

ABSTRACT

“Eliminating Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Health and Healthcare for Children with Special Healthcare Needs and their Families.”

Glenn Flores, MD, FAAP

Racial/ethnic disparities in children’s health and healthcare are extensive, pervasive, persistent, and occur across the spectrum of health and healthcare. Children with special healthcare needs (CSHCN) can suffer from particularly egregious disparities. For example, among those with Down’s Syndrome, African-Americans die at a substantially younger median age than whites. African-American children receive a diagnosis of autism 1.4 years later than whites, and are in mental-health treatment an average of 13 months longer than whites before receiving their autism diagnosis. In this session, attendees will learn about key racial/ethnic disparities in CSHCN, programs that have been successful in eliminating disparities, and practical steps to take to achieve global equity for CSHCN.