



Agency for Healthcare
Research and Quality

2021 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report

For the 19th year, AHRQ is reporting on healthcare quality and disparities. The annual National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report is mandated by Congress to provide a comprehensive overview of the quality of healthcare received by the general U.S. population and disparities in care experienced by different racial and socioeconomic groups. The report is produced with the help of an Interagency Work Group led by AHRQ.

Introduction

The *National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report* assesses the performance of our healthcare system and identifies areas of strengths and weaknesses, as well as disparities, for access to healthcare and quality of healthcare. Quality is described in terms of six priorities: patient safety, person-centered care, care coordination, effective treatment, healthy living, and care affordability. The report is based on more than 250 measures of quality and disparities covering a broad array of healthcare services and settings.

Report Files

AHRQ no longer offers print copies of the report, but the files are set up for two-sided color printing and may be downloaded free of charge. If you have questions about printing or copying, contact Doreen Bonnett at 301-427-1899 or doreen.bonnett@ahrq.hhs.gov.

- [Introduction and Methods](#) (PDF, 2.1 MB)
- [Executive Summary](#) (PDF, 291 KB)
- [Report](#) (PDF, 8.1 MB)
- [Appendixes](#) (PDF, 921.6 KB)
 - Appendix A. Data Sources Used for 2021 Report.
 - Appendix B. Definitions and Abbreviations Used in 2021 Report.
 - Appendix C. Measures Used in the 2021 State Maps.
- [Disparities data tables](#) (PDF, 2.6 MB)
- [Data Sources](#) (PDF, 990 KB)
- [Measure Specifications](#) (PDF, 2.6 MB)
- Additional Methods Information:
 - [Methods Applying AHRQ Quality Indicators to Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project \(HCUP\) Data for the 2021 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report](#).
 - [Detailed Methods for the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey](#) (PDF, 438.2 KB).

Related Data and Tools

- [Quality and Disparities Report Data and Tools](#)

Page last reviewed January 2022

Page originally created December 2021

