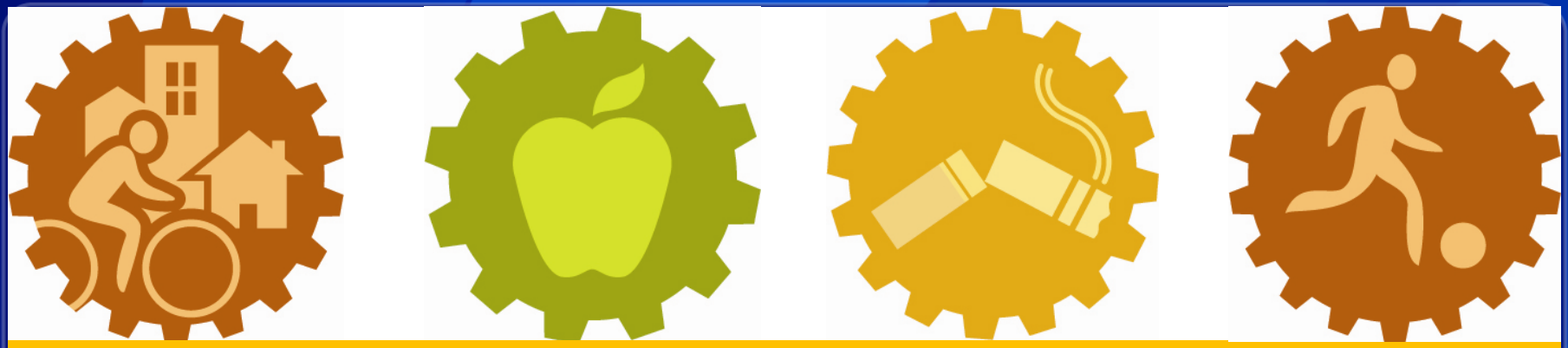

Advancing Health Equity and Reducing Health Disparities in CTG

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Core Principles of CTGs

Maximize health impact through prevention

Advance health equity and reduce health disparities

Use and expand the evidence base for local policy, environmental and infrastructure changes that improve health

Defining the Terms

Health Equity

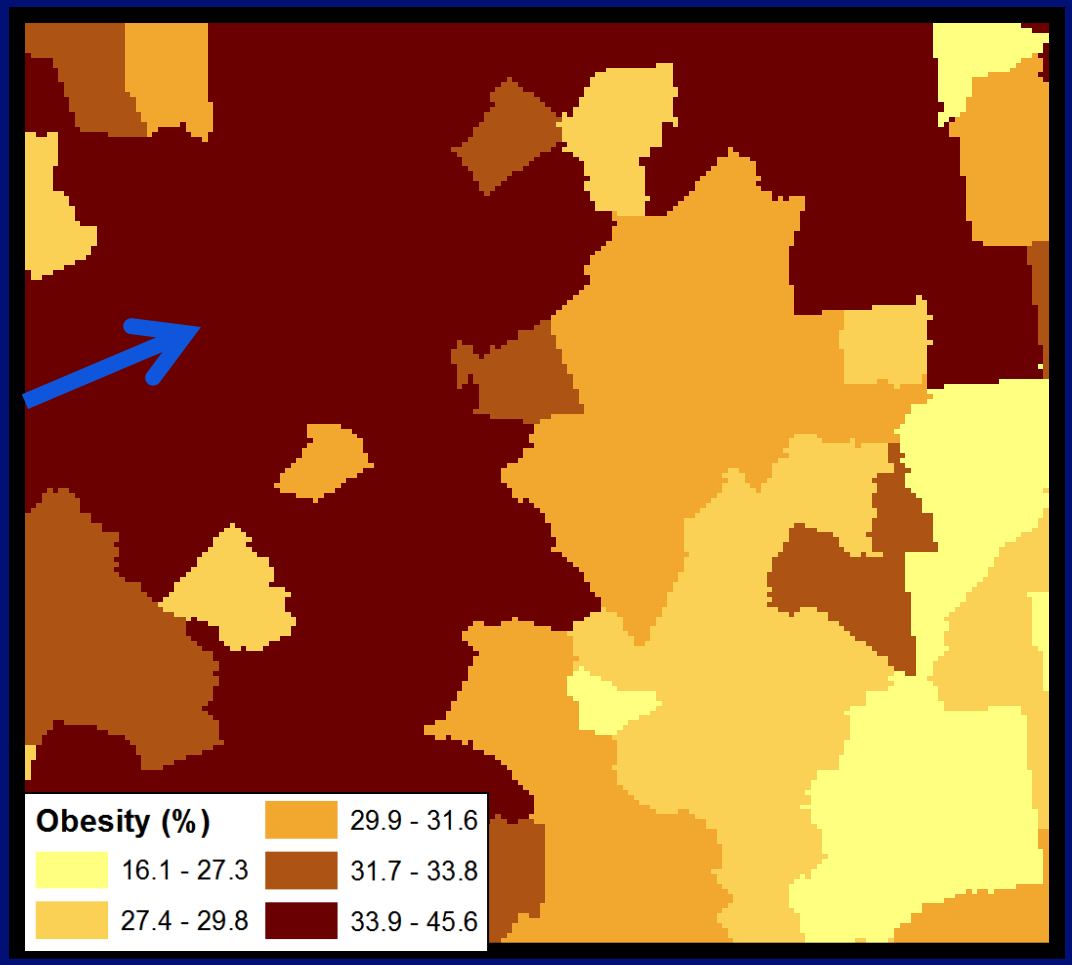
is the concept that *everyone* should have a fair opportunity to attain their full health potential.

