

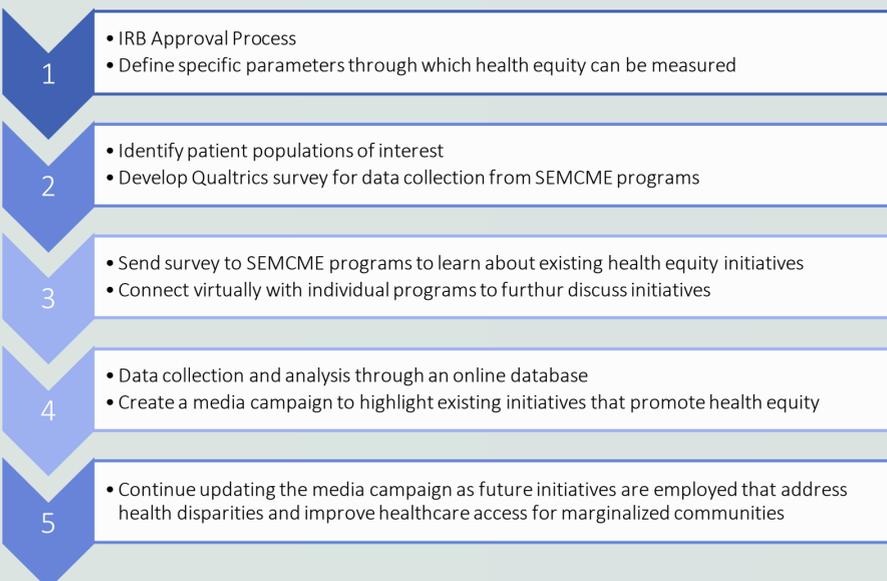
INTRODUCTION

What is Health Equity?

Health equity is the absence of unfair and avoidable or remediable differences in health among population groups defined socially, economically, demographically or geographically [1].

- Social Determinants of Health (SDH) are non-medical factors that shape the living conditions of our everyday lives [1,2].
- Past research has made clear that these factors, which include but are not limited to education level, food security, housing, and income, have a profound impact on individual health [1].
- Gaps in health equity have been a chronic public health problem in the United States, disproportionately impacting marginalized communities [3].
- Efforts aimed to bridge this gap include promoting expansion of healthcare accessibility and delivery to communities such as the homeless population, racial minority population, low-income population, LGBTQ+ community, and more.
- It is important to better understand the efforts currently in place within the Southeast Michigan region to address healthcare disparities and promote a holistic approach to health equity.
- This project, titled Action 4 Health Equity (A4HE), strives to explore initiatives led by programs affiliated with the Southeast Michigan Center for Medical Education (SEMCME) that aim to promote health equity in medical education and healthcare systems.

METHODS



RESULTS

Analysis Plan

- Past and ongoing research will be explored to understand the specific social and structural regional barriers hindering healthcare accessibility for minority populations.
- Survey responses will be analyzed based on specific parameters to assess the breadth of health equity initiatives that exist at each program – including, but not limited to, institutional partnerships, resident- or faculty-led projects, training seminars, classes, and student-run free clinics.
- Provided data will be used to determine how much, and in what ways, marginalized communities have benefitted as a result of these health equity initiatives.
- The data will also be an excellent representation of the areas in healthcare delivery that still need improvement for specific marginalized communities.
- Based on these results, a media campaign database will be launched to highlight the visions and goals of Southeast Michigan medical programs and healthcare systems in addressing such barriers.

What Have We Learned So Far?

- When studying the distribution of health equity in a region, it is necessary to understand the current state of a population's health before addressing the barriers they face.
- Population health encompasses not only the health outcomes of a group, but also how such outcomes are distributed within the group [4].
- Past research has demonstrated that social determinants hold a much stronger influence on population health than originally expected [1,2].
- As we begin to collect data on the health equity initiatives that exist across Southeast Michigan, it is important that we remain focused on specific social determinants of health that influence healthcare access among marginalized populations we are studying.

A4HE Health Equity Framework

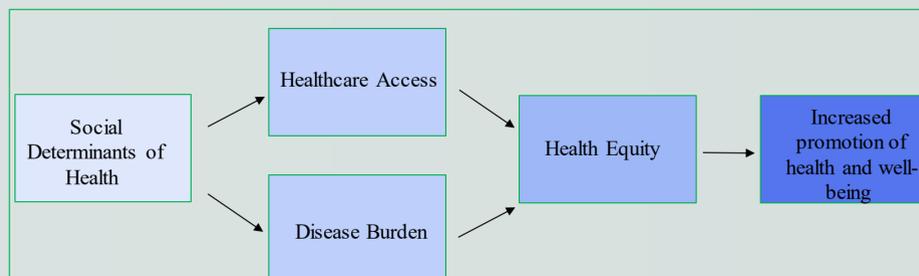


Figure 1.

CONCLUSION & FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Medical education programs and related healthcare institutions comprise the most influential bodies in fighting for health equity for the most marginalized communities.
- By achieving the goals of this project, we hope to celebrate and raise awareness of how barriers in health equity are being addressed in the southeast Michigan region through tangible initiatives.
- We aim to increase collaboration across SEMCME programs and improve intervention design. If possible, insights into room for improvement may also become more apparent.
- By engaging with SEMCME programs, we hope to gain a better understanding for the specific struggles and barriers that each marginalized population of interest is facing when it comes to receiving adequate care.
- This project will look at various perspectives and communities facing health disparities, so a lack of attention in a specific domain could be exposed, encouraging further development.
- Lastly, it is our goal that this project emphasizes the importance of teaching health equity in the medical education system. We hope that educational programs in Southeast Michigan can use the A4HE database to teach medical students, residents, and faculty on how to address barriers to healthcare access on an individual, patient-centered level and on a larger-scale community level.

The Future of Health Equity in Southeast Michigan

- The database and media campaign will not only be a platform to highlight health equity initiatives, but to hopefully serve as a permanent and evolving representation of the healthcare needs of Michigan's most vulnerable patient populations.
- It is intended to serve as a resource for SEMCME programs to gather and innovate ideas for how they can revolutionize healthcare for marginalized communities in a way that fits their vision.
- We hope that this project helps contribute to a higher standard of care that can be modeled throughout the country.

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