Focusing on Health Equity

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Word Bank

built environment

disparity

health equity

health inequity

public health

social determinants of health

	preventable difference in the burden of disease, injury, violence, or opportunities to achieve optimal health
	when factors like education, income, gender, environment, and ethnicity cause unfair differences in health outcomes
	the human-made environment where people live, work, and play each day
	when everyone has the opportunity to be as healthy as possible
	the science of protecting and improving the health of people and their communities
	the conditions in which people live, work, learn, and play; these can contribute to health inequities

Understanding Health Equity

- Health equity is achieved when no one is disadvantaged from achieving their full health potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances.

- Health equity affects:
  - Length of life
  - Quality of life
  - Rates of disease, disability, and death
  - Severity of disease
  - Access to treatment

- Racial and ethnic minority groups are often disproportionately affected by health inequities
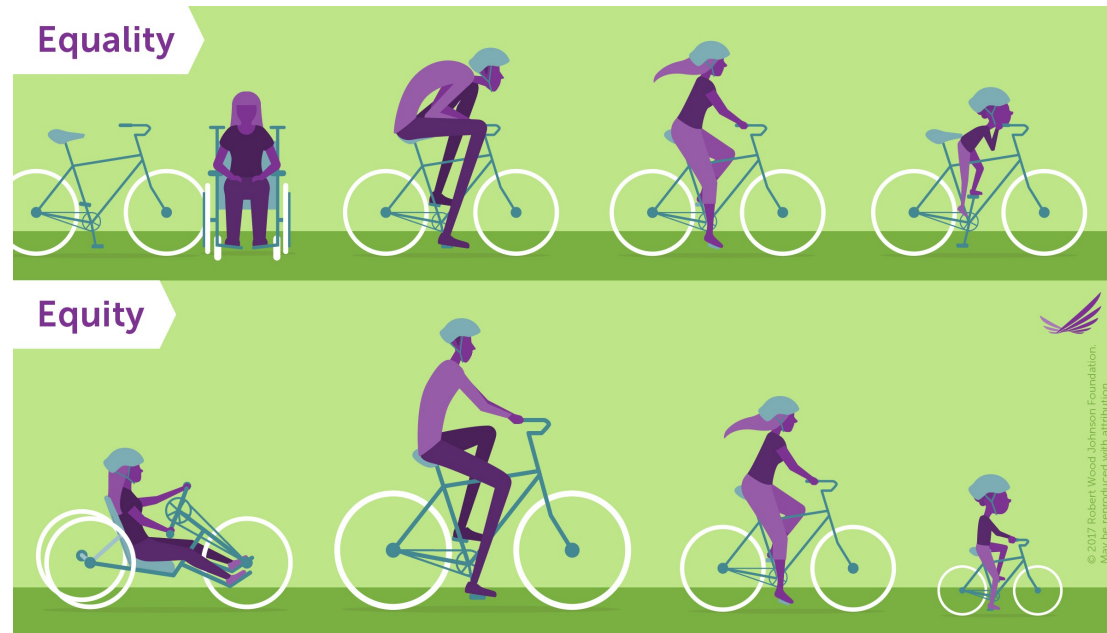
Think About It

1. What are a few reasons why a person might not go to the doctor?

2. How often do you go outside? Do you think this affects your health?

3. How far do you have to travel from your home to find a store that sells affordable fresh vegetables, meat, and fruit? Could you get there on foot or by public transportation if you needed to? Use an online map if you need help.

Health Equity and CDC

- Health equity means that each person gets what they need to achieve optimal health. Some people need more than others to reach the same level of health.

Equality

Equity

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- Disparities are differences in health outcomes that may arise due to health inequities.

