Grounding Principles of Health Equity for Infection Prevention & Control

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About NACCHO

NACCHO serves 3,300 local health departments across the United States and is the leader in providing cutting-edge, skill-building, professional resources and programs.

Our mission is to improve the health of communities by strengthening and advocating for local health departments.
What is Health Equity?
Health Disparities vs Health Inequities

Health Disparities are...

“...a particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage”. (Healthy People 2020)

“...preventable differences in the burden of disease, injury, violence, or opportunities to achieve optimal health that are experienced by socially disadvantaged populations.” (CDC)
Defining Health Equity

Health Inequity refers to...

“...differences in the distribution of disease, illness, and death that are systematic, unjust, actionable, and associated with imbalances in political power.”

Defining Health Equity

Health Equity

“Health equity is the assurance of the conditions for optimal health for all people. Achieving health equity requires valuing all individuals and populations equally, recognizing and rectifying historical injustices, and providing resources according to need.”

Source: Dr. Camara Jones, Morehouse College
**EQUALITY**

Treating everyone the same.

**EQUITY**

Giving each person what they need to be successful.

**JUSTICE**

Eliminating barriers so that everyone can succeed.

**INCLUSION**

Creating environments in which everyone can be and feel welcomed, respected, supported, and valued to fully participate.

Source: NCOA
What Factors Determine our Health?

Factors Influencing Health and Well-Being

- Social and Economic Factors: 10%
- Health Behaviors: 40%
- Clinical Care: 30%
- Physical Environment: 10%
- Genes and Biology: 10%

$4T total
$700B for well-being and prevention
$3.3T for health care and treatment

Adapted from the Minnesota Department of Health and Deloitte Insights
Considering the definitions and perspectives shared on health equity, what does health equity mean within the context of infection prevention & control?
A Focus on Root Causes

Root causes

• Underlying social injustices that have accumulated over a long history that cause or drive health inequities
• Derived from fundamental social disadvantage, based on imbalances in political power or privilege\(^1\)
• Racism, class oppression, and gender inequity

Social determinants of health

• The results of injustice that produce the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age
• Examples: lack of education, limited access to transportation, accessibility of healthy foods

ROOT CAUSES

Health Tree Model by Health Resources in Action (HRiA)
What are root causes of health inequities in your community?

Check-In
T aking
Action

PUBLIC HEALTH IS
SOCIAL
JUSTICE

Principles of Social Justice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social and Economic Equality</th>
<th>Political Equality/Democracy</th>
<th>Liberation and Emancipation</th>
<th>Autonomy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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**OUR LABOR CREATES ALL WEALTH**

Nothing about us without us is for us.

Liberation and Emancipation

Autonomy

NACCHO: National Association of County & City Health Officials
What does it mean to take on an Equity Lens?

"Taking on an equity lens means we systematically consider equity needs and implications at every step, at each stage of a process, within each decision, when examining each outcome, and when developing each new policy or practice. Taking on an equity lens should become second nature."

What are steps you can take to address root causes of health inequities in your work?

Check-In
What We Do
Technical Assistance

Providing targeted support to local health departments with development needs or problem,
OT21-2103 Projects

Microlearnings
- Break complex topics down into short-form, standalone units of study, to be consumed in about five minutes and address one skill or knowledge gap topic.

Equity & Justice Resource Center
- Provides documents, tools and related materials that can serve as resources to advance equity and justice nationally and beyond
- Free for All to Use

Resilience Catalyst
- Reducing and eliminating adversity by fostering equity through policy, practice and program change to build resilience

Rural Health Cohort
- Convening a sub-cohort of rural/frontier LHDs to create equity-focused sustainability plans
Roots of Health Inequity Online Course Series

A free educational website and collaborative learning course for current and future health professionals. As part of this course, you will take the first steps to learning how to:

• **Address the root causes of health inequities** and systemic differences in health and wellness that are actionable, unfair and unjust

• **Explore social processes that produce health inequities** in the distribution of disease and illness

• **Strategize more effective ways to act** on the root causes of health inequity
Why Root Causes?

Necessary to eliminate health inequities
Root-cause approach helps us identify who and what generates health inequity
Identify what systems that entrench health inequity
Understand how to reimagining public health work that combats these roots causes and allows for health equity
Overarching Goals for the Revision

The goals of the course's revision are to:

1. Update the current course to reflect new developments and evolutions in the field over the past 10 years

2. Address existing gaps in content to provide a more comprehensive understanding of health inequity, its root causes, and potential pathways for addressing it

3. Continue supporting the public health workforce in their understanding, approach and capacity to address health inequities within their jurisdictions
Revamped *Roots of Health Inequity* Course!
Ten Courses!

01 Why Root Causes?
02 Social Justice
03 Public Health History
04 White Supremacy & Structural Racism
05 Capitalism & Class
06 Cisheteronormativity
07 Building Narrative Power
08 Power & Health Equity
09 Building Community Power
10 Reimagining Public Health Workforce

Expand your health equity knowledge with new courses about racism, class inequity, gender justice, narrative change, and community power!
Interactives

Course 1 Highlights
- Interactive 4.1: Whose Knowledge?
  By expanding our methods of inquiry, public health can deepen our knowledge of what creates health inequity and what types of approaches can better serve marginalized communities.

Course 7 Highlights
- READING: The Free-Market Narrative
  The free-market narrative obscures the role of corporate decision-making in shaping our social and economic conditions.

Positionality Exercise
Explore the intersectionality wheel below. Consider where you fall within the wheel along each matter of identity. What are some areas where you hold privilege? What are some areas you experience oppression? What are some identities that have changed over time for you?

Course 8 Highlights
- Interactive: Power Mapping Interactive
  Using a power map, we can visually represent the positioning of decision makers and influential groups from Case Study: Paid Sick Days. Where are potential untagged sources of power?

Course 9 Highlights
- Interactive: Community and Health Equity
  Shifting Power to Community is Necessary for Health Equity

NACCHO
National Association of County & City Health Officials
Over 30 Voices!

Representation from:

- Academia
- Field
- Community

Roots of Health Inequity is packed with insights from a diverse array of public health and community changemakers tackling root causes and injustices.
Additional Updates

- Narration
- Translation Functions
- Detailed Glossary
- Interactives
- Continuing Education Credits (Pending)
The Health Equity & Social Justice Team at NACCHO is preparing to unveil the revamped version of its signature guide, *Roots of Health Inequity*. Launching July 2024.
SAVE THE DATE
OFFICIAL LAUNCH

Join us for the Roots of Health Inequity Official Launch and Reception at NACCHO 360 in July.

Register & Learn More: linktr.ee/nacchoroots

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL rootsofhealthinequity@naccho.org
Questions?

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