CHE Center for Health Equity

What is CHE?
The center was established in 2009 with a grant from the U.S. National Institutes of Health and significant resources from the University of Minnesota, and is located in the Medical School. We chose the term “health equity” to emphasize the importance of justice and fairness. We envision becoming a national leader in health disparities and minority health research, and serving as a resource for research training of University students and community partners, community engagement, and community based participatory action research. While Minnesota, and the Twin Cities, is consistently ranked as one of the healthiest places to live in the nation, significant health differences exist when ethnicity, income, or place of residence are taken into account. In some cases, these differences are some of the largest in the country. Research priorities are largely based on genuine partnership with community members who help define specific health concerns and offer direction for action steps for the center’s research on topics such as obesity, tobacco, cancer, diabetes, and substance abuse.

What is the goal of this program?
To improve the health of minority and other underserved populations through state-of-the-art research, training and educational programs, and community partnerships with the ultimate goal of achieving health equity through the elimination of health disparities.

Who are the community partners?
The center has a number of community partners including the StairStep Foundation, Minnesota International Health Volunteers, and NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center.

What are some of the benefits of CHE to the community?
• The ability to help shape the research agenda and participate in research
• Participation in initiatives that will build long-term capacity in the community to be responsive to health issues
• Increased understanding, through research, of what is needed to improve health and reduce disease

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