These disparities exist for many reasons. For example, despite the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education ruling, many Colorado schools remain as segregated as ever due to institutional policies that under-resource schools in communities of color. These policies, and others that reinforce implicit biases—such as school discipline policies that disproportionately punish students of color—have led to an achievement and graduation gap.

HEALTH: A WHITE PRIVILEGE?

Education, money, and power provide access to good health. However, access to those systems is limited for people of color by the historic and systemic injustices that benefit white people. This is one manifestation of White Privilege.

WHAT IMPACTS HEALTH THE MOST?

Factors like your race, income, and ZIP Code have a bigger impact on your health than anything else. Factors like your race, income, and ZIP Code have a bigger impact on your health than anything else.

EDUCATION

Coloradoans with more education have better health and lower rates of:

- Students in High-Poverty Schools
- Students Suspended or Expelled
- Adults without High School Degrees
- Working Adults in Poverty
- Adults Making $60-75k Denied Home Loans

However, Coloradoans of color have less access to high quality education.

MONEY

Coloradoans with more money have better health, and can more easily afford:

- Working Adults in Poverty
- Adults Making $60-75k Denied Home Loans
- Net Worth (national)

However, Coloradoans of color have less access to good jobs and economic opportunity.

POWER

Coloradoans in paid or elected positions of power can shape policies around:

- Students in High-Poverty Schools
- Students Suspended or Expelled
- Adults without High School Degrees
- Working Adults in Poverty
- Adults Making $60-75k Denied Home Loans
- Net Worth (national)

However, Coloradoans of color have less access to health care decision-making roles.

The opportunity to live a healthy life should be a matter of fact, not a matter of privilege.

Because when our neighbors are healthy, our communities prosper, and Colorado is stronger.

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EDUCATION DATA

HIGH POVERTY COLORADO SCHOOLS
A high poverty school is defined as one in which more than 75% of students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.
Source: National Equity Atlas
Data: School Poverty, 2014

STUDENT DISCIPLINE IN COLORADO
Disciplinary action includes suspension, referral to law enforcement, expulsion, and other serious disciplinary actions.
Source: Colorado Department of Education
Data: Analysis of Colorado K-12 Student Discipline Incidents, 2015-16

HIGH SCHOOL GRADS IN COLORADO
Non-high school graduates are those adults aged 25 and older without a high school degree.
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey
Data: Educational Attainment, 2011-2015

EDUCATION INEQUITIES

MONEY DATA

COLORADO’S WORKING POOR
Working poor is defined as adults ages 25-64 who work full-time and earn less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.
Source: National Equity Atlas
Data: Working Poor, 2014

COLORADANS DENIED HOME LOANS
Home loan denials are loan applications to finance the purchase of a home that were denied by a financial institution.
Source: Colorado Department of Local Affairs
Data: State of Colorado Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, 2015

NET WORTH OF AMERICANS
Net worth is the sum of asset values, such as cash, investments, and property equity, minus the sum of liabilities.
Source: US Census Bureau

MONEY INEQUITIES

POWER DATA

COLORADO STATE LEGISLATORS
The count of legislators includes 100% of elected state legislators at the time of data collection.
Source: National Conference of State Legislators
Data: Legislators’ Race & Ethnicity, 2015

COLORADO PHYSICIANS
The count of physicians—not residents or fellows—includes only those who are in direct patient care roles.
Source: Association of American Medical Colleges
Data: Diversity in Workforce, 2014

NATIONAL HOSPITAL EXECUTIVES
Hospital executives include c-suite (CEO, COO, etc.) leadership employed at hospitals around the country.
Source: Institute for Diversity in Health & Management
Data: Diversity in Workforce, 2015

POWER INEQUITIES

SOURCES & NOTES
All data are Colorado-specific unless otherwise noted. For more comprehensive citations, contact weare@centerforhealthprogress.org.

1 Center for Health Progress (2017). Waiting for Health Equity.
3 Center for Disease Control and Prevention (1999). Social Determinants of Health FAQ.