



June 2020 Newsletter

Racism is an ongoing public health crisis that needs our attention now

The American Public Health Association (APHA) issued a statement on May 29th calling racism "a longstanding systemic structure in this country that must be dismantled, through brutally honest conversations, policy changes and practices." Racism is a public health issue that needs our attention and we encourage our LHIC members to learn more about the connection between racism and public health.

Read the full statement [here](#).



Image: The American Public Health Association's Logo

Health Disparities and How to Reduce Them

A health disparity is a difference in health outcomes and their causes among groups of people. For example, a health disparity that exists in Harford County is infant mortality rates are higher for Non-Hispanic African Americans compared to Non-Hispanic White babies. Health inequity is a difference in the distribution or allocation of a resource between groups. An example of a health inequity in Harford County is that adult poverty rates are significantly higher in Edgewood, Aberdeen, and Havre de Grace and poverty is linked to shorter life expectancy.

Harvard University Professor, David Williams, explains health disparities in the U.S. and how we can help to reduce them in this quick six minute YouTube video [here](#).

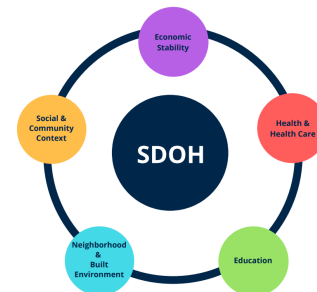


Image: Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) and the five areas that make up the underlying factors.

The 2019 Harford County Health Equity Report

The Harford County Health Department (HCHD) strives to promote public health and prevention in the community for all while helping to minimize barriers to receiving care. The 2019 Health Equity Report describes and explains where and why inequities exist within Harford County, along with how we can improve these issues in our community so that everyone can achieve optimal health.

The 2019 Health Equity Report was added to the revised 2019 Harford County Community Health Needs Assessment. The report can be found on



PREPARED BY
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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Upcoming Events and Meetings

There are no upcoming LHIC meetings due to COVID-19. If you or someone you know would like to join any of the LHIC work groups (Behavioral Health, Chronic Disease Prevention and Wellness, or Family Health and Resiliency), please email Ronya Nassar at ronya.nassar@maryland.gov.

Publications of Interest

[Structural Racism and Supporting Black Lives — The Role of Health Professionals](#)

Source: The New England Journal of Medicine

[Race and Socioeconomic Factors Affect Opportunities for Better Health](#)

Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Commission to Build a Healthier America

[Race, Racism and Health: Disparities, Mechanisms, and Interventions](#)

Source: National Library of Medicine

Contact Ronya Nassar at ronya.nassar@maryland.gov with questions, comments, or to be added to the LHIC email list.

Harford County Health Department | www.harfordcountyhealth.com

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