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AHDC Email Network – Data, News, Articles and Policies Related to Health Disparities
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- 1) Which Disparities Interventions Work?
 - 2) The State of Implementation Progress on Health Reform Varies Considerably by State
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1) Which Disparities Interventions Work?

In 2005, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation launched Finding Answers: Disparities Research for Change, a national program focused on discovering and evaluating interventions that can reduce racial and ethnic disparities in health care. In 33 sites across the country, Finding Answers researchers focus on reducing disparities in care for cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and depression: diseases where the evidence of disparities in care is strong and the recommended standards of care are clear. By testing intervention strategies in a variety of settings, Finding Answers is gaining a better understanding of which strategies work best and how to implement them. An update on the Finding Answers program and its 33 funded projects is now available. Hear from the researchers and find out more about solutions that will help reduce health care disparities.

http://www.rwjf.org/qualityequality/product.jsp?id=73833&cid=XEM_205605

2) The State of Implementation Progress on Health Reform Varies Considerably by State

Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), states have until January 1, 2014 to implement health insurance exchanges or have the federal government do it for them. A new report funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation shows some have made considerable progress developing an exchange for their residents, while others have made little progress so far. Authored by researchers at the Urban Institute, the report divides states into three groups—ranging from those that have already passed legislation or have a governor who has established an exchange by issuing an executive order, to those that have made little or no progress: 1) Group 1: 14 states plus the District of Columbia have already made legislative progress toward enacting an exchange; 2) Group 2: 21 states including Arizona have demonstrated significant interest in establishing an exchange and have received federal grants to begin planning; and 3) Group 3: 15 states have made little or no progress in the two years since ACA was passed. The authors find that compared to states in Groups 1 and 2, states in Group 3 are likely to see the greatest gains in coverage and reductions in uncompensated care under ACA. In fact, Group 3 states

are likely to see the percentage of people without health coverage cut by half or more under health reform.

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