

A Web-Based Course for the Public Health Workforce: Roots of Health Inequity

December 12, 2018

**HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB)
Office of Health Equity (OHE)
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
and**

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)



Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Overview

- Supports more than 90 programs that provide health care to people who are geographically isolated, economically or medically vulnerable through grants and cooperative agreements to more than 3,000 awardees, including community and faith-based organizations, colleges and universities, hospitals, state, local, and tribal governments, and private entities
- Every year, HRSA programs serve tens of millions of people, including people living with HIV/AIDS, pregnant women, mothers and their families, and those otherwise unable to access quality health care



HIV/AIDS Bureau Vision and Mission

Vision

Optimal HIV/AIDS care and treatment for all.

Mission

Provide leadership and resources to assure access to and retention in high quality, integrated care, and treatment services for vulnerable people living with HIV/AIDS and their families.



Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

- Provides comprehensive system of HIV primary medical care, medications, and essential support services for low-income people living with HIV
 - More than half of people living with diagnosed HIV in the United States – more than 550,000 people – receive care through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP)
- Funds grants to states, cities/counties, and local community based organizations
 - Recipients determine service delivery and funding priorities based on local needs and planning process
- Payor of last resort statutory provision: RWHAP funds may not be used for services if another state or federal payer is available
- 84.9% of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program clients were virally suppressed in 2016, exceeding national average of 59.8%



Source: HRSA. Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Annual Client-Level Data Report 2016; CDC. HIV Surveillance Supplemental Report 2016;21(No. 4)



Agenda

- Objectives and Expectations
- Background of Roots of Health Inequity Web-based Course
- Unit Activity and Discussion
- Question and Answer Session

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this presentation, you will be able to:

- Understand importance/benefit of the Roots of Health Inequity course
- Understand health equity and how it relates to your work
- Understand the social justice approach to public health

Roots of Health Inequity

An Introduction to NACCHO's Health Equity and
Social Justice Online Course

Gretchen Weiss
Director, HIV, STI & Viral Hepatitis
National Association of County and City Health Officials

NACCHO
National Association of County & City Health Officials

About NACCHO

- The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is the national organization representing the nearly 3,000 local health departments across the country.
- NACCHO strives to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local health departments.
- Our efforts focus on promoting health and equity, combating disease, and improving the quality and length of all lives.

A Focus on Root Causes

Health inequities are...

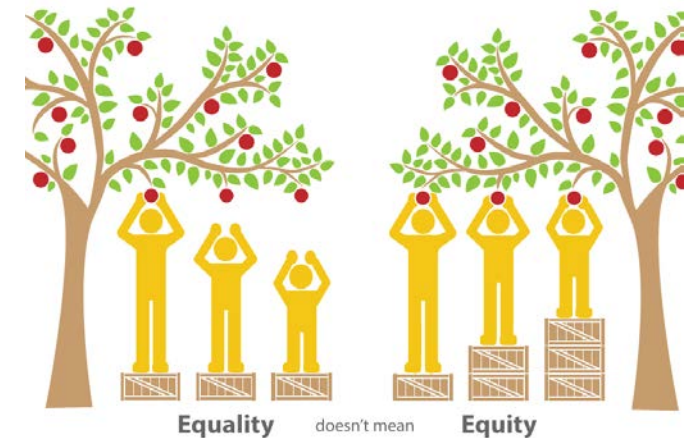
Differences in the distribution of disease, illness, and death that are systematic, patterned, unjust, actionable, and associated with imbalances in political power.¹

vs. health disparities, or the differences in health outcome

Health equity is...

Assurance of the conditions for optimal health for all people.²

vs. equality



¹ Margaret Whitehead, "The Concepts and Principles of Equity and Health," Intl JI of Health Services 3 (1992): 429. [paraphrased]

² Dr. Camara Jones, MD, MPH, PhD

A Focus on Root Causes

Root causes

- Underlying social injustices that have accumulated over a long history that cause or drive health inequities
- Derive from fundamental social disadvantage, based on imbalances in political power or privilege¹
- Racism, class oppression, and gender inequity

