Health Equity, Defined

When every person has the opportunity to attain their full health potential. When no one is disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances.

Equality

Equity

Justice

Why Racism is Important in COVID-19

Racism

Social Determinants of Health

Co-Morbid Conditions

COVID-19 Incidence & Outcomes

IMPARTS

Emerging Inequities in COVID-19

- Increased rates of hospitalization and death in Black, Hispanic and Native American communities
- Higher prevalence of COVID-19 disease among those of low socioeconomic status
- Notable increase in xenophobia and bias towards Asian Americans
- Higher risk of infection in prisons, group homes, and residential treatment facilities

COVID-Specific Threats to Health Equity

Living and working circumstances make social distancing challenging for some (e.g., undocumented people, the LGBTQ community, survivors of IPV).

Inequitable access to COVID-19 testing

Undocumented immigrants and uninsured people have limited access to public safety nets.

Strategies to Provide Equitable Care During COVID-19

Confront Bias with Proven Upstander Techniques

Direct

Directly address biased behavior. Advise the person that their behavior is biased or ask them to clarify their meaning/intent.

Distract

Disrupt a biased interaction by mentioning or doing something unrelated. Consider using when there is a concern for violence.

Delegate

Ask another person to help you address the biased behavior.

Delay

Wait until a safer/more appropriate time then address biased behavior.

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Increase Access to Community-Based Testing

Design and Conduct Studies with Community Input and Participation from Inception

Advocate: Ask policymakers to ensure that all pregnant people have access to care, that health care workers have the resources they need to stay safe, and that pregnant people are included in COVID-19 research.

"Nothing about us without us"

To accommodate social distancing, many healthcare services are being offered via computer or telephone. Yet, some people may have difficulty accessing services this way (e.g., people with disabilities or people without broadband internet access).

Provide Equitable Care

- Recognize racism is at the root of inequities
- Screen for social determinants of health
- Ask about:
  - ability to safely social distance
  - availability of cleaning supplies
  - access to internet/data for virtual visits
  - Screen more frequently for IPV and safety
- Identify key community resources:
  - Food banks or pantries
  - Housing assistance
  - Infection mitigation supplies (e.g., masks, sanitizer)
  - Intimate partner violence services
- Provide information in the language that your patient speaks, reads, or understands.
- Increase capacity for care for vulnerable populations (i.e., increase provider, nursing, social service resources)

Remain Vigilant in Collecting Clinical, Quality & Safety Metrics

Data should be stratified by age, race, ethnicity, gender/gender identity, payor, employment status, and preferred language.

Collect COVID-specific outcomes such as testing access and hospitalization rates.

For more information, visit SMFM.org/COVID19