



Health Information for Health Equity

Over the past two weeks, our nation has been rocked by grief and anger over the senseless death of George Floyd. In many cities, we have seen this grief and anger turn to violence and destruction. However, we have also been heartened by the many peaceful protests conducted in communities across the country and the world, as people unite to find solutions to systemic social inequities.

Along with a global pandemic and the highest unemployment rates since the Great Depression, the protests occurring across the country reveal areas in which we need to come together and form long-term strategies to address social inequities once and for all. The AHIMA Foundation recognizes the historical inequities that perpetuate systems of inequality, including the impact on health and healthcare. Our mission – advancing health to transform lives - compels us to ask: **How can we, as a society, use healthcare data to understand, track, and solve problems to create better health for all?**

The AHIMA Foundation believes racism is a public health issue, and we know that higher rates of chronic disease, and lower levels of general health and wellness can be linked and exacerbated by factors such as social and environmental disparities, economic instability, and behavioral and mental health issues, which are often stratified by race.

We believe that health information is human information. Moving forward, we will continue empowering people to lead healthier lives through programs that:

- Help people access, use, and protect their health information
- Deliver best-in-class workforce development training
- Educate the next generation of health information professionals
- Inform policy decisions through applied research

Throughout all challenges, health information professionals have been critical to successfully meeting the needs of the healthcare system, and together, we will be part of solutions to reduce social inequities. Thank you for standing with us during these challenging times.