## Reducing Disparities in Care Using Quality Improvement: Findings from a Multi-Hospital Collaborative

Jennifer K. Bretsch, MS November 7, 2007 – APHA Annual Meeting

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Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

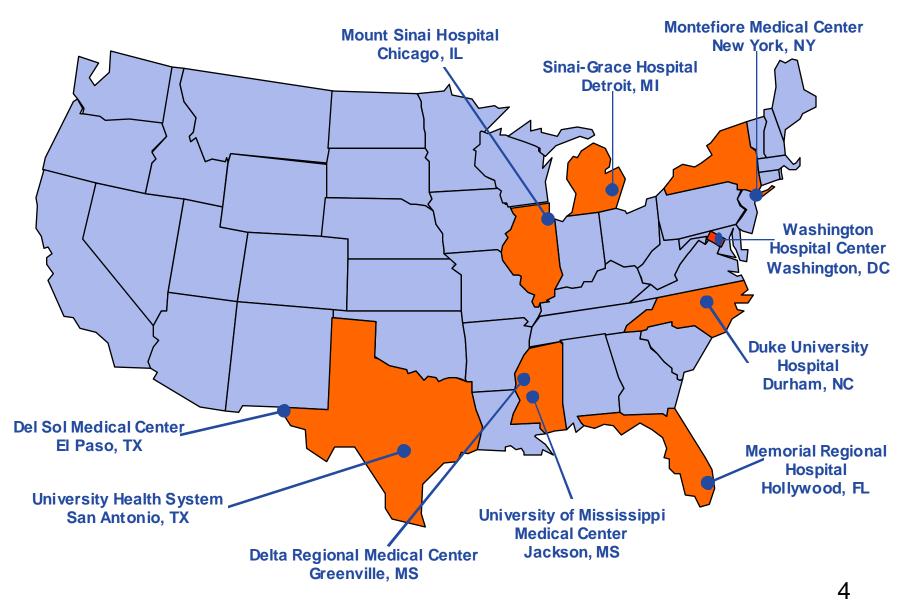
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### **Origins of Expecting Success** Increasing diversity in minority populations Heart disease-leading cause of death Expecting Success **Health Care Delivery** System Disparities in cardiac care Evidence-based practice **Quality Improvement** guidelines Initiatives Cardiac care Measure of quality

### **Expecting Success**

- A national program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
  - Primary goal is to improve cardiovascular care for African-Americans and Latinos/Hispanics through quality improvement strategies and initiatives
- Builds on IOM's Unequal Treatment
  - Evidence-based care to promote equity; reduce disparities
- Focus on cardiac care
  - Heart attack and heart failure

## **Expecting Success Sites**



### **Expecting Success Elements**

- Report 23 measures on monthly basis by patient race, ethnicity and language
  - CMS Core Measures
  - "Measures of Ideal Care"
  - Heart Failure 30 day-readmission
- □ Inpatient and outpatient components
- □ Focus on evidence-based care for all
  - Rapid Cycle Change
- Runs 29 months with periodic meetings, calls
  Transparency

# What are disparities in health care quality?

Racial or ethnic disparities are differences in the quality of health care received by members of different racial or ethnic groups that are not explained by other factors.\*

Can occur at every stage in the continuum of care.

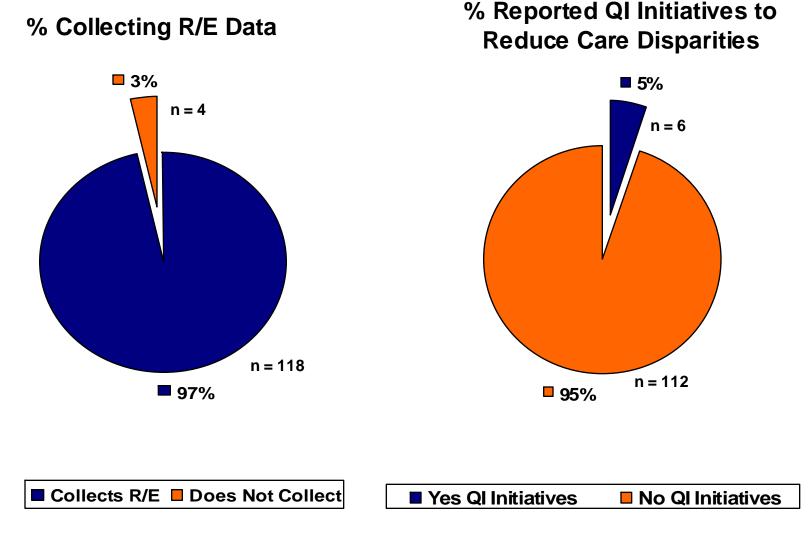
### □ Many possible causes and solutions.

