



**NDMA 2020 Policy Forum
October 13, 2020**

Policy No. 1

Submitted By: NDMA Council

Subject: Health Equity

Summary:

NDMA does not have a racial health equity statement. Nationwide, this has become a major issue especially with the pandemic.

Relevant Information:

- Recent studies have shown that despite the improvements in the overall health of the country, racial and ethnic minorities experience a lower quality of health care by being less likely to receive routine medical care and facing higher rates of morbidity and mortality than nonminorities.
- Disparities in health care exist and are associated with worse health outcomes.
- Health care disparities occur in the context of broader inequality.
- There are many sources across health systems, providers, patients, and managers that contribute to disparities.
- Bias, stereotyping, prejudice, and clinical uncertainty contribute to disparities.

Proposed Action:

NDMA should adopt a policy statement opposing racially and culturally based disparities in North Dakota health care and support initiatives to alleviate these disparities in North Dakota.