Health Equity argues that being healthy is not always a choice or behavior, but rather a part of the Social Determinants of Health.

Serious health inequities exist between populations of color, persons living in poverty, and the rest of Minnesota’s population. Life expectancy within Minnesota varies by zip code. African American and American Indian babies die in the first year of life at twice the rate of white babies. Populations of color in Minnesota are at greater risk of many leading causes of death including cancer, heart disease, diabetes, homicide, suicide, unintentional injury and HIV/AIDS.

Social and economic conditions that are strong predictors of health outcomes are not favorable for populations that experience health disparities. Unemployment is highest among populations of color, American Indians, and people who live in rural Minnesota, as well as individuals with disabilities. American Indian, Hispanic/Latino, and African American youth in Minnesota have the lowest rates of on-time graduation. Prolonged poverty is generally the leading cause associated with health inequities. Inequities are caused by a variety of other social conditions including racial and cultural barriers to care, disparate access to preventive health resources, unemployment, the lack of a livable wage, and unsafe and unstable housing.

Health Equity

When every person has the opportunity to realize their health potential — the highest level of health possible for that person — without limits imposed by structural inequities. Health equity means achieving the conditions in which all people have the opportunity to attain their highest possible level of health (Minnesota Department of Health).

Local Data

In November 2016...
unemployment rates for Meeker-McLeod-Sibley averaged 3.3%

In 2015... The graduation rate for Meeker-McLeod-Sibley averaged 86.1%
Everyone deserves equal opportunities for health to achieve health equity

What do people need?

- Healthy living conditions and community space
- Equitable opportunities in education, jobs, and economic development
- Reliable public services and safety
- Non-discriminatory practices in organizations

National Data
Centers for Disease Control National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)

In November 2016...
4.4% of US residents are unemployed

State Data

In November 2016...
3.2% of Minnesota residents are unemployed (MN Employment & Economic Development)

In 2015...
The graduation rate for all of Minnesota was 81.9%

www.mmshealthycommunities.org