

Health Outcomes: Just or Unjust?

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WHO Definition of Health

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

Preamble to the Constitution of the World Health Organization as adopted by the International Health Conference, New York, 19-22 June, 1946; signed on 22 July 1946 by the representatives of 61 States (Official Records of the World Health Organization, no. 2, p. 100) and entered into force on 7 April 1948. The Definition has not been amended since 1948.

Health Outcomes: Just or Unjust

- “Just” – being what is called for by accepted standards of right or wrong (Merriam Webster dictionary)



Health Outcomes

Socioeconomic Health Disparities

- 'Wealth equals health' . Americans with lower incomes and educational levels report higher rates of disease, disability, and poor health compared to Americans of higher socioeconomic status.

Gender Health Disparities

- Women may live longer than men, but they also tend to suffer more disease and disability during their lifetime.

Geographic Health Disparities

- Where you live when you are poor also determines your health status, both in urban and rural areas.

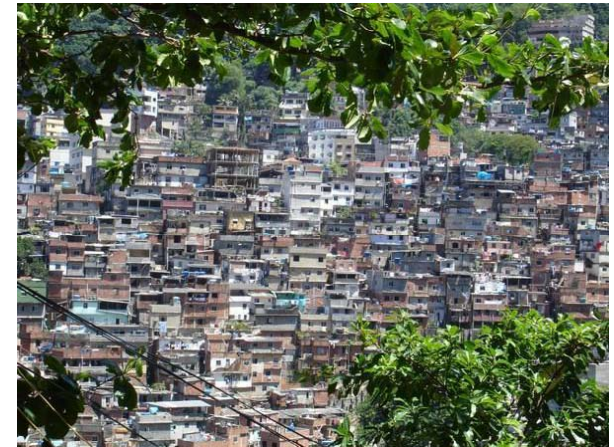
Racial or Ethnic Health Disparities

- Americans of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds experience higher rates of a variety of diseases and health conditions compared to Caucasian Americans.

Health Equity and Social Justice Work Group

- **Our mission:** *To promote health equity and social justice in Washtenaw County by addressing the root causes of disparities.*
- In early 2008, Washtenaw County's Health Equity Social Justice work group was convened.
- The workgroup is composed of 10 Public Health employees who represent the various programs in our department. During the spring of 2008, this workgroup facilitated public showings of the PBS Series Unnatural Causes.
- Participant feedback from the public showings have been important in helping the workgroup chart its path towards achieving health equity and social justice in our community.

Living Conditions are powerful determinants of health



Health is tied to resources

- Health is more than just health care.



- Education
- Economics
- Geography
- Social network
- Food access
- Home ownership
- Health coverage
- Safe environment
- Work environment
- Mental Health
- Dental Health

Disparities were created and can be deconstructed

- Health differences arise from inequities due to societal constructs or decisions we as a society have made.
- As a society we have the ability to make different decisions to reduce and close the widening gap of health disparities.