

Health Equity



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CDC CORE HEALTH EQUITY SCIENCE AND INTERVENTION STRATEGY



VISION

All people have the opportunity to attain the highest level of health possible.

ABOUT

CDC has launched an agency-wide strategy that aims to integrate health equity into the fabric of all we do.

OVERVIEW

Health equity is when everyone has the opportunity to be as healthy as possible. To achieve health equity, multi-sectoral efforts are needed to address the severe and far-reaching health disparities that plague our nation by expanding access and removing the social and economic obstacles that lead to poor health outcomes. These barriers include poverty, poor housing, and unsafe or unhealthy environments, as well as lack of access to good jobs, quality education, and comprehensive, high quality health care.

Driven by structural racism, discrimination, stigma, and longstanding disenfranchisement, these obstacles overwhelmingly impact communities that are underserved, including communities of color, people with disabilities, members of the LGBTQ+ community, women, people who are incarcerated or without homes, and those who live in rural or frontier settings.

These inequities do not just affect those groups that are hardest hit. They affect us all. The COVID-19 pandemic is the most recent and glaring example. By diminishing the economic, health, educational, and overall human potential of millions of people in this country, health inequities and disparities weaken our entire society and leave us unprepared for public health threats.

As an agency, CDC is transforming its public health research, surveillance, and implementation science efforts to shift from simply listing the markers of health inequities to identifying and addressing the drivers of these disparities.

CDC's CORE Commitment to Equity

CDC launched an agency-wide strategy to integrate equity into the fabric of all we do



Cultivate comprehensive health equity science

- CDC embeds health equity principles in the design, implementation, and evaluation of its research, data, surveillance, and intervention strategies



Optimize interventions

- CDC uses scientific, innovative, and data-driven strategies that address environmental, place-based, occupational, policy and systemic factors that impact health outcomes and address drivers of health disparities



Reinforce and expand robust partnerships

- CDC seeks out and strengthens sustainable multi-level, multi-sectoral and community partnerships to advance health equity



Enhance capacity and workplace diversity, inclusion, and engagement

- CDC builds internal capacity to cultivate a multi-disciplinary workforce and more inclusive climates, policies, and practices for broader public health impact

FORGING A PATH FORWARD

CDC's CORE Health Equity Science and Intervention Strategy is designed to work in collaboration and lock step with multi-sectoral partners to transform our work at its very core and strengthen our ability to keep our nation safe and healthy – today and in the future.

This new strategy challenges our CDC centers to incorporate health equity and efforts to address health disparities as a foundational element across all our work – from science and research to programs, and from partnerships to workforce.

Through the CORE strategy, CDC is integrating health equity into the fabric of our work at all levels. Each division has submitted health equity action plans that are being incorporated into a broad, unified agency-wide strategy. The division action plans include:

- Goals and associated targets
- Concrete milestones for the next 6-12 months
- Indicators to monitor progress
- Key partnerships

To ensure an effective health equity strategy for our nation, CDC is committed to bringing together partners from various sectors to gain collective expertise and perspectives, inform next steps, and create a shared commitment to reduce health inequities. Only through a combination of strong science, interventions, evaluation, partnership, policy, communication, and workforce enhancement can we achieve our vision of ensuring all people have an opportunity to live as healthy as possible.

Additional Resources

[Health Equity Guiding Principles for Inclusive Communication](#)

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