



# Health Equity in Action

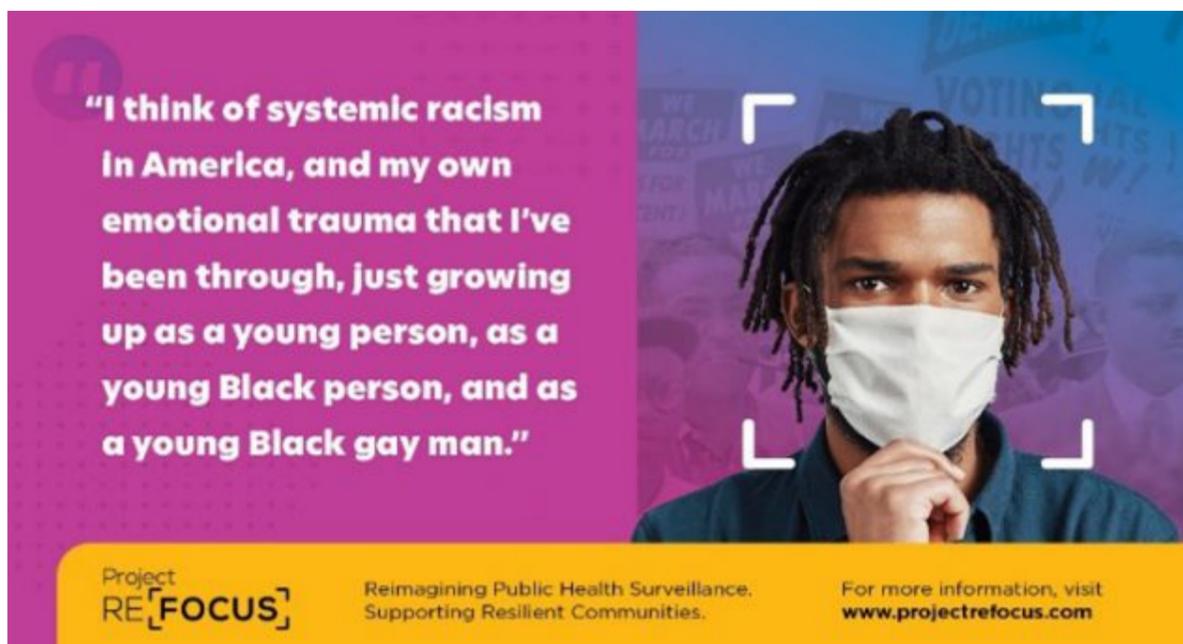
Updated Apr. 1, 2022

**Alternate Languages:** [Español](#) | [简体中文](#) | [Tiếng Việt](#) | [한국어](#)

Health equity is achieved when everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain their highest level of health. We all have a role to play to address injustices and overcome obstacles to health and health care. During the COVID-19 response, CDC continues to focus its health equity efforts on populations placed at higher risk for COVID-19 and other severe outcomes. Learn more about CDC's work with funded partners to help reduce health disparities related to COVID-19 by reading the project showcases below.



Visit the [CDC COVID-19 Response Health Equity Strategy](#) to learn more.



## Project Spotlight

**Project REFOCUS (Racial Ethnic Framing of Community-Informed and Unifying Surveillance)**

**Population of focus:** Racial and ethnic minority groups, LGBTQ+ community, community health workers

**Purpose:** Develop a novel set of tools that communities can use to monitor and address how stigma and racism affect COVID-19 disparities. The goal is to create a more effective response to

COVID-19 and other public health crises in a community.

Support public health practitioners in monitoring the presence, spread, and impacts of COVID-19-related stigma on historically marginalized, racialized, and disproportionately affected populations.

Leverage community-based efforts and organizations by providing tools, technical assistance, and education to trusted essential and frontline workers (for example, community health workers, pharmacists, doulas, and social workers) who work, live in, and represent the communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

Engage ethnic media to collaborate and share best practices for delivering messages to communities of concern, while offering the views of the community to be considered and honored in community-based work. More on [Project REFOCUS](#)



**Project Description:**

- Project REFOCUS (PR) is partnering with pilot communities to build their capacity to better understand the drivers of each community's unique challenges and to create a more effective response to those drivers. Project REFOCUS has developed tools that not only monitor COVID-19, but also the concurrent indicators of racism and stigma in communities heavily affected by COVID-19. Specific tools include:
  - A data dashboard that tracks COVID-19 outcomes, racism, stigma, and other social determinants of health
  - A mechanism for local input to the dashboard that includes community-defined data or other inputs creating a more complete context for COVID-19
  - A system for signaling a community's real-time challenges (for example, local circumstances or events) that create barriers to COVID-19 mitigation practices
  - Technical assistance with communication tools and plans to respond to real-time signals, including guidance on engaging ethnic media during crises
- Lessons learned from pilot sites will result in recommendations and resources that allow for utilization of PR tools and resources by communities across the United States

