

National Academies of Science, Medicine and Engineering

Committee on the Review of Federal Policies that Contribute to Racial and Ethnic Health Inequities

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Agenda

- **Congressional Appropriations Report Language**
- **Office of Minority Health Overview**
- **Key Definitions**
- **Committee Statement of Task**
- **Additional Context**

FY 2021 Congressional Appropriations Report Language

Racial and Ethnic Health Inequities

- **Partner:** National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
- **Task**
 - Review current Federal policies that contribute to health inequities, including those policies that impact the social determinants of health
 - Provide analysis and potential solutions that are both evidence-based and non-partisan
 - Identify the most effective or promising strategies to eliminate or modify to advance racial and ethnic health equity
 - Included populations: Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander

OMH's Mission, Functions, and Unifying Goal

MISSION: *The mission of OMH is to improve the health of racial and ethnic minority populations through the development of health policies and programs that will eliminate health disparities.*

FUNCTIONS



OMH GOAL: S³P³



S³ ➤

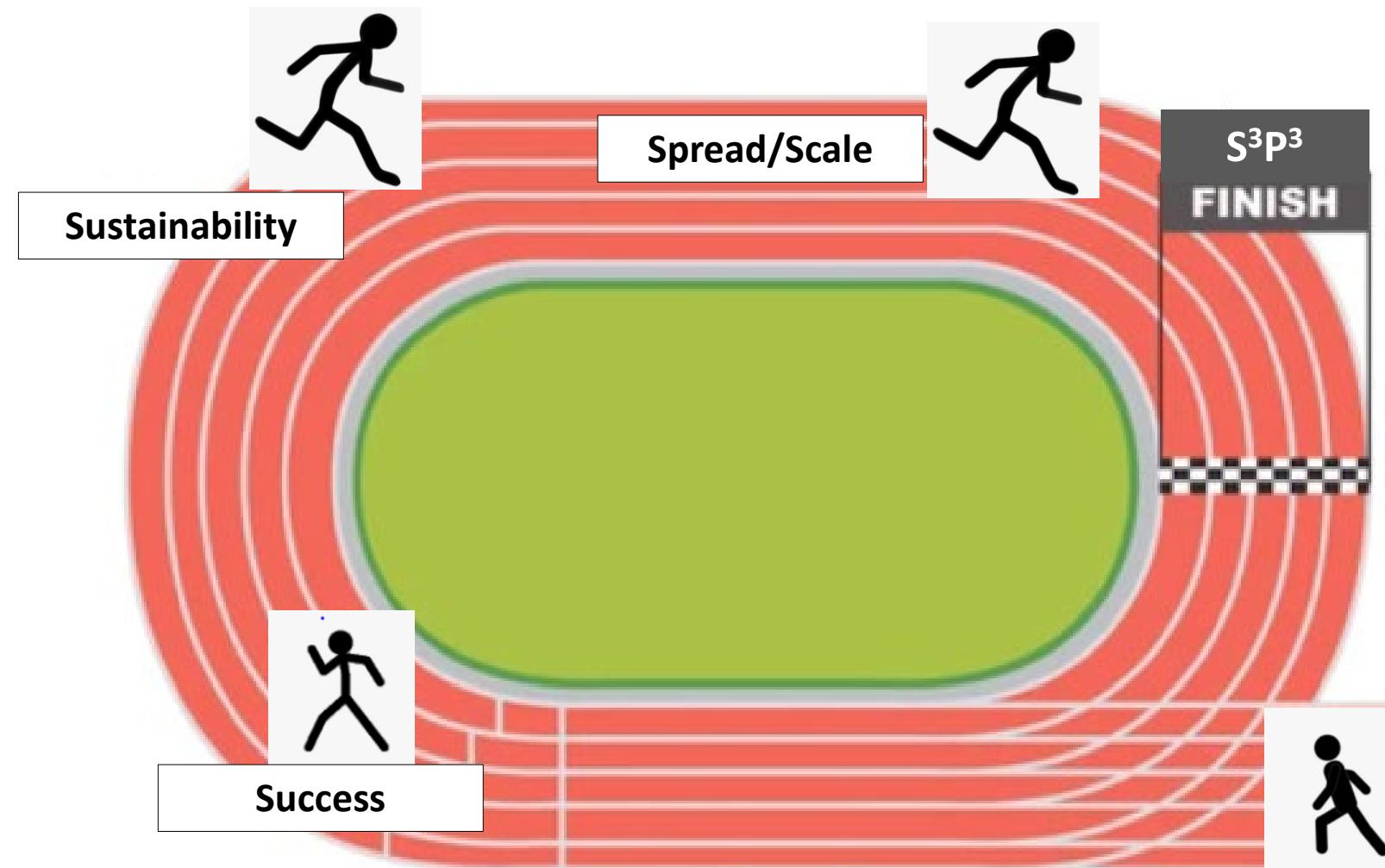
- Success
- Sustainability
- Spread

P³ ➤

Of Health Disparity Reducing/Equity Producing

- Policies
- Programs
- Practices

We must get to the S³P³ finish line to win the race of eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities and achieving health equity.



Health equity is the attainment of the highest level of health for all people.

<https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/health-equity-healthy-people-2030>



Equality



Equity

Health equity can only be attained through **“fairness”** or making sure people have access to the same opportunities.

What is a health disparity?

A disproportionate number of health conditions and deaths compared with the general population

African Americans make up 13 percent of the U.S. population ...



... but represent almost half of all new HIV cases.



Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities

COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths

Multiple data sources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, March 10, 2021

Risk for COVID-19 Infection, Hospitalization, and Death By Race/Ethnicity				
Rate ratios compared to White, Non-Hispanic persons	American Indian or Alaska Native, Non-Hispanic persons	Asian, Non-Hispanic persons	Black or African American, Non-Hispanic persons	Hispanic or Latino persons
Cases ¹	1.9x	0.7x	1.1x	1.3x
Hospitalization ²	3.7x	1.1x	2.9x	3.2x
Death ³	2.4x	1.0x	1.9x	2.3x

Race and ethnicity are risk markers for other underlying conditions that affect health, including socioeconomic status, access to health care, and exposure to the virus related to occupation, e.g., among frontline, essential, and critical infrastructure workers.

¹ Data source: Data reported by state and territorial jurisdictions (accessed 02/01/2021). Numbers are ratios of age-adjusted rates standardized to the 2019 US intercensal population. Calculations use only the 51% of case reports that have race and ethnicity data available; this can result in inaccurate estimates of the relative risk among groups.

² Data source: COVID-NET (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covid-net/purpose-methods.html>, accessed March 1, 2020, through January 30, 2021). Numbers are ratios of age-adjusted rates standardized to the 2019 US standard COVID-NET catchment population.

³ Data source: NCHS provisional death counts (<https://data.cdc.gov/NCHS/Deaths-involving-coronavirus-disease-2019-COVID-19/ks3g-spdg>, data through January 30, 2021). Numbers are ratios of age-adjusted rates standardized to the 2019 US intercensal population estimate.



Reasons for Addressing Health Disparities

- Human rights
- Social justice
- Economic impact



Research further finds that health disparities are costly.

Analysis estimates that disparities amount to approximately \$93 billion in excess medical care costs and \$42 billion in lost productivity per year as well as additional economic losses due to premature deaths.

Source: [Kaiser Family Foundation, May 11, 2021](#).

