

# Health Equity Update

Presented by Oliviah Walker, Health Equity Coordinator 3-10-22



# Health Equity at IDPH and DHS

#### **Health Equity Guiding Principle**

We promote health for all by working to reduce health disparities and focusing on health where people live, learn, work and play.

#### **Health Equity Vision**

Building Health Equity for All Communities



# What is health equity?

Health equity is the attainment of the highest possible level of health for all people. It means achieving the environmental, social, economic, and other conditions in which all people have the opportunity to attain their highest possible level of health.

**IDPH** definition

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.

**RWJ** definition



# **Health Equity**

Health equity means <u>reducing</u> and ultimately <u>eliminating disparities</u> in health <u>and its determinants</u> that adversely affect <u>excluded or marginalized groups</u>.

(Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)



### Equity is not the same as equality.



To equalize opportunities, those with worse health and fewer resources need more efforts and opportunities to improve their health.







### **Social Determinants of Health**



#### THE 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

To protect and promote the health of all people in all communities

The 10 Essential Public Health Services provide a framework for public health to protect and promote the health of all people in all communities. To achieve optimal health for all, the **Essential Public Health** Services actively promote policies, systems, and services that enable good health and seek to remove obstacles and systemic and structural barriers, such as poverty, racism, gender discrimination, and other forms of oppression, that have resulted in health inequities. Everyone should have a fair and just opportunity to achieve good health and well-being.

Assurance





# Iowa HHS Health Equity Framework

- 1. Organizational Culture
- 2. Internal Policies and procedures
- 3. Data Equity Framework
- 4. Planning and Performance Improvement
- 5. Partnerships and Community Engagement





### **Office of Equity**

**Purpose:** Advance Health Equity through oversight and strategic support of department-wide equity initiatives

**Functions:** Communications, training, capacity-building, consultation, technical assistance, data analysis, grant-making, community collaboration





### **Organizational Culture**





### **Internal Policies and Procedures**





# **Data Equity**



Source: 2021 County Health Rankings

Collecting demographic information allows us to analyze data and identify trends and disparities that may be covered up when looking at the whole population set.



### Resources

- Development of Office of Equity
- Dedicated FTE
- DHS Cultural Equity Alliance
- IDPH Health Equity Drivers Forum
- Internal resources
  - Contracting guide
  - Performance plan examples
  - Resource library
- Workforce Development training opportunities
- External Resources



# **Discussion/Questions**

Contact information:

Oliviah Walker

Health Equity Coordinator

oliviah.walker@idph.iowa.gov

