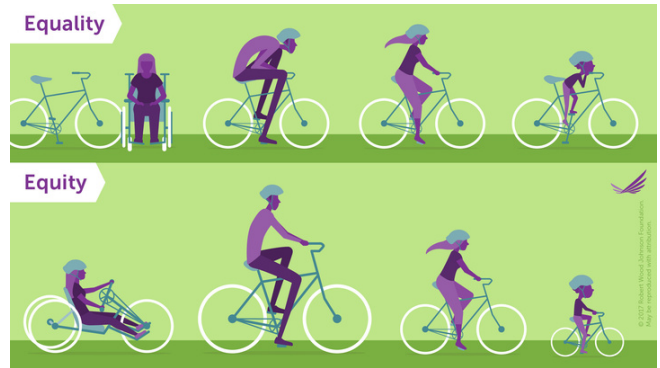


HEALTH EQUITY



Health equity signifies social justice in health; every person has a fair and just chance to be healthy, unencumbered by obstacles to health such as racism, poverty, and their consequences. Health disparities are the metrics we use to measure progress toward achieving health equity.

Confusion or misuse of the meaning of health disparities and health inequalities could permit limited resources to be directed away from the intended purposes. If these terms remain vaguely defined, socially and economically advantaged groups could take over the terms and advocate for resources to address their advantaged social group's health needs.



Health Inequality	Health Disparity	Health Inequity
Differences in health outcomes across population groups, which can sometimes be expected, such as cancer rates among the elderly vs. children	Differences in health outcomes across various socioeconomic, ethnic, racial, gender, sexual orientation, and other groups	Unfair distribution of health determinants, outcomes, and resources within and between segments of the population, regardless of social standing

WHAT DETERMINES HEALTH?

Social Determinants of Health



Social Conditions

Social inequities occur when a person or group is treated unfairly because of race, gender, class, sexual orientation, or immigration status



Economic Conditions

Institutions such as governments, churches, corporations, or schools use their authority to create unequal opportunities among groups of people



Environmental Conditions

Where you live affects your health. Lower-income neighborhoods tend to be in poor social-economic and physical conditions



Health Behaviors

Smoking, poor nutrition, and lack of exercise are all behaviors that may lead to poor health. Health knowledge also influences health behaviors



Disease or Injury

Chronic disease or injury can result from inequities and health behaviors. Genetics also influences health differences.



Morbidity or Mortality

Your social status, education, the zip code you live in, and health behaviors all affect life expectancy

LEARN MORE

To learn more about health equity as it related to tobacco use and nicotine dependence, scan this code or visit tobaccofree-ri.org



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