

Healthcare Discrimination in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Nationwide

National Coalition for Dually Eligible People
www.nacdep.org

Louisiana healthcare policy discriminates against 108,000 of the oldest, poorest, sickest, and most disabled people in our state.

These are poor Medicare beneficiaries who have Medicaid – “the elderly and disabled poor.” They are one-quarter of all Medicare beneficiaries in Louisiana.

This healthcare policy:

- Decreases access to health care.
- Violates civil rights of elderly and disabled African Americans in New Orleans and five million people across the United States.
- Damages New Orleans’ healthcare recovery:
 - Heightens our mental health crisis.
 - Causes a Doctor Drain from poor neighborhoods to wealthy neighborhoods.
 - Penalizes New Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines Parishes 50% more than the rest of the state

Medicare in Louisiana has a
15% "Poverty Penalty" which
Decreases Access to Healthcare for
Poor Medicare beneficiaries

1999 – Medicare payment equal for all

80 cents from Federal payment

20 cents from Patient, 2nd Insurance, or Medicaid

\$1.00 for ALL Medicare beneficiaries

2008 – Medicare Penalty based on poverty

80 cents from Federal payment

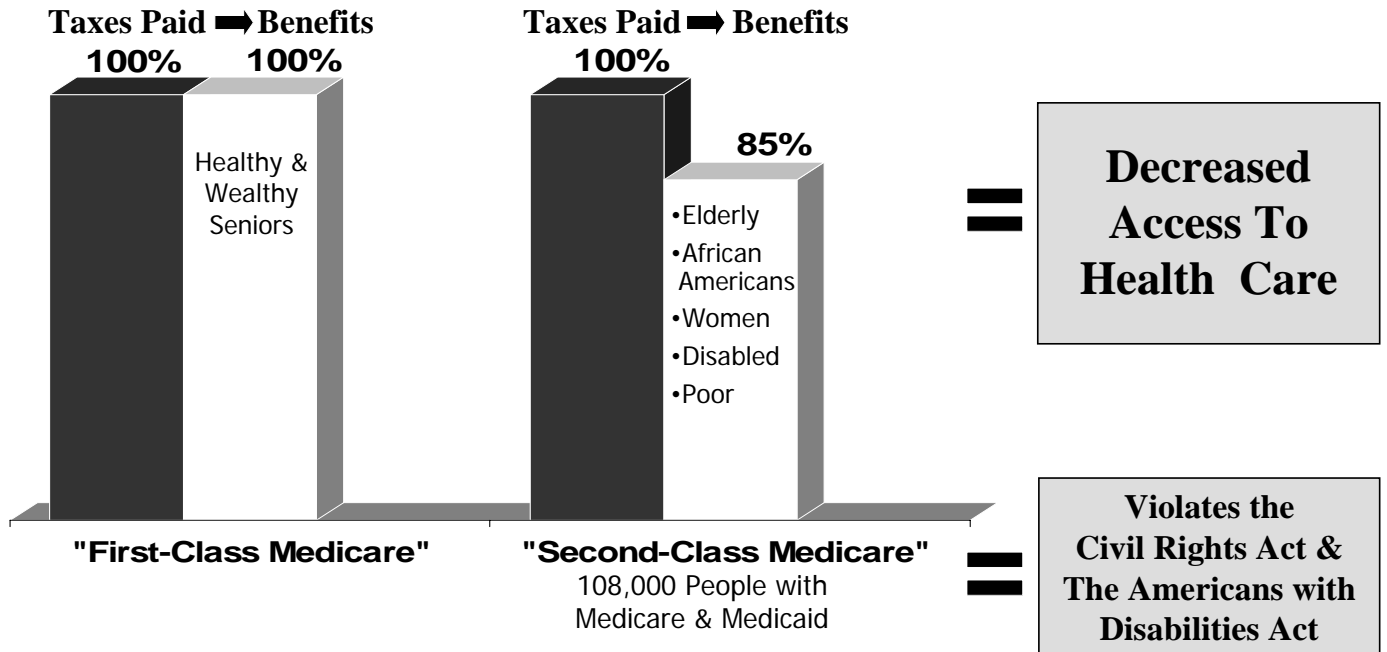
5 cents from Louisiana Medicaid

\$0.85 only for POOR Medicare beneficiaries

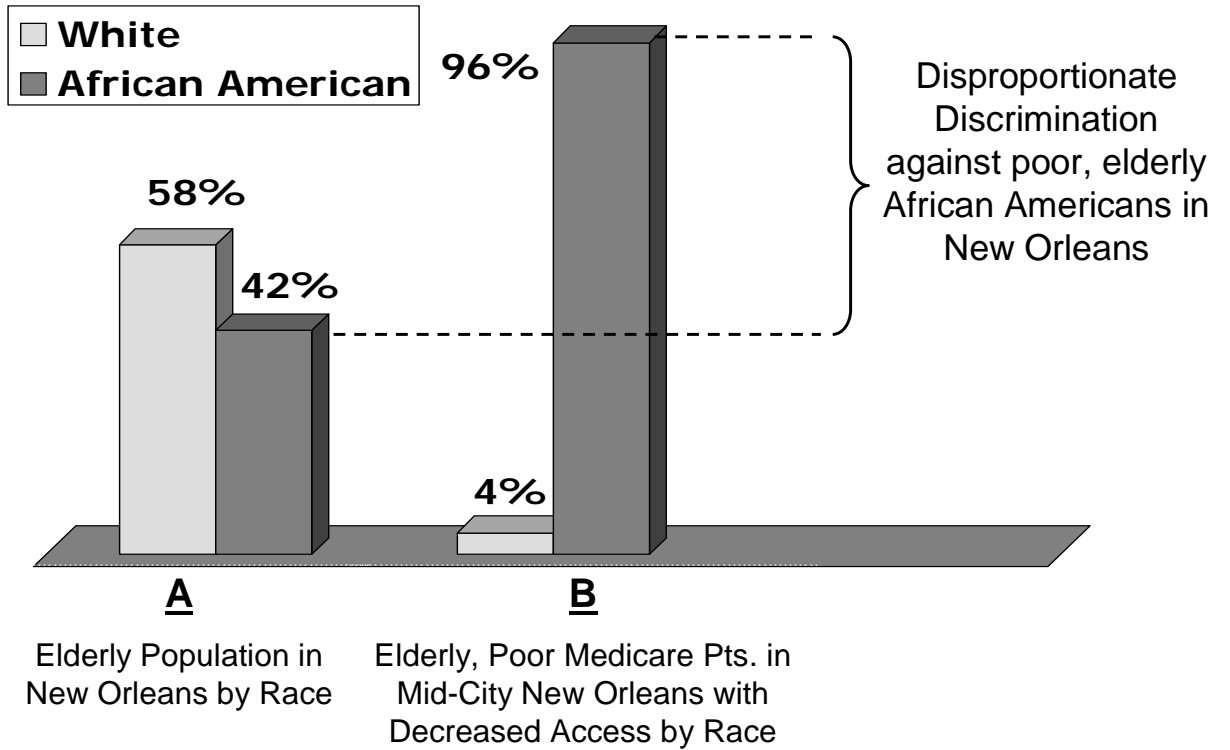