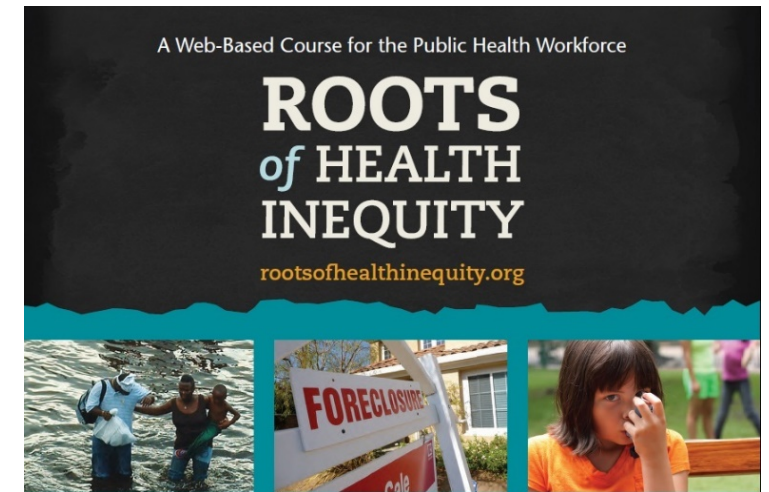
Social determinants of health

- The results of injustice that produce the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age
- Examples: lack of education, limited access to transportation, accessibility of healthy foods

¹ Richard Hofrichter, “Health Inequity: A Charge for Public Health,” white paper, NACCHO Annual, July 2016.

About the Course

- An educational website and collaborative learning course for current and future public health professionals
- Offers a starting place for those who want to address systemic differences in health and wellness that are actionable, unfair, and unjust
- Came about from the need expressed by public health practitioners for assistance in tackling the root cause of health inequities
- Funded by the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institutes of Health and the California Endowment



About the Course

- Interactive and customizable
- You can participate as a group or as an individual
- Signing-up is free and you can get started any time
- Register at <https://members.rootsofhealthinequity.org>

The screenshot shows the registration page for the "ROOTS of HEALTH INEQUITY" course. The page has a dark header with the NACCHO logo and the course title. Below the header, there are links for "Create new account", "Log in", and "Request new password". The main content area is titled "Welcome, please log in." and includes a brief description of the course. On the left, there are two registration forms: "Account information" and "Personal information". The "Account information" form has a field for "E-mail address" with a note about its use. The "Personal information" form has fields for "First Name", "Last Name", "Organization", and "Organization Type". On the right, there are two sidebar sections: "Help Guides" and "About the Course", each with a list of links.

NACCHO

ROOTS of HEALTH INEQUITY A Web-Based Course for the Public Health Workforce

[Create new account](#) | [Log in](#) | [Request new password](#)

[Home](#) > [Welcome, please log in.](#) > Welcome, please log in.

Welcome, please log in.

"The Roots of Health Inequity" is an online course for the public health workforce. This course contains five units that present different aspects of social justice as it relates to public health. Each unit provides an in-depth look at a specific topic by using interactive maps and timelines, slideshows, resource libraries, videos and interviews with practitioners.

Account information

E-mail address *

A valid e-mail address. All e-mails from the system will be sent to this address. The e-mail address is not made public and will only be used if you wish to receive a new password or wish to receive certain news or notifications by e-mail.

Personal information

First Name *

Enter your first name.

Last Name *

Enter your last name.

Organization *

Enter your organization.

Organization Type *

N/A

Choose an organization type

Help Guides

Download these visual help guides to learn how to use this online course.

Main Features of this Course

- [Create & Lead a Group](#)
- [Navigating the Units](#)
- [Index of Course Units](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

About the Course

Learn more about the course here.

Technical Requirements

- [Continuing Education](#)
- [About This Project](#)
- [Contact NACCHO](#)
- [Preview The Course](#)
- [How To Register](#)

Roots of Health Inequity provides...

- A conceptual frame that links social justice to public health practice
- Resources and insights learners can share with others
- Reflections and actions for confronting health inequities
- Opportunities to collaborate and strategize with colleagues across the country

Course Overview

Roots of Health Inequity is organized into five units:



1: Where do we start?



2: Perspectives on framing



3: Public health history



4: Root causes



5: Social justice

And offers:

- Case studies, interactive/multimedia activities, voices from the field, and ways to move through the content at your own pace and design

Course Overview

West Harlem's Battle for Clean Air

In the 1950's, the City of New York quietly decided to build a massive sewage treatment plant in West Harlem. The plant protected the Hudson River, but its air pollution made nearby residents sick. Fed up with the community's skyrocketing rates of asthma and other respiratory diseases, residents formed a coalition to confront the disturbing history behind the plant's placement and construction.



