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**QIN-QIO**  
Quality Innovation Network -  
Quality Improvement Organizations  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES  
iQUALITY IMPROVEMENT & INNOVATION GROUP



# Health Equity Updates



## The Latest in Health Equity News, Events, and Resources

June 2021

Developed by Qlarant and distributed by the IPRO QIN-QIO, a collaboration of Healthcentric Advisors, Qlarant and IPRO, serving as the Medicare Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization for the New England states, NY, NJ, OH, DE, MD, and the District of Columbia, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents do not necessarily reflect CMS policy.  
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# HEALTH EQUITY UPDATES




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*The latest health equity news, events and resources to support the IPRO QIN-QIO efforts to eliminate health care disparities for Medicare beneficiaries.*

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## New Health Equity Tracker Released

The [Satcher Health Leadership Institute](#) at Morehouse School of Medicine released a [Health Equity Tracker](#), a portal that collects, analyzes, and makes visible data on health inequities in the U.S. healthcare system. The developers of the tracker aim to fill the gaps created by data that have been inconsistently collected and reported, making it difficult to accurately identify racial health disparities. Comprehensive demographics, social and political determinants of health and other data are more accessible in the tracker, empowering communities to better identify, understand, and respond to health inequities.

The tracker is a data visualization tool that uses multiple data sources including the U.S. Census Bureau's [American Community Survey 5-year estimates](#) (2015-2019), the CDC's [BRFSS data set](#), United Health Foundation's [America's Health Rankings](#), and the COVID Project's [Racial Data Tracker](#), for a comparative approach to assessing and conceptualizing health inequities.

At launch, the Tracker records COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths nationwide across race and ethnicity, sex and age, and by state and county. It also measures comorbidities associated with COVID-19, including COPD, diabetes, and social and political determinants of health, including uninsured and poverty rates. It will expand in the future to include additional conditions such as mental and behavioral health, and more social and political determinants of health that impact vulnerable communities, including persons with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and lower socioeconomic status people.

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## [The Conversation/La Conversación](#)

The **Kaiser Family Foundation** and **UnidosUS** developed **The Conversation/La Conversación** campaign to address information needs about COVID-19 vaccines in the Hispanic/Latino community with videos featuring doctors, nurses, and promotoras (community health workers) in English and Spanish. The campaign includes over 70 videos available on the [website](#) or [YouTube](#), and an accompanying [toolkit](#) with tips on sharing the campaign messaging in the community.

## [Become a Part of the Expanded COVID-19 Vaccine Workforce](#)

As millions more vaccine doses become available, the federal government is providing a pathway for states and territories to expand their vaccination workforce to administer the vaccine. Currently licensed/certified health professionals, health professionals who are previously active or recently retired, and healthcare students are eligible to become part of the expanded COVID-19 vaccine workforce. The **HHS Public Health Emergency website** has information on how to register, and training/eligibility requirements. This effort may increase access to COVID-19 vaccines in underserved and minorities communities and help mitigate racial disparities in vaccine uptake.

## [Medicaid and Rural Health](#)

The **Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission** (MACPAC) recently released an Issue Brief that provides an overview of rural residents, including socioeconomic characteristics, insurance status, and health status. It explores the availability of healthcare providers in rural areas, with a focus on primary care providers and hospitals. The Issue Brief discusses the role of Medicaid in rural health, as well as Medicaid policies and services that are important for providing healthcare in rural communities.

## [Pain in the Nation: Alcohol, Drug, and Suicide Epidemics](#)

### ***Special Feature: COVID-19 and Trauma***

This Issue Report from **Trust for America's Health** (TFAH) explores the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent trauma on rates of alcohol- and drug-induced deaths, and suicides across the U.S. The report includes three sections that 1) examine the effect of trauma and the COVID pandemic as they relate to mental health, substance use, and citizen well-being; 2) review the latest mortality trends from alcohol, drugs, and suicide; and 3) outline key policy solutions and recommendations to reverse these trends.

## [Organizational Strategic Plan to Embed Racial Justice and Advance Health Equity](#)

The **American Medical Association** (AMA) released its strategic plan for advancing health equity, confronting the root causes and historical harms that have led to health inequities, and dismantling structural racism. The three-year plan details how the AMA will embed equity and racial justice throughout its programming, policies and culture; develop and maintain relationships with marginalized physicians and other stakeholders; provide equitable possibilities in innovation; and cultivate ways toward truth, racial healing, reconciliation and transformation regarding the AMA's past.

## [HHS to Enforce Non-Discrimination Provisions of Affordable Care Act to Reverse Anti-LGBTQIA+ Healthcare Policy](#)

HHS announced it would enforce non-discrimination provisions of Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that prohibit discrimination in healthcare on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The announcement came minutes ahead of a scheduled hearing before the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts for a lawsuit filed in 2020 by nine plaintiffs to challenge the legality of the Trump Administration's Rollback Rule, which eliminated those protections and other non-discrimination provisions.

# Fast Facts | U.S. Rural Hospitals

Resource from the American Hospital Association

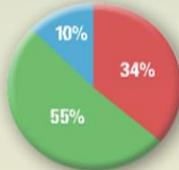
## FAST FACTS | U.S. Rural Hospitals



### IS MY HOSPITAL RURAL?

Rural hospitals are those not located within a metropolitan area designated by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and the Census Bureau. Community hospitals are nonfederal, acute care hospitals open to the general public. For alternate rural definitions, see <https://www.ruralhealth.info.org/am-i-rural/help#classification>.