\*Adapted from: IOM, Unequal Treatment, 2003.

# **Disparities and Quality?**

Expecting Success: Excellence in Cardiac Care

### **Expecting Success Hospital Applicants, 2005**



Siegel, Bretsch, Sears, Regenstein, & Wilson. Assumed equity: early observations from the first hospital disparities collaborative. *Journal for Healthcare Quality* 2007;29(5):11-15.

# Expecting Success Linking Disparities and Quality

□ First step – data collection by R/E/L

 Train hospitals in the standardized collection of race, ethnicity, and language data

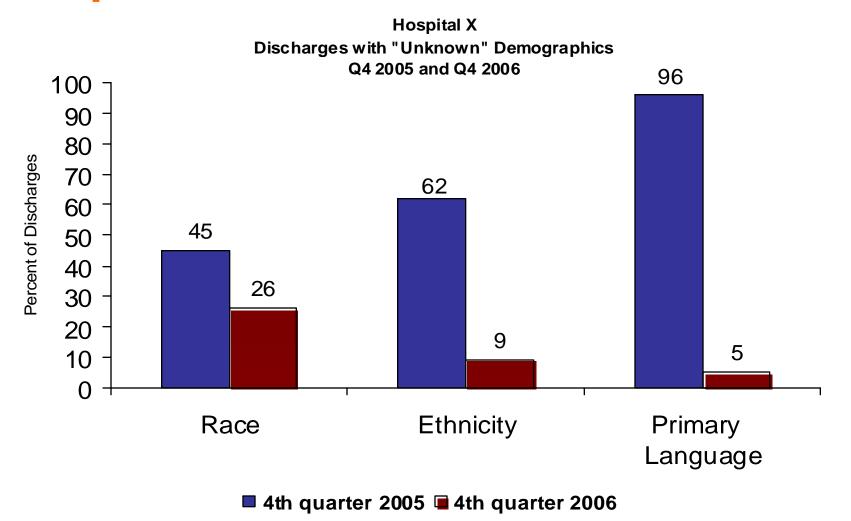
> HRET/AHA – OMB categories

 Challenges - limitations of existing IT systems and concerns of registration staff and patients



# Are you just pissing and moaning, or can you verify what you're saying with data?"

### Reduction in Demographics Reported as "Unknown"

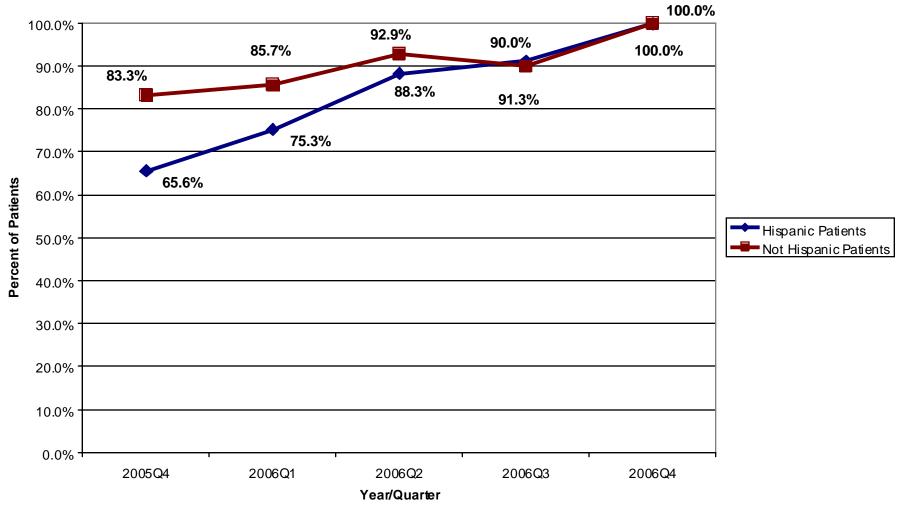


# Expecting Success Linking Disparities and Quality

- Second step data reporting by R/E/L
  - Hospital Quality Alliance performance measures
  - "Measure of Ideal Care"
  - Challenges access to timely data

