

Disparities in Use of High-Value Preventive Services

This chapter documents utilization for 11 clinical preventive services among racial and ethnic groups. Table 1 shows the size of the disparity in utilization of preventive services between non-Hispanic whites³² and racial and ethnic minority groups (see textbox for explanation of how disparities were calculated). Table 2 shows the utilization rates for the total population and racial and ethnic groups.

For most of these 11 services, sample sizes were large enough to report data for people who identify themselves as (1) Hispanic only; (2) black only, non-Hispanic; and (3) Asian only, non-Hispanic.³³ For five preventive services, utilization data are available for people who identify themselves as multiple race, non-Hispanic; for two preventive services, utilization data are available for people who are American Indian or Alaska Native alone, non-Hispanic.³⁴

How Disparities Were Calculated

Disparities were calculated by taking the percentage of non-Hispanic whites (reference group) receiving the service and subtracting the percentage of the racial/ethnic group receiving the service. This difference was then divided by the percentage of non-Hispanic whites receiving the service.

The larger the value, the greater the disparity between whites and the racial/ethnic group. For example, a disparity of .25 means that that racial/ethnic group was 25 percent less likely to have received the preventive service than whites. A higher disparity of .56, such as for Hispanic adults who have had a pneumococcal immunization, means that Hispanic adults were 56 percent less likely to have received the immunization than whites.

A value of zero means no disparity between whites and the racial/ethnic group.

A value less than zero means that the racial/ethnic group had a higher utilization rate for the service. For example, a disparity of -.21 for vision screening among African American children means that African American children were 21 percent more likely to have received vision screening than white children.

³² Non-Hispanic whites were chosen for use as a reference group for all services to facilitate comparisons among services. Utilization rates are highest for this group for most, but not all services.

³³ Available data do not allow us to assess differences within these three diverse groups.

³⁴ Samples sizes for other races, such as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, were not sufficient for any preventive services.

Tables 1 and 2 show that Hispanics have lower utilization compared to non-Hispanic whites and African Americans for every preventive service with the exception of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine for infants. However, Asian Americans have the lowest utilization of any group for aspirin use as well as for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening.

Table 1: Disparities in Use of Clinical Preventive Services					
Preventive Service	Hispanic	Black only, Non-Hispanic	Asian Only, Non-Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Multiple Race, Non-Hispanic
Aspirin Use Among Adults <i>men 40+, women 50+</i>	.24	.10	.40	.03	.03
Smokers Advised to Quit <i>adult smokers 18+</i>	.48	.02	N/A	.06	.04
Smokers Offered Assistance to Quit <i>adult smokers 18+</i>	.55	.00	N/A	-.02	.11
Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine <i>infants</i>	.12	.19	.02	N/A	.05
Colorectal Cancer Screening <i>adults 50+</i>	.39	.19	.40	N/A	N/A
Hypertension Screening <i>adults 18+</i>	.14	.04	.06	N/A	-.04
Influenza Immunization <i>adults 50+</i>	.40	.35	.26	N/A	.21
Cervical Cancer Screening <i>women 18-64</i>	.11	.02	.25	N/A	N/A
Cholesterol Screening <i>men 35+, women 45+</i>	.11	.05	.04	N/A	-.02
Breast Cancer Screening <i>women 40+</i>	.13	.06	.21	N/A	N/A
Pneumococcal Immunization <i>adults 65+</i>	.55	.34	.45	N/A	N/A
Vision Screening <i>children under 6</i>	.08	-.21	.10	N/A	-.41

* Disparities were calculated by taking the percentage of non-Hispanic whites (reference group) receiving the service and subtracting the percentage of the racial/ethnic group receiving the service. This difference was then divided by the percentage of non-Hispanic whites receiving the service. For example, .25 means that that racial/ethnic group was 25% less likely to have received the preventive service than whites. Higher values mean greater disparities. A value of zero means no disparity between whites and the racial/ethnic group. Values less than zero mean that the racial/ethnic group had a higher utilization rate for that service than whites.

Table 2: Utilization Rates for Clinical Preventive Services by Racial/Ethnic Group

Preventive Service	Total Population	White only, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Black only, Non-Hispanic	Asian Only, Non-Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Multiple Race, Non-Hispanic
Aspirin Use Among Adults <i>men 40+, women 50+</i>	40.2%	41.5%	31.4%	37.2%	25.1%	40.2%	40.1%
Smokers Advised to Quit <i>adult smokers 18+</i>	47.9%	51.2%	26.8%	50.1%	N/A	47.9%	48.9%
Smokers Offered Assistance to Quit <i>adult smokers 18+</i>	27.5%	29.7%	13.4%	29.7%	N/A	30.4%	26.5%
Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine <i>infants</i>	53.7%	57.3%	50.5%	46.2%	56.2%	N/A	54.2%
Colorectal Cancer Screening <i>adults 50+</i>	48.1%	51.2%	31.2%	41.6%	30.6%	N/A	N/A
Hypertension Screening <i>adults 18+</i>	86.5%	88.8%	76.3%	85.4%	83.4%	N/A	92.5%
Influenza Immunization <i>adults 50+</i>	37.3%	40.3%	24.0%	26.2%	29.9%	N/A	31.9%
Cervical Cancer Screening <i>women 18-64</i>	83.2%	85.5%	76.2%	84.0%	64.1%	N/A	N/A
Cholesterol Screening <i>men 35+, women 45+</i>	79.4%	80.7%	71.9%	76.7%	77.4%	N/A	82.6%
Breast Cancer Screening <i>women 40+</i>	67.0%	68.6%	59.4%	64.6%	54.5%	N/A	N/A
Pneumococcal Immunization <i>adults 65+</i>	54.1%	58.5%	26.1%	38.9%	32.0%	N/A	N/A
Vision Screening <i>children under 6</i>	35.6%	34.8%	32.1%	42.0%	31.4%	N/A	49.0%

Definitions for Utilization Rates

Aspirin Use – Men 40+ and women 50+ using aspirin everyday or every other day, 2005¹

Smokers Advised to Quit – Adult smokers 18+ advised to quit by a health professional in past 12 months, 2005¹

Smokers Offered Assistance to Quit – Adult smokers 18+ offered assistance to quit (medications or other strategies) by a health professional in past 12 months, 2005¹

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine – Infants immunized, 2005²

Colorectal Screening – Adults 50+ up to date with any recommended screening, 2005³

Hypertension Screening – Adults 18+ screened in past 2 years, 2003³

Influenza Immunization – Adults 50+ immunized in past 12 months, 2005³

Cervical Cancer Screening – Women ages 18-64 screened in past 3 years, 2003³

Cholesterol screening – Men 35+ and women 45+ screened in past 5 years, 2003³

Breast Cancer Screening – Women 40+ screened in past 2 years, 2005³

Pneumococcal Immunization – Adults 65+ ever immunized, 2005³

Vision Screening (Children under 6) – Parents reporting child's vision had ever been screened by a health professional, 2002³

¹ Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, CDC

² Source: National Immunization Survey, CDC

³ Source: National Health Interview Survey, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC