

JUNE
2024

COVID-19 Health Equity

TA BULLETIN

This monthly bulletin highlights upcoming technical assistance (TA) events, new resources, trainings, key milestones, and updates for OT21-2103 grant recipients as a part of the *National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities*. You can find a complete list of events under the Events tab on the COVID-19 Health Equity TA website [here](#).

UPCOMING
EVENTS

Novel and Emerging Practice Studies (NEPS): Disseminating Evaluation Studies from Phase 2 OT21-2103 Sites and Public Health Institutes



3:30 PM –
5:00 PM ET

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Hosted by National Network of Public Health Institutes

This webinar will feature three OT21-2103 recipients that implemented novel and emerging practices that were evaluated by public health institutes (PHIs) as a part of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities. Novel and emerging practices are programs, policies, or services that don't have a large evidence-base; novel and emerging practices were newly adapted or implemented for the first time to address COVID-19 health disparities.

The Fundamentals of Equity in Ethics



2:00 PM –
3:30 PM ET

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Hosted by National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Join National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for an engaging two-part virtual training on Health Equity Ethics, which will equip you with the practical knowledge and skills to identify, prioritize, and act on equity issues your community faces every day.

The two sessions will be held on Tuesday, June 4th and Tuesday, July 16th 2 pm - 3:30 pm ET. We designed the trainings so you can join just one, but of course, you will get the MOST out of them if you are able to join both.

Data Sharing in Public Health



1:00 PM –
3:00 PM ET

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Hosted by National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has engaged Scale Strategic Solutions and its team of collaborators to train the OT21-2103 recipients on approaches to data sharing for public health. This training will allow participants to learn data sharing principles and how to utilize tools to address data gaps and assess existing community data.

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UPCOMING
EVENTS CONT.

NACHW Monthly Learning Lab with Island Jurisdictions

Hosted by ASTHO Island Support/ National Association of Community Health Workers (NACHW)

Join the National Association of Community Health Workers (NACHW) as we embark on a series of engaging virtual meetings with island areas health agency staff and community health workers (CHWs)! **Upcoming meetings will take place on June 25th and July 22nd from 8:00-9:00 p.m (ET).** You'll learn about CHW efforts across the island areas, ways to get involved in National CHW Awareness Week, pros and cons of certification, and how NACHW can assist you. Participants will also have access to the Fostering a Culture of Equitable Leadership learning community on my.ASTHO for related resources and peer connections.



8:00 PM -
9:00 PM ET
[REGISTER HERE](#)

Ovation Communication Monthly Learning Lab with Island Jurisdictions

Hosted by ASTHO Island Support/ Ovation Communication

Join Ovation Communication, LLC, on June 26th and July 23rd (ET) for virtual professional coaching to enhance your communication, storytelling skills, and speaker presence! **Atlantic Islands jurisdictions are encouraged to join the 2:00 pm (ET) sessions and Pacific Islands jurisdictions are encouraged to join the 8:00 pm (ET) sessions.** This training is designed to equip island areas health agency staff and community health workers (CHWs) with the necessary skills to effectively communicate your ideas, engage your audience, and make a lasting impact. Participants will also have access to the Fostering a Culture of Equitable Leadership learning community on my.ASTHO for related resources and peer connections.



2:00 PM -
3:00 PM ET
[REGISTER HERE](#)

Reframing Health Disparities in Rural Contexts: New Recommendations and Resources

Hosted by FrameWorks Institute

How might we communicate in ways that sidestep distracting, politicized reactions to wording and focus attention on the work that's needed? NNPHI has partnered with the FrameWorks Institute to explore evidence-based solutions to this shared dilemma. We hope you'll join us for a first look at new framing recommendations and practical resources to help you implement them. This session is only for recipients of the COVID-19 Health Equity grant, to encourage and allow for feedback, questions, and general discussion.



3:00 PM -
4:15 PM ET
[REGISTER HERE](#)

TA RESOURCES



Recommendations for Strengthening Partnerships Between Health Departments and Community-Based organizations

CDC Foundation

This CDC Foundation report was developed with national partners and informed by input from over 144 health department and community leaders. It includes recommendations and resources to strengthen relationships with CBOs along the Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership.

Call for Papers: Rural Health Disparities: Contemporary Solutions for Persistent Rural Public Health Challenges

CDC

The CDC-published journal Preventing Chronic Disease has an open call for manuscript submissions for its collection on rural health disparities. Interested authors must submit an inquiry by July 19th. For more information, please visit the announcement page.

