



medical  
reserve  
corps

# MRC

**Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities**

## Eliminate Health Disparities

The Surgeon General's Priorities include the elimination of the burden of death and disease in minority communities. All Americans should have access to healthcare, health insurance, good health information, public and mental health services, and social work services. Health disparities occur in minority communities and result in higher incidence of disease. Poverty is the single factor common to all groups suffering from health disparity. Individuals subject to unequal access to healthcare, discrimination and language/cultural barriers may be more likely to have higher rates of: infant mortality, cardiovascular disease (CVD), diabetes, and HIV/AIDS, but lower rates of immunizations.

### Health Disparities Occur for a Variety of Reasons, Including:

- ★ Unequal access to healthcare
- ★ Discrimination
- ★ Language and cultural barriers
- ★ Lack of education
- ★ Poverty

### Health Disparities are More Prevalent Among:

- ★ All ethnic and racial groups in poverty
- ★ Women
- ★ African Americans
- ★ Hispanic Americans
- ★ American Indians
- ★ Alaska Natives

### MRC Units Can:

- ★ Develop volunteer activities to bridge the gap in service.
- ★ Distribute health education and public health preparedness materials to underserved populations at local community events.
- ★ Participate in local flu shot and diabetes detection clinics and blood pressure screenings.
- ★ Distribute health education and public health materials to community organizations of the underserved.
- ★ Recruit volunteers with a background in assisting the underserved as a result of outreach activities.

**Contact**

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**[www.medicalreserv корпус.gov](http://www.medicalreserv корпус.gov)**



#### References:

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