### **Closing the Gap**

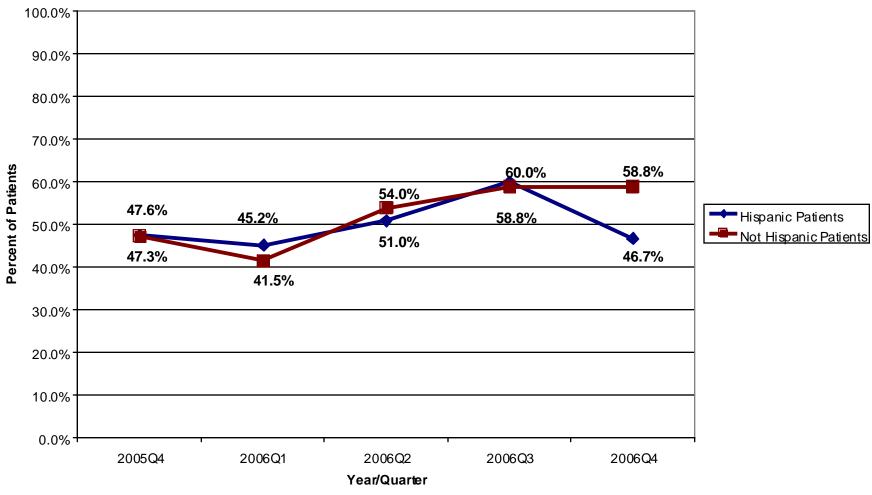
Hospital X Percent of Heart Failure Patients Receiving Discharge Instructions by Ethnicity 2005 Quarter 4 - 2006 Quarter 4