Health Disparities

are preventable differences in the burden of disease, disability, or opportunities to achieve optimal health that are experienced by socially disadvantaged populations.

Obesity in U.S. Communities

Concentrated problems of obesity



Two Approaches

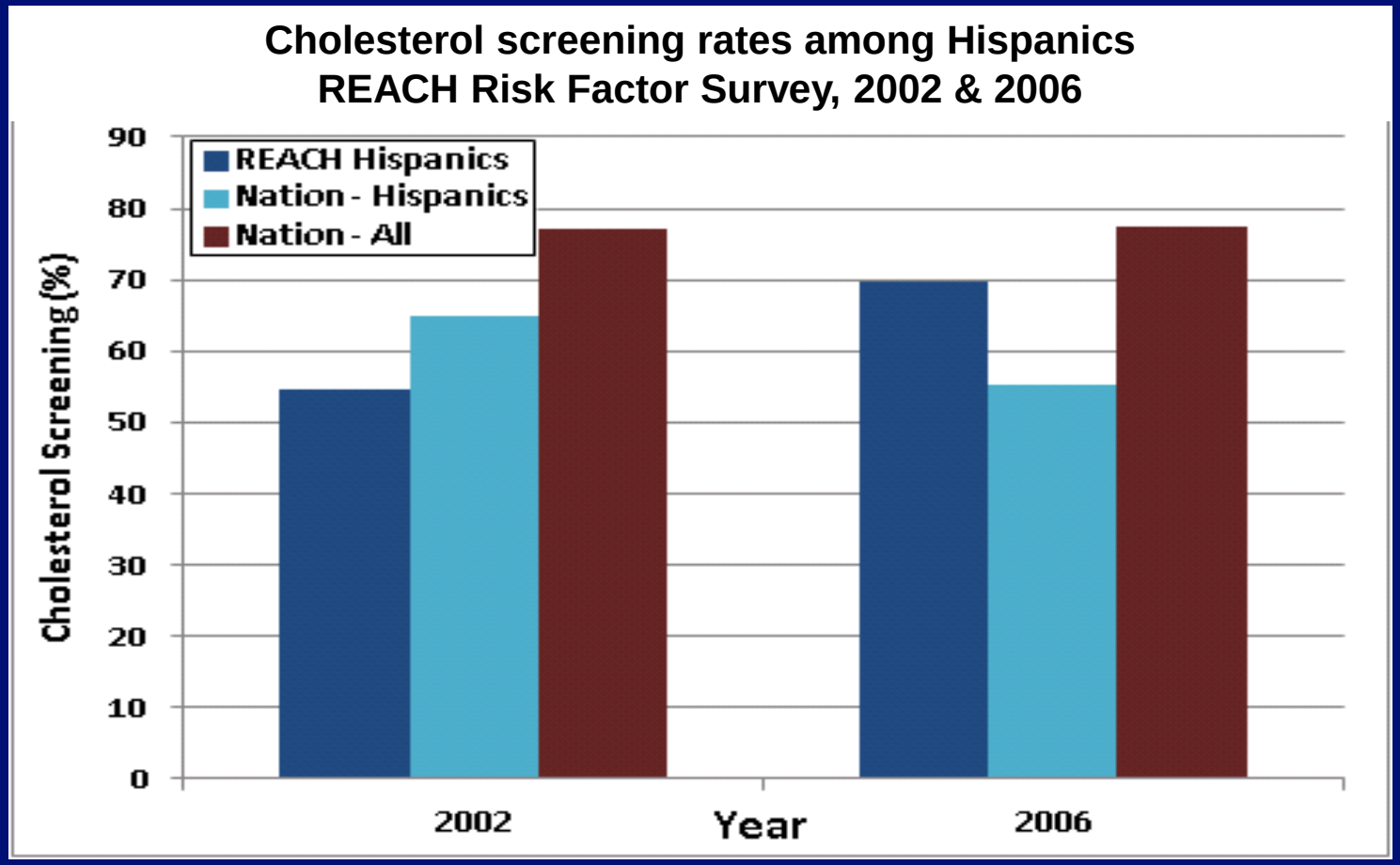
Either

Reduce health disparities

Or

Achieve population-wide health impact

Even successful targeted approaches to reduce health disparities might not have a population-wide health impact.



