



Truth Be Told Toolbox Glossary

Culture is the sum total ways of living—the values, practices, traditions, institutions, beliefs, and more—that influence the attitudes and behaviors of a particular community, group, or society.

Cultural Narratives are the stories shared within or about a community or group that influence beliefs and create, maintain, or reimagine systems, structures, and processes.

Community-Based Storytelling involves using community-based participatory research to craft Personal Narratives that highlight individual experiences and Community Narratives that highlight the people, systems, structures, and processes that impact the social determinants of health within a particular community.

Equity generally refers to creating opportunities for equal access and success among populations historically disadvantaged due to race, disability, immigration status, gender, sexual orientation, age, etc., and providing them with specific, targeted resources. Inequity is the opposite of that and is harmful. Racism is an example of inequity.

Equity-centered policies are policies and laws that are created in consideration of quality evidence and the lived experience of the communities most impacted by the issues they aim to address. **Equity-centered policies** require the engagement and consideration of communities, especially intersectional groups representing multiple marginalized experiences during all aspects of the policy or lawmaking process.

Health equity is the highest possible standard of health for all people and gives special attention to the needs of those at greatest risk of poor health based on social conditions.

Health inequity results from avoidable, inequitable, social, economic, and environmental conditions causing disparate health and life outcomes.

Intersectionality is the combined effect or experiences of a person's or group's multiple identities, including race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, and economic status.



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Law is the regime that orders human activities and relations through the systematic application of the force of a politically organized society or through social pressure backed by force in such a society—also, an ordinance or statute.

Policy is any written plan or course of action designed to influence and determine decisions.

Racism is a prejudice that assumes members of racial categories have distinctive characteristics and that these differences result in groups being inferior to others. It results in one group having the privilege and power to create and carry out systematic discrimination through institutional policies and practices and by shaping cultural beliefs and values that support racist policies and practices. Racism is not just personal prejudice but a complex system of racial hierarchies and inequities.