The Social Determinants of Health

APA Child Poverty Curriculum
Module 2
Goals of this Module

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

• Describe how the social determinants of health play a role in creating and perpetuating health disparities.

• Describe the local, state and federal programs that decrease the rates of poverty and mitigate the effects of poverty on child health in the US.
Specific Objectives – Goal 1

- Define five critical social determinants and their impact on health.
- Articulate how the three important components of Socio-Economic Status (SES) contribute to health disparities.
- Evaluate the impact of income inequality on health outcomes and life expectancy in the United States and abroad.
Specific Objectives – Goal 2

• Describe three federal income based programs that effectively decrease rates of poverty
• Analyze the impact of educational and community based programs that invest in children and families long term to reverse the cycle of generational poverty and educational disparities
• Explain how the funding mechanisms for education affect educational inequities between communities and nations and perpetuate the cycle of poverty.
Module Roadmap

• Background Information:
  • Definitions of SDH and SES
  • Interactions between poverty and health
  • Interventions available

• Two cases to illustrate interactions and potential interventions
KEY DEFINITIONS
Social Determinants of Health

Schematic from Healthy People 2020
Socioeconomic Status (SES)
A brief illustration of SDH

I had homecooked meals every night. There were two grocery stores within a mile radius.

My meals were often frozen TV dinners from the convenience store. The grocery store was a half hour away.
INTERACTIONS OF INCOME, HEALTH & INEQUALITIES
Income and Health

Figure from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation report on the 2003 National Survey of Children’s Health
Educational Funding and Inequality

Poor families

Less opportunity for economic mobility

Low local tax base

Poor student outcomes

Less money for public schools
INTERVENTIONS
Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

- Tax credit for low income working families
- $2,000 – 2,500 per household, 2013
- Lifted 3.2 million children out of poverty in 2013
- Incentivizes rejoining the workforce
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- Aka food stamps
- Supplemental money to purchase of food (debit card)
- SNAP benefits lifted 4 million people above the poverty line (2012)

![Record Number of People Lifted Above Poverty In 2012 When SNAP is Counted as Income](chart.png)

Source: Census Bureau Data, Official Poverty Measure. [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](http://cbpp.org)
Educational and Community Programs

- Head Start/Early Head Start
  - Federal Program
- Nurse Family Partnership
  - National not-for-profit organization
  - Partners with state and local governments
- Reach Out and Read
  - National not-for-profit organization
  - Partners with local pediatric practices
- Harlem Children’s Zone
  - Community based not-for-profit organization
CASES

Application to Practice
Case 1 Summary - Mary

- 2 y/o child
- Speech delay on a regular well child care visit
- Provider refers family to Early Intervention and a hearing test
  - Mother fails to follow through
- After multiple visits provider learns that mother has functional illiteracy and that social context prevents her from taking child to multiple appointments
Questions for Discussion

• What initial information might have been helpful for provider to have before setting up follow up plan?
• How can we assess reasons for non-adherence to a follow up plan?
• What tools can be used in the clinical encounter to ensure caregiver understanding of instructions given?
Case 2 Summary - Barbara

- 19 year old unemployed teen, with multiple medical problems who becomes a mother
- Son, Tayshawn, has speech delay and asthma
- Barbara and Tayshawn require housing assistance
- They individually and as a family are eligible for numerous entitlements
- Barbara engages her medical provider to help her navigate the entitlement system

Appreciate the work of Dr. Anne Armstrong-Coben, who originally developed this case
Questions for Discussion

• What is an entitlement?
• What are some examples?
• What does the Federal Poverty Level mean?
• What are key factors one needs to know in order to help families know which entitlements they qualify for?
• What is meant by “Welfare”?
• Can families survive on entitlements alone?
Summary/Wrap-up
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• Child Poverty Education Committee Co-Chairs – Lisa Chamberlain, MD, MPH, FAAP & Melissa Klein, MD, MEd, FAAP

• Workgroup Leaders – Liz Hanson, MD and Dodi Meyer, MD

• Content Contributors – Cara Lichtenstein, MD, MPH, Hans Kersten, MD, Sue Berger, PhD, James Kaferly, MD and Melissa Ruiz, MD

• Facilitator Guide developer – Melissa Ruiz