

Eliminating inequities is integral to achieving the HPC's mission of better health and better care at a lower cost for all residents of the Commonwealth. The HPC has committed to embedding health equity concepts in all aspects of its work and applying all four of its core strategies to the goal of advancing health equity.

This document is a selection of recent HPC publications and workstreams that have a focus on equity and disparities in health care. Some of the components listed refer to specific slides, while others link to an entire publication.

HPC Programs/Partnerships with Health Equity Focus:

- ACO Learning, Equity, and Patient-Centeredness (LEAP) 2022-2023
 - [Overview of ACO Certification](#)
 - [Embedding Health Equity into ACO Certification Standards](#)
- Moving Massachusetts Upstream (MassUP) Investment Program
 - Overview of the [MassUP Investment Program](#)
 - [MassUP Awardee Profiles](#)
- Birth Equity and Support through the Inclusion of Doula Expertise (BESIDE) Investment Program
 - Overview of the [BESIDE Investment Program](#)
- Maternal and Infant-focused Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) Investment Program
 - Overview of the [NAS Investment Program](#)
 - [Evaluation Report](#)
- Cost-Effective, Coordinated Care for Substance Exposed Newborns and their Caregivers (C4SEN) Investment Program
 - [Overview of the C4SEN Program](#)
- [Special Commission on Racial Inequities in Maternal Health Final Report](#) (May 2022)
- [EOHHS's Quality Measure Alignment Taskforce \(OMAT\)](#)

Health Care Affordability:

- [2022 Health Care Cost Trends Report](#) (September 2022)
 - [Dashboard of HPC Performance Metrics](#) identifies disparities by income and race/ethnicity, including the trend over time in Massachusetts, and a national comparison
- [DataPoints Issue 22: Growth in Out-of-Pocket Spending for Pregnancy, Delivery, and Postpartum Care in Massachusetts](#) (March 2022)
- [2022 Benchmark Hearing](#) (March 2022)
 - Slides 42-46 look at health care affordability by race/ethnicity, income
- [2021 Cost Trends Hearing](#) (November 2021)
 - Slides on affordability/foregoing care by race/ethnicity, income, and disability start at slide 25
- [2021 Health Care Cost Trends Report](#) (September 2021)
 - Chapter 2: Implications for Affordability, Exhibit 2.1
 - Chapter 3: Understanding Patterns of Health Care Spending, Utilization, Affordability, and Access for Commercially Insured Massachusetts Residents with Lower Incomes
 - [Interactive Dashboard \("HPC System Performance Metrics"\)](#)
- [DataPoints Issue 19: Persistently High Out-of-Pocket Costs Make Health Care Increasingly Unaffordable and Perpetuate Inequalities in Massachusetts](#) (January 2021)
- [2019 Health Care Cost Trends Report](#) (February 2020)
 - Chapter 2: Affordability of Care (p. 18)
- [DataPoints Issue 11: Insulin Price Growth and Patient Out-of-Pocket Spending](#) (May 2019)

Health Care Access and Utilization:

- [Telehealth Use in the Commonwealth and Policy Recommendations](#) (January 2023)
- [DataPoints Issue 23 Update on Trends in Urgent Care Centers and Retail Clinics \(Part One\)](#) (September 2022)
- [Certified Nurse Midwives Chartpack](#) (January 2022)
 - Slide 23: Birthing people with midwife-attended births did not differ markedly by race/ethnicity
 - Slide 38: Further barriers persist in both expanding and diversifying the midwifery workforce
- [DataPoints Issue 20: Oral Health Access and Equity in the Commonwealth](#) (July 2021)
- [Policy Brief: Serious Illness Care in Massachusetts: Differences in Care Received at the End of Life by Race and Ethnicity](#) (September 2020)
- [Policy Brief: The Nurse Practitioner Workforce and Its Role in the Massachusetts Health Care Delivery System](#) (May 2020)
- [Opioid Related Acute Hospital Utilization Chartpack](#) (June 2019)
 - Slide 19: Opioid-related hospital discharge rates per 100,000 by community income quartile, 2012, 2016, and 2017
 - Slide 23: Opioid-related hospital discharge rates per 100,000 by race and ethnicity, 2012, 2016, and 2017
 - Slide 24: Opioid-related hospital discharge rates per 100,000 by race, ethnicity, and sex, 2012, 2016, and 2017
 - Slide 25: Opioid-related overdose death rates per 100,000 by race, ethnicity, and sex, 2016 and 2017

COVID-19:

- [Health Care Workforce Trends and Challenges in the Era of COVID-19 Chartpack](#) (March 2023)
- [Presentation - Meeting of the Market Oversight and Transparency Committee](#) (May 2022)
 - Slides 28- 48 look at impact of COVID on care trends in areas with average lower income compared to higher level income
- [Impact of COVID-19 on the Massachusetts Health Care System: Interim Report](#) (April 2021)
 - Slide 28 “Hispanic and Black patients represented a disproportionate share of COVID-19-related hospital admissions in 2020.”
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