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HEALTH EQUITY GUIDE

May 2022



May: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Mental Health Month, and National Women’s Health Week (May 8-14)

Mental Health America offers [resources](#) related to mental health and AHA offers [resources](#) on using destigmatizing language.

HHS offers a [viral hepatitis plan](#) for priority populations and the CDC offers a [stroke communications kit](#).

HHS’s Office on Women’s Health will provide [resources](#) for National Women’s Health Week.

[CMS Outlines Strategy to Advance Health Equity](#)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released a [strategic plan](#) focused on health equity and plans to build health equity into its core work. Some of its actions will include:

- Close gaps in health care access, quality, and outcomes for underserved populations.
- Promote services in the culture and language of patients’ preferred languages and health literacy.
- Expand and standardize the collection and use of data.
- Incorporate screening for and promote broader access to health-related social needs.
- Explore development of health-equity focused measures in all care settings.

[White House Releases 2022 National Drug Control Strategy that Outlines Comprehensive Path Forward to Address Addiction and the Overdose Epidemic](#)

The White House released the National Drug Control Strategy which focuses on untreated addiction and drug trafficking. It identifies that people with addiction face barriers to treatment, and calls to expand access to evidence-based treatments shown to reduce overdose risk and mortality. It also emphasizes the need to develop stronger data collection and analysis systems to better deploy public health interventions. Some strategies outlined include:

- Expand high-impact harm reduction interventions like naloxone
- Ensure those at highest-risk of an overdose can access evidence-based treatment
- Improve data systems and research that guide drug policy development.

Rural/CAH Corner

[As Eating Disorders Spike During Pandemic, Rural Treatment Options Lag](#)

This article highlights gaps in treatment coverage in rural areas for eating disorders and disparities in diagnosis of eating disorders for Black, Indigenous, and other people of color.

[Riding Herd on Mental Health in Colorado Ranching Country](#)

This article discusses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health in agricultural communities where mental health providers are scarce. Colorado has employed a text-messaging number and a tailored awareness campaign to promote mental health services.

In the News

[CMS Announces Key Actions to Reduce Maternal Mortality and Morbidity](#)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released more details about its proposed “Birthing-Friendly” hospital designation intended to improve maternal health outcomes. The new designation would assist consumers in choosing hospitals that have demonstrated a commitment to maternal health and the delivery of high-quality maternity care on Care Compare. Additional information about the initial requirements for the designation will be released in the coming days as a part of the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) proposed rule. CMS has also recommended states provide postpartum coverage for 12 months to people enrolled in Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

[American Hospital Association Unveils its Health Equity Roadmap](#)

The Health Equity Roadmap provides a framework to help hospitals and health care systems chart their own paths toward transformation. It includes six levers of transformation: culturally appropriate patient care, equitable and inclusive organizational policies, collection and use of data to drive action, diverse representation in leadership and governance, community collaboration for solutions, and systemic and shared accountability.

[Weaving Equity Into Every Step of Performance Improvement](#)

This Institute for Healthcare Improvement blog describes how NYC Health + Hospitals has integrated an equity perspective into all its performance improvement work. As an example, they found Hispanic patients disproportionately did not return for rehabilitation follow-up, and they explored the use of interpretation services for follow-up calls. The blog provides health equity considerations for each step in the performance improvement process.

[A Toolkit to Advance Racial Health Equity in Primary Care Improvement](#)

This resource provides seven concrete opportunities for organizations to act and advance health equity and includes a case study for each of the seven areas e.g., on marrying data with community organizing to improve diabetes care. It also provides tips and challenges that have emerged from the implementation of the steps towards advancing health equity.



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

Upcoming Events

[Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy Lecture Series: Addressing Systemic Racism, Mental Health Stigma, and Community Resilience to Achieve Health Equity](#)

NIH

Date: May 11

Time: 1:00 – 2:00 PM EST

[Social Determinants of Health Virtual Summit](#)

Patient Engagement HIT

Date: May 17-18

[Empowering You to Take Action: National Rural Substance Use Disorder Health Equity and Stigma Summit](#)

University of Rochester Medicine Recovery Center of Excellence

Date: May 18

Time: 8:00 – 4:00 PM EST