

## Quick Start Guide

Chronic diseases, such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease, pose a significant problem in the United States,<sup>1</sup> and disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minorities.<sup>2</sup> The Mapping Medicare Disparities (MMD) Tool provides two components, the Population View and the Hospital View. The Population View identifies differences between sub-groups (e.g., racial and ethnic populations) in health outcomes, utilization, and spending. The Hospital View identifies disparities in selected health outcome and quality measures between hospitals. Visually displaying the geographic differences is a crucial step in understanding health disparity, informing policy decisions, and targeting populations and geographic areas for effective interventions.

### How do I zoom and navigate in the map?

- 1) You must first *click* on a county/state/territory of interest.
- 2) If you are using a mouse: *push* the mouse scroll wheel up/down to zoom in/out.
- 3) If you are not using a mouse: use the zoom in/out gesture by *pulling* (placing one finger on the Trackpad and dragging a separate finger away from the first) and *pinching* (pressing one finger on the Trackpad while dragging a separate finger toward the first).
- 4) You may also navigate in the map by *left-clicking* and *holding* while moving your mouse or finger on your Trackpad.

### How can I compare differences in measures?

Under the **Analysis** drop-down menu, when an option other than *Base Measure* is selected, you can choose to visualize differences between patient characteristics, thereby comparing health outcomes, spending, or utilization. For example, if interested in the difference of diabetes prevalence rates at a county level between Asians and whites you can select:

*Prevalence* under **Measure**  
*Within County Difference* under **Analysis**  
*Diabetes* under **Condition/Service**  
*Asian/Pacific islander* under **Race and Ethnicity**  
*White* under **Comparison Race and Ethnicity**

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). *Chronic Conditions among Medicare Beneficiaries, Chartbook*, 2012 Edition. Baltimore, MD: CMS, 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). *2014 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report*. Publication No. 15-0007. Washington, DC: AHRQ, May 2015.

## How do I interpret my comparison results?

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When selecting options other than *Base Measure*, the map will display three values when you hover over a specific county/state. The first value (A) presented in the summary box is the rate calculated for the Primary patient group. The second value (B) is the rate calculated for the Comparison patient group. The difference between the first rate (A) and the second rate (B) is displayed in the third row ( $A - B = C$ ). A positive value indicates a county or state/territory in which the chosen Primary patient group shows a higher rate than the chosen Comparison patient group. A negative value indicates a county or state/territory in which the chosen Comparison patient group shows a lower rate than the chosen Primary patient group.

## Where can I find additional information?

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For additional information on how to use the tool, consult the technical documentation or frequently asked questions (FAQs) at these links:

Technical documentation: <https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/OMH/Downloads/Mapping-Technical-Documentation.pdf>

FAQs: <https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/OMH/Downloads/MappingPublicFAQs.pdf>