

College of nursing

The Intersection of Social Mission and the Social Determinants of Health in the Delivery of Care Continuum

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Food Supply
 Child Welfare
 Substance Abuse
 Chronic Disease Management
 Bullying
 Cardiovascular Disease
 Rural Issues
 Reproductive Health
 Sexuality
 Trauma
 Developmental Origins of Disease
 Nutrition
 Employment
 Health Policy
 Social Welfare System
 Disability
 Ethnicity
 Global Issues
 Diabetes
 Community Health
 Access to Healthcare
 Gender
 Race
 HIV/AIDS
 Cancer
 Health Services
 Wellbeing
 Mental Health
 Disparities
 Discrimination
 Poverty
 Child Development
 Health Promotion
 Violence
 Environmental Issues
 Housing
 Education
 Physical Environment
 Urban Issues
 Class
 Immigration
 Chronic Pain
 Healthy Aging
 Health Economics
 Maternal Health
 Adolescent Health
 Obesity
 Criminal Justice Involvement



Social Determinants of Health

- The social determinants of health “are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, including the health system”.
 - These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at global, national and local levels, which are themselves influenced by policy choices.
- **Healthy public policy** = “characterized by an explicit concern for *health* and equity in all areas of policy, and by an accountability for health impact. The main aim...to create a supportive environment to enable people to lead healthy lives...makes healthy choices possible or easier. It makes social and physical environments health enhancing”. ([WHO Health Promotion Glossary](#))
- The social determinants of health are mostly responsible for **health inequities** – the unfair and avoidable differences in health status seen within and between countries.

Health Equity: Attainment of the highest level of health for all people. Health Equity means efforts to ensure that all people have full and equal access to opportunities that enable them to lead healthy lives. (Healthy People 2020)

How do we work to achieve health equity?

To achieve health equity, we must eliminate avoidable health inequities and health disparities requiring short-and long-term actions, including:

- Attention to the root causes of health inequities and health disparities, specifically health determinants, a principal focus of Healthy People 2020.
- Particular attention to groups that have experienced major obstacles to health associated with socio-economic disadvantages and historical and contemporary injustices.
- Promotion of equal opportunities for all people to be healthy and to seek the highest level of health possible.
- Distribution of socio-economic resources needed to be healthy in a manner that progressively reduces health disparities and improves health for all.
- Continuous efforts to maintain a desired state of equity after avoidable health inequities and health disparities are eliminated.