



NIMHD Research Framework

NIMHD’s mission is to lead scientific research to improve minority health and reduce health disparities.

The NIMHD Research Framework reflects an evolving conceptualization of factors relevant to minority health and health disparities. The framework encourages NIMHD- and NIH-supported research that addresses the complex and multifaceted nature of minority health and health disparities. Research under this umbrella covers many different domains (biological, behavioral, physical/built environment, sociocultural environment, and healthcare) and levels of influence (individual, interpersonal, community, and societal) within those domains. This framework also facilitates assessment of progress, gaps, and opportunities in the NIMHD and NIH minority health and health disparities research portfolios. This list of factors is not intended to be exhaustive. Populations of interest and other features of this framework may be adjusted over time.

NIMHD Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Framework				
Health Disparity Populations: Race/Ethnicity, Low SES, Rural, Sexual/Gender Minority				
Other Fundamental Characteristics: Sex/Gender, Disability, Geographic Region				
Domains of Influence	Level of Influence			
	Individual	Interpersonal	Community	Societal
Biological	Biological Vulnerability and Mechanisms	Caregiver–Child Interaction Family Microbiome	Community Illness Exposure Herd Immunity	Sanitation Immunization Pathogen Exposure
Behavioral	Health Behaviors Coping Strategies	Family Functioning School/Work Functioning	Community Functioning	Policies and Laws
Physical/Built Environment	Personal Environment	Household Environment School/Work Environment	Community Environment Community Resources	Societal Structure
Sociocultural Environment	Sociodemographics Limited English Cultural Identity Response to Discrimination	Social Networks Family/Peer Norms Interpersonal Discrimination	Community Norms Local Structural Discrimination	Societal Norms Societal Structural Discrimination
Healthcare System	Insurance Coverage Health Literacy Treatment Preferences	Patient–Clinician Relationship Medical Decision-Making	Availability of Health Services Safety Net Services	Quality of Care Healthcare Policies
Health Outcomes	Individual Health	Family/ Organizational Health	Community Health	Population Health