

Public Health and Social Justice (Adopted October 16, 2015)

The New Hampshire Public Health Association (NHPHA) seeks to address health disparities and advance health and equity for all in New Hampshire. Health disparities are “types of health differences that are closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage. Health disparities adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater obstacles to health based on characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion: race, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, gender, age, mental health, cognitive, sensory or physical disability, sexual orientation, or gender identities.” (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2020 Draft. 2009, U.S. Government Printing Office).

NHPHA recognizes that health is influenced by “determinants of health” which include but are not limited to education, transportation, housing, safe and healthy neighborhood environments, the presence of markets with healthy foods, open spaces for play and fitness, access to banking and credit, and access to appropriate health care. Social justice assures that economic and social policies and practices result in sustainable improvements in health for everyone in New Hampshire.

NHPHA supports policies that:

- Integrate health and health equity criteria into community planning and decision making whenever appropriate; encourage the use of Health Impact Assessments and Equity Impact Reviews in planning, decision making and policy development.
- Increase the capacity of the prevention workforce to identify and address disparities.
- Strengthen state, regional and city public health departments to provide essential services.
- Standardize, collect and analyze data to better identify and address disparities.
- Promote a comprehensive, evidence-based public health approach to influence social and health policies (See other NHPHA position statements for specific areas such as injury prevention, nutrition, health services, environment...).
- Work with multiple sectors and partners to shape policies and practices that improve public health outcomes.
- Facilitate social connectedness and community engagement across the lifespan.
- Promote optimal early childhood development.
- Improve education and employment opportunities

Resources:

National Prevention Council, National Prevention Strategy, Washington, DC: US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Surgeon General, 2011. <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/priorities/prevention/strategy/>

Gostin, LO and Powers, M., *What Does Social Justice Require For The Public's Health? Public Health Ethics And Policy Imperatives*, *Health Aff* July 2006 vol. 25 no. 4 1053-1060. <http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/25/4/1053.full>

National Association of County and City Health Officials, *Roots of Health Inequity: A Web-Based Course for the Public Health Workforce* <http://www.rootsofhealthinequity.org/>

National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Health Equity
<http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/templates/content.aspx?lvl=1&lvlid=33&ID=286>

On Social Determinants from Healthy People 2020
<http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-health>