



## Health Equity and Disparities Guidance

AAPA is committed to promoting health equity and eliminating health disparities. Health equity is when everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain optimal health (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 2024).

A health disparity is “a particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage. Health disparities adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater obstacles to health based on their racial or ethnic group; religion; socioeconomic status; gender; age; mental health; cognitive, sensory, or physical disability; sexual orientation or gender identity; geographic location; or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion.” (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [HHS], 2022).

As you prepare to present at AAPA 2026, we urge you to integrate information on health equity and health disparities into your presentation. You may consider

- Demonstrating how the topic impacts different US populations based on demographics
- Describing the prevalence and severity of health disparities
- Explaining why health disparities might exist
- Exploring impact of social determinants of health on disparities
- Provide resources to your audience on how to deliver culturally responsive care to address health disparities and promote health equity

For more information, you can reference

Smith, W. R., Betancourt, J. R., Wynia, M. K., Bussey-Jones, J., Stone, V. E., Phillips, C. O., Fernandez, A., Jacobs, E., & Bowles, J. (2007). Recommendations for teaching about racial and ethnic disparities in health and health care. *Ann Intern Med*, 147(9), 654–665. <https://doi.org/0.7326/0003-4819-147-9-200711060-00010>

If you have questions or would like more information and references on how to present about health disparities and health equity, please contact Kim Williams, VP for Health Equity and Community Engagement at [kwilliams@aapa.org](mailto:kwilliams@aapa.org)