



Disparities in U.S. Health Care: A View from AHRQ

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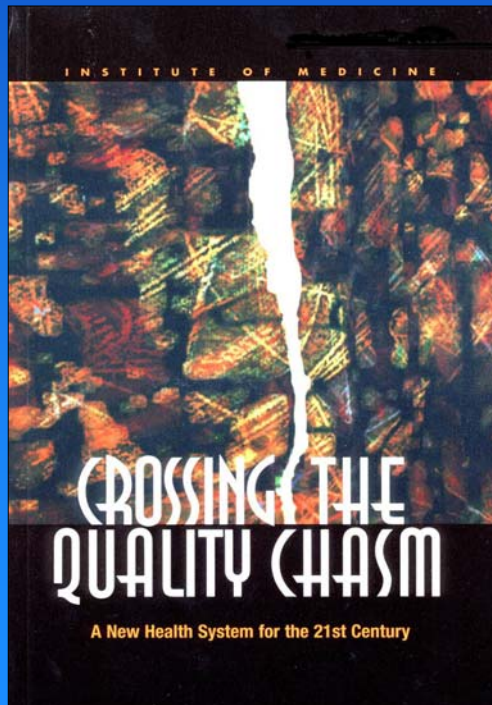
Webinar for Commonwealth Fund Minority Health Chartbook

March 24, 2008

IOM Six

IOM definition of quality: *The degree to which health services for individuals and populations increase the likelihood of desired health outcomes and are consistent with current professional knowledge*

IOM Six Aims for Improvement:



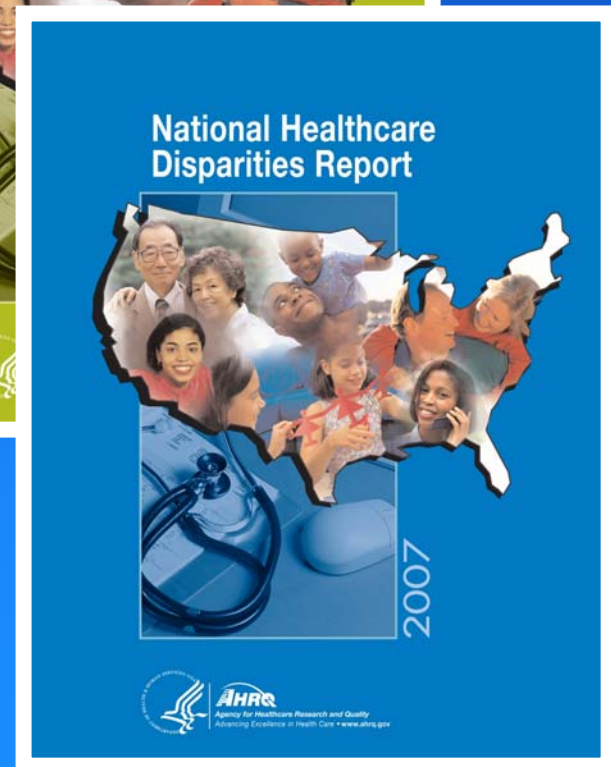
Access to...

- Safe
 - Timely
 - Effective
 - Efficient
 - Equitable
 - Patient-Centered
- ... care



AHRQ's National Reports on Quality and Disparities

- National Healthcare Quality Report (NHQR)
 - Snapshot of quality of health care in America
 - Quality
 - Variation across states
- National Healthcare Disparities Report (NHDR)
 - Snapshot of disparities in health care in America
 - Quality + Access
 - Variation across populations



Disparities in Health Care



- 2007 National Healthcare Disparities Report
 - Access & Quality
 - New findings
 - Future Reports

