

BETTER HEALTH FOR ALL IN SOUTH DAKOTA

The first step to building a good & healthy South Dakota is to ensure everyone has the basics to live the healthiest life possible. Creating opportunities for health, identifying disparities, and removing obstacles and their consequences are key to achieving **HEALTH EQUITY**.

Equality



Equity



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Factors that impact a person's health and well-being include income, education, housing, access to healthy foods, access to health care, and more.

Social & Economic

28.2% of SD adults have less than a high school degree

Environmental

64 of SD's 66 counties are considered rural or frontier

Health Behaviors

21% of SD adults are not physically active

Access to Care

11% of SD residents under 65 years of age are uninsured

ACTION STEPS

- ▶ **BUILD ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY** Organizations can engage in practices that influence their impact on health equity. Practices such as staff training, resource distribution, and staffing decisions impact public health.
- ▶ **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** Involve community members in health initiatives to foster relationships, improve assessment efforts, build capacity to positively affect the community, and enhance sustainability.
- ▶ **ESTABLISH AND FOSTER PARTNERSHIPS** Engage a diverse sector of partners to collectively achieve equitable outcomes by leveraging diverse skills and expertise.
- ▶ **UNDERSTAND HEALTH EQUITY** Understand inequities that exist to establish baselines, monitor trends over time, inform partners where to focus resources, and ensure strategies address the needs of populations experiencing health inequities.
- ▶ **HEALTH EQUITY FOCUSED EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGIES** Ensure strategies have a deliberate focus on health equity and include supportive activities to address barriers or unintended outcomes underserved populations may face.
- ▶ **EVALUATION** Focus on health equity in evaluation efforts and use culturally appropriate tools and methodologies. Health equity oriented evaluation can reveal trends in health inequities.

LEARN MORE

Visit doh.sd.gov/healthequity to learn more about health equity in action in South Dakota

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: cdc.gov/healthequity

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: rwjf.org

Health Equity Institute: healthequity.sfsu.edu

