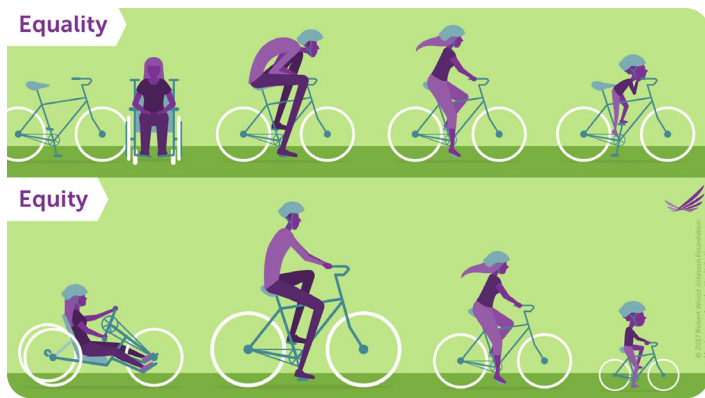


Key Terms and Definitions Related to Health Equity and Social Determinants of Health



Key Terms

The definitions included in this document reflect terms necessary to support an organization's efforts towards advancing health equity. This has been reviewed by Vizient subject matter experts and Vizient's Social Determinants of Health Benchmarking Study Steering Committee. This list is not intended to represent a comprehensive glossary with all terms needed to describe health equity and community health improvement work. These definitions are intentionally consistent with those used by leaders and institutions supporting efforts in this space, and where possible existing definitions are utilized.



Source: 2017 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Community

Any configuration of individuals, families, and groups whose values, characteristics, interests, geography, and/or social relations unite them in some way.¹

Community-based solution

An action, policy, program, or law driven by the community that impacts community-level factors and promotes health equity.¹

Health care disparities

Differences in treatment and care quality between population groups with equal access to care, after accounting for patient preferences and clinical need. Populations can be defined across many dimensions, including but not limited to race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, age, place of residence, disability status, and/or veteran status.³

Health disparities

Differences that exist among specific population groups in the United States in the attainment of full health potential that can be measured by differences in incidence, prevalence, mortality, burden of disease, and other adverse health conditions.¹

Health equity

The state in which everyone has the opportunity to attain full health potential and no one is disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of social position or any other socially defined circumstance.¹

Health Inequities

Systematic differences in the opportunities groups have to achieve optimal health, leading to unfair and avoidable differences in health outcomes.¹

Health outcomes

Health outcomes are changes in health that result from measures or specific health care investments or interventions.⁷

Population health

The health outcomes of a group of individuals, including the distribution of such outcomes within the group.⁴

Public policy

A law, regulation, procedure, administrative action, incentive, or voluntary practice of governments and other institutions that affects a whole population.¹

Social determinants of health (SDOH)

The conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live and age. These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power, and resources at global, national, and local levels. They include income, education (opportunities for education), employment, housing, neighborhood conditions, transportation systems, social connections, and other social factors.²

Social needs

Specific non-medical acute resource needs for an individual.⁵ Examples include food, transportation, housing, medical care, safety, and employment.

Social risk factors

Adverse social conditions associated with poor health, including, but not exclusive to, food insecurity and housing instability.⁶

Structural determinants of health

Structural determinants of health shape the quality of the SDOH. Structural determinants include the governing process and economic and social policies that affect pay, working conditions, housing, and education.¹

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