

Getting Beyond the Rhetoric

**ACTing (Advocating,
Communicating and Translating)
to Achieve Health Equity**

Plenary Panel and Discussion Questions

<p><i>Deborah Bowen, PhD</i> Professor & Chair Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences Boston University School of Public Health</p>	<p>What are the major policy, systems, social, and environmental barriers remaining in 2010 that must be altered to achieve health equity? How are these barriers similar or different for various populations experiencing health disparities?</p>
<p><i>Camara Phyllis Jones, MD, PhD</i> Research Director on Social Determinants of Health and Equity-Division of Adult and Community Health, CDC</p>	<p>What role does racism or other “isms” continue to play in overcoming the challenges of health disparities?</p>
<p>Philip Zazove, M.D. Professor of Medicine, Univ. of Michigan VP-Association of Medical Professionals with Hearing Losses (AMPHL)</p>	<p>Health disparities are a significant economic driver to escalating health care costs. Why then, do they not play a more central role in today’s health reform discussions without blaming the victim?</p>

Socio-Ecological Model



What is racism?

A system

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- Saps the strength of the whole society through the waste of human resources

What is [*inequity*]?

A system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on [*fill in the blank*], which

- Unfairly disadvantages some individuals and communities
- Unfairly advantages other individuals and communities
- Saps the strength of the whole society through the waste of human resources

Many axes of inequity

- “Race”
- Geography
- Nationality, language, and legal status
- Gender
- Sexual orientation
- History
- These are risk markers, not risk factors

Defining “health equity”

- What it is
- How to achieve it
- Relation to health disparities

Health equity is . . .

. . . assurance of the conditions for optimal health for all people.

Achieving health equity . . .

. . . requires valuing all individuals and populations equally,

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Achieving health equity . . .

. . . requires valuing all individuals and populations equally, recognizing and rectifying historical injustices, and implementing focused and ongoing societal efforts to provide resources according to need.

Health disparities . . .

. . . will be eliminated when health equity is achieved.

Resources

- *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cerd.htm>
- *US-Brasil Joint Action Plan to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Discrimination and Promote Equality*

Resources

- California Newsreel
Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?

<http://www.unnaturalcauses.org/>

- California Newsreel
Race: The Power of an Illusion

<http://www.newsreel.org/nav/title.asp?tc=CN0149>

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Resources

- CityMatCH: Undoing Racism Action Group

<http://www.citymatch.org/UR.php>

- National League of Cities: Reducing Racism and Achieving Racial Justice

http://www.nlc.org/resources_for_cities/programs___services/382.aspx

Resources

- UNESCO: International Coalition of Cities Against Racism
<http://www.unesco.org/shs/citiesagainstracism>
- United Nations: World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance
<http://www.un.org/WCAR/>

Resources

- United Nations: Committee to Eliminate Racial Discrimination

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/>

USA CERD report:

http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/docs/AdvanceVersion/cerd_c_usa6.doc

NGO shadow reports:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/cerds72-ngos-usa.htm>

Resources

- National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities

www.omhrc.gov/npa/

National Health Disparities Plan

- Provide input into draft plan
- Partner in implementation

Resources

- CDC Racism and Health Workgroup
rahw@cdc.gov

Communications and Dissemination

Education and Development

Global Matters

Liaison and Partnership

Organizational Excellence

Policy and Legislation

Science and Publications

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