

W O R K I N G   T O   A C H I E V E   H E A L T H   E Q U I T Y



# CMS OMH and Social Determinants of Health

National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics Listening  
Session on Healthcare Standards Development, Adoption and  
Implementation | August 2021

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# Today's Topics

- Overview of current CMS OMH health equity efforts
- Defining Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Within CMS
- Strengthening Data Collection, Reporting, and Analysis
- Embedding SDOH in CMS Policies and Programs

# CMS Office of Minority Health

## **Mission**

CMS OMH will lead the advancement and integration of health equity in the development, evaluation, and implementation of CMS' policies, programs, and partnerships.

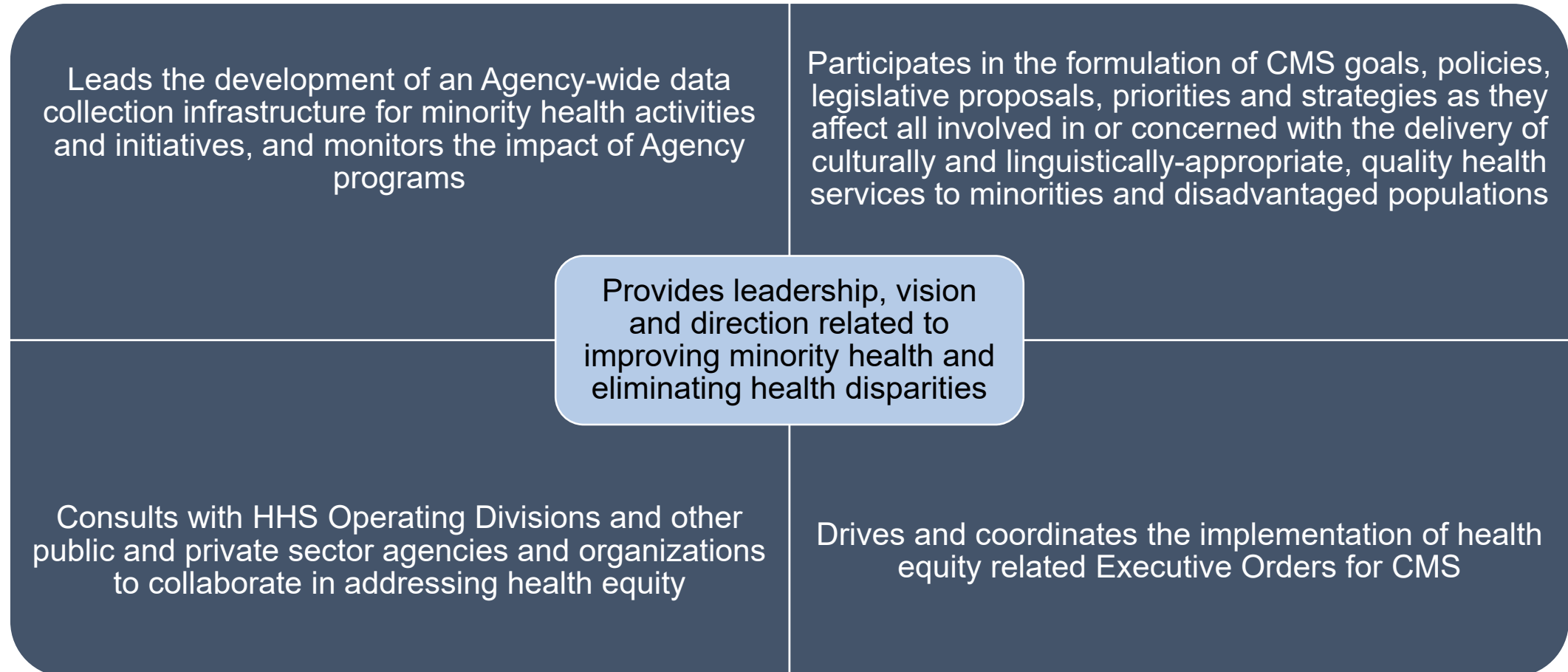
## **Vision**

All those served by CMS have achieved their highest level of health and well-being, and we have eliminated disparities in health care quality and access.

Learn more at: <https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/OMH>

# CMS Office of Minority Health

CMS OMH serves as the principal advisor to the Administrator and coordinator/integrator for all minority health issues at CMS.