**59%**  
of the decline  
in the number of  
U.S. community  
hospitals between  
2015 and 2019 were  
**RURAL  
HOSPITALS**



### U.S. rural community hospitals, by ownership type, 2019

- State and local government (620 total)
- Nonprofit (998 total)
- Investor-owned, for-profit (187 total)

\* Data may not total 100% due to rounding



### U.S. rural community hospitals, by bed size, 2019

- Up to 25 beds (850 total)
- 26-50 beds (316 total)
- 51-100 beds (345 total)
- 101 beds or more (294 total)

SOURCE: AHA Annual Survey Database, FY2015–FY2019 | [www.ahadata.com](http://www.ahadata.com)  
For more information or to purchase access to AHA data | [ahadatainfo@aha.org](mailto:ahadatainfo@aha.org)

## Health Equity Webinar/Event Materials

### CMS Office of Minority Health

#### ***Building COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence***

This webinar discussed resources and strategies to promote COVID-19 vaccine confidence. It included information on the development of COVID-19 vaccines and data on their efficacy and safety. Guest speakers from the CDC and FDA shared their insights.

- [Slides](#)
- [Recording](#)
- [Vaccinate with Confidence Fact Sheet](#)
- [Partner Webinar Supplemental Handout](#)

#### ***The Road to Equity: Examining Structural Racism in Health Care***

This two-day virtual forum highlighted CMS's renewed focus on health equity, structural racism in health care, and federal agencies' role as equity partners. Guest speakers from various federal and partner agencies shared their insights and experience, focusing on the impact of COVID-19 on health disparities as well as solutions to promote equity.

- Transcript [Day 1](#) and [Day 2](#)
- Recording [Day 1](#) and [Day 2](#)

### National Network to Eliminate Disparities in Behavioral Health (NNED)

#### ***Partnering to Strengthen the Behavioral Health Infrastructure and Capacity in Communities of Color***

This roundtable discussion focused on the behavioral health needs of racially/ethnically diverse communities and new ways to tap into philanthropic and governmental funding to meet those needs. Speakers from behavioral health-focused CBOs shared how they are leveraging funding opportunities and successful partnerships with funders, and how they were created, cultivated and grown before and during the pandemic.

- [Recording](#)
- [Slides](#)

### Weitzman Institute

#### ***The Path Forward on Social Determinants of Health***

This webinar marks the end of this series on social determinants of health. It highlighted information from all the webinars held over the past year, examined the role of community health centers in addressing SDOH, and explored opportunities and pitfalls of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the digitalization of healthcare. (You can find materials for previous webinars in the series [HERE](#).)

- Margaret Flinter, PhD, APRN [Slides](#)
- Trishan Panch, MD MPH [Slides](#)
- Yvette Highsmith-Francis, MBM [Slides](#)

## IPRO Upcoming Event

### ***Nursing Home Naloxone Best Practices***

Naloxone is an essential drug that reverses respiratory depression caused by opioid overdose. Having naloxone readily available in nursing homes is an opioid harm reduction best practice that can save lives.

**Date:** June 17, 2021

**Time:** 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM EDT

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## IPRO Event Materials

### **Entering COVID-19 Vaccine Data into NHSN**

Access resources and training slides on how to enter COVID-19 vaccine for nursing home staff and residents into NHSN.

[VIEW RESOURCES HERE](#)

### **Integrating Behavioral Health with Primary Care**

This educational program was designed to help primary care offices integrate behavioral health services into everyday practice. The entire series materials – including presentations, recordings, and resources – can be viewed on the IPRO website.

[VIEW MATERIALS HERE](#)

### **Delivering Whole Person Care: Improving Outcomes in Opioid Use Disorder Treatment**

This webinar discussed ways to deliver whole person care to improve recovery and outcomes for individuals with opioid use disorder. The speaker was nationally recognized expert Andrew Kolodny, MD.

[VIEW MATERIALS HERE](#)

## Upcoming Events

### **Increasing Access to Rural Behavioral Health**

*National Conference of State Legislatures*

**Dates:** June 4, 2021

**Time:** 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM EDT

[REGISTER HERE](#)

### **Virtual National Health Equity Summit**

*Commonwealth Fund*

**Dates:** June 7 – 10, 2021

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

### **Implementing LGBTQ+ Strategies in Historically Resistant Organizations**

*Center of Excellence: LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health Equity*

**Date:** June 10, 2021

**Time:** 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM EDT

[REGISTER HERE](#)

### **Stigma of Addiction Summit**

*National Academy Medicine*

*Dell Medical School - University of Texas at Austin  
Shatterproof*

**Date:** June 10, 2021

**Time:** 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM EDT

[REGISTER HERE](#)

### **Survive and Thrive Amid the Global Pandemic and Beyond**

*Association of Clinicians for the Underserved  
i2i Population Health*

**Date:** June 15, 2021

**Time:** 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM EDT

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## Monthly Observances

June, 2021

[Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month](#)

[Men's Health Month](#)

[Cancer Survivor Day](#) (June 6)

[Blood Donor Day](#) (June 14)

[World Sickle Cell Day](#) (June 19)

[Deaf-Blind Awareness Week](#) (June 21-27)

[National HIV Testing Day](#) (June 27)

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July, 2021

[Healthy Vision Month](#)

[Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month](#)

[Sarcoma Awareness Month](#)

[UV Safety Month](#)

[World Hepatitis Day](#) (July 28)

## Qlarant

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