



Status of Health Care Disparities in the U.S.

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MOLC Anniversary Disparities Symposium

Rockville, MD

Origin of NHDR

- Health and Human Services Secretary required to submit annual report to Congress:
 - National trends in health care quality (National Healthcare Quality Report, or NHQR)
 - Prevailing disparities in health care delivery as it relates to racial factors and socioeconomic factors in priority populations (NHDR)



**Mandated by Congress in
Healthcare Research and
Quality Act (PL. 106-129)**



NHQR and NHDR Goals

- Provide a snapshot of health care delivery
 - Core measures of quality and access
 - More than 200 total measures
- Indicate the biggest gaps in care
- Show national and State trends
- Tell us how we can reach our goals
- Help align measures across public and private quality initiatives



NHQR and NHDR Framework

Consumer Perspectives on Health Care Needs	Components of Health Care Quality			
	Safety	Effectiveness	Patient Centeredness	Timeliness
Staying healthy				
Getting better				
Living with illness or disability				
Coping with end-of-life matters				

Source: Institute of Medicine Committee. Envisioning the National Health Care Quality Report; 2001.



NHQR/NHDR Content and Organization

- Effectiveness
 - Cancer
 - Diabetes
 - End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)
 - Heart Disease
 - HIV and AIDS
 - Maternal and Child Health
 - Mental Health and Substance Abuse
 - Lifestyle Modification
 - Functional Status Preservation and Rehabilitation
 - Supportive and Palliative Care
- Patient Safety
- Timeliness
- Patient Centeredness
- Access to Health Care
- Priority Populations

