

Disparities in Diabetes Control and Outcomes

A Healthy Metric 2022 Brief Report for Wisconsin



Healthy Metric

Advancing Health Equity in Wisconsin

Report Goal

Our goal is to examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on disparities in diabetes control and outcomes in Wisconsin by rural and urban and racial and ethnic groups.

About Healthy Metric

Healthy Metric is a partnership between UW-Madison, the Medical College of Wisconsin, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute, the Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality, and the Wisconsin Health Information Organization that aims to eliminate health disparities in Wisconsin through collaboration, measurement, and interventions.

About the Measure

Blood sugar control in diabetes: The percent of adults with diabetes, aged 18-75, whose A1c blood sugar level was controlled to less than 8.0% within the one-year measurement period. This measure is endorsed by the Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality (WCHQ).

Measure Goal

Highest possible rates of blood sugar control in patients with diabetes.

Data



Data includes individuals who received health care services from a Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality member health system/clinic in 2019 or 2020.

Funders



Contact

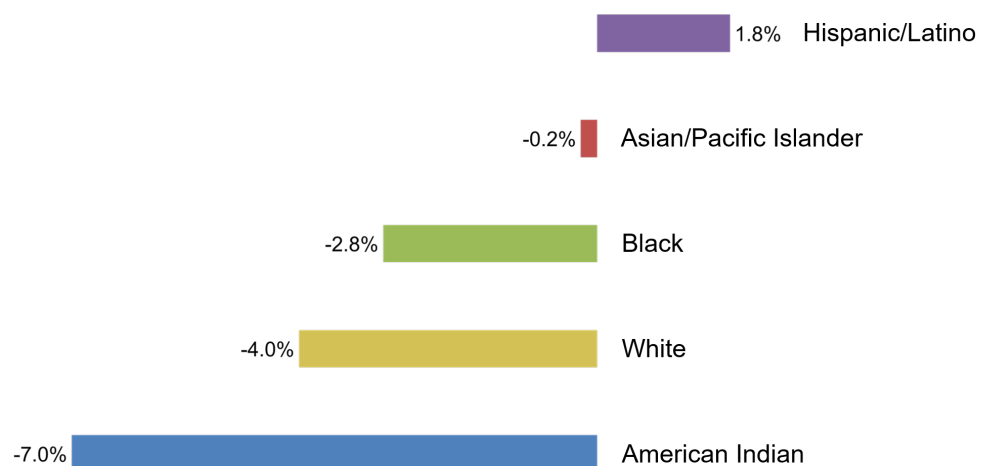
For more information about Healthy Metric, visit: www.healthymetric.org

Executive Summary

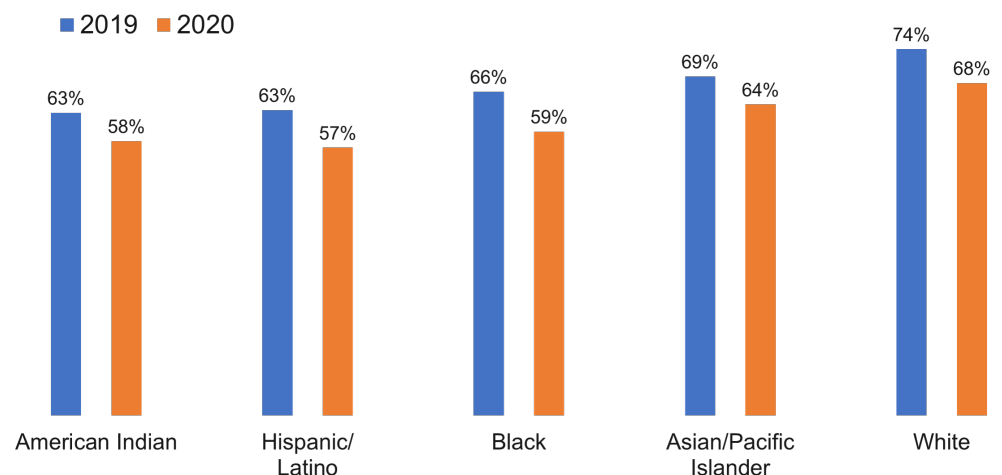
Substantially fewer patients with diabetes were seen in primary care and disparities in diabetes care persisted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Primary care visits declined substantially for American Indian, White, and Black Wisconsinites with diabetes from 2019 to 2020.
- Blood sugar control for all racial and ethnic groups decreased from 2019 to 2020, and substantial disparities in blood sugar control persisted for American Indian, Hispanic/Latino, and Black Wisconsinites.

Change in Primary Care Visits for Patients with Diabetes from 2019 to 2020



Blood Sugar Control for Patients with Diabetes





Background

More than 1 in 10 people in Wisconsin have diabetes, and that number continues to grow. Diabetes can lead to serious complications such as heart disease, stroke, amputation, kidney disease, blindness, and death. While disparities pre-date the pandemic, they worsened due to several factors associated with Covid-19. All racial and ethnic groups had lower rates of diabetes control, but American Indian, White, and Black, Wisconsinites had disproportionate drops in primary care visits during the pandemic.

Access to Care: Primary Care Visits Drop

The pandemic created several barriers to patients accessing care, perhaps none more hindering than the closure of some clinics across Wisconsin for extended periods of time. While health systems pivoted to telehealth quickly, not all patients had equal access to this service. Because of that and other factors including transportation issues, personal concerns for safety outside of the home, and historical barriers, the number of patients that were seen in primary care clinics for the treatment and on-going care of diabetes dropped.

Health Disparities Indicators

For this report, health disparities were defined as differences in health outcomes and care measures adversely affecting populations seen in primary care settings. This report utilizes race and ethnicity categories as defined by the CDC, and includes American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander, Black, Hispanic/Latino, and White. The disparities presented may be linked to the social determinants of health and unequal distribution of power and resources.

Taking Action

Resources for Taking Action to Reduce Disparities

- [Toolkit for Improving Chronic Conditions, Hypertension & Diabetes: Care & Outcomes](#)
- [What Works for Health: Diabetes Control](#)
- [The Community Guide: Diabetes Control](#)

Questions to Consider for Taking Action

- How can we address barriers to accessing quality, affordable healthcare?
- What barriers worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What factors shape people's access to nutritious food, safe places to exercise, and medications?

About the Funders

Advancing A Healthier Wisconsin Endowment (AHW): Driven by a vision for a healthier Wisconsin, the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment reaches statewide, propelling the most promising work and ideas to build a healthier Wisconsin for generations to come.

Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP): WPP represents a far-reaching commitment by the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health to greatly improve the health of people in Wisconsin for years to come.

Healthy Metric is a partnership between:

