



Health Equity and Cultural Competency



Health equity is achieved when every person has the opportunity to “attain his or her full health potential,” and no one is “disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances.” Health inequities are reflected in differences in length of life; quality of life, disease, disability, and death; severity of disease; and access to treatment.

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This isn't new. For over 400 years, Black communities have faced inequity as a result of systemic racism. From slavery to the civil rights movement and still today, substandard living conditions, barriers to care, difficulty accessing quality nutrition, and many other factors have created an unacceptable reality. We have a health equity gap in this country.

To view the information in its entirety, [Health Care Equity \(marchofdimes.org\)](https://marchofdimes.org).

CLOSING THE HEALTH EQUITY GAP

In 1938, March of Dimes began a fight against the pandemic of the time—polio—and won. We established Newborn Screening as the standard of care, address issues related to congenital defects, lead efforts to promote folic acid benefits during pregnancy, and more. Today, building on a successful 80-year legacy of impact and innovation, we show the fight for the health of all moms and babies to end maternal and infant mortality. We don't believe we can achieve this until we close the health equity gap.

“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.”

– Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

We envision a world where every mom and baby is healthy, regardless of race, geography or income and health care is just and equal. We work collaboratively to confront social and structural determinants of health, identifying solutions that help alleviate the negative impact of inequities.



MARCH OF DIMES CLOSING THE HEALTH EQUITY GAP

ELIMINATING HEALTH INEQUITY

March of Dimes is able to tackle these issues because we provide:

-  Solutions for maternal and infant health challenges on a national level
-  Research and dynamic approaches geared toward real impact
-  Commitment to community investment and national systemic policy reform

We are committed to leveling the playing field once and for all by:

- Advocating for policies promoting safe and healthy communities
- Engaging partners at the local and national levels
- Seeking answers through social science research
- Improving access to care in every community
- Training health care providers to tackle bias
- Rallying every American around a common goal... health equity for all

