

HEALTH DISPARITIES: WE'RE PAYING ATTENTION

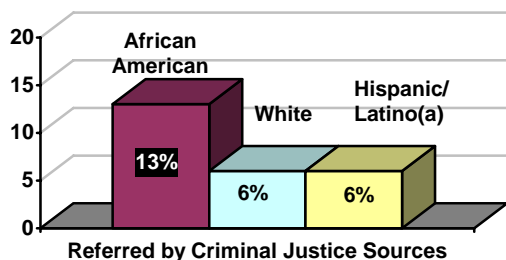
“Striking disparities in care are found for racial and ethnic minorities...The system has neglected to incorporate respect or understanding of the histories, traditions, beliefs, languages or value systems of culturally diverse groups.”

President's New Freedom Commission Report on Mental Health, 2003

Behavioral health disparities are **systematic differences** in healthcare practices, service utilization patterns, quality and outcomes related to race, ethnicity or gender and not due to a health condition. DMHAS' Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs (OMA) partnered with the Yale University Program for Recovery Health to create the **Health Disparities Initiative** to identify disparities in the public behavioral health system of care and introduce strategies to systematically eliminate those disparities.

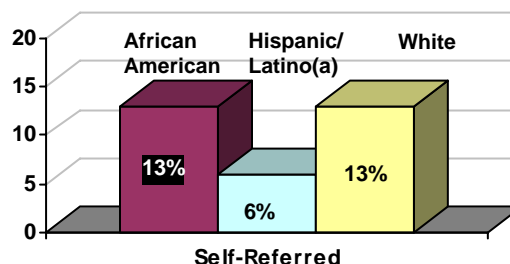
Disparities in Inpatient Substance Abuse Settings

African Americans were significantly *more* likely than White and Hispanic/Latino(a) Americans to be referred by criminal justice sources



Disparities in Inpatient Mental Health Settings

Hispanic/Latino(a)s were significantly *less* likely than African and White Americans to be self-referred.



Other Disparities Identified in Inpatient Mental Health Settings



- 63% of Hispanic/Latino(a)s were referred by a crisis/emergency source vs. 48% of White and 47% of African Americans.
- 28% of African Americans have a primary admission diagnosis of Schizophrenia vs. 11% of Hispanic/Latino(a)s and 16% of White Americans (non-Hispanic).
- 20% of African Americans have a primary admission diagnosis of Mood Disorders vs. 41% Hispanic/Latino(a)s and 40% of White Americans.
- 6% of African Americans were likely to be discharged from care Against Facility Advice vs. 3% of Hispanic/Latino(a)s and 2% of White Americans.

Products of the DMHAS Health Disparities Initiative



- Data-driven policies and targeted cultural competence interventions
- Cultural Competence Resource Kit for conducting cultural competence self-assessments and developing cultural competence action plans
- DMHAS Multicultural Best Practice Standards updated and disseminated
- DMHAS Multicultural Training Initiative teaching cultural competence to direct care staff and managers
- 2008 Evaluation of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in State Inpatient Services Report by DMHAS' OMA