

# The health equity briefs

National Association of State Offices of Minority Health Newsletter

## HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF VIVIAN LASLEY-BIBBS



The public health community lost a dedicated leader and pioneer with the passing of Vivian Lasley-Bibbs, MPH. While Vivian has long stood as an esteemed Health Equity Leader and a champion of the Minority Health movement, we now pay tribute to the profound impact of Vivian, who emerged not only as a dedicated community and statewide leader but also transcended Kentucky's borders, leaving an indelible mark in Region IV, across the United States, and globally.

Throughout her acclaimed career, Vivian was devoted to advancing health equity and empowering underserved communities. Vivian's advocacy knew no bounds, embodying a legacy that defies limits, touching and inspiring countless lives. Her unwavering commitment to catalyzing change and fearlessly championing what is right stands as an enduring testament to her character.

Vivian prematurely left us, yet her impact is permanent. A principled and successful civic leader, entrepreneur, innovator, creator, planner, organizer, director, presenter, mentor, and pioneer, Vivian generously contributed to minority health, health equity, church missions, and family.

At the time of her death, Vivian worked as the Director of Disease Intervention Initiatives for CDC-funded projects through the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) Center for Public Health Workforce Development and was board president of NASOMH. She co-founded *Color of Promise*, a breast cancer advocacy group. This community-driven outreach organization spreads the message of breast cancer awareness and prevention throughout the Lexington, Kentucky community, specifically to women of color.

Vivian's passion extended beyond her work as she educated the next generation of public health leaders as a faculty member at Morgan State University. She also volunteered her time and talents to organizations like the American Public Health Association and Academy Health. Her colleagues admired and respected Vivian for her vision, leadership, compassion, and commitment to public health. Although she accomplished so much, Vivian always strove to lift those around her. Her legacy will live on through the many lives she touched and improved.

If you would like to pay tribute to Vivian's memory, donations can be made in her memory at [\*\*Colors of Promise\*\*](#) –We will miss her dearly.

By Antoniette Holt, Interim President

JANUARY 2024



### Our Mission:

Promote and protect the health of racial and ethnic minority communities, tribal organizations and nations, by preventing disease and injury and assuring optimal health and well-being.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

*Honoring the Life and Legacy of Vivian Lasley-Bibbs*

*Message from the Executive Director*

*CDC Adds New Social Determinants of Health Measures*

*Register Now for the Health Equity Summit*

*2023 Organizational Assessment for Equity Infrastructure Results Report*

*Historic Investment in Environmental Justice for Disadvantaged Communities*

## January is . . .

- [National Birth Defects Awareness Month](#)
- [One Health Awareness Month](#)
- [National Healthy Weight Awareness Month](#)
- [Cervical Health Awareness Month](#)
- [National Blood Donor Month](#)
- [Glaucoma Awareness Month](#)
- [Thyroid Awareness Month](#)
- [National Radon Action Month](#)

**Greetings, NASOMH Members!** On behalf of the Board of Directors of NASOMH, we would like to begin 2024 with positive wishes for a successful year ahead. We understand that every year presents unique challenges in our mission to ensure everyone can live their healthiest lives, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or social or economic status. NASOMH is committed to supporting the work of our members and helping build sustainability of State Offices of Minority (SOMH), Multicultural Health, and Health Equity. This year, NASOMH has exciting work to continue, and we look forward to helping amplify work in your various states and jurisdictions.

## What's ahead for this year?

NASOMH is a core member of the States, Islands, and Territories Health Equity Community of Practice (SITHE-COP), providing timely training to SOMHs on health equity and workforce development topics. SITHE-COP will host two new webinar trainings between March and June this year and hope you can participate.

NASOMH partners with ASTHO and the CDC through the Power of Partnership Health Equity Alliance to help communities meet ongoing needs and emergency public health threats. The alliance also facilitates quarterly forums for sharing health equity strategies and fostering peer-to-peer learning.

