Status of Health Care Disparities in the U.S.

By LT Karen K. Ho, MHS

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consumer Perspectives on Health Care Needs</th>
<th>Components of Health Care Quality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staying healthy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting better</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Living with illness or disability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coping with end-of-life matters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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

*Also includes a chapter on Efficiency
Disparities are common and unemployment is an important contributor.
Disparities in health care quality are staying the same or increasing.
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%.
Disparities in access to care are staying the same or increasing
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Relative rate (2009)</th>
<th>Annual change</th>
<th>Largest disparity and improving over time</th>
<th>Largest disparity and worsening over time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black compared with White</td>
<td>New AIDS cases per 100,000 population age 13 and over</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>-10.2%</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emergency department visits in which patients left without being seen</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>-2.0%</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cancer deaths per 100,000 population per year for colorectal cancer</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian compared with White</td>
<td>Children ages 2-17 who did not receive advice about physical activity</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adults age 65 and over who did not ever receive pneumococcal vaccination</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Adults who can sometimes or never get care for illness or injury as soon as wanted</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>-2.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td>
<td>Adults age 50 and over who did not receive colorectal cancer screening</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New AIDS cases per 100,000 population age 13 and over</td>
<td>1.4 -2.7%</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Composite: Hospital patients with heart failure who did not receive recommended hospital care</td>
<td>1.4 12.4%</td>
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<td>Hispanic compared with Non-Hispanic White</td>
<td>New AIDS cases per 100,000 population age 13 and over</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>-4.2%</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adults age 65 and over who did not ever receive pneumococcal vaccination</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Composite: Children whose parents reported poor communication with health providers</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>-5.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poor compared with high income</td>
<td>Composite: Children whose parents reported poor communication with health providers</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>-10.2%</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Adults who can sometimes or never get care for illness or injury as soon as wanted</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>-2.8%</td>
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<td>Women age 40 and over who did not have a mammogram in the last 2 years</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>-6.5%</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tr>
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## Core Measures Getting Worse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Blacks</th>
<th>Asians</th>
<th>AI/ANs</th>
<th>Hispanics</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cancer</strong></td>
<td>Adults age 50 and over who report they ever received a colonoscopy, sigmoidoscopy, proctoscopy, or fecal occult blood test</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
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<td>Hospital patients with heart failure who received recommended hospital care</td>
<td></td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Respiratory diseases</strong></td>
<td>Adults age 65 and over who ever received pneumococcal vaccination</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hospital patients with pneumonia who received recommended hospital care</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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/qrdr09.htm

NHQRDRnet for data tables and queries
http://nhqrnet.ahrq.gov

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