

Election 2024: What's at Stake for Health Equity and How to Protect It

Key Takeaways & Resources



Speakers

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This upcoming election stands to powerfully affect our progress toward health equity and justice. That means that we have an opportunity, and an urgent need, to define what's at stake for health equity and pursue it. In this document, find key takeaways and resources from [Election 2024: What's at Stake for Health Equity and How to Protect It](#) webinar, brought to you in partnership by the [Health Equity Community Collaborative](#) and [HealthBegins](#).



A collaborative of community members, health care providers, public health practitioners, researchers and health equity advocates committed to cultivating belonging, fostering healing and building shared power.



A national design and implementation partner that helps Medicaid-serving clients move upstream and advance health equity for people and communities harmed by societal practices.

Key Takeaways

Health Policy Differences Between Candidates Based on Prior Administrations

- Biden–Harris Administration: Emphasizes expanding and protecting health coverage through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid. Their policies include addressing racial disparities, supporting reproductive rights, reducing prescription drug costs, and strengthening health equity initiatives.
- Trump Administration: Previously focused on repealing the ACA, cutting Medicaid funding, and introducing policies that could limit access to affordable healthcare, especially for marginalized groups. Trump’s stance on reproductive health is aligned with allowing states to impose restrictions.

Impact Across Different Levels of Government

- The election's outcome will influence federal, state, and local health policies, with implications for Medicaid, reproductive rights, immigrant health, and LGBTQ health.
- Potential changes in health equity could result in either expanding or retracting rights and access to services, significantly affecting marginalized communities.

Emerging Anti-DEI Legislation

- There's a growing trend of legislation aimed at restricting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs. Such laws can hinder health equity efforts by limiting discussions around social determinants of health.
- Some states have broadly interpreted these laws to avoid addressing health equity topics altogether, even where laws don't explicitly prohibit such initiatives.

Call to Action for Public Health and Health Equity Advocates

- Engagement and Advocacy: Encouraged to remain informed, advocate for health equity policies, and participate in nonpartisan efforts to raise awareness about the election's impact on health.
- Leveraging Data and Community Knowledge: Use data to demonstrate the benefits of health equity policies and engage communities in decision-making to ensure solutions address real needs.

Themes Highlighted by Speakers

- The urgency of health equity, with a focus on issues like Medicaid, reproductive health, immigrant wellbeing, and legal challenges to health equity programs.
- A shared sense of hope based on historical progress and current grassroots efforts, especially efforts for change that are being led by the younger generation of leaders.

Resources

Kaiser Family Foundation

- Tracker: [Compare the Candidates on Health Care Policy](#)
- Research: [Key Data on Health and Health Care by Race and Ethnicity | KFF](#)
- Survey Data: [Racism, Discrimination and Health: Experiences and Impacts Across Racial and Ethnic Groups](#)
- Timeline of Policies and Events: [How History Has Shaped Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities:](#)
- Analysis: [Understanding the U.S. Immigrant Experience: The 2023 KFF/LA Times Survey of Immigrants](#)
- Fact Sheet: [Health Care Use and Costs Among Immigrants](#)
- Poll Report: [Misinformation About Immigrants in the 2024 Presidential Election](#)

Families USA

- Toolkit: [What's at Stake: The Future of our Nation's Health and Health Care](#)
- Fact Sheets: [The Importance of Premium Tax Credits: Affording Health Insurance Coast to Coast](#)
- Blog Post: [Tackling High Health Care Costs for Millions: The IRA's Promising Path Forward](#)
- Statement on [Lower Health Care Costs for Americans: Understanding the Benefits of the Inflation Reduction Act](#)

Meharry Medical College

- Report: [Projected Cost and Economic Impact of Mental Health Inequities in the United States](#)
- Oxford Research: [Political Determinants of Health: A Global Panacea for Health Inequities](#)
- Book: [The Political Determinants of Health | Hopkins Press](#)

HealthBegins

- Blog Post: [From Anxiety to Action: Responding to a Cruel and Unusual Supreme Court Term](#)