

"Divergent Paths- A Health Equity Story": Continuing the Conversation



In order to change the narrative around cancer disparities, we must all commit to listening, learning, and continuing the conversation around health equity. Many structural and social factors can impact a person's ability to prevent, find, treat, and survive cancer. These include such examples as racial residential segregation, poverty, lack of access to healthy and affordable foods, or inadequate pay, housing, or access to transportation. It's important to understand that personal responsibility and making healthy choices is only one part of someone's overall health. If we are to reduce cancer disparities, we need to listen to the experiences and perspectives of people with cancer, their caregivers, and their communities, and engage them in the fight against cancer every step of the way. It will take all of us working together to change the narrative for survivors like MaryAnn.

After viewing the film, we encourage you to reflect on what you observed and then connect with friends, family, and co-workers. Think about how you can apply a health equity lens in your daily work, decision-making, and interactions with others. Here's some suggested questions to keep this important conversation going.

- In what ways did the video challenge or confirm your ideas about cancer disparities?
- Many people, when confronted with evidence of health inequities, respond that the outcomes are unfortunate but not necessarily unjust. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- Whose responsibility is it to address inequities in health and in society?
- How can you make things better in your community?
- What questions or issues surfaced that you would like to know more about?

* Questions adapted from ["Unnatural Causes Discussion Guide"](#)



Health Equity



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