

IMPROVING EQUITY IN U.S. HEALTH SYSTEMS

IDENTIFYING AND ADDRESSING HEALTH DISPARITIES IN PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES AT INTERMOUNTAIN HEALTHCARE

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. For example, while Americans generally have worse infant and maternal mortality than any other OECD nation, the child of an African American mother is more than twice as likely as the child of a white mother to die before reaching its first birthday. Further, health outcomes often follow socioeconomic lines – individuals with lower income and lower educational levels consistently have lower health outcomes than wealthier, more educated individuals.

Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. Achieving health equity requires that health disparities – avoidable differences in

