

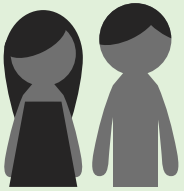
WHAT IS

# 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. To achieve health equity, we must treat everyone equally and eliminate avoidable health inequities and health disparities.

## HEALTH EQUITY FRAMEWORK

Social, economic, and environmental conditions affect health in a number of ways. Learn more from the framework below:



**Social Conditions**  
Social inequities occur when a person or group is treated unfairly because of race, gender, class, sexual orientation, or immigration status.



**Economic Conditions**  
Institutions such as governments, churches, corporations, or schools use their authority to create unequal opportunities among groups of people.



**Environmental Conditions**  
Where you live affects your health. Lower income neighborhoods tend to be in poor social, economic, and physical conditions.



**Health Behaviors**  
Smoking, poor nutrition, and lack of exercise are all behaviors that may lead to poor health. Social, economic, and environmental conditions affect health knowledge and health behaviors.



**Disease or Injury**  
Chronic disease or injury can result from inequities and health behaviors. Genetics also affect health differences.



**Mortality**  
Your social status, economic opportunities, where you live, and health behaviors all affect life expectancy.

AFFECTED BY ACCESS TO  
QUALITY HEALTHCARE

Health inequities are differences in health that are avoidable, unfair, and unjust.

Health disparities are differences in health among groups of people.

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Access to quality healthcare is one key in reducing inequities and disparities, but health is more than just disease or illness. Health Equity will be achieved when everyone is given the opportunity to reach their full health potential.

Learn more about the Health Equity Institute at San Francisco State University: <http://healthequity.sfsu.edu>

Note: Framework adapted by HEI from the Bay Area Regional Health Inequities (BARHI) Framework