

LIVE HEALTHY SOUTH CAROLINA

Health for All



WHY HEALTH EQUITY MATTERS

- Health Equity gaps continue to undermine opportunities for economic and social development in our communities across South Carolina.
- Chronic Health Conditions discriminate, and tend to be more common and/or more severe among vulnerable, underserved, and other disadvantaged groups.
- Differences in health outcomes still exist.
- Diverse factors are more likely to be community-specific, including socio-economic conditions, race, ethnicity and culture.
- Additional factors impacting health include access to care, a built environment that supports physical activity, neighborhoods with accessible and affordable nutritious food, well-designed housing, transportation that enables vulnerable groups to connect with services and support systems.
- Culturally appropriate health information is available.

WHAT IS HEALTH EQUITY?

Health Equity is **providing every person with the same opportunity to be healthy** –regardless of their race, gender, age, economic conditions, social status, environment, and other socially determined factors.

EQUITY IS:

- Understanding where people are coming from and give them what they need to be healthy

EQUITY IS NOT:

- Ensuring that that everyone has the same things to be successful.
- Standardized treatment across the board

OUR MISSION

Improving Health Equity through our State Health Improvement Plan Priorities. The State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) outlines priority areas and includes strategies to improve the health of all people in South Carolina. It is a tool for healthcare professionals, government agencies, community-based organizations, advocates, academicians, policy makers, and other stakeholders to use to catalyze action that well leverage resources and focus work towards measurable improvement.

The SHIP builds on the work of many coalitions and organizations across South Carolina. **The collaborative health improvement model outlined in the SHIP accomplishes the following goals:**

- **Provide an extensive review of evidenced-based strategies that can improve population health**
- **Create a focus on improving everyone's health**
- **Align state-level leaders from many sector's**
- **Call to action for state and communities**

STATE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN PRIORITIES AND COALITIONS

Behavioral Health

The Behavioral Health Coalition is collectively committed to improving the mental health and well-being of everyone in our state. This group meets quarterly and has provided a set of recommended actions to improve the care and outcomes of South Carolinians suffering with mental illness and/or substance use disorders.

Support sustainable partnerships and systems for Behavioral Health Care (Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders).

Chronic Health Conditions

ScaleDown actively works to educate, engage, and mobilize partners to help make the healthy choice the easy choice through the implementation of the State Obesity Plan. The Diabetes Advisory Council focuses on awareness, education and treatment of diabetes. The South Carolina Tobacco-Free Collaborative works to prevent and eliminate tobacco use.

Together mobilize action to encourage healthy lifestyles and environments to prevent Chronic Health Conditions (Obesity, Hypertension, Heart Disease, Stroke and Diabetes).

Resilient Children

The South Carolina Child Well-Being Coalition is a group of state and local members committed to working collectively to mitigate the effects of poverty on children. There is also a strong focus on education and health to support improved outcomes. Many partners are working together to improve access and coverage of children and families to close the equity gaps.

Collectively create safe and supportive environments for Resilient Children (Adverse Childhood Experiences, Trauma and Resiliency).

Healthcare Transformation

Efforts to address Healthcare Transformation are led by the Alliance for a Healthier South Carolina. The Policy and Advocacy Team was formed to systemically address policy and advocacy work to support better health outcomes across the state. An Access and Coverage Brief was released to support this work.

Systematically address health care to improve access and coverage (Access to Care, Coverage, Workforce Development, Integrated Health Care and Informed Consumer Decisions)

Factors that Affect Health

The Alliance for a Healthier South Carolina's Health Equity Action Team is working to develop a South Carolina Health Equity Action Plan to support the Live Healthy SC State Health Improvement Plan and the South Carolina Office of Rural Health Action Plan to generate movement across the state.

Actively address Factors that Affect Health (Social Determinants, Health Equity and Health Disparities), such as housing, education, income, transportation, broadband access, etc.

Actions Supporting Change

1. Increase community awareness about health equity.
2. Promote the need for partners and communities to make health equity a priority.
3. Share valid reasons to expend resources to reduce and eliminate equity gaps.
4. Use lessons learned from local and state efforts.
5. Aim to achieve improvements among vulnerable groups by allocating resources in proportion to need to close the gaps.
6. Promote equity-based policies and practices.