Origin of National Healthcare Disparities Report

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



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

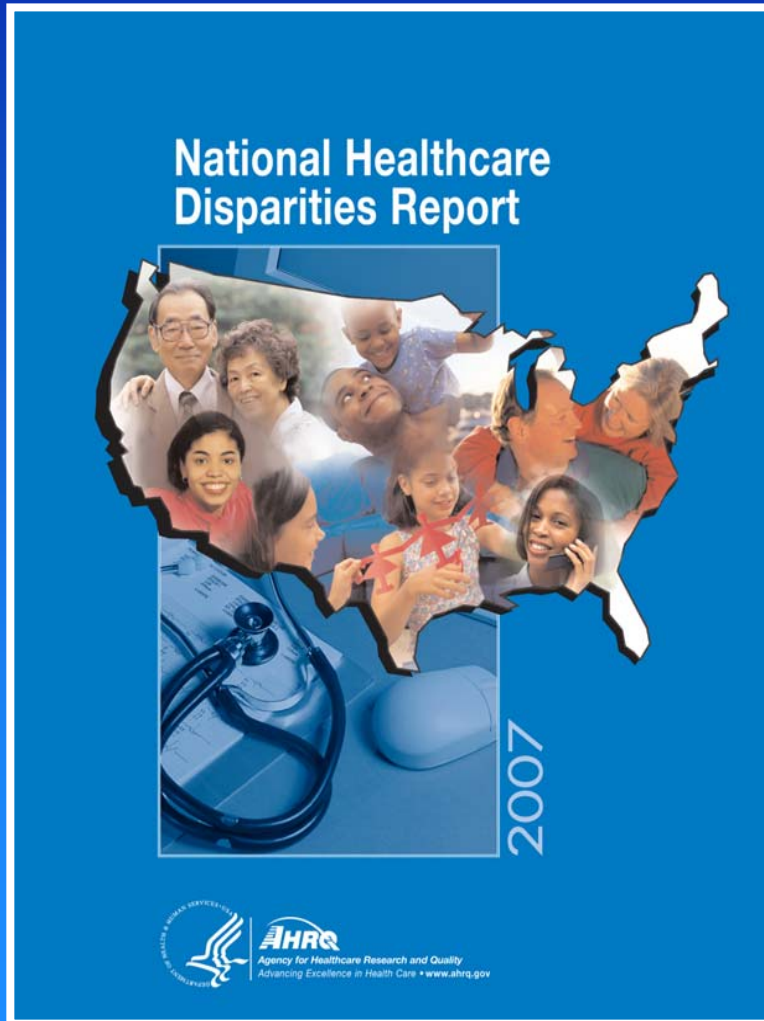
Goals for Disparities Reports

Reports such as NHDR and the Commonwealth Fund Chartbook are important to showing disparities as quality issues that should be incorporated in QI efforts because they:

- Reveal the biggest gaps in care
- Show national and state trends
- Help align measures across public and private quality initiatives



2007 National Healthcare Disparities Report



Progress is being made, but many of the biggest gaps remain

New in the 2007 NHDR

- Patient Centeredness: Diversity of the Registered Nurse Workforce, Focus on Health Literacy
- Priority Populations: Supplemental data for Asians and Hispanics from the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS)
- Priority Populations: People With Disabilities and Special Health Care Needs, Adults With Disabilities

NHDR Findings

- Over 60% of disparities in quality of care have stayed the same or worsened for Blacks, Asians and poor populations
- Nearly 60% of disparities have stayed the same or worsened for Hispanics
- For Blacks, Asians, Hispanics and poor populations, disparities in about half the core measures of access to care are lessening

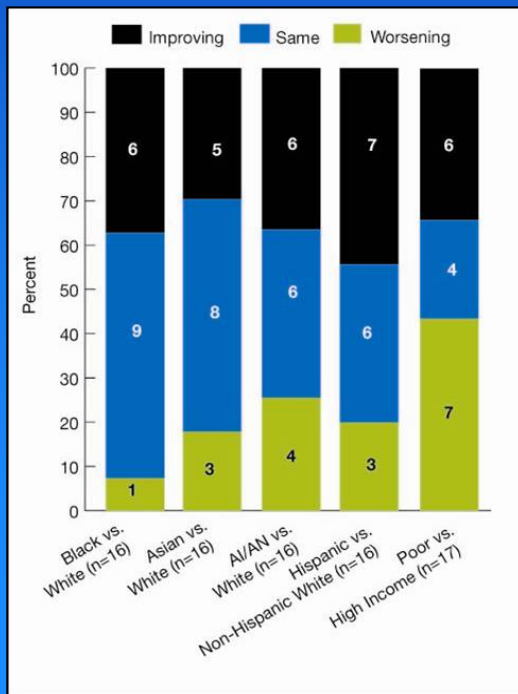


Health Care Quality and Access

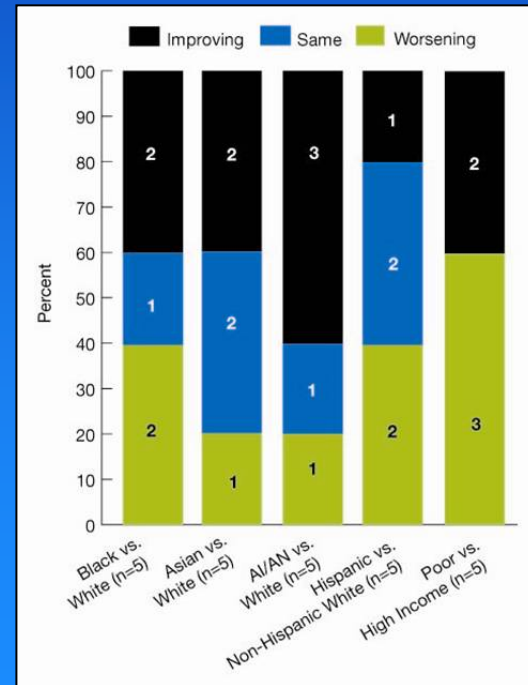
Disparities in health care quality and access are staying the same or increasing

N= Number of core measures

Quality



Access





What's Next for Future NHDRs?

- Cancer care measures (American Cancer Society)
- Adults with disabilities (National Health Interview Survey)
- Mental health and substance abuse
- Children with special healthcare needs



For more information...

NHQR and NHDR Web Page

<http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/qrdr07.htm>

NHDRnet for data tables and queries

<http://nhdrnet.ahrq.gov/nhdr/jsp/nhdr.jsp>

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