#### Early impact/Lessons learned:

- Stigma limits the potential of communities of color to thrive during a pandemic. Monitoring social exposures to stigma can identify critical constraints to addressing root causes of COVID-19 inequities among disproportionately affected populations.
- Media coverage may lack an intersectional approach to understanding how structures of race, class, sexuality, and gender condition how marginalized populations engage with and respond to risk and crisis messaging.
- Surveillance approaches used to monitor COVID-19 and other health conditions may unintentionally make socially marginalized populations more likely to be harmed (for example, incarceration, deportation, and loss of jobs). Yet surveillance and monitoring systems are vital tools for achieving public health goals, including COVID-19 prevention and control. Surveillance is a powerful tool. It has the potential to support community-driven efforts to identify and address barriers to equity that harm communities that have been racially or ethnically marginalized. The aim of community-informed surveillance is to provide community members the information needed to advance their health equity agendas without doing unintended harm. It emphasizes community resiliency and minimizes the potential for the surveillance strategies that harm racially or ethnically marginalized communities directly or indirectly.

**Partners:** Howard University Department of Communication, Culture and Media Studies, UCLA Center for the Study of Racism, Social Justice and Health, CDC Foundation, Georgia State University, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, and Community Campus Partnerships for Health

[Learn More](#)

## COVID-19 Health Equity Projects





Found 56 items.

### Accessible Materials and Culturally Relevant Messages for People with Disabilities

**Populations of focus:** People with disabilities, caregivers of people with disabilities, and organizations serving people with disabilities

**Purpose:** Deliver essential COVID-19 information to people with disabilities, their families, and caregivers. The project helps to ensure that COVID-19 guidelines are not only accessible to people with disabilities, but also that they are culturally appropriate and relevant to the challenges people with disabilities face during emergency response situations

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such as COVID-19. More about [Accessible COVID-19 Resources](#)

**Partners:** CDC Foundation and Georgia Tech Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation

## Addressing COVID-19 Vaccine Access and Confidence Among People with Disabilities



**Population of focus:** People with disabilities, their caregivers, and their families

**Purpose:** Engage a national network of university centers and programs engaged in disability research and outreach to 1) facilitate COVID-19 vaccine conversations, 2) identify barriers to vaccine accessibility, and 3) increase vaccine confidence within the disability community. Project partners share credible COVID-19 vaccination information, respond to misinformation, translate information into accessible formats, and share success stories and lessons learned. Additionally, university partners are engaged developing easy-to-read and accessible vaccine materials (infographics, story boards, graphics) and disseminating these materials through media campaigns within their local communities. More on [Addressing COVID-19 Vaccine Access and Confidence Among People with Disabilities](#)

**Partners:** Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), university centers, and programs on disability

## Addressing COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence through Tribal Health Departments



**Population of focus:** American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people

**Purpose:** Develop and implement a national media messaging campaign for increasing COVID-19 vaccination among AI/AN communities. More on [COVID 19 Tribal Resource Center – National Indian Health Board](#)

(Note: Not all content on this NIHB site is supported by CDC)

**Partners:** National Indian Health Board (NIHB)

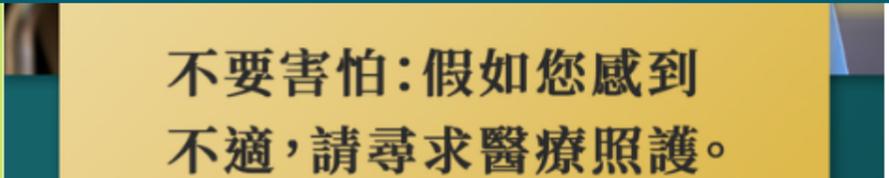
## Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum Forging Partnerships

**Populations of focus:** People from Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (AA and NH/PI) communities who are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 (including disproportionately affected essential workers, multigenerational households, and people with diabetes) in the metropolitan areas of Seattle, Washington and New York City, New York; Northern California; and all islands of Hawaii

**Purpose:** Create (AA and NH/PI) community partnerships to provide translated COVID-19 messages to meet the unique needs, strengths, and preferences of the communities.



