

A person's economic stability, access to quality education and health care, where they live, and social relationships—also known as **social determinants of health**—greatly impact their well-being. Poor health outcomes often result from structural disadvantages and diminished opportunities faced by racially and ethnically minoritized populations and tribal communities. Federal laws and policies can negatively or positively affect such inequities in a variety of ways. See examples reviewed in a recent National Academies report in the graphic below.

Programs such as: Medicaid

Children's Health Insurance Program

Policies and practices related to:

- Health literacy and language access
- Inclusion of racial, ethnic, and tribal populations in clinical trials

Policies such as:

- Elementary and Secondary Education Act
- Individuals with Disabilities Act
- Title IV of the Civil Rights Act

Policies and practices related to:

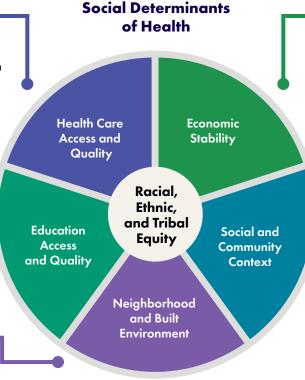
- K-12 school spending/funding
- School-based health centers and school meals

Policies and programs such as:

- Worker Protection Standard
- Federal rental assistance

Policies and practices related to:

- Housing on American Indian and Alaska Native reservations and for Native Hawaiian People
- Access to and quality of water, transportation, and infrastructure



Historical and Cultural Context + Racism

Policies such as:

■ Federal minimum wage

Policies and practices related to:

- Banking
- Credit scoring/credit access
- Financialization of the criminal legal system
- Administrative burden and eligibility restrictions for programs such as SNAP, WIC, and EITC

Policies such as:

- Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative
- Joint Secretarial Order 3403 to fulfill responsibility to Tribal Nations
- George Floyd Justice in Policing Act (H.R. 1280)

Policies and practices related to:

- Waiting periods for gun purchases
- Mandatory minimum sentences
- Redress for past racial harms
- Civic engagement and belonging

Roadmap for Action

- 1. Implement sustained **coordination** among federal agencies
- 2. Prioritize, value, and incorporate community voice in the work of government
- 3. Ensure collection and reporting of data are representative and accurate
- 4. Improve federal **accountability**, enforcement, tools, and support toward a government that advances optimal health for everyone

