Definitions

Health Disparity
Health disparity is a particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social or economic disadvantage. Health disparities adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater social or economic obstacles to health based on their racial or ethnic group, religion, socioeconomic status, gender, mental health, cognitive, sensory, or physical disability, sexual orientation, geographic location, or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion.

Health Equity
Health equity is the absence of systematic disparities in health (or determinants of health) between population groups in a social hierarchy or with different levels of social advantage or disadvantage.

Health Inequity
Health inequity is a difference or disparity in health outcomes that is systematic, avoidable and unjust.

Individual Risk Factors
Individual risk factors are characteristics of individuals that may explain health or behavior (e.g., age, sex, marital status).

Social Determinants of Health
Social determinants of health (SDH) are the complex, integrated, and overlapping social structures and economic systems which include the social environment, physical environment, and health services; structural and societal factors that are responsible for most health inequities. SDH are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at global, national, and local levels, which are themselves influenced by policy choices.

Sources


