ABOUT THE HOPE MEASURES PROJECT

The Health Opportunity and Equity (HOPE) Measures project, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, was launched to start a new conversation about the opportunity gap and to develop metrics that can be used to chart progress towards health equity. Led by National Collaborative for Health Equity and Texas Health Institute, working in collaboration with Virginia Commonwealth University’s Center on Society and Health, the HOPE Measures project has two primary goals: (1) reframing the health disparities conversation in the context of health equity and opportunity, and (2) developing a set of broadly accessible measures that illustrate the gaps in opportunities that shape health.

WHAT ARE THE HOPE MEASURES?

A national resource of health equity benchmarks and indicators designed to spur action at multiple levels across a broad range of stakeholders to improve health and well-being for all in the U.S.

Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. Health disparities are differences in health or its key determinants that adversely affect marginalized groups. Narrowing disparities is how we measure progress toward health equity.

WHAT MAKES THE HOPE MEASURES UNIQUE?

The HOPE Measures build on and complement existing data resources to offer a set of measures explicitly focused on advancing health equity across the nation and within states and communities. They uniquely provide:

- **An Opportunity Framework**: a positive, asset-oriented approach which examines opportunities to improve both health outcomes and the conditions that shape health such as income, education, safe neighborhoods, clean air, and others.

- **Data Disaggregation**: data on the magnitude of disparities and distance to go to achieve health equity by race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status (SES) at the finest level of detail the data allow.

- **Health Equity Benchmarks**: aspirational, yet achievable benchmarks for advancing health equity.

- **Distance to Go**: progress that the nation, region, or state will need to make for its populations to meet the benchmark.

WHAT MEASURES ARE INCLUDED IN HOPE?

The HOPE Measures include 28 indicators of health and opportunity that span the life course:

- **Health Outcomes**: non-disease specific general health and mortality measures

- **Socioeconomic Factors**: preschool enrollment, education, income, employment

- **Physical Environment**: homeownership, housing quality, air quality, food access

- **Social Environment**: neighborhood poverty, safety, and crime

- **Access to Health Care**: health insurance, primary care access, care affordability

WHAT DO THE HOPE MEASURES TELL US?

The HOPE Measures provide a snapshot of the nation’s progress toward health equity. They also offer metrics to track and compare progress within and across states, overall and for specific race, ethnic, and SES groups. In doing so, these measures can help states: identify strengths and gaps in...
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