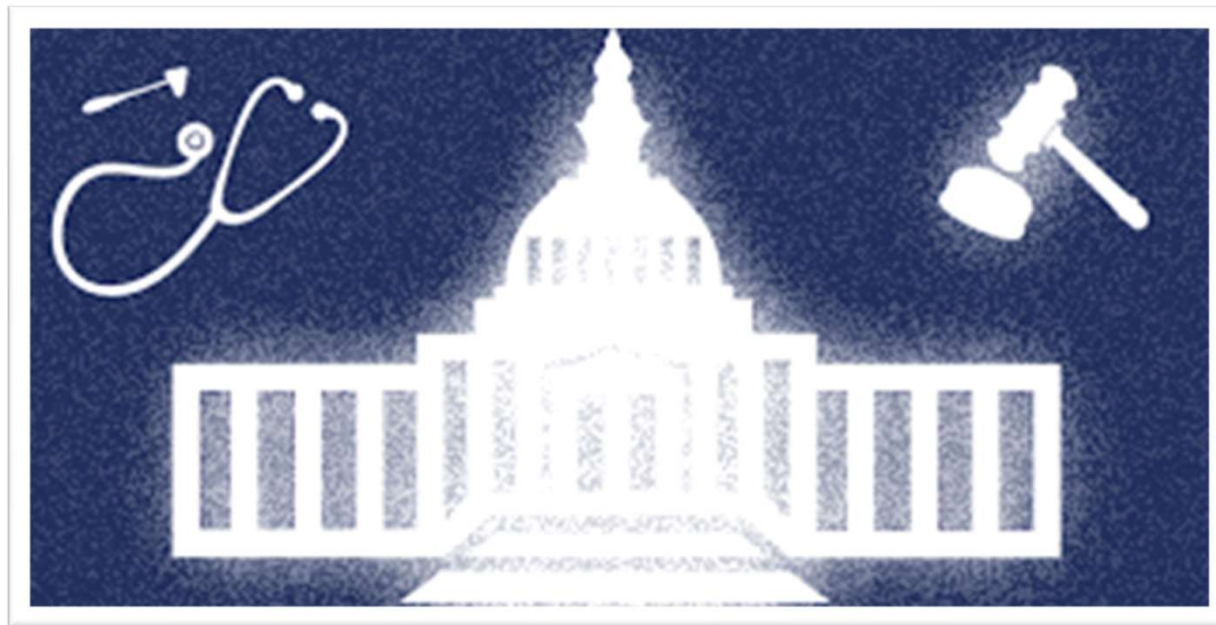# Exploring the Determinants of the Determinants:

Health Policy Influences Health Outcomes

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Disclosures

Speakers have nothing to disclose.

Session objectives

At the conclusion of this session, participants should be able to:

- Compare U.S. health access and equity standings to other developed countries
- Review World Health Organization's definition of social determinants of health
- Describe the factors, systems, and structures that create, perpetuate, or exacerbate differences in health outcomes
- Describe The Political Determinant of Health Model
- Discuss the three major political determinants of health
- Explore strategies to promote advocacy for action steps in pursuit of health equity

EXHIBIT ES-1. OVERALL RANKING

COUNTRY RANKINGS

Top 2*	(dark blue)
Middle	(medium blue)
Bottom 2*	(light blue)

	AUS	CAN	FRA	GER	NETH	NZ	NOR	SWE	SWIZ	UK	US
OVERALL RANKING (2013)	4	10	9	5	5	7	7	3	2	1	11
Quality Care	2	9	8	7	5	4	11	10	3	1	5
Effective Care	4	7	9	6	5	2	11	10	8	1	3
Safe Care	3	10	2	6	7	9	11	5	4	1	7
Coordinated Care	4	8	9	10	5	2	7	11	3	1	6
Patient-Centered Care	5	8	10	7	3	6	11	9	2	1	4
Access	8	9	11	2	4	7	6	4	2	1	9
Cost-Related Problem	9	5	10	4	8	6	3	1	7	1	11
Timeliness of Care	6	11	10	4	2	7	8	9	1	3	5
Efficiency	4	10	8	9	7	3	4	2	6	1	11
Equity	5	9	7	4	8	10	6	1	2	2	11
Healthy Lives	4	8	1	7	5	9	6	2	3	10	11
Health Expenditures/Capita, 2011**	$3,800	$4,522	$4,118	$4,495	$5,099	$3,182	$5,669	$3,925	$5,643	$3,405	$8,508

