



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY
KNOWLEDGE CONQUERS CANCER

Equity in Cancer Care: Efforts Tackling Barriers at the Government and Legislation Levels

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COVID-19 Intensified Existing (Underlying) Issues

Gaps in Care and Research Were Exacerbated

- Screening
- Access
- Care Delivery
- Research
- Equity



Affordable Care Act (ACA) Medicaid Expansion Impact on Racial Disparities in Time to Cancer Treatment

18-64 years
 1/1/11 & 12/31/18
 Advanced /metastatic
 NSCLC
 Breast
 Urothelial
 Gastric
 Colorectal
 Renal
 Prostate
 Melanoma

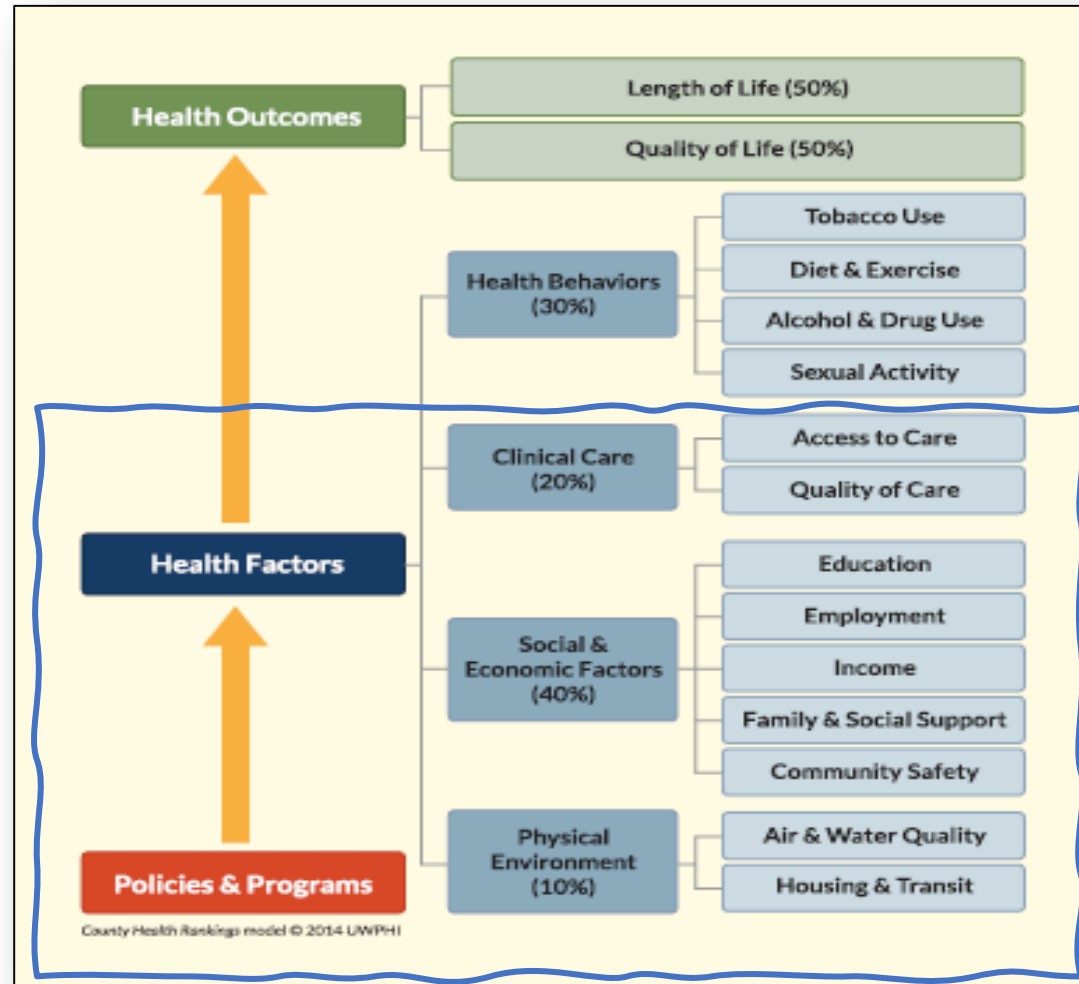
	Pre-Expansion	Post-Expansion	Pre-Post Change
White	41.8	43.1	1.8
African American	39.1	44.3	6.9**
Adjusted disparity (African American vs whites)	-4.9**	0.2	5.1**

** p < 0.05

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Adamson et al, LBA1 ASCO 2019

Knowing what contributes to health overall, we know where we can work to be healthier.