# Executive Order 13985: Highlights

## **Executive Order 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government**

- Systematic approach to redress inequities in federal policies and programs that serve as barriers to equal opportunity.
- Embedding of fairness in the decision-making processes within executive departments and agencies of the federal government.
- Comprehensive approach to advancing equity for underserved communities such as:
  - Those adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality,
  - The tribal community,
  - People of color, and
  - Otherwise historically marginalized populations.

# Executive Order 13985: Highlights and CMS Approach

## EO 13985 Sections

<b>Section 1(2)</b>	Establishes the implementation of policies across the federal government that addresses racial equity and issues faced by persons in underserved communities
<b>Section 2(a)</b>	Offers definitions on equity, underserved, and lists populations
<b>Section 4(a)(1)</b>	Offers methods to assess equity through data
<b>Section 5(a) and 5(c)</b>	Discusses barriers to benefits and potential for new policy
<b>Section 8</b>	Mandates Federal agencies to increase coordination, communication, and engagement with community-based and civil rights organizations
<b>Section 9</b>	Discusses the need for data collection

## EO Key Objective

Embed equity in all CMS programs and activities

## CMS OMH Key Activities

- Health Equity Inventory
- Understanding potential CMS Equity Strategies
- Leveraging Disparities Impact Statement process
- Engaging stakeholders
- CMS Advisory Council on Equity

# Executive Order 13985: Highlights and CMS Approach

## EO 13985 Focus on Data:

### Section 4(a)

*“Assist agencies in assessing equity with respect to race, ethnicity, religion, income, geography, gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability...”*

- Emphasizes and actions a federal response to collect demographic data in order to fully assess impact of health equity responses and extent of existing health disparities

### Section 9(a)

*“Many Federal datasets are not disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, disability, income, veteran status, or other key demographic variables. This lack of data has cascading effects and impedes efforts to measure and advance equity.”*

- Establishes a workgroup to gather necessary data

# Defining Social Determinants of Health Within CMS

## Social Determinants of Health



## What are social determinants of health?

**Social Determinants of Health** (SDOH) are defined by Healthy People 2030 as “the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.”

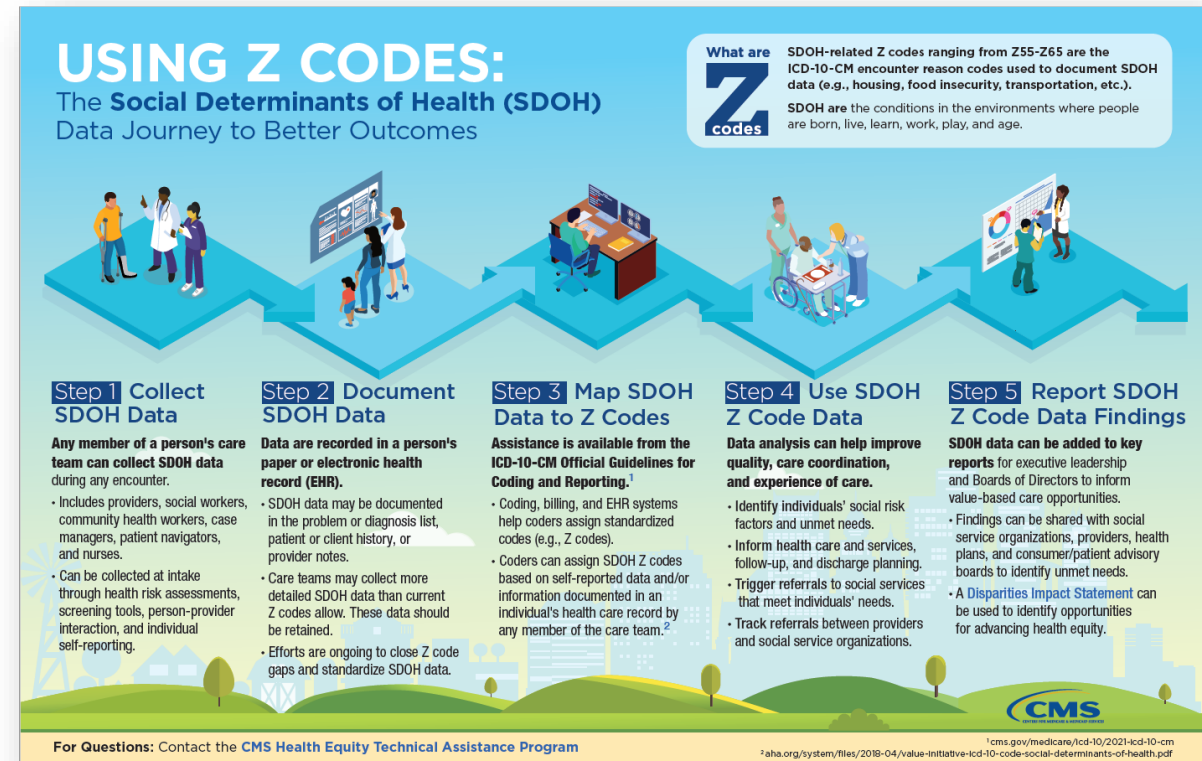
## Why are SDOH important?