Notes: * Includes ties. ** Expenditures shown in $US PPP (purchasing power parity); Australian $ data are from 2010.
Source: Calculated by The Commonwealth Fund based on 2011 International Health Policy Survey of Sicker Adults; 2012 International Health Policy Survey of Primary Care Physicians; 2013 International Health Policy Survey; Commonwealth Fund *National Scorecard 2011;* World Health Organization; and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *OECD Health Data, 2013* (Paris: OECD, Nov. 2013).
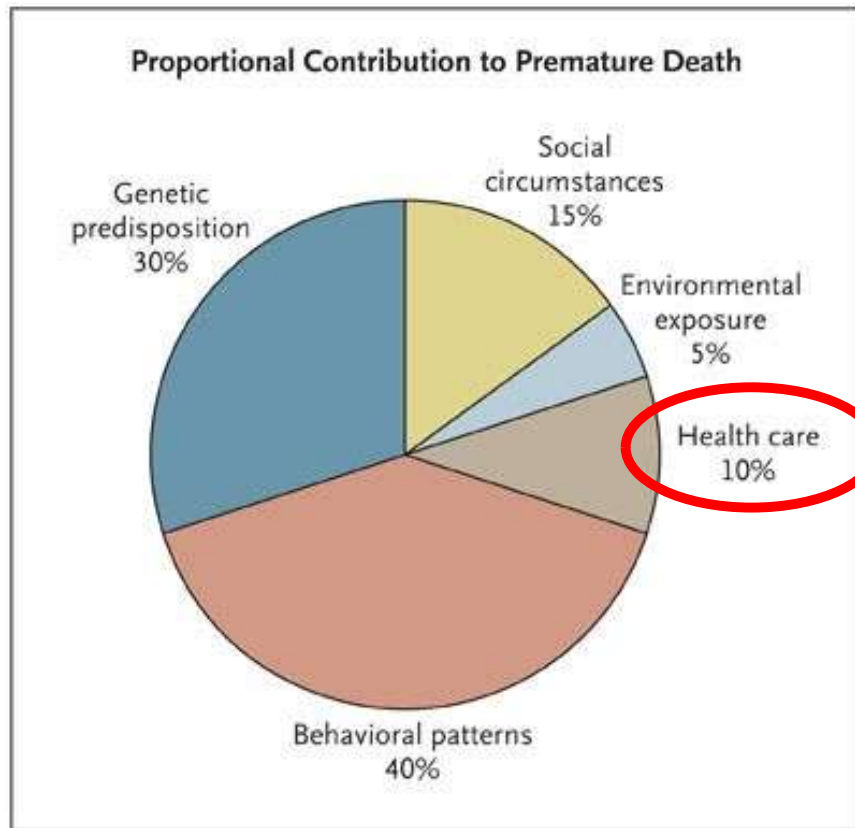
EXHIBIT 1

Health Care System Performance Rankings

	AUS	CAN	FRA	GER	NETH	NZ	NOR	SWE	SWIZ	UK	US
OVERALL RANKING	**3**	**10**	**8**	**5**	**2**	**6**	**1**	**7**	**9**	**4**	**11**
Access to Care	8	9	7	3	1	5	2	6	10	4	11
Care Process	6	4	10	9	3	1	8	11	7	5	2
Administrative Efficiency	2	7	6	9	8	3	1	5	10	4	11
Equity	1	10	7	2	5	9	8	6	3	4	11
Health Care Outcomes	1	10	6	7	4	8	2	5	3	9	11

Data: Commonwealth Fund analysis.

Source: Eric C. Schneider et al., *Mirror, Mirror 2021 — Reflecting Poorly: Health Care in the U.S. Compared to Other High-Income Countries* (Commonwealth Fund, Aug. 2021).
https://doi.org/10.26099/01DV-H208