Health Equity and CDC

- Social determinants of health are factors that can include **social**, **economic**, and **environmental** conditions in a person's life that have an impact on their health.
  - Healthcare Access and Quality
  - Education Access and Quality
  - Social and Community Context
  - Economic Stability
  - Neighborhood and Built Environment
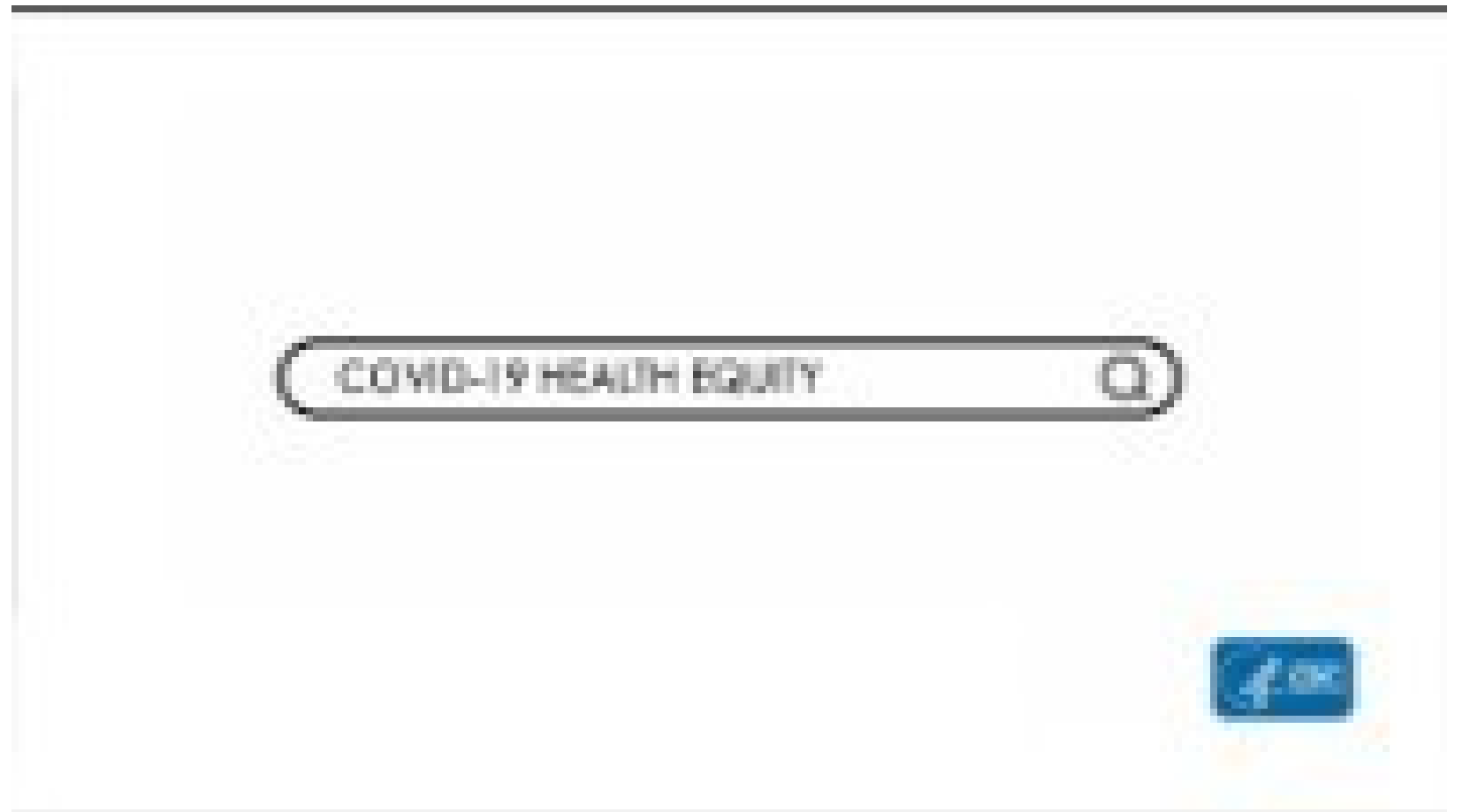- Addressing these factors can help improve overall health

Think About It

1. How does education access and quality connect to other categories of social determinants of health?

2. Describe four reasons why someone might be unable to get medical care.

3. Generational poverty occurs when two or more generations of a family live in poverty. Why do you think the cycle of poverty is so hard for families to break?

From the Experts

Think About It

1. What were some disparities and inequities exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic?

2. What items, features, and services does a person who uses a wheelchair need in their built environment?

3. Property taxes are frequently used to pay for improvements and amenities in the built environment. How does this contribute to poorer community health in lower income areas with lower property values and less tax revenue?

Call to Action!

Examine your built environment

Compare the environments of two different places

Reexamine your built environment

Share your findings

Why do you think participation is important?

Give it a Try

Use the Scientific Method

Ask	Ask a question
Research	Do background research
Hypothesis	Construct hypothesis
Test	Test with an experiment
Analyze	Analyze data
Conclusions	Draw conclusions
Share	Communicate results

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1. Examine Your Built Environment

