

Glossary

Abbreviations

- ACEs: Adverse Childhood Experiences
- BRFSS: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
- CHNA: community health needs assessment
- HCWC: Healthy Columbia Willamette Collaborative
- STI: sexually transmitted infection

Definitions

- **Achievement gaps:** Achievement gaps, which begin as opportunity gaps, are disparities in academic performance between groups of students (for example, between students of different socioeconomic backgrounds, gender, and between different racial and ethnic groups).
- **Built environment:** The human-made space in which people live and work on a daily basis. Built environment can include access to healthy foods, community gardens, mental and physical health services, walkability, and bike-ability (such as bike paths or bike lanes).ⁱ
- **Community:** Group of people with diverse characteristics who are linked by social ties, common perspectives, and who may be engaged in joint action in geographical locations or settings. This is but one definition. Community can be defined in multiple ways depending on the people asked and what groups have in common.ⁱⁱ
- **Discrimination:** Socially structured action that is unfair or unjustified and harms individuals or groups. Occurs on both structural and individual levels. For a robust explanation and definition, please see Healthy People 2020's [definition](#).ⁱⁱⁱ
- **Food insecurity:** Limited or uncertain access to adequate food because of lack of money and other resources.^{iv,v}
- **Gentrification:** Influx of new residents to an area, usually middle class or wealthier, that causes an increase in rent and housing costs and displaces the original or long-time residents of that area. Gentrification can have adverse effects on health for those being displaced.^{vi}

ⁱ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Built_environment

ⁱⁱ MacQueen KM, McLellan E, Metzger DS, et al. What is community? An evidence-based definition for participatory public health. *Am J Public Health*. 2001. Dec;91(12):1929-38. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11726368>

ⁱⁱⁱ Healthy People 2020. Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Social Determinants of Health topics: Discrimination: <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-health/interventions-resources/discrimination>

^{iv} U.S. Department of Agriculture. Definitions of Food Security: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/definitions-of-food-security.aspx>

^v Healthy People 2020. Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Food Insecurity: <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-health/interventions-resources/food-insecurity#1>

^{vi} Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Health Effects of Gentrification: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthylives/healthtopics/gentrification.htm>

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Definitions (continued)

- **Health equity:** Means everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible.^{vii} HCWC, using an adapted definition from the World Health Organization,^{viii} defines health equity as when all people can reach their full potential and are not disadvantaged by social or economic class, race, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation or socially determined circumstance. Optimal health depends on mitigating or eliminating avoidable inequities in the access to and utilization of resources and opportunities. Health equity demands intentionally and systematically addressing poor health outcomes by purposefully engaging the root and intersectional causes of adverse health status such as racism, structural disadvantage and differential privilege.
- **Health justice:** The health of the quad-county region is not only defined by the quality of health care, it is assessed by the complete physical, social, and mental well-being of the population.^{ix} It is defined by the World Health Organization as necessary for human wellbeing, providing intrinsic value for comfort, contentment, and the pursuit of the joys of life.^x The network for health justice defines it as: giving human dignity to everyone, regardless of who they are or where they come from. It means access to equitable and affordable, quality care for all.^{xi}
- **Health literacy:** The degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions. It is dependent on individual and systemic factors: communication skills of lay persons and professionals.^{xii}
- **Housing insecurity:** Circumstance in which you have no residence or have an unexpected cost/catastrophic event that results in not having enough money for rent/housing.^{xiii}
- **Isolation:** Isolation is a key determinant of health. It is different from loneliness, though they are often discussed together. In this report, isolation means either geographic, physical, and/or social isolation. It pertains to social contacts or network that can include family and friends, but also the broader environment through social activities. Isolation also means being geographically isolated (where you live is a long way from other people, services).^{xiv}

^{vii} Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. "What Is Health Equity?" 2017.

<https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/research/2017/05/what-is-health-equity-.html>

^{viii} World Health Organization. Equity. <https://www.who.int/healthsystems/topics/equity/en/>

^{ix} Daniels N. Justice, Health, and Healthcare. The American Journal of Bioethics. 2001. 1:2, 2-16; DOI: 10.1162/152651601300168834.

^x Ruger JP. Health and social justice. Bulletin of the World Health Organization. 2011; 89:78-78.

<https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/89/1/10-082388/en/>

^{xi} The Network for Public Health Law. Health Justice: Empowering Public Health and Advancing Health Equity. 2018.

https://www.networkforphl.org/the_network_blog/2018/09/12/1031/health_justice_empowering_public_health_and_advancing_health_equity/

^{xii} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Quick Guide to Health Literacy.

<https://health.gov/communication/literacy/quickguide/factsbasic.htm>

^{xiii} APHA: <https://www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2018/01/18/housing-andhomelessness-as-a-public-health-issue>

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Definitions (continued)

- **Life-course theory:** Refers to studying people in a more holistic way including their lives, structural context, and social change. This discipline includes history, sociology, demography, developmental psychology, biology, and economics. Focus on the connection between individual lives and the historical and socioeconomic context which influence/encompass lives.^{xv}
- **Morbidity:** rate of a disease or diseases
- **Mortality:** rate of death
- **Non-binary:** gender identity and/or gender expression falling outside the categories of man and woman
- **Qualitative data:** Non-numerical data based on traits or characteristics (for example, types of chronic health conditions someone may have)
- **Quantitative data:** Numerical data calculated and collected through established methods (for example, number of times a year someone visits the doctor or hospital, etc.)
- **Racism:** “A system of structuring opportunity and assigning values based on the social interpretation of how one looks (which is what we call “race”), that unfairly disadvantages some individuals and communities, unfairly advantages other individuals and communities, and saps the strength of the whole society through the waste of human resources.” - APHA Past President Camara Jones, MD, PhD, MPH ^{xvi}
- **Social determinants of health:** Are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age. These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power, and resources at global, national, and local levels.^{xvii}
- **Transgender:** gender identity and/or gender expression different from what is typically associated with the sex assigned at birth ^{xviii}
- **Trauma:** A deeply distressing or disturbing experience

^{xiv} Menec VH, Newall NE, Mackenzie CS, et al. Examining individual and geographic factors associated with social isolation and loneliness using Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA) data. PLOS ONE. 2019. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6358157/>

^{xv} Life Course Theory: <https://www.encyclopedia.com/reference/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/life-course-theory>

^{xvi} American Public Health Association. Racism and Health. <https://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues/health-equity/racism-and-health>

^{xvii} World Health Organization. Social Determinants of Health: https://www.who.int/social_determinants/sdh_definition/en/

^{xviii} GLAAD. Media Reference Guide: <https://www.glaad.org/reference/transgender>