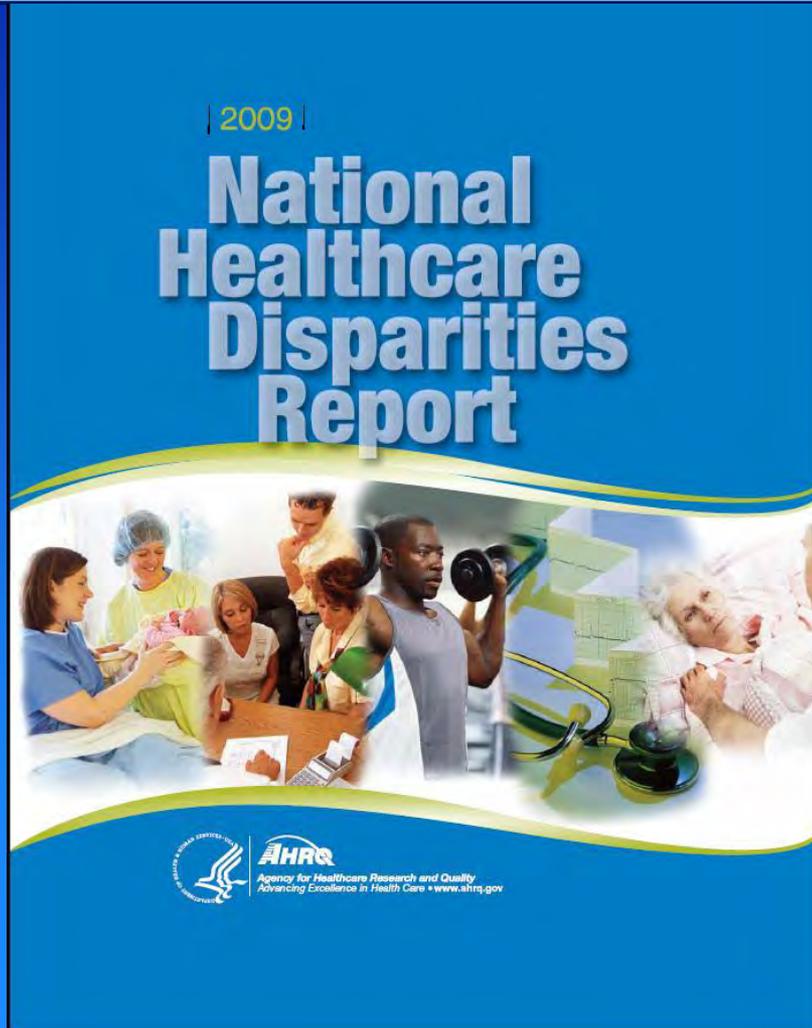
NHQR*

NHDR

*Also includes a chapter on Efficiency



2009 National Healthcare Disparities Report (NHDR)

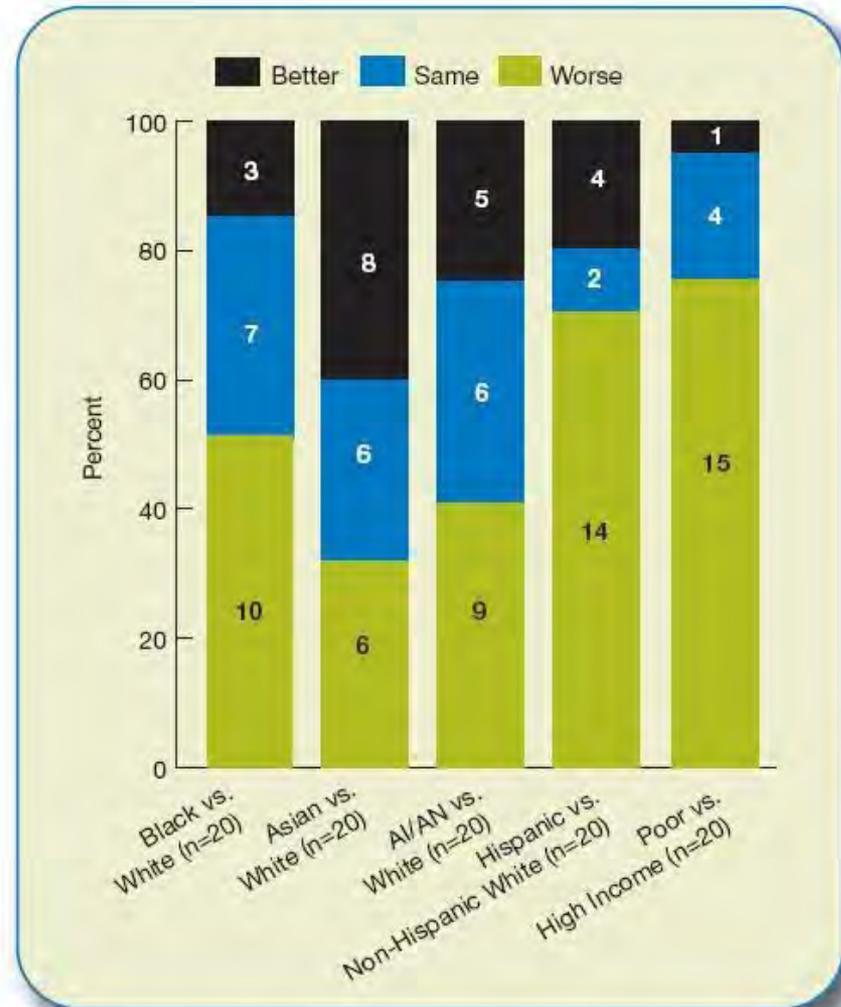


Disparities are common and uninsurance is an important contributor

Released April 13, 2010

Health Care Quality Core Measures

- Disparities in health care quality are staying the same or increasing



n=number of core measures

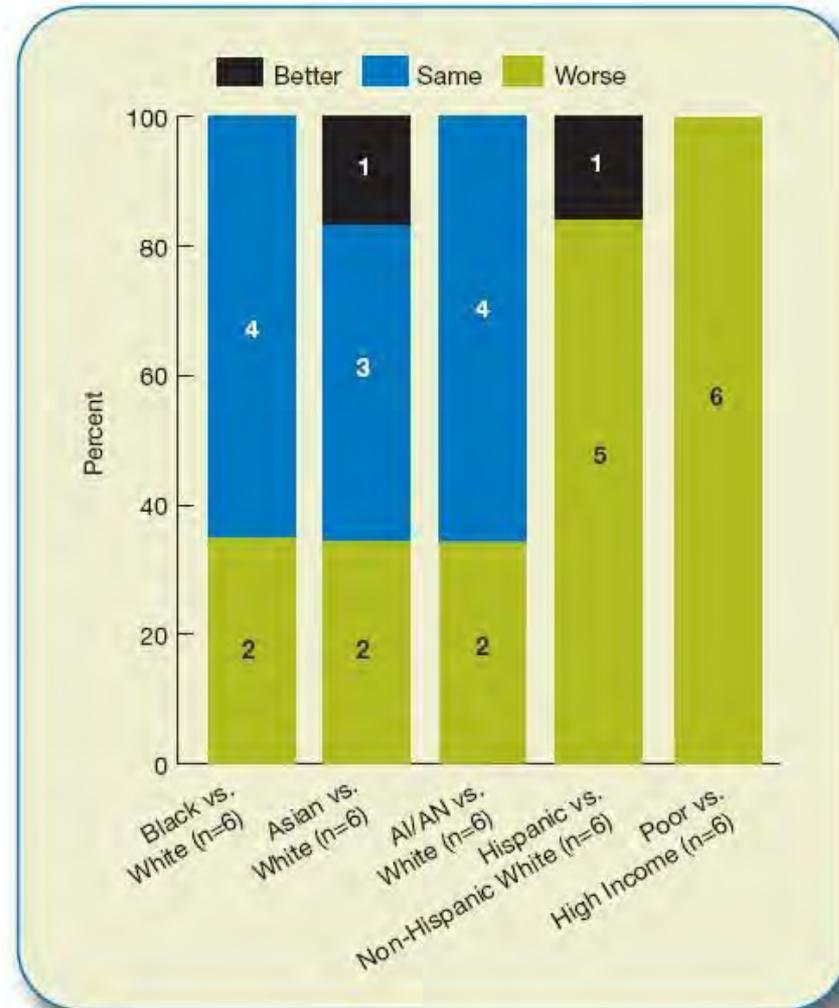


Disparities in Quality

- Compared to Whites:
 - Blacks received worse care for 50% of core measures and better care for 15%.
 - Asians received worse care for 30% of core measures and better care for 40%.
 - American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) received worse care for 45% of core measures and better care for 25%.
 - Hispanics received worse care for 70% of core measures and better care for 20%.
- Poor people received worse care than high-income people for 75% of core measures and better care for 5%.