WE-ACT

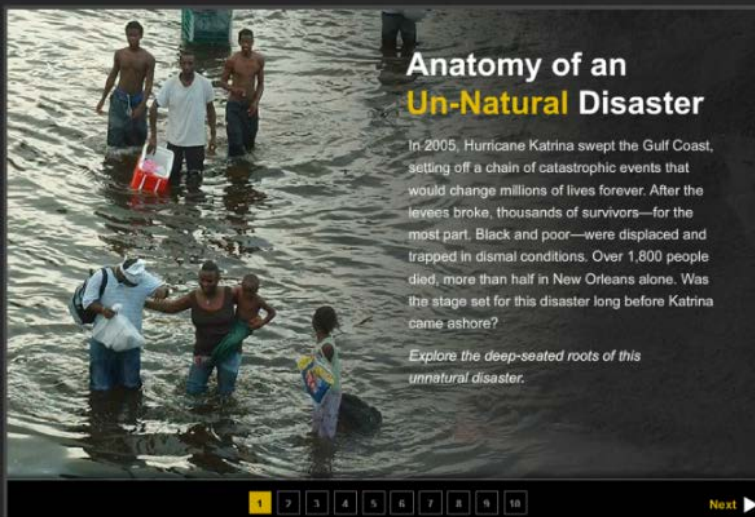
[Listen to Their Story](#)

[Download Audio File »](#)
(MP3 File)

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(PDF File)

Peggy Shepard, Chuck Sutton, and Vernice Miller (not pictured) co-founded the community group West Harlem Environmental Action (WE-ACT).











Anatomy of an Un-Natural Disaster

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina swept the Gulf Coast, setting off a chain of catastrophic events that would change millions of lives forever. After the levees broke, thousands of survivors—for the most part, Black and poor—were displaced and trapped in dismal conditions. Over 1,800 people died, more than half in New Orleans alone. Was the stage set for this disaster long before Katrina came ashore?

Explore the deep-seated roots of this unnatural disaster.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Next ▶

 <p>11 PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIAL</p>	 <p>12 PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIAL</p>	 <p>13 PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIAL</p>
<p>ANSWER</p> <p>The water is toxic because of the presence of chemical X. The LHD will investigate the health effects of this chemical, closely monitor the levels of chemical X in the water, supply bottled water or filtering systems in places where the level poses a risk, and provide information to area physicians who will be the most likely to encounter patients suffering from the effects of chemical X.</p> <p>REVEAL QUESTION </p>	<p>ANSWER</p> <p>Chemical X entered the water through a leak in a holding pond at the XYZ Mine. The LHD will work with other government agencies to require the company to fix the leak, fine them for the release, closely monitor future safety procedures, and ask the company to pay for the required clean-up.</p> <p>REVEAL QUESTION </p>	<p>ANSWER</p> <p>The water is toxic because pressure for jobs allowed industry to develop without adequate government regulation, corporate structures valued short-term profits over long-term community safety. The people who lived nearby were poor and without the political power to draw attention to what was happening. The LHD will organize residents to research mining methods that do not use chemical X and facilitate a campaign to reduce reliance on energy sources that use chemical X in the mining process.</p> <p>REVEAL QUESTION </p>

Join Discussion

Format

B I U

REVEAL QUESTION

↑

REVEAL QUESTION

↑

Switch to plain text editor

→ Input format

Save

Comments (1)

