



HEALTH EQUITY QUARTERLY

VOLUME 1 | Spring 2021



Director's Message

Welcome to the first edition of Health Equity Quarterly, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Office of Minority Health's (CMS OMH) new quarterly newsletter. In this newsletter, we will highlight CMS OMH's activities, messages from leadership, and some of the great work the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is doing to address health care disparities.

I joined CMS as the Director of the Office of Minority Health in the Fall of 2020. Since that time, our office has been steadily working to address many of the challenges we know minority populations are facing during this current public health emergency. I am very excited for the ongoing work at CMS OMH and all of the great achievements to come. In this, our first edition of Health Equity Quarterly, we hope to re-familiarize you with our office by recognizing CMS OMH's 10-year anniversary. To celebrate this milestone, we are looking back at the strides we've made and using the lessons learned to plan for the next 10 years as we launch into a new decade of equity. We look forward to staying in touch as we continue the important work of embedding health equity across CMS programs and working with our partners to address equitable health care solutions.



Recent Executive Orders issued by President Biden provide directives for a whole government approach to address equity, to understand and address the barriers and challenges underserved communities and individuals face in accessing benefits and services. These directives charge our office and our agency to ensure our policies do not perpetuate systemic inequities, rather that they facilitate opportunities to better health and health care equitably, for all. We look forward to using this newsletter as a space to provide you the latest information as our Agency works to achieve equity.

-Dr. LaShawn McIver

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Research Update

The CMS OMH maintains a series of data snapshots, data highlights, and other reports. Here are the latest data reports by CMS OMH, published during the first quarter of 2021:

- [Atrial Fibrillation Disparities in Medicare Fee-For-Service Beneficiaries](#) – This Data Snapshot explores the disparities affecting Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries with atrial fibrillation and offers beneficiary and provider resources
- [Autism Spectrum Disorder \(ASD\) Disparities in Medicare Fee-For-Service Beneficiaries](#) – This Data Snapshot highlights the prevalence of ASD among different subsets of Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries and offers beneficiary and provider resources.
- [Breast Cancer Screening Disparities in Medicare Beneficiaries](#) – This Data Snapshot explains the importance of breast cancer screenings and provides an overview of the disparities affecting Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries when receiving breast cancer screenings.
- [Improving Health Care for Adults with Disabilities](#) – More than 60 million adults in the U.S. live with a disability, which increases their likelihood of having unmet health needs. This research examines data on care disparities and highlights opportunities to address them.
- [Mapping Medicare Disparities Tool](#) – Celebrating its 5th year, this tool, now updated with 2019 data, includes an interactive map and data to identify areas of disparities between subgroups of Medicare beneficiaries in health outcomes, utilization, and spending. This information can be used to understand and investigate geographic differences as well as racial and ethnic differences in health outcomes, inform policy decisions, and target populations and geographies for potential interventions.



Equity Initiatives Across CMS

- [Health Equity Technical Assistance](#) - The CMS Office of Minority Health offers Health Equity Technical Assistance aimed to help health care organizations take action against health disparities. Personalized coaching and resources to help you embed health equity into your strategic plan include data collection and analysis, developing a language access plan, ensuring effective communication, information on the Minority Research Grant Program, or assistance with the Mapping Medicare Disparities Tool.
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Resources](#) – CMS OMH has compiled Federal resources on the COVID-19 vaccine for health care professionals, partners, and patients. We encourage you to share these materials, bookmark the page, and check back often for the most up-to-date information.
- [C2C COVID-19 Resources](#) – CMS OMH has developed these resources on COVID-19 and health coverage to help everyone remain safe and healthy during this public health emergency. We encourage you to share these resources, which are available in eight languages, on social media channels.



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