



- Healthcentric Advisors
- Qlarant
- Kentucky Hospital Association
- Q3 Health Innovation Partners
- Superior Health Quality Alliance

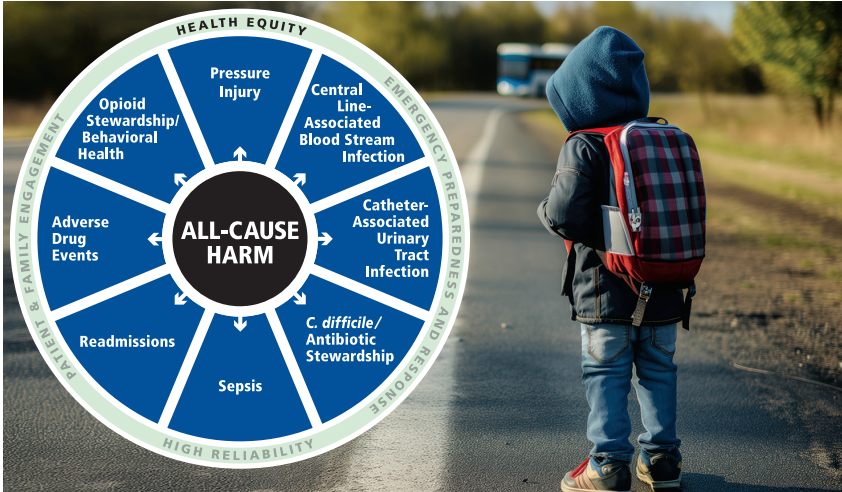
HQIC

Hospital Quality Improvement Contractors
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT & INNOVATION GROUP



HEALTH EQUITY GUIDE

March 2024



CDC Report Highlights Disparities in Transportation Access

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently published a data brief based on the results of the 2022 National Health Interview Survey, highlighting barriers to transportation access that have an impact on health outcomes. Key findings:

- 5.7% of adults lacked reliable transportation for daily living.
- American Indian and Alaska Native non-Hispanic adults lacked reliable transportation for daily living at a higher rate than other populations.
- Reliable transportation access increased as income and educational level increased.
- The West North Central region of the U.S. had the highest percentage of adults who lacked reliable transportation.

New Model Integrates Behavioral, Physical and Social Supports

In January, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a new model of care to improve overall quality of care and outcomes for Medicare and Medicaid populations with mental health conditions and/or substance use disorder. The Innovation in Behavioral Health (IBH) model tasks community-based behavioral health providers with forming and coordinating interprofessional care teams to provide patients with integrated, patient-centered behavioral and physical care that addresses health-related social needs. A state-based model, IBH will be led by state Medicaid agencies and will launch in Fall 2024 in up to eight states. [More information.](#)

March: National Colorectal Cancer Awareness and National Kidney Month

The [American Cancer Society](#) reports that Black communities have the highest rates of colorectal cancer among any racial/ethnic group in the U.S., with African Americans about 20% more likely to get colorectal cancer and 40% more likely to die from it than the general population.

Kidney disease disproportionately affects communities of color, as reported by the [National Kidney Foundation](#). Blacks or African Americans are almost four times more likely to have kidney failure, compared with White Americans.

Rural/CAH Corner

Program Will Improve Access to Care for Rural Patients



The Platform Accelerating Rural Access to Distributed and InteGrated Medical Care (PARADIGM) program will bring advanced medical services outside of a hospital setting to underserved rural populations via a scalable care delivery mobile platform.

Produce Prescription Programs Address Rural Food Insecurity

Produce prescription programs for low-income individuals with diet-related chronic health conditions are being tested in rural sites across the country. A 2023 study of nine programs, conducted by researchers at Tufts University, found that these programs positively impact patients' health and healthcare outcomes.

In the News

[Innovative Partnership Advances Health Equity](#)

In 2021 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBSMA) launched a program in which infrastructure-building grant money was provided to 12 healthcare organizations that participate in the plan's value-based payment model, designed to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in the quality of healthcare. To further support that effort, a learning collaborative led by BCBSMA and facilitated by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) was established to provide a forum for clinicians to share challenges and best practices, receive expert coaching, and test solutions to deepen their health equity expertise. An [independent study](#) found that the collaborative and funded interventions supported providers in enhancing data collection and in implementing/evaluating the impact of equity-focused interventions.

[Historical Events and Policies that Shaped Persistent Health Disparities in the U.S.](#)

Kaiser Family Foundation's timeline details historical events and major policies that have shaped racial and ethnic disparities. The timeline begins in the 1800s and continues to the present day, covering some of the complex historical occurrences that continue to influence healthcare disparities.

["Housing First" Approach Addresses Homelessness and Increases Engagement in Office-Based Health Services](#)

An article recently published in Health Affairs discusses Denver's "Housing First" approach, which provides supportive housing to the city's chronically homeless population who have a history of frequent arrests and jail stays. Findings from a randomized clinical trial indicate that the participants who received housing support had more office-based visits for mental health care and fewer emergency department visits than the control group.

[Addressing Barriers to Transportation in Marginalized Communities](#)

A Transportation Equity Brief published by the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) details results of a 2021 survey of older adults and younger adults with disabilities from marginalized communities and their caregivers. The brief highlights the unique challenges faced by these groups, including lack of access to a vehicle, frustration getting to adjoining jurisdictions, having to schedule rides far in advance, unavailability of long-distance trips, discomfort with driving, lack of awareness of transportation options, lack of community transportation, and transportation costs. NADTC recommends that providers collaborate with caregivers to address these barriers. [More information](#)



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

Upcoming Events

[Collaborating for Equity](#)

IPRO

February 28, 2024

12:00 – 12:30 PM ET

[Cardiovascular Disease Disparities in Rural America: Can This House of Cards Be Saved?](#)

NIH Office of Intramural Research

April 17, 2024

2:00-3:00 PM ET

SAVE THE DATE

[CMS Health Equity Conference](#)

[Sustaining Health Equity Through Action](#)

May 29-30, 2024

Hyatt Regency, Bethesda, MD

(in-person and virtual)

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



Or follow this link:

bit.ly/43iLayH