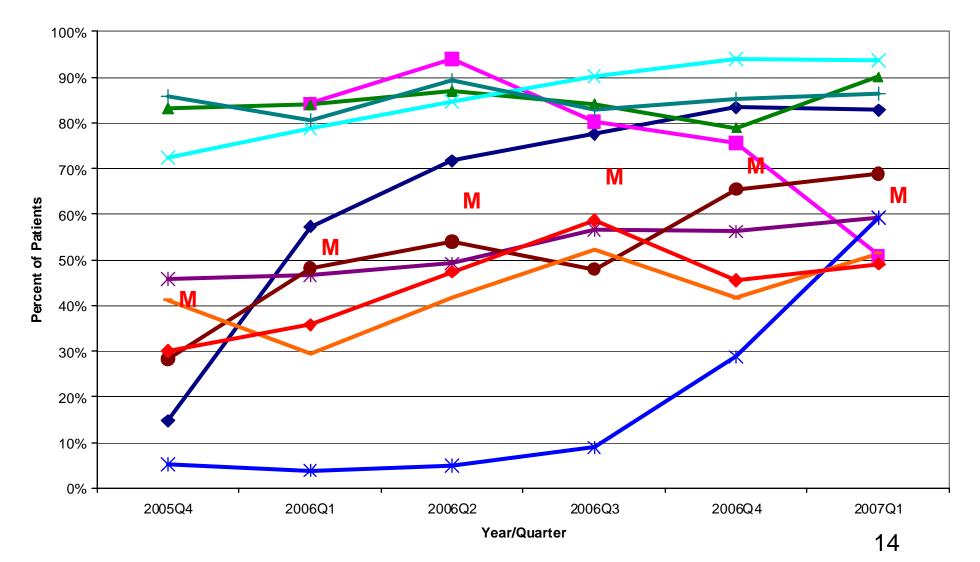
# Less than Optimal Care

Expecting Success: Excellence in Cardiac Care

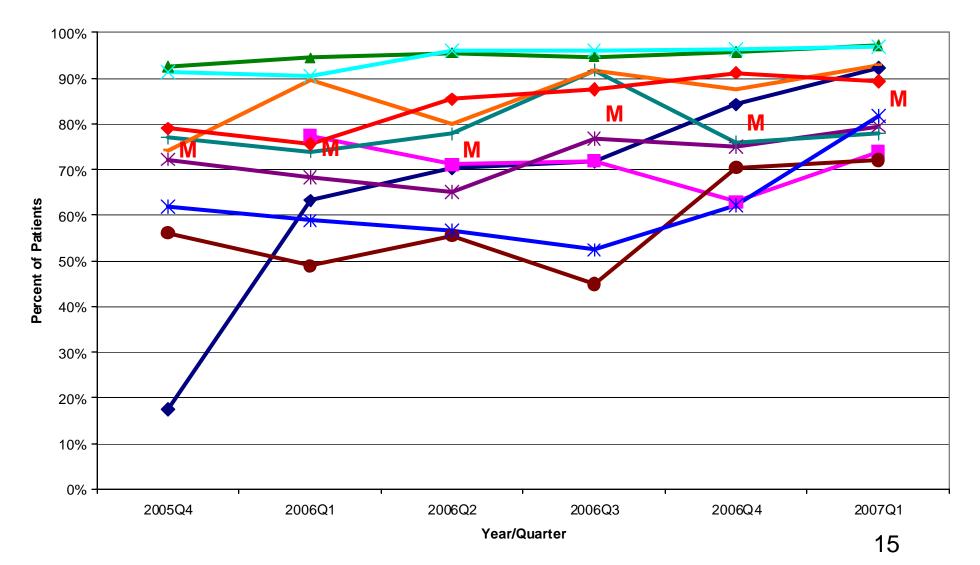
Hospital Y Percent of Heart Failure Patients Receiving Discharge Instructions by Ethnicity 2005 Quarter 4 - 2006 Quarter 4



Expecting Success Hospitals Percent of Patients Receiving all Recommended Heart Failure Care 2005 Q4 - 2007 Q1

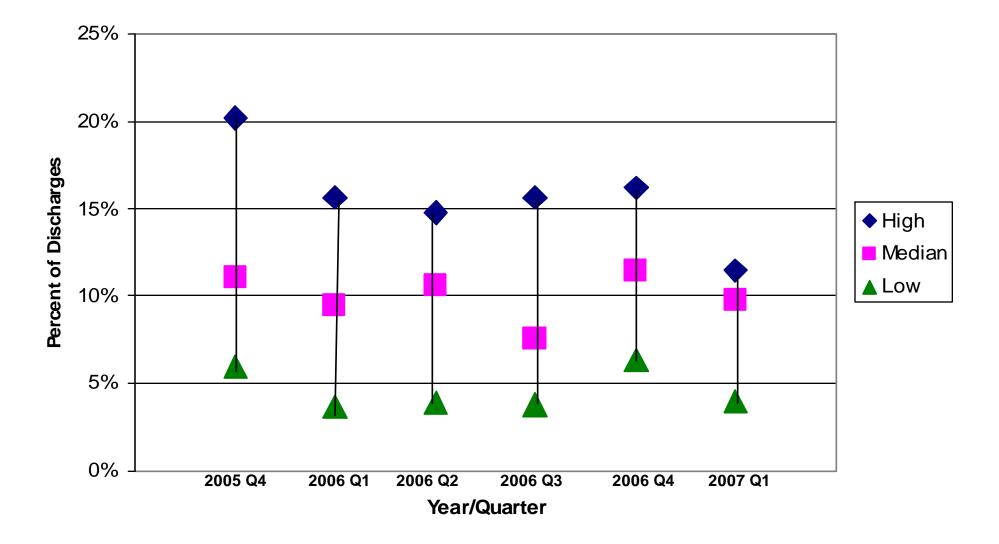


Expecting Success Hospitals Percent of Patients Receiving all Recommended AMI Care 2005 Q4 - 2007 Q1



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#### Readmissions for Heart Failure within 30 Days of Discharge (HFR) All Expecting Success Hospitals, 2005 Q4 - 2007 Q1



### **Three Major Improvement "Themes"**

- Ensuring evidence-based care
  - Standard order sets
  - EMR core measure hard stop
- Redesigned processes
  - Code Heart process for PCI
  - Concurrent review
  - QI performance linked to compensation
- Discharge and transition
  - Universal discharge instruction form
  - Cardiac nurse educators

### **Disparities is a Failure in Quality**

In the absence of data, the relationship between quality and disparities will be difficult to establish

### National policy changes

- Joint Commission
- Hospital Quality Alliance

### Efforts at the local and state levels

- Boston Public Health Commission
- 22 states require reporting of race/ethnicity

### www.expectingsuccess.org

