



Healthcentric
Advisors

Qlarant

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



HEALTH EQUITY UPDATES

May 2024



CMS Releases Report on Disparities in Medicare Advantage

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a report this month that summarizes findings from an analysis of 2023 data from Medicare Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) surveys (patient experience) and the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) (clinical care) for Medicare Advantage enrollees. The report examines differences by race, ethnicity, and sex. The analysis found few differences on measures of patient experience for racial and ethnic groups compared to the national average but significant racial and ethnic disparities on clinical care measures. Patient experience and clinical care measures were fairly similar between male and female enrollees.



Best of CLAS

A tip for implementing culturally and linguistically appropriate services

HHS National CLAS Standards – Standard 11

Collect and maintain accurate and reliable demographic data to monitor and evaluate the impact of CLAS on health equity and outcomes and to inform service delivery.

Implement a standardized process to collect patient self-reported sociodemographic data such as race, ethnicity, language, SOGI, and disability status. These data can be used to identify and address health disparities through the implementation evidence-based interventions.

This Month

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) Heritage Month

Bridging Histories, Shaping Our Future

The [HHS Office of Minority Health](#) and [CMS Office of Minority Health](#) have resources celebrating the diversity in the AA and NHPI populations.

Mental Health Awareness Month

SAMHSA has a [2024 Mental Health Awareness Month Toolkit](#) to help promote awareness of and reduce the stigma of mental health.

Equity in Public Health Emergency Management

Disasters impact people and communities differently. Underserved communities and specific identity groups often suffer disproportionately from disasters, worsening inequities already present in society.

This cycle compounds the challenges faced by these communities and increases their risk from future disasters. Instilling equity as a foundation in public health emergency management and striving to meet the unique needs of underserved communities can help to break this cycle and build a more resilient nation.

We will delve deeper into this topic and explore how FEMA and other organizations are actively addressing these challenges in upcoming newsletters.

[Equity and Mitigation Planning | FEMA.gov](#)

In the News

[CMS Office of Minority Health Releases a New Technical Resource](#)

Health Equity Data Definitions, Standards, and Stratification is a new resource that can be used to help align the collection, stratification, and analysis of health equity data with CMS priorities. The resource has suggested definitions, standards, and stratification practices for sociodemographic data elements such as race, ethnicity, language preference, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability status. The audience for this resource is any entity collecting health equity data including providers, researchers, states, and community-based organizations.

[National Poll on Healthy Aging \(NPHA\)](#)

The University of Michigan Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation conducted a national poll on healthy aging, polling adults 50 years and older about 26 health-related issues that impact older adults such as social isolation, healthcare costs, and neighborhood safety. A national report and a report specific to Michigan have been released. The top area of concern in the national report is healthcare costs. In addition to accessing both reports, interested users can access the data files and related academic articles, and videos with NPHA researchers.

[Advancing Racial Equity in U.S. Health Care](#)

The Commonwealth Fund 2024 State Health Disparities Report “evaluates disparities in health and health care across racial and ethnic groups, both within states and between U.S. states.” The researchers collected data for 25 indicators related to health system performance and then produced a score for five racial and ethnic groups in every U.S. state. Some key findings:

- There are differences in health system performance by race and ethnicity within and across states.
- Black individuals have higher mortality from avoidable causes compared to others.
- There is variability in access to insurance and high-quality care for non-White adults.

For more health equity news:

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



Visit the IPRO Resource Library: <https://qi-library.ipro.org>

Upcoming Events

[Navigating Successful Partnerships: Benefits and Strategies](#)

Administration for Community Living

June 12, 2024

1:00 PM ET

**SAVE
THE DATE**

[CMS Health Equity Conference](#)

*Sustaining Health Equity
Through Action*

May 29-30, 2024

Hyatt Regency, Bethesda, MD