

## **SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT**

Black and Hispanic patients with CKD have significantly higher ESRD incident rates compared with their white counterparts. Because pre-ESRD consultation with a nephrologist is associated with better clinical outcomes among patients with CKD, the authors investigated whether lower nephrology consultation rates might help explain the association of race with ESRD. However, their retrospective cohort study of 56,767 Veterans Health System patients with CKD stage 4 found that black or Hispanic patients had significantly higher rates of nephrology referrals and visits (and black patients had a lower risk of mortality) compared with white patients. Despite this, both cohorts experienced more rapid progression to ESRD compared with white patients. These findings suggest that biologic and environmental factors may contribute more than nephrology consultation rates to racial disparities in ESRD.