Source: <https://www.healthcatalyst.com/insights/4-population-health-strategies-drive-improvement/>

ALL PATIENTS, NO MATTER WHO THEY ARE OR WHERE THEY LIVE, DESERVE THE HIGHEST QUALITY CANCER CARE

ASCO's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Plan

A Legacy of Commitment,
A Future of Promise for
All Individuals with Cancer



Visit asco.org/equity to learn more.

Our North Star

"We have an opportunity to capitalize on the momentum of the moment and hold ourselves accountable, taking purposeful steps to create a world where every patient, every day, everywhere, has access to the highest quality cancer care. I firmly believe success is within our reach."

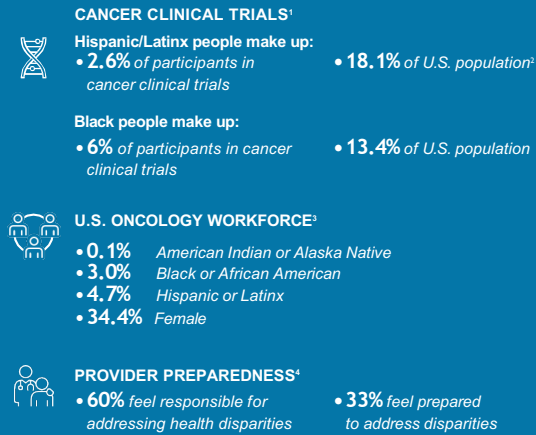
- Lori J. Pierce, MD, FASCO, Chair of the Board,
2020-2021 ASCO President

Where We Want to Go

As a result of our work, we aim to move closer to a world where:

- Clinical trials will more accurately represent the population of patients with cancer, clinical trials will be routinely offered as a treatment option, and all patients will have equitable access to clinical trials.
- The oncology workforce will better reflect the diversity of the population and will be well-equipped to deliver high-quality, equitable care for every patient.
- There will be fewer barriers to accessing cancer care, and practices will have the resources needed to advocate for patients and sustainably deliver high-quality, equitable care to all patients.

A Snapshot – Where We Are Today:



References:

¹ Clinical trial participation rates: Duma N, Vera Aguilera J, Paludo J, et al. Representation of Minorities and Women in Oncology Clinical Trials: Review of the Past 14 Years. J Oncol Pract. 2018 Jan;14(1):e1-e10.

² US population: United States Census. www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/LFE046217

³ DOI: 10.1002/ctd2.1773. Oncology Practice and Quality Improvement Committee. 2021 ASCO Member Survey on Health Equity Awareness and Opportunities. <https://www.asco.org/sites/default/files/content/files/about-asco/documents/2021-ASCO-Domestic-Member-Equity-Survey-Summary.pdf>

ASCO EDI ACTION PLAN

Research 

Education



Quality



WHAT WE WANT TO FIX

Certain groups are underrepresented in clinical cancer research.

The oncology workforce is insufficient in low-resource settings and does not adequately understand how EDI issues affect patients and the professionals who care for them.

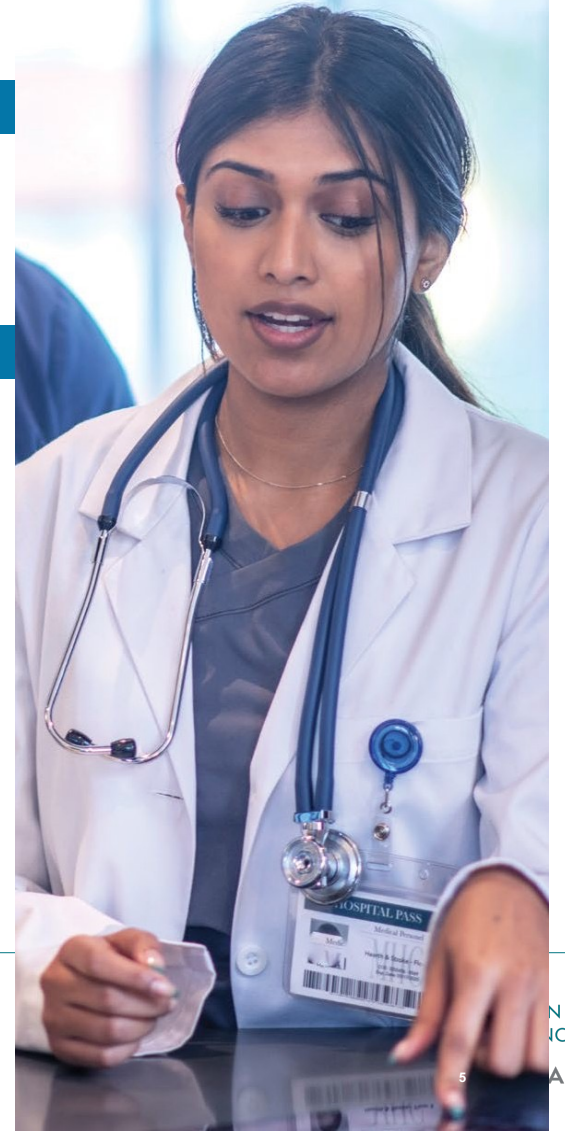
Resources are limited and unevenly distributed, leaving practices without sufficient support to deliver high-quality, equitable care across diverse populations.

