The Nightingale Challenge Leadership Series

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Today’s Guest Speakers

Dr. Janice Phillips, PhD, MSN/MPH, RN, FAAN

Anna Hing, MPH

Dr. Butch de Castro, PhD, RN, CENP, FAAN
PUBLIC POLICY AS A DETERMINANT OF HEALTH

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HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES

October 2020
OBJECTIVES

• Describe why policy is a determinant of health.

• Articulate why a “Health in All Polices” approach to policy making is essential for reducing health disparities and achieving health equity.

• Elucidate two examples where states and municipalities have adopted a HIAP approach.
Reduced life expectancy, worsening health outcomes, health inequity, and declining health-care options - these are now realities for most Americans. However, in a country of more than 325 million people, addressing everyone's issues is challenging. How can we effect beneficial change for everyone so we all can thrive? What is the great equalizer?

In this book, the author demonstrates how the political determinants of health create the social conditions or drivers - including poor environmental conditions, inadequate transportation, unsafe neighborhoods, and lack of healthy food options - that affect all dynamics of health. By understanding these determinants, their origins, and their impact on the equitable distribution of opportunities and resources, we will be better equipped to develop and implement actionable solutions to close the health gap.
“Health in All Policies (HiAP) is an approach to public policies across sectors that systematically takes into account the health and health systems implications of decisions, seeks synergies, and avoids harmful health impacts, in order to improve population health and health equity. A HiAP approach is founded on health-related rights and obligations. It emphasizes the consequences of public policies on health determinants, and aims to improve the accountability of policy-makers for health impacts at all levels of policy-making” (WHO, 2013)
The conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age (WHO).

Shaped by the distribution of money, power, resources, at local, national, and global level.

Influenced by economics, policies, systems, and environments.
Increased Interest in SDoH

- High health care expenditures - poorer health outcomes.
- Medical care is insufficient for ensuring better health.
- New payment models prompting interest.
- Health care systems have vital role to play in achieving health equity.
Health Equity

*Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be healthy.*

This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty and discrimination while creating access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and quality health care.
SOCIAL DETERMINANTS AND SOCIAL NEEDS: MOVING BEYOND MIDSTREAM

STRATEGIES
- Improve Community Conditions

COMMUNITY IMPACT
- Laws, policies, and regulations that create community conditions supporting health for all people.

TACTICS
- Include patient screening questions about social factors like housing and food access; use data to inform care and provide referrals.

INDIVIDUAL IMPACT
- Addressing Individuals’ Social Needs

- Social workers, community health workers, and/or community-based organizations providing direct support/assistance to meet patients social needs

Providing Clinical Care

- Medical interventions

Created by the de Beaumont Foundation and Trust for America’s Health, 2019.
## Social Determinants of Health

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<tr>
<th>Economic Stability</th>
<th>Neighborhood and Physical Environment</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Community and Social Context</th>
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<td>Zip code / geography</td>
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<td>Quality of care</td>
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### Health Outcomes
- Mortality
- Morbidity
- Life Expectancy
- Health Care Expenditures
- Health Status
- Functional Limitations
There is a major gap in life expectancy between the West Side and the Loop, reflecting high levels of hardship and disease in West Side communities.
Examples of Integrating HIAP Approach

- Richmond, CA
  - Removed tons of illegal dumping by Code Enforcement - sanitation and quality of life

- Seattle/King County, Washington
  - Included health base metrics and objectives in city and land use and transportation plans

- Chicago, IL
  - Healthy CPS Initiative - remove all health related barriers to learning
Implications for Advancing HIAP

- Seek appointments to non nursing boards to add a health perspective and to advocate for those most in need.
- Establish partnerships with a wide array of partners in areas e.g. housing, education, urban planners, managers of food chains.
- Establish a research agenda around the social determinants of health to help inform the policy discourse.
Implications for Advancing HIAP

- Use expertise to present at town halls, press conferences, legislative hearings and testimonies and respond to the public comment process.
- Embrace, engage, empower the community.
- Analyze policies for their relevance in addressing social and economic factors impacting health.
References

Moving Upstream: Policy Strategies to Address Social Economic and Environmental Conditions that Shape Health Inequities

“Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do.”

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
Voter Suppression as a Determinant of Health Disparities

University of Washington
Wednesday, October 21, 2020
Anna K. Hing, MPH
Doctoral Candidate, Fielding School of Public Health
University of California, Los Angeles
Voter Suppression

• Disparities in voter turnout by race-ethnicity, socioeconomic status, age, health.