Access to Health Care Core Measures

- Disparities in access to care are staying the same or increasing



n=number of core measures

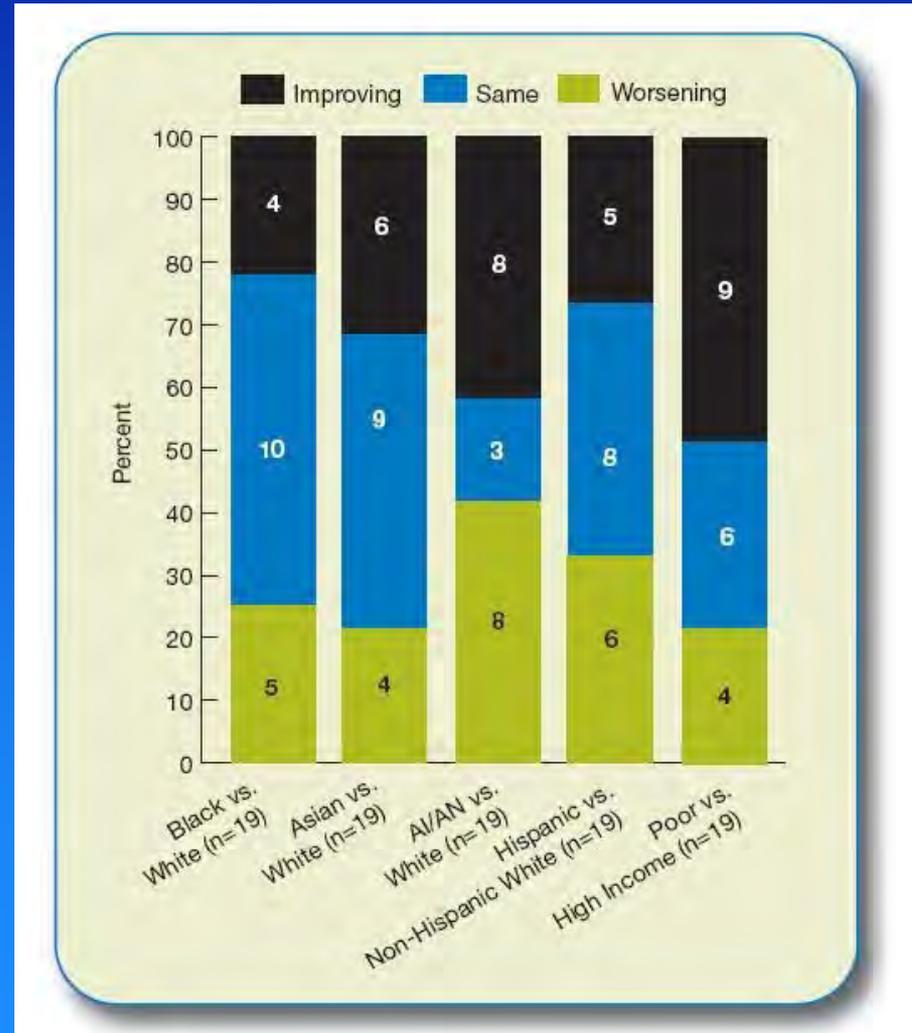


Disparities in Access

- Uninsurance was the strongest predictor of quality of care based on multivariate analyses on selected core measures.
- Blacks, Asians, and AI/ANs had worse access to care than Whites for one-third of core measures.
- Hispanics had worse access than non-Hispanic Whites for 83% of core measures.
- Poor people had worse access to care than high-income people for all 6 core measures.

Disparities Over Time

- Many disparities are not decreasing



n=number of core measures



Disparities Over Time

- For Blacks, Asians, and Hispanics, at least two-thirds of measures of quality of care are not improving (gap stayed the same or increased).
- For Blacks, only about 20% of measures of disparities in quality of care improved (gap decreased).
- For poor people, disparities are improving for almost half of the quality measures.
- For Asians and AI/ANs, about one-third of disparities in quality improved.



Three Largest Disparities in Health Care Quality for Selected Groups

Group	Measure	Relative rate (2009)	Annual change	Largest disparity and improving over time	Largest disparity and worsening over time
Black compared with White	New AIDS cases per 100,000 population age 13 and over	9.7	-10.2%	X	
	Emergency department visits in which patients left without being seen	1.6	-2.0%	X	
	Cancer deaths per 100,000 population per year for colorectal cancer	1.5	1.1%		X



Three Largest Disparities in Health Care Quality for Selected Groups

Group	Measure	Relative rate (2009)	Annual change	Largest disparity and improving over time	Largest disparity and worsening over time
Asian compared with White	Children ages 2-17 who did not receive advice about physical activity	1.9	0.0%		
	Adults age 65 and over who did not ever receive pneumococcal vaccination	1.6	4.7%		X
	Adults who can sometimes or never get care for illness or injury as soon as wanted	1.5	-2.9%	X	



Three Largest Disparities in Health Care Quality for Selected Groups

Group	Measure	Relative rate (2009)	Annual change	Largest disparity and improving over time	Largest disparity and worsening over time
American Indian/ Alaska Native compared with White	Adults age 50 and over who did not receive colorectal cancer screening	1.4	7.7%		X
	New AIDS cases per 100,000 population age 13 and over	1.4	-2.7%	X	
	Composite: Hospital patients with heart failure who did not receive recommended hospital care	1.4	12.4%		X



Three Largest Disparities in Health Care Quality for Selected Groups

Group	Measure	Relative rate (2009)	Annual change	Largest disparity and improving over time	Largest disparity and worsening over time
Hispanic compared with Non-Hispanic White	New AIDS cases per 100,000 population age 13 and over	3.3	-4.2%	X	
	Adults age 65 and over who did not ever receive pneumococcal vaccination	1.8	2.4%		X
	Composite: Children whose parents reported poor communication with health providers	1.7	-5.5%	X	



Three Largest Disparities in Health Care Quality for Selected Groups

Group	Measure	Relative rate (2009)	Annual change	Largest disparity and improving over time	Largest disparity and worsening over time
Poor compared with high income	Composite: Children whose parents reported poor communication with health providers	3.0	-10.2%	X	
	Adults who can sometimes or never get care for illness or injury as soon as wanted	2.2	-2.8%	X	
	Women age 40 and over who did not have a mammogram in the last 2 years	2.1	-6.5%	X	



