



# Medicaid's Role in Advancing Health Equity

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**Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission**

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# Overview

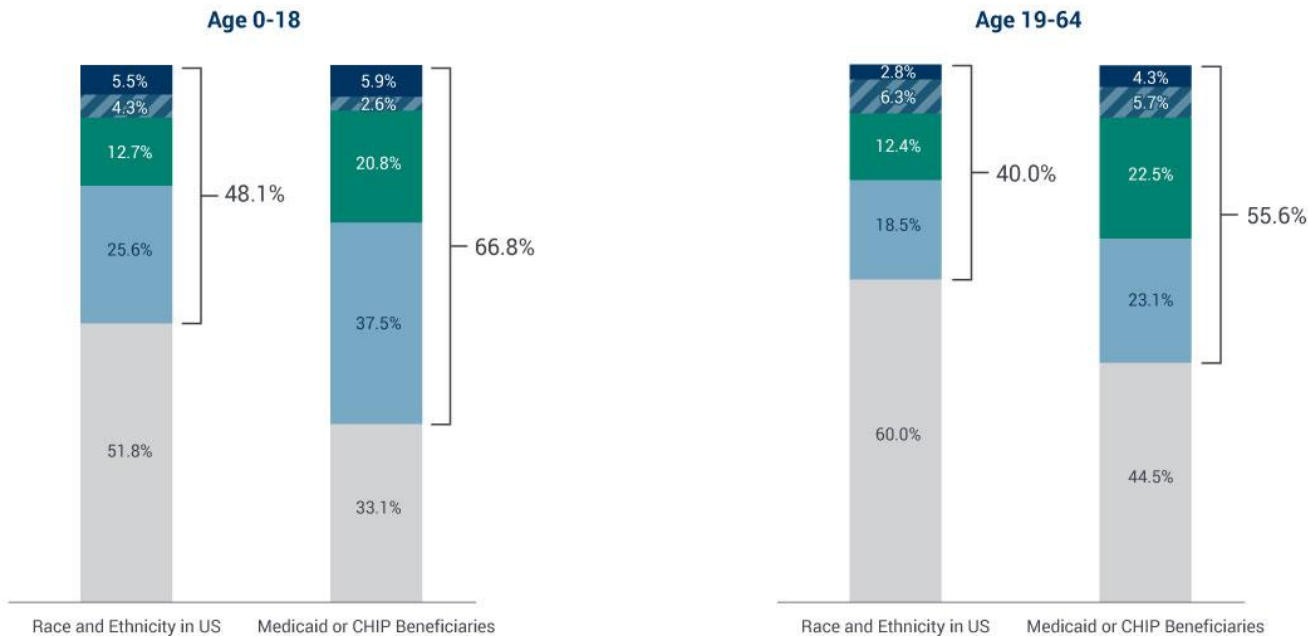
- Review of the chapter
  - Key concepts
  - Disparities affecting Medicaid beneficiaries
  - Federal health equity actions
  - Opportunities for Medicaid actions
    - Data collection and reporting
    - Leadership and infrastructure
    - Beneficiary engagement strategies
    - Enrollment, redetermination, and renewal processes
    - Delivery system levers
    - Developing a culturally competent workforce
- Next steps

# Key Concepts

- Health equity
- Structural vs interpersonal racism
- Health disparities vs inequities
- Intersectionality
- Social determinants of health

# Race and Ethnicity of Medicaid Beneficiaries vs U.S. Total Population, by age

White, non-Hispanic
  Hispanic
  Black, non-Hispanic
  Asian, non-Hispanic
  Other, single and multiple races, non-Hispanic
  American Indian or Alaska Native, non-Hispanic †



# Disparities Affecting Medicaid Beneficiaries

- Disparities in health outcomes for Medicaid beneficiaries of color (e.g., higher rates of maternal mortality and morbidity, higher rates of COVID-19 mortality )
- Disparities in access persist for Medicaid beneficiaries of color (e.g., reporting worse patient experience, less likely to have had a primary care visit)

# Federal Health Equity Actions

- Overview of historic and current efforts to address health equity
- CMS commitment to apply a health equity lens across all programs
- Recent actions
  - Guidance to states to address SDOH, including through section 1115 demonstrations
  - Outreach and enrollment grants with a focus on reducing racial coverage disparities

# Opportunities for Medicaid Actions

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# Data Collection and Reporting

- Availability of race and ethnicity data and the strengths and limitations of various data sources
- Challenges with self-reporting
- Inconsistent data collection methods



# Leadership and Infrastructure

- Role of state leadership in health equity initiatives
  - Grants authority to staff
  - Set expectations of staff
- Establishing an infrastructure to support health equity efforts
  - Health equity officials
  - Health equity plans

# Beneficiary Engagement Strategies

- Meaningful beneficiary engagement throughout policy and program development
  - Role of medical care advisory committee (MCACs) or member-only advisory committees
- Barriers to participation in advisory committees
  - Lack of compensation
  - Logistical needs (e.g., child care, transportation)

# Enrollment, Redetermination, and Renewal Processes

- Concern with the return to routine renewals when the COVID-19 public health emergency ends
- State efforts to reduce systemic barriers in enrollment and renewal processes for beneficiaries to gain and maintain Medicaid coverage

# Delivery System Levers

- Managed care contract requirements (e.g., development of equity plans, SDOH initiatives)
- Payment (e.g., use of incentives, value-based payments, or alternative payment models tied to equity goals)
- Quality improvement activities (e.g., stratification of quality measures, MCO quality assessment and performance improvement plans, or external quality review)

# Developing a Culturally Competent Workforce

- Provider concordance with Medicaid beneficiaries
- Opportunities and challenges for developing a culturally competent workforce
- Use of non-clinical workforce, such as community health workers, peer support specialists, and doulas

# Next Steps

- Commissioner feedback on chapter
- Staff will incorporate commissioner feedback
- Chapter will be published in June



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