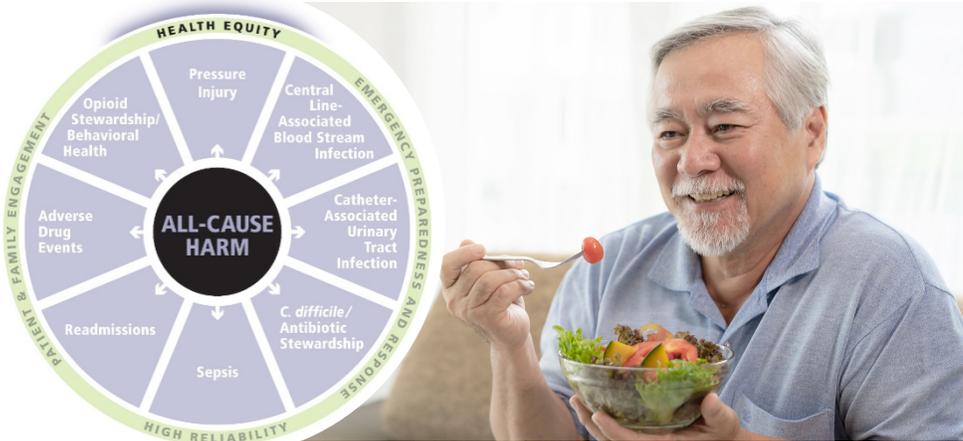


HEALTH EQUITY GUIDE

March 2022



Health Affairs Released a Special Issue on Racism and Health

Health Affairs released a special themed [issue](#) on racism and health which emphasized considerations around structural racism. Highlighted below are a few of the topics covered in the issue:

- An interactive [Storymap: The Problem of the Color Line](#) provides a look at the geographical impacts of racism on health care service use. Its findings reveal that rural ZIP codes with the largest shares of Black or American Indian/Alaska Native residents are significantly farther from many hospital services than rural ZIP codes with large majorities of White residents. It identified that more than 55 percent of all high American Indian/Alaska Native communities lack access to trauma care, intensive care, and cardiac care within a thirty-mile radius.
- An [overview paper](#) explains the pathway from systemic racism to poor health and provides examples of how to dismantle racist systems.
- An [article](#) on disparities in patient experience among nonelderly Medicaid managed care enrollees finds that members of racial and ethnic minority groups have historically reported worse care experiences than White enrollees.
- A [podcast](#) highlights biases found in patient notes entered into an electronic health record. An examination of this found Black patients had over 2.5 times the odds of having negative descriptors in the EHR compared to White patients.

In addition, a [recording](#) from its Virtual Symposium on February 8 is also available for viewing.

March is National Colorectal Awareness, National Kidney, and National Nutrition Month

The CDC offers [several resources](#) on colorectal cancer and the Colon Cancer Coalition has helpful [materials](#).

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases offers a [toolkit](#) on resources to help build paths to better kidney care.

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics offers a [toolkit](#) in multiple languages on informed food choices. The theme for this year is “Celebrate a World of Flavors” to embrace global cuisines.

Rural/CAH Corner

[Challenges of addressing opioid use disorder in rural settings: A state perspective](#)

This journal article identifies considerations for rural states/communities working on addressing the opioid epidemic based on the perspectives of the state of Maine.

[Serving the Mental Health Needs of Rural Teens Means Tackling Other Obstacles as Well](#)

This article highlights a new project to address teen mental health in a rural area.

In the News

[CMS Redesigns Accountable Care Organization Model to Provide Better Care for People with Traditional Medicare](#)

CMS announced a new redesigned Accountable Care Organization (ACO) model called Realizing Equity, Access, and Community Health (REACH) which is a redesign of its Global and Professional Direct Contracting (GPDC) Model. The REACH model will prioritize a greater focus on equity and closing disparities in care for patients with Traditional Medicare. These patients may have greater access to enhanced benefits, such as telehealth visits, home care after leaving the hospital, and help with co-pays.

[20 years ago, a landmark report spotlighted systemic racism in medicine. Why has so little changed?](#)

In a two-part special report, STAT News explores why there has not been as much progress on tackling health disparities. It notes that the pandemic has shed a light on this issue and statistics still show that “Black Americans continue to die up to five years earlier than those who are white.” The report indicates progress has been made on collection of racial and ethnic data but more needs to be done. A few strategies were highlighted: diversifying the physician workforce, collecting race and ethnicity data, analyzing data on health outcomes and mortality by race, and establishing commitments to eliminating injustices.

[5 Building Blocks to help Achieve Greater Health Equity](#)

This Brookings article provides five approaches to address health equity and includes examples for each: 1) telehealth to improve access to care; 2) expand health care teams e.g., by using community health workers, health coaches, and others, 3) partner with community assets e.g., places of worship, libraries; 4) improve coordination between housing and health care; and 5) increase access to mental health services.

[New Resource: Racial and Health Equity: Concrete STEPS for Health Systems](#)

The American Medical Association released a new toolkit aimed at helping health systems translate their commitment to racial and health equity into action. It offers 5 steps: 1) commit as a health system to do the work, 2) start shifting organizational norms and practices by learning what you don’t know, 3) get a handle on your data, 4) develop a shared, clear, compelling vision and goals for the entire system and 5) launch targeted improvement efforts across the system



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

Upcoming Events

[HRSA Workforce Grand Rounds Webinar Series - Healthcare Workforce Diversity & Health Equity](#)

HRSA

Date: March 1

Time: 12:00 – 1:30 PM EST

[Affordable Housing: An Essential for Health Equity](#)

Columbia Mailman School of Public Health

Date: March 2

Time: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM EST

[A Pragmatic Approach to Addressing Health Equity](#)

AHIP

Date: March 10

Time: 2:00 – 3:00 PM EST