Geoffrey (Geof) S...
3 days 18 hours ago

reply

Reset flags

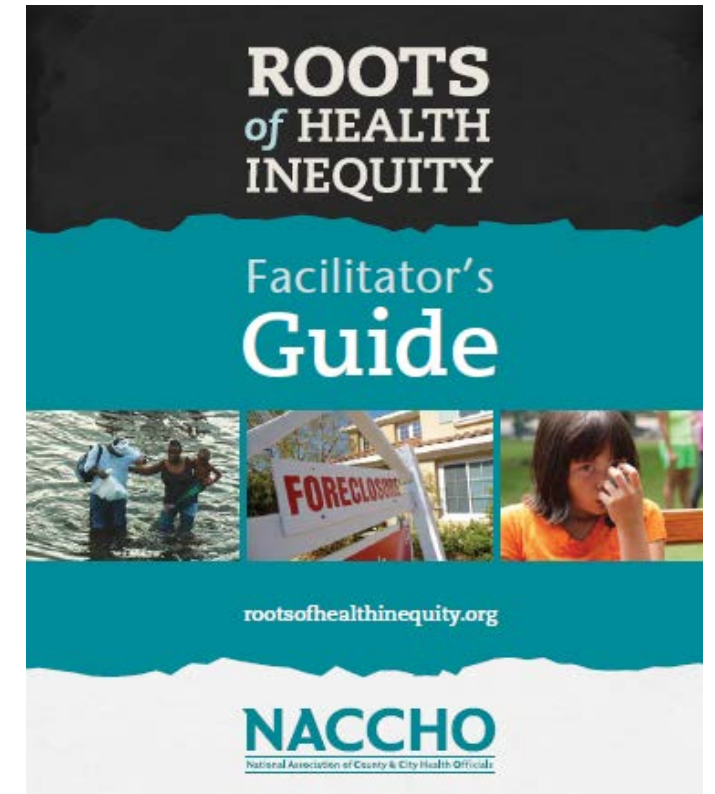
1. The first two approaches to "water is toxic" are more remedial, the third is more of a social justice approach.

2. In some ways, this reminds me of the "5 Whys" approach to problem-solving. Why-1: Why is the water toxic? Because there is a chemical in it. Why-2: Why is there a chemical in it? Because there was a leaky pipeline. Why-3, Why-4, eventually Why-5: Because of societal conditions that allow the chemical plant to be located in a poor neighborhood, have poor oversight, etc, etc. To me, public health has limited itself in the past to things that were clearly related to basic pathophysiology and epidemiology, but now with calls to go continually further "upstream" (social justice approach) it's clear that we must stop limiting ourselves in these regards, and claim the bigger, more upstream picture as a legitimate - and essential - part of our practice.

Course Overview

The Facilitator's Guide includes..

- Information for each unit of the course
- Tips for getting started
- Directions for forming a learning group
- Guidance and tools to support facilitation of social justice discussions



Course Participants

Over 1,000 new users per month, including:

- Local and state health departments
- Healthcare organizations
- Academia
- Federal agencies (HRSA)
- Community-based organizations
- Faith-based organizations
- NACCHO

- NYCDOHMH Center for Health Equity conducted the course with 100+ staff
- In-person kickoff meeting held for all staff participating in the course
- NACCHO trained facilitators to lead in-person debriefs after completion of each unit and held regular TA calls with facilitators

ROOTS of HEALTH INEQUITY

is an online learning collaborative and educational resource that offers a starting place for those who want to address systemic differences in health and wellness that are actionable, unfair, and unjust.



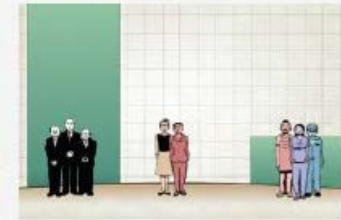
Our Purpose

Roots of Health Inequity offers concepts and strategies that could lead to effective action on health inequities. The curriculum prompts participants to reflect on how our institutions structure the possibilities for health and wellness.



Why It Matters

Public health can reach the heart of the matter: the core social injustices associated with class exploitation, racism, and gender inequity. Advances can occur by thinking differently about possibilities for practice.



Why Now

A wealth of research has documented the deep connection between lived experience, social injustice, and inequities in rates of mortality, morbidity and life expectancy among different groups. Recent data demonstrates a staggering and growing degree of social and economic inequality in the United States, not seen since the Great Depression.

The New York City Center for Health Equity Learning Group

Based on a social justice framework, the *Roots of Health Inequity* introduces public health practitioners to concepts and strategies for taking action in every day practice. The CHE will use the learning collaborative to explore a social justice

NACCHO's Southern Initiative

- Supported by the Secretary's Minority AIDS Initiative Fund and administered by HRSA's HIV/AIDS Bureau
- Aims to improve HIV outcomes and reduce disparities among minority populations in the South
- Staff from the four organizations participating in the project are taking *Roots* to:
 - Increase awareness of health inequities and social injustices impacting health outcomes
 - Increase capacity to engage and serve minority populations
 - Address social, structural, economic, and environmental issues impacting implementation and success of clinical and behavioral interventions to improve HIV outcomes