## COVID-19



**Partners:** Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum, Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs, Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations, Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health, Pacific Islander Center of Primary Care Excellence, Pacific Islander Community Association of Washington, Papa Ola Lokahi, Progressive Vietnamese American Organization, Southeast Asia Resource Action Center, Tzu Chi USA, and Vietnamese American Roundtable

## Assessment of Mental Health of U.S. Public Health Workers during the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Population of focus:** All people who worked at a U.S. state, tribal, local, and territorial health department for any length of time in 2020

**Purpose:** Assess mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and suicidal ideation among state, tribal, local, and territorial public health workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The project team also looked at risk and mitigating factors for these outcomes and identified organizational resources to support mental health. More on [Symptoms of Depression, Anxiety, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and Suicidal Ideation Among State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Public Health Workers During the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, March–April 2021](#)

**Partners:** Association of Public Health Laboratories, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, and National Association of County and City Health Officials



## Building Resilient Inclusive Communities



**Population of focus:** People with greatest burden of COVID-19 and chronic disease living in rural areas and communities of people from racial and ethnic minority groups, youth, and older adults

**Purpose:** Support state health departments and other organizations to promote healthy living and social connectedness during the COVID-19 pandemic as they work with local communities on improving food and nutrition security, safe access to physical activity, and reducing isolation and loneliness. More on [Building Resilient Inclusive Communities](#)

**Partners:** National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, 15 [DNPAO State Physical Activity and Nutrition States](#) and five [State Physical Activity and Nutrition Ambassador](#) states.

## Campaign to Prevent and Control Infectious Diseases Among Migrant Foreign-born Workers in Protein-Processing Industries

**Population of focus:** People who work in protein processing (meat, poultry, and seafood) and have limited English proficiency, as well as their families, in Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia

**Purpose:** Improve emergency preparedness and response activities among workers by strengthening partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs) and increasing CBOs' capacity to address public health emergencies, including pandemics. More about [Protein Processing Worker Project](#)

**Partners:** Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc., Rebirth, Inc., Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas, Legal Aid Justice Center, and United Food and Commercial Workers Local 27



## CDC Foundation Southern Alliance



**Populations of focus:** African American and non-Hispanic Black people in Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi

**Purpose:** Enlist established and trusted organizations in mobilizing African American and non-Hispanic Black communities at higher risk for COVID-19 illness and death to adopt and sustain COVID-19 preventive and community mitigation strategies.

**Partners:** Albany State University, Jackson State University, Tulane University, University of Mississippi Medical Center, and Xavier University of Louisiana

## Collecting Four Months of Medicine: Stepping up HIV Patient Care During a Global Pandemic

**Populations of focus:** People living with HIV in Namibia

**Purpose:** Ensure more people with HIV receive four months of daily medicine packages. This project also includes updating treatment guidelines to specify how to best achieve multi-month dispensing, and training healthcare providers to implement the process. More about [Namibia Stepping up HIV Patient Care During a Global Pandemic](#)

**Partners:** CDC Namibia, Ministry of Health and Social Services, U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, and Development Aid from People to People



## Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities



[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

@CDCChronic | [cdc.gov/chronicdisease](http://cdc.gov/chronicdisease)

**Population of focus:** Community Health Workers (CHWs)

**Purpose:** Train and deploy CHWs in communities that have been most affected by COVID-19, and populations at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure, infection, and illness, including those who are disproportionately impacted by long-standing health disparities. These CHWs will help build and strengthen community resilience to fight COVID-19 by addressing existing health disparities. More about [Community Health Workers for COVID-19 Response and Resilient Communities](#)

**Partners:** Approximately 70 states, localities, territories, tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, and health service providers to tribes

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## Other Resources

**More on Health Equity**

[Health Equity and Disparities](#)

[Health Equity Guiding Principles](#)

[Racism and Health](#)

[Social Determinants of Health](#)

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What We Can Do to Promote Health Equity

## Vaccine Equity

Equity in Adult Vaccination

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A Guide for Community Partners: Increasing COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake Among Members of Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities  [1.7 MB, 22 Pages]

Spanish: Guía para los colaboradores de la comunidad  [2.8 MB, 23 páginas]

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COVID-19 Vaccine Equity: Best Practices for Community and Faith-Based Organizations  [332 KB, 2 Pages]

## Featured Webinars

Motivate to Vaccinate: National Month of Action for COVID-19 Vaccines (July 8, 2021)

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Promising Practices in Health Equity (June 2, 2020)

## Communications

Print Resources

Posters, guides, checklists

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Resources for Disproportionately Affected Communities