



Key Definitions

Health Equity	Health Equity means everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences.
Health Disparities	Health Disparities are a particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage.
Healthcare Disparities	Healthcare Disparities are defined as differences in health care quality, access, and outcomes adversely affecting members of racial and ethnic minority groups and other socially disadvantaged populations.
Population Health	A system of care that drives better health outcomes and experiences at a lower cost for populations, we have agreed to take responsibility for. These populations are defined by geographic region, age, gender, ethnic and racial background, disability, etc.
Race	The racial categories included in the census questionnaire generally reflect a social definition of race recognized in this country and not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically. In addition, it is recognized that the categories of the race item include racial and national origin or sociocultural groups. People may choose to report more than one race to indicate their racial mixture. People who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race.
Ethnicity	Ethnicity is defined by OMB (Office of Management and Budget) as either "Hispanic or Latino" or "Not Hispanic or Latino." OMB defines "Hispanic or Latino" as a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. People who identify as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be any race.
Preferred Language	This is the language the patient prefers to use when discussing health care or communicating health care information with the patient's provider or staff in or outside of a clinic, ambulatory, hospital or other health care setting.
Sexual Orientation	An inherent or immutable enduring emotional, romantic or sexual attraction to other people.
Gender Identity	An individual's personal sense of having a particular gender.
Lesbian	A woman who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to other women. Women and non-binary people may use this term to describe themselves.
Gay	A person who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to members of the same gender. Men, women and non-binary people may use this term to describe themselves.
Bi-sexual	Bisexuality is an attraction to more than one gender. Those who identify as bisexual feel a sexual and/or romantic attraction to people of a different gender as well as their own. Bisexuality is often an umbrella term that includes identities like Pansexual, but they are not interchangeable. Bisexual people often refer to themselves as "bi" instead of bisexual.
Transgender	An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation. Therefore, transgender people may identify as straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc.
Queer	A term people often use to express a spectrum of identities and orientations that are counter to the mainstream. Queer is often used as a catch-all to include many people, including those who do not identify as exclusively straight and/or folks who have non-binary or gender-expansive identities. This term was previously used as a slur but has been reclaimed by many parts of the LGBTQ+ movement.
Cisgender	Denoting or relating to a person whose sense of personal identity and gender corresponds with their birth sex. For example, the patient was assigned male at birth and identifies as a man. The majority of the population identifies as cisgender.
Non-Binary	An adjective describing a person who does not identify exclusively as a man or a woman. Non-binary people may identify as being both a man and a woman, somewhere in between, or as falling completely outside these categories. While many also identify as transgender, not all non-binary people do. Non-binary can also be used as an umbrella term encompassing identities such as agender, bigender, genderqueer or gender-fluid.