Advancing Health Equity in Minnesota

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PROTECTING, MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF ALL MINNESOTANS
What Do You See?

Equality

Equity

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What is Health Equity?

The World Health Organization calls health, “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

“Health equity is a state where all persons, regardless of race, creed, income, sexual orientation, gender identification, or age have the opportunity to reach their fullest health potential.”

Expand understanding of what creates health

Necessary conditions for health (WHO)

- Peace
- Shelter
- Education
- Food
- Income
- Stable eco-system
- Sustainable resources
- Mobility
- Health Care
- Social justice and equity
• Ranked #4 overall for health among all 50 states

- Minneapolis ranked #2 on “America’s Top 10 Healthiest Cities” list in 2016
Why Health Equity?

Many counties in Minnesota have too few dental, mental, or primary health care providers to meet the needs of their populations.

**Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births in Minnesota by Race/Ethnicity 2009-2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other/Unknown</td>
<td>12.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>10.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic (Any Race)</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
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Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

If white babies in Minnesota died at the same rate as American Indian babies, 2,134 more white babies would have died between 2012 and 2016.

**Three Times as Many White Minnesotans Own Homes as African-American Minnesotans.**

- **White Minnesotans**: 77%
- **African-American Minnesotans**: 25%

Source: Minnesota Compass
A health inequity is a type of health difference that is closely linked with social, economic and/or environmental disadvantage.
Structures or systems of society — such as finance, housing, transportation, education, social opportunities, etc. — that are structured in such a way that they benefit one population unfairly (whether intended or not).
A confluence of institutions, culture, history, ideology, and codified practices that generate and perpetuate inequity among racial groups.

“Structural racism is normative, sometimes legalized, and often manifests as inherited disadvantage.”

-Rachel Hardeman, PhD, MPH
“Redlining: Still a thing”

Homeownership rates in the NLSY79, by race/ethnicity, selected years

Note: Sample members of the NLSY79 are born from 1957 to 1964 and were living in the United States in 1979. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 (NLSY79).
Connecting education to health

**Diabetes**
Adults (18+) diagnosed with diabetes by educational attainment, Minnesota, 2015

- < High school diploma: 11.1%
- College degree: 5.4%

**Inadequate Prenatal Care**
Adequacy of prenatal care (Kessner Index), Minnesota, 2011

- < High school diploma: 36.4%
- >12 yr education: 20.8%

**Smoking**
Current smoking by education in Minnesota, 2015

- < High school diploma: 34.6%
- College degree: 7.1%

Sources:
- Minnesota Compass / BRFSS
- CDC / PRAMS
- Minnesota Public Health Data Access / BRFSS
Belonging linked to infant mortality

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If white babies in Minnesota died at the same rate as American Indian babies, **2,134** more white babies would have died between 2012 and 2016.
What are examples of health inequities that you know of?
So what are we doing about it?
MDH & CHE Mission

- **MDH’s mission** is protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans.

- **MDH’s vision** is for health equity in Minnesota, where all communities are thriving and all people have what they need to be healthy.

- The **Center for Health Equity’s mission** is to CONNECT, STRENGTHEN & AMPLIFY health equity efforts within MDH and across the state of MN.
What is the Center for Health Equity?

MDH directed by Legislature in 2013 to prepare a report on Advancing Health Equity in MN
1. To provide an overview of MN’s health disparities and health inequities
2. To identify inequitable conditions that produce health disparities
3. To make recommendations to advance HE in MN
What is the Center for Health Equity? (continued)

- Current evolution of former Office of Minority & Multicultural Health (OMMH)
- Established by the Commissioner of Health in 2013 to bring an overt and explicit focus to the efforts of MDH to advance health equity in MN.
- Works to achieve MDH vision of:
  - “Health equity in Minnesota, where all communities are thriving and all people have what they need to be healthy”
We are a network hub, leading, connecting and strengthening networks of health equity leaders and partners across MDH and Minnesota communities.

We provide leadership in advancing health equity and cultivate health equity leaders within MDH and across Minnesota communities.

We amplify the work of communities most impacted by health inequities and support them to drive their own solutions.
CENTER FOR HEALTH EQUITY

OUR MISSION IS TO CONNECT, STRENGTHEN AND AMPLIFY HEALTH EQUITY EFFORTS WITHIN MDH AND ACROSS THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.

honoring cultural knowledge & wisdom
recognizing health equity as a human right
fostering trust & belonging
listening deeply
Priority Populations

Communities Most Impacted

Race/Ethnicity

SES

Place

Sexual Orient./Gender ID

Disability
Intersectionality Leading w/ Race

Race/ Ethnicity

SES

Place

SOGI

Disability
2017 Statewide Health Assessment

- Shows a picture of health and well-being across the state, including:
  - Who is healthy and who is not?
  - What conditions shape health for all the different populations in Minnesota?
  - What do we have, and what do we need, to assure that all people in Minnesota can enjoy healthy lives and healthy communities?
Functional Areas & Programs

- Policy & Systems Transformation
  - I-HEALTH
  - HEAL
  - HE Policy Review
  - Workgroups: Equity in Grants; Disability; Trans-Inclusion

- Grantmaking
  - EHDI
  - Tribal
  - Community Solutions

- Community Power
  - Comm Voices & Solutions
  - Comm Conversations
  - HE Leadership Network

- TA / Capacity Building
  - HE Program Assmt
  - TA/Coaching
  - Training
  - HE Community of Practice
Current and recent projects

- Health Equity Advisory and Leadership Council (HEAL)
- I-HEALTH
- Health Equity Leadership Network
- Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative
- U.S. Born African American Infant Mortality Project
- Community Solutions Fund
- Community Conversations
- Trainings for MDH staff (racial equity and narrative)
Health Equity Advisory and Leadership (HEAL) Council

Ensuring communities most impacted by inequities are at the table for decision-making at MDH
Purpose of I-HEALTH:
• To advise and oversee implementation of health equity strategies at MDH
• To streamline coordination of health equity activities, policies and projects across the agency, and
• To foster greater collaboration amongst MDH divisions/offices around health equity.
Grant program created to address health inequities for populations of color and American Indians across 8 priority health areas
Community Solutions Fund

- Improve child development outcomes related to the well-being of children of color and American Indian children from prenatal to grade 3 and their families.

- Reduce racial disparities in children’s health and development from prenatal to grade 3.

- Promote racial and geographic equity.
• Racial Equity and Changing the Dominant Narrative Trainings for MDH Staff
2020 Accomplishments

COVID Response Roles -

▪ Cultural, Faith, Disabilities (CFD) Team
  ▪ Resources; Translation; Community Liaisons; Leadership; Training; Community engagement
  ▪ $4 million out to CBOs, diverse media

▪ COVID Community Coordinators (CCCs)
  ▪ $20 million out to 40 CBO’s led BY and FOR BIPOC, LGBTQ+, Disability Communities

▪ Testing
  ▪ Tested over 120,000 Minnesotans since May 2020
2020 Accomplishments (continued)

- COVID Response Roles -
  - Vaccines
    - Leading state vaccine equity and engagement work
  - Governor’s Community Resilience & Recovery Work Group
  - Tribal health
  - Local national presentations, conversations, discussions
Resources

- Center for Health Equity Listserv - http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/equity/
- MN Statewide Health Assessment - http://www.health.state.mn.us/statewidehealthassessment/
- Healthy MN Partnership - http://www.health.state.mn.us/healthymnpartnership/
Thank you!

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