Research on Health Equity & Social Determinants of Health: Denver Health Perspectives and Opportunities

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Unique Characteristics

- Diverse Patient Population
- Hospital, FQHCs, School-Based Health Clinics
- EPIC & Data Exchange w/ Community Partners
- Learning Health System
- Anchor Institution
- Equity Blueprint
- Community Engagement Committees
DH as a Learning Health System

Data, research and evaluation are used to inform practice,
AND
Practice is used to inform data, research and evaluation,
AND
Information is used for dissemination and implementation (internal and external)
Anchor Institution

• 2019: DH Commitment to being an Anchor Institution
• 2022: Established Center for Equity, Diversity and Opportunity (CEDO)
  • Workforce Development Center
  • Partnership with Denver Housing Authority for Transitional Housing
  • Career Pipelines with High Schools and Colleges
  • Partnership with Local Businesses
Equity Blueprint 2021-2024

- Creating an inclusive and engaging workplace
- Improving health equity and outcomes
- Building partnerships to enhance opportunity and give voice to all
- Fostering accountability and a fair and just climate
Our Approach to Research

- Advance quality of care
- Reduce disparities and advance equity in health care processes and outcomes
- Guide service and operational excellence

- Authentic community engagement
- High-quality data
We ask BECAUSE we care

“Asking patients questions about themselves helps us provide the highest-quality care.”

Manuel Molina Peinado
Patient Care Navigator

Race, Ethnicity and Language (R.E.A.L.) Initiative
## Why R.E.A.L.?

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<th>Full term deliveries</th>
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<td>When we don’t know...</td>
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R.E.A.L Initiative (launched May 2021)

Awareness and Promotion
- Defining WHY we ask
- Importance of Self-Report
- Educational Flyers

Tools & Training
- Trans-created Scripting with Patients
- Documentation
- Training all Staff, Ongoing

Data Capture
- Adaptations to Epic EHR
- Expansion in MyChart Patient Portal

Evaluation
- Ongoing QI efforts
- Completeness
- Understanding patient population and needs (e.g. interpreter services)
R.E.A.L – Our Diverse Patients

• Post-launch:
  • Race: decreased unknown/missing (7.9% -> 0.5%) and “other” responses

• 284 Different Ethnic Backgrounds
• 117 Different Primary Languages
• 183 Different Countries of Birth
R.E.A.L. Next Steps

Enhance Data on Interpreter Needs and Services

Enhance Data on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Continued Evaluation & Re-Evaluation of Data

Explore Methods to Preserve Individual Identity while Analyzing Using Meaningful Categories
Social Determinants of Health (SDoH)

GET FREE HELP FAST
Denver Health is here to help you with more than your medical care.

We’ve partnered with findhelp, a free online community resource for health- and wellness-related social needs.

Get help finding free or reduced-cost:
• Housing
• Food
• Jobs
• Transportation
• and more

Visit DenverHealth.findhelp.com — available to Denver health patients, staff and the community. Help is accessible in more than 100 languages.

You can also scan the QR to create an account and see the resources in your area.

OBTENGA AYUDA RÁPIDA Y GRATUITA
Denver Health le ayudará con algo más que con su atención médica.

Nos asociamos con findhelp, un recurso comunitario en Internet gratuito para sus necesidades sociales relacionadas con la salud.

Obtenga ayuda para encontrar gratis o a un costo reducido:
• Vivienda
• Alimentos
• Trabajos
• Transporte
• ¡Y mucho más!

Visita DenverHealth.findhelp.com — a disposición de los pacientes, el personal y la comunidad de Denver Health. Puede obtener ayuda en más de 100 idiomas.

También puede escanear el código QR para crear una cuenta y ver los recursos que hay en su zona.
SDoH Initiative

**Annual Screening**
- Patients/Families at Well-Child Visits
- High-Risk Adults

**Clinical Tools**
- Epic Wheel
- Displays Domains

**Resource Connection**
- FindHelp.Org Partnership
- Clinic Portals
- Flyers, QR Codes

**Monitoring**
- Dashboards monitor screening and needs
- Examine by clinics, sociodemographics
SDoH Next Steps

Automate screening through MyChart outreach for high-risk adults.

Increase screening and referrals to inpatient hospital care in process under the Hospital Transformation Program.

Operationalize 2 care navigator positions by the end of the grant cycle and help define additional resources needed; evaluation and re-evaluation of the HRSN project.

Increase collaboration with the Office of Health Equity to support Denver Health’s Anchor Institution framework.
R.E.A.L. and SDoH Data: Foundation to Reduce Disparities

- Define health care disparities
- Define and identify vulnerable populations
- Measure disparities in vulnerable populations

Detecting Differences/Disparities in Health Care and Health Outcomes in Different Groups

- Patient characteristics
- Social needs and community environment
- Clinical characteristics
- Health care system
- Patient perspectives

Understanding the Determinants of Disparities

- Design intervention and implementation plan
- Evaluate intervention
- Translate and disseminate findings
- Inform policy/practice

Designing Interventions that Reduce and Eliminate Disparities

Medical Heroes Campaign

• Launching across DH sites
• Encouraging and recognizing the importance of diverse participation in research
• Multi-media materials in top 5 languages, with imagery reflecting patient population
DH is educating and connecting patients to self-enroll in the program.

ALL OF US IS A RESEARCH PROGRAM FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH).

It is seeking one million or more people from across the U.S. By doing so, it hopes to one day help speed up medical research. People who join will share information about their health, habits, and what it’s like where they live. By looking for patterns, researchers may learn more about what affects people’s health.
To understand social and ethical barriers to COVID-19 testing among diverse communities in Colorado and implement approaches to overcome barriers

Part of National RADx-UP (Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics for Underserved Populations)

Community Engagement

CO-CEAL (Colorado COVID-19 Community Engagement Alliance) infrastructure, expertise, and relationships

Interviews, Surveys, Co-Design

To improve understanding of recovery after SARS-CoV-2 infection to understand, prevent, and treat Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 (PASC) (incl. Long COVID)

DH and CU-Anschutz both Enrolling Sites

Community Engagement

Committees

Shared Decision-Making

REACH-OUT (Research, Engagement and Action on COVID-19 Health Outcomes via Testing)
THANK YOU!

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