Health Equity Leadership & Exchange Network

“Campaign for Advancing Health Equity”

Daniel E. Dawes, Esq.
Morehouse School of Medicine
What’s the problem?

Oftentimes, health disparities result from:

Failing to develop, review, analyze, and implement laws, policies, and programs utilizing a health equity lens.
Policy is a driving force for many health inequities ...

- Laws and policies have been developed without regard to the impact they would have on minorities and other marginalized groups.

- Laws and policies have been implemented without considering the impact to health equity.
Why the urgency?

- Health law and policy is an evolving area and will have serious implications for vulnerable populations over the next decade.

- Recently, several key pieces of federal legislation were passed by Congress that were designed to have positive health implications for underserved populations.

- The extent to which health policies are implemented or implemented appropriately remains questionable and sometimes disconcerting.

- The implementation of the ACA and other health laws and policies offer a critical opportunity to realize the goal of achieving health equity throughout our country. However, the success of the health equity provisions, like other health policies and laws, depends on whether they are implemented and implemented well.

- With growing diversity relative to ethnicities and cultures it is imperative to identify, develop, promulgate, and implement health laws, policies, and programs that will advance racial and ethnic health equity.
Why the urgency to act?

- It has been difficult to coordinate a cohesive and sustainable campaign around health equity.

- Little has been done to:
  - comprehensively, trans-disciplinarily, and collaboratively coordinate health equity leadership,
  - exchange timely and essential information, and
  - generate or actualize health equity strategies and approaches at the local, state, regional, and national level.

- Need to engage racial and ethnic minority communities and organizations, which often have limited resources to meaningfully address the inequities experienced and observed.
Paving the Way to Eliminating Health Disparities in the United States: A 30 Year Snapshot

1984: HHS Sec. Margaret Heckler established the Task Force on Black and Minority Health.

1985: The Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act was passed.

1985: Secretary’s Task Force Report on Black and Minority Health released.

1986: The Office of Minority Health is created at HHS.

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1990: The Office of Research on Minority Health was created.

1991: Congress gives $1,000,000 support to health disparities research at CDC.

1992: The Minority Health Initiative was launched and allocated $45 million in funding.


1999: CDC’s REACH program is created.
Paving the Way to Eliminating Health Disparities in the United States: A 30 Year Snapshot

2000: HP 2010 released under the Clinton Administration

2000: The Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education Act of 2000 was signed into law.

2001: Surgeon General releases report – Mental Health: Culture, Race, and Ethnicity.


2003: The NIH Strategic Research Plan and Budget to Reduce and Ultimately Eliminate Health Disparities was issued.
Paving the Way to Eliminating Health Disparities in the United States: A 30 Year Snapshot

2010: Health Reform becomes law.

2010: HP 2020 released under the Obama Administration.


2014 and Beyond

D. Dawes 3/10/14
Minority Health and Health Disparities Legislation

The Trend
Federal Health Disparities Bills
Project Objective:

To establish a national health equity leadership and exchange network to bolster health equity leadership and exchange of ideas and information among communities of color relative to the advancement of health equity in laws, policies, and programs.
Collaborative Effort
National Health Equity Leadership & Exchange Network (HELEN) will:

- Recruit at least 100 national groups and organizations to participate in the project.
- Provide a forum for health equity champions to share information about timely, relevant, and pressing policy issues impacting health equity.
- Actively inform and monitor the development, implementation, promotion, and impact of local, state and national health laws, policies, and programs on racial and ethnic health equity.
- Provide a mechanism to research, analyze, summarize, and disseminate information for education and bi-directional exchange of information to engage people in a broader dialogue on policies impacting health equity.
- Include culturally tailored messaging for outreach and education efforts that help to increase understanding and demystify legislative and regulatory processes - employing a health equity lens to analyze health laws and policies.
Some specific activities ...

- Create federal and state health policy analyses, which utilize a health equity lens to help champions understand where the challenges in advancing health equity policies lie.

- Develop 50 state and U.S. territory surveys, fact sheets, tracking charts, matrices, and briefs on select issue areas discussing the economic impact and legal/policy implications.

- Develop fact sheets on ACA specific programs/initiatives, ie.. health equity provisions, delivery system reforms, PCORI, grants, etc.
Some specific activities ...

- Online library where HELEN participants are able to access:
  - information analyzing federal and state policies,
  - featured proposed and existing health equity legislation, regulations, statutes, executive orders, FAQs, bulletins, etc.,
  - featured innovative health disparities research, and
  - featured health policy tools, articles, and other informative resources.

- Online forum and interactive map of the United States that provides information on:
  - health equity champions in each of the 50 states and U.S. territories;
  - laws, policies and programs impacting health equity;
  - economic impact of health disparities in each state, and
  - member surveys on key health policy issues.

*The map will serve as a tool for networking and exchanging ideas and information.*
To become a member of the Health Equity Leadership & Exchange Network (HELEN)

Visit:
www.reachcoalition.org/HELEN

Email:
HELEN@reachcoalition.org

Call:
202.434.4850