HOW WE PLAN TO FIX IT

- Promote improvements in trial eligibility to ensure trials include more underrepresented populations
- Enhance recruitment of underrepresented patients in clinical trials, including through a site assessment tool and inherent bias training program for the oncology research community
- Design ASCO-sponsored research to ensure it reflects ASCO's EDI mission

- Build diverse pipeline of oncology professionals and leaders by increasing participation in ASCO professional development programs by UIM* members or members from low- and middle-income countries (LMIC)
- Increase diversity of ASCO volunteers and leadership by recruiting women and UIM members to serve in ASCO leadership roles
- Increase awareness of EDI issues and opportunities by developing and delivering equity-related educational content to members

- Equip practices to address social needs of their patients by creating and sharing tools and resources
- Promote and protect equitable access to high-quality cancer care, especially in rural and low-resource settings, through quality improvement and capacity building initiatives
- Empower cancer care providers with evidence-based resources to advocate for patients, resources, and personnel to ensure equitable access to high-quality cancer care



Key Term:

*** Underrepresented in Medicine (UIM) –**

Refers to racial and ethnic populations that are underrepresented in the medical profession relative to their numbers in the general population. For the purposes of this EDI Action plan, UIM refers to people who identify as: American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Latinx/ Hispanic, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander.

Goals of Cancer Moonshot Next Phase

- 1** Cut the cancer death rate in half within 25 years.
- 2** Transform the meaning of cancer.
- 3** Address cancer-associated inequities.

Accomplishing the New Goals



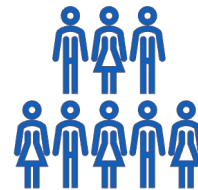
Invest in the pipeline of new drugs for cancer prevention, interception, and treatment



Ensure equitable health care delivery of current and new standards of care



Expand clinical trials to speed evaluation of candidate interventions in diverse populations (racial, ethnic, geographic)



Increase diversity of cancer research and care workforce to resemble the communities we serve

The CLINICAL TREATMENT Act

- ASCO strongly supported legislation to require Medicaid to cover the “routine costs” of care associated with clinical trials
- Congress enacted the CLINICAL TREATMENT Act in December 2020 to take effect Jan 1, 2022
- ASCO drafted a State Plan Amendment (SPA) template for CMS to help guide and shape the implementation of the new requirement
- To date, 35 states and DC have approved SPAs

DIVERSE Trials Act (H.R. 5030/S. 2706)

- Clarifies existing FDA & IRB guidance allowing trial sponsors to cover ancillary costs
- Allows trial sponsors to provide technology to facilitate remote trial participation
- Requires HHS to issue guidance on conducting decentralized clinical trials
- ASCO's 2018 Policy Statement "Addressing Financial Barriers to Patient Participation in Clinical Trials" called for many of these changes

Ancillary costs associated with clinical trial participation can add to patient out-of-pocket costs and deter enrollment.



