

Health Equity

West Central Public Health Partnership

Region 10: Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, & San Miguel

Health Equity

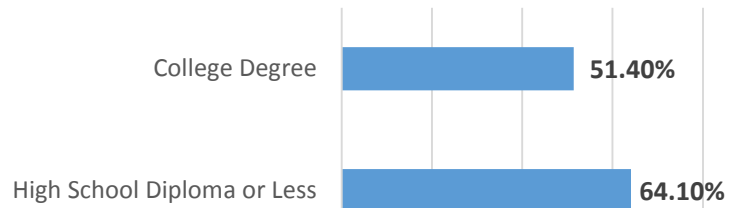
The West Central Public Health Partnership recognizes the critical role the social determinants of health play in population health outcomes. As S. James from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) summarized, “[Social determinants of health](#) are life-enhancing resources, such as food supply, housing, economic and social relationships, transportation, education and health care, whose distribution across populations effectively determines length and quality of life.”¹ When these resources are not distributed evenly across populations, health burdens fall more heavily on those lacking the resources.

Health Equity is a model to help explain the role of the social determinants of health on overall population health (see figure [here](#)).

Social factors combined with health factors interact to affect the health of our population. For example, in Colorado the percentage of adults who are overweight or obese is higher among residents with less than a high school diploma compared to those who graduated college.²

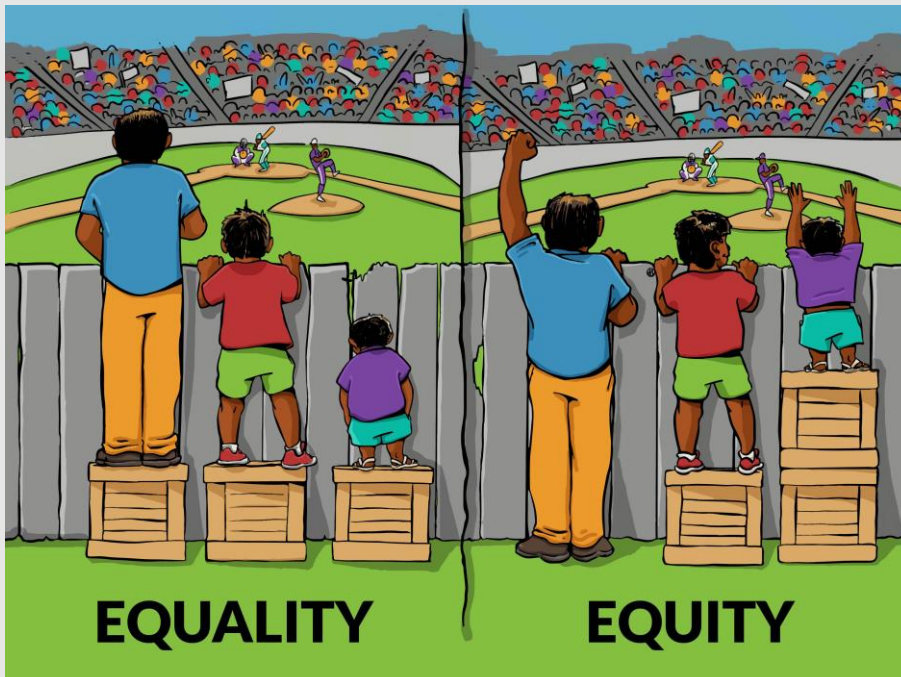
Education Level for Colorado Overweight and Obese Adults

CDPHE Vision Tool 2016²



<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/vision-data-tool>

The Different of Equality vs. Equity



“The difference between equity and equality is that of three individuals of different heights who are attempting to peer over a fence. In order to treat them equally, they would all be given the same size box to stand on to improve their lines of sight. However, doing so wouldn't necessarily help the shortest person see as well as the tallest person. In order to give equitable treatment, each person would need to be given a box to stand on that would enable a clear view over the fence.”³

[Milken Institute of Public Health, George Washington University](#)

Social Determinants of Health

The social determinants of health are the conditions in which we are born, we grow and age, and in which we live and work. The factors below impact our health and wellbeing.⁴

[NHS Health Scotland](#)



Childhood experiences



Housing



Education



Social support



Family income



Employment



Our communities



Access to health services

WCPHP and Health Equity

The WCPHP recognizes that health inequity exists within our region. Region 10 stakeholders identified priority populations including: **early childhood and youth, elderly, immigrants, low income residents, LGBTQ, and geographically isolated residents.**

The WCPHP is gathering regional level data from focus groups to better understand our unique health inequities and identify strategies to mitigate these challenges. Preliminary analysis of existing Latino focus group data shows that access to care (see access to care handout) is a primary concern for members of the Latino community in Region 10.

Currently the WCPHP is part of the Health Equity Action Team lead by the [Valley Food Partnership](#) in Montrose. This focus of this work is to build capacity and leadership in the region to address health equity.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment created an [online data tool](#) that displays state level population health data broken down by age, sex, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, education level, poverty level and insurance type. It provides a high level understanding of how different populations have differing health outcomes.

- » [Health outcomes such as length of life and quality of life](#) are determined by factors such as Health Behaviors, Social and Economic Factors, Clinical Care, Physical Environment and Genes and Biology. An estimated 40% of health outcomes are a result of social and economic factors.⁵
- » [Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACEs\)](#) have been linked to risky behaviors, chronic health outcomes, low life potential and early death.⁶

Health Equity in Our Strategies

- » Increasing health equity, advocacy, and capacity in all of our priority areas.

For more information:

Social Determinants of Health

<https://www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/>

CDPHE Office of Health Equity

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/ohe>

Community Commons

<https://assessment.communitycommons.org/Footprint/>

CDPHE Vision Data Tool

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/vision-data-tool>

CDPHE Health Equity Model

https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/CHAPS1_Health-Equity-Model-and-Summary.pdf

QUESTIONS?

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Health Equity Sources

1. S. James in Promoting Health Equity: A Resource to Help Communities Address Social Determinants of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2008
2. Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment, VISION Tool. Data by Demographics. <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/vision-data-tool>. Accessed March 20, 2018.
3. Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University. What's the difference between equity and equality? <https://publichealthonline.gwu.edu/blog/equity-vs-equality/> . Accessed July 31, 2018.
4. NHS Health Scotland. The right to health. <http://www.healthscotland.scot/health-inequalities/the-right-to-health>. Accessed August 1, 2018.
5. County Health Rankings. What is health? <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/what-is-health>. Accessed July 15, 2018.
6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Adverse childhood experiences ACEs. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/index.html> . Accessed July 15, 2018.