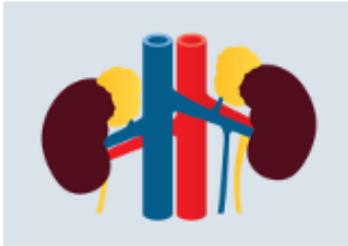


## Chronic Kidney Disease Disparities in Medicare Fee-For-Service Beneficiaries



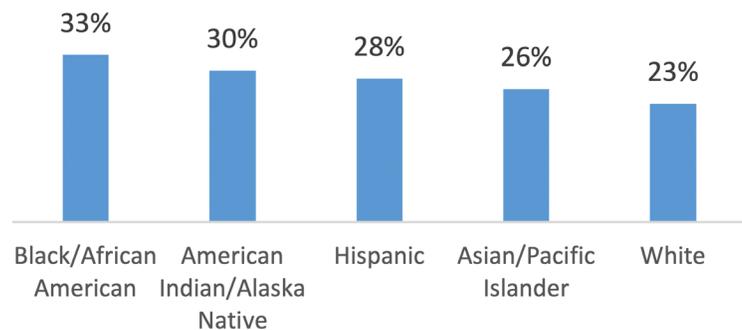
Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a condition in which the kidneys are damaged and cannot filter blood as well as they should. CKD can lead to kidney failure making a transplant or dialysis necessary. The two main causes of CKD are diabetes and hypertension. In the early stages of CKD, people may not have symptoms so screening is very important. Early detection and patient education can help prevent kidney failure as there are actions that can be taken to prevent further damage and slow disease

progression. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), CKD is the ninth leading cause of death in the United States.<sup>1</sup>

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Chronic Condition public-use data indicates that around 25% of Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) beneficiaries had a diagnosis of CKD in 2018 compared to 15% in 2012.<sup>2</sup> Figure 1 shows the prevalence of CKD among Medicare FFS beneficiaries by race and ethnicity in 2018. CKD is highest among Black/African American beneficiaries (33%), followed by American Indian/Alaska Native (30%), Hispanic (28%), and Asian/Pacific Islander (26%). White (23%) beneficiaries had the lowest percentages of CKD. The National Kidney Foundation states that Black/African Americans are three times more likely to experience kidney failure than White people.<sup>4</sup>

The number of Medicare FFS enrollees with CKD also varied by geographic areas (Figure 2). Montana and Wyoming had the lowest prevalence rate (16%) and Florida had the highest prevalence rate (28%).