Core Measures Getting Worse

Topic	Measure	Blacks	Asians	AI/ANs	Hispanics
Cancer	Adults age 50 and over who report they ever received a colonoscopy, sigmoidoscopy, proctoscopy, or fecal occult blood test	*	*	*	*
	Cancer deaths per 100,000 population per year for colorectal cancer	*			*
Heart disease	Hospital patients with heart failure who received recommended hospital care			*	*
Respiratory diseases	Adults age 65 and over who ever received pneumococcal vaccination		*		*
	Hospital patients with pneumonia who received recommended hospital care	*	*	*	*



Data Sources for Tracking ~250 measures

- **Survey data collected from populations (N=11)**
 - AHRQ, Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)
 - CDC-NCHS, National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)
 - CMS, Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS)
 - SAMHSA, National Survey of Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)
- **Data collected from samples of health care facilities (N=8)**
 - American Cancer Society-American College of Surgeons, National Cancer Data Base (NCDB)
 - CDC-NCHS, National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS)
 - CMS, End-Stage Renal Disease Clinical Performance Measurement Program



Data Sources cont.

- **Data extracted from data systems of health care organizations (N=13)**
 - AHRQ, Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project State Inpatient Databases (HCUP SID)
 - CMS, Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) program.
 - Indian Health Service, National Patient Information Reporting System (NPIRS)
 - NIH, United States Renal Data System (USRDS)

- **Data from surveillance and vital statistics systems (N=5)**
 - CDC-National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, HIV/AIDS Surveillance System
 - CDC-NCHS, National Vital Statistics System (NVSS)
 - NIH-National Cancer Institute, Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) program



Types of Measures

- **Cancer**
 - Breast Cancer
 - Cervical Cancer
 - Colorectal Cancer
 - Other Cancers
- **Diabetes**
 - Management of Diabetes
 - Control of Diabetes
 - Hospitalizations for Diabetes
- **End Stage Renal Disease**
 - Management of End Stage Renal Disease
- **Heart Disease**
 - Prevention of Heart Disease
 - Treatment of Heart Attack
 - Treatment of Heart Failure
 - Surgery for Heart Disease
- **HIV/AIDS**
 - Testing for HIV Infection
 - Management of HIV/AIDS
- **Maternal and Child Health**
 - Maternity Care
 - Childhood Immunization
 - Other Childhood Preventive Care
- **Mental Health and Substance Abuse**
 - Treatment of Depression
 - Treatment of Substance Abuse
- **Respiratory Diseases**
 - Vaccinations for Respiratory Infections
 - Treatment of Respiratory Infections
 - Management of Asthma



Types of Measures (cont.)

- Nursing Home, Home Health, and Hospice Care
 - Nursing Home Care
 - Home Health Care
 - Hospice Care

- Timeliness
 - Getting Appointments for Care
 - Waiting Time

- Patient Centeredness
 - Patient Experience of Care
 - Hospital Communication
 - Workforce Diversity

- Quality: Efficient Care
 - Potentially Avoidable Hospitalizations and Cost
 - Reduction of Unnecessary Costs



Types of Measures (cont.)

- **Functional Status Preservation and Rehabilitation**
 - Home health care
 - Osteoporosis screening

- **Lifestyle Modification**
 - Advice from health provider for obesity
 - Smoking cessation counseling

- **Patient Safety**
 - Healthcare Associated Infections
 - Surgical care
 - Other complications of hospital care
 - Complications of Medications



Types of Measures (cont.)

- Access to Care

- Facilitators and Barriers to Health Care
 - Health Insurance Coverage
 - Usual Source of Care
 - Ongoing Source of Care
 - Patient Perceptions of Need

- Health Care Utilization
 - General Medical Care
 - Avoidable Admissions
 - Mental Health Care and Substance Abuse Treatment

- **Priority Populations**
- **Racial and Ethnic Minorities**
 - **Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander / Asian**
 - **American Indian / Alaska Native**
 - **Recent Immigrants / Limited English**

- **Low Income**
- **Women**
- **Children**
- **Older Adults**
- **Rural Areas**
- **Individuals With Special Health Care Needs**



For more information...

NHQR and NHDR Web Page

<http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/qdrdr09.htm>

NHQRDRnet for data tables and queries

<http://nhqrnet.ahrq.gov>

Request a copy (AHRQ publication no. 10-0003 [NHQR] and 10-0004 [NHDR]) from AHRQ Publications Clearinghouse

1-800-358-9295 or AHRQPubs@ahrq.hhs.gov