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“Moving Beyond Health Disparity and Achieving Health Equity: From Strategy To Action”
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Disparities in America

Young people from racial and ethnic minority groups in the United States suffer disproportionately from a number of preventable diseases and health problems.

America's estimated 2.5 million gay seniors are twice as likely to live alone, four times less likely to have adult children to help them, and far more fearful of discrimination from health care workers.

Older adults may not be aware of the services recommended for their age group or may not know that the services are covered by Medicare.

American Indians and Alaska Natives have a lower life expectancy than other Americans perhaps due to economic adversity and poor social conditions.
"A health disparity is a particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage. Health disparities adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater obstacles to health based on their racial and/or ethnic group; religion; socioeconomic status; gender; age; mental health; cognitive, sensory, or physical disability; sexual orientation or gender identity; geographic location; or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion."

-National Stakeholder Strategy, Healthy People 2020 and Health and Human Services (HHS) Plan
Health Equity

“Health equity is attainment of the highest level of health for all people. Achieving health equity requires valuing everyone equally with focused and ongoing societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities, historical and contemporary injustices, and the elimination of health and healthcare disparities.”

-National Stakeholder Strategy, Healthy People 2020 and Health and Human Services (HHS) Plan
Social Determinants of Health

External factors that influence health outcomes are known as the Social Determinants of Health. Examples include:

- Housing
- Education
- Environment
- Health Care
- Transportation
- Food Security
- Jobs
A National Movement to End Health Disparities

- **Health disparities** affect everyone, particularly racial and ethnic minorities
- Ending **health disparities** can lead to a healthier nation
- A **national movement** to end **health disparities** is necessary
- This **national movement** will establish partnerships and link the public and private sectors
The **National Partnership for Action** to End Health Disparities (NPA)

A *national movement* that will increase the effectiveness of programs and mobilize partners, leaders, and stakeholders with the goal of eliminating *health disparities.*
NPA Goals

1) Increase **awareness** of health disparities, their impact on the nation, and the actions necessary to improve health outcomes for racial, ethnic, and underserved populations

2) Strengthen and broaden **leadership** for addressing health disparities at all levels

3) Strengthen the **health system** and improve **life experience** for racial, ethnic, and underserved populations

4) Improve **cultural and linguistic competency** and the diversity of the health-related workforce

5) Improve **data** availability and coordination, and share **research and evaluation** outcomes
NPA Partners

- Support the NPA by leveraging resources and expanding the NPA’s reach
- Form working partnerships to eliminate overlap and redundancies in programs and campaigns
- Include:
  - Health care systems
  - Employers and business organizations
  - National associations
  - Policy and practice centers
  - Federal, state, tribal and local agencies
  - YOU!!!!
National Stakeholder Strategy (NSS)

http://tinyurl.com/NationalStakeholderStrategy

• Developed with input from thousands of individuals and organizations at the grassroots level

• Establishes a common set of national goals and strategies

• Encourages partners and stakeholders to identify and implement community-based strategies
The Federal Commitment

- The NPA involves government agencies through the Federal Interagency Health Equity Team (FIHET)

- Collaborating agencies include:
  - ✔ Agriculture
  - ✔ Commerce
  - ✔ Consumer Product Safety Commission
  - ✔ Defense
  - ✔ Education
  - ✔ Environmental Protection Agency
  - ✔ Health and Human Services
  - ✔ Housing and Urban Development
  - ✔ Justice
  - ✔ Labor
  - ✔ Transportation
  - ✔ Veterans Affairs
The First Federal Plan to Address Health Disparities

- The HHS Action Plan

- Outlines HHS goals and actions to reduce health disparities

- Other agencies to follow

- Aligned with Healthy People 2020, the National Prevention Strategy and the President's National HIV/AIDS Strategy
Regional Movements

Ten Regional Health Equity Councils (RHECs) have been established to:

- Mobilize regional action around common issues
- Leverage federal, regional, state, and local resources
- Infuse NPA goals and strategies into policies and practices
- Support and enhance state and community efforts
- Share stories and successes across the country
10 Regional Health Equity Councils
Take Action in Your Community

• Plan or take part in community service activities to end health disparities
• Spread the word. Conduct community dialogues and awareness events - involve the media
• Connect and volunteer with an organization that is doing work in this area
• Post about the NPA and local health equity movements on blogs, Facebook, and Twitter
• Submit a press release or an Op-Ed to your local newspaper or magazine
• Visit the NPA Toolkit for Action at [http://tinyurl.com/NPAtoolkit-pdf](http://tinyurl.com/NPAtoolkit-pdf)
Join the NPA

Support a nation free of disparities in health and healthcare:

• Learn about the NPA at http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/

• Take the NPA pledge at http://tinyurl.com/NPAPledge

• Call 1-855-JOIN-NPA

• Email npainfo@minorityhealth.hhs.gov
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