• Common forms of voter suppression:
  • Voter identification laws
  • Reductions for early voting or voting by mail
  • Closing of polling places
  • Voter purges
Late night court decision rules Texans will only have one ballot drop box per county

By Madeline Holcombe, CNN

Updated 12:52 PM ET, Tue October 13, 2020
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Racist voter suppression tactics are making a comeback in the 2020. And Florida shows just how bad it could get.

Ashish Prashar, Opinion Contributor
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2020 ELECTION

Early voting begins in Georgia with long lines, high turnout

Race is one of the strongest predictors of how long a person waits in line to vote, research shows.

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NICQUEL TERRY ELLIS AND RICK JELLIS
USA TODAY | 27 minutes ago

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Voters line up to cast their ballots for the upcoming presidential elections in Atlanta on Oct. 12, 2020. Chris Aluka Berry / Reuters
Early voting begins in Georgia with long lines, high turnout

Race is one of the strongest predictors of how long a person waits in line to vote, research shows.

In North Carolina, Black Voters’ Mail-In Ballots Much More Likely to Be Rejected Than Those From Any Other Race

Black voters were more than twice as likely to have mail-in ballots rejected than those submitted by the state’s white voters in 2018, and rejection rates for 2020 show a similar pattern, according to a new analysis by ProPublica and WRAL News.
Minority voters wait almost twice as long to vote as whites; on average, African American voters waited 25 minutes, while white voters waited only 11 minutes (Pettigrew 2017).
In 2016, there were at least **868 fewer polling places** as compared to 2012.

Structural Racism

Structural racism is “the macrolevel systems, social forces, institutions, ideologies, and processes that interact with one another to generate and reinforce inequities among racial and ethnic groups” (Gee & Ford 2011: 116).

“The state-sanctioned and/or extralegal production and exploitation of group-differentiated vulnerability to premature death.” (Gilmore 2007: 247)
Voter suppression (across individual, interpersonal, and structural levels) 

Federal, state, and local laws and policies 

Stratification of capital, resources, and opportunities 

Exposure to risks; social, economic, environmental context; living conditions 

Loss of control; disempowerment; social exclusion 

Psychological distress 

Physical violence 

Development of psychological symptoms; negative coping behaviors; physiological stress responses 

Well-being and health 

Hostile racial climate 

Voter suppression shapes federal, state, and local policies
Voter Suppression Stratifies Resources and Capital

• Local policies shape the tax base for schools, quality of education
• Zoning shapes access to green spaces and healthy foods
• Social safety net policies shape the economic capital for individuals and communities
Figure 1. Voter suppression as a determinant of health and well-being

Voter suppression (across individual, interpersonal, and structural levels) → Federal, state, and local laws and policies → Stratification of capital, resources, and opportunities → Exposure to risks; social, economic, environmental context; living conditions → Loss of control; disempowerment; social exclusion → Psychological distress → Physical violence → Development of psychological symptoms; negative coping behaviors; physiological stress responses → Well-being and health

Hostile racial climate

Voter Suppression has Psychosocial Effects

• Feeling loss of control, disempowerment, exclusion
• Discrimination
• Psychological distress
• Fear of violence
• Internalized racism
Voter suppression (across individual, interpersonal, and structural levels)

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Stratification of capital, resources, and opportunities

Exposure to risks; social, economic, environmental context; living conditions

Loss of control; disempowerment; social exclusion

Development of psychological symptoms; negative coping behaviors; physiological stress responses

Psychological distress

Physical violence

Well-being and health

Hostile racial climate

What can we do?

• Vote (if you can) and promote voter registration.
• Organize to fight back against voter suppression and increase awareness.
• Identify policies in place or those being proposed that help or hurt access to the ballot.
• Collect data.
• Stop gerrymandering and abolish the electoral college.
• Use your membership in a powerful union to demand change. Voting policies are health policies.
• Use knowledge as healers to promote voting policies that combat ableism and make voting accessible for all
Dr. Camara Jones’ Principles for Health Equity

(1) valuing all individuals and populations equally—that is, there are no invisible, undervalued, or disposable people;

(2) recognizing and rectifying historical injustices; and

(3) providing resources according to need—not equally, but according to need.

One can apply these principles when allocating both health and voting resources.
Voting Rights Organizations

- ACLU
- America Let Vote
- Demos
- Washington Voting Justice
- Fair Fight
- Voto Latino
- Brennan Center for Justice
- Advancement Project
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC)
Thank you!
References


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Jerome Mendoza Dayao, Rory Rochelle, Mary Shepler
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