SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT

Social determinants of health are social and economic conditions that may directly or indirectly affect health outcomes. Research has shown that factors such as a quality education, stable employment, safe surroundings, access to healthy food, transportation options, internet connectivity, and prevention and support services can contribute to individual physical health, as well as to overall health-related quality of life for a community. This evidence does not diminish the importance of medical care in determining health outcomes, but instead suggests that these social factors, in addition to medical care and a number of additional determinants, contribute to physical health and quality of life.

Research also indicates that social determinants of health contribute to and exacerbate disparities in health outcomes that may disadvantage the residents of lower-income and moderate-income (LMI) communities. Galbraith et al. (2011) estimated that in 2000, 133,000 deaths in the US could be attributed to being in poverty and an additional 13,000 deaths could be attributed to living in your poor neighborhoods. To address this neighborhood disparity and more comprehensively promote healthy circumstances regardless of income level, there is increasing coordination between public health initiatives and community development efforts.

WHAT ARE THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH?

Healthy People is a federal initiative to promote community health and disease prevention for all Americans through 10-year objective plans. The identified Social Determinants of Health include:

- Economic stability
- Social and community context
- Health and health care
- Neighborhood and built environment

SOURCES


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