NIMHD

National Institute on Minority Health
and Health Disparities

Table: Strategies to Promote the Advancement of Health Disparities Science

Methods and Measurement	
Indicators for Measuring Health Disparities	1. Promote adoption of common outcomes to quantify health disparities processes across different diseases and conditions and develop sentinel indicators. 2. Develop a set of indicators that reflects the complexity of population characteristics and that can be adjusted to capture changing U.S. demographics. 3. Make explicit the assumptions and values that may be implicit in health disparity outcomes.
Methods for Analyzing Health Determinants Contributing to Health Disparities	4. Strengthen and promote analytic methods, particularly models, that will enable a better understanding of causes of health disparities. 5. Push the limits of systems modeling to increase its ability to predict relationships between health disparities and health determinants, and to assess health disparities interventions. 6. Identify and strengthen rigorous quantitative and qualitative methods to enable analysis on small populations and sub-populations.
Evaluating Health Disparities Research	7. Evaluate health disparities programs and research, including policy interventions and natural experiments. 8. Clarify whether the intent of the evaluation is process or summative and ensure the evaluation design is relevant to the diversity of the population being assessed.
Health Disparities in The Era of Big Data	9. Leverage and foster linkages between existing and emerging data sources, including big data, to magnify the data's analytic capacity and to more swiftly translate health disparities findings into health disparities reductions. 10. Develop and define best practices for incorporating and using geographic identifiers in health disparities research to promote place-based research.

Etiology	
Social Determinants	11. Advance identification and understanding of how protective factors and resilience promote health at the individual, community, and population levels. 12. Strengthen the understanding of how racism and discrimination are conceptualized, measured, and contribute to health disparities, with emphasis on internalized and structural racism. 13. Elucidate mechanisms for how social determinants influence health behaviors that lead to health disparities.
Environmental Exposures, Biological Pathways and Mechanisms	14. Assess how place and neighborhoods structure health disparities geographically. 15. Determine the pathways and mechanisms through which environmental, economic, sociocultural, and behavioral factors influence biological systems and pathogenesis that leads to health disparities.

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Etiology	
Life Course Approaches	16. Integrate life course into health disparities research, including research on biological pathways and mechanisms. 17. Identify mechanisms of intergenerational transmission of disease leading to health disparities, which take into account biological, behavioral, social, cultural, and life course perspectives.
Health Services	18. Examine the impact of delivery models on population health. 19. Identify the mechanisms by which patient-clinician communication and biases affect disparities in health outcomes. 20. Determine how to improve diagnostic and medical guidelines, screening criteria, and standards of care through incorporating considerations of patient characteristics.

Interventions	
Guiding Principles	21. Promote interventions that address the structural drivers of health disparities, as well as consider the interplay with behavioral and biological factors. 22. Support interventions that address common modifiable risk factors associated with multiple health conditions and disease outcomes to reduce health disparities. 23. Incorporate a life course perspective by intervening at critical windows of malleability and plasticity during the lifespan and determining opportunities for altering the intergenerational transmission of advantage and disadvantage to prevent and reduce health disparities.
Approaches	24. Leverage electronic information and communication technologies to deliver and evaluate interventions that have the greatest potential to reduce health disparities by removing accessibility and health literacy barriers, facilitating tailoring and personalization, and decreasing cost. 25. Promote interventions that address the social determinants of health within health care systems.
Methods and Evaluation	26. Use study designs and intervention research approaches best suited to accommodate the complexity of health disparities research, while upholding principles of validity and rigor. 27. Evaluate the effectiveness of community-derived and practice-derived interventions that maintain and improve health or prevent disease. 28. Assess the relative and interactive contributions of multi-level intervention components, as well as the mechanisms through which an intervention affects health outcomes.
Dissemination and Implementation (Scalability)	29. Examine key dissemination and implementation issues during intervention design, development, and evaluation (e.g., cost, resources, fidelity, adaptation, feasibility, acceptability) to inform subsequent implementation and scaling up in health disparities populations. 30. Build the science of adapting interventions to different contexts including cultures, delivery systems, and social environments.

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