Advancing health equity in a jurisdiction-wide approach

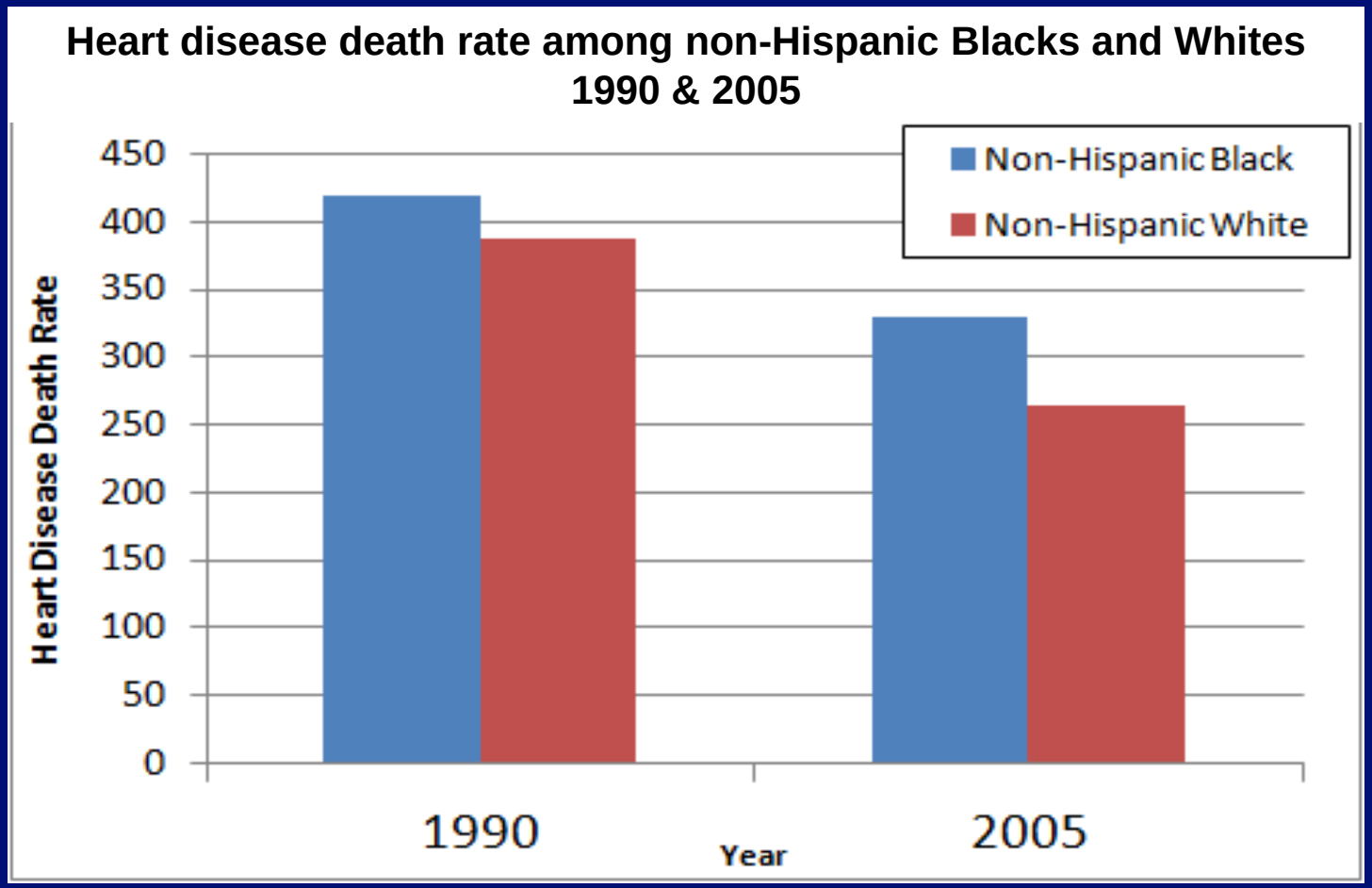
In theory, policy and environmental change should affect all equally.

In practice, this may not be the case.

Because of:

- Community relationships
- Varying support
- Selection factors
- Implementation challenges
- Differential enforcement

Even if we achieve population-wide health impact, we can unintentionally widen health disparities.



Orsi *et al*, 2010. AJPH 100(2); 349-356.

Our Approach

Both

And

Targeted interventions as needed

Jurisdiction-wide interventions with a health equity lens

To advance health equity…

- **WHAT** you do is critical, but not sufficient
- **HOW** you do the work should be different
  - You have to understand **WHY**
  - Be cognizant of **WHO** you engage
  - Be strategic in **WHERE** to focus
  - Work with an explicit **INTENT** toward equity
  - Understand this is a **CONSTANT NEGOTIATION**

HOW you get there matters

Using a “Health Equity Lens”

- Organizational Structure/Supports
- Identifying the Issues
- Leadership Teams, Coalitions, Community Engagement
- Intervention Selection, Design, and Implementation
- Evaluation

Summary

- Health disparities are not just about race.
- We are accountable for BOTH population-wide improvement and the reduction of health disparities.
- What we do AND how we get there matters.
- We need to know not just HOW MANY people are impacted, but also WHO is impacted.
- We must work with an EXPLICIT INTENT to advance health equity and reduce health disparities.

Discussion Questions

1. How have you thought about addressing health equity across your program? And how can you strengthen your efforts?

2. How can CDC support you in this work?
   (i.e. key questions, training needs, resources)

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