

National Prevention Strategy

ELIMINATION of HEALTH DISPARITIES



America benefits when everyone has the opportunity to live a long, healthy, and productive life, yet health disparities persist. A health disparity is a difference in health outcomes across subgroups of the population, often linked to social, economic, or environmental disadvantages (e.g., less access to good jobs, unsafe neighborhoods, lack of affordable transportation options). Health disparities adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater obstacles to health on the basis of their racial or ethnic group, religion, socioeconomic status, gender, age, mental health, cognitive, sensory, or physical disability; sexual orientation or gender identity; geographic location; or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion.

ACTIONS: THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL

- ▶ Support and expand cross-sector activities to enhance access to high-quality education, jobs, economic opportunities, and opportunities for healthy living (e.g., access to parks, grocery stores, safe neighborhoods).
- ▶ Identify and map high-need areas that experience health disparities and align existing resources to meet these needs.
- ▶ Increase the availability of de-identified national health data to better address the needs of underrepresented population groups.
- ▶ Develop and evaluate community-based interventions to reduce health disparities and health outcomes.
- ▶ Support policies to reduce exposure to environmental and occupational hazards, especially among those at greatest risk.
- ▶ Support and expand training programs that bring new and diverse workers into the health care and public health workforce.
- ▶ Support health center service delivery sites in medically underserved areas and place primary care providers in communities with shortages.
- ▶ Increase dissemination and use of evidence-based health literacy practices and interventions.



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Ensure a strategic focus on communities at greatest risk.
2. Reduce disparities in access to quality health care.
3. Increase the capacity of the prevention workforce to identify and address disparities.
4. Support research to identify effective strategies to eliminate health disparities.
5. Standardize and collect data to better identify and address disparities.

Reducing disparities in health will give everyone a chance to live a healthy life and improve the quality of life of all Americans.



ACTIONS: PARTNERS CAN

Individuals and Families

- ▶ Participate in community-led prevention efforts.
- ▶ Use community resources (e.g., libraries, literacy programs) to improve the ability to read, understand, and use health information.

Community, Nonprofit, and Faith-Based Organizations

- ▶ Bring together professionals from a range of sectors (e.g., transportation, health, environment, labor, education, and housing) with community representatives to ensure that community health needs are identified and that needs and barriers are addressed.
- ▶ Help ensure that prevention strategies are culturally, linguistically, and age appropriate, and that they match people's health literacy skills.
- ▶ Provide Internet access and skill-building courses to help residents find reliable health information and services.

Early Learning Centers, Schools, Colleges, and Universities

- ▶ Conduct outreach to increase diversity (e.g., racial/ethnic, income, disability) in health care and public health careers.
- ▶ Offer preventive services (e.g., mental health services, oral care, vision and hearing screenings) for all children, especially those at risk.

- ▶ Develop and implement local strategies to reduce health, psychosocial, and environmental conditions that affect school attendance and chronic absenteeism.

Health Care Systems, Insurers, and Clinicians

- ▶ Increase the cultural and communication competence of health care providers.
- ▶ Train and hire more qualified staff from underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities and people with disabilities.

Businesses and Employers

- ▶ Provide opportunities for workplace prevention activities, including preventive screenings.
- ▶ Partner with local resources such as libraries and literacy programs to enhance employees' ability to identify and use reliable health information.

State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Governments

- ▶ Use data to identify populations at greatest risk and work with communities to implement policies and programs that address highest priority needs.
- ▶ Improve coordination, collaboration, and opportunities for engaging community leaders and members in prevention.

i Find more information at:

Website:

www.surgeongeneral.gov/nationalpreventionstrategy

Email:

prevention.council@hhs.gov

Twitter:

#NPSAction

Healthy & Safe
Community
Environments



Clinical &
Community
Preventive Services



Elimination
of Health
Disparities