With funding from ASTHO, NASOMH is working on an Onboarding Toolkit for new SOMHs. If you want to join the team working on this initiative or contribute to the content, please email [veronica@nasomh.org](mailto:veronica@nasomh.org). Thank you to Leann Johnson, Office of Health Equity and Inclusion, Oregon, for leading this effort.

NASOMH and ASTHO are collaborating to hold informal discussions with nine SOMHs starting in February. We aim to collect information on the role of SOMHs, organizational structures, types of staff positions, funding, and lessons learned. The information collected will be used to create a product highlighting best practices, lessons learned, and case studies for offices of health equity. If interested, email [veronica@nasomh.org](mailto:veronica@nasomh.org).

NASOMH established the **Cheryl Boyce Leadership Award** for Outstanding SOMH of the Year last year. Cheryl Boyce played a crucial role in founding NASOMH and was an esteemed member. This award was established in her name to recognize individuals who exemplify her leadership, mentorship, and advocacy qualities.

This year, we will honor the first recipient. Kudos to Angela Dawson of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health for establishing the criteria.

## Engage with us in 2024!

In addition to the abovementioned projects, we will host four quarterly virtual membership meetings this year in March, June, September, and December. Consider joining a committee to help plan engaging meetings.

During 2023, the NASOMH Board and staff were busy updating the bylaws. We are in the final stages of finalizing the changes with the Board. Our members will then have a chance to review and vote on the changes during one of our general meetings this year.

## We need all of you!

NASOMH is only as strong as its members. We are fortunate to have Antoniette Holt (Indiana Department of Public Health) as interim president until we hold elections. Meanwhile, the Board will meet monthly to ensure continuity of work and a smooth transition. Please consider joining one of our committees by emailing [veronica@nasomh.org](mailto:veronica@nasomh.org).

Finally, your membership dues go to supporting the mission and vision of NASOMH. Please consider being a paid member and receive a thank-you gift while supplies last. Let's make this an excellent year for health equity in our nation. [Email info@nasomh.org](mailto:info@nasomh.org).

*Respectfully,*

*Veronica Halloway, Executive Director*

## Pensylvania Department of Health Health Equity Summit

Join us at **Harrisburg University on February 15-17, 2024**, for courageous conversations advancing health equity through plenaries, breakouts, receptions, and more.

All-access registration includes:

- All summit sessions and presentations
- Networking & receptions
- Commemorative summit items
- Continuing education credits

Discounted rates for students, advocates, and groups. Limited sponsorship opportunities are available.

**[Register Now](#)**

## CDC Adds New Social Determinants of Health Measures

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's PLACES tool now includes **nine new Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)** measures. These measures will enable public health and community planners to examine underlying social factors along with health data at the local level. This will help them better address the needs of their communities. "Social determinants of health" refer to the building blocks needed for well-being that some of us have access to, but others do not. They include non-medical factors that influence health, such as the conditions in which people are born, live, and work, and the wider systems that shape daily life.

The new measures from the American Community Survey include social factors that can impact health:

- Poverty
- Education
- Unemployment
- Housing
- Internet access
- Single-parent households

These measures will help public health and community planners identify overlapping health and social factors. This will allow them to allocate limited resources better and plan public health promotion, prevention, treatment, and management strategies.

The addition of SDOH measures to the PLACES tool provides localized data to create targeted solutions to improve community health and well-being. [Visit CDC's Places website to learn more.](#)



### PROMOTING EQUITY IN HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS

Please join [CDC's Office of Health Equity \(OHE\)](#) and our partners to learn best practices for communicating about health equity as well as creating culturally relevant and accessible health communications materials. Presenters include OHE leadership and subject matter experts from CDC's Office of Communications, the Lakeshore Foundation, and the National Association of State Offices of Minority Health (NASOMH).

WHEN:

**Wednesday, January 24, 2024**  
**3:30pm-4:30pm EST**

WHERE: Zoom

REGISTRATION:

[Please click here to register for the zoom meeting.](#)

#### Accessibility and Reasonable Accommodations:

This live streamed Zoom event will be presented with Web CART. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate, please contact [OHE@cdc.gov](mailto:OHE@cdc.gov) within 10 business days of the event to ensure timely interpreting and accessibility services are provided.

