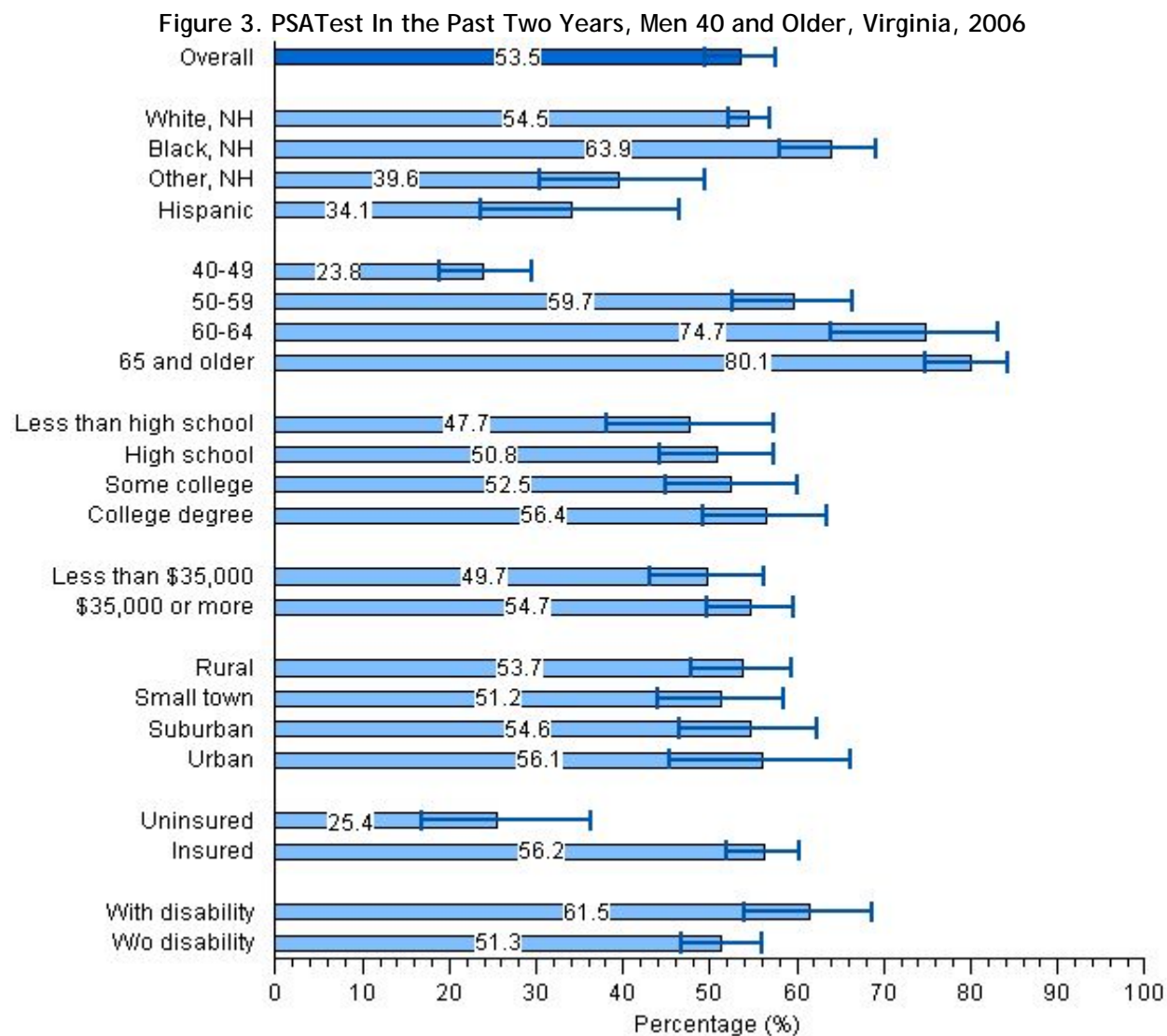
Figure 2. Pap Test in the Past Three Years, Women 18 and Older, Virginia, 2006



Source: Virginia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. 95% confidence intervals are shown. Rates by race were based on data from 2004 through 2006. Applies only to women with an intact cervix.

