

**FEBRUARY, 2015**

## National Evaluation Snapshot: SAMHSA Behavioral Health Disparities Impact Statements

### Rationale and Framework

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- The primary need for SAMHSA initiatives to outline their population/s of focus by race, ethnicity, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex, and two-spirit (LGBTQI2-S) is that the increasingly diverse “face” of America is changing in terms of demographic trends and visibility.
- Without an understanding of these trends and how they impact behavioral health disparities and disproportionalities with their particular service area, Systems of Care will continually experience challenges with
  - **Outreach and recruitment** of potential enrollees from emerging and minority populations:
  - **Client engagement and service alignment** to best meet their needs; and
  - **Continuum-of-care gaps** that exist within and across service systems.
- Establishing and developing a Behavioral Health Disparities Impact Statement provides an important step to **collect inclusive data**, **provide inclusive services**, and **update inclusive policies and procedures**.

### Sample

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- **U.S. Census Regions and Divisions** – Midwest = 4, Northeast = 1, Pacific = 1, South = 7, West = 1

### Findings: Opportunities for Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)

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- While some grantees/programs are **advanced** in how they address disparities and disproportionalities by population/s of focus, others are **in need** of guidance and resources to address
  - **Access** – BHDIS Population/s of Focus tables are not consistently inclusive (i.e., omit racial, ethnic, and LGBT individuals to be served);
  - **Services Use** – The use of the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistic Appropriate Services (CLAS Standards) is not consistently mentioned or outlined; and
  - **Outcomes** – Descriptions of varying outcomes experienced by population/s of focus and how these will be monitored/evaluated are unclear.

### Next Steps

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- If you are in need of **Introductory Planning** for your Behavioral Health Disparities Impact Statement success:
  - Receive resources on how to design and create your BHDIS.
  - Receive technical assistance on BHDIS strategic planning.
  - Access a continuing peer-to-peer BHDIS learning exchange.
- If you are **celebrating the achievements** of your Behavioral Health Disparities Impact Statement:
  - Have your BHDIS progress or Center of Excellence highlighted and promoted.
  - Receive technical assistance on BHDIS sustainability.
  - Be part of a continuing peer-to-peer BHDIS learning community.

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