



Issue 5

A Health Equity Story from the American Cancer Society

Our last couple of Health Equity Moments have been focused on data and research. I want to change it up for this month to look at a story.

As we delve deeper into the work of health equity, we will look at more and more examples to guide us. This month's story is from the American Cancer Society.

The linked video below illustrates the tale of Jenny and MaryAnn: childhood friends, both with breast cancer, but with very different experiences. 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, 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.

After viewing the film, we encourage you to reflect on what you observed. Think about how you can apply a health equity lens in your daily work, decision-making, and interactions with others. It will take all of us working together to change the narrative for survivors like MaryAnn.

Should you want to have a conversation with your team about this? There is a companion [Discussion Guide provided on their website](#) to support your group conversation.

