

Linking action on health inequities with the 10 Essential Public Health Services[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. [Monitor](http://www.cdc.gov/nphpsp/essentialServices.html) health status to identify and solve community health problems.

* Improve and better coordinate state data systems to track disparities
* Make these data more easily accessible, especially to the community
* Grow infrastructure and support for community-driven health assessment

1. [Diagnose and investigate](http://www.cdc.gov/nphpsp/essentialServices.html) health problems and health hazards in the community.

* Build capacity of state and local health departments to conduct public health surveillance and epidemiology research with populations experiencing health disparities
* Develop an integrated environmental public health tracking program
* Expand use of health impact assessments to understand how policies outside of the health department influence health inequities.

1. [Inform, educate](http://www.cdc.gov/nphpsp/essentialServices.html), and empower people about health issues.

* Expand health education and empowerment efforts by building community partnerships to design, implement, and evaluate communications strategies, by training and fielding peer health educators
* Develop and evaluate culturally tailored public health communications messages that are disseminated through new and traditional media.

1. [Mobilize](http://www.cdc.gov/nphpsp/essentialServices.html) community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems.

* Mobilize communities experiencing inequities in health outcomes by strengthen community partnerships and developing integrated approaches to community health

1. [Develop policies and plans](http://www.cdc.gov/nphpsp/essentialServices.html) that support individual and community health efforts.

* Develop and support individual and community-level inequities elimination efforts by:
  + Develop state-wide action plan
  + Promote community health planning as a tool to balance allocation of health care resources with community needs
  + Establish a minority health report card
  + Establish a statewide interagency and interdepartmental coordinating council to coordinate the work of state agencies to address health inequities
  + Address upstream determinants of health such as housing, access to healthy foods, transportation, recreation options.

1. [Enforce](http://www.cdc.gov/nphpsp/essentialServices.html) laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
   * Review and evaluate how policies and practices affect the health of communities experiencing inequities in health outcomes.
   * Where necessary, strengthen enforcement of state laws and regulations that protect the health and well being of vulnerable populations.
2. [Link](http://www.cdc.gov/nphpsp/essentialServices.html) people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
   * Measure and expand access to quality personal health care services
   * Assure access to a coordinated system or quality care and culturally and linguistically appropriate services by:

* Encourage health systems to adopt medical home models
* Expand language access
* Expand access to primary care, especially in underserved communities
* Include requirements to address health inequities in all state health services contracts

1. [Assure](http://www.cdc.gov/nphpsp/essentialServices.html) competent public and personal health care workforce.

* Improve the capacity of health and public health professionals to respond to the needs of communities experiencing inequities in health outcomes by:
  + Requiring cultural competency training of current and future health professionals
  + Expand efforts to increase diversity in state health professions workforce
  + Encourage training and employment of community health workers.

1. [Evaluate](http://www.cdc.gov/nphpsp/essentialServices.html) effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
   * Evaluate effectiveness of individual and population-based health services in eliminating health inequities and publically report this information.
2. [Research](http://www.cdc.gov/nphpsp/essentialServices.html) for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems
   * Provide the support and resources needed to ensure that the OMH is able to successfully carry out its legislative charge and coordinate the state health departments’ health inequities efforts.

1. This guide is a summary of the report*: Moving Toward Health Equity in New York: State Strategies to Eliminate Health Disparities* (2009) by Brian Smedley. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)