



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 shows that factors such as a quality education, stable employment, safe surroundings, access to healthy food, transportation options, internet connectivity and preventive and support services may 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 systematic and avoidable disparities in health outcomes that may disadvantage the residents of low- and moderate-income (LMI) communities. Galea et al. (2011) estimated that in 2000, 133,000 deaths in the U.S. could be attributed to living in poverty and an additional 39,000 deaths could be attributed to living in poor neighborhoods. To address this neighborhood disparity and more comprehensively promote healthy communities 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.



ECONOMIC STABILITY

Critical components: poverty, employment and housing stability



EDUCATION

Critical components: high school graduation, enrollment in higher education, literacy and early childhood education



SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Critical components: social cohesion, civic participation, discrimination, incarceration



HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

Critical components: access to health care, access to primary care and health literacy



NEIGHBORHOOD AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Critical components: quality of housing and crime

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