State of Black Health: Marching to Health Equity

Daniel E. Dawes, Esq.
Morehouse School of Medicine
Health Equity Leadership & Exchange Network (HELEN)
African American Health Coverage Rates

- **Uninsured**
- **Public Health Coverage**
- **Private Insurance Coverage**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Uninsured</th>
<th>Public Health Coverage</th>
<th>Private Insurance Coverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>34.9</td>
<td>47.8</td>
<td>47.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>36.3</td>
<td>44.6</td>
<td>44.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>36.9</td>
<td>45.4</td>
<td>45.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>38.2</td>
<td>44.9</td>
<td>44.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>40.4</td>
<td>40.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 (Jan.–Sept.)</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>47.3</td>
<td>47.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of Population

Year

- **Uninsured**
- **Public Health Coverage**
- **Private Insurance Coverage**
Medicaid Adoption/Expansion

Medicaid (Funds available January 1966)

CHIP (Funds available October 1997)

ACA Medicaid Expansion (Early option funds available April 2010)

ACA Medicaid Expansion Trendline
State Action on Medicaid Expansion

LEGEND:
- Expanded in 2010
- Expanded in 2011
- Expanded in 2013
- Expanded in 2014
- Expanded in 2015
- Not Participating
- ACA Lawsuit Participant
Protecting & Strengthening the Health Insurance Exchanges

Failure to Enforce the Directive to Reduce Racial Disparities - HHS has not actively enforced ACA’s statutory provisions requiring insurers to act to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities or taken steps to monitor insurers’ disparity reduction plans and programs.
Demographic Data in EHRs

The ACA expanded demographic data for Public Health to include racial and ethnic subgroups and disability status but these provisions were not incorporated into the Meaningful Use program.
Health Care Quality & Disparities: Moving Health Equity in the Right Direction

• In general, states with higher health care quality scores tended to show higher disparities in care

• In general, states with lower health care quality scores tended to show lower disparities in care

• While southern states in general show lower quality care and fewer disparities in care, interestingly the South has higher and costlier disparities in health status, which is overwhelmingly borne by African Americans

• CONCERN: As we push for improving the quality of health care, there is a real possibility that this may exacerbate disparities in health care
2014 AHRQ National Healthcare Quality & Disparities Report

- Quality improvements BUT few disparities eliminated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Disparities Eliminated</th>
<th>Disparities Worsened</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black compared with White</td>
<td>Mechanical adverse events in patients receiving central venous catheter placement, age 18+</td>
<td>Adult current smokers with a checkup in the past year who received advice in the last 12 months to quit smoking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hospital patients with an anticoagulant-related adverse drug event to low-molecular-weight heparin and factor Xa, age 18+</td>
<td>Breast cancer diagnosed at advanced stage per 100,000 women age 40+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Children ages 19-35 months who received 1+ doses of measles-mumps-rubella vaccine</td>
<td>People age 12+ who needed treatment for illicit drug use and who received treatment at a specialty facility in the last 12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deaths per 1,000 hospital admissions with abdominal aortic aneurysm repair, age 18+</td>
<td>Family caregivers who did not want more information about what to expect while the patient was dying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Postoperative respiratory failure per 1,000 elective-surgery admissions, age 18+ Admissions with iatrogenic pneumothorax per 1,000 admissions, age 18+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Marching Toward Health Equity, but Struggle Still Continues

“A good president or a new Congress is only going to be as good as the citizens outside demanding it.”

Marian Wright Edelman
President of the Children’s Defense Fund
Minority Health Milestones (1865-1965)

- 1865: Freedman’s Bureau Act
- 1869: Congress fails to reauthorize Freedman’s Bureau
- 1872: Freedman’s Bureau closed
- 1875: Civil Rights Act of 1875 ruled unconstitutional
- 1883: Civil Rights Act of 1875
- 1885: 1st National Negro Health Week
- 1896: Plessy v. Ferguson
- 1905: 1st National Negro Health Week
- 1915: USPHS opened the Office of Negro Health Work
- 1915: 1st National Negro Health Week
- 1925: 1st National Negro Health Week
- 1932: USPHS opened the Office of Negro Health Work
- 1935: 1st National Negro Health Week
- 1945: Simkins v. Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital
- 1946: Hill-Burton Act
- 1946: Hill-Burton Act
- 1962: Eaton v. Board of Managers of the James Walker Memorial Hospital
- 1964: Civil Rights Act of 1964
- 1965: Civil Rights Act of 1964
Minority Health Milestones (1965-2015)

- 1965: CBC established
- 1971: CBC established
- 1978: CBC Health Braintrust established
- 1979: 1st hearing on minority health
- 1979: Patricia Roberts Harris appointed US Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare
- 1983: External groups present reports on minority health and health disparities to Sec. Heckler
- 1984: Task Force on Black & Minority Health convened
- 1985: Heckler Report
- 1990: Disadvantaged Minority Health Improvement Act
- 1994: CAPAC established
- 2000: Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education Act
- 2009: American Recovery & Reinvestment Act
- 2010: Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

Timeline:
- 1965
- 1970
- 1975
- 1980
- 1985
- 1990
- 1995
- 2000
- 2005
- 2010
- 2015
HEALTH EQUITY FOR ALL!

For more information, please contact Daniel E. Dawes, Esq. DDawes@msm.edu or www.healthequitynetwork.org