

OFFICE OF HEALTH EQUITY

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CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC
HEALTH



Office of Health Equity

“Health equity” means efforts to ensure that all people have full and equal access to opportunities that enable them to lead healthy lives.

Health and Safety Code
Section 131019.5

Office of Health Equity

The Office of Health Equity (OHE) was established to align state resources, decision making, and programs to accomplish all of the following:

- ❑ Achieve the highest level of health and mental health for all people, with special attention focused on those who have experienced socioeconomic disadvantage and historical injustice, including, but not limited to, vulnerable communities and culturally, linguistically, and geographically isolated communities.
- ❑ Work collaboratively with the Health in All Policies (HiAP) Task Force to promote work to prevent injury and illness through improved social and environmental factors that promote health and mental health.
- ❑ Advise and assist other state departments in their mission to increase access to, and the quality of, culturally and linguistically competent health and mental health care and services.
- ❑ Improve the health status of all populations and places, with a priority on eliminating health and mental health disparities and inequities.

Office of Health Equity

Duties of OHE includes, but are not limited to the following:

- ❑ Conduct demographic analyses on health and mental health disparities and inequities (updated periodically, but not less than every two years).
- ❑ Establish a comprehensive, cross-sectoral strategic plan to eliminate health and mental health disparities by July 2014. (updated not less than every two years).
- ❑ Build upon and inform the work of the HiAP Task Force.
- ❑ Assist and consult with state and local governments, health and mental health providers, community-based organizations and advocates, and various stakeholder communities to advance health equity.
- ❑ By October 1, 2013, establish an advisory committee.
- ❑ Establish an interagency agreement between the State Department of Public Health and the Department of Health Care Services to outline the process by which the departments will jointly work to advance the mission of OHE.

Office of Health Equity

Definition of Terms:

- ❑ **Determinants of equity:** means social, economic, geographic, political, and physical environmental conditions that lead to the creation of a fair and just society.
- ❑ **Health equity:** means efforts to ensure that all people have full and equal access to opportunities that enable them to lead healthy lives.
- ❑ **Health and mental health disparities:** means differences in health and mental health status among distinct segments of the population, including differences that occur by gender, age, race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, education or income, disability or functional impairment, or geographic location, or the combination of any of these factors.
- ❑ **Health and mental health inequities:** means disparities in health or mental health, or the factors that shape health, that are systemic and avoidable and, therefore, considered unjust or unfair.

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Definition of Terms (cont.):

- ❑ **Vulnerable communities:** includes, but is not limited to, women, racial or ethnic groups, low-income individuals and families, individuals who are incarcerated and those who have been incarcerated, individuals with disabilities, individuals with mental health conditions, children, youth and young adults, seniors, immigrants and refugees, individuals who are limited-English proficient (LEP), and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQQ) communities, or combinations of these populations.
- ❑ **Vulnerable places:** means places or communities with inequities in the social, economic, educational, or physical environment or environmental health and that have insufficient resources or capacity to protect and promote the health and well-being of their residents.

OFFICE OF HEALTH EQUITY STRUCTURE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND
ENGAGEMENT UNIT (CDEU)



POLICY UNIT



HEALTH RESEARCH AND
STATISTICS UNIT (HRSU)

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Community Development and Engagement Unit (CDEU)

The Community Development and Engagement Unit staff has responsibility for the following:

- ❑ The California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP)
- ❑ Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Translation
- ❑ Cultural Competency Consultants
- ❑ Cultural Competence Plans
- ❑ Technical Assistance
- ❑ Outreach/Education

Policy Unit

The Policy Unit consists of three sections:

1. Climate Change and Public Health
2. California Health in All Policies Task Force
3. Healthy Communities Data and Indicator Project

Policy Unit

California HiAP Task Force

- California's Health in All Policies Task Force was established by Executive Order #S-04-10 in February 2010.
- The Executive Order placed the HiAP Task Force under the auspices of the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) and charged it with identifying priority programs, policies, and strategies to improve the health of Californians while advancing the SGC's goals.
- The SGC designated 19 State Agencies, Departments, and Offices to participate on the Task Force.
- The California Department of Public Health facilitates and staffs the Task Force.

Health Research and Statistics Unit (HRSU)

The Office of Health Equity will support research that seeks:

- ❑ To reduce health, health care, and mental health disparities and achieve equity among “Vulnerable communities” in California.
- ❑ To understand a broadened array of social, economic, and environmental determinants of disparities/inequalities in health, health care, and mental health.

Questions?

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