Determinants of Health

Proportional Contribution to Premature Death

Genetic predisposition 30%

Social circumstances 15%

Environmental exposure 5%
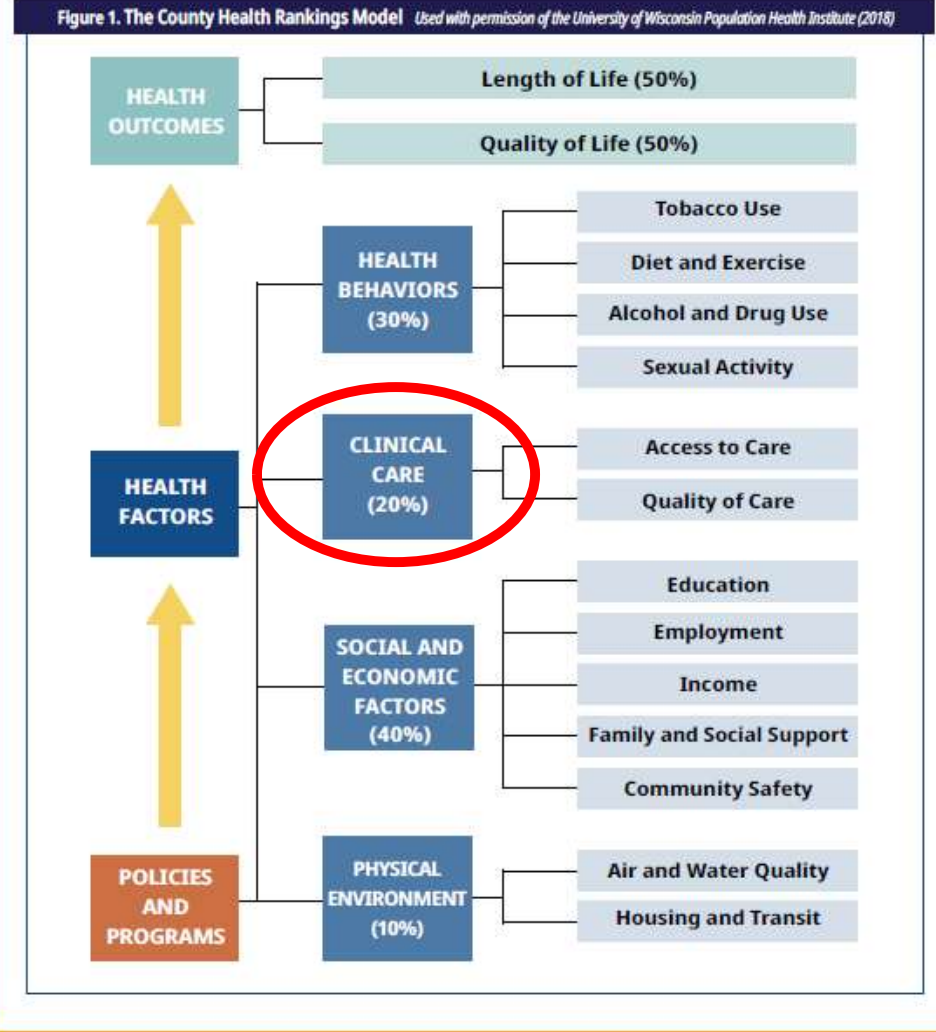
Health care 10%

Behavioral patterns 40%

5 Domains of factors that influence health:

- Behavioral Patterns
- Genetics
- Social Circumstances
- Health Care
- Environmental Exposures

HEALTH IMPACT MODEL

- Used for County Health Rankings

- Emphasizes the many factors that influence how long and how well we live

Figure 1. The County Health Rankings Model *Used with permission of the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (2018)*

https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/units/ldas/docs/NCSHIP-2022-Full.pdf

World Health Organization

Social Determinants of Health:
"the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life".

Economic Stability: Food security, housing, employment, and income/poverty level

Neighborhood and Built Environment: Quality of housing, food access, violence, crime/public safety, environment (clean water and air or pollution), healthy workplaces, schools, and transportation

Education: Language and literacy, educational attainment, and early childhood development

Social and Community Context: Social support, social cohesion, civic engagement, faith-based communities, and incarceration

Health and Health Care: Access to primary, specialty, and emergency care, affordability, health literacy, quality of care, and insurance coverage

Biology: Genetics, race/ethnicity, gender identity, and sexual orientation

Health Behavior: Personal health practices and behaviors (eating, exercise, sexual practices, etc.)

Social Determinants of Health

- Shared by the World Health Organization (WHO) Commission on Social Determinants of Health
- Designed to identify ways to create social and physical environments that promote good health for all

https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health

VIEWPOINT

Declining Life Expectancy in the United States
The Need for Social Policy as Health Policy

The Political Determinants of Health

https://youtu.be/tYDf3fSdefk

The Political Determinants of Health

Daniel E. Dawes
Foreword by
DAVID R. WILLIAMS

"Political determinants are the instigators of the causes.
They are the determinants of the determinants"
~Dr. Daniel Dawes

- More attention has been spent on the social and economic forces impacting health equity.

- The factor we spend very little attention on is the political determinants.

- We undervalue the impact that political forces have on an individual's and the larger society's health and wellbeing.

