

# Health Care Disparities Alert

*Of all the factors that contribute to health disparities, lack of health care coverage is the single most important factor.*

## What's at stake in the effort to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities?

People of color are less likely to have health coverage, to see a health care provider on a regular basis, and to receive preventive screenings or routine health care services. At the same time, they are more likely to be diagnosed at a later stage of disease and to be hospitalized for preventable conditions.

### What you should know about Disparities in Health Care

Racial and ethnic minorities suffer from worse health compared to their white counterparts. For example, people of color face disparities in health care when it comes to the following medical situations: amputation, asthma care, cancer care, cardiovascular care, HIV treatment, immunizations, and pain management.

### Health Advocacy is important to Religious Communities

As people of faith, we are called to care for those in need. African Americans, Asian and Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Latinos experience disparities in health coverage and access. Public health insurance programs face serious financial threats at both the state and federal level, and it is our duty to act to protect these important programs.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

Tell your representatives that as people of faith, they have a moral obligation to protect and expand public health programs to help reduce health care disparities.

**Call your member of Congress at:  
202-224-3121**

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**For more information on health disparities or how you can improve minority health, please contact**

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