Prostate-Specific Antigen Test (PSA)

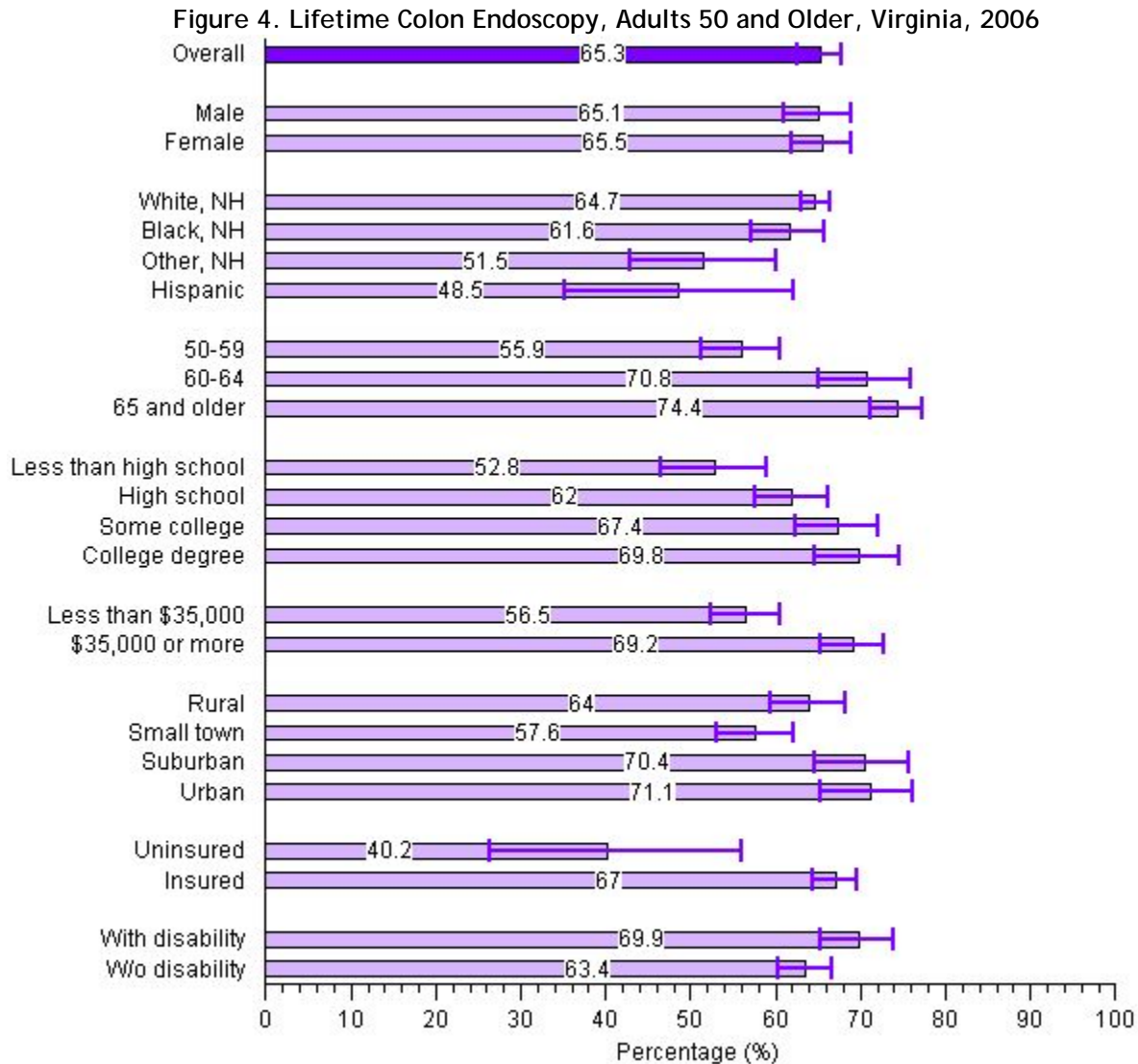
Over half (53.5%) of men 40 and older had a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test within the past two years. Although PSA rates were similar between black and white men, Hispanic men and men of other races had much lower rates. PSA rates were lower among uninsured men and men with a disability (Figure 3).



Source: Virginia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. 95% confidence intervals are shown. Rates by race were based on data from 2004 through 2006.

Colon Endoscopy

Almost two out of three (65.3%) adults ages 50 and older had colon cancer screening -- endoscopy (e.g., colonoscopy, sigmoidoscopy) -- at some point in their life. Although endoscopy rates were similar between black and white adults, Hispanic adults and adults of other races had much lower rates. Endoscopy rates were lower among adults who were ages 50-59, less educated, lower income, and uninsured (Figure 4).



Source: Virginia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. 95% confidence intervals are shown. Rates by race were based on data from 2004 through 2006.

- For information on cancer screening and other risk behaviors in the U.S. and Virginia, go to the CDC BRFSS website (<http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/>).

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