Source: Dawes, DE. The Political Determinants of Health

"Girding all of the health determinants is one that rarely gets addressed but which has power over all aspects of health: the political determinants of health." – The Political Determinants of Health by Daniel E. Dawes
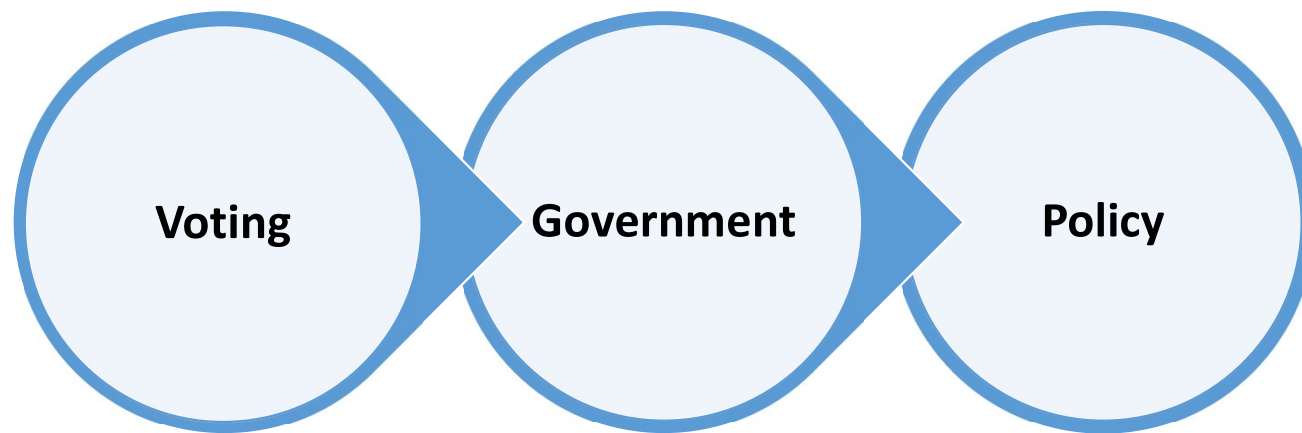
Source: Dawes, DE. The Political Determinants of Health

Source: Dawes, DE. The Political Determinants of Health

Three major political determinants of health

Management

- Current paradigm
- Downstream impact
- Mostly passive engagement
- **Social Health Needs**
  - Care management
- Mostly clinical professionals
- Funding value based on +/- per capita payments

VS.

Improvement

- Emerging paradigm
- Upstream impact
- **Political Drivers of Health**
  - Proactive and community and civic engagement
- Community, public health, and clinical health professionals
- Funding is variable


SHIFT YOUR THINKING

Policy Funnel

Macrosystems aimed at delivering healthy outcomes to millions of people and setting the tone for the healthcare marketplace.

Mesosystems that target state- and regional-level policy

Frontline microsystems, such as outpatient clinics and hospital systems, with healthcare policies that represent an organization's goals and daily activities to prevent unnecessary risks.
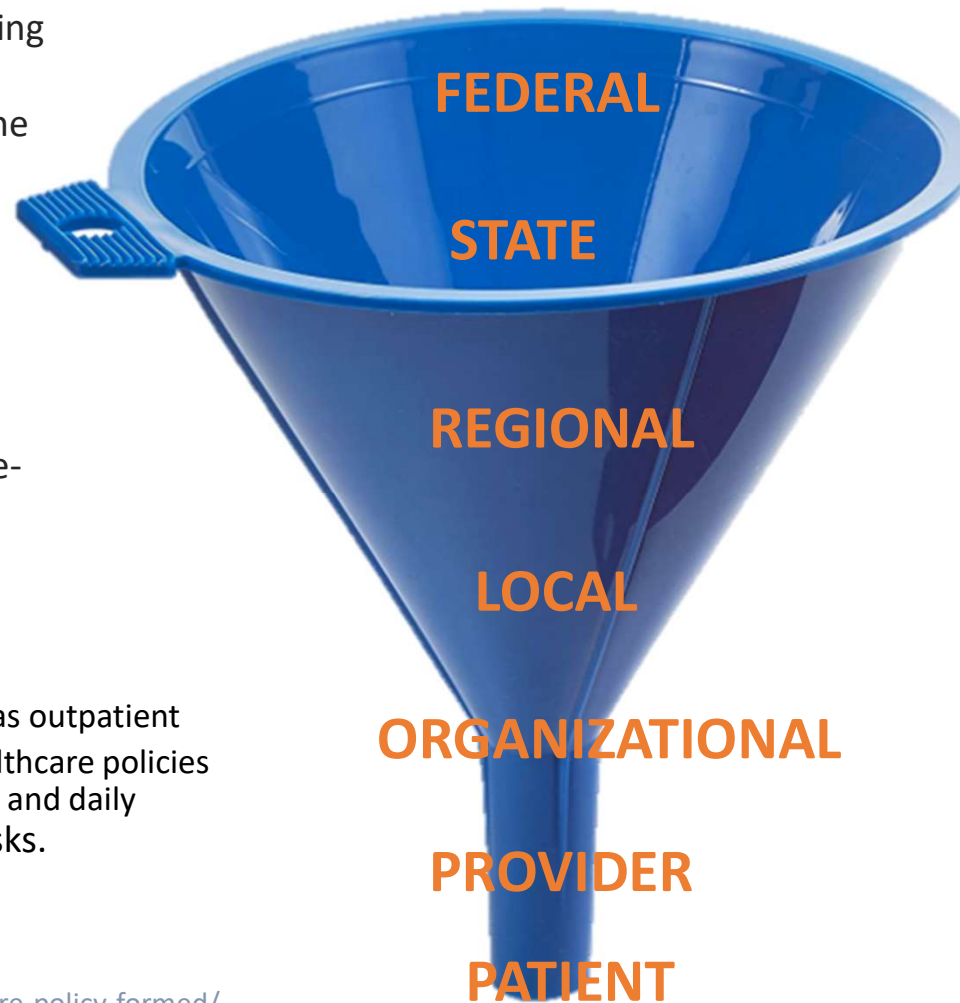
FEDERAL

