Federal Data Sources for Analyzing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Medicaid and CHIP

Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission

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Overview

• Federal data standards
• Administrative data
• Survey data
• Options for data improvement
Federal Standards

• 1997: standards set by Office of Management and Budget
  – Self identification
  – Two-part question
  – Ability to select more than one category

• 2010: applied specifically to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under § 4302 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act along with sex, primary language, disability status
  – Requirements for continuing evaluation and reports to Congress
Federal Standards (continued)

• Five minimum categories for race:
  – American Indian or Alaska Native
  – Asian
  – Black or African American
  – Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
  – White
  – More granular categories may be used if they can be aggregated into these five

• Two minimum categories for ethnicity:
  – Hispanic or Latino
  – Not Hispanic or Latino
Administrative Data

• Race and ethnicity drawn from applications which use federal standards

• Analysis of 2018 T-MSIS data shows:
  – High rates of missing or unknown data
    • 11 states missing data for 10–30 percent of enrollees; and 5 states are missing more than 30 percent
    • 14 states have 10–30 percent unknown; 7 states have more than 30 percent unknown
  – Reported data may conflict with benchmarks (e.g., several states report 0 percent Hispanic; others report 0 percent non-Hispanic)
Survey Data

- Household surveys routinely used by MACPAC include National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), National Survey of Drug Use and Health, National Survey of Children’s Health
- Sample sizes may not be sufficient for subgroup and state-level analyses
  - e.g., MACStats tables using NHIS report national data for Hispanic; Black, non-Hispanic; White non-Hispanic; and other non-white, non-Hispanic
Survey Data (continued)

- Nationwide Adult Medicaid Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (NAM CAHPS) can be used to analyze racial/ethnic groups and states
- Fielded only once in 2014; no current plans to repeat
Options for Data Improvement

• Administrative data
  – Willingness of enrollees to identify race and ethnicity
  – Focus on validity and reliability in state submissions for T-MSIS

• Survey data
  – Increase sample size or oversampling
  – Dedicated periodic survey of Medicaid beneficiaries
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