Health disparities affect diverse population segments and are caused by multiple patient-level and healthcare system variables. Such disparities also drive up healthcare costs. In fact, controlling healthcare costs and reducing health disparities are inextricably linked. A study by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies found that, during a three-year period, reducing minorities' health disparities would have saved nearly $230 billion in direct medical care costs and $1.24 trillion overall. To confront these challenges, leaders must improve the quality of care, reduce duplicate health services, and implement efficiencies for cost savings.

The 2010 Affordable Care Act (ACA) underscored these imperatives by including a number of provisions to reduce health disparities and healthcare costs, including:

• Improved data standardization, collection, and reporting by race, ethnicity, and language
• Health insurance reforms
• Improved access to and quality of healthcare
• Cost containment strategies, such as integrating health, social services, and public education campaigns
• Initiatives to diversify the healthcare workforce
• Cultural competence training and education to improve patient-provider interactions
• Health disparity research and health disparity prevention programs

Implementing these initiatives to drive down costs and drive up health outcomes will require a coordinated process of communication and solution discovery.

Booz Allen Can Help You Be Ready for What’s Next

Booz Allen Hamilton, a leading strategy and technology consulting firm, has deep expertise in the healthcare market. In addition to our specific skills in health, healthcare, and health disparities, we possess the expertise to solve complex challenges that require multifaceted, multi-level solutions. Our experts employ careful thought leadership, consensus-building frameworks, strategic partnerships, technology implementation, and robust assessments of health policy to create tailored strategies for clients large and small. Booz Allen assists and collaborates with public and private organizations and institutions to efficiently and effec-
tively capture health, social, epidemiological, demographic, and other patterns to identify the drivers of health disparities and then arrive at solutions to improve public health.

Our work draws on the immense amount of health disparities research conducted over the years to advance public health education. Many organizations, operating at both the grassroots and the federal level, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes of Health, and US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), have conducted and continue to conduct significant research and practice in this area.

The ACA pushes the healthcare field to redouble its efforts to reduce health disparities. Because Booz Allen already partners with the many organizations leading this charge, we are uniquely positioned to implement bold strategies to address health disparities and improve health outcomes for underserved populations all across the country.

**Booz Allen’s Health Disparities Expertise**

Booz Allen has a strong and successful presence across all government and commercial healthcare segments. We have specific expertise in the following areas:

- Access to care
- Clinical care experience
- Clinical research
- Community health
- Community outreach
- Cultural competency
- Training
- Ethnic and racial disparities
- Environmental influences
- Health communications
- Health IT expertise
- Medicaid/Medicare
- Mental health
- Rural health
- Performance management
- Statistical and data analysis
- Strategic organization

On every engagement, we take an innovative and holistic approach to leverage functional, analytical, operational, and technical capabilities using best practices. Our methods are particularly well-suited to galvanize the health diversify community; advance biomedical, health, and translational research; enhance quality of care; identify environmental factors that impact health; and expand education and training on the social factors that influence health outcomes.

Our capabilities can be used to create models that depict the dynamic needs of changing and diverse populations and devise a more flexible and mobile health system. Our core skills in advanced analytics, outreach and marketing campaigns, data-sharing mechanisms, and strategies to implement and evaluate rapid system changes through simulation and game theory are other critical assets in the health disparities arena. Moreover, our deep and valued partnerships can be leveraged to harmonize and engage the large and diverse health research community.

The Office of Minority Health’s historic conference to kick off HHS’s national health disparities agenda highlighted the rapid changes taking place throughout the healthcare system. Each effort to confront these changes must be built on a true understanding of the innovations, populations, and evaluation methodologies used today and those needed for tomorrow. Booz Allen can bring this information into focus and help lead the way to a healthier future.

Whether you’re managing today’s issues or looking beyond the horizon, count on us to help you be ready for what’s next.