STATE

REGIONAL

LOCAL

ORGANIZATIONAL

PROVIDER

PATIENT

Policy Process Reality
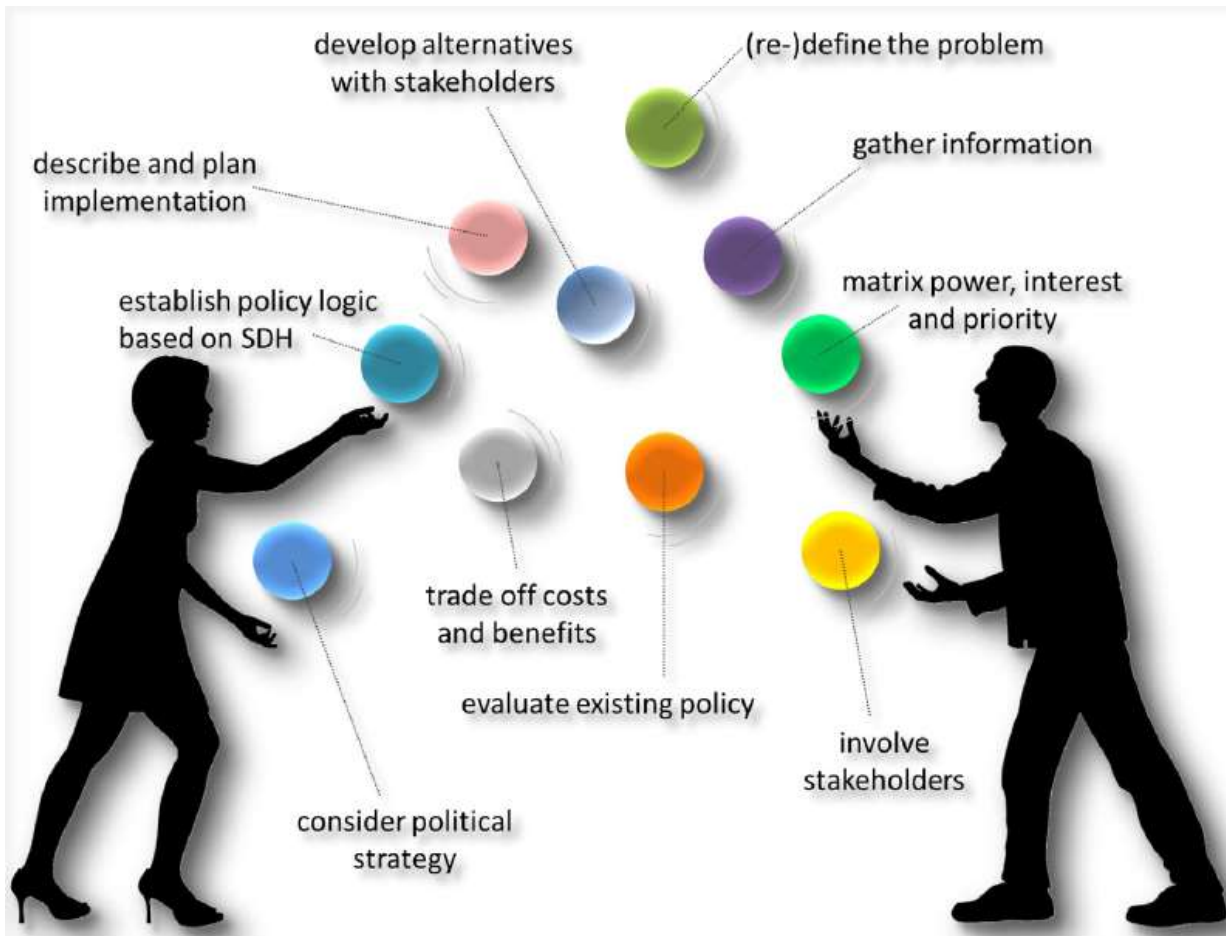
REVIEW   **Open Access**

Health policy – why research it and how: health political science

Evelyne de Leeuw[1], Carole Clavier[2] and Eric Breton[3]

