

Swimming Upstream—Pathways To Advance Health Equity in Kidney Care



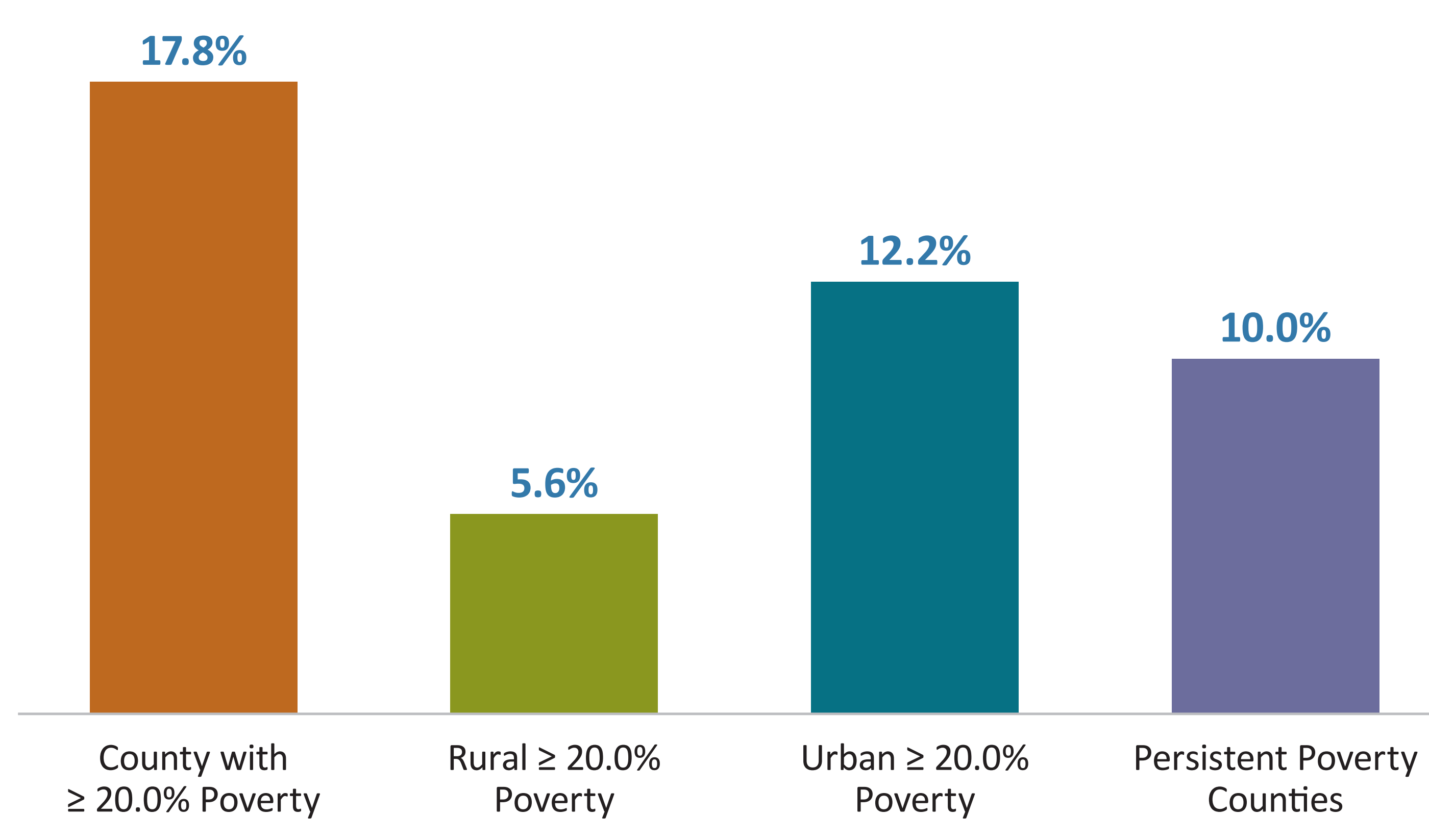
Overview

Disparities persist in End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) patient outcomes. Patients in disadvantaged neighborhoods are more likely to encounter barriers to care.



