



HEALTH EQUITY AND COVID-19

The GHPC COVID Collection

The Georgia Health Policy Center has convened a group of interested staff who will explore issues around health equity and COVID-19 in Georgia. Anticipated outputs will include a series of briefs, blog posts, and other publications. Research will examine COVID-19 disparities occurring in the state (e.g., racial and geographical), explore some of the drivers of these differences, and assess current practices and opportunities for closing the gap.

The Georgia Health Policy Center anticipates continuing to monitor infection rate and mortality data during the COVID-19 public health emergency and how emerging patterns of cases fit in the broader context of population health and health equity. Briefs will specifically address chronic disease disparities in urban versus rural areas and differences within specific counties, and examine in more detail the role of structural barriers and structural racism in creating health disparities, as well as how to address the systemic changes needed to achieve health equity in the state.

For the past 25 years GHPC has been guided by our commitment to connecting decision-makers with the objective research and guidance needed to make informed decisions about health policy and programs.

Equity is achieved when every person has the opportunity to attain his or her full health potential and no one is disadvantaged from achieving it because of social position or other socially determined circumstances.¹

Inequity is more than inequality and involves a lack of access to the resources needed to improve and maintain health or health outcomes. Inequity also involves a failure to avoid or overcome inequalities that infringe on fairness and human rights norms.²

Health disparities are differences in health status between groups of people related to social or demographic factors such as race, gender, income, or geography.³

¹ National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. (2020). *Health Equity*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/healthequity/index.htm>

² World Health Organization. *Equity*. Retrieved from www.who.int/healthsystems/topics/equity/en/

³ American Public Health Association. *Health Equity*. Retrieved from www.apha.org/topics-and-issues/health-equity