

## **Definition of Health, Health Disparities, Measurement and Epidemiology**

**Title:** What Are Health Disparities?

**Content Area:** Definition of health, health disparities, measurement, and epidemiology

**Citation or URL:** <http://healthdisparities.nih.gov/whatare.html>

**Brief Description:** This website, developed by the National Institutes of Health provides an introduction to and definition of health disparities. In addition, six areas that the Department of Health and Human Services has targeted in an effort to reduce racial /ethnic disparities are introduced: infant mortality, cancer screening and management, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV infection/AIDS, and immunizations.

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**Title:** Addressing Health Disparities: The NIH Program of Action

**Content Area:** Definition of health, health disparities, measurement, and epidemiology

**Citation or URL:** <http://healthdisparities.nih.gov/welcome.html>

**Brief Description:** This website introduces the National Institutes of Health's program of action for reducing health disparities. Information is available about the NIH's definition of health disabilities, as well as the agency's goals and objectives for reducing health disparities. The NIH's strategic action plan (2002-2006) for reducing health disabilities can be downloaded. Resources and links to other agencies involved in health disparities research are also provided. Additional information can be found at the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities website (<http://ncmhd.nih.gov/>), a center within the NIH. The NCMHD was created, by legislative mandate, in 2000 to lead, coordinate, support, and assess the activities of the NIH with regards to reducing health disparities and promoting minority health.

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**Title:** Health Disparities and the Body Politic: Policy, Research, Data, & Government Responsibility

**Content Area:** Definition of health, health disparities, measurement, and epidemiology

**Citation or URL:** <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/disparities/index.html>

**Brief Description:** The Harvard School of Public Health sponsored three international symposia, addressing current international issues in health disparities. The first symposium (3/05) focused on the Government's Role in Addressing Health Disparities. The second symposium (4/05) focuses on Investigating Health Disparities: New Agendas for National Health Research Institutes. The third symposium (5/05) focuses on Making Disparities Count: From Government Statistics Systems to Action. On the Harvard School of Public Health's website, webcasts of each of the symposium can be viewed, related articles for each symposium can be downloaded, and brief vitas including relevant publications for each of the presenters can be accessed.

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**Title:** National Healthcare Disparities Report (2003)

**Content Area:** Definition of health, health disparities, measurement, and epidemiology

**Citation or URL:** [http://qualitytools.ahrq.gov/disparitiesreport/download\\_report.aspx](http://qualitytools.ahrq.gov/disparitiesreport/download_report.aspx)

**Brief Description:** The National Healthcare Disparities Report was developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The 2003 report was the first national effort to measure differences in the access and use of health care services by various populations. Six priority groups were identified: Low-income groups, racial and ethnic minorities, women, children, the elderly, and people with special health care needs (including children with special needs, people with disabilities, people in need of long-term care, and people requiring end of life care). The report focuses on access, use, and quality of health care services for each of these six populations in the areas of: cancer, diabetes, renal disease, heart disease, HIV/AIDS, mental health, respiratory disease, maternal and child health, nursing home and home health care, and patient safety. Recommendations were made for future efforts to reduce healthcare disparities. At the website, faculty and students can download the complete report, or any specific section of interest.

Additional information on the activities on AHRQ can be found at: <http://www.ahrq.gov/>

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