

HEALTH EQUITY REPORT

Wood County, Wisconsin

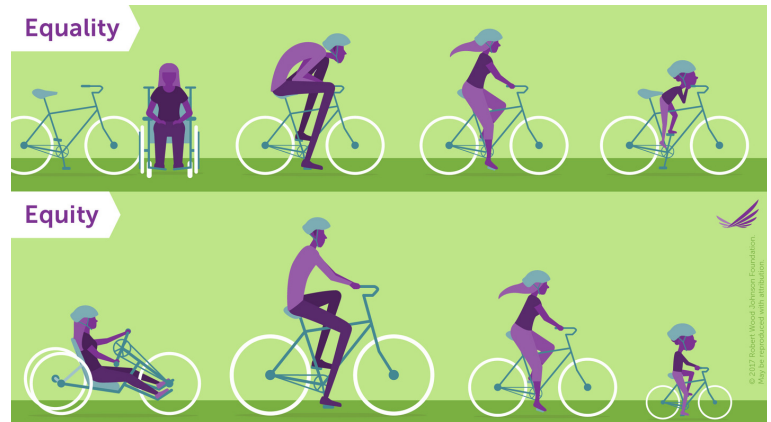
What is health equity?

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation defines health equity as "...everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care."¹

Health equity is seen as both a process (and its determinants) **and as an outcome** (eliminate disparities and its determinants).¹

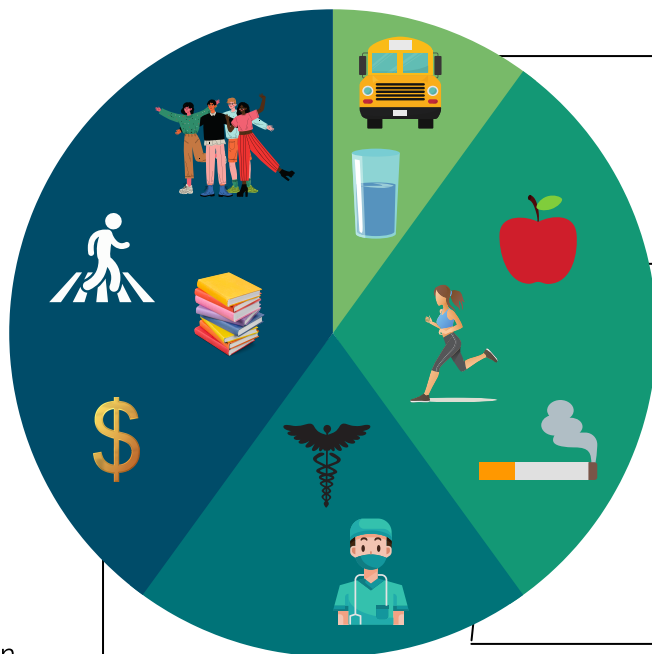
What are health disparities?

"The differences in health or in the key determinants of health, such as education, safe housing, and discrimination, which adversely affect marginalized or excluded groups."¹



Health is more than health care!

It starts where we live, learn, work, and play.²



Physical Environment 10%

Where people live, learn, work, and play. The air people breathe, water they drink, houses they live in, transportation to school or work.

Health Behaviors 30%

Actions people take that affect their health. These actions can have positive or negative effects on someone's health.

Clinical Care 20%

Access to affordable, quality, and timely health care can help prevent disease and diagnose illness sooner, which help people live longer and healthier lives. Looking at clinical care allows public health to learn why some communities are healthier than others.

Social & Economic Factors 40%

Income, education, employment, community safety, and social supports significantly affect how well and long someone lives. These factors also affect someone's ability to make healthy choices, afford medical care, housing, and much more.

Scan to learn more about what makes us healthy.