- Use a built environment checklist to evaluate a place in your community
- You will examine:
    - Walkability/Transportation
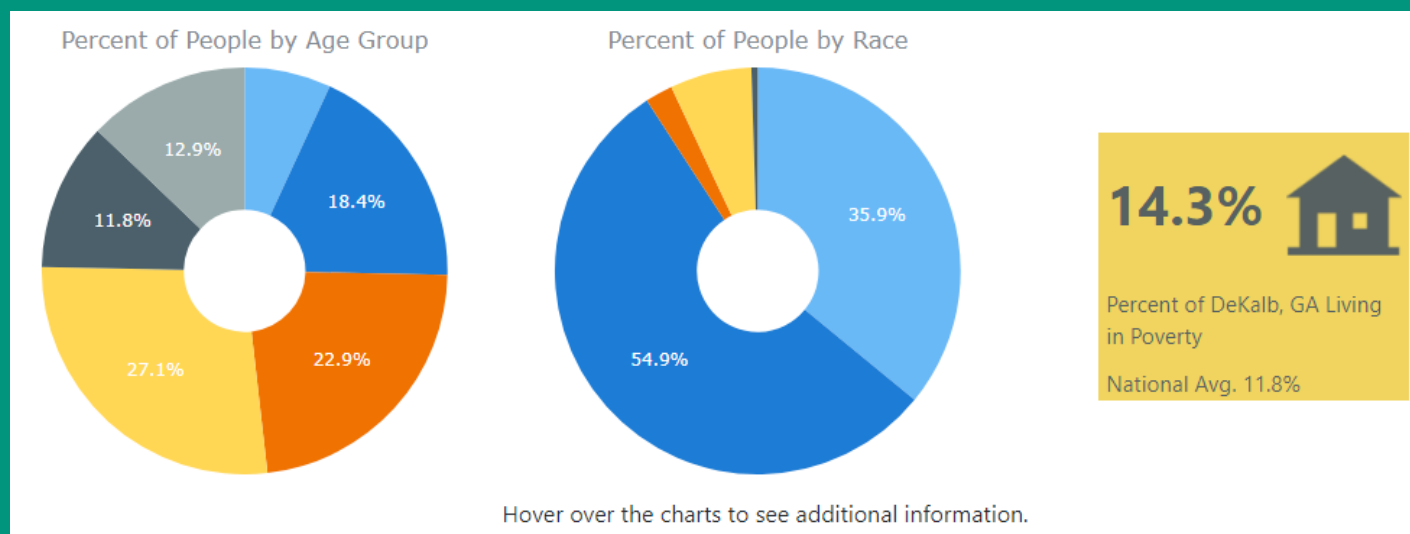   - Amenities
    - Maintenance
    - Facilities

Give it a Try

2. Compare the Environments of Two Different Places

- Use CDC's Environmental Justice Dashboard to collect data on two places with very different median incomes
- Evaluate your data and look for disparities that may have arisen due to each of the five social determinants of health
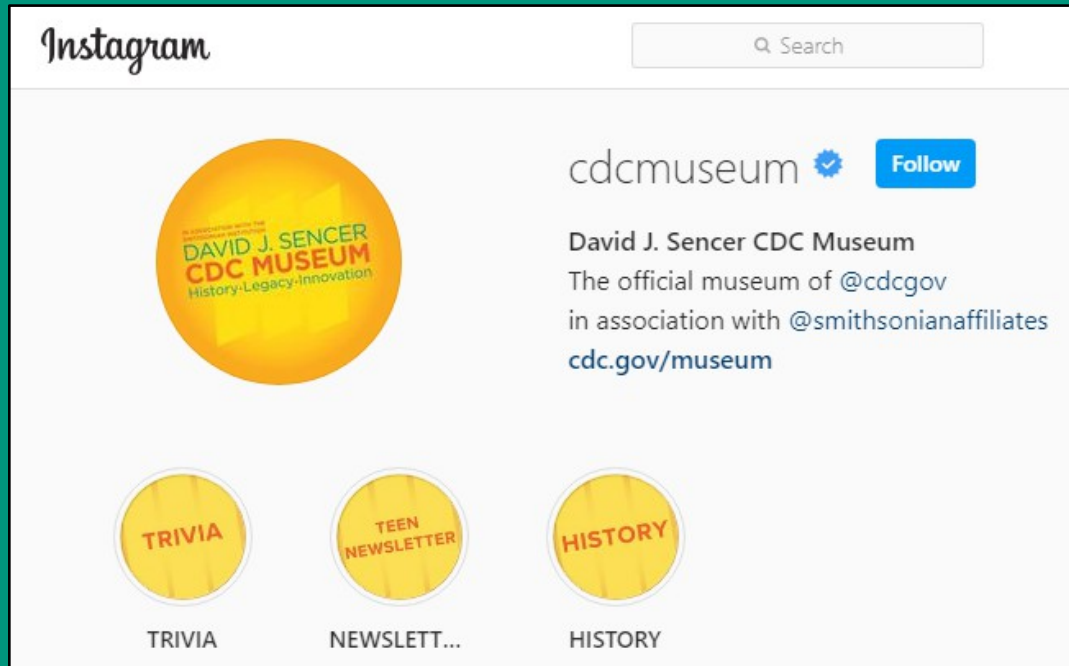
Give it a Try

Percent of People by Age Group
12.9%
18.4%
11.8%
22.9%
27.1%

Percent of People by Race
35.9%
54.9%

14.3%
Percent of DeKalb, GA Living in Poverty
National Avg. 11.8%

Hover over the charts to see additional information.

3. Reexamine Your Built Environment

- Return to the original place you evaluated and look more closely at it
- Think about the environment from different perspectives, not just your own

Give it a Try

3. Share Your Findings

- Instagram @CDCmuseum

Give it a Try

Questions?