

Indiana Health Equity Action Team – January 2021

The Health Equity Action Team (HEAT) is a collaborative group of community members and partners, representing numerous organizations throughout Indiana, working to build awareness, understanding, capacity and ability to address health equity. HEAT was initially convened in 2018 by [Health by Design](#).

HEAT is guided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's definition of health equity, which (in slightly modified form) is that *'Every community member has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires removing obstacles to health, such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, transportation options, and health care.'*

Each participating member in HEAT recognizes that advancing health equity is vital to the success of their mission and a foundational element to a health in all policies approach. We strive to work together and facilitate health equity initiatives and policies in communities throughout the state of Indiana.

HEAT members meet on a monthly basis to:

- Share information and resources about their work to advance health equity
- Network and identify potential collaborations and alignment of resources
- Organize educational and training opportunities

As part of the wider global and national movement to address racism as a root cause of health inequities, in 2021, HEAT has also prioritized a project to influence Indianapolis Marion County City Council's recent *Racism is a Public Health Crisis* declaration. Our work on this is nascent, but we hope to identify action steps that can operationalize this commitment, and also to set a model for other areas of the state who are considering or are in need of parallel work.

HEAT meets the fourth Thursday of each month, from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. All are welcome to participate in person or remotely. Click [HERE](#) to join us.