Strategies to Shift SDOH and Increase Health Equity: Infant Mortality CoIIN Action

Kay Johnson, Co-Chair
Social Determinants of Health Learning Network
Infant Mortality CoIIN
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Using a Health Equity Lens.

WHO defines SDOH as the circumstances in which people are born, live, and work, and the systems in place to deal with illness. Circumstances shaped by larger forces such as economics, public policies, and politics.
Be clear about disparities, SDOH, and equity

• Not all health differences are health disparities.

• Health disparities are systematic, plausibly avoidable health differences according to income, race/ethnicity, religion, or socioeconomic position.

• Disparities in health and its (medical and social) determinants are the metric for assessing health equity.

• Health equity is the principle underlying a commitment to reducing disparities in health and its determinants.

• Health equity is social justice in health.

Achieving health equity by addressing SDOH

WHO Framework for Tackling Social Determinants of Health and Infant Mortality ColIN SDOH Recommended Strategies

Key dimensions and directions for policy

- Intersectoral action
- Social participation and empowerment
- Policies on stratification to reduce inequalities, mitigate stratification.
- Policies to reduce exposures of disadvantaged people to health damaging factors.
- Policies to reduce vulnerability and increase resiliency of disadvantaged people.
- Policies to reduce unequal consequences of illness, in social, economic, and health terms.

Cross-cutting Action

- Monitoring and follow up of health equity and SDOH.
- Evidence on interventions to tackle social determinants of health across government.
- Include health equity as a goal in health policy and other social policies (HEiAP).

Recommended Strategies:
- Taxes
  - Paid family & medical leave
  - Minimum wage
  - Justice system reform
- Housing
  - ACEs, trauma & resilience initiatives
  - Place-based initiatives
- Job training, education, & career path
- Fatherhood/male initiatives
- Social networks for empowerment
- Medical-legal partnerships
- Medicaid expansion
- QI on unequal treatment
- CLAS standards implementation
- Home visit enhancements
- Group strategies

Health equity in all policies
- Map risk/protective factors
- Monitor inequality & disparities
- Assess capacity
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<td>1</td>
<td>Demonstrating the role of MCH state leaders in implementing SDOH and health equity strategies.</td>
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<td>Defining and activating new partnerships, with traditional and non-traditional partners.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Building on initiatives for the overall population, adding MCH perspective or capacity.</td>
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<td>Augmenting MCH programs and projects with SDOH and health equity strategies.</td>
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<td>Piloting and implementing new assessments, tools, training, data, and policy approaches.</td>
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