Questions:

Email [OHE@cdc.gov](mailto:OHE@cdc.gov) with any questions about this event.

## 2023 Organizational Assessment for Equity Infrastructure Results Report

The California Department of Public Health's Equity Technical Assistance Team is excited to share the **2023 Organizational Assessment for Equity Infrastructure Results Report**. This report provides an overview of assessment findings on equity infrastructure progress at the state and regional levels.

Key details:

- Assesses equity infrastructure for Local Health Jurisdictions
- Facilitates continued dialogue and tracks changes
- Informs equity capacity building and technical assistance
- Overview of 2023 findings at state and regional levels

You can access the full report, intro webinars, and assessment tool on the [CDPH website](#). An ADA-compliant version of the report is coming soon.

# HISTORIC INVESTMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

JANUARY 2024

## RESOURCES

**The P4HE Resource Library** is a virtual portal that provides action-oriented research, practice, and policies to advance health equity. Its mission is to increase equity in health by offering free access to field-tested, evidence-informed, and evidence-based programs, strategies, and high-quality research.

**The Health Disparities Bibliography** is a valuable resource that offers a comprehensive overview of key literature on health disparities issues in the United States. This curated bibliography includes a range of important books, documents, journal articles, and federal reports that have significantly contributed to shaping our understanding of health disparities.

The EPA recently announced \$2 billion in funding available through the new Community Change Grants program, delivering resources directly to marginalized communities to tackle environmental and climate challenges. This represents the single largest investment in environmental justice in history. President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act funds competitive grants to support locally-driven projects around clean energy access, climate resilience, pollution monitoring, workforce programs, and more. 100% of funding will go towards disadvantaged areas. Unique aspects aim to improve accessibility and equity:

- Rolling 12-month application period
- Two funding tracks from \$1-20 million
- Opportunities for applicant presentations
- \$200 million for technical assistance
- Target pools for Tribes, border regions, rural areas

[Click here](#) to get details and apply at the Community Change Grants website. Informational webinars are also planned. This timely funding can help vulnerable communities gain resources to enact solutions that reduce pollution burdens and build climate readiness.

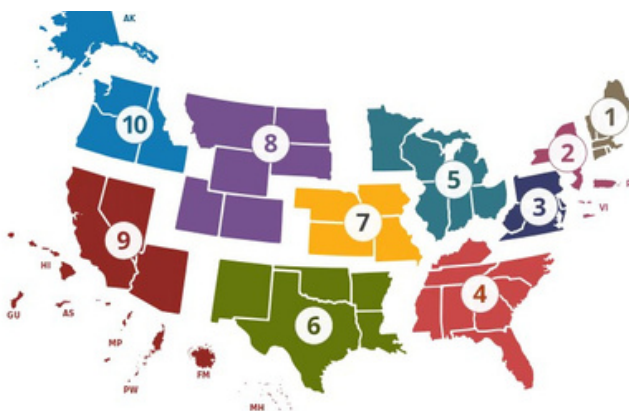
## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: PUBLIC HEALTH REVIEW PODCAST

If you haven't already tuned into the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) podcast called "Public Health Review," it's one worth listening to. This weekly podcast provides insights from public health leaders on vital topics in the field. Recent topics have included emergency preparedness, Zika virus, family planning, injuries and violence, newborn screening, health and climate change, as well as state-level innovations.

The podcast features interviews with both ASTHO members and external partners discussing emerging issues and sharing strategies, resources, reports and more. Some recent guests have included representatives from the March of Dimes, Fire Fighter Cancer Alliance, Children's National Hospital, Trust for America's Health, and the Health Impact Project. Listen to Public Health Review to hear powerful conversations shaping public health policy and practice today. Episodes are released weekly and accessible on multiple platforms, including Apple Podcasts, Google Play Music, Spotify, and more.

### DO YOU KNOW YOUR HHS REGION?

Click on the map to learn about the HHS Regions and find your HHS representative.



+317-920-4928



[info@nasomh.org](mailto:info@nasomh.org)



<https://nasomh.org/>