

Fall 2021

Advancing Health Equity from the Consumer Perspective

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**Colorado Consumer
Health Initiative**

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative

Advancing the consumer perspective to improve health care

The Colorado Consumer Health Initiative (CCHI) is a statewide, non-partisan, non-profit membership organization working so all Coloradans can get affordable, high-quality and equitable health care.

CCHI was created in 2000 to be a counterweight to powerful health care interests by building a cohesive consumer voice among health advocacy organizations and their constituents.

VISION:

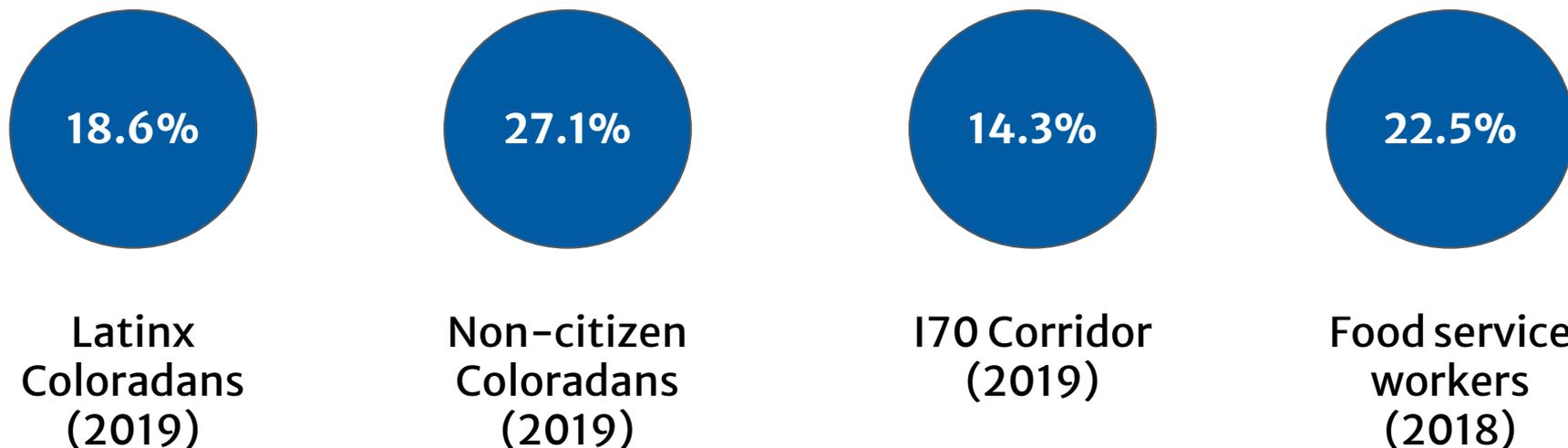
**EQUITABLE ACCESS TO
AFFORDABLE, QUALITY
HEALTH CARE FOR ALL
COLORADANS**

Overview

- Introduction
- Health Equity: Root Causes & Symptoms
- Consumer-Centered Approach at CCHI
 - Opportunities & Barriers
- Opportunities for Progress Under the Dome
- Closing/Key Takeaways