2003 – Report to Congress: decreased access

- Primary medical care - 5%
- Mental health care - 21%

Medicare in Louisiana is a Two-Tiered, Discriminatory Benefit System



Decreasing Medicare Payment for Poor Beneficiaries Has a Disproportionate Impact Along Racial Lines



This Heightens Our Mental Health Crisis

- 9,117 people with Medicare and Medicaid lived in Pre-Katrina New Orleans.
- One-third, or about 3,000 of these people, had mental illness.
- If two-thirds returned to New Orleans after Katrina, then an **additional 2,000 mentally ill people have decreased mental health access** because of Louisiana's healthcare policy.
- Restoring Louisiana Medicare-Medicaid "crossover payments" will improve access for 2,000 mentally ill people and improve New Orleans' mental health crisis.

Medicare's Poverty Penalty Creates A Doctor Drain in New Orleans

Medically Rich Neighborhoods

Wealthy People



1st Class Medicare
BONUS

DOCTOR
DRAIN



Medically Poor Neighborhoods

Poor, Minorities

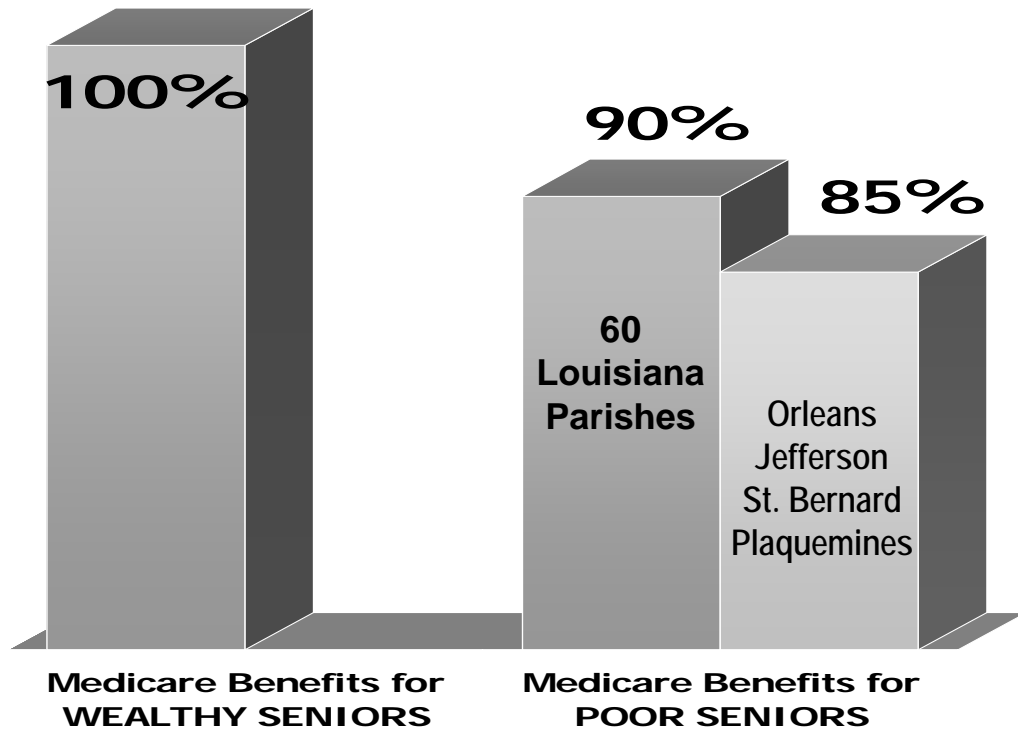


2nd Class Medicare
15% PENALTY



Medical Ghost Town

Louisiana Penalizes Four Katrina-Damaged Parishes With Reduced Medicare Benefits for Low-Income Seniors



RESOLUTION

NO. R-08-604

BE IT RESOLVED,

THE NEW ORLEANS CITY COUNCIL

requests the State of Louisiana restore

Medicare-Medicaid crossover payments so all

Medicare beneficiaries in New Orleans have

equal access to their Medicare benefits.