Activity from the Roots of Health Inequity Course

Gem Daus, Office of Health Equity

Sonya Gray, HIV/AIDS Bureau

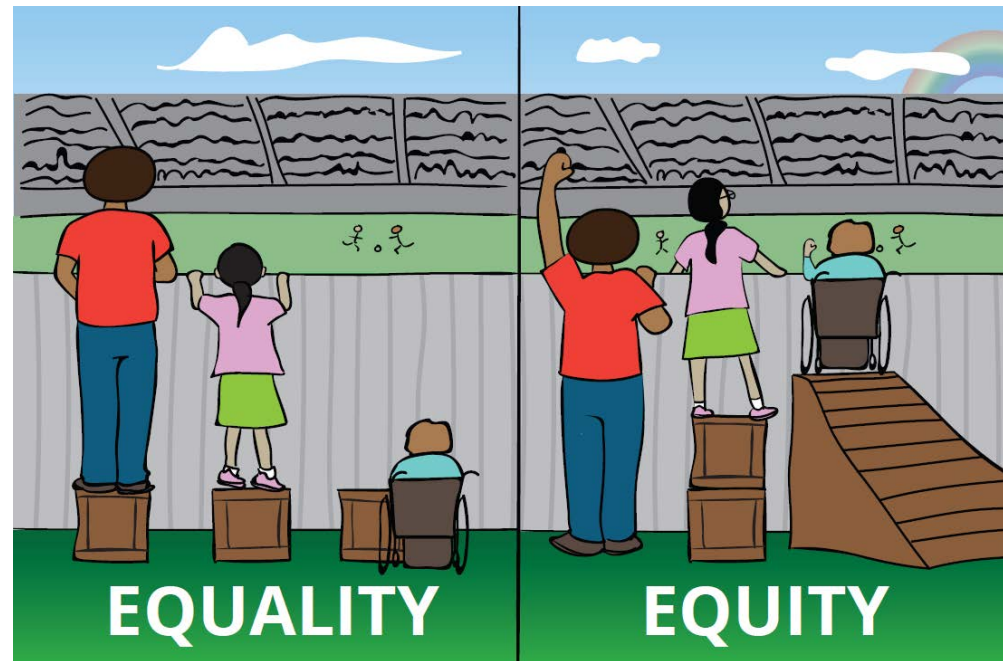
Chrisp Perry, Office of Health Equity

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)



Discussion Question

What is health equity to you?



Activity – Framing

How Language Choices Affect Meaning

Here is how NACCHO would group and categorize these phrases, based on the organization's assumptions about the focus and scope of public health work. Evaluate how your learning group's responses compare to NACCHO's, and, in the comments space below, walk your group members through your reasoning.

DIRECTIONS: The visible column represents elements of the current approach to health equity. Click the arrow to reveal the NACCHO and an alternative approach to health equity.

CURRENT APPROACH		HEALTH EQUITY APPROACH
vulnerable population – focuses on people rather than institutions or societal factors that generate risk	➤	
factor/social problem – reflects an individualistic approach; focuses on discrete facts or problems that mask the role of structures, systems, or social causes	➤	
lifestyle – assumes that individuals are responsible for change	➤	
risky behavior – assumes that individuals are responsible for poor health outcomes, overlooks societal factors that create harm	➤	
risk assessment – asking whether a chemical, for example, is safe or not avoids the broader question of whether that chemical is necessary at all	➤	
find a cure for cancer – is targeted to individual people and does not address cause(s)	➤	
intervention / treatment – is targeted to individual people and does not address cause(s)	➤	

Discussion Questions

- Did the activity on framing have any overlap with the work your currently engaged in within your jurisdiction?
- What health equity approach to public health are you using in your jurisdiction?

Activity – The Social Justice Approach to Public Health

Elements and Characteristics of this Approach

What are the characteristics of a social justice approach to public health practice? How do we identify injustices and the root causes of inequity, and how do we develop effective strategies to tackle them? In this activity you will reflect on some features of your overall approach to public health practice. You will explore how a social justice perspective for eliminating health inequity might inform and influence that practice.

DIRECTIONS:

Place your cursor over an image to see the title of a social justice approach. Then click on the image to read a detailed description of that approach in the right column.



THE SOCIAL JUSTICE APPROACH TO PUBLIC HEALTH

In this activity you will reflect on some features of your overall approach to public health practice. You will explore how a social justice perspective for eliminating health inequity might inform and influence that practice.

Explore how your own LHD's approach has influenced its practice and explore ways to design strategies that more effectively address health inequities through a perspective grounded in principles of social justice.

