

## **HCD Glossary**

**Health Care Disparities (HCD)** – Notable differences in how certain populations experience both prevalence and incidence of detrimental conditions compared to a national average. HCD can be the consequences of numerous barriers such as financial barriers, low health literacy, and language barriers.

**Vulnerable Populations** – Populations who experience barriers as a result of characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion such as gender, age, SES, racial or ethnic group, sexual orientation, physical disability or mental health.

**Social Determinants of Health** – The conditions and circumstance in which people are born, live, learn, as well as the systems put in place to address illnesses. Said conditions are molded by a wider set of forces: economic, social policies, and politics.

**Implicit Bias** - Attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner. These attitudes can result in unfavorable or favorable assessments.

**Personal health literacy** – The degree to which individuals have the ability to find, understand, and use information and services to inform health-related decisions and actions for themselves and others.

**Organizational health literacy** – The degree to which organizations equitably enable individuals to find, understand, and use information and services to inform health-related decisions and actions for themselves and others.

**Cultural Competency** – Behavior, attitudes, and beliefs that guide physicians to work effectively in cross-cultural situations.

**Health Equity** – a person’s ability has just and equal access to opportunities for health services and maintaining and/or improving their health. Health equity can involve the removal of obstacles such as poverty, discrimination, and lack of access.

CDC Resource covering HCD: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/health-disparities-risk.htm>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/race-ethnicity.html>

Kaiser Foundation chart on Social Determinants of Health: <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/issue-brief/disparities-in-health-and-health-care-five-key-questions-and-answers/>

### References

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