

CAEP Health Equity Working Group

Report to CAEP 2023

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Background:

The CAEP Health Equity Working Group was formed at CAEP 2019. It was developed under the umbrella of the CAEP Public Affairs Committee, and it was meant as a way to advance goals of Health Equity and Social Emergency Medicine in our clinical, educational, and academic environments.

Community Building

The working group organized informal meetings every 2-3 months, which were avenues to discuss advances and issues related to health equity work in the ED. We added many new members to our working group this year, with 26 active members as of May 2023.

There was a lot of discussion about the need to bolster recommendations with public advocacy and efforts to prevent forced discharge of individuals coming to EDs back into houselessness. We also collaborated to discuss challenges shelters and non-profit organizations working with people experiencing homelessness have faced before, during and after the COVID pandemic.

A lot of work was related to knowledge sharing and building collaboration between hospital groups.

Featured Focus

1) CAEP Grand Rounds: Caring for patients under police custody

We hosted a panel discussion at grand rounds to discuss caring for people under police custody. It featured a forensic psychiatrist, hospital legal counsel, and a police officer offering differing perspectives.

It is also available online at: <https://www.pathlms.com/caep/courses/50946/webinars/34241>
(Log-in required)

2) CAEP Social Medicine Workshop

Members of the group are helping host a workshop at CAEP 2023 to identify and imagine what social emergency medicine means to EM providers in Canada.

3) Advocacy Position Statement for OHIP Cuts to uninsured

Members of the group have been actively advocating to prevent the exclusion of uninsured individuals from OHIP universal funding.

Link available here: <https://caep.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/OHIPcuts-March31.pdf>

Future Goals

- Develop a social media presence on Twitter to promote academic work, essays, and advocacy work related to health equity in the ED.
- Many members are helping host the CAEP Track for Society and EM at CAEP 2023.
- Host grand rounds alongside Global Health in EM three times a year.
- Develop a repository of initiatives taking place in the ED that improve care for people who face health inequities due to the social determinants of health.
- Formalize connections to organizations with similar goals to strengthen advocacy efforts (e.g., Canadian Alliance to end Homelessness)
- Work with the public affairs committee to develop a standardized process for seeking input from equity deserving groups, including compensation and recognition
- Build a transition plan for future sustainability of the group.

Thank-you to all ED providers that take on work related to health equity and impact of social disparities in the care we provide. These system-wide issues directly impact us, and we are thankful to be able to work on them together.

If you have any questions, ideas, or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Sahil Gupta on behalf of the CAEP Health Equity Working Group