

The Rising Influence of Social Determinants of Health

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FIVE CRUCIAL SECTORS
DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH
A NEW OLD IDEA



Issues in social determinants

- Economic Stability

- Employment
- Food Insecurity
- Housing Instability
- Poverty

- Social and Community Context

- Civic Participation
- Discrimination
- Incarceration
- Social Cohesion

- Education

- Early Childhood Education and Development
- Enrollment in Higher Education
- High School Graduation
- Language and Literacy

- Health and Health Care

- Access to Health Care
- Access to Primary Care
- Health Literacy

Issues in social determinants

- Neighborhood and Built Environment
 - Access to Foods that Support Healthy Eating Patterns
 - Crime and Violence
 - Environmental Conditions
 - Quality of Housing
 - Access to transportation

What we know

- Social Determinants are the basis for health outcomes and setting health disparities.
- Health is determined by where we live, work, learn and play
- Health outcomes can be improved when there is a focus on the population rather than the individual—the public health focus
- Investments in social determinants can reap benefits in improved health outcomes

Wrong pockets problem

Investments from one part of the government are not reimbursed by the benefits that accrue to another part of government, discouraging cross-agency investment and perpetuating silos

Wrong pockets example

- The ratio of social expenditures to health care expenditures is highly correlated with better infant mortality, life expectancy, potential years of life lost to disease, etc.
- Life expectancy and preventable mortality improve with ratio increase
- In Ontario: 1 cent more social spending per health dollar =
 Additional 3% drop in preventable mortality
 Additional 5% increase in life expectancy

Advancements in Health Care

- Focus on social determinants results in shift from individuals to populations
- Treatment from individual clinician to team-based
- Value-based models of health care
- Expanded research to create evidence-based delivery policies
- Patient engagement continues to rise
- Interoperability of IT systems in health care vs. other domains

Where we must go (Opportunities)

- Shape resource allocation policies on evidence of improving wellness across places
- Develop new models of collaboration across domains (health, social services, education, justice, etc.)
- Establish cross-domain IT interoperability and standards to share data that generates evidence
- Expand research to support evidence-based practices of collaboration and interoperability

To share in the dialog

- Explore the NIC Collaboration Hub—
<https://hub.nic-us.org>
- Join the Social Determinants of Health Group on the Hub