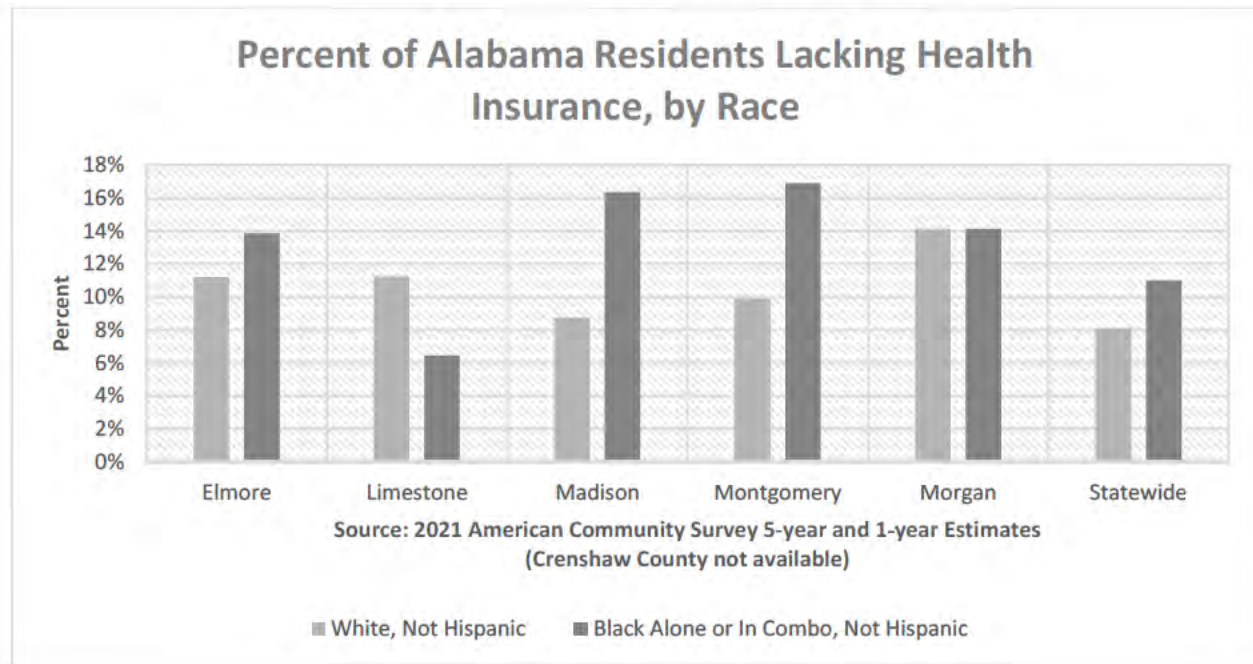


Figure 10: Health Insurance Access in Alabama, by Race. Source: 2021 American Community Survey 1-year and 5-year Estimates.



### Race and Health

Health status also affects voting. Several studies have associated poor health with lower voter turnout.<sup>38</sup> The effects of health on voting may take many pathways, such as reducing the availability of free time and money that could otherwise be devoted to politics.<sup>39</sup> Impaired cognitive functioning or physical disability also may make voting more difficult.<sup>40</sup>

Overall indicators of health show that Black Alabamians are in worse health than White Alabamians. For instance, the rate of infant mortality is nearly three times higher for Black infants than White infants.<sup>41</sup> Overall life expectancy at birth varies by race in Alabama. Black

<sup>38</sup> Lyon, Gregory. 2021. "The Conditional Effects of Health on Voter Turnout." *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* 46 (3):409-433. Pacheco, Julianna, and Jason Fletcher. 2015. "Incorporating health into studies of political behavior: Evidence for turnout and partisanship." *Political research quarterly* 68 (1):104-116. Blakely, Tony A, Bruce P Kennedy, and Ichiro Kawachi. 2001. "Socioeconomic inequality in voting participation and self-rated health." *American journal of public health* 91 (1):99.

<sup>39</sup> Pacheco and Fletcher 2015.

<sup>40</sup> Pacheco and Fletcher 2015.

<sup>41</sup> Alabama Department of Public Health. "Infant Mortality Alabama 2022." Available online <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/healthstats/assets/infantmortality2022.pdf>. Accessed 2 Feb 2024.