**Figure 1. Prevalence of Chronic Kidney Disease among Medicare Beneficiaries by Race/Ethnicity, 2018<sup>2</sup>**



**Figure 2. Prevalence of Chronic Kidney Disease among Medicare Beneficiaries by States, 2018<sup>3</sup>**

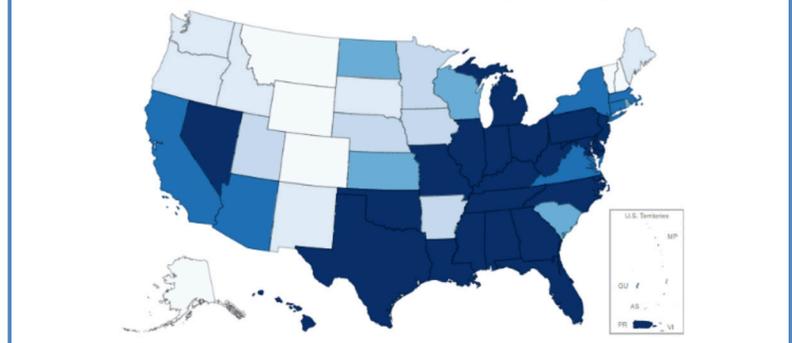
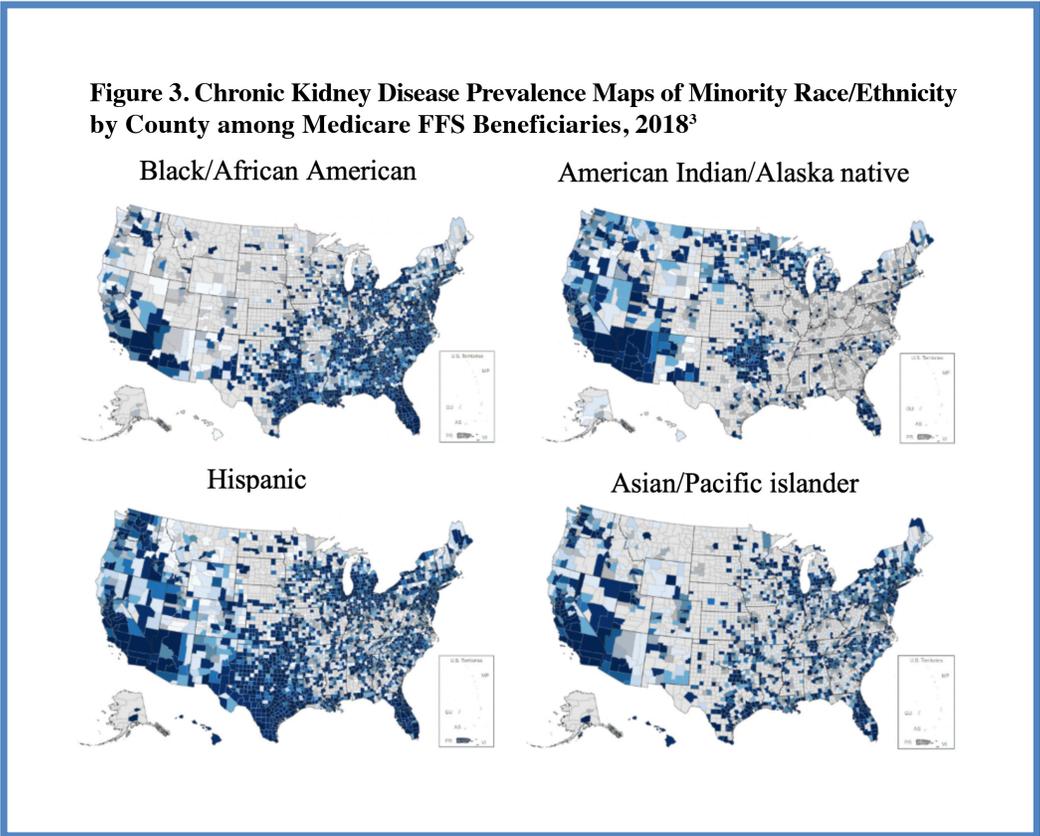


Figure 3 shows geographic differences in CKD prevalence among minority racial and ethnic groups. Black/African American's CKD prevalence for 2018 was higher in the south and up the middle Atlantic and some areas of the west. For American Indian/Alaska Native, the prevalence was more concentrated in the west, with emphasis around the southwest area and in Oklahoma, while for Hispanics it was in more spread across the country from the west to the south and around east north central and along the east coast. And, for Asian/Pacific Islander population, the concentration was along the west coast with small groups throughout the south, northeast, and east north central.



*Healthy People 2020* provides national objectives for improving the health of all Americans, including 14 objectives on CKD. Also, *Your Guide to Medicare's Preventive Services* describes kidney disease and diabetes-related preventive services and screening tests that help Medicare beneficiaries stay healthy. *Medicare Coverage of Kidney Dialysis & Kidney Transplant Services* explains what Medicare covers and how Medicare helps pay for kidney dialysis and kidney transplant services.

## Beneficiary Resources

- Chronic Kidney Disease Initiative
- Medicare & You: End stage renal disease/kidney transplant eligibility & enrollment (video)
- Is my test, item, or service covered?
- Find a dialysis facility
- National Kidney Disease Education Program
- National Kidney Foundation

## Provider Resources

- Chronic Kidney Disease Disparities: Educational Guide for Primary Care (PDF)
- Medicare QIOs and Chronic Kidney Disease (PDF)
- ESRD National Coordinating Center Network Map & Directory of ESRD
- Kidney Care Choices (KCC) Model
- CKD Nutrition Management Training Program
- Kidney Disease In The United States, USRDS Annual Data Report

## References/Sources

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/kidney-disease.htm>
2. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Chronic Conditions. <http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/Chronic-Conditions/index.html>
3. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Mapping Medicare Disparities Tool. <https://data.cms.gov/mapping-medicare-disparities>
4. National Kidney Foundation. <https://www.kidney.org>

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