Equity Analysis: Vermont’s COVID-19 Response

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Health equity exists when all people have a fair and just opportunity to be healthy, especially those who have experienced socioeconomic disadvantage, historical injustice, and other avoidable systemic inequalities that are often associated with social categories of race, gender, ethnicity, social position, sexual orientation and disability.
Applying an equity lens

Health inequities exist across all aspects of public health and the health care system.

A health equity lens asks questions like:

- What are the systemic, root causes contributing to these inequities?
- Where is the power imbalance to maintain these inequities?
- What is public health’s role in addressing these root causes beyond addressing the health condition?
- Why are different populations being impacted more than others?
What can we do about it?

• Fund racial/social justice advocacy organizations
• Fund community health work
• Focus on primary prevention efforts
• Acknowledge that state government messages and services miss many Vermonters
• Engage the community in determining the most effective ways to reach all people
HECE successes

- Made equity-focused recommendations
- Granted funding
- Supported RFP processes
- Hosted equity workshops
- Collaborated with partners on community-building and educational sessions
- Increased communication about equity
  - Examples: Winooski outbreak/BIPOC household vax
Let’s stay in touch!

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