



Eliminating Health Disparities – Who is Accountable?

Bernard Tyson

Senior Vice President

Kaiser Foundation Hospitals/Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.

What's the Urgency?

“For most of the areas studied, disparities between white patients and black patients have not substantially improved during the past decade...we will not make progress in eliminating disparities simply by tinkering with the system.”

**Nicole Lurie, MD
The New England Journal of Medicine
August 18, 2005**



Three-Pronged Accountability Plan

1. Government (local, state, federal)

2. Health care industry

3. Individuals



- **National Health Plan Collaborative**
Public/private partnership
- **Harvard Pilgrim Health Care**
Institute for Linguistic and Cultural Skills
- **Kaiser Permanente, Aetna, WellPoint**
Collecting racial/ethnic and language preference data
- **Kaiser Permanente**
Culturally competent care provider training programs
Culturally Competent Care Centers of Excellence
Farmers' markets; 22 in five states

Five-Point Plan for Individuals

1. Know your numbers

2. Know your history

3. Eat colors

4. Be active

5. Establish a relationship with a health care provider



- 1. Collect racial/ethnic data using a standard set of measurements**
- 2. Create incentives for health care providers to provide culturally competent care**
- 3. Create incentives for medical schools to train physicians in culturally competent care**

