

HEALTH EQUITY POSITION STATEMENT



The National Coalition of
DENTISTS *for*
HEALTH EQUITY

The World Health Organization states that “equity is the absence of avoidable, unfair or remedial differences among groups of people, whether these groups are defined socially, economically, demographically or by other means of stratification. “Health equity” or “equity in health” implies that ideally everyone should have a fair opportunity to attain their full health potential and that no one should be disadvantaged from achieving this potential.”

The National Coalition of Dentists for Health Equity adopts this definition and adds that “In order to reach one’s full health potential, health equity must be comprehensive and include oral health, mental and behavioral health, vision and hearing. The Coalition advocates for comprehensive health equity and its members have a special interest in assuring oral health equity.

VISION: THAT ALL PERSONS IN THE U.S. REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE, INCOME, GENDER, GEOGRAPHIC ISOLATION, AND ABILITIES SHALL HAVE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE, PRIMARY CARE INCLUDING ORAL DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT SERVICES.