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HEALTH EQUITY GUIDE

July 2023



[HHS Announces More Than \\$65 Million to Address the Maternal Health Crisis and Invest in New Approaches to Care](#)

Black and American Indian/Alaska Native women are two to three times more likely to die of pregnancy-related causes than White women. To address this disparity, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded funding to 35 HRSA-supported health centers.

The health centers will tailor their services to the communities they serve and develop patient-centered care delivery models. Examples of innovative approaches include offering bilingual doula services, leveraging health technology to reach rural patients, and providing culturally aware mental and behavioral health care for pregnant women and their families.

[AMA, IHI Launch Nationwide Equity Coalition In Health Care](#)

The American Medical Association (AMA), the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), and Race Forward launched **“Rise to Health: A National Coalition for Equity in Health Care.”** The coalition will work across health care organizations to advance racial justice and eliminate inequities in health care. The coalition’s goals are to mobilize individuals and health care organizations to create action as well as to shift culture and practices.

July Observances: World Hepatitis Day (July 28), BIPOC Mental Health Month

The theme for this year’s Hepatitis Day observation is **[We're Not Waiting](#)** and the World Hepatitis Alliance offers **[campaign materials](#)** in multiple languages.

Culture, Community, and Connection is the theme of BIPOC Mental Health Month. HHS has a **[toolkit](#)** of resources to use and share. Mental Health America has also developed a toolkit.

Rural/CAH Corner

[Rural and Urban Differences in Factors Associated with Inpatient Hospital Stays for Substance Use Disorder](#)



This policy brief finds that rural inpatients were nine times more likely than others to reside in areas with no buprenorphine waived physicians and are more likely to be admitted to inpatient stays via court or law enforcement.

[Efforts By Critical Access Hospitals to Increase Health Equity Through Greater Engagement with Social Determinants Of Health](#)

This journal article highlights how critical access hospitals (CAHs) engage in addressing unmet social needs and their role in serving their rural communities.

In the News

[From Process To Outcome: Working Toward Health Equity](#)

In this interview, Aletha Maybank, chief health equity officer and senior vice president at the American Medical Association, describes her work and shares how she became involved in health equity. She highlights the use of an asset-based approach which focuses on how to improve the overall health of communities. She also discusses the [Black Progress Index](#) which describes social conditions and resources in areas where Black people experience the best health.

[Better Data Is Needed to Tackle Health Equity](#)

This article highlights the data gaps to understand inequities that became evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. The authors discuss the need for better data standards and sharing, updates to the OMB standards to accurately reflect the demographics of the population, and incorporating interoperability resources into measure specifications that can help promote the reliable sharing of race and ethnicity data.

[CMS Shares Resources Addressing the Needs of Adults with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities and Their Caregiver](#)

Experts are forecasting increases in the number of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities living at home with aging caregivers. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services shared resources to assist state Medicaid and partner agencies to address the needs of adults with I/DD living with and supported by aging parents and other caregivers.

[Opportunities to Enhance Health Equity by Integrating Community Health Workers into Payment and Care Delivery Reforms](#)

This reports discusses the role of community health workers in improving equitable access to care and outlines several types of roles they can play e.g., providing direct services, acting as cultural mediators, conducting outreach, and building community capacity. The report outlines learnings from the COVID-19 testing strategies that can be mapped to a health equity framework that utilizes community health workers.



For more health equity news: <https://qi.ipro.org/health-equity-resources>

Upcoming Events

[Culture And Community: Impacts On BIPOC Mental Health](#)

Mental Health America
July 11
1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

[Unequal Treatment Revisited: A Workshop Series: Part 1](#)

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
July 12-13

[Breaking Down the Ivory Tower: Building the Health Care Workforce America Needs](#)

National Health Equity Grand Rounds
August 8
2:00 – 3:30 PM EDT

For a PDF version of this newsletter, including hyperlinks to resources for additional information, scan this QR code.



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bit.ly/43iLAyH