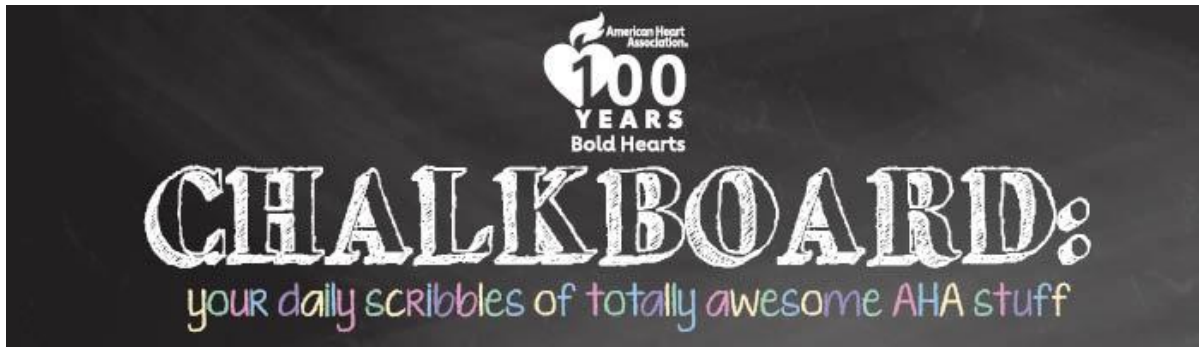


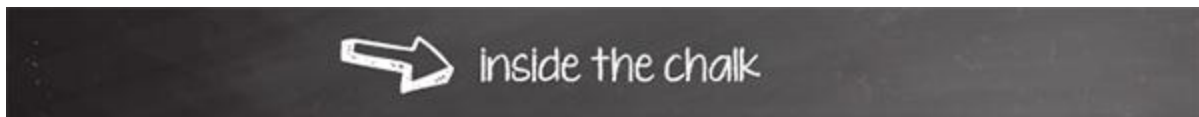
Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here.](#)
 To ensure proper delivery of future **American Heart Association** emails, please [click here.](#)



Thursday, May 9, 2024

TL;DR – In this issue of *Chalkboard*

- We've released a new de-biased equation for estimating the risk of heart failure, heart attack and stroke: the PREVENT™ Risk Calculator. Learn more about this equitable tool!
- Everything Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is now at your fingertips on the Office of Health Equity's new SharePoint Site.
- Questions? Add yourself to the discussion on Tuesday, May 14, by attending the OHE's Courageous Conversations to learn more about the calculator and its impact.



According to our calculations...

Remember when your grade school teachers told you that you wouldn't always have a calculator with you? Today, not only do we have phone calculators right in our pockets, but some calculators have become so advanced that they can be used to predict risks for cardiovascular disease.

Meet the [PREVENT™ risk calculator](#), a new cardiovascular risk prediction tool created by the AHA to estimate people's 10- and 30-year risk of heart failure, heart attack and stroke. PREVENT is an acronym for **P**redicting **R**isk of cardiovascular disease **E**VENT **S** and is a medical algorithm that practitioners use to inform their recommendations on how to best diagnose and care for a patient. This equation estimates cardiovascular disease risk based on one's cardiovascular, kidney and metabolic health.

Current guidelines recommend the use of the [ASCVD risk calculator](#). However, these algorithms include race as a risk factor and have different equations for some races compared to people who are white in an effort account for the higher CVD risk among some populations. This practice has raised concerns about perpetuating health inequities by misinterpreting a person's health status or resulting in race-specific treatment decisions. According to the [Doris Duke Foundation](#), since the use of race is not rooted in science, but in historical misconceptions, it can lead to some communities experiencing missed or late diagnoses and wrong treatment.

The new PREVENT risk calculator does not include a person's race as a factor in

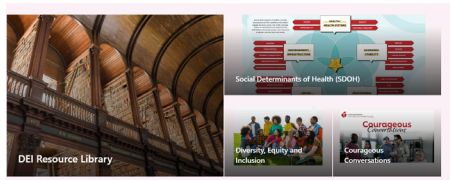
determining risk. Rather, it includes a social determinants index, which indicates whether social factors such as education, poverty, unemployment and factors based on a person's environment may contribute to a person's health risks. This does not diminish the accuracy of the equation. We found through [testing and validation](#) that the new PREVENT calculator was accurate among varied racial and ethnic groups. Plus, the new calculator adds a kidney health measurement which shows how well the kidneys filter blood.

While a more accurate risk calculator does not eliminate unconscious bias or overt injustices that individuals of certain races and ethnicities experience when seeking health care, PREVENT is a beginning — a first step in creating more equitable tools in cardiovascular care that incorporate social determinants of health.



Check Out OHE's DEI Resource Library and SDOH page

Explore our DEI Resource Library and SDOH page for a wealth of valuable resources and insights on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), as well as social determinants of health (SDOH). Dive into a curated collection of articles, books, videos, and more, designed to empower you with knowledge and strategies for fostering a more inclusive workplace and understanding the broader social factors impacting health outcomes. Start your journey towards greater awareness and action today.



The Office of Health Equity's New SharePoint Site

OHE has unveiled a new SharePoint site to enhance your access to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) resources. [Here](#), you'll be able to access the latest information and tools, find Employee Resource Groups (ERGs), learn about alliances and more!

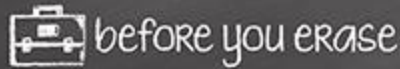


Scribbles from the Desk of Maggie Francis, National Marketing Communications Lead, Health Equity in Clinical Care

National Center

Clinical algorithms are big math that help clinicians make medical decisions. We are most familiar with algorithms known as risk calculators. When I took on the role of raising awareness of equity in algorithms, it seemed daunting. 'Algorithms' aren't exactly headline news. I was unaware, however, that AHA volunteers and science staff were working on a major – and more equitable – update to our well-known cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk calculator. PREVENT uses more precise health information in determining CVD risk and does not rely on race as a proxy for health status or risk. As the PREVENT calculator gains attention, it

continues to inspire important conversations about health equity and the role of race in health care decision-making.



Be there or be square!

This update may prompt some questions: What does this mean for people who are part of populations that face higher CVD risk? Why was this change made? How does this affect care for people who are at risk? The Office of Health Equity is eager to answer those questions and more. On Tuesday, May 14, they are hosting a Courageous Conversation with EVP and Chief Marketing Officer Katrina McGhee who will facilitate a discussion with Dr. Sadiya Khan, who led the writing committee for the PREVENT equations, and AHA immediate past-president Dr. Michelle Albert. Check your calendar for the invite.

With heart,

The [AHA Resource Center](#) Team



This online publication is intended solely for American Heart Association staff, and is protected by federal copyright law. Information included in it may be confidential or exempt from disclosure. Therefore, if you are not among the registered recipients for this publication, please immediately delete and destroy all copies, and notify the person or organization responsible for providing it and tell them not to distribute it. Thanks.

American Heart Association
7272 Greenville Ave. Dallas, TX, 75231, United States

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Ethics Policy](#) | [Conflict of Interest Policy](#)