Health Inequities are Driven by Social Determinants of Health (SDOHs)



Healthy People 2030 SDOH Key Issues



Education Access and Quality

- High School Graduation
- Enrollment in Higher Education
- Language and Literacy
- Early Childhood Education and Development



Health Care and Quality

- Access to Health Care
- Access to Primary Care
- Health Literacy



Social and Community Context

- Social Cohesion
- Civic Participation
- Perceptions of Discrimination and Equity
- Incarceration/Institutionalization



Neighborhood and Built Environment

- Access to Healthy Foods
- Quality of Housing
- Crime and Violence
- Environmental Conditions



Economic Stability

- Poverty
- Employment
- Food Security
- Housing Stability

Committee Statement of Task

- Review current Federal policies that contribute to health inequities, **using the organizational framework of the Healthy People 2030 five key SDOH areas**
 - **Health Care and Quality**
 - **Education Access and Quality**
 - **Neighborhood and Built Environment**
 - **Social and Community Context**
 - **Economic Stability**
- Provide analysis and potential solutions that are both evidence-based and non-partisan
- Identify the most effective or promising strategies to eliminate or modify to advance racial and ethnic health equity.
- Included populations: Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander

Addition Considerations

- Similar level of effort for each SDOH area
- Applicability across U.S. Government
- Lack of policies
- Infrastructure needs within each SDOH area (e.g., financial investment, data, workforce capacity, community engagement, and systems for accountability)
- Road map for action, measuring progress, and accountability
- Prioritization of promising strategies within and across SDOH areas
- Acknowledgment of intersectionality when applicable to specific policies associated health inequities

Examples of Federal Policy Areas Associated with Health Inequities

- Preventive health or mental health services access
- Early childhood development and education
- Housing safety and affordability
- Access to healthy foods
- Broadband access
- Child Tax Credit



These policy areas can be mapped directly to a SDOH area(s).



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
CHAIRMAN RICHARD E. NEAL

MAJORITY STAFF REPORT

Something Must Change: Inequities in U.S. Policy and Society

January 2021



“Across the board, communities of color routinely experience worse health outcomes, even when adjusting for geography and income. Decades of research have demonstrated that communities of color not only tend to have worse health outcomes, but they also experience lower incomes due to limited economic opportunities, lower levels of educational attainment, and higher exposure to unsafe living conditions.”

Executive Order 13985

January 20, 2021

Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government

Section 1 Policy Excerpts.

Equal opportunity is the bedrock of American democracy, and our diversity is one of our country's greatest strengths. But for too many, the American Dream remains out of reach.

Entrenched disparities in our laws and public policies, and in our public and private institutions, have often denied that equal opportunity to individuals and communities.

Executive departments and agencies must recognize and work to redress inequities in their policies and programs that serve as barriers to equal opportunity.

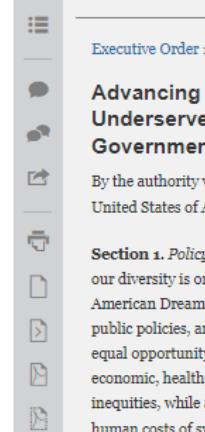
 **FEDERAL REGISTER**
The Daily Journal of the United States Government



 Presidential Document

Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government

A Presidential Document by the Executive Office of the President on 01/25/2021



PUBLISHED DOCUMENT

Start Printed Page 7009

Executive Order 13985 of January 20, 2021

Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Policy. Equal opportunity is the bedrock of American democracy, and our diversity is one of our country's greatest strengths. But for too many, the American Dream remains out of reach. Entrenched disparities in our laws and public policies, and in our public and private institutions, have often denied that equal opportunity to individuals and communities. Our country faces converging economic, health, and climate crises that have exposed and exacerbated inequities, while a historic movement for justice has highlighted the unbearable human costs of systemic racism. Our Nation deserves an ambitious whole-of-government equity agenda that matches the scale of the opportunities and challenges that we face.

It is therefore the policy of my Administration that the Federal Government should pursue a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality. Affirmatively advancing equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity is the responsibility of the whole of our Government. Because advancing equity requires a systematic approach to embedding fairness in decision-making processes, executive departments and agencies (agencies) must recognize and work to redress inequities in their policies and programs that serve as barriers to equal opportunity.