Challenges²

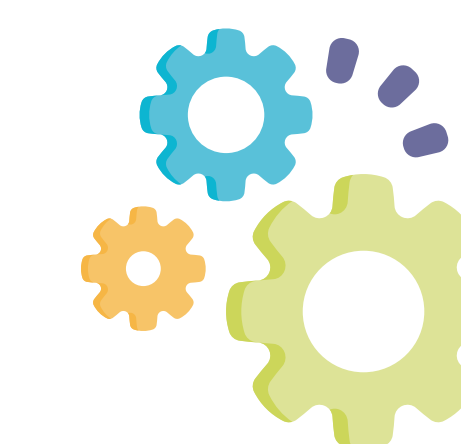
18% of ESRD patients reside in counties with more than 20% of poverty. ESRD patients in rural areas have lower access to primary care providers, dialysis facilities, and home programs compared to patients in urban areas. A higher percentage of ESRD patients reside in rural areas compared to the percentage of dialysis facilities in those areas (22% vs. 7%). Facilities in urban settings have a higher patient-to-station ratio than those in rural areas (3.6 vs. 2.9).



Utilizing Community-Based Resources to Meet Patients' Needs, e.g., Neighborhood Navigator, Local Food Banks, Dial 2-1-1

Tools and Strategies

There is a need to ensure equitable access to care. Facilities could adopt and implement equity-promoting strategies, such as social workers connecting patients to resources and following through with referrals.

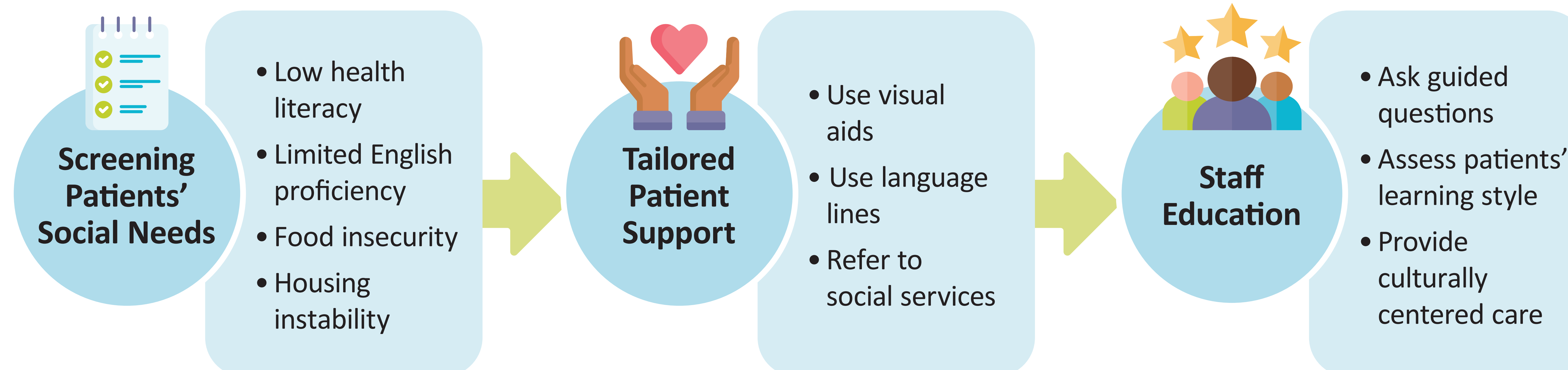


To effectively address patients' issues:

- Engage the whole team to identify and resolve patients' non-medical needs.
- Create an environment of trust with patients.

Next Steps

- Health Equity Change Package: Based on the End Stage Renal Disease Quality Reporting System (EQRS) national data, the National Coordinating Center (NCC) interviewed high-performing dialysis facilities to find effective practices that can be used across the renal community to advance health equity.
- Equity Toolkit for kidney care providers
 - Reducing implicit bias
 - Improving structural competency
- Health Equity Learning & Action Network
- Tracking Progress via equity measures and identifying gaps to inform interventions



1. End Stage Renal Disease Quality Reporting System (EQRS) data linked with U.S. Census analyzed by ESRD NCC.
 2. ESRD NCC analyzed EQRS data linked with U.S. Census via Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) codes.
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