"The juggling metaphor…. recognises that, although keeping all balls in the air virtually simultaneously creates an apparently hugely chaotic scene, systematic and disciplined action is required at all times."
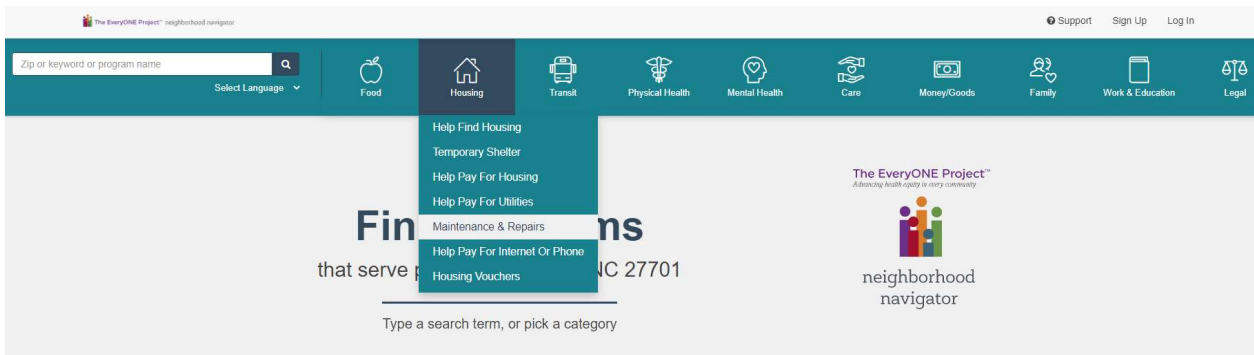
What can providers Do?

- Learn about factors affecting your patients & community

- Move from "noncompliance" to *why might that be*?

- Help patients access resources

www.aafp.org/family-physician/patient-care/the-everyone-project/neighborhood-navigator.html

Health Screening

We believe everyone should have the opportunity for health. Some things like not having enough food or reliable transportation or a safe place to live can make it hard to be healthy. Please answer the following questions to help us better understand you and your current situation. We may not be able to find resources for all of your needs, but we will try and help as much as we can.

		Yes	No
Food			
1.	Within the past 12 months, did you worry that your food would run out before you got money to buy more?		
2.	Within the past 12 months, did the food you bought just not last and you didn't have money to get more?		
Housing/ Utilities			
3.	Within the past 12 months, have you ever stayed: outside, in a car, in a tent, in an overnight shelter, or temporarily in someone else's home (i.e. couch-surfing)?		
4.	Are you worried about losing your housing?		
5.	Within the past 12 months, have you been unable to get utilities (heat, electricity) when it was really needed?		
Transportation			
6.	Within the past 12 months, has a lack of transportation kept you from medical appointments or from doing things needed for daily living?		
Interpersonal Safety			
7.	Do you feel physically or emotionally unsafe where you currently live?		
8.	Within the past 12 months, have you been hit, slapped, kicked or otherwise physically hurt by anyone?		
9.	Within the past 12 months, have you been humiliated or emotionally abused by anyone?		
Optional: Immediate Need			
10.	Are any of your needs urgent? For example, you don't have food for tonight, you don't have a place to sleep tonight, you are afraid you will get hurt if you go home today.		
11.	Would you like help with any of the needs that you have identified?		

Drivers & Policies

Medicaid Social Needs Screening Tool

- Food
- Housing/Utilities
- Transportation
- Interpersonal Safety
- Immediate Needs

Needs are intersectional.
Resources are political.

APPENDIX C: ENGLISH SCREENING QUESTIONS

Health Screening

We believe everyone should have the opportunity for health. Some things like not having enough food or reliable transportation or a safe place to live can make it hard to be healthy. Please answer the following questions to help us better understand you and your current situation. We may not be able to find resources for all of your needs, but we will try and help as much as we can.

