

Holes in the Mitten

Health Equity In Michigan: A Toolkit for Action Fact Sheet: Overview

HEALTH EQUITY

Health equity allows everyone the chance to attain healthy outcomes through a fair distribution of resources and opportunities. To achieve health equity, we must first understand inequities and then work to eliminate them.

HEALTH INEQUITIES

Differences in the health of racial, ethnic and other groups that are unfair and can be prevented. People who experience health inequities often live in communities that lack resources to achieve good health.



HEALTH INEQUITIES ARE UNJUST AND EXPENSIVE

Between 2003 and 2006, it is estimated that inequities in the health of African Americans, Asians, and Hispanics cost the United States \$1.24 trillion dollars.

Michigan facts by race and ethnicity

Indicator	African American	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Arab	Asian	Hispanic/ Latino	White	Total Michigan Population
Infant Death Rate, deaths per 1,000 live births ²	15.3	9.9	8.1	4.2	9.7	5.6	7.6
All-Cause Death Rate, deaths per 100,000 ³	1062.0	965.4	NA	366.1	683.1	785.1	816.8
Gonorrhea Cases, per 100,000 ⁴	545.0	66.0	NA	13.0	49.0	20.0	154.0
Children Living at or Below Poverty, % ⁵	41.7%	24.8%	31.4%	11.4%	31.0%	12.6%	19.0%

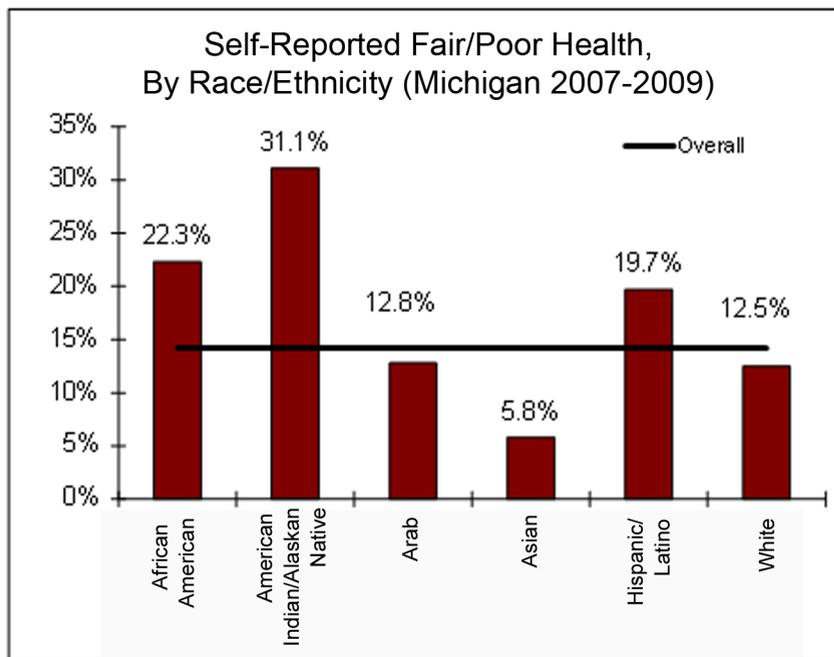
Holes in the Mitten: Addressing Michigan's Gaps in Health Equity

Holes in the Mitten is part of *Health Equity In Michigan: A Toolkit for Action* and aims to improve health equity in Michigan communities. The toolkit includes a video series, discussion guide, fact sheets, and other resources. The toolkit can be obtained through the Michigan Department of Community Health.

WHAT WILL BUILD THE HEALTH OF A COMMUNITY AND MOVE US TOWARD HEALTH EQUITY?

Social determinants of health are things that influence the health of individuals and communities. These include education, income, employment, social connections, housing, transportation, political influence, and access to clean water and air. Discrimination experienced by racial, ethnic or other groups is also an important social determinant of health. Past policies and practices based on race have left many communities of color without the necessary resources to achieve good health.

Creating health equity requires that we work to achieve racial equity.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

There are ways to get involved in the prevention and elimination of health disparities. You can volunteer at one of the organizations dedicated to promoting social justice or help to change policy by writing your local legislators.

By hosting a health equity video viewing, you can help raise awareness and actively promote change.

WHAT IS BEING DONE TO IMPROVE HEALTH EQUITY IN MICHIGAN?

Organizations are working to eliminate health disparities on a local, regional, and national level through outreach programs, like those that provide safe housing. Some organizations work with hospitals and other health care providers to make sure they are able to give the best treatment to all populations. Some work to eliminate language and educational barriers to improve cultural education. Other organizations work to make sure that we have equity in data collection so that we are able to see where health disparities exist. Finally, there are organizations that focus directly on eliminating racism in our society.

Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)

The Health Disparities Reduction and Minority Health Section (HDRMHS) provides a persistent and continuing focus on eliminating health disparities in Michigan's populations of color. The five populations served by HDRMHS include African Americans, American Indians/Alaska Natives, Arab and Chaldean Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics/Latinos.

The major functions of HDRMHS are: 1) To support and initiate programs, strategies, and health policies that address disease prevention, health service delivery, and applied research for populations of color; 2) To collaborate in the development of all MDCH programs and strategies that address prevention, health service delivery, and applied research for populations of color and 3) To facilitate an ongoing integration of culturally appropriate and linguistically appropriate health services into the public health system.

Michigan Department
of Community Health



Rick Snyder, Governor
Olga Dazzo, Director