

2020 Status of Health Equity Report

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The Root Cause Coalition

Mission

We bring awareness and coordinated leadership to address the social determinants of health and their resulting barriers. We do this by articulating, demonstrating and advocating for bold and innovative solutions and policies that lead to improved health outcomes and economic stability.

Vision

Reverse and end the systemic root causes of health inequities for individuals and communities through cross-sector approaches and partnerships



Our Broken Health Care Delivery System

- Americans are in poorer health. Almost 20 percent of adult men and women report fair or poor health status.
- Nearly 12 percent of Americans (almost 40 million people) are living in poverty.
- Health care costs are rising. Between 2014-2018, health care spending for a single individual increased from \$4,987 to \$5,892, an 18.4% increase.



Life Expectancy GAPS



We know ...

- Our current model of health care in this country is a mess.
- Nothing is happening today to suggest the model will correct itself in the near future.
- We need to make things happen now. Or this crisis will continue to spiral out of control.

But knowing is not enough...



We know ...

- Life expectancy declined for three consecutive years for first time in 100 years.
- Thirteen percent of adult (34 million) Americans admitted knowing someone who died because they could not afford medical care.
- Cost of healthcare is the Number One cause of bankruptcy.
 - Bankruptcy for 65-year-olds is three times higher today than in 1991.
- One-third of people skip care and or prescriptions due to cost.

But knowing is not enough...



We know ...

- Forty percent of American families struggled in the last 12 months to meet basic needs of food, healthcare, housing, or utilities.
- One in 10 seniors in U.S. lives below the federal poverty level.

But knowing is not enough...

Health inequity in the headlines

The New York Times

Race and Medicine: The Harm That Comes From Mistrust

Racial bias still affects many aspects of health care



Racist Housing Practices From the 1930s Linked to Hotter Neighborhoods Today



We know ...

Current
reality ...



But knowing is not enough...



We must flip the focus ...

A new
reality ...

80%

Community

Social, economic, behavioral,
environment

20%
Clinical/Medical



A Pathway to Better Care

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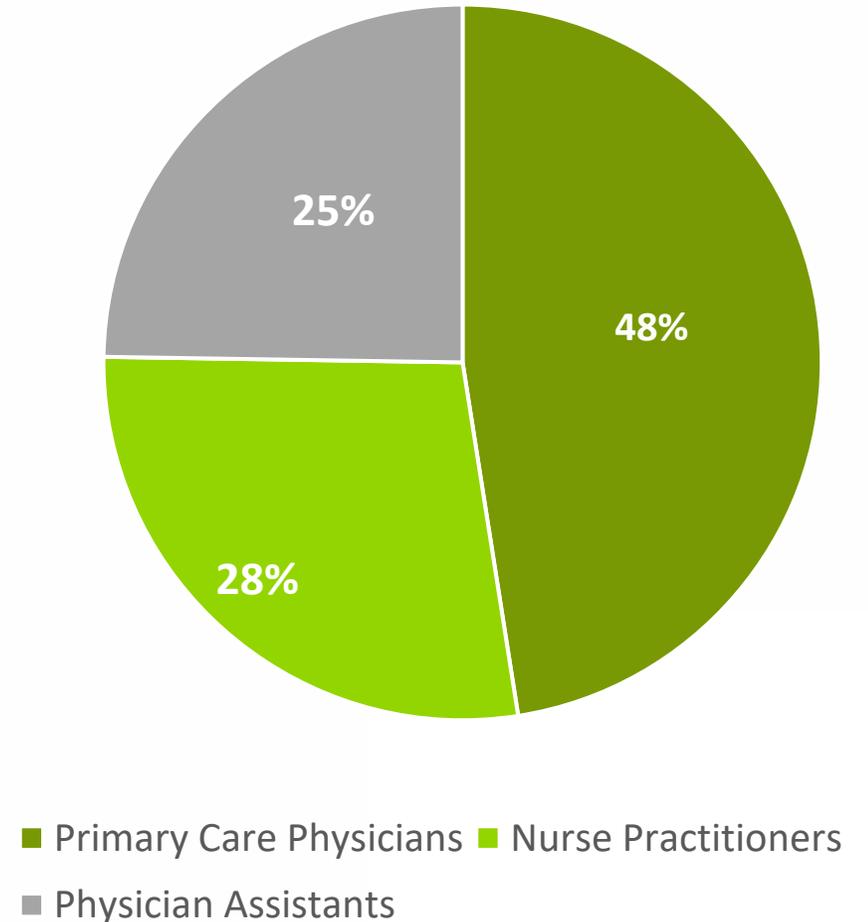
- Examines both the progress and the gaps in addressing health disparities influencing health and well-being
- Three Actionable Strategies to Achieve Health Equity
 - Scale innovative solutions to drive a new and sustainable model of care that improves health outcomes as it ensures health equity.
 - Align communities and advance authentic collaboration to address the root causes of health inequities.
 - Engage and learn from communities most affected by inequities of health and social conditions.
- Eight Point Call to Action

Provider Survey

Key Findings

- Providers must have additional training on the societal factors that impact health
- Providers need to have clearer guideline on what their role is in addressing SDoH
- Providers will benefit from specific intervention models and strategies to implement interventions
- Providers should benefit from cultural competency training
- Two Key Challenges in discussing SDoH with patients
 1. Limited Time and Resources
 2. Little integration between health/clinical and community resources

Provider Demographics



8 Point Call to Action

1. In payment reform, include methods and processes to ensure payment to care providers and non-clinical community-based organizations for demonstrated value related to addressing health inequity as a result of the social determinants of health. As part of this, develop a reimbursement model from Medicare and Medicaid for services provided by providers and community-based organizations that demonstrate value related to reducing costs, enhancing health outcomes and improving efficiencies while addressing the social determinants of health and health inequities.
2. Create a standardized integrated health benefit technology platform that connects patients, payors, providers and community organizations in order to consolidate fragmented programs and services into an integrated network.
3. Increase by 50 percent the number of commercial health plans and health systems nationally that embed social determinants of health and health inequities goals into their strategic plans, programs and services.
4. In all medical and clinical education programs nationwide, create a more robust system of educating and training providers about health equity and the role health care providers play in addressing these issues and how to effectively integrate that role into their current practice. In addition, ensure that cultural competency training is included in the curriculum.
5. Define a national target for healthcare expenditures (i.e., 15% of the GDP).
6. Develop a comprehensive plan to address our nation's deficits in infant mortality, mental health services and substance use disorders.
7. For health care organizations and corporations nationally, encourage the need to change ongoing education among board members, leaders and employees related to racial equity and cultural competency issues within the workplace.
8. Establish clearer, standardized metrics for measuring health outcomes related to racial disparities and the social determinants of health.

How To Utilize This Report:

Communication Toolkit

- The Health Equity Report Communication Toolkit serves as a reference on how to raise awareness about the social determinants of health and what tools and tactics to consider as you craft messages and programs for increased collaboration within and outside of your organization.
- Utilize The Root Cause Coalition as a national resource on **how to** facilitate partnerships and programs.

The Root Cause Coalition: *Crafting a New Culture of Health*

The Root Cause Coalition:

- Facilitates shared learning
- Lifts up social determinant best practices
- Advocates on relevant policy

Join us <https://www.rootcausecoalition.org/>



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