



Winnebago County Public Health

Health Equity Value Statement

Updated 2025

Health equity is achieved when everyone can attain their full potential for health* and well-being.** Equity is the absence of unfair, avoidable or superficial differences among groups of people. Health outcomes begin where we live, learn, work and play. Our communities, resources and opportunities influence our health more than individual choices or even going to the doctor.

Winnebago County Public Health's (WCPH) purpose is to improve community conditions that influence health. This includes transportation, housing, employment, education, healthcare, food access, safety, and more, so that all people can thrive.

We will support and develop policies and practices that address root causes leading to health and racial equity. Systems such as racism, classism and poverty prevent people from achieving health equity. We strive to be innovative and use our resources and voice to support a community where everyone has a fair opportunity to obtain their highest potential, regardless of the systems they were born into.

True, sustainable impact cannot be achieved without community leadership and involvement. Promoting equity in public health is a strategic and economically sound approach to maximizing the impact of limited resources. Our work is guided by data and evidence to help shape our direction and evaluate both our successes and areas for improvement.

Internally, we are focused on developing a diverse workforce. A diverse workforce is necessary to respond to the needs of **all** populations, especially those who have been historically underserved or marginalized. By prioritizing a diverse workforce, we can continue to strive towards equitable health outcomes for all residents of Winnebago County.

** health: "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity"³*

***well-being: "Well-being is a positive state experienced by individual and societies. Similar to health, it is a resource for daily life and is determined by social, economic, and environmental conditions"*

¹ [Social Determinants; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#)

² [Equity Manifesto; PolicyLink 2015](#)

³ [World Health Organization](#)

Equity is the absence of unfair, avoidable or remediable (superficial?) differences among groups of people, https://www.who.int/health-topics/health-equity#tab=tab_1

file:///C:/Users/wtracy/Downloads/pl_sum15_manifesto_FINAL_2018.pdf

[Office of Health Equity \(OHE\) | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)