

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT ON

# Addressing Disparities

Despite decades of work, disparities in health care and patient outcomes remain pervasive. These inequities lead to preventable suffering and compromise the ability of individuals and families to live full, healthy lives.

Disparities in health and health care are based on race, ethnicity, gender, geographic location, socioeconomic status, disability, and other factors. These disparities contribute to specific populations' poor-quality care and poor overall health outcomes.

Solutions that can reduce persistent disparities have not been studied enough. Health disparities research has largely been devoted to describing disparities and identifying the potential sources and drivers of those disparities. Available evidence is not sufficient for finding solutions to those disparities.

As of November 2017, the PCORI Addressing Disparities program has awarded

**\$238 MILLION TO FUND 78**  
research projects related to addressing disparities

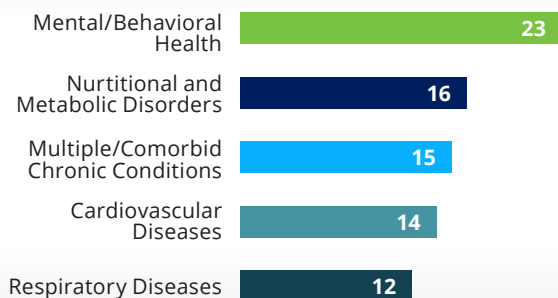
## Building a Robust Research Portfolio

Addressing health disparities is cited as a priority in PCORI's authorizing legislation. PCORI funds research that focuses on overcoming barriers that may disproportionately affect the health outcomes of specific groups of patients. It also identifies best practices for sharing results and information about patient-centered outcomes research across patient groups.

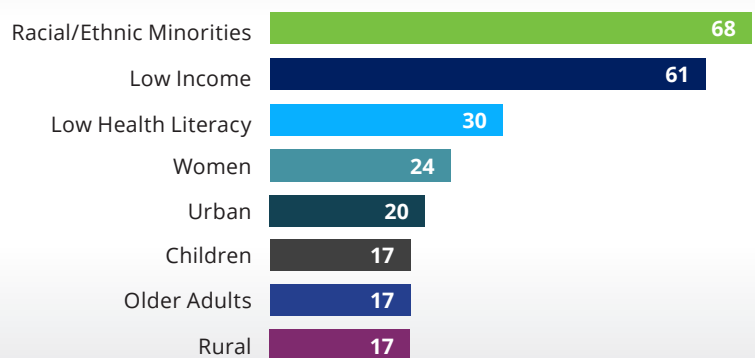
### BY THE NUMBERS

*By number of projects*

#### Most Studied Health Condition Disparities



#### Most Studied Populations of Interest



## Building Capacity for Patient-Centered Research

PCORI is investing in people and infrastructure to support high-quality patient-centered research for years to come.

### The Promise of PCORnet

**PCORnet, the National Patient-Centered Clinical Research Network**, is building capacity for research that aims to reduce disparities in health and healthcare outcomes. It is supporting patient-led data networks and helping connect them with researchers who are working on similar topics. For example, one of the patient-led research networks funded through PCORnet is the Community Partnered Participatory Research Network (CPPRN).



CPPRN's goal is to address persistent racial and ethnic disparities (primarily involving African Americans and Latinos) among adults and adolescents at risk for behavioral health conditions. Aided by stakeholder partners, the network will generate data, stripped of personal information, from 170,000 to 225,000 patients across underserved neighborhoods in Los Angeles County and New Orleans. The data could lead to meaningful and efficient mental health studies.

## STUDY SPOTLIGHTS

### Addressing Disparities in Asthma Care

Approximately 3.8 million African Americans and 3.6 million Hispanics and Latinos/Latinas in the United States had asthma in 2014. The impact is especially pronounced in children, who have a lower likelihood of being prescribed asthma treatment and to use it when they are.

PCORI is dedicating \$23 million to fund eight studies of ways to decrease rates of uncontrolled asthma among the populations most seriously affected. The projects include:

- A project in Imperial County, California, along the US-Mexico border, is testing an intervention to help families, clinics, and communities promote asthma control.
- A study called the Coordinated Healthcare Interventions for Childhood Asthma Gaps in Outcomes (CHICAGO) Trial evaluates interventions to promote asthma self-care and improved outcomes in 5- to 11-year-old children who visit hospital emergency departments with uncontrolled asthma.
- A project in Washington State is collaborating with two health plans that provide Medicaid managed care and two clinic networks, as well as with patients and specialists in public health and information technology. The study compares the effectiveness of several combinations of interventions to improve asthma guideline use and outcomes.