



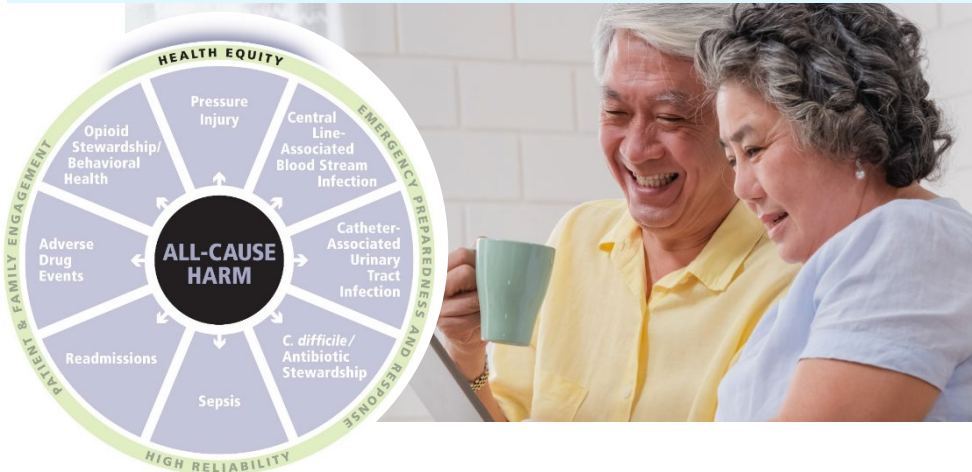
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HEALTH EQUITY GUIDE

April 2023



April: National Minority Health Month, Public Health Week (Apr. 4-10), STD Awareness Week (Apr. 10-16).

The theme for National Minority Health Month is: [Better Health Through Better Understanding](#) focused on improving health outcomes for racial and ethnic minority and AI/AN communities.

The CDC offers [resources](#) to reduce STD-related stigma, fear, and discrimination.

The APHA offers several daily themed [resources](#) and events focused on public health and equity.

[Aligning Quality Measures across CMS — The Universal Foundation](#)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) leaders describe their work to align quality measures and reduce measure proliferation by announcing a “universal foundation” of quality measures that will apply to many CMS programs. The purpose of this is to focus attention on specific measures that apply to a broad population, reduce burden by aligning measures, as well as advancing equity.

This measure set covers several domains: wellness and prevention, chronic conditions, behavioral health, seamless care coordination, person-centered care, and equity. The measure focused on equity is to screen for social drivers of health and will eventually include follow-up to address the social needs identified during screening.

CMS plans to use the measure set and stratify the outcome data to identify disparities which will help inform future plans on health equity.

[CDC Reports Spike in Maternal Deaths in 2021](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently reported that 2021 had the worst rates of maternal mortality in U.S. history, with almost a 40 percent increase from 2020. The maternal mortality rate for non-Hispanic Black women was 2.6 times the rate for non-Hispanic White women.

[Data](#) released in 2022 indicated that four in five pregnancy-related deaths in the U.S. are preventable. The CDC has a national campaign “[HEAR HER](#)” to prevent pregnancy-related deaths by sharing warning signs. The CDC also supports Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRCs) in 39 states to identify, review, and understand pregnancy-related deaths.

Rural/CAH Corner

[Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation Initiatives to Address Rural Health and Health Disparities](#)

This policy brief discusses three models CMMI has used to allow providers participate in and sustain programs that focus on health equity.

['Changing the future of rural medicine:' Montana hospitals working toward Native health care equity](#)

This news article describes how the use of a Native American liaison helps educate staff about cultural appropriateness.

In the News

[How Should We Measure and Interpret Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care?](#)

A report from the Urban Institute provides recommendations on interpreting racial and ethnic disparity estimates. These include defining health disparity and how it is measured, providing a conceptual framework that includes/considers racism as a driver of disparities, discussing limitations in data that are used to estimate disparities, estimating a model with appropriate components, and investigating models beyond documenting disparities.

[How Hospitals Improve Health Equity Through Community-Centered Innovation](#)

This article discusses how hospitals that invest in communities can make an impact on their “financial performance, organizational culture, and reputation.” Lessons from leaders from five organizations included a call to embrace collaboration with local nonprofits and businesses, empower employees to advocate for patients, measure outcomes and outputs from interventions, a refocus from “charity care” to “equity care” to address inequities, conduct community-based health equity research, and tailor investments to specific disparities.

[Racial Health Disparities in Fentanyl Overdoses Worsened in 2020](#)

A recent report indicates a worsening racial gap in overdose deaths in 2020. Overall, overdose deaths increased but specifically, fentanyl overdose deaths were 10 times higher for Black men than White men in the same region. There are additional regional and gender differences that were also noted.

[Discrimination a Key Social Determinant of Health in Frailty, Outcomes](#)

This article discusses a new study which links discrimination to frailty among Black cancer survivors. It describes the “weathering hypothesis” where stressors from discrimination can impact various parts of ones’ health e.g., heart rate, metabolism, blood pressure. The research co-author noted that experiences with racism can often have just as much of an impact on health outcomes as other social determinants of health.



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

Upcoming Events

[Effects of Comprehensive Care in a Socioeconomically Diverse Minority Population](#)

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

Date: April 6, 2023

Time: 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

[Restoring Patient Trust through a Health Justice Approach](#)

American Medical College

Date: April 12, 2023

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 PM ET

[Health Equity Summit](#)

The Atlantic

Date: April 20, 2023

Time: 8:45 – 1:45 PM ET