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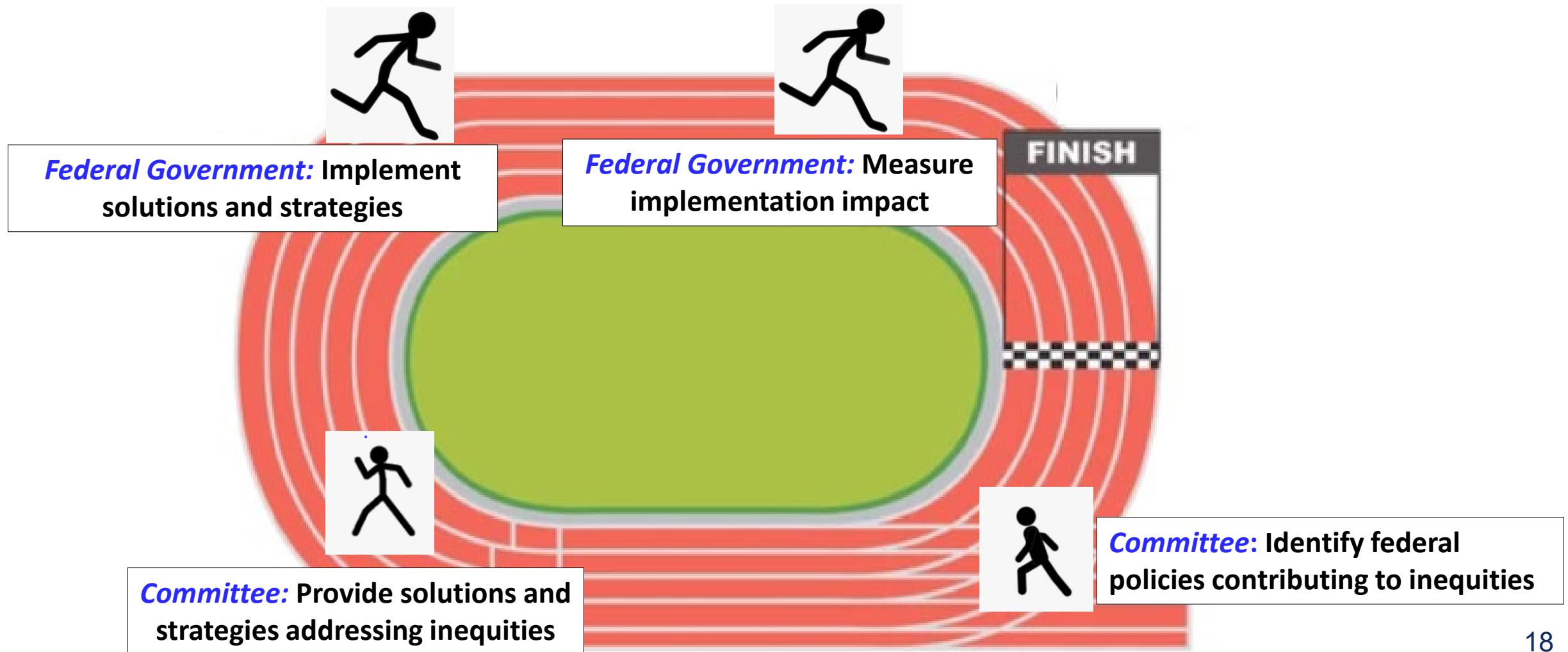
DOCUMENT STATISTICS

16

Examples of HHS Policy Efforts

- **CMS**: Provide states with option to extend postpartum coverage beyond required 60-days to 12-month postpartum
- **CDC**: Policy statement that racism is a serious threat to the public's health
- **NIH**: UNITE Initiative to address racial inequities in biomedical research within the NIH-supported and the greater scientific community
- **OMH**: Grant determining whether Earned Income Tax Credit outreach and education can result changes in risk and/or protective factors for adverse childhood experiences.
- **OMH**: Grant developing and implementing new and innovative policies and practices to address policies that may create or perpetuate health disparities and may contribute to structural racism.

We are now teammates in a health equity relay race.



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THANK YOU
