

HEALTH EQUITY

ACCESS TO CARE

HEALTH EQUITY AND ACCESS TO CARE IN NEVADA

Despite progress in increasing access to health care to Nevadans, inequities persist and result in poor health outcomes, disproportionately impacting those at the bottom of the socioeconomic ladder. A healthy Nevada is a striving Nevada and for that purpose much more needs to be done to reduce the impact of social determinants of health.

“The social conditions in which people live powerfully influence their chances to be healthy. Indeed, factors such as poverty, food insecurity, social exclusion and discrimination, poor housing, unhealthy early childhood conditions, and low occupational status are important determinants of most diseases, deaths, and health inequalities between and within countries.”

World Health Organization

ADULTS

Nevada is home to 2.9 million residents distributed across 17 counties. Many of the counties are rural or frontier, and the urban counties have pockets of concentrated poverty creating geographical barriers to access to care.

The implementation of the Affordable Care Act expanded coverage to many Nevadans and reduced the uninsured rate by 6.94% since its implementation; regardless many challenges persist.¹

- Most counties in Nevada have a HPSA designation in the following specialties²:
 - Primary Medical Care
 - Dental Health
 - Mental Health
- Life expectancy is lowest among areas of high poverty rates and limited access to care.³
- More African Americans and Hispanics live in economically disadvantaged communities compared to whites.³

CHILDREN

Nevada is home to 326,659 families with over 640,140 children. Nearly half of the children in our state (48%) live in low-income families. Of those, 22% live below the federal poverty line.⁴

According to the 2017 Children’s Legislative Briefing Book for Nevada – which assesses how Nevada ranks compared to other states in terms of health, safety, education and economic well-being of children – Nevada received a failing grade in all categories.⁵

- Health D
- Safety D+
- Education F
- Economic Well-Being D-

**Nevada is only as healthy
as our most vulnerable.**

PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS AND BEST PRACTICES

RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCREASE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

1 Medicaid

- Continue to expand outreach programs to increase enrollment among eligible children and families in Medicaid and Nevada Check Up programs.
- Continue to implement the Affordable Care Act in full, while developing outreach to the community to educate the public on its provisions and effects.
- Revise Medicaid reimbursement rates to better support provider costs, enabling more providers to accept Medicaid patients.

2 Availability of Physicians and Mental Health Providers

- Review reciprocity policies for various types of medical providers to encourage experienced providers to come to Nevada to help increase providers and medical services in Nevada to increase access to care.
- Build up the workforce in all parts of Nevada, especially in rural regions, so there is local ability to provide appropriate mental health resources.

3 Maternal and Child Health Services

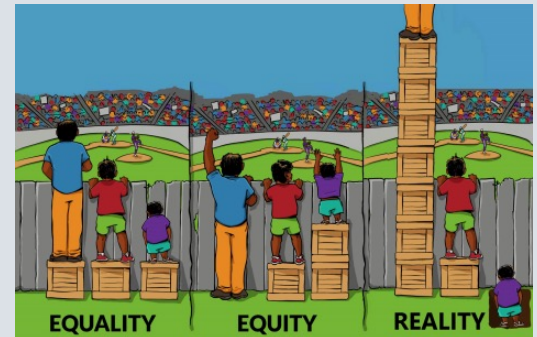
- Services for prenatal care through the postpartum period need to be expanded and made more accessible for all parents including parents with diverse backgrounds and/or those who are economically challenged.

4 Educational and Referral Services

- Increase outreach efforts and programs that provide educational and referral services to individuals and families to increase participation in preventative care practices.

5 Environment

- Increase availability of affordable healthy food options in communities, particularly communities within designated 'food deserts' and in low-income communities
- Ensure development of a sustainable, well connected regional trail systems for physical activity, recreation and active transport.



FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE HEALTH

Health Insurance

High-Quality Education

Nutritious Food

Decent and Safe Housing

Clean Water

Non-Polluted Air

Affordable, Reliable Public Transportation

Culturally Sensitive Health Care Providers

1. Obama Facts: www.obamacarefacts.com/uninsured-rates
 2. Packham, J., Griswold, T., Marchand, C. (2013). Health Workforce in Nevada 2016 Edition.
 3. Iser, J. (2016). The social determinants of health and health equity: focusing on the "Public" in "Population" Health. Nevada Population Health Conference.
 4. National Center for Children in Poverty, 2014 www.nccp.org/profiles/NV_profile_6.html
 5. Children's Legislative Briefing Book, 2017