

## Resources & Websites

Kent County Health Department/Health Equity:  
Video - "Framing Social Determinants of Health in  
Kent County"  
<http://www.accesskent.com/Health/HealthEquity/>

Michigan Department of Community Health:  
Health Disparity Reduction and Minority Health  
[http://michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2940\\_2955\\_2985-110249--,00.html](http://michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2940_2955_2985-110249--,00.html)

National Association of County and City Health Officials:  
Health Equity and Social Justice  
<http://www.naccho.org/topics/justice>

Roots of Health Inequity:  
Free Web-based Course for Public Health Workforce  
<http://www.rootsofhealthinequity.org>

Unnatural Causes:  
A seven part documentary series exploring racial and  
socioeconomic inequalities in health.  
[www.unnaturalcauses.org](http://www.unnaturalcauses.org)

These guidelines, developed by  
the Kent County Health Department, are adaptable  
for all health and human service agencies.

# COMMUNITY HEALTH EQUITY



# GUIDELINES

Of all the forms of inequality,  
injustice in health is the most shocking  
and the most inhumane.

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

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**HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT**  
*Caring today for a healthy tomorrow*

## Awareness and Capacity Building

Staff will understand that health equity assures the opportunity of optimal health for all people.

Staff will build capacity at all levels of decision making to promote community solutions for ending health inequities.

Staff will maintain current knowledge on health equity issues in order to understand the social, behavioral, environmental and biological /genetic determinants of health.

Staff will examine the effects of racism, classism, sexism and other forms of oppression in the development and implementation of public health programs and interventions.

Staff will pursue grants focused on reducing/eliminating health inequities and targeting community conditions that create barriers to attaining optimal health.

Staff will actively seek input from the populations served when planning new programs, setting new programmatic priorities, and designing written publications/educational materials.

## Working and Collaborating with Communities

Staff will create messages and use communication mechanisms tailored for specific audiences across their lifespan in order to improve health outcomes.

Staff will incorporate health equity messages in meetings and presentations.

Staff will implement health promotion strategies to protect the population from preventable health conditions.

## Education

Staff will seek new collaborations and partnerships with groups focused on health and human services, human rights, civil rights and social advocacy in order to promote health equity.

## Building Alliances and Coalitions

## Monitoring, Surveillance and Evaluation

Staff will utilize current local, state and national data to increase awareness of the impact of health equity on our community's health.

