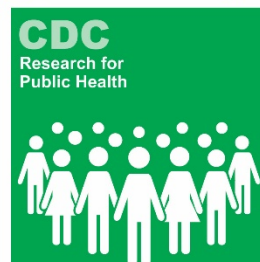




AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY



## Supporting the Nation's Response to and Recovery from COVID-19



AHRQ applied its core competencies of health systems research, practice improvement, and data and analytics to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic to help healthcare systems and professionals deliver care that is high quality, safe, and high value.

### Health Systems Research and Evidence

- Issued a funding opportunity announcement allowing \$5 million to support novel, high-impact studies to evaluate health system and healthcare professional responsiveness to COVID-19. Also issued a new mechanism to allow active grantees to submit grant revisions so teams and resources already in place can pivot research to respond to COVID-19.
- Used the expertise of AHRQ's Effective Healthcare Program to conduct rapid reviews that evaluate the latest

evidence on topics such as mask use to prevent transmitting COVID-19, allocating scarce resources during pandemics, and no-touch modalities for disinfection of healthcare settings. These rapid, rigorous analyses promote timely evidence-informed decision making by healthcare providers and policymakers.

### Practice Improvement

- Published safety primers through AHRQ's Patient Safety Network (PSNet) on COVID-19 and older adults and a perspective on telehealth. These and upcoming resources provide new information on the pandemic's impact on healthcare delivery and the safety of patients and frontline providers. PSNet is a national web-based resource featuring the latest news and resources on patient safety.

### Data & Analytics

- Harnessed the power of HCUP data, analytics, and insights, at Federal and State entities' request, to provide data on hospital occupancy rates, availability of ICUs, and ventilator capacity for national COVID-19 response planning and decision making for resource distribution. Also provided States with this information to assist with response planning.
- Using MEPS data, completed an analysis of racial and ethnic differences in health status and employment-related exposure risk to COVID-19 to inform the national response toward vulnerable populations.

This body of work represents a subset of AHRQ products developed to support Secretary Azar's whole-of-Department strategy to combat the pandemic.