



Health Equity

Common Definitions

What is Health Equity?

Health equity is when all people have the opportunity to attain their full health potential and no one is disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of their social position or other socially determined circumstance.



What are Health Disparities?

Health disparities are a type of difference in health that is closely linked with social or economic disadvantage. Health disparities negatively affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater social or economic obstacles to health. These obstacles stem from characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion such as race or ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, gender, mental health, sexual orientation, or geographic location. Other characteristics include cognitive, sensory, or physical disabilities.

Why is Health Equity Important?

The mission of the North Dakota Department of Health is to protect and enhance the health and safety of all North Dakotans and the environment in which we live.

To accomplish this mission, the North Dakota Department of Health is committed to improving the health status of the people of North Dakota, improving access to and delivery of quality health care, preserving and improving the quality of the environment, promoting a state of emergency readiness and response, and achieving strategic outcomes within available resources.

Achieving this vision requires assuring that all North Dakotans have equitable opportunities to be healthy. However, the public health system continues to be challenged by disparities and inequities in access to quality health care, access to opportunities that promote health and in overall health status by income, education, race, ethnicity, geographic placement, sexual orientation, insurance status and persons living with disabilities.

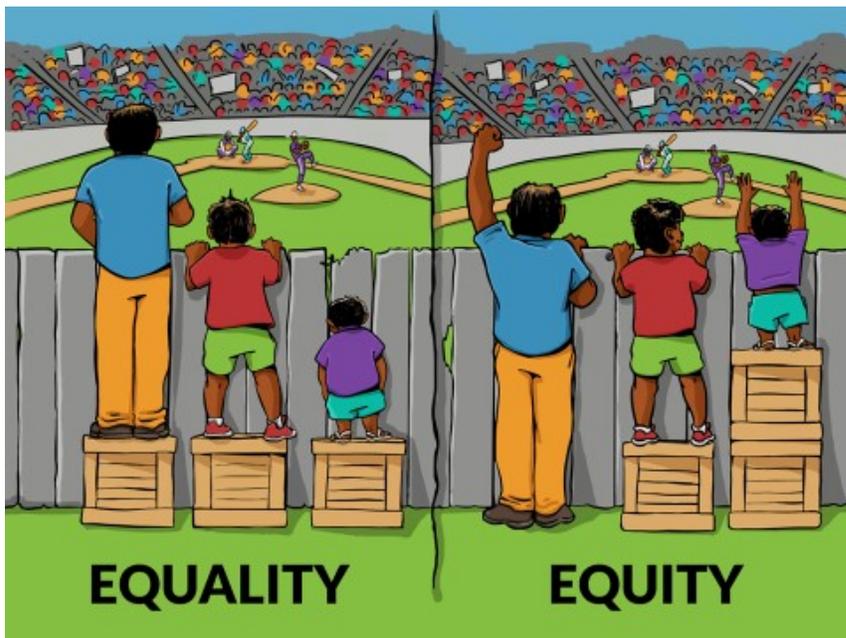
The North Dakota Department of Health is committed to improving the health of all North Dakotans by addressing these inequities.

Cultural Competence

Cultural Competence is a set of congruent behaviors, attitudes, and policies that come together in a system, agency, or among professionals that enables effective work in cross-cultural situations.

Social Determinants of Health

The complex, integrated, and overlapping social structures and economic systems that are responsible for most health inequities. These social structures and economic systems include the social, environment, physical environment, health services, and structural and societal factors. Social determinants of health are shaped by the distribution of money, power, and resources throughout local communities, nations, and the world social environment.



Health Inequity

A difference or disparity in health outcomes that is systematic, avoidable, and unjust.

Health Inequality

Differences, variations, and disparities in the health achievements of individuals and groups of people.