

Health Equity

Committee Factsheet



Shared Definitions

Please feel free to adapt these equity definitions to your own Health Council language as we hope to support shared values across the state of New Mexico

What is Equity?

Equity is balanced access to power, social standing and resources that create fairness for groups differentiated by class, race, gender, and/or other demographic factors.

Action Statement: Equality is providing everyone with the same resources and opportunities. Equity involves identifying and providing the specific support, resources, and opportunities that people and communities need so that everyone can live their healthiest possible life. (Adapted from APHA)

What is Health Equity?

Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. Achieving this requires removing obstacles to health— such as poverty and discrimination and their consequences, which include powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay; quality education, housing, and health care; and safe environments. (Adapted from RWJF)

Action Statement: To achieve this, we must create the social, economic, and environmental conditions that lead to health equity and establish a fair distribution of power that recreates healthy lives for all New Mexicans.

What is Racial Equity?

Racial equity is when racial identity no longer predicts how a person or a population fares.

Action Statement: This requires the elimination of racism and white supremacy within systems, policies, practices, attitudes, and cultural messages that perpetuate health and social outcomes currently predicted by race in the United States.

Fact Sheet Highlights

What is Health Equity?

What roles and strategies create Health Equity?

How does adopting health equity strategies benefit the community?

What should membership look like?



Health Councils at 2024 Public Health Day

How does adopting health equity strategies benefit the community?

Health Equity Committees:

Use data to identify inequities and disparities and to measure equity improvements.

Connect health systems with the diverse communities they serve.

Share input from the community with community and public health partners to improve health services.

Create opportunities for health care and community leaders to work with the Health Council to have an impact on policies and important decisions.

What roles and strategies create Health Equity?

Health Equity Committee:

Can be the Health Council or can serve as a separate committee.

Is an advisory oversight committee for county and tribal health councils.

Provide specific recommendations to their Health Council and/or governing body and leaders for mitigating inequities and for preventing such inequities in the future.



Health Councils at 2024 Statewide Annual Meeting

What should membership look like?

The Health Equity Committee must represent a diverse group, including representatives of community members:

Experiencing health disparities including, but not limited to: Racially and ethnically diverse populations, linguistically diverse populations, LGBT populations, the aging population, people with disabilities, rural communities and the economically disadvantaged

Developed by the
New Mexico
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Health Councils



For more information, please contact:

Gerilyn Antonio, Tribal Liaison
Email:

gerilyn@nmhealthcouncils.org or