Mental Health Equity
How is data shaping policy?

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Our Purpose

1. Develop and translate evidence to advance policies and integrate systems that improve health, equity, and well-being.

2. Focus on local, state and federal policies that promote equitable health and combat systemic barriers and structural racism.

3. Educate and mentor professionals to develop a health policy lens for approaching research and practice.

4. Build relationships across sectors to reach, convene and engage communities and different audiences to discuss health.
Translation for other audiences

Policy Pathways to Address American Youth Firearm Injury and Death


The TOLL of GUN VIOLENCE ON YOUTH IN THE U.S.

An adolescent or child is killed by a firearm every 2 hours and 46 minutes in the U.S.

Background

There are more international and interstate gun sales and gun accidents involving firearms. However, there is no legal right to own a firearm in the U.S. for people under the age of 18. In addition, there is no legal right to own a firearm in the U.S. for people with a mental health diagnosis. Therefore, it is necessary to address the issue of gun violence in the U.S.

Medical Beyond Borders

A Call to Action: Providing Care via Forensic Examinations and Legal Referrals


Background

There are significant disparities in access to mental health services. However, there is no legal right to own a firearm in the U.S. for people under the age of 18. In addition, there is no legal right to own a firearm in the U.S. for people with a mental health diagnosis. Therefore, it is necessary to address the issue of gun violence in the U.S.

Closing the Treatment Gap for Opioid Use Disorder in Colorado


Background

Sickle cell disease is a genetic disorder that affects people of African descent. However, there is no legal right to own a firearm in the U.S. for people under the age of 18. In addition, there is no legal right to own a firearm in the U.S. for people with a mental health diagnosis. Therefore, it is necessary to address the issue of gun violence in the U.S.
Advocacy for equity in social policy
“There is no health without mental health.”

-Dr. David Satcher, 16th U.S. Surgeon General
Policy principles to balance inequities

- Invest sufficiently and sustainably in rebuilding and maintaining equitable mental and behavioral health systems creating infrastructure for the long-term, to ensure access to the right care at the right place and the right time.

- Ensure that services are offered in a person and community-centered, language concordant, and culturally-centered manner.

- Begin with prevention and early intervention and identification to offer a continuum of services also inclusive of treatment and crisis needs.

- Rebuild data collection systems to dismantle biased reporting structures, improve disaggregation, and examine the impact of racism to more clearly understand mental/behavioral health inequities.

- Establish inclusive standards of health equity and quality measures for accessible health systems, and fund research to study mental/behavioral health equity including evaluation of policies and tracking of these measures to identify progress and ongoing needs.

- Systematically examine existing policies and laws for removal of stigmatizing language and ensure that new legislation excludes further stigmatization.

- Target interventions, building on community strengths and resiliency in addition to meeting unmet needs. Policymaking for inclusive governance should recognize community members’ expertise, involving those who will be impacted by the policy to achieve more equitable outcomes.

- Recognize the impact of political and systemic power differentials on historically marginalized communities will facilitate policy actions toward equitable culture shifts.
## Disaggregate data

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Black/African American</th>
<th>Other Pacific Islander (Guamanians/Chamorro's and Samoans)</th>
<th>Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (selected both categories)</th>
<th>Asian Indian</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>Filipino</th>
<th>Japanese</th>
<th>Korean</th>
<th>Vietnamese</th>
<th>Other Asian (other than Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese)</th>
<th>Asian multiple categories (multiple Asian categories selected)</th>
<th>Multi-race (more than one race selected)</th>
<th>Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x)</th>
<th>White</th>
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<tbody>
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Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

--Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
THANK YOU!