

Health inequities among specific population groups and geographic areas have long been identified as one of the major deficiencies of the U.S. healthcare system. It's time for concerted action.

As a national leader in healthcare quality, Sutter Health considers health equity a **measurable, key component** of quality healthcare. We are committed to eliminating health disparities within our system and beyond by engineering **data-driven, innovative solutions**. Sutter's Institute for Advancing Health Equity has been created to enhance this commitment — building on the benefits of our integrated, coordinated health system to further health equity for our patients and those across the country.



What is the Institute for Advancing Health Equity?

Sutter's Institute for Advancing Health Equity is an innovation incubator, facilitating pragmatic research that can be directly applied into clinical settings to foster more equitable outcomes for all.

A Connector, Convener and Catalyst

The Institute serves as a convener of **experts, advocates and patients** to identify inequities, explore ideas and create solutions.

An Innovation Incubator



RESEARCH & DATA



CLINICAL & COMMUNITY-BASED INITIATIVES



TRAINING & CONSULTATION



COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIPS



HEALTH EQUITY SOLUTIONS & SHARED EXPERTISE
TO IMPROVE PATIENT OUTCOMES

Sutter's Unique Position

Sutter is well-positioned to become a national leader in advancing health equity.

Leader in Quality:

As a recognized national leader in healthcare quality, we consider health equity to be a key measurement of care quality. Our work to continuously improve the quality and value of care we provide our patients has resulted in Sutter hospitals consistently ranking in the top 10% in the U.S. for overall healthcare quality.

An Experienced Team:

Sutter has an experienced team of physicians and advanced practice clinicians, researchers and administrators focused on advancing health equity across our integrated health system. Over the past several years this dedicated team has developed a proven track record in generating data-driven insights, groundbreaking methodologies and pragmatic solutions to improve outcomes for all patients.

Diverse Patient Population:

Sutter serves more than 3 million patients in a wide variety of care settings across 22 Northern California counties, arguably the most geographically and demographically diverse region in the country. We are a microcosm of the nation.

Strength of the Integrated Health System:

Through our integrated health system, Sutter Health has the resources, data and reach to generate robust findings and test new models and innovations that can be shared and implemented nationally.

A Proven Track Record

Sutter Health has been working for more than a decade to advance health equity through research and patient-focused care. Over the past several years, a dedicated health equity team has examined our own data to identify ways we can provide better outcomes for all patients in a number of areas, including maternal and birth equity, chronic disease management and mental and behavioral health equity, among others.

Through the Institute for Advancing Health Equity, Sutter is taking major steps toward generating solutions to address health disparities.

Conducting & Facilitating Research

Health Equity Index and Metrics

Sutter's groundbreaking metric uses analytics and dynamic population data to measure health disparities. Sutter applies novel methodologies and health equity metrics within our own network and shares the tools with other health systems so they too can better understand and address health inequities.

Maternal and Birth Equity

We have been working to identify and quantify disparities in maternal outcomes, as part of the multidisciplinary effort to mitigate and prevent maternal and infant health disparities within our system. Our current research examines the influence of patient-, provider- and facility-level risk factors. We use these learnings to help design solutions to promote health equity during the perinatal journey for our patients and their families. In 2023, we launched three pilot programs focused on improving perinatal mental health screening, breastfeeding and doula care services for at-risk patients.

Mental Health Equity

Work is currently underway at Sutter to identify and address health disparities in mental health, such as depression screening and follow up care.

Disparities in the Prevention and Management of Chronic Diseases

Our efforts are currently focused on identifying and eliminating health disparities in care management among patients with type 2 diabetes and hypertension by analyzing care quality measures and social determinants of health. We will use what we learn to inform evidence-based, effective solutions to address disparities in blood pressure and/or diabetes control. Additionally, we have work underway to address disparities in colorectal cancer screening.

Developing Data-Driven, Innovative Solutions

COVID-19 Vaccine Equity Solutions

Sutter is now one of the largest systems nationwide to eliminate race-based eGFR reporting – helping correct an industry-wide issue and make earlier diagnosis, treatment and transplant list placement for thousands of Black patients possible.

In a 2022 study, researchers with Sutter's Institute for Advancing Health Equity linked bias in pulse oximeter devices used to measure blood oxygen levels with a potential 4.5-hour delay in treatment for Black patients with COVID-19. Sutter's team is collaborating with other community providers to empower and educate patients and care teams to better interpret the device readings.

We are supporting and amplifying efforts to mitigate racial and ethnic bias in clinical algorithms and decision-making both at Sutter and across the healthcare industry.

Unconscious Bias Training

In the fall of 2022, Sutter's Institute for Advancing Health Equity co-hosted its Unconscious Bias in Healthcare Symposium alongside the California Medical Association, Physicians for a Healthy California and the California Primary Care Association. There, numerous leaders from across the state gathered to discuss existing hurdles and help inform new recommendations to mitigate bias in healthcare. We plan to release a findings report in 2024.

We believe that as an integrated health system we must do all we can to advance health equity for our patients, and we are committed to collaborating with healthcare partners, policymakers, community leaders and patients throughout the state and nation in these efforts to transform healthcare and save countless lives.

Contact us to learn more about opportunities to partner and connect.

The philanthropy of our donors helps drive our health equity research and clinical and community-based solutions that are saving lives. Learn more about ways to contribute to Sutter's health equity work.

Learn more at www.sutterhealth.org/healthequity or email us at healthequity@sutterhealth.org