Wood County - Health Inequity Data

Childhood Poverty

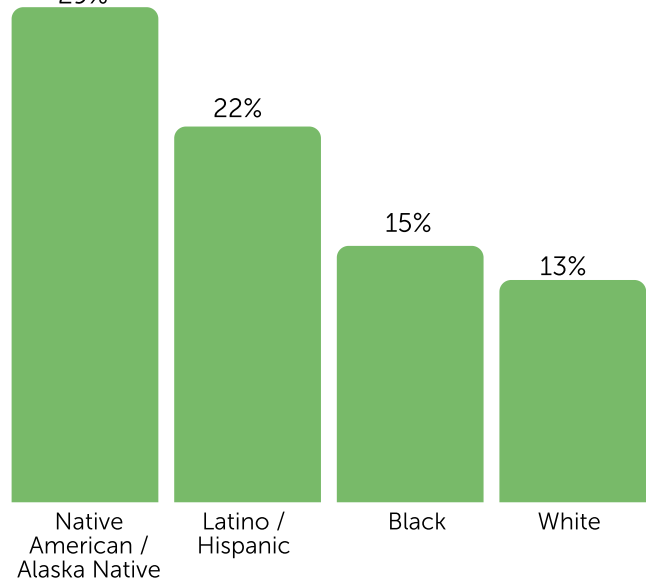
The US Census Bureau defines poverty by a "set of dollar value thresholds that vary by family size," but poverty can be defined in many different ways, such as looking at socioeconomic status (SES).³ Poverty is found in all age groups and demographics in the United States; however, poverty during childhood is an indicator of current and future health. Childhood poverty influences academic achievement, health, and future income as an adult. Research has shown that children from low-income families have increased risk of injuries and chronic diseases, such as asthma, obesity, diabetes, ADHD, behavior disorders, cavities, and anxiety compared to children from high-income families.⁴

The data presented below shows the percentage of all children in Wood County living in poverty and percentages based on race.

15% of Wood County children live in poverty²



Percentage of children living in poverty compared by race.²

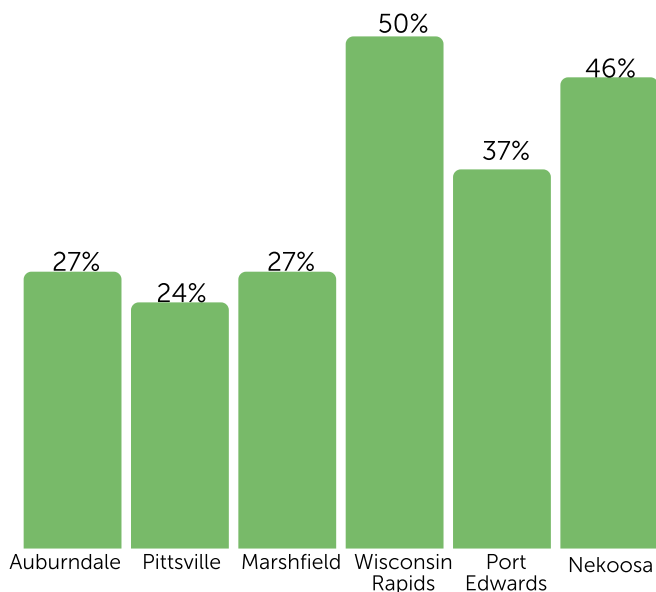


Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is a problem among children in Wisconsin. Food insecurity is defined as "a lack of consistent access to enough food...to live an active and healthy life." There are many different causes of food insecurity, such as loss of a job or unexpected bills. Not everyone who faces food insecurity qualifies for federal assistance and relies on local food banks.⁷

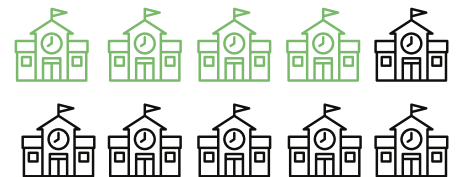
Children who experience food insecurity can face consequences such as, their ability to learn. Wisconsin has programs within schools to help combat hunger in children.

