Learn how factors in the environment affect people’s health and contribute to health disparities

Health disparities are a measure of differences in health outcomes between populations. They affect groups of people who have faced barriers to health based on:

- Geographic location
- Gender identity
- Sexual orientation
- Disability
- Mental health
- Age
- Gender
- Socioeconomic status
- Religion
- Race

What Are Health Disparities?
Health disparities are a measure of differences in health outcomes between populations. They affect groups of people who have faced barriers to health based on:

- Economic stability
- Job opportunities and income
- Education access to early childhood education, higher education and vocational training
- Neighborhood and physical environment safe housing, transportation, physical activity opportunities and walkable neighborhoods
- Food access to healthy food options
- Community and social context support systems, communities free of discrimination and racism
- Healthcare system health coverage, provider availability, health information and services that are culturally relevant, and quality of care

What is Health Equity?
Health equity is leveling the playing field to remove health disparities so everyone has the opportunity to be as healthy as possible.

Ensuring Health Equity
Governments, communities and healthcare providers can all work toward greater health equity for all through:

- Greater health equity
- Reduction in health disparities
- Addressing social determinants of health

What are social determinants of health (SDOH)?
The conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play and pray.

SDOH have a major impact on people’s health, well-being and quality of life. Examples of SDoH include:

- Economic stability
- Job opportunities and income
- Education access to early childhood education, higher education and vocational training
- Neighborhood and physical environment safe housing, transportation, physical activity opportunities and walkable neighborhoods
- Food access to healthy food options
- Community and social context support systems, communities free of discrimination and racism
- Healthcare system health coverage, provider availability, health information and services that are culturally relevant, and quality of care

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