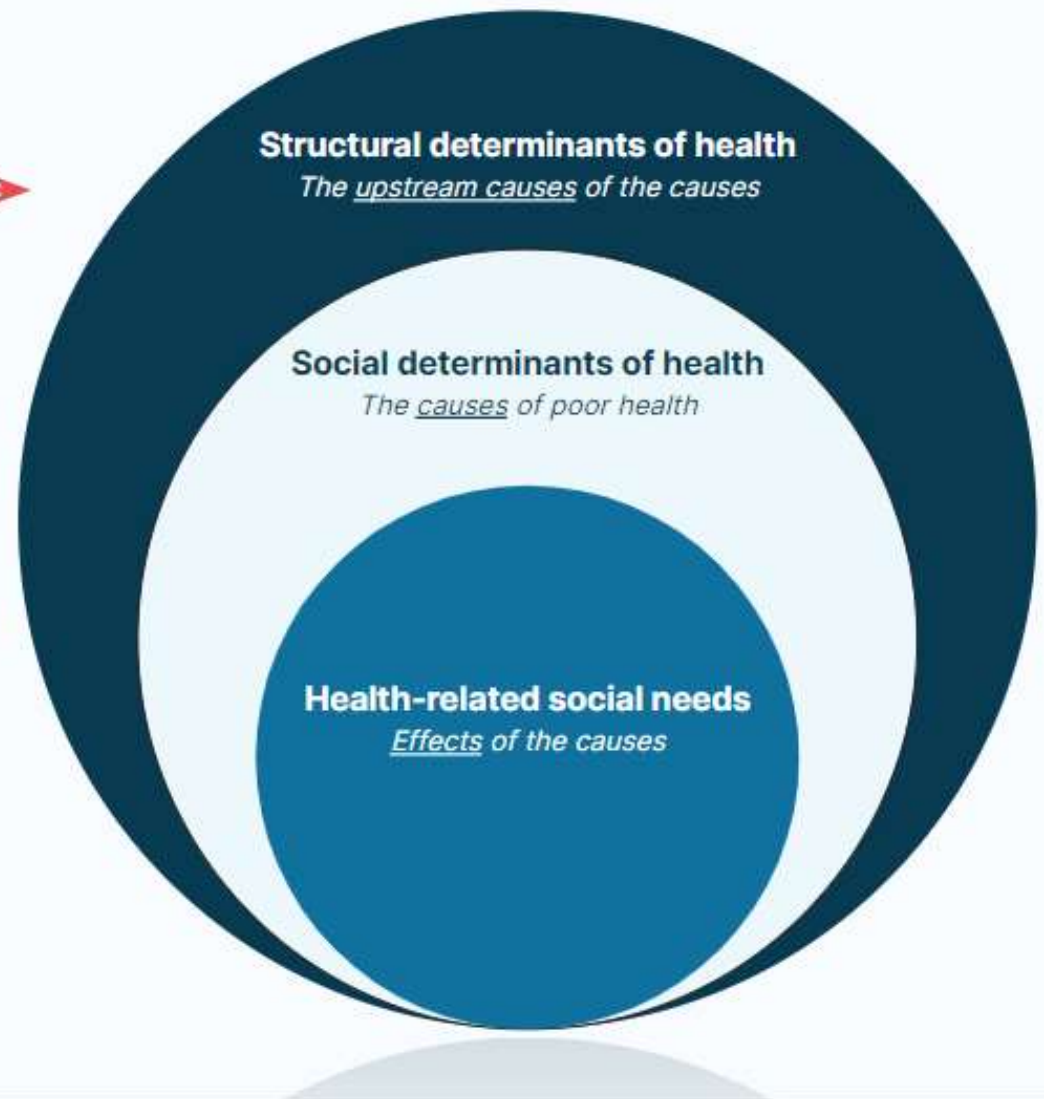|	Yes	No
Food		
1. Within the past 12 months, did you worry that your food would run out before you got money to buy more?		
2. Within the past 12 months, did the food you bought just not last and you didn't have money to get more?		
Housing/ Utilities		
3. Within the past 12 months, have you ever stayed: outside, in a car, in a tent, in an overnight shelter, or temporarily in someone else's home (i.e. couch-surfing)?		
4. Are you worried about losing your housing?		
5. Within the past 12 months, have you been unable to get utilities (heat, electricity) when it was really needed?		
Transportation		
6. Within the past 12 months, has a lack of transportation kept you from medical appointments or from doing things needed for daily living?		
Interpersonal Safety		
7. Do you feel physically or emotionally unsafe where you currently live?		
8. Within the past 12 months, have you been hit, slapped, kicked or otherwise physically hurt by anyone?		
9. Within the past 12 months, have you been humiliated or emotionally abused by anyone?		
Optional: Immediate Need		
10. Are any of your needs urgent? For example, you don't have food for tonight, you don't have a place to sleep tonight, you are afraid you will get hurt if you go home today.		
11. Would you like help with any of the needs that you have identified?		

https://www.ncdhhs.gov/about/department-initiatives/healthy-opportunities/screening-questions

Voting

" Voting is arguably the most important aspect of the political determinants [of health]"

Daniel Dawes

Morehouse School of Medicine

Structural determinants of health
The *upstream causes* of the causes

Social determinants of health
The *causes* of poor health

Health-related social needs
Effects of the causes

Source: vot-er.org

The American Medical Association recognizes this link

In June 2022, the American Medical Association formally recognized **voting as a social determinant of health**

Voting as a Social Determinant of Health

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION 422

Source: vot-er.org

Voting is significant determinant of health, US medical association declares

Some advocates suggest AMA could partner with civic groups to encourage voting, which correlates to better health outcomes

📷 Advocates of the AMA resolution said voting is consistently associated with better health, across dozens of studies. Photograph: Octavio Jones/Getty Images

The Vot-ER Healthy Democracy Campaign: A National Medical Student Competition to Increase Voting Access

Talia R. Ruxin, Yoonhee P. Ha, MSc, MPhil, Madeline M. Grade, MD, MSc, Rory Brown, Carlton Lawrence, MD, MPP, and Alister F. Martin, MD, MPP

Abstract

Problem

Voting affords citizens a direct say in the leaders and policies that affect their health. However, less than 20% of eligible U.S. citizens have been offered the chance to register to vote at a government-funded agency like a hospital or clinic that provides Medicaid or Medicare services. Medical students are well positioned to increase voting access due to their interactions with multiple actors in health care settings, including patients, visitors, colleagues, and others.

