

UNM Prevention Research Center Statement on Equity and Antiracism

The University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center recognizes that racism against black, indigenous, Hispanic and other people of color is a public health crisis that requires action. Additionally, we understand that New Mexico is a state where people of color make up the majority of the population and that the University of New Mexico is a [federally designated Hispanic-Serving Institution](#). We also concede that we are an institution with predominantly white individuals in positions of power and that these individuals benefit from the privilege of structural and systematic racism.

We further acknowledge that the University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia. The original peoples of New Mexico – Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache – have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations and also acknowledge our committed relationship to Indigenous peoples.

As researchers and public health professionals, we express our support for communities of color, and our intent to name and eliminate racism in all its forms. To accomplish this, we are instituting the following strategies:

1. Recommitting to listening to and incorporating the voices of New Mexico communities in our work. This includes partnering with communities of color and the organizations that support them.
2. Acknowledging that intersectionality, or being from multiple marginalized groups, exacerbates inequities.
3. Collaborating to design and implement research studies, programs, and policies that recognize, nurture, and build upon the strength and capacity for survival of Indigenous people and other people of color.
4. Reviewing our research and dissemination of findings to ensure that we focus on underlying structural causes of inequity including racism, discrimination, and historical trauma.
5. Endeavoring to be more inclusive and as diverse as the communities we serve by increasing efforts to recruit, retain and mentor students, staff, and faculty of color in the field of prevention research.

We recognize that this work will take intensive, long-term commitment. We will revisit these strategies on an annual basis to evaluate our progress and challenges. Together, we will strive to listen, learn, and take action towards racial equity.