

# Women's Health and Disparities

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# Health Disparities

- Health disparities refers to population-specific differences in the presence of disease ([www.ncsl.org](http://www.ncsl.org))
- Health disparities is a particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage ([www.healthypeople.gov](http://www.healthypeople.gov))
  - Health disparities adversely affect of people who have experienced greater obstacles to health based on:
    - Age
    - Gender
    - Racial/Ethnic group
    - Socioeconomic Status

# Health Disparities

- Breast cancer
  - From 2000-2008 , the percentage of non-Hispanic White women ages 50-24 who reported they had a mammogram in the past two years fell by 4%
  - Women between the age of 50-64 who were uninsured were less likely to have a mammogram compared to insured women
  - Among women age 65-74, those with Medicare only were less likely to have a mammogram relative to women with Medicare and supplemental insurance

# Health Disparities

- Breast cancer first diagnosed at advance stages
  - From 2000-2007, the rate of advance stage breast cancer in Black women has increased
- Breast cancer deaths
  - From 2000-2007, Black women had higher breast cancer death rates compared to White women
  - Between 2000 and 2007, women ages 45-64 and age 65 and over had higher rates of breast cancer deaths per 10,000 women compared to women ages 18-44

# Health Disparities

- Health status
  - A higher percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native, Black and Hispanic women report their health as fair or poor compared to White women
  - Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native women have higher rates of diabetes and heart disease compared to White women
  - Black women have higher rates of new aids cases /100,000 relative to all other women (White, Hispanic, Asian, and American Indian or Alaska Native)
  - A higher percentage of Black women report having low birth-weight babies compared to all other women

# Access and Utilization

- A higher percentage of Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native women reported not having a doctor visit due to cost and having late prenatal cost
- 37% of Hispanic and 21% of American Indian/Alaska Native women report having no personal doctor

# Insurance Coverage

- Health Insurance
  - A higher percentage of Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native women report not having health insurance coverage compared to White women (James et al., reference)
- Medicaid
  - Covers 1 and 3 children and some of their parents, and 40% of all births
  - Access
    - Medicaid increases access and lowers financial barriers for children and pregnant women
    - Shortage of providers and low provider participation, specifically among specialist, continues use of services among Medicaid participants (low payment rates and administrative hassles are documented as key barriers for providers)
  - Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2014 will expand Medicaid to include people under the age of 65 at or below 138% of the federal poverty level
    - Lawfully present immigrant will encounter a 5-year waiting period to enroll in Medicaid if eligible and undocumented immigrants will remain ineligible for Medicaid

# Institute of Medicine Report. (2003). *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care*

- Even after accounting for access to care (insurance status and SES) racial/ethnic disparities persisted in healthcare settings
- Provider factors that may contribute to unequal treatment:
  - Stereotyping
  - Bias
  - Uncertainty
- Organizational factors that may contribute to unequal treatment:
  - Language barriers
  - Geography
  - Culture

# Social Determinants of Health

- A higher percentage of Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native women live in poverty
- A higher percentage of Hispanic women don't have a high school diploma
- A higher percentage of Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska native women are the head of single parent households

# Conclusion

- Health disparities are complex and multifaceted
- There is no single intervention will eliminate health disparities
- There has been progress in mitigating in health disparities



Questions/Comments?