The Century Foundation is a progressive, independent think tank that conducts research, develops solutions, and drives policy change to make people’s lives better. We pursue economic, racial and gender equity across a number of policy issues. We were founded in 1919 by the progressive business leader Edward Filene.
Presentation Overview

• Snapshot - Who’s getting covered?
• How can coverage advance equity?
• Federal Policy Update: Coverage Expansions
• Progress
• Where do we go from here?
• Suggested readings by Dr. Taylor
Snapshot - Who’s getting covered?

• African Americans and Latinx people still most likely to be uninsured or underinsured

• COVID-19 pandemic has made matters worse

• People of color are disproportionately represented in publicly-funded health insurance programs

• Affordability under private insurance still a major issue
  • Average family spends 11% of household income
  • African Americans spend almost 20% of household income
How can coverage advance equity?

1. Increase access to care
2. Enhance affordability
3. Address health provider shortages
4. Dismantle structural racism and inequality
Federal Policy Update: Coverage Expansions

• Health Care EO issued on January 28, 2021
  • Official Policy - high-quality health care accessible and affordable to all
  • Special Enrollment Period
  • Agency review

• Expanded premium tax credits as part of American Rescue Plan Act

• New incentives for Medicaid expansion

• State option to extend postpartum coverage under Medicaid to 1 year
1 million sign-ups during SEP
Progress: Access

• More than 100 million people fully vaccinated against COVID-19

• Expansions in access to treatment for substance use disorder and mental health care

• Joint efforts across agencies to address intersectional nature of health care disparities
Progress: Affordability

• Free COVID-19 testing and vaccines

• Free COVID-19 treatment for Medicaid enrollees and the uninsured

• Expanded premium tax credits

• Adoption of rules to lower health care costs in 2022 health insurance marketplace plans
Progress: Health provider shortages

• Focus on reaching rural communities

• Advancements in telehealth coverage and access

• Enhancements in medical workforce for rural and underserved communities

• Increased investments in community-based organizations and FQHCs
Progress: Structural racism and inequality

- CDC Declaration - Racism as Public Health Crisis
- Biden EO on advancing racial equity
- Investment in implicit bias training
- Anti-racism in Public Health Act
Where do we go from here?

- Address structural racism within the health care system
- Make coverage more affordable
- Implement targeted solutions for those struggling with financial security and communities of color
- Engage affected communities in development of solutions
Suggested Readings By Dr. Taylor

• The Century Foundation’s Top Policy Priorities for 2021

• Promoting Better Maternal Health Outcomes by Closing the Medicaid Postpartum Coverage Gap

• Racism, Inequality and Health Care for African Americans

• Health Reform’s North Star: 10 Guidelines to Reach Universal Health Care Coverage
Thank you!

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