Advancing Health Equity Through Workforce Development: Office of Health Equity Partner Webinar Series

CDC

To achieve health equity, it is important to cultivate and support diverse and culturally responsive public health professionals. Join CDC's Office of Health Equity (OHE) and their partners on **Wednesday, June 5, 3 at 4:30pm EDT** to learn about how to advance health equity through workforce development, including information about the Lewis/Ferguson Internships and Fellowships Programs and CDC's Foundations of Health Equity Self-Guided Training Plan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



NACCHO's Roots of Health Inequity Online Course Series

NACCHO

NACCHO's Roots of Health Inequity Online Course Series is a free online resource designed to equip public health professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to address the root causes of health inequities in their community. Revamped for 2024, the course explores topics such as the historical influences of public health, root causes related to race, gender, and class struggles, and building power to advance equity in public health practice. The all-new platform will allow users to tailor their learning experience, listen to stories from the field, and facilitate group conversations about the content, online and in-person. The new Roots of Health Inequity will launch at NACCHO360 in July.

Learn more: [NACCHO to Launch Revamped Roots of Health Inequity Online Course - NACCHO](#).

Virtual Community Discussion Board



OT21-2103 Virtual Community Discussion Board

NACCHO

Join the Discussion! Visit the Virtual Community Discussion Board to post your ideas, questions, and communicate on a regular basis with other recipients. You can also post and learn about peer-led events. All OT21-2103 recipients are invited to join this online group. If you did not receive the link and instructions from the NACCHO Membership Team, please contact Brianna Aldridge (baldridge@naccho.org) for assistance.

COVID-19 Health Equity RESOURCE LIBRARY



Browse a library of evidence-based practices related to COVID-19 health disparities to infuse best, promising, novel, and emerging practices into your work. Use filters by grant strategy, social determinants of health, priority population, and more to find evidence-based practices most relevant to your grant activities.

BROWSE EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES



Health Equity Self-Paced TRAINING OF THE MONTH



Shift Your Power: Advancing from Transactional Practices to Transformational Progress (Self Paced- No CE)

Region V Public Health Training Center

Region V Public Health Training Center has released the full version of the Shift Your Power course with ASL interpretation throughout the course. This self-paced training keeps equity at the heart to inspire participants to reevaluate, reallocate and reimagine power to focus on the mission, vision, and alignment of those most impacted by historic and current power imbalance. The four presentations and accompanying companion guide will offer clear connections between dimensions of power and strategies to begin intentionally shifting power for more equitable outcomes. Through scenarios and activities, participants will identify and deconstruct inequitable mental models, while receiving tools to achieve more equitable outcomes.



LEARN MORE AND TAKE THE TRAINING

Creating Accessible Public Health Communications

At-A-Glance TRAINING RECAP



To create inclusive and accessible public health communications, you must consider the ways people with disabilities will interact with your content. This webinar introduces Public Health Communications Collaborative's new comprehensive guide on crafting and evaluating accessible social media strategies. Gain insights into practical tools, tips, and examples for enhancing accessibility in public health communications..

COVID-19 Health Equity TA SITE



Browse technical assistance (TA) resources, trainings, and events at this one-stop-shop website for OT21-2103 grant recipients:

[BROWSE TA RESOURCES](#)

[LEARN MORE AND VIEW THE COVID-19 HEALTH EQUITY TA COLLABORATIVE OVERVIEW](#)



REQUEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The OT21-2103 TA Request System is available! Your agency's primary point(s) of contact (POC) have been trained on how to submit a TA request in the system. Work with your agency's POCs and your Project Officer to discuss your TA needs and submit a request in the system (agency POCs have access to the [TA request system here](#).) For questions regarding access to the TA Request System including if your agency POC has changed and/or user access to the system needs to be removed/added, please contact your Project Officer.

This bulletin is compiled by the COVID-19 Health Equity TA Collaborative:



If you are a OT21-2103 recipient, please contact your Project Officer with any questions and use the TA Request System to submit any requests. For TA Resource questions, email: Tenesha Lewis at pheis@astho.org (State Team), Neyling Fajardo at nfajardo@astho.org (Island Support Team), Andrea Grenadier at agrenadier@naccho.org (Locals), Meghan Wolfe at mwolfe@nnphi.org (Best Practices), or CAPT Carolina Luna-Pinto at hjz1@cdc.gov (CDC OHE).