SDOH are important because they affect patient health. It is estimated that between 70-90% of health is determined by SDOH. **This does not mean that the clinical encounter does not matter** – rather, that health and health outcomes are strongly influenced by the context of a person’s place and space in society.

# Strengthening Data Collection, Reporting, and Analysis

## Align and increase collection of standardized demographic and SDOH data

- Collaborate across Federal agencies and entities to standardize data elements.
- Increase collection of standardized elements.
- Perform additional stratified analysis and reports using demographic and SDOH data.
- Support clinical care teams and coders with training, outreach, and education on how to collect, capture, and use SDOH information to improve care.



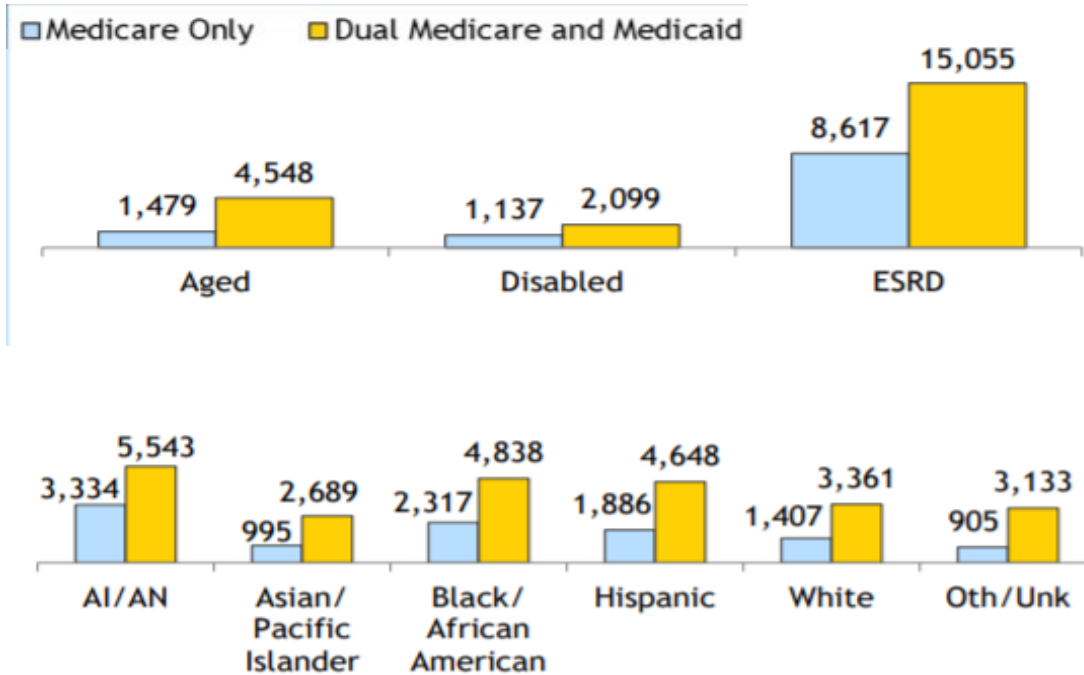
Source: Using Z Codes Infographic, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Office of Minority Health.  
<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/zcodes-infographic.pdf>

# Embedding SDOH in CMS Programs and Policies

## Preliminary Medicare COVID-19 Data Snapshot:

Medicare Claims and Encounter Data: January 1, 2020 to April 24, 2021, Received by May 21, 2021

### COVID-19 Hospitalizations



## Collaboration across CMS

- Sharing demographic and social determinants of health data and analyses across settings and programs.
- Model tests to embed SDOH data and link enrollees to services that address social risk factors.
- Data collection, tailoring services, coverage, and benefits to meet communities' needs.
- Education about culturally and linguistically tailored services and accessible communication at an appropriate literacy level.

Source: Preliminary Medicare COVID-19 Data Snapshot. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.  
<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/medicare-covid-19-data-snapshot-fact-sheet.pdf>

# Connect with CMS OMH

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## Health Equity Technical

### Assistance Program

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