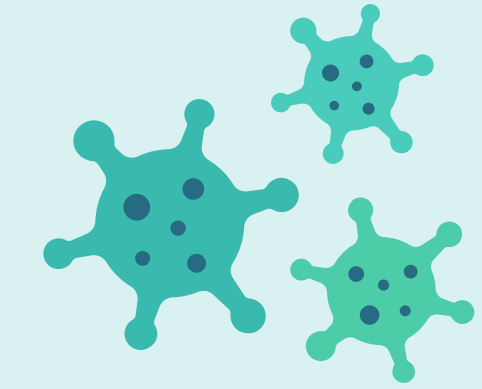


Prevalence of pre-existing conditions among patients who were positive for COVID-19

Implications for the Affordable Care Act



Pre-existing conditions are health conditions an individual has prior to health insurance enrollment

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) **prohibits** health insurance companies from denying coverage or charging high premiums to patients with pre-existing conditions

Keeping the pre-existing provision intact is critical

In March 2020, COVID-19 started spreading across the United States. As of January 2021, the US reported >21 million cases

COVID-19 is associated with short- and long-term effects

Effects include brain, kidney, or cardiovascular damage

COVID-19 will likely fit the definition of a pre-existing condition

Medically underserved and racial/ethnic minorities are at increased risk for COVID-19 infection. Many within this population receive care at community health centers



7,532

PATIENTS WITH COVID-19

33%

Patients who tested positive for COVID-19 with no history of a pre-existing condition

51% Non-Hispanic Asian

36% Hispanic

28% Non-Hispanic Black

22% Non-Hispanic White

Implications

- Greater percentage of non-Hispanic Asian, Hispanic, and non-Hispanic black patients positive for COVID-19 had no prior pre-existing conditions
- This population is also facing largest increases in unemployment, putting them at increased risk for losing employer-sponsored health insurance
- Changes to the ACA pre-existing condition protection could have a detrimental impact of racial and minorities access to health insurance

Huguet N, Schmidt T, Larson A, O'Malley J, Hoopes M, Angier H, Marino M, DeVoe J. Prevalence of Pre-existing Conditions among Community Health Center Patients with COVID-19: Implications for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine, February 2021