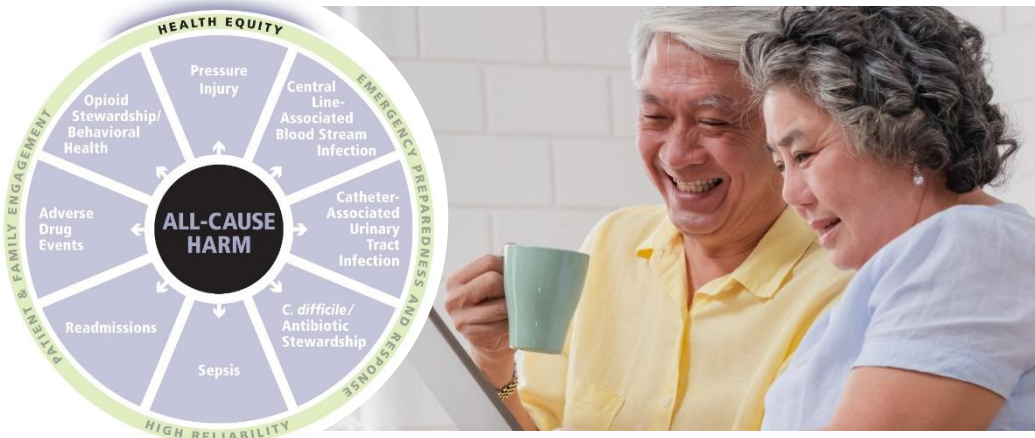


HEALTH EQUITY HIGHLIGHTS

August 2021



View the latest hospital health equity news, events, and tools to support your efforts in eliminating health care disparities within your health system and communities.

CDC and OMH Partner to Launch the Minority Health Social Vulnerability Index

The HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) launched the [Minority Health Social Vulnerability Index \(SVI\)](#). This tool support the identification of racial and ethnic minority communities at greatest risk for disproportionate impact and adverse outcomes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Minority Health SVI is an extension of the CDC SVI that combines 15 social factors included in the original CDC SVI with additional factors known to be associated with COVID-19 outcomes. OMH developed the factors using five-year estimates of demographic data from the [U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#) and organized them into six themes:

- Socioeconomic Status
- Household Composition and Disability
- Minority Status and Language
- Housing Type and Transportation
- Health Care Infrastructure
- Medical Vulnerability

The dashboard has three sections: a sidebar menu, a bar chart, and a map. The sidebar controls which variables are shown on the bar chart and which areas of the United States are shown on the map.

Use the Minority Health SVI to apply a health equity lens to research, strategic planning, program design, and evaluation related to response and recovery for COVID-19 and other public health emergencies (PHEs). Learn more about social vulnerability and the Minority Health SVI by [downloading the fact sheet](#) from the OMH website.

Rural/CAH Corner

[Rural Crosswalk: CMS Flexibilities to Fight COVID-19 \(Updated\)](#)

Since the beginning of COVID-19, CMS issued an unprecedented array of temporary regulatory waivers and new rules to equip the American healthcare system with maximum flexibility to respond to COVID-19.

These temporary changes will apply immediately across the entire U.S. healthcare system for the duration of the emergency declaration.

[This crosswalk](#) highlights COVID-19-related provisions CMS issued by regulation or waiver impacting Rural Health Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Critical Access Hospitals, Rural Acute Care PPS Hospitals, and/or Skilled Nursing Facilities. It also describes the significance for these rural providers.

In the News

[AHIMA releases Social Determinants of Health \(SDOH\) white paper](#)

Telling a patient's whole health story requires capturing the social determinants that influence overall health. The challenge for health systems is capturing and structuring information from sources beyond traditional health information systems. The American Health Information Management Association's (AHIMA) Social Determinants of Health: Improving Capture and Use by Applying Data Governance Strategies [white paper](#) explores strategies and best practices forward-thinking healthcare organizations use to improve the data governance underlying SDOH initiatives, including:

- Cultivating external and internal collaboration
- Applying the data lifecycle stages to an overall SDOH governance strategy
- Evaluating HL7 FHIR-based APIs to support upstream care
- Making SDOH data actionable

[Facing Down Denial and Data Challenges When Addressing Equity](#)

Tosan O. Boyo, Senior Vice President of Hospital Operations at John Muir Health and a new Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) board member, uses his love of problem-solving and dedication to equity to challenge the status quo. In an interview, he talks about the importance of data in understanding quality of care and staff well-being.

[Racial Inequality in Prescription Opioid Receipt — Role of Individual Health Systems](#)

A recent study published in the New England Journal of Medicine finds common opioids—such as codeine and morphine—are prescribed to white patients more often than black patients treated within the same health system. In about 90% of the 310 health systems studied, the opioid dose prescribed to white patients was higher than one prescribed to black patients. On average, white patients received 36% more pain medication by dosage than black patients, even though both groups received prescriptions at similar rates. The findings confirm at least [20 years of data](#) showing disparities in pain management.



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

Upcoming Events

[Diversifying Nursing to Advance Health Equity The Future of Nursing 2020-2030 webinar](#)

National Academy of Medicine

Date: August 11, 2021

Time: 2 PM EDT

[Using Social Determinants of Health \(SDOH\) to Enhance Treatment: Orientation to Z Codes and Food Insecurity](#)

AETNA, SAMHSA, Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network, Mid-America MHTTC

Date: August 19, 2021

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM CST

[Digital Health Equity Summit](#)

Addressing Inequities & Building a Modern Healthcare System

eHealth Initiative (eHI)

Date: November 3 - 4, 2021