

BPHE Health Equity Framework - Accessible Version

Institutions of power (government agencies, corporations, laws, etc.) have historically created and can create inequities based social factors (class, race/ethnicity, immigration status, gender, sexual orientation, age, and more), usually through discrimination. These institutional inequities impact living conditions, including physical environment (land quality and use, housing, transportation, residential segregation, toxin exposure), the social environment (experience of class, racism, gender, and immigration through culture, ads, media, and violence), the economic and work environment (employment, income, businesses, occupational hazards), and service environment (education, social services, and health care access). These living conditions impact health behaviors, which both can lead to disease and injury that ultimately impact quality of life and life expectancy.

Policies that address inequities at the source (institutions of power) are most effective, but policy can improve health outcomes in any domain. Public health can impact these domains of health through strategic partnerships with schools, businesses, and community organizations to create and advocate for equitable access and services. Public health can improve living conditions through community capacity building, community organizing, and civic engagement. Public health can also improve health behaviors through individual health education and promotion. All of these factors impact quality of life and life expectancy for our community.