Transportation



Childcare



Lodging



Meals

Other Health Equity Efforts on Capitol Hill

- **Diversity in Clinical Trials**

- 21st Century Cures 2.0
- DEPICT Act

- **Social Determinants of Health**

- Congressional Social Determinants of Health Caucus
- Social Determinants of Health Accelerator Act

- **Telehealth**

- Telehealth Modernization Act
- CONNECT for Health Act
- Permanency for Audio-Only Telehealth Act

- **Prevention**

- Strengthening Vaccines for Children Program Act
- Quit Because of COVID-19 Act

Federal Regulatory Efforts

- Biden Executive Order on EDI
- Several federal agencies are including EDI in their current proposals, regulations, and guidance.
- ASCO Comments and Responses –
 - Several NIH Requests for Information on Cancer Health Disparities Research, Cancer Research Workforce, and Sexual and Gender Minorities
 - Recent FDA Proposed Guidance on Drug Developers Diversity Plans
 - Support SDOH data collection
 - Support non-discrimination protections based on sexual orientation, gender identity and other socio-demographics
 - Support efforts to reduce barriers to coverage that disproportionately affect groups of individuals
 - Highlighting the development of ASCO's health equity scorecard
 - Highlighting the Montana hub and spoke project to improve care in rural areas
- ASCO strongly supported inclusion of SDOH in USCDI v2 (successful)

Medicaid Expansion in the States

- 2020: ASCO supported ballot initiatives to expand Medicaid in Missouri and Oklahoma (*successful*)
- 2021: ASCO supported Wyoming Medicaid expansion efforts (*passed House*)
- 2022: ASCO opposed legislation to defund Medicaid expansion in Missouri (*successful*) and ASCO supported North Carolina Senate amendment to expand Medicaid (*passed Senate*)



Dr. Joseph Muscato, Missouri Oncology Society President, testifies in support of maintaining Medicaid expansion at a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing

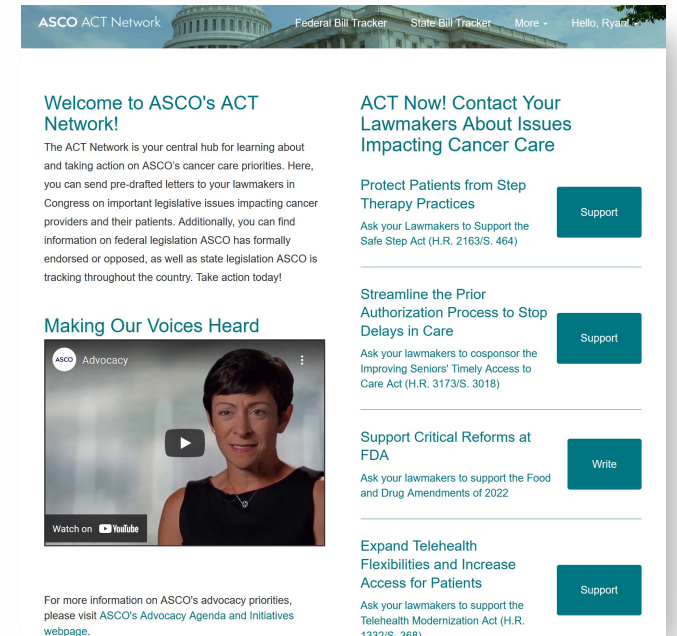
ASCO Advocacy: Get Involved!

ASCO[®] ACT Network

- Action alerts with ASCO position on key federal and state bills
- Provides draft messages you can personalize and send to your lawmakers

Advocacy at Home

- Meet with your lawmakers while they are back in the state or district (currently taking place virtually)
- Contact grassroots@asco.org to participate



The screenshot displays the ASCO ACT Network website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'ASCO ACT Network', 'Federal Bill Tracker', 'State Bill Tracker', 'More', and a user greeting 'Hello, Ryan'. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Welcome to ASCO's ACT Network!**: A introductory text explaining the network's purpose as a central hub for learning about and taking action on ASCO's cancer care priorities. It mentions the ability to send pre-drafted letters to lawmakers in Congress and provides information on federal legislation.
- ACT Now! Contact Your Lawmakers About Issues Impacting Cancer Care**: A list of four key advocacy issues, each with a 'Support' button:
 - Protect Patients from Step Therapy Practices**: Ask your Lawmakers to Support the Safe Step Act (H.R. 2163/S. 464).
 - Streamline the Prior Authorization Process to Stop Delays in Care**: Ask your lawmakers to cosponsor the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act (H.R. 3173/S. 3018).
 - Support Critical Reforms at FDA**: Ask your lawmakers to support the Food and Drug Amendments of 2022.
 - Expand Telehealth Flexibilities and Increase Access for Patients**: Ask your lawmakers to support the Telehealth Modernization Act (H.R. 1332/S. 368).
- Making Our Voices Heard**: A video player featuring a woman speaking, with a 'Watch on YouTube' button.
- Footer**: A note stating 'For more information on ASCO's advocacy priorities, please visit ASCO's Advocacy Agenda and Initiatives webpage.'