Approach

Vot-ER, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that aims to promote civic engagement in health care settings, launched the inaugural Healthy Democracy Campaign from July 20 to October 9, 2020. As part of this national, gamification-based competition, medical student captains were recruited to lead teams of health care trainees and professionals that helped eligible adults start the voter registration and/or mail-in ballot request process before the November 2020 elections. Post competition, medical student captains were surveyed about their motivations for participating and skills and knowledge gained.

Outcomes

In total, 128 medical student captains at 80 medical schools in 31 states and the District of Columbia formed teams that helped 15,692 adults start the voter registration and/or mail-in ballot request process. Eighty-two (64.1%) captains responded to the post competition survey, representing 56 (70.0%) of the participating schools. The top-ranked motivation for participating in the campaign was the desire to address social and racial inequities (37, 45.1%). Respondents reported gaining skills and knowledge in several aspects of civic engagement, including community organizing (67, 81.7%) and voting rights (63, 76.8%). The majority of respondents planned to incorporate voter registration into their future practice (76, 92.7%).

Next Steps

Future Healthy Democracy Campaigns will aim to continue closing the voting access gap and promote the long-term inclusion of hands-on civic engagement in medical education and practice.

Problem

Civic engagement, including voting, invites active participation by citizens in the democratic governance of their communities and allows individuals to have a direct say in the leaders and policies that affect the social determinants of health.[1-4] The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 sought to expand voting access by legalizing nonpartisan voter registration at state agencies offering public assistance, including any hospital or clinic that provided Medicaid and Medicare services.

However, less than 20% of eligible U.S. citizens have been offered the chance to register to vote at a government-funded agency,[5] and health care settings remain underused spaces for increasing voting access.[1,4,6]

Medical students are well positioned to increase voting access due to their interactions with multiple actors in health care settings, including patients, visitors, fellow trainees, health care professionals, and others. However, standard medical school curricula do not offer hands-on competition was designed to mobilize medical students across the United States to increase voting access ahead of the November 2020 elections. Gamification promotes behavioral change in nongame settings by drawing on the elements of games to enhance individuals' experiences and motivations.[3,7] Also, as part of the HDC, we sought to encourage safe voting during the COVID-19 pandemic by raising awareness of mail-in voting.[8]

Approach

Ruxin TR, Ha YP, Grade MM, Brown R, Lawrence C, Martin AF. The Vot-ER Healthy Democracy Campaign: A National Medical Student Competition to Increase Voting Access. Acad Med. 2022 Jan 1;97(1):89-92. doi: 10.1097/ACM.0000000000004381. PMID: 34469348.

Source: Vot-er.org

1. Make sure you are registered to vote

Take 60 seconds and make sure that you are registered to vote.

SCAN ME

https://vot-er.org/pulsecheck/

Include "Are you registered to vote?"
to your social history questioning

In the 2020 election, health care providers helped 47,000+ colleagues and patients get ready to vote!

Source: vot-er.org

Help your clinical site
Get posters, discharge paperwork, and materials that can help patients ensure they are ready to vote.

SCAN ME

https://vot-er.org/site-based-setup/

Advocacy Action Steps

Advocacy
The act of pleading or argui
in favor of something, such
a cause, policy, or interest
active support of an idea

Select a passion or interest

Organize a group

Identify and recruit a champion of health equity in the political arena

Dawes DE. The Political Determinants of Health

Advocacy Action Steps

Advocacy

The act of pleading or argui
in favor of something, such
a cause, policy, or interest
active support of an idea

- Collect and share stories

- Develop talking points on explaining the importance of addressing health disparities

- Hold congressional/lobbying meetings

Dawes DE. The Political Determinants of Health

HOW PA PAC STRENGTHENS THE PA VOICE

AAPA

The bipartisan political action committee of the American Academy of PAs is the only federal PAC dedicated to advancing the PA profession.

AAPA
PA PAC

PAs go beyond …

Karen Bass
Mayor of the City of Los Angeles
43rd Mayor of Los Angeles and the first woman and second African American to be elected as the city's chief executive.

United States House of Representative
Committee on Judiciary subcommittee – chair
Committee on Foreign Affairs subcommittee - chair
Congressional Black Caucus - chair

Pulse check:

Social history

- Tobacco history
- Alcohol
- Recreational drugs
- Diet
- Occupation
- Exercise habits

Anything else ???

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