Percentage of Free & Reduced Lunch in Wood County School Districts⁶



16% of Wood County children are food insecure⁵

4 Wisconsin Rapids public schools have 100% Free & Reduced Lunch. 3 are Elementary Schools.⁶



Learn more about food insecurity here!



DPI free & reduced lunch data here!



Public Health's role in achieving health equity

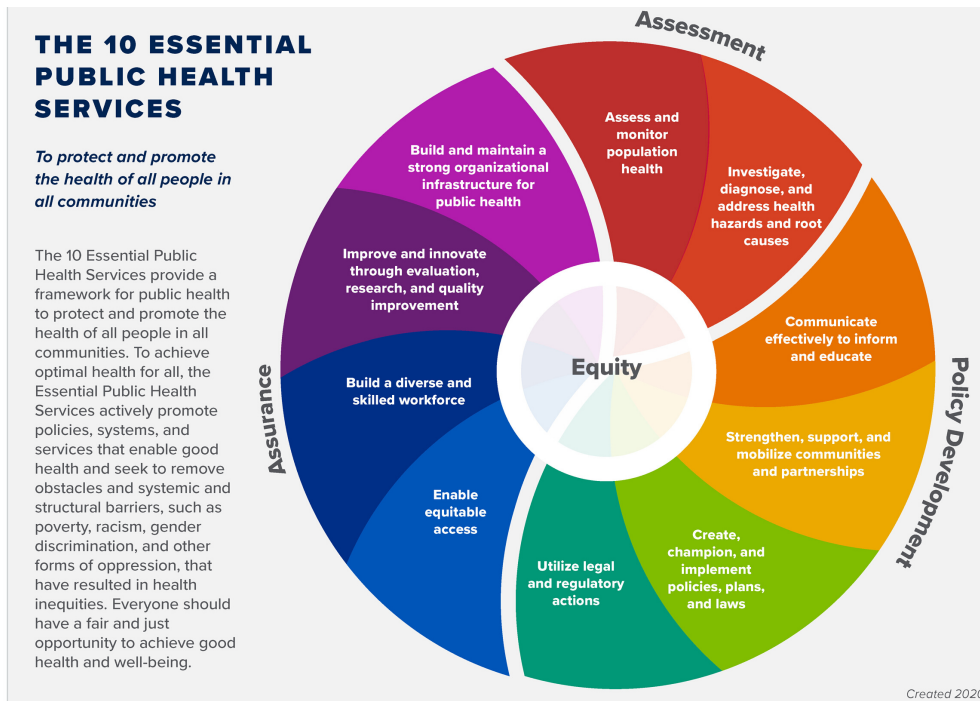
How do health disparities emerge?

Health disparities emerge when some individuals gain more than others from consistently better access to opportunities and resources over the course of their lives. Increasing opportunities for everyone can reduce gaps in health and make our entire community healthier.

How can we achieve health equity?

Achieving health equity requires working together as a community to eliminate poverty, racism, discrimination, and powerlessness, while also improving access to and availability of social, economic, and environmental opportunities.

The 10 Essential Public Health Services is a framework for public health workers to "protect and promote health for all people in all communities". To achieve equity, the framework promotes policies, systems, and overall community conditions that ensure everyone is as healthy as possible by removing systemic and structural barriers that create health inequities.⁸



Achieving Health Equity - Your role

Individuals/Communities

Advocate for improved political, social, and economic policies and programs that improve the health of the most vulnerable population, families, and communities.⁹

Schools

There are many ways those who work in education can take action on health equity. A few are:

- support expert recommended policies that minimize expulsion of students
- learn about implicit bias in schools and how to fight it
- promote opportunities to help high-risk kids stay in school and graduate
- Support LGBTQ+ students needs¹⁰

Health or Healthcare

There are many ways those who work in healthcare can take action on health equity. A few are:

- adopt new screening tools to identify nonmedical factors that influence health
- create ways to prevent bias that influence medical care
- understand how adverse childhood experiences impact people and use trauma-informed care¹⁰

Learn more about how to achieve health equity scan QR codes below:





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Document sources:

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