Health Equity

Health equity means everyone has a fair shot at living the healthiest life possible.

In order to achieve health equity we must replace systems that allow only a few to thrive by creating new programs and policies that support everyone.
Some Terms to Know

• **Inequities**: When systems and policies create less opportunities between groups that are systemic, avoidable and unjust.

• **Disparities**: Measurable differences among groups of people. Inequities cause disparities.

• **Structural racism**: When institutions (such as those in housing, education, and health) collectively create systems and policies that work better for white families than for families of color. Structural racism limits opportunities for some, but contributes to poor outcomes for all.
The Health Equity Advocacy Cohort: Our Why

We believe that oppressive and racist practices have negatively impacted the health of Coloradans for too long.

We are determined to replace inequitable systems that allow only a few to thrive by creating new programs and policies that support everyone.
Values Guiding Our Process

1. Rooted in equity
2. Prioritized by cohort members
3. Opportunities for input and consultation
Home Equity
A Vision of Housing Security, Health and Opportunity
AUGUST 2019

colo.health/HomeEquity
What the Research Shows

Housing insecurity affects Coloradans from all walks of life. Housing insecurity directly affects health.

Some Coloradans, including people of color, families with low-incomes, and immigrant families, are more likely to experience housing insecurity – and poor health outcomes.

Policies and practices have led to current inequities - and can help address them.
Only 1 in 20 houses in Denver is affordable for teachers, study finds

Teachers also report difficulty with apartment rents

Home prices reach record high but wages fall behind

Colorado needs affordable housing. The state owns land. Can this combination work?

Gov. Jared Polis is urging the State Land Board to address housing shortage for teachers, part of a campaign promise he made
The Average Home Price in Colorado Has Increased Much More Quickly Than Median Income.

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Zillow
More than half of Colorado renters are housing cost-burdened.
The 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey:
New Data on Social Factors that Affect Health

colo.health/CHAS
Housing Instability Affects All Coloradans – Especially Those With Lower Incomes

- 13.3% of those making less than 138% of federal poverty line
- 8.9% of those making 138-400% FPL
- 2.5% of those making more than 400% FPL

Source: 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey
In 2019...

8.4% Of rural Coloradans reporting housing insecurity

6.4% Of urban Coloradans reporting housing insecurity

Source: 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey
Rural America Faces A Crisis In ‘Adequate Housing’

By NPR | August 11, 2018

It’s not just Denver: Rural Colorado feeling housing crunch, with more residents spending half their income on a place to live

In Yuma, like many other small communities in the state, waiting lists are long as many struggle to find an affordable place to live
Homelessness in Rural Colorado

1,481 homeless men, women, and children in emergency shelters and transitional housing in non-metro counties

Source: Colorado Balance of State: Point in Time Survey
Cost-burdened Households in Colorado: Older Adults

Source: 2017 American Community Survey
Different Regions, Different Dynamics

• Eastern Plains
• Mountain Region
• Western Slope
Barriers to Affordable Housing

• Lack of federal funding for affordable housing; sunsetting of programs
• Lack of housing inventory, development
• Lack of landlords willing to accept vouchers
• Poverty, lack of employment opportunities
• Zoning
• What else?
60% of the population

One-third of the population

Source: Lake Research Partners, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Enterprise Community Partners, Colorado Center on Law and Policy, Colorado Fiscal Institute, Colorado Balance of State Continuum of Care
Of People Who Reported Housing Instability...

- 51.9% had problems paying for medical care
  Compared with 15.4% who did not report housing instability

- 54.2% had problems paying for food
  Compared with 6.4% who did not report housing instability

Source: 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Condition</th>
<th>Housing Unstable</th>
<th>Housing Stable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poor General Health</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor Mental Health</td>
<td>45.8%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor Oral Health</td>
<td>46.8%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey
Housing Insecurity Affects Health

- Affordability
- Stability
- Accessibility
- Home quality
- Neighborhood quality
1. Communities of color
2. Families with children
3. Low-income households
4. People with disabilities
5. Immigrants without documentation
6. People experiencing homelessness
7. Rural communities
The Numbers

Rates of Home Ownership

Source: 2017 American Community Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black, Non-Hispanic/Latinx</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latinx</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White, Non-Hispanic/Latinx</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2017 American Community Survey
The Numbers
Fair or Poor Health by Race / Ethnicity

- White, Non-Hispanic/Latinx: 13.0%
- Black, Non-Hispanic/Latinx: 18.3%
- Hispanic/Latinx: 19.4%

Source: 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey
Policy Approaches

- Address several dimensions of insecurity
- Support communities of interest
- Evidence-based or in use in Colorado or elsewhere
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
Housing Policy Opportunities in Rural Colorado

• Medical legal partnerships
• Short-term rentals into long-term rentals
• Investment fund for naturally occurring affordable housing
• Housing trust fund dollars
• Tax rebate for lower-income renters
• Right to counsel
• Prohibit source of income discrimination
Tenant/Resident Protection Wins in 2019

- Time Period to Cure Lease Violations
- Eviction Legal Defense
- Warranty of Habitability
- Mobile Home Park Oversight
- Rental Application Fees
New Funding Streams for Affordable Housing in 2019

• Affordable Housing from Vendor Fee Changes:
  Creates a new funding stream and transfer these dollars to the housing development grant fund. It also requires at least 1/3 of funds be used for affordable housing for households with less than 30% AMI

• Expand Supply of Affordable Housing:
  Allocates funding from the Unclaimed Property Trust Fund to the housing development grant fund to increase the supply of affordable housing.
Three Takeaways

1. Good policy requires co-creation.

2. Housing is essential to health.

3. Change is possible, and we know where to start.
Questions? Comments?
colo.health/symposiumunplugged