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COVID-19 Health Equity

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS: Maternal Health

These resource highlights are designed to feature topics that are of interest to OT21-2103 grant recipients as a part of the *National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities*. This month's resource highlights focuses on maternal health.

Transforming Maternal Health (TMaH) Model

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced the new Transforming Maternal Health (TMaH). Access to care, infrastructure, workforce capacity, quality improvement and safety, and whole-person care delivery are important pillars of TMaH. TMaH focuses exclusively on improving maternal health care for people enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. This service provides Medicaid agencies with support through technical assistance and funding over the next 10 years. All agencies that participate in TMaH will be required to develop and implement a health equity plan addressing care disparities across different groups.

Maternity Care Deserts in the US

America has the highest maternal mortality rate of any high-income country, and this problem is only becoming worse, not better. Between 2006 and 2020, over 400 maternity wards across the country closed, and many health systems have recently closed their obstetrics services departments. These closures lead to the existence of maternity care deserts across the country where people lack access to maternity and birthing health care services. As of 2014, roughly 45% of rural counties have no maternal health care services. This JAMA article discussed two main strategies to mitigate the problem of maternity care deserts: investing in safe, cost-effective community-based models of care and addressing workforce retention challenges. Maternal deserts leave expecting mothers without the care and support they need, especially in areas in which maternal and infant mortality are high. COVID-19 further intensified the challenges by making access to care difficult and putting a strain on the healthcare system. Focusing on health equity can help bridge the gap if practitioners know what to look forward to and can prepare for better outcomes.

The Impact of Family Physicians in Rural Maternity Care

This study examines the role that family physicians play in maternity care in rural communities across the US. Authors collected data from 185 rural hospitals and found that family physicians delivered babies in 67% of these hospitals and were the only doctors doing so in 27% of these hospitals. The results of this study reveal the importance of family physicians in providing maternal health care in rural America. The study's authors stress the importance of adequate maternal care training for future family physicians who intend to practice in rural locations during their residency training.

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Text and Telephone Screening and Referral Improved Detection And Treatment of Maternal Mental Health Conditions

This study assessed the efficacy of a text and phone-based screening and referral program for perinatal mental health disorders and substance use disorders (SUDs). A randomized controlled trial was conducted comparing outcomes between Listening to Women and Pregnant and Postpartum People (LTWP), a text- and telephone-based screening and referral program, and usual care in-person screening and referral within the perinatal care setting. Research found that participants who had been assigned to the phone-based screening program were 3 times more likely to screen positive, 4 times more likely to be referred to treatment, and nearly 6 times more likely to attend treatment appointments compared to participants assigned to the control group. Qualitative research with Black peripartum people and those in rural areas can help identify which parts of the LTWP intervention most improve health equity.

Advancing Health Equity and Anti-Racism in MCH Policy

This module is part of a series that provides Title V professionals with the tools, knowledge, and capacity to effectively engage in policy development, implementation, evaluation, and advocacy to ensure that policies affecting maternal and child health populations are effective, equitable, and evidence-based. In this course, you will also explore the Racial Equity and Policy Framework (REAP), a powerful tool that allows us to evaluate policies through a racial equity lens. By using the REAP framework, MCH leaders can systematically assess racial equity in health policy to identify, examine, and eradicate racial inequity in policy development and implementation.

The Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs Resource Library

The AMCHP Resource Library is your destination for the latest in maternal and child health evidence and information. Use our database to access toolkits, webinars, publications and other products created by AMCHP program staff and partners that inform your public health practice and support you in serving families in your community. This library has resource types such as education, infographics, reports, toolkits, tip sheets, and more. The resource library is beneficial to practitioners as well families in need of resources, with the resources covering a wide range of topics.

Surgo Ventures-The U.S. Maternal Vulnerability Index (MVI)

The U.S. Maternal Vulnerability Index is a tool for determining the vulnerability of mothers and children worldwide. With the rise of global pandemics and minimal access to care during them, the index is an important tool for projecting the outlook for the nation's children and mothers. The COVID-19 pandemic led to substantial changes in antenatal care provision in the United States, as patients and providers struggled to adapt to societal pandemic-related restrictions and a strained health system. This index is used a resource to respond to the pandemic and show the importance of how early and adequate antenatal care is essential for the wellbeing of mothers and newborns.