



COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #16

RACIAL JUSTICE/HEALTH DISPARITY RESOURCES & INFORMATION

- [Maine has nation's worst COVID-19 racial disparity](#) - *Portland Press Herald* (June 21)
No other state has such a wide gap – more than 25 percentage points – between the size of the Black population and that community's share of infections.
- [Maine has failed as racial disparities in coronavirus infections grow, immigrant leaders say](#) - *Bangor Daily News* (June 22)
Immigrant leaders in Maine's largest cities say the state has failed them as the nation's whitest state sees some of the biggest racial disparities in coronavirus cases.
- [How States Report COVID-19 Data by Race and Ethnicity](#) - *NASHP* (June 19)
The racial inequities exposed by COVID-19's case* and death rates give states opportunities to improve their pandemic responses. Discover which states are reporting case and mortality data by race and ethnicity data on a state, zip code, or community level.
- [States tracking COVID-19 race and ethnicity data](#) - *AMA - Health Equity* (June 15)
The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the immense strength and courage of our physicians and the obstacles they are up against. It has also highlighted another troubling fact: racism is a driver to the systemic inequities that are persistent and prolific in health care.
- [Racial Health Disparities by Age Paint Starker Picture of COVID-19](#) - *Patient Engagement HIT* (June 18)
When adjusted by age, racial health disparities run deeper than previous reports, underscoring the rampantness of chronic illness in underserved populations.
- [Insights from the social sector: A cross-sector response to health disparities in the COVID-19 pandemic](#) - *The National Center*
Cross-sector partnerships are more critical than ever as the COVID-19 pandemic threatens the health and broader social systems of communities across the country. This is especially dire for individuals with complex health and social needs who may already have difficulty accessing needed services.

For resources and other relevant information, please visit the [Racial Justice/Health Disparities Resources](#) page on the [MPCA website](#).

POLICY UPDATE

State: On June 5 and June 19 the Appropriations Committee held listening sessions on COVID-19 impact. The first meeting focused mainly on retail, tourism, and manufacturing sectors, while the session on the 19th featured a highly selective sampling of health care and social service providers. Commissioner Figueroa and her team updated the Committee on estimated revenue and cost impacts, noting that much more information about the pace of economic recovery and the shape of federal aid would be available in the next month or so. We will provide more information as it becomes available. <http://legislature.maine.gov/committee/#Committees/AFA>

Federal: Last week during the Office Hours Megan DesCamps, Senior Policy Advisor for Sen. King, gave us an update on two pieces of legislation that had been 'dropped' that day. S 3998 **Improving Telehealth for Underserved Communities Act of 2020** and S 3999 **Mental and Behavioral Health Connectivity Act**. Fact Sheets are attached.



COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #16

TELEHEALTH UPDATE

Rapid Telehealth Implementation During COVID-19 ECHO - Ongoing Learning Series

- Tuesdays (except for the 3rd Tuesday each month) from 1:00 - 2:00 PM via Zoom.
 - Tuesday, June 23 - *Reopening and Sustainability - Telehealth after the Pandemic* (pt.1)
 - Tuesday, June 30 - *Reopening and Sustainability - Telehealth after the Pandemic* (pt.2)
- For more information or to register as a participant, please email Greg Parent - gparent@mepca.org.

For updates from insurers and other relevant information concerning Telehealth, please visit the [Telehealth Resources](#) page on the MPCA website.

INTERESTING READS

- [The Coronavirus Outbreak - Latest Updates](#) - *New York Times* (June 16)
 - Honduran President Tests Positive
 - Florida, Texas and Arizona all set records for the most cases they have reported in a single day
 - An inexpensive drug reduces virus deaths, scientists say
- [Major study finds common steroid reduces deaths among patients with severe Covid-19](#) - *STAT* (June 16)

A cheap, readily available steroid drug reduced deaths by a third in patients hospitalized with Covid-19 in a large study, the first time a therapy has been shown to possibly improve the odds of survival with the condition in the sickest patients.
- [Mouthwash may reduce spread of the new coronavirus](#) - *Medical News Today* (May 26)

A new research review suggests that publicly available mouthwashes could, in theory, inhibit SARS-CoV-2. The team behind the review call for further research to be done to confirm their speculative findings.
- [Isolation of potent SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing antibodies and protection from disease in a small animal model](#) - *Science* (June 15)

The novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has had devastating global health consequences and there is currently no cure and no licensed vaccine. Neutralizing antibodies (nAbs) to the causative agent of the disease, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2), represent potential prophylactic and therapeutic options and could help guide vaccine design.
- [Contact Tracing](#) - *USCDC* (June 21)
 - **Key Concepts**
 - ◆ **Trace and monitor contacts of infected people.** Notify them of their exposure.
 - ◆ **Support the quarantine of contacts.** Help ensure the safe, sustainable and effective quarantine of contacts to prevent additional transmission.
 - ◆ **Expand staffing resources.** Contact tracing in the US will require that states, tribes, localities and territorial establish large cadres of contact tracers.
 - ◆ **Use digital tools.** Adoption and evaluation of digital tools may expand reach and efficacy of contact tracers.



COVID-19 Weekly Compendium #16

CHCNET UPDATE

CHCNet Data Academy two-part data governance live learning series, presented in partnership with Health Initiatives Consulting:

- **Wednesday, June 24 | 1:00 - 2:00 PM** - [Assessing Your Data Governance Framework Strategies and Return on Information Through the Lens of COVID-19](#)
- **Wednesday, July 22 | 1:00 - 2:00 PM** - [Data Governance Reset, Repositioning and Redesign for Strategic Margin and Mission](#)

For more information including meeting invitations, connection links, phone numbers, and details about learning objectives, please contact Greg Parent: (gparent@mepca.org).

For the latest information concerning the MPCA's HCCN, Community Health Center Network of Maine (CHCNet), or for support with health information technology needs, please visit the [CHCNet Member Portal](#) or contact Greg Parent: gparent@mepca.org and/or Lisa Tuttle: ltuttle@mepca.org.

RESOURCES ADDENDUM

For the **Stay Informed, Sign Up, Maine Helps, and Coping and Stress Resources** information, please visit the [Weekly Compendium Resources Addendum](#) page on the MPCA website.

MPCA CONTACT INFORMATION:

Christopher Pezzullo, DO	Clinical Director	cpezzullo@mepca.org	(207) 707-4545
Sarah Morrill, RN, BSN	Quality Improvement	smorrill@mepca.org	(207) 707-4538
	Program Manager		
Greg Parent	Information Systems	gparent@mepca.org	(207) 707-4537
	Program Manager		
Sharon Stanley, MBA, CPC	Finance Program Manager	sstanley@mepca.org	(207) 707-1725
Bryan Wyatt, MA	Director of Policy & Communications	bwyatt@mepca.org	(207) 707-4536
Beth Pearce	Oral Health Coordinator	bpearce@mepca.org	(207) 495-7172

Join MPCA on SLACK! We are building our communication outreach capacity between meetings using the Slack communication platform. Many of you are already connected with us in several peer groups including our **Clinical Channel and our **Billing and Coding Chanel**. Please feel free to reach out to it@mepca.org for help with joining.**