

Quick Start Guide

Chronic diseases, such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease, pose a significant problem in the United States,¹ and disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minorities.² The Mapping Medicare Disparities (MMD) Tool provides three components, the Population View, the Hospital View, and the Social Determinants of Health View. The Population View identifies differences between sub-groups (e.g., racial and ethnic populations) in health outcomes, utilization, and spending. The Hospital View identifies disparities in selected health outcome and quality measures between hospitals. The Social Determinants of Health View is designed to provide users with a list of non-medical factors that influence health utilization and outcomes. Visually displaying the geographic differences is a crucial step in understanding health disparity, informing policy decisions, and targeting populations and geographic areas for effective interventions.

How do I zoom and navigate in the map?

1. You must first *click* on a county/state/territory of interest.
2. If you are using a mouse: *push* the mouse scroll wheel up/down to zoom in/out.
3. If you are not using a mouse: use the zoom in/out gesture by *pulling* (placing one finger on the Trackpad and dragging a separate finger away from the first) and *pinching* (pressing one finger on the Trackpad while dragging a separate finger toward the first).
4. You may also navigate in the map by *left-clicking* and *holding* while moving your mouse or finger on your Trackpad.

How can I compare differences in measures in the Population View?

Under the **Analysis** drop-down menu, when an option other than *Base Measure* is selected, you can choose to visualize differences between patient characteristics, thereby comparing health outcomes, spending, or utilization. For example, if interested in the difference of diabetes prevalence rates at a county level between Asians and Whites you can select:

Prevalence under **Measure**

Within County Difference under **Analysis**

Primary chronic conditions under **Domain**

Diabetes under **Condition/Service**

Asian/Pacific islander under **Race and Ethnicity**

White under **Comparison Race and Ethnicity**

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024). About Chronic Diseases. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/about/index.htm>.

²Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). 2023 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report. Publication No. No. 23(24)-0091-EF Rockville, MD: AHRQ, December 2023.

How do I interpret my comparison results in the Population View?

When selecting options other than *Base Measure*, the map will display three values when you hover over a specific county/state. The first value (A) presented in the summary box is the rate calculated for the Primary patient group. The second value (B) is the rate calculated for the Comparison patient group. The difference between the first rate (A) and the second rate (B) is displayed in the third row ($A - B = C$). A positive value indicates a county or state/territory in which the chosen Primary patient group shows a higher rate than the chosen Comparison patient group. A negative value indicates a county or state/territory in which the chosen Comparison patient group shows a lower rate than the chosen Primary patient group.

How can I evaluate hospital performance for a certain measure in the Hospital View?

In the Hospital View, a user can select one or multiple comparisons to evaluate hospital performance. Potential comparison options include: Geographic (Nation, State, or County), Hospital Type (Acute Care, Children, or Critical Access), or Hospital Size (under 100 beds, 100 to 200 beds, over 200 beds).

Where can I find additional information?

For additional information on how to use the tool, consult the technical documentation or frequently asked questions (FAQs) at these links:

Technical documentation: <https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/OMH/Downloads/Mapping-Technical-Documentation.pdf>

FAQs: <https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/OMH/Downloads/MappingPublicFAQs.pdf>