

HEALTH EQUITY UPDATES

December 2022



This Month



International Day of People with Disabilities

December 3rd

Join IPRO for the National CLAS Standards Initiative

Discover ways to improve the delivery of culturally & linguistically appropriate services (CLAS) in your organization. A good place to start is taking the [IPRO CLAS Assessment](#) and joining us for our educational series in January that will cover the themes and standards of the HHS National Standards for Culturally & Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care. Together, we will discuss how to develop an CLAS implementation plan, CLAS evidence-based interventions, and best practices for providing high-quality care for all your patients.

Happy
Holidays



AHRQ Releases Annual National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report

Earlier this month, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) released its annual, Congressionally mandated [report](#) that provides a summary of healthcare quality in the U.S. The report assesses the performance of the country's healthcare system, areas of strengths and weaknesses, and disparities experienced by certain racial and ethnic minority populations. [According](#) to Robert Otto Valdez, Director of the Agency, "we still have much work to do" to ensure there is equity in quality and access to healthcare.

Some highlights from the report:

- Racial and ethnic diversity has increased. An increase in the percentage of people who identify as two or more races accounts for most of the increase in diversity, rising from 2.9% to 10.2% between 2010 and 2020.
- Life expectancy in the United States decreased for the first time in 2020 due to COVID-19. The decline in life expectancy was greater for Hispanic and non-Hispanic Black groups compared to non-Hispanic White groups, widening a health disparity among these groups.
- The leading causes of death in the U.S. in 2020 were heart disease and cancer, followed by COVID-19 and unintentional injuries. The most common cause of unintentional injuries was drug overdose (which accounted for over 40% of unintentional injury deaths), followed by accidental falls and motor vehicle accidents (each of which accounted for approximately 20% of unintentional injuries).
- The percentage of people with health insurance coverage has increased significantly in the past decade. However, those gains vary by race and ethnicity. Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native groups and Hispanic groups are significantly less likely to be insured.

In the News

[HHS Announces \\$350M to Increase COVID Vaccinations](#)

On November 22nd, HHS announced a new \$350 million initiative for HRSA-supported health centers to increase COVID-19 vaccines in their communities, especially for underserved populations. This funding will support health centers administering COVID-19 vaccines and boosters through mobile, drive-up, walk-up, and community events, and their other efforts to increase the administration of COVID-19 vaccines.

[Improving Data to Advance Health Equity Solutions](#)

The CMS Office of Minority Health (CMS OMH) released a new report in November titled *The Path Forward: Improving Data to Advance Health Equity Solutions*. The report outlines the current state of health equity data collection across CMS programs, details progress to date in improving CMS data collection, and defines CMS's future actions to continue to improve health equity data.

[Advancing Telehealth Equity](#)

This report describes telehealth use in Massachusetts since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and disparities in use across populations. It summarizes telehealth use from the perspective of patients, providers, and community leaders gleaned from stakeholder interviews. The authors provide recommendations to advance telehealth equity such as addressing the root causes of the digital divide, promoting digital inclusion, removing structural and financial barriers to telehealth access, and supporting higher quality and more inclusive care delivery.

[Rural Health Community Stars](#)

This collection of stories by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) highlights individuals and organizations across the U.S. that have made positive differences in the health of the rural communities they serve through innovation, leadership, commitment, collaboration, education, and communication. The NOSORH is a non-profit membership organization with offices in all 50 states.

[Disparities in Flu Vaccination and Hospitalization](#)

A newly released data visualization from the National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation highlights disparities in flu vaccination and hospitalization rates. This flu season has been the most severe in 13 years, putting racial and ethnic minorities at disproportionate risk for serious illness. Also of concern is the expected "triple-demic" this winter: increased cases of COVID-19, influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

[Report on Health Disparities in Healthy People 2020](#)

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) released a report titled "Examining Progress Toward Elimination of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities for Healthy People 2020 Objectives Using Three Measures of Overall Disparity" that provides the first ever assessment of health disparities across all of Healthy People 2020. The report found little or no change in disparities for most of the objectives, that health disparities persist and that multiple measures provide different approaches for assessing progress toward elimination.



Visit the IPRO Resource Library: <https://qi-library.ipro.org/>

Upcoming Events

[New Day: Nursing Home Education Summit](#)

IPRO

Date: December 8, 2022

Time: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM ET

[Health Equity Organizational Assessment Affinity Group –](#)

(Session 1 of 6)

IPRO

Date: December 8, 2022

Time: 12:00 PM – 12:45 PM ET

[Long COVID: New Research and the Economic Toll](#)

NIHCM

Date: December 15, 2022

Time: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET