P4HE Summit: On The Front Lines of Equity & Justice
Breakout Session Overview

PARTNERS for ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY

The Partners for Advancing Health Equity Collaborative hosted the 2022 Summit, *On the Front Lines of Equity & Justice*, December 4-6, 2022. The Summit brought together leaders in health equity and justice to foster collaboration across sectors, and to promote action in advancing health equity in research, practice, and policy. This report provides a synthesis of key takeaways from the breakout session, *Building our skills in systems-thinking and mapping: Learning & practicing systems thinking.*

Session Voices

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Key Takeaways

Think systematically and structurally to understand how risk factors related to public health issues are interconnected by the structural determinants, which create and perpetuate health inequities. Systems thinking models, such as the iceberg metaphor, enable analysis of complex root causes of health inequities. "Above the surface" are presented as isolated instances, but as you go "below the surface", the patterns, structures, values, and norms give rise to and exacerbate inequities. Underlying social stigmas, hostile environments, and policies drive health inequities, such as those affecting health insurance access. Panelists demonstrated this interconnectedness through collaborating with the audience to identify the ways in which the risks for contracting HIV interact with other factors that create a system of HIV "risk."

Leverage all available tools to enhance collaborative systems thinking approaches. Tools such as Kumu.io for systems mapping visualizations, Scriptapedia for modeling ways to workshop systemic issues, and isee Exchange to simulate policy changes can all drive collaboration by providing brainstorming and visualization platforms for groups and individuals to collaborate on solutions for addressing health inequities.

Collaborate with communities using systems-thinking approaches to effectively understand and address root causes of inequities. To effectively address systemic inequities, system science approaches should engage the community and center their voices and perspectives in understanding the issue. Community-Based System Dynamics builds upon Group Model Building by focusing on capacity building within communities to develop long-term engagement for creating systemic change. CBSD approaches identify the community, the problem, and the politics and power related to the inequity in direct collaboration with community members. Group Model Building is a participatory system dynamics approach that involves workshops with key populations for a certain issue using modeling exercises that outline how workshops can examine systemic problems.

Share your thoughts!
What did you this of this topic? Would you like to hear more from these speakers? Do you have any resources you would like to share with us? Email us!

Interested in hearing more? The full recording from this session is available here. For more Partners for Health Equity content including more summit sessions, past, webinars, and a resource library, visit the P4HE website.