

Iowa Health Equity Population Health Initiative

A plan to close health disparities gaps in the Iowa membership for Amerigroup Iowa, Inc.

Amerigroup launched a new Health Equity Population Health Management plan in 2021. The data-driven plan aligns with the priorities of Governor Kim Reynolds, the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME), and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH). Amerigroup then drilled down to identify statistically significant health disparities experienced by some Amerigroup members. By utilizing the Health Effectiveness Data Information Sets® (HEDIS) Quality Measures and other data measures, Amerigroup created health equity focused population health operational plans. They focus on populations with chronic conditions (asthma and diabetes), maternal child health, and behavioral health and substance use disorder as identified below. In addition, community integration and COVID-19 vaccinations were also identified. The Amerigroup Health Equity Population Health Plan was reviewed and is approved by the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) for implementation through June 30, 2025.

Diabetes:

- **Disparity:** To reduce annual HA1c blood test disparity of Black members with diagnosis of diabetes
- **2.1% gap** of Black members compared to white members
- **Goal:** Increase HA1c blood test rate of Black members with diagnosis of diabetes

Asthma:

- **Disparity:** To increase medication adherence of Black members with diagnosis of asthma
- **5.6% gap** of Black members compared to white members
- **Goal:** Increase asthma medication adherence rate of Black members with diagnosis of asthma

Low birth weight rate:

- **Disparity:** To reduce low birth weight of Black pregnant member deliveries
- **6.87% gap** of Black pregnant members compared to white members
- **Goal:** Decrease low birth weight rate of Black pregnant member deliveries

Prenatal and postnatal timeliness of care:

- **Disparity:** To reduce prenatal and postnatal timeliness of care of Black pregnant members
- **4.7% gap** of Black members compared to white members
- **Goal:** Increase prenatal and postnatal timeliness of care rate of Black pregnant and recently delivered members

Behavioral health and substance use disorder:

- **Disparities:** To reduce three measure gaps of Black & Latinx members with diagnosis of substance abuse & depression
- **Gaps compared to white members:**
 - **Anti-depressant medication adherence rate:** Rural: Black 8.7%, Latinx 10.9% and Urban: Black 14%, Latinx 6.4%
 - **Initiation and engagement of treatment:** Urban: Black 3.5%
 - **Follow-up after hospitalization:** Rural: Latinx 9.4% and Urban: Black 9.3%
- **Goal:** Increase adherence rates for each measure and population by 5%

Community integration:

- **Disparity:** Lack of home- and community-based services and supports, particularly in rural communities, for individuals with disabilities, which creates barriers for members wanting to transition from state resource centers or other facility-based care setting.
- **Goals:** Assist members who desire transition to community and increase Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) membership served in community setting.

COVID-19 vaccinations:

- Reduce vaccination rate disparities for Black and Latinx populations
- **1.9% gap** Black and **2% gap** Latinx populations compared to white (IDPH Feb 2021 data)
- **Goal:** Close to 0.0% gaps for Black and Latinx populations in Iowa

The Iowa Health Equity Population Health with Amerigroup plan includes individual work plans created to support the identified priority focus areas. This includes a cross functional team approach implementing specific tactics to support the overarching goal. Leaders and subject matter experts come together from the following teams: clinical, quality, provider solutions and provider experience, and the growth and engagement (community) team. Each tactic has a business owner from each of the functional areas with a detailed project plan in place to support a monthly dashboard of metrics to monitor progress that is reported to the Iowa Health Equity Population Health Executive Council with Amerigroup on a bi-monthly basis. This allows for cross functional engagement for process improvement opportunities in supporting the identified goals.

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