Learning From Each Other: Assessing How Medicaid Agencies Collect Racial/Ethnic Data

Purchasing Institute
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CHCS Racial and Ethnic Health Data Collection Survey

• Designed to catalog and assess the type and extent to which states collect racial and ethnic data for their beneficiaries

• Results cover the 12 states participating in the Purchasing Institute
Data Collection Overview

Accuracy
8 states feel there are real or perceived issues of accuracy with the data

Collection Method
7 states have voluntary data collection

Primary Language
9 states collect primary language data

Barriers
7 states feel they face legal barriers to collecting and sharing data
### Racial and Ethnic Categories: What Categories Are States Using?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R/E Category</th>
<th>Response Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Native Alaskan</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Racial and Ethnic Categories: The Issue of Multi-Race or Ethnicity

Majority of states do not address issues of multi-race or ethnicity

Ways states have addressed this issue:

• Using “Other” category

• Allowing beneficiaries to select more than one race or ethnicity
Techniques used by the states to address gaps in available data include:

- Correction during redetermination process (7)
- Match with other types of state data (5)
- Match with administrative/claims data (2)
- Other (1)

States are not using geocoding to address gaps in available data.
• 11 states share data with participating health plans

• However, in more than ½ of the states, plans cannot correct the data supplied

  Data in plan file is overlaid by the state in some states making health plan correction of data difficult (would necessitate separate field)
• Health plans in 5 states collect data as part of their member enrollment/outreach.
• 1 state’s health plans collect additional data on racial and ethnicity.
• Most health plans do not share collected data with the state.
Data Analysis:
How Are States Analyzing R/E Data?

- Ad Hoc Reports: 8
- DSS: 9
- Data Warehouse: 8
- Geocoding: 0
- Other: 1

Values range from 0 to 10.
Staff and resources

• 8 states feel they have the necessary staff and resources to use their data analysis tools

Using data analysis tools

• 10 states attempted to use their data analysis tools to develop information on racial and ethnic health disparities
4 states have developed performance measures specific to the issue of racial and ethnic health disparities

- Florida
- Maryland
- Oklahoma
- Oregon

Only FL and OK require health plans to implement targeted interventions specific to racial and ethnic disparities.