Towards and Indigenous Model of Health Equity

• Facilitated by Carrie Field, NIHB
Health Equity in Indian Country
Rethinking How the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Approaches Health Equity for American Indians and Alaska Natives

National Indian Health Board

Read the 2023 Report
Health Equity

What does health equity mean to you?

(Pennsylvania Department of Health)
Concepts & Definitions

Social Determinants of Health

- Education Access and Quality
- Health Care Access and Quality
- Economic Stability
- Neighborhood and Built Environment
- Social and Community Context

Healthy People 2030

STRENGTHENING OUR CHEROKEE
CHILDREN, FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES

- Income & Jobs
- Education
- Language & Culture
- Healthy Environment
- Healthy Foods
- Access to Care
- Quality of Life
- Mental Health
- Language & Speakers
- Connection & Ceremonials
- Arts & Games
- School Lunches
- Food Distributions
- Farm to Table Programs
- Health Promotion
- Skill Building
- Health Counseling Services
- Disease Prevention
- Transportation
- Early Childhood
- K-12 Programs
- Youth Leadership
- Income & Employment
- Education Housing
- Safe Housing
- Clean Air and Water
- Radon-Free Homes
- Physical Activity
- Safe Places to Play
- Culture and Tradition
- Healthy Foods

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Indigenous Determinants of Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Indigeneity

- Intergenerational holistic healing
  - Health-Protective Factors
  - Health Risk Factors

- Health of Mother Earth
  - Health-Protective Factors
  - Health Risk Factors

- Decolonizing and re-Indigenizing culture as a determinant of health
  - Health-Protective Factors
  - Health Risk Factors
WEB OF CAUSATION
STRUCTURAL and SOCIAL DETERMINANTS: IMPACT ON HEALTH

- Slavery
- GI Bill
- Jim Crow
- "Redlining"
- 13th Amendment

- Food Stability
- Education
- Income
- Neighborhood Demographics
- Housing
- Access to Care
- Rates of Incarceration
- Safety
- Increased Maternal/Infant Mortality
Web of Causation: Structural and Social Determinants of American Indian and Alaska Native Health

Colonization

- Federal Indian Boarding Schools
- Taking of Lands & Forced Relocation
- Structured, Systematic, and Planned Invisibility
- Genocide
- Destruction of Sacred Sites, Lands, Waters
- Forced Assimilation & Outlawing of Traditional Practices
- Health Inequities
  - Access to Care
  - Housing
  - Food
  - Safety
  - Education
  - Income
  - Neighborhood
  - Social Connection
  - Connection to Culture
Tribal Sovereignty

- Protected Plant and Animal Relatives
- Indigenous Cultures and Languages
- Strong Tribal Institutions
- Health Equity
  - Access to Care
  - Education
  - Income
  - Neighborhood
  - Self-Governance
  - Social Connection
  - Safety
  - Connection to Culture
  - Food
  - Food Sovereignty
  - Indigenous Knowledge
  - Spirituality and Sacred Practices
  - Traditional Medicine
American Indian and Alaska Native Health & Wellness Equity Model

Goals - Happiness - Achievements - Aspirations - Targets

Governments - Governments - Governments

Barriers - Barriers - Barriers

Individual & Family

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AI/AN Health and Wellness Equity – Individual & Family

- Accurate historical information
- Affordable, safe housing
- Broadband and communication
- Cultural activities and traditions
- Disability services
- Early childhood development services
- Economic development
- Education (Tribal)
- Equitable law and justice (Tribal)
- Extended family culture
- Financial services
- Health, affordable and nutritious food
- Healthy built and natural environments
- Health services (Tribal)
- Job training
- Livable job wages
- Parks, green spaces, and nature
- Safe, efficient transportation
- Subsistence traditional food/shelter/materials
- Spiritual/faith practices
- Water, air, land
AI/AN Health and Wellness Equity – **Barriers**

- Access to mass media and connectivity
- Assimilation
- Crime & violence
- Discrimination
- Distrust of government
- Economic stability
- Employment
- Exposure to toxic substances
- Food security
- Harassment
- Health literacy
- Historical lack of funding
- Historical trauma
- Housing stability
- Inaccurate historical information, myths
- Lack of knowledge
- Oppression
- Pollution
- Poverty
- Social cohesion
- Structural racism
AI/AN Health and Wellness Equity – Governments

- County
- Federal
- International
- Municipal/town
- State
- Tribal
AI/AN Health and Wellness Equity – **Goals, Happiness, Achievements, Aspirations, and Targets**

- A home
- Access to indigenous roots/life
- Balance of life
- Desirable education
- Food security
- Freedom to participate in spiritual and faith based practices
- Highest quality of life
- Legacy
- Life in pollution-free environment
- Long, high quality, fulfilling life
- Physical & emotional well-being
- Responsive, vibrant, safe and supportive communities
- Satisfaction and pride of work
- Satisfying life
- Social cohesion
- Vibrant extended family
- Wellness in leadership
- Years of healthy life
Station Rotations

Find the station with your card number

In your group, choose a notetaker to write down your group’s ideas on the flip chart

You’ll have 15 minutes to discuss the questions below

• What’s your first impression of this model?
• What do you like about this model? What does it do well?
• What do you wish was different about this model?
• Who might find this model useful?
• What questions does this model leave you with?

When the time comes to move to the next station, one person will stay behind to summarize the key ideas for the next group to add onto
Welcome!

As you come in, take a “gallery walk” to check out the models around the edges of the room.
Discussion Activities

1. With your table, discuss the Rating Scale questions and come to consensus on ratings to mark on the scales. Take notes of your reasoning.

2. Make revisions to the model. Everyone can draw on the models as much as they want – add things, cross things out, draw something new, anything! Consider:
   a. What would make this model better reflect an Indigenous perspective?
   b. What would you add? What is missing?
   c. What would you edit or take out?
   d. Would you rearrange anything?
   e. Would this model work better in a different shape or format?
Definitions of Health Equity

- Health equity is the “assurance of the conditions for optimal health for all people by valuing all populations equally, recognizing and rectifying historical injustices, and providing resources according to need.” (Jones)
Definitions of Health Equity

• “Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences - including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care.” (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)

• “Health equity is the state in which everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain their highest level of health. Achieving this requires ongoing societal efforts to: Address historical and contemporary injustices; Overcome economic, social, and other obstacles to health and health care; and eliminate preventable health disparities.” (CDC)
Tribal sovereignty

Resilience through culture

Strong Tribal institutions

Tribal empowerment in state & federal governance

Federal trust responsibility
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Before you leave, add a dot sticker on your favorite model

• Make sure to fill out the workshop survey in the conference app – you could win a prize!
• We’ll post the results from this session and many other health equity resources at:
  
  nihb.org/health-equity
Participants who complete evaluations will be entered into a drawing to win prizes that will be presented at the Closing Plenary Session on Thursday at 3:30 PM.

Use the QR Code to access the survey from a web browser

Navigate to the session page through the agenda schedule