



AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY



Advancing Equity in Diagnostic Excellence to Reduce Health Disparities

**The National Academies Workshop
Sept 2024**

AHRQ's Mission



- To produce evidence to make healthcare **safer**, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable, and to work within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and with other partners to make sure that the evidence is understood and used.
- Improve patient safety by:
 - ▶ Identification of risks, hazards, and patient harm
 - ▶ Design, implementation, dissemination and spread, and evaluation of interventions to improve patient safety
 - ▶ Establishment of strategies to sustain patient safety improvements such as culture, incident/event reporting, measurement, monitoring, and surveillance

Diagnostic Safety is a Priority



AHRQ Views

When It Comes to High-Quality Healthcare, Diagnostic Safety Tops the List

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Vanquishing Healthcare Disparities by Advancing Healthcare Equity

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By Robert Valdez, Ph.D., M.H.S.A.; Francis D. Chesley, Jr., M.D.; and Kamila B. Mistry, Ph.D., M.P.H.

On his first day in office, President Biden formally recognized the enormous human toll of systemic racism and persistent poverty in the United States. Executive Order 13985, [Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government](#), mandated federal agencies to launch a whole-of-government approach to advance equity.

In response to the Biden-Harris Administration's vision for ensuring equal opportunity for *all* Americans, federal agencies have taken historic steps to address equity and remove systemic barriers for those who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and harmed by inequality.

Over the past two years, AHRQ has thoroughly examined equity and its connections to Agency activities in alignment with our mission. We are acutely aware of inequities embedded in today's healthcare delivery systems, and the Agency is committed to expanding its efforts to fund and disseminate research findings to address inequities and advance the well-being of *all* Americans.

As such, AHRQ recently sponsored the publication of a *Health Services Research (HSR)* special issue, [Achieving Healthcare Equity in the United States](#). Papers commissioned for this issue summarize the state of evidence and results from an inclusive, participatory process to identify opportunities in five areas to drive more equitable care: [healthcare delivery systems and structure](#); [payment](#); [social determinants of health and social needs](#); [implementation science](#); and [access to care](#).

Along with Marshall H. Chin, M.D., M.P.H., the Richard Parrillo Family Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine at the University of



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Robert Valdez, M.D., M.P.H.



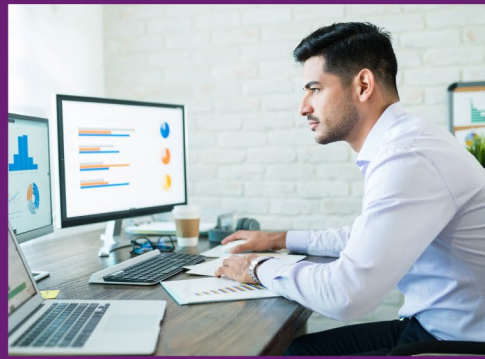
There is no Diagnostic Excellence, without Diagnostic Equity



Objectives of the Workshop



- Better understand the barriers to high quality diagnosis
- Identify strategies to address disparities



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Contact us

We welcome your comments.

**Feel free to follow-up with the AHRQ team
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