



Addressing the Social Determinants of Health to Elevate Equity Moving Cancer Prevention Upstream

Glossary of Terms

Downstream Interventions: Interventions and strategies focusing on ways to deliver programs and services at the micro level

Health Disparity: A preventable difference in the burden of disease and opportunities to achieve optimal health that are closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage and adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater obstacles to health based on their racial or ethnic group, religion, socioeconomic status, gender, age, mental health, cognitive, sensory, or physical disability, sexual orientation or gender identity; geographic location, or other characteristics linked to discrimination or exclusion

Health Equity: Fair and just opportunities afforded to everyone so that all people can attain their highest level of health; valuing everyone equally with sustained efforts and resources heavily focused on addressing unjust, unfair, and avoidable historical, social, and political injustices and eliminating health disparities. Allocating resources on the basis of need.

Implicit Bias: Unconsciously held attitudes toward others; the automatic association of a person or group of people that is outside a person's full awareness and is often in direct contradiction of their adopted beliefs and values

Macro Level Interventions: Interventions focused on a large scale, affecting entire systems that may seem beyond individual reach such as communities, states, or countries.

Mainstream: The ideas, attitudes, or activities that are regarded as normal or conventional; the dominant trend or prevalent current thought that is widespread

Mezzo-Level Interventions: Interventions focused on small to medium sized groups at the local or community level such as neighborhoods, schools, and organizations/institutions

Micro-Level Interventions: Relational interventions and strategies that occur at the individual level (i.e. between consumer and provider)

Racial Equity: The condition that would be achieved if one's racial identity no longer predicted, in a statistical sense, how one fares. When we use the term, we are thinking about racial equity as one part of racial justice, and thus we also include work to address root causes of inequities not just their manifestation including elimination of policies, practices, attitudes and cultural messages that reinforce differential outcomes by race or fail to eliminate them.

Social Determinants of Health: Conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life

Upstream Interventions: Strategies and interventions focused on ways to advance deep-rooted social and economic structures that decrease barriers and improve support systems in order to help people achieve their full health potential; policy approaches that affect large populations through regulation, increased access, or economic incentives

Sources: World Health Organization, The Root Cause Coalition, & Racial Equity Tools (www.racialequitytools.org)

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