DIRECTIONS:

Begin the activity by mousing over an image. A description of the current image will appear in addition to a link to the social justice approach. Click on link to see a brief statement about actions that might be taken within a social justice perspective.

Reminder About The Roots of Health Inequity

- This is an educational website and collaborative learning course for current and future public health professionals. The course is free and open to everyone.
- Website:
<http://www.rootsofhealthinequity.org/>

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LOGIN | FAQs | Resources | Site Requirements | Home

ABOUT PROJECT | ABOUT COURSE | PREVIEW INTERACTIVES | HOW TO REGISTER | SITE CREDITS | LEARN MORE CONTACT

ROOTS
of HEALTH
INEQUITY

NACCHO presents
The Roots of Health Inequity
A Web-Based Course for the Public Health Workforce
[LEARN MORE »](#)

1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6

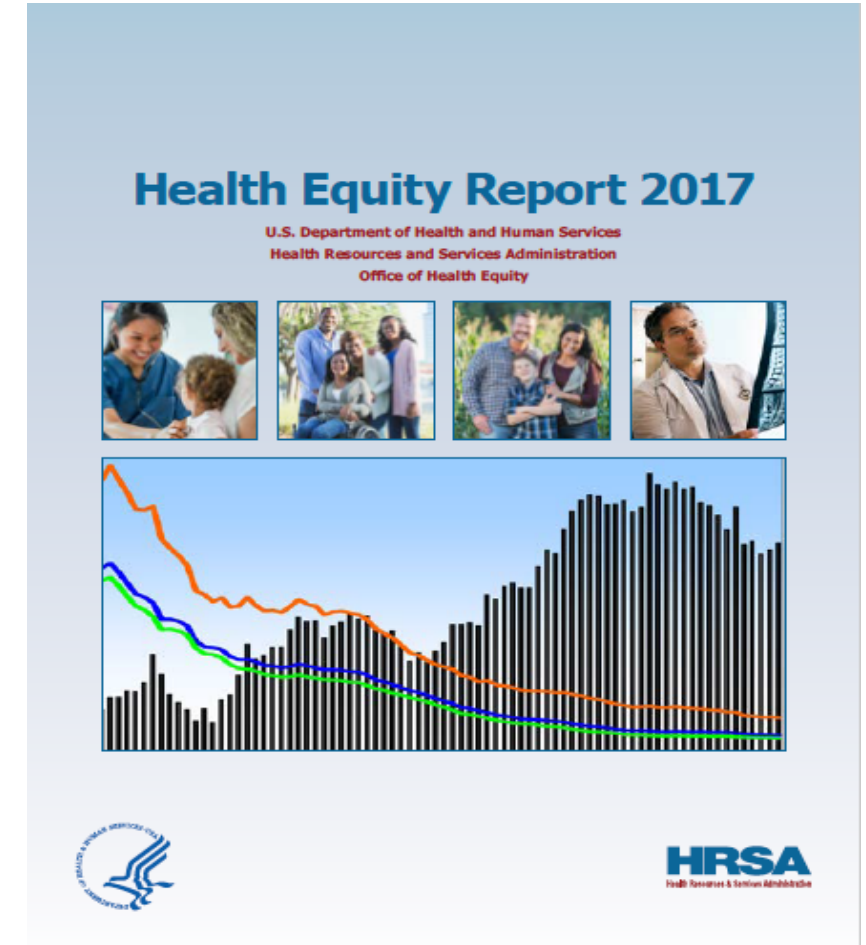
What's in this Online Learning Collaborative?
As part of the Roots of Health Inequity Learning Collaborative, participants will be able to:

- Explore social processes that produce health inequities in the distribution of disease and illness.
- Strategize more effective ways to act on the root causes of health inequity.
- Form relationships with other local health departments who are working to ensure health equity.

ENTER
ROOTS
COURSE
SITE

HRSA's Health Equity Report

- Comprehensive analysis of HRSA's program efforts in reducing health disparities and promoting health equity for various populations at the national, state, and local levels.
- Addresses HRSA's key strategic plan goals of improving access to quality health care and services, strengthening the health workforce, building healthy communities, and improving health equity.
- Trends in health disparities and improvements in health equity are presented for a number of program areas, including maternal and child health, primary health care access and quality, health care systems, HIV/AIDS, mental and behavioral health, chronic disease prevention and health promotion, health workforce, and rural-urban and geographic disparities.



Questions?



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