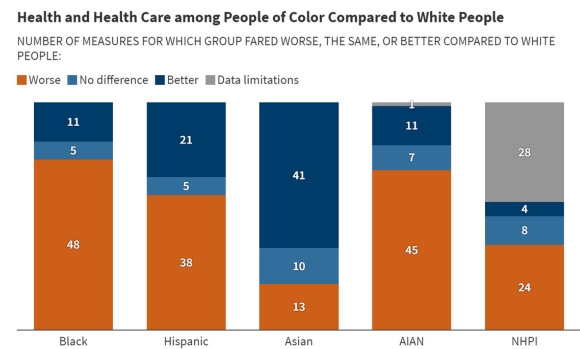


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Exciting New Data Tools From KFF and Census To Help You Address Health Equity

KFF published "[Key Data on Health and Health Care by Race and Ethnicity](#)". This resource examines how people of color fare compared to white people. It looks at 64 measures of health, health care, and the causes of health problems (SDOH). KFF used several data sources. These include their own surveys, federal surveys, and administrative data.

The U.S. Census Bureau also published Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) [Fact Sheets](#). They also created interactive [Infographics & Visualizations](#). These tools provide a quick and easy way to gather statistics on a wide range of topics covered in the SIPP.



HealthyWomen: Can Racial Bias Limit Access to Colon Cancer Screening and Treatment for Women of Color?

Black patients with colorectal cancer face the highest death rates. Surprisingly, data shows that black patients get referred for colon cancer screening less often. This article shares Jenna Scott's story. She was diagnosed with colon cancer at only 31.

They also speak to Renee Williams, MD, MHPE, a gastroenterologist at NYU Langone Health. She explores why Black patients might not receive screening recommendations. She also looks into their access to surgery and cancer care.

InsideHealthPolicy: CMS Proposes To Make Audio-Only Telehealth Flexibilities Permanent

As part of the proposed 2025 Physician Fee Schedule, CMS is proposing to reimburse physicians for audio-only telehealth. This would begin next year for instances where patients are incapable or do not consent to use video technology.

Some telehealth advocates noted this is a big win for rural patients who may only have audio access. However, it is important to note that the [telehealth flexibilities from the Public Health Emergency \(PHE\) will end](#). This means the rule would only cover non-behavioral health services by telehealth for rural patients and a rural medical facility.

[Related Link](#)

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WWAMI Rural Health Research Center (RHRC): Estimated Impacts of Multiple Payment Policies on Rural-Serving Home Health Agencies

Three recent payment policy changes have gone into effect. They could greatly impact payments to home health agencies (HHAs). The changes affect payments for providing home health services to Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries.

This study estimated the potential impact on home health agencies. It compares HHAs that are operating under one, two, or all three of these recent payment policy changes.

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AXIOS: Medicare proposes payment for digital mental health therapies

As part of the 2025 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) proposed rule, Medicare is proposing three new HCPCS codes to cover digital mental health treatment.

AXIOS takes a brief look at why this matters and what impacts it could have on the healthcare industry.

[Medicare](#)