Disparities in Health Coverage

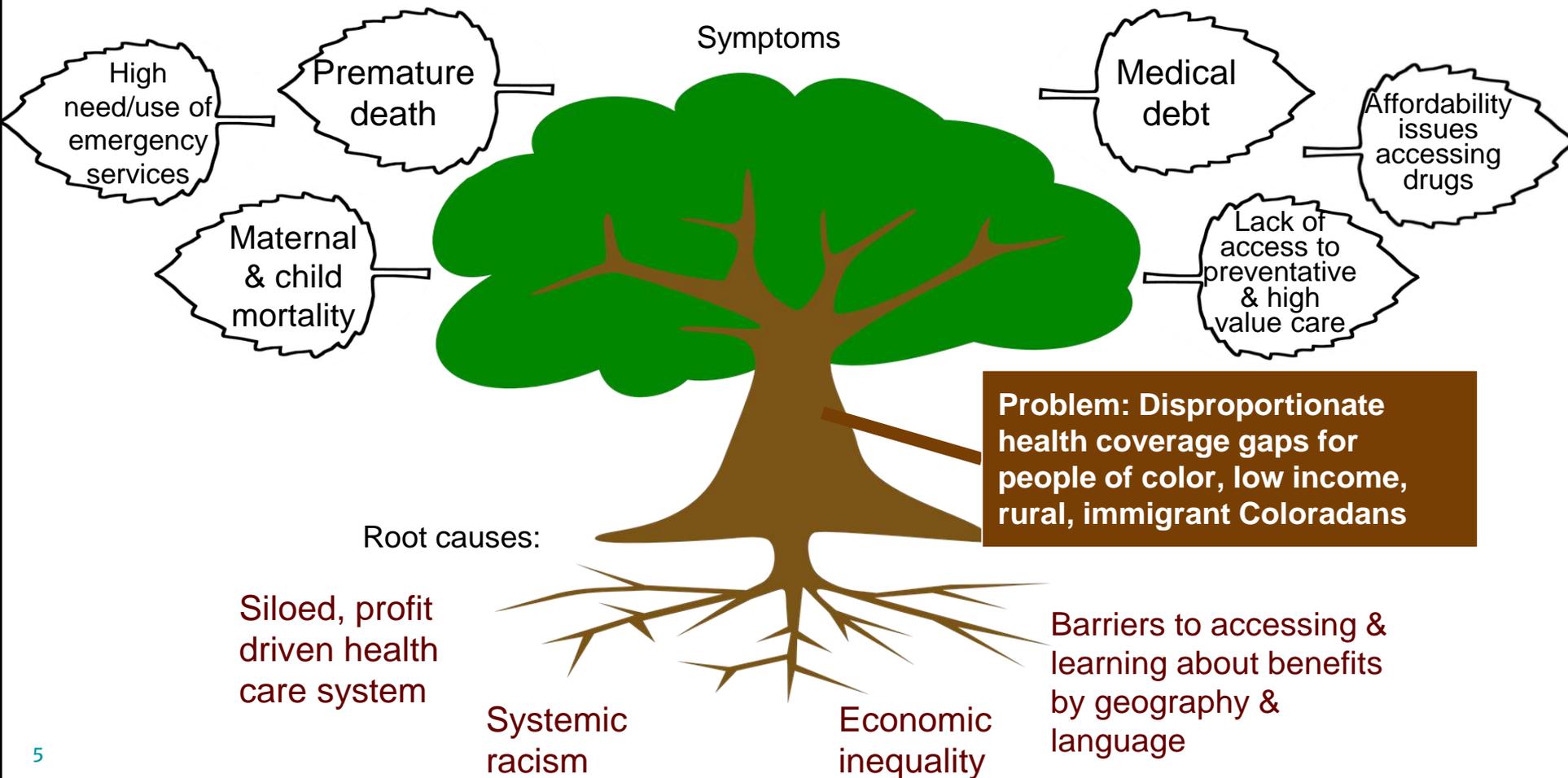
Uninsured rates for Different Coloradans 2018–19



Sources: SHADAC 2020, Colorado Health Institute 2019, Urban Institute 2020

What is Health Equity?

Root causes vs. symptoms



Consumer-Centered Approach to Health Equity

What are we doing at CCHI?

“The people closest to the pain should be closest to the power.” – Ayanna Pressley

- We are striving towards the values of:
 - Earning Trust
 - Sharing power
 - Maintaining asset-based mindset
 - Cultivating mutual relationships
 - Accessibility of programs & decision making
- Tools: Equity Framework, Listening Tour, Community Advisory Board & more!

Barriers to Advancing Consumer-Centered Health Equity

- *Internal:*
 - Complexity of system & decision making progress makes finding community-driven solutions challenging.
 - Time, resources, working iteratively as we try new things
- *External:*
 - Lack of resources for culturally & linguistically responsive outreach, implementation, services limits their impact.
 - Lack of consistent disaggregated data to understand systems & problems--need consumer-informed context as well.

Opportunities for Progress Under the Dome

How can accessibility and equity be advanced in existing health initiatives?

Ideas for potential action:

- Equitable engagement framework for legislative process
 - Timing, more accessible language & translation
 - How can consumers have more power in their health system?
- Boosting funding & community-driven strategies to improve accessibility & understanding of current health equity programs
 - Incorporate equity needs in appropriations for state agencies like HCPF, CDPHE, DOI
 - Expand translation services & incorporate cultural navigators/promotoras in implementation
 - Hone outreach programs to build relationships with directly impacted communities at speed of trust
- Collecting, communicating & streamlining disaggregated data to understand how programs impact marginalized Coloradans

Opportunities for Progress Under the Dome

What new initiatives are necessary to improve access to coverage and care for Coloradans with barriers to access?

- 1. Close inequitable coverage gaps to attain universal coverage**
 - a. Expand upon SB 215 to maximize reach & subsidies available for family glitch & undocumented Coloradans
 - b. Expand public programs to individuals ineligible due to immigration status, leverage federal \$\$ available to provide care
- 2. Ensure coverage works for the insured, particularly those who suffer from health disparities**
 - a. Increase consumer protections against medical debt
 - b. Align surprise billing protections
- 3. Establish standards & oversight for non-ACA compliant plans**
 - a. Health Care Sharing Arrangements

Final Takeaways on Consumers & Health Equity

- ★ Consumer power is key to advance authentic progress on health equity and end deadly disparities.
- ★ Building in structures and funding to include people most affected in finding solutions is an investment in a better future.
- ★ Expanding & improving health coverage an important step to protect Coloradans while we handle root causes of health disparities.

Thank you!

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