# Health equity audit resources

**A summary of**
Hamer, L., Jacobson R., Flowers, J., &amp; Johnstone, F. (2003). Health equity audit made simple: A briefing for primary care trusts and local strategic partnerships. Retrieved from http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160919145853/http://lho.org.uk/download/public/7670/1/equityauditfinal21.1.3.3.pdf.

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Categories:
Method, Synthesize, Implement, Evaluate,
Organizational capacity and management,
Partnership development and maintenance,
Program planning
**Method**

Date posted:
May 11, 2012

Date updated:
September 12, 2017

## Relevance For Public Health

Health equity audits are an approach to surveying a community to assess health inequalities between different groups and differences in service provision. The goal is to promote an equitable distribution of resources relative to community needs. Examining health inequities can also lead to the examination of health inequalities, or the outcomes that stem from unequal access to services.

## Description

Health equity audit made simple: A briefing for primary care trusts and local strategic partnerships provides an approach to gathering evidence on health inequities to inform planning decisions. The resources provided in this briefing include a self-assessment tool and a step-by-step guide to the process, which support public health professionals in using health equity audits.

This briefing is ideal to use when initiating the planning of health projects with community partners or other local stakeholders.

Health equity audits examine how fairly resources are distributed relative to the health needs of different groups. They serve to:

- systematically review health inequalities and access to services for a community;
- ensure actions to address health inequities are incorporated in planning decisions; and
- evaluate the impact of actions on reducing inequities.

A related term, health equity impact assessment, analyzes a program or policy's impact on health inequities and/or disadvantaged populations (Haber, 2011). Health equity audits provide a systematic approach to identifying:

- health inequities for a particular group or area;
- issues with respect to provision and access to services; and
- priorities for action to address health inequities.

Health equity audits serve to incorporate health equity into the planning of new programs and policies. For more equity resources, see NCCDH's Resource Library.

The NHS Health Development Agency and the Association of Public Health Observatories provide a suite of resources on health equity audits:

- Health equity audit made simple: A briefing for primary care trusts and local strategic partnership (this resource)
- Health equity audit: A self-assessment tool
- Making the case: health equity audit (a briefing)
- Health equity audit: A guide for the NHS

## Implementing the Tool

### Who is Involved?

A variety of individuals would be involved in conducting a health equity audit, including public health managers, epidemiologists and others to gather relevant data and evidence, and community stakeholders to prioritize issues and actions. It is ideal to conduct a health equity audit when initiating the planning of health projects with community partners or other local stakeholders.

### Steps for Using Tool

The health equity audit cycle consists of these steps:

- Agree on partners and issues
- Create an equity profile — identify the gap
- Agree on high-impact local action to narrow the gap
- Agree on priorities for action
- Secure changes in investment and service delivery
- Review the progress and assess the impact

The document outlines these steps and provides example projects to illustrate the cycle. Further guidance is available in Health equity audit: A guide for the NHS.

## Evaluation and Measurement Characteristics

### Evaluation

Information not available

### Validity

Not applicable

### Reliability

Not applicable

### Methodological Rating

N/A Not applicable

## Tool Development

### Developers

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### Method of Development

This briefing was developed as the first step in a suite of resources for conducting health equity audits, a requirement for NHS Planning and Priorities Framework. The principles outlined in this document are consistent with many priorities and goals set by the NHS and other government organizations in 2003.

## Release Date

2003

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## Resources

| Title of Primary Resource | Health equity audit made simple: A briefing for primary care trusts and local strategic partnerships |
|---|---|
| **File Attachment** | None |
| **Web-link** | http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160919145853/http://lho.org.uk/download/public/7670/1/equityauditfinal21.1.3.3.pdf |
| **Reference** | Hamer, L., Jacobson R., Flowers, J., & Johnstone, F. (2003). *Health equity audit made simple: A briefing for primary care trusts and local strategic partnerships.* Retrieved from http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160919145853/http://lho.org.uk/download/public/7670/1/equityauditfinal21.1.3.3.pdf. |
| **Type of Material** | Briefing |
| **Format** | On-line Access |
| **Cost to Access** | None. |
| **Language** | English |
| **Conditions for Use** | Not specified |

| Title of Supplementary Resource | Health equity audit: A self-assessment tool |
|---|---|
| **File Attachment** | None |
| **Web-link** | http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107105354/http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH |
| **Reference** | |
| **Type of Material** | Tool |
| **Format** | On-line Access |
| **Cost to Access** | None. |
| **Language** | English |
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| Title of Supplementary Resource | Making the case: health equity audit |
|---|---|
| **File Attachment** | None |
| **Web-link** | http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100807043410/http://www.nice.org.uk/niceMedia/docs/Making%20the%20case-13-03.pdf |
| **Reference** | Goodrich, J. & Pottle, M. (2005). Making the case: health equity audit. London, UK: Health Development Agency, NHS (NICE). Retrieved from http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100807043410/http://www.nice.org.uk/niceMedia/docs/Making%20the%20case-13-03.pdf. |
| **Type of Material** | Briefing |
| **Format** | On-line Access |
| **Cost to Access** | None. |
| **Language** | English |
| **Conditions for Use** | © Health Development Agency 2005 |

| Title of Supplementary Resource | Health equity audit: A guide for the NHS |
|---|---|
| **File Attachment** | None |
| **Web-link** | http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107105354/http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH |
| **Reference** | |
| **Type of Material** | Workbook |
| **Format** | On-line Access |
| **Cost to Access** | None. |
| **Language** | English |
| **Conditions for Use** | © 2003 Crown copyright |

| Title of Supplementary Resource | Health equity impact assessment: A primer |
|---|---|
| **File Attachment** | None |
| **Web-link** | http://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/Health_Equity_Impact_Assessment_Haber.pdf |
| **Reference** | Haber, R. (2010). Health equity impact assessment: A primer. Toronto, ON: Wellesley Institute. Retrieved from http://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/Health_Equity_Impact_Assessment_Haber.pdf. |
| **Type of Material** | Report |
| **Format** | On-line Access |
| **Cost to Access** | None. |
| **Language** | English |
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