

Addressing Health Disparities in Chicago through Collaboration with Health Foundations and Nonprofits

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Purpose

To research ideas for promoting health equity in Chicago

Method

We interviewed 18 representatives from Chicago-based health foundations and nonprofits; we asked participants to:

1. Recommend ideas for promoting health equity and describe research needed to support the implementation of these ideas
2. Prioritize 10 key health areas¹ in order of perceived impact on the population's health (The figure provides these 10 key health areas)



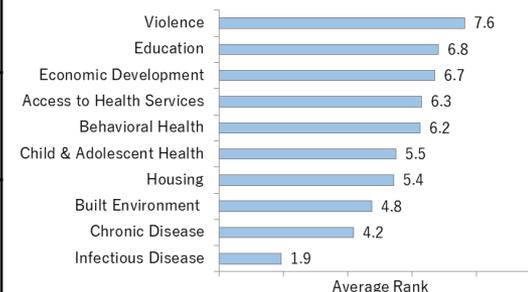
Results

Example Ideas for Promoting Health Equity & Related Research Needs

<p>Violence</p> <p>Develop a cross-sector collaborative group to prevent violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify unmet educational needs that protect against violence
<p>Education</p> <p>Fund schools more equitably</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Examine the effects of tax policy on school funding
<p>Economic Development</p> <p>Use employer incentives to provide long-term job skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Study the connection between public health and employment
<p>Access to Health Services</p> <p>Develop policies to incentivize medical professionals to work in south/southwest Chicago clinics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Research specific incentives/disincentives for attracting top health professionals to work in these clinics
<p>Behavioral Health</p> <p>Establish facilities to address substance abuse withdrawal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conduct needs assessment on local capacity & models of care
<p>Child & Adolescent Health</p> <p>Coordinate school and community-based mental health and trauma services that are focused on primary prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Study pilot programs that educate the community on trauma
<p>Built Environment</p> <p>Support "opportunity zones" via community development that bring jobs, transportation, and amenities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Document change to associated community-level indicators
<p>Chronic Disease</p> <p>Use a collective impact approach to expand evidence-based behavioral change management programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Validate effective protocols for behavioral change management

Prioritization of key health areas were reverse scored (10=highest priority; 1=lowest priority):

Prioritization of Key Health Areas



Participant rationale for priority key health areas included:

- **Violence** is a pressing and overarching issue that impacts everyone
- **Education** has a lifelong impact on health and wellness
- **Economic Development** is foundational for health, well-being, and self-sufficiency

Conclusion

A diverse set of initiatives and research efforts must be implemented, across a variety of key health areas, to advance health equity in Chicago.

1. Dirksen JC, Prachand NG, et al. Healthy Chicago 2.0: Partnering to Improve Health Equity. City of Chicago, March 2016.

2. Photo credit: https://c1.